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Defendant HERMANN GOERING
(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

GOERING, as a member of the Nazi Party from its earliest days, was involved from the beginning in the preparations and planning for the seizure of power. In 1922, he joined the Nazi movement and took an active part in protests against the handing over of German war criminals for trial by the Allies.^{1/} While ostensibly a student at the University of Munich,^{2/} he spent much of his time on Nazi Party functions. In 1922, Hitler delegated him to organize the SA (Storm Troops)^{3/} and, in December of 1922, named him Chief of the SA.^{4/} The defendant established headquarters at Obermenzing in Upper Bavaria.^{5/} By January of 1923, he reported to Hitler that the organization of the SA was complete.^{6/}

The defendant and the SA participated in the Munich Putsch of 1923. The defendant was hit by a machine gun bullet and was carried from the streets by friends. On the same day he sought refuge in Austria.^{7/} and, after recuperation from his injury, continued planning with Nazi leaders in Vienna in February of 1924.^{8/} When the government of Tyrol demanded the expulsion of Nazi refugees he fled from Austria and arrived ultimately in Sweden.

The defendant did not return to Germany until the latter part of 1926, after amnesty had been granted to the participants of the 1923 putsch and after Hitler had been released from Landsberg fortress.^{9/} Then he immediately renewed his Party

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- 1/ Gritzbach, Erich, Hermann Goering, The Man and His Work, Hurst & Blackett, London, 1939, p. 119.
2/ Wer Ist's, 1935, Der Grossdeutsche Reichstag, 1938.
3/ OSS Source F, L 353-2A, 24 April 1944.
4/ Wer Ist's, 1935.
5/ Ibid.
6/ Ibid., p. 122.
7/ Ibid., p. 123; Wer Ist's, 1935; Der Grossdeutsche Reichstag, 1938
8/ Gritzbach, op cit, p. 125.
9/ Current Biography, 1941; OSS, R&A, CEu, 16 December 1941.

activities. In 1928, the defendant was one of the original twelve Nazis elected to the Reichstag.^{10/} In this period he used his connections with the aircraft and motor industry in Munich to persuade industrialists that a Nazi government would revive the industry through air rearmament.^{11/}

In 1930, Hitler appointed Goering as his Deputy for all Political matters (politischer Beauftragter des Fuehrers der NSDAP) for the Berlin Area.^{12/} In this capacity Goering played one of the foremost roles in carrying out the seizure of power.

On 16 January 1931, he took part in the discussions of Nazi Party representatives with Bruening, who hoped in vain to come to terms with the leaders of this large Reichstag bloc.^{13/} After the unsuccessful attempts of Stennes to break the Hitler leadership, Hitler entrusted the defendant with the Supreme Command of the Nazi Party in the entire Eastern Area (Generalvollmacht der Gruppe Ost).^{14/} On 10 October 1931, he accompanied Hitler to an interview with President Hindenburg.^{15/} Also in 1931, Goering went on another Party mission abroad. He went to Rome where he held discussions with high officials of the Vatican and assured members of the College of Cardinals that the Nazis had no intention of introducing Germanic pagan cults.^{16/}

After the fall of the Bruening cabinet in May 1932, Goering conducted negotiations with members of the von Papen cabinet on

^{10/} Wer Ist's, 1935; Der Grossdeutsche Reichstag, 1938; Gritzbach, op cit, pp. 127-128.

^{11/} Current Biography, 1941.

^{12/} Gritzbach, op. cit., p. 192; Reichstagshandbuch, 1933; Current Biography, 1941.

^{13/} Gritzbach, op. cit., pp. 130-131.

^{14/} Ibid, p. 133-134.

^{15/} Ibid, p. 135.

^{16/} Ibid, p. 132; Wer Ist's, 1935.

behalf of Hitler and the Nazi Party. After the election of 31 July 1932, the Nazis became the largest single party in the Reichstag. Goering was elected President of the Reichstag, when it met on 30 August 1932. In this office he used his influence to bring about a vote of no confidence in the von Papen cabinet, before von Papen could effect the dissolution of the Reichstag.^{17/} After the election of 6 November 1932, Goering was reelected President of the Reichstag when it met in December and was in a position to oppose the appointment of Schleicher as Chancellor and impede the formation of a new cabinet. During the critical days from 20 to 30 January 1933, Goering acted as the chief representative of the Nazi Party in the negotiations for the formation of a new cabinet and in putting forward the Party's demands for the appointment of Hitler as chancellor. Only by deceiving Hindenburg with false reports of an attempted coup d'etat on the part of Schleicher did he finally succeed in having Hitler appointed chancellor on 30 January 1933. It was Goering who first announced publicly the Nazi succession to power.^{18/}

