

Himmler Henchman Bares Commando Order To Murder All Jews In Russia

By JAMES F. KING
 NUERNBERG, Germany, Jan. 3 (AP)—A former aide of Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler told the international military tribunal today that special SS commandos were attached to the German army on the eastern front with orders to kill every Jew and Soviet political commissar in occupied Russian regions.

Major General of Police Otto Ohlendorf, testifying in the trial of 22 Nazi leaders, declared that the high command of the German army had full knowledge of the commando order.

The 38-year-old witness, who had been in the SS since his teens, said his own Einsatzgruppe, operating with the German 11th Army in the Ukraine, alone had liquidated 90,000 persons in the first year of the war with Russia.

Outlining the inner workings of the security police system under questioning by Col. John Harlan Amen, an assistant U. S. prosecutor, Ohlendorf testified that Himmler personally gave liquidation orders to leaders of the special Einsatzgruppen.

"He told us that the men had no responsibility for the acts and that the responsibility was his alone, as well as that of the fuhrer," the witness said.

Mass Executions
 Ohlendorf, who admitted giving orders himself for mass executions, testified that he conferred frequently with army commanders on the execution of Himmler's orders.

He said the victims included men, women and children, and explained how they were wiped out en masse after being lined up on the pretext that they would be relocated.

Standing erect, Ohlendorf spoke through the microphone without hesitation, frequently turning his eyes toward the defendants sitting in the prisoners' box on the opposite side of the room.

Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering sucked in his lips and shook his head slightly. Col. Gen. Alfred Jodi and Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel gave the witness steely looks, but showed no emotion.

Ohlendorf hedged when pressed for a direct statement as to whether the army commanders condoned the plan to liquidate Jews and Soviet political commissars, but declared without qualification:

"Since the liquidations took place in operations regions, the Einsatzgruppen would not have been able to function in the sense I described without army support."

Pretext
 "I was present at the mass executions," he declared calmly under questioning. "A local Einsatzkommando would collect all the Jews in one area. They would be rounded up on the pretext that they were to be relocated."

"After registration, the Jews were collected at certain places, then transported to the place of execution, which was usually an anti-tank ditch or a natural gully."

"The Jews were transported in trucks and executed immediately. The time during which the victims knew what was going to happen to them was kept as short as possible."

Ohlendorf said the victims "were shot standing or kneeling" and that unit leaders had orders to administer the coup de grace in the event any of the victims still lived after being shot.

"They were executed in a military fashion," he added. He said, however, that in some of the massacres, the leaders "simply killed their victims by shooting them in the back of the neck."

Intolerable
 "I was against that procedure," he continued, "because it resulted in unnecessary emotional disturbances among the men who had to do the work. It was intolerable to me that the individual men should have to form their own decisions and take their own responsibility in the executions."

In the spring of 1942, he said, the procedure was changed when Himmler ordered that "women and children should be killed only in gas vans." These were disguised as ordinary trailers, he said, but were so designed that a gas engine could pump enough gas into them in 15 minutes to kill the occupants.

He declared that the victims died on the way to their burial place without knowing they were being executed.

"They suffered no pain," he commented.

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Group Enjoys Get-Together

TULELAKE—Members of the G. W. Osborne family and a number of guests enjoyed a Christmas day get-together in the cookhouse on the Gilbert Osborne ranch. Dinner was served at 3:30 o'clock from a table gay with the traditional Christmas greens and red tapers. Here for the affair from a distance were Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Osborne. Tilden has just been discharged from the service and plans to study civil engineering at Berkeley. They have been guests of Mrs. Osborne's father, Dr. Prentiss, formerly of Merrill and Tulelake, now living at Arlington, Ore.

Home also were Mr. and Mrs. Estil Allison, recently of Louisiana. Allison has received his discharge from the service and with his wife will remain here

End Of Rope For Many Japs



United Press Foreign Correspondent Ernest Hobrecht (left) and Col. Robert M. Hardy, Yakima, Wash., examine new rope and hangman's knot on gallows of Sugamo prison, Tokyo, where 300 Japanese, including former Premier Tojo, all accused of committing war crimes, await trial. Hobrecht will cover trials. (NEA telephoto).

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for some months before resuming his college education at Oregon State.

Others present for the dinner were Mrs. Viola Nelson and daughter, Evelyn, recently discharged from the Wac. Mr. and Mrs. John Bush, Steven Bush, John Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Parks, Mrs. Alice Micka, Verne Irey, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Osborne and sons, Wayne, Bobby and Donald John, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hess, Mr. and Mrs. James Lesh, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hess of Arizona, and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Osborne.

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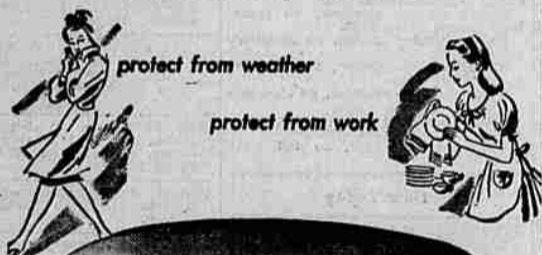
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