

Washington Digest

Try Nazis in Ruins Of Their Handiwork

Scene of the Historic Trial 91 Per Cent
Destroyed by Bombings; Case Sets
Precedent for Outlawing War.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

Back in Germany, Baukhage reports the war crimes trial of 21 top Nazis with the same vividness with which he narrated their rise to power in the pre-war years when he was stationed in the reich. Below is the first of a series of articles written from Nuernberg:

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

NUERNBERG, GERMANY. — I have just left the courtroom where, as I write, the trial of Germany's war criminals is still in progress. The courtroom is just above me in this great stone courthouse which was almost untouched by the bombing which reduced this most beautiful and famous city to the point that it was declared "91 per cent dead" by the experts who followed the occupation by American troops on April 20, 1945.

I am writing in the press room with reporters from more than a dozen nations about me. Most of us are in uniform, the majority being the uniform of the United States army, which all war correspondents in our theater wore. Up until recently correspondents had a simulated rank of captain. Now we are simply uniformed civilians operating under military orders.

As I look back over the beginnings of this trial — the earliest discussions before the tribunal itself was formed — I have the feeling that we are now looking at something very real — actual and factual, rather than theoretical and vague. At the first gathering, the appalling condition of this city produced the feeling that all about it and in it must be chaos too. Nuernberg dates back to the 11th century and it grew into such favor and beauty that it bore the name of Germany's "treasure chest." It was a chest of treasures of art, song and culture as well as of the gold that poured into the coffers of the merchants. Now it is a shell, and one of Europe's best examples of the atmosphere and charm of the middle ages is gone.

How the nearly 300,000 people who are said to be living in these ruins exist it is hard to say. The streets are cleared, some street cars are running, some shops are opening, a city government is operating. But few houses are livable. In some cases parts of great office buildings have been restored. Such cellars as can be cleared of rubble and roofed are crowded. A huge air raid shelter 280 steps below the ground contains a small village in itself.

Milestone in Man's Progress

It may be that what is accomplished here will be washed out by subsequent stupidities; but I believe, whether we go forward immediately from this point or not, it will remain a milestone in man's effort to accomplish the outlawry of war, that it will be a landmark from which others may set their course anew. Grotius, father of international law, held to the principle that aggressive wars were illegal. As Justice Jackson pointed out, it was because of the greed for land which characterized the 18th and 19th centuries that this concept was thrust aside and the world came to accept the tenet that war in itself was not illegal. And it seems to me that all attempts to stop war must be futile so long as such a concept exists in international thinking. No one who saw the spontaneous reaction to Justice Jackson's opening address to the court could feel that the tremendous effort which has gone into the creation and operation of this court can be completely lost.

For those who have witnessed these proceedings there is a striking symbolism in the rise and fall of a nation which built a vicious culture in less than a decade with one final objective (aggressive war), which very ideology destroyed it as no nation has been wrecked before.

Here we see before us in the flesh (in some cases considerably less flesh than they were adorned with in their hey-day), the men who conceived and carried out this plan, which is the distillation of the philosophy that might is right, and which negates the whole basis of the moral law which has been established by civilization.

Step by step, with the epitome of tons of written evidence, with moving pictures, with plans and charts,

the growth of the Nazi plan is being set forth factually, coldly and logically. A new chapter is being written in every session of the court.

We watched Nazidom unfold before us step by step — first, in the removal of the physical ability of the German people to resist; then in the gradual substitution of Nazi concepts for the normal human concepts produced by the Christian philosophy.

One of the American attorneys quoted a comment of Dr. Schacht on the effect of the destruction of the freedom of the press. Schacht was quoted as having said, at a time before he knuckled under to Hitler, that thousands of Germans had been killed or imprisoned and not one word was allowed to be printed about it. Of what use is martyrdom, he asked, when it is so concealed that it has no value as an example to others? Therein lies one of the answers to the moral failure of German resistance.