The defendant was appointed Prussian Minister of the Interior on 30 January 1933. As such, he was also chief of the Prussian Police until 1934, when the Prussian Ministry was incorporated into the Reich Ministry of the Interior. By a Prussian law of 26 April 1933, and an executive decree of Goering on the same date, the Secret State Police (Geheime Staatspolizei or Gestapo) was established as a separate branch of the Prussian Police.^{20/} Later decrees established Goering's powers as "Chief of the Secret State

^{17/} Gritzbach, op. cit., p. 143; Rühle, Gerd, Das Dritte Reich, Dokumentarische Darstellung des Aufbaus einer Nation (Berlin
^{18/}, ^{19/}, ^{20/} - (See page 4 for footnotes.)

Police."^{21/}

By the defendant's own admission,^{22/} he bears personal responsibility for the following crimes, committed by the Prussian Police and more particularly by the Prussian State Police:

1. Arrests, without bringing to trial, of political opponents, such as Communists and Social Democrats;^{23/}
2. Keeping such persons in concentration camps for an indefinite time;
3. Putting persons in concentration camps and detaining them after they have been acquitted by the court or have served their legal penalty;^{24/}
4. Maltreatment, through physical abuse, torture, mental cruelties, and similar means, of persons before or after delivery to concentration camps;
5. Killing of persons, either outside concentration camps (e.g., when arrested and allegedly resisting arrest or attempting to escape, or during interrogations in police headquarters) or during detention in camp.

As Prussian Minister of the Interior and Chief of the Secret State Police, the defendant, to favor his own Party and to suppress

^{18/} Ibid, pp. 25-26; Gritzbach, op. cit., p. 150; Heiden, Konrad, Adolf Hitler (Europa Verlag, Zurich, 1936).

^{19/} Edict concerning the Establishment of a Chief of the German Police in the Reich Interior Ministry, 17 June 1936 (R G Bl, I, p. 487).

^{20/} Preussische Gesetzessammlung, 1933, p. 122; Ministerialblatt fuer die innere Verwaltung, 1933, I. p. 503.

^{21/} Preussische Gesetzessammlung, 1936, pp. 21-22.

^{22/} Goering, Hermann, Aufbau einer Nation, (Berlin, 1934), pp. 87-88.

^{23/} Ibid., cited in R&A 3152, p. 4.

^{24/} Radio Speech, 28 August, 1933, Translated from Erich Gritzbach (ed.): Hermann Goering, Reden- und Aufsätze, (Munich, 1942), pp. 27-28.

and combat the opposition, issued the decree of 4 February 1933, providing for sharp restrictions on the freedom of speech, assembly and the press.^{25/} This decree was supplemented by one of 10 February 1933, which ordered the Police to apply the decree only against opposition parties. This directive clearly violated the then still existing principle of the Weimar Constitution concerning equality before the law.^{26/} The defendant supervised the terrorism carried out by SA troops and Gestapo against left-wing members of the Reichstag and used his position as President of the Reichstag to push through the Enabling Act of 24 March 1933, which delivered legislative power to the Hitler cabinet.

The defendant played the major role in Berlin and Prussia in the suppression of the alleged "treasonable conspiracy" during the Party purge of June 1934. He derived this role mainly from his position as high Party leader and his personal friendship with Hitler and also from his official position as Minister President (since 11 April 1933) and Prussian Police Chief (since 30 January 1933). In a statement to the press on 2 July 1934, he admitted that he had proceeded on his own initiative to extend the jurisdiction and severity of the purge to include the murder of such non-Party figures as General von Schleicher.^{27/}

As high Party leader, Prussian Police Chief and Commissioner for the Four Year Plan (he was appointed to the latter post by a

^{25/} Decree of the Reich President for the Protection of the German People, 4 February 1933 (R G Bl, I, p. 35.)

^{26/} Ministerialblatt fuer die preussische Innere Verwaltung, 1933, I, No. 8.

