

GERMAN INDICTMENT RECITAL OF HORRORS

By The Associated Press
BERLIN, Oct. 15—The most sweeping indictment in history, charging a criminal conspiracy to war against the world, was filed today against 24 of Hitler's nazi hierarchy and leaders of his army staff.

The 24,000-word indictment was presented to the first international war crimes court, as the initial step in the trial by which allied prosecutors expect to send Goering, Hess, Jodl and their cohorts to their death.

The document charged mass murder and pillage, multiple crimes and atrocities against millions of persons and dozens of nations.

It was even more important in its broad aspects. It sought to establish in the pages of history a clear warning—that conspiracy

to make war is a crime against humanity.

The German general staff and the high command of German armed forces were among six German organizations which the presiding judge of the Austere opening session, Maj. Gen. I. T. Nikitchenko of soviet Russia, said the prosecution would seek to convict next month when the accused war criminals go on trial in Nuernberg.

The indictment was filed by prosecutors of the United States, Russia, Great Britain and France with judges of those nations. The defendants will have 30 days to prepare defenses.

Of the politicians, militarists, industrialists, diplomats and other functionaries who participated in Hitler's supreme bid for world domination, all but

Martin Bormann are in the Nuernberg prison.

Hitler himself was not indicted. There is inconclusive evidence that the master war criminal died in his capital last spring when the Russians conquered Berlin while American and British armies were massed on the Elbe 40 odd miles to the west. Bormann is believed at large.

The leaders named are former key men in Adolf Hitler's government and top generals and admirals of the German high command.

Basically they are accused of a gigantic "plan or conspiracy," dating from 1921, to rule Germany and conquer other lands they wanted. Their strategy: treachery and terror, first; finally a deliberate, aggressive war.

The 24,000 word accusation was drawn for presentation to the four-power war crimes court at Berlin. It is an unprecedented document, it sums up in cold legal form allied fury over nazi outrages, and it forces the men accused of responsibility to answer for their acts.

The bulk of the indictment is a recital of horrors.

The nazis and their high command associates are blamed officially for the brutal slaughter of about 10,000,000 helpless persons, civilians and prisoners of war.

About 4,000,000 were slain at Auschwitz concentration camp alone, the indictment says, and another 1,500,000 in notorious Maidanek.

Of 9,600,000 Jews who came under nazi domination in and

out of Germany, the document asserts, 5,700,000 disappeared "most of them deliberately put to death by nazi conspirators."

The nazis and their associates are accused also of:

Of torturing civilians to obtain information.

Of putting civilians under "protective arrest in the "most brutal manner and of killing defenseless people by gassing and shooting, of incredibly cruel "scientific" experiments on women.

Of drawing the blood of children.

Of shooting hostages, ill-treating and murdering war prisoners and

"American prisoners, officers and men, were murdered in Normandy during the summer of 1944 and in the Ardennes in December, 1944," the official document declares. "American prisoners were starved, beaten and otherwise mistreated in numerous Stalags (prison camps), in Germany and in the occupied countries, particularly in 1943, 1944 and 1945."

The indictment furnished the basis for projected trial of German nazi and military leaders by the Anglo-American-French-Soviet military tribunal at Nuernberg, Germany. It was drawn up by prosecutors of the four allied nations including Justice Robert H. Jackson for the United States. It was released simultaneously in the allied capitals and in Germany.

The 24 men named as defendants were the highest in Adolf Hitler's nazi government to be taken alive. Among them are Hermann Goering, Rudolph Hess, Joachim von Ribbentrop, Robert Ley, all key Hitler officials, Generals Wilhelm Keitel and Alfred Jodl; Admirals Karl Doenitz and Eric Raeder; Industrialist Gustav Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach; Financier Hjalmar Schacht.

Against most of them the indictment makes four sweeping, general accusations: (1) Crimes against peace in starting the war, (2) war crimes in violation of the accepted laws of war, (3) crimes against humanity which includes the Jewish persecutions, and (4) conspiring together to commit these crimes.

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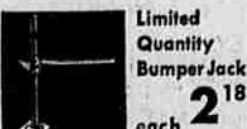
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