By the time the Nazis were ready to fill their concentration camps with their foreign victims, they had learned well the art of handling the resistance of their own people and smothering it behind a wall of utter silence. As the court pointed out, the first purpose of the concentration camps, the persecution, suppression and propaganda, was "the conquest of the German masses."

Accused Make Brave Show

However, for us in the courtroom, more impressive than the things that were done were the men in the prisoners' dock who actually did them. Goering was no longer a name, he was a person, now leaning back and grinning, now with his arms on the edge of the rail of the dock, his chin resting on them. There was Rosenberg, whose task was to twist the minds of the people with his absurd story of a super-race, of anti-semitism. There he sat, looking down, his fingers nervously toying with the telephone cords.

There was Keitel, stiff, cold, proud, arrogant, all Prussian in his uniform, stripped though it was of every badge, ribbon and insignia. He maintains himself with dignity, but not for a moment does he forget his pose. At this writing the psychiatric analysis of the prisoners has not been completed and Keitel has not been reported upon, but I dare say his I. Q. will be high, though perhaps not equal to that of Goering, who, surprisingly enough, stands right at the top. Goering is tacitly acknowledged as leader by the others. To the observers he appeared still the silly poseur, although he seemed more reasonable appearing than the fat and grinning mannikin I saw as he presided over the Reichstag in his comic opera uniform.

Admiral Doenitz, who looks like a pale shadow, is also at the top of the I. Q. list. He remains almost motionless, only occasionally consulting his attorney, who appears in a German naval uniform as he is on duty with a part of the fleet used in mine sweeping and was released especially for the trial.

Down at the bottom of the list so far as intelligence goes is Julius Streicher. Although of far lesser stature than the rest, this miserable character is a symbol of the fall of Nazidom because he is meeting his fate in the city in which he rose to power — a fate at which he himself hinted.

Streicher conducted the last class in Nazi indoctrination for lawyers held in this very courtroom where he had been tried by the pre-Nazi authorities for various misdemeanors and perhaps other crimes. As he concluded his last lecture, he pointed to the prisoners' dock and said: "We used to sit over there. Now we are standing up here. But there may be a day when we are sitting down there again."

He is sitting down there today. In a brand new dock, to be sure, but with the same great iron eagle over the high marble frame of the doorway looking down on his cringing head.

Kathleen Norris Says:

The Hit-and-Run Marriage

Released by Western Newspaper Union



KATHLEEN NORRIS

"Any two young persons could work their way to successful marriage, if the husband had been taught the solemn responsibilities of matrimony, and the wife were a well-trained young creature, who takes her marital vows seriously."

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

"WAR conditions have certainly put marriage into the hit-and-run category," says Judge Robert Williams Jr. of Suffolk, Mass.

"Frequently now," he adds, "we have cases in which it is admitted that the couple saw each other only once, twice or three times before they were married."

"Often there is no such thing as 'I want you to meet the folks.' The first time the parents see them is when they are brought home as in-laws."

Court authorities follow this up with the statement that marrying on a mere speaking acquaintance was the cause of the frightful jump in divorce statistics; nearly 2,300 last year as against 1,500 in 1940.

Twenty-three hundred hopeful young hearts — no, twice that many, for boys' hearts can break too, — wrecked and embittered and disappointed. It is a fearful total of unhappiness; it is something to make older married folk, think.

Where are we failing our children, that they can leap into the most serious relationship humans can know, so ignorantly, so lightly, and often so fatally? For fortunate second marriages don't often follow on mistaken first ones. Sometimes the scars of the original failure last a lifetime. And if a child, or children, result from these hit-or-miss matches, they start life on most unfortunate terms.

Blamed on War.

"Well," say the mothers and fathers ruefully, "this is one of the tragedies of war. The youngsters are demoralized and excited. Young men have been torn away from home and college, are to be sent to far and distant countries, perhaps, never to return. Girls are prematurely matured by the atmosphere of chance, movement, emotional crisis, dramatic situations."

With so many chances surrounding the future, girls and boys plunged ahead absolutely without thought. "Maybe he won't come back for years. Maybe the war won't end for a long time. Maybe they'll live in some foreign country after the war." Maybe this and maybe that, but not often the sober probability, the unsensational truth.

Not often "maybe he'll come back without a job. Maybe we won't like each other when we've seen each other more often. Maybe he'll look very different to me, out of his uniform. Maybe he won't immediately get a good job after the war, and we'll face the necessity of living on the family. Maybe he ought to meet my mother and father first. Maybe he's tied up with some girl in his own state—or with half a dozen girls in half a dozen states. Maybe I'll fall much more deeply with some other man, while he's away. Maybe I'll have a baby immediately, and have to give up a good job and start taking care of the baby."

All these possibilities have come true, for hundreds and hundreds of

JOYS AND SORROWS OF MATRIMONY

As was anticipated, hastily contracted marriages entered into under the stress and excitement of war, are breaking up at a frightening rate. Miss Norris points out that it is partly the responsibility of parents, who have failed to impress upon their children the seriousness of matrimony, and the necessity for various adjustments by both partners.

The misery and heart-break of these divorces can hardly be calculated, Miss Norris says. Young lives are often permanently wrecked, because those who have once failed to find happiness in the married state the first time are frequently unable to make a success of a second marriage. The early scars remain, and doubt and distrust arise easily.

Our parents and grandparents understood the problem of marriage better, in many ways, than we do. They entered it determined to make a go of it, come what would.

rash young couples. In New York a few months ago a girl asked her chum to go with her to meet her husband, who was invalided home. She had seen him about a dozen times in all, and was afraid she wouldn't know him.

These quick marriages are dangerous enough, but the real danger lies in the quick divorces. If our boys had been somewhat schooled in the solemn responsibilities of husbandhood; if they had been taught gentleness, patience, courage, faith in themselves, that they hardly knew these girl-wives of theirs, it would not be so serious a matter.

Making It a Success.

If girls went into even this higgledy-piggledy sort of marriage persuaded, under all the surface excitement and hysteria and passion, that any marriage may be made a success, if the wife determines that it shall be. Any two persons, granted the first physical attraction that hurried them into matrimony as a start, could work their way to a successful marriage, if the husband were possessed of the aforementioned qualities of character and the wife were a sweet, inexact, sensible, well-trained young creature who meant the great promise she made when she said "I do."

The glory of golden wedding days has shone on many a man and woman who hardly knew each other when their hands were united. My own grandmother, at 17, was summoned to the library to meet the man to whom she was to be married on the same day. Of clean, strong Irish stock on both sides, neither the principals nor the devoted parents had any misgivings as to the outcome.

If we trained our children more carefully for the great duties of the marriage state, it would not matter so much who they married, and there would be many fewer divorces among them.

MADE-OVER CLOTHING

Making over garments for smaller children is more than merely cutting them down to size. Colors, pattern and weight of fabric all need to be considered in such cases. Fabrics adults wear, may be too heavy for a small child. If the material is not light enough in weight to be comfortable, use it for some other purpose. Avoid stripes, plaids and prints that are too big for the child.

When planning a make-over, consult the youngster. Most times it's just the little things that make clothes acceptable to children.

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An ordinary double book strap is excellent to have with you when you are traveling. Should you annex a package too bulky for your suitcase, wrap it in suitable wrapping over a cardboard base, bind it with a book strap and carry it by the handle.



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BARBS . . . by Baukhage

In the various provinces of France, grape harvesting is ritualized. In Burgundy the grapes are collected in wicker baskets known as "vendangeots." In Champagne they are piled in little wooden barrels, or "cages." Wooden baskets are used in the Bordeaux region, buckets in Provence, wicker hods in Medoc, and panniers in the Cote d'or.

Since the inauguration on December 1, 1945, of radio-telephone communication between the Netherlands West Indies islands of St. Maarten and Saba, the latter, which is little more than an extinct volcanic cone, with its lone community, known as "the bottom," in the crater, is believed to be the world's smallest island possessing such communication facilities.



"Boys' hearts can break too. . ."