^{27/} Frankfurter Zeitung, 2 July 1934.

decree of Hitler of 18 October 1936), ^{28/} Goering was responsible for the persecution and economic annihilation of German and non-German European Jews. He contributed to the success of the Nazi-arranged boycott of Jewish businesses on 1 April 1933 by preventing the Prussian police from protecting Jewish property against the attack of SA and SS troops. ^{29/} The decrees issued by Goering as Commissioner of the Four Year Plan:

1. Deprived Jews of claims for war damage compensation; ^{30/}
2. Fined German Jews one billion Reichsmarks for their alleged collective responsibility for the murder of a member of the German Embassy in Paris; ^{31/}
3. Forced Jews who had suffered property damage through the pogrom to make repairs at their own expense and confiscated their insurance claims in favor of the Reich Government; ^{31/}
4. Provided for the elimination of Jews from economic activities; ^{31/} Another decree issued under his authority by the Four Year Plan Office regulated labor conditions of Jews conscripted for slave labor in a discriminatory and exploitative manner. ^{32/} All of these decrees were extended to the countries the Nazis invaded, annexed or occupied.

In 1935, the defendant, in his capacity as President of the Reichstag, was instrumental in having the so-called Nuremberg Race Laws adopted by that body. ^{33/}

^{28/} R G Bl, I, p. 887.

^{29/} Goering, Hermann, *op. cit.*, cited in R&A 3152, p. 4.

^{30/} Decrees of 30 November 1940, (R G Bl, I, p. 1547) and 20 July 1941 (R G Bl, I, p. 437).

^{31/} R G Bl, I, 1579-1581.

^{32/} R G Bl, I, 675 and 681.

^{33/} Speech of 15 September 1935 (translated from Gerd Rühle: *Das Dritte Reich*, vol. 1935, Berlin 1936, p. 257.

The defendant bears responsibility for the planning and execution of activities in violation of the Rules of War. He was appointed Reich Commissar for Aviation on 2 February 1933 and Reich Minister for Aviation on 5 May 1933. In these capacities he supervised the illegal creation of the German Air Force as an instrument of aggression. On 1 March 1935, he was made Commander of the Air Forces; in this position he played the foremost role in planning the indiscriminate bombing of such cities as Rotterdam in May 1940, and numerous English cities, above all London, from the summer of 1940 on.

Since the first phase of V-weapon operations was under Luftwaffe (Air Force) jurisdiction, he holds similar responsibility as Commander in Chief of the Air Forces for the terroristic use of the Vergeltungswaffe (V1 and V2 bombs) against non-military objectives. In this capacity, he shares responsibility for numerous incidents involving treatment of Allied military personnel in violation of rules of international law, and, more specifically for the shooting of Allied airmen.

The defendant was the Nazi leader who, on 11 March 1938, threatened an immediate invasion of Austria unless Schuschnigg resigned within two hours.^{34/} At the time of the Munich crisis, Goering participated in the Nazi Campaign of propaganda and terror against the Czechoslovak Government and people which was calculated to intimidate foreign governments and public opinion and to drive German public opinion to a fever pitch. It was he who backed up the Fuehrer in his decisions, as early as 1938, to undertake aggressive war against the objections of Army and

^{34/} New York Times, 9 June 1945.

Navy.^{35/}

The defendant was appointed Commissioner of the Four Year Plan on 18 October 1936.^{36/} In this position he played the key role in the mobilization and conversion of German industry for production of war materials. As president of the Reichswerke Hermann Goering, he also aided the centralization and rationalization of German production for war purposes.

The defendant played a conspicuous part in the innumerable crimes committed by the Nazis against the inhabitants of Occupied Countries: first, in his position as Commissioner of the Four Year Plan; second, as Chairman of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich (appointed 30 August 1939);^{37/} and third, as organizer and Chief of the Reichswerke Hermann Goering. A decree signed by Hitler, Goering himself and Lammers, dated 18 October 1940, prolonged until 1944 the commission given to Goering by the decree of 18 October 1936, "with special commission to adapt it (i.e. the Four Year Plan) to the demands of the war."^{38/} A Hitler decree of

12 October 1939, extended Goering's jurisdiction in the planning and coordination of German economic life of the General Government.^{39/} Another Hitler decree issued during the summer of 1941 concerning "The Exploitation of the Occupied Eastern Territories for the German War Effort"^{40/} made Goering responsible for the effective realization of war economic measures in the Occupied East.

Similar responsibility for the exploitation of the Occupied West

is assumed by the defendant by a decree he issued as Commissioner

^{35/} Neue Züricher Zeitung, 25 April 1945, referring to Reuter's correspondent, D. Campbell.

^{36/} Decree on the Execution of the Four Year Plan, 18 October 1936, RGBL, I, 887).

^{37/} Edict of the Fuehrer concerning the Establishment of a Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich, 30 Aug. 1939 (RGBL, