

XVII: The Nuremberg Trials (20 Nov. 1845 – 16 Oct. 1946)

Charges:

Count 1: Conspiracy to commit counts 2-4: The Nazi party organized and premeditated a plan to wage aggressive war. Nazi party membership constituted full knowledge of this plan.

Count 2: Crimes against Peace: Waging aggressive war; breaking treaties.

Count 3: War Crimes: The ill treatment or murder of civilians, POW's, and hostages; conscription of the same for slave labor; wanton destruction of public and private property without any military necessity; exacting of collective penalties on populations. Direct violation of the Hague Regulations of 1907.

Count 4: Crimes against Humanity: The Murder, Enslavement, Deportation, and or Enslavement of civilians on religious, political, or racial grounds. Direct Violation of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention, 1929.

Players:

Justices:

US
Francis Biddle
John Parker

UK
Sire Geoffrey Lawrence
Sir Norman Birkett

France
Henri Donnideu de Vabres
Robert Falco

USSR
Ion Nikichenko
Vladimir Volochkov

Presecution:

Organizations and Conspiracy
Robert Jackson
Telford Taylor
Whittney Harris

Peace, Treaties, the Sea
Sir Hartley Shawcross
Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe

War and Humanity in the West
Francois de Menthon
August Champion de Ribes
Edgar Faure
Charles Debost

War and Humanity in the East
Roman Rudenko

| <u>Indicted Individuals:</u> | <u>Verdict:</u> | <u>Sentence:</u> |
|---|----------------------|------------------|
| Martin Bormann (in Absentia), Director of the Party Chancellery | Guilty (3,4) | Death |
| Herman Göring, Head of Luftwasse and Plenipotentiary of Four-Year Plan | Guilty (1-4) | Death |
| Rudolf Hess, Deputy Fuhrer | Guilty (1,2) | Life |
| Joachim von Ribbentrop, Foreign Minister | Guilty (1-4) | Death |
| Alfred Rosenberg, Minister for the Eastern Occupied Territories | Guilty (1-4) | Death |
| Wilhelm Keitel, Head of OKW | Guilty (1-4) | Death |
| Alfred Jodl, Hitler's Chief of Staff | Guilty (1-4) | Death |
| Hans Frank, Governor-general of Poland | Guilty (3,4) | Death |
| Wilhelm Frick, Minister of the Interior | Guilty (2-4) | Death |
| Walter Funk, President of the Reichsbank | Guilty (2-4) | Life |
| Hjalmar Schacht, Minister of Economics | Not Guilty | |
| Constantin von Neurath, Foreign Minister | Guilty (1-4) | 15 yrs. |
| Franz von Papen, Former Chancellor | Not Guilty | |
| Artur Seyss-Inquart, Minister for the Occupied Netherlands | Guilty (2-4) | Death |
| Albert Speer, Minister of Armaments | Guilty (3,4) | 20 yrs. |
| Fritz Sauckel, Plenipotentiary of Conscripted Labor | Guilty (3,4) | Death |
| Robert Ley, Head of the Reich Labor Force | Suicide before Trial | |
| Julius Streicher, Publisher of <i>Der Stürmer</i> and Gauleiter of Thurginia | Guilty (4) | Death |
| Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Head of RSHA | Guilty (3,4) | Death |
| Erich Raeder, Grand Admiral of the Navy | Guilty (2-4) | Life |
| Karl Dönitz, Grand Admiral of U-Boats, and Hitler's Chosen Successor | Guilty (2-3) | 10 yrs. |
| Baldur von Schirach, Head of Hitler Youth and Gauleiter of Vienna | Guilty (4) | 20 yrs. |
| Hans Fritzsche, Minsitry of Propaganda and Public Enlightenment | Not Guilty | |

Executions:

No Prosecutors were allowed to witness the executions, only press and military.

Executioner: Mst. Sgt. John C. Woods (15 years experience (347 men)).

Purposely cut the ropes all too short, which caused the men to suffocate slowly, rather than die immediately from a broken neck. As some flailed about, they were stricken by batons. It took Joachim von Ribentrop 15 minutes to die. The bodies were photographed, then taken by truck to Dachau, where they were cremated. The ashes were taken to the Isar River outside of Munich and dumped.

Charter:

1. Power of Allies to try Axis
2. Position does not free them from responsibility
3. Following orders is not an excuse
4. Allies can make up their own rules
5. Majority vote on all cases and sentences
6. Fair trial by due process
7. Only the issues pertaining to the charges will be allowed
8. Judgment and punishment are final

US Opening Statement:

1. Presumed Innocent
2. Proof of guilt is their own records and documents
3. Not trying all German people
4. mercy, justice, reason, and law are the Allies Victory.

UK Opening Statement:

1. Violated Kellog-Briand Pact of 1928, outlawing aggressive war, not as the essence of sovereignty, but as a criminal venture.
2. Dictators need accomplices and compliers
3. Obedience does not exculpate evil acts.

France Opening Statement:

1. Best summary of Nazi Ideology and doctrine
2. France represents the tortured victims
3. German People ARE Responsible
4. Racialism is the source for all crime

USSR Opening Statement:

1. Not trying Nazism, but Fascism and Hitlerism
2. War against the USSR was not preventative
3. Systematic extermination of the Soviet people (not Jews)