

NO. 1 NAZI BUTCHER (Continued)

other identification marks. His secret SS blood group mark, tattooed under his left armpit, was also recorded there, as were X-ray pictures of a broken knee and fractured leg bones. He could change his external appearance by plastic surgery, but his dental and medical record were his doom.

In fact, the first thing Israeli secret agents did when they grabbed Eichmann was to strip him and check whether they had the right man. Eichmann was under the impression he was being taken for routine questioning by the Argentine police. He did not realize who his captors were until they finished examining him and told him in German: "You are Adolf Eichmann, and we are Jewish agents, taking you for trial in the State of Israel." When Eichmann heard this, he fainted. He was rushed to Israel, still dazed and in a state of shock.

The Israeli agents who trapped him were surprised by Eichmann's cringing servility towards his captors. But to me, Adolf Eichmann personifies the typical Nazi coward.

Is it true that he was born in Palestine and speaks Hebrew?

No, Eichmann was born in Solingen, West Germany, but migrated to Austria. In 1937, the Nazis sent Eichmann to Palestine to learn Hebrew, study Jewish habits, and "adopt himself to typical Jewish mentality." But British authorities, who then ruled Palestine, expelled him. He was there only two or three days.

Upon his return to Berlin, Eichmann hired a Jewish rabbi as a private Hebrew teacher. He knows a smattering of Hebrew, some Yiddish expressions, and has an overall knowledge of Jewish customs. Eichmann ordered his teacher shot when his study course was over.

Why did he study Hebrew?

Primarily to avoid armed resistance when his squads moved in to execute entire Jewish communities.

Eichmann had a pleasant manner when he wanted to use it. By speaking softly, using Hebrew words and Yiddish expressions, and showing a knowledge of Jewish customs, he usually succeeded in lulling the suspicions of the Jewish elders, whom he summoned to organize the "resettlement"—as the Nazis called their one-way trips to the gas chambers.

Why did Eichmann hate Jews?

Ironically, Eichmann never had any rational reasons for hating Jews. They say Hitler became an anti-Semite because a Jewish art

expert ridiculed his work when Hitler tried to become a portrait painter. But Eichmann never came into personal contact with Jews until they became his victims.

Perhaps the explanation of his cruelty lies in the fact that as a youngster, Eichmann was a dismal failure. He suffered from a hate-filled inferiority complex, and when he found out that Jews could be bullied and even killed with impunity under the Nazi regime, he made an all-out effort to become the biggest Jew-killer of the Nazi Reich. In this he succeeded.

How long do you think the Eichmann trial will last?

At least a year. But as far as I am concerned, Eichmann's capture and his forthcoming trial are only the opening skirmish in the final battle for justice against all remaining fugitive Nazis.

It is true that Eichmann was my No. 1 target. But there are still many war criminals free. I have mentioned only a few.

I have a black list of some 700 Nazis whom I must find—Gestapo doctors who performed hideous medical experiments on Jewish women and children, SS concentration-camp commandants, extermination-center officials. I will not rest until I help bring to justice the very last Nazi war criminal.

I do not work for a salary. My wife, who is an eye doctor, must work to support herself, me, and our child. Frequently, I am ashamed that I must live off my wife. But she says she is honored to support so great a cause.

Future generations will know that the murder of six million Jews has been avenged, and that Tuvia Friedmann was a small cog in the machine which finally brought Adolf Eichmann and other Nazi criminals to justice.



In this house in Argentina, Eichmann lived under a pseudonym, fearful his enemies would eventually capture him.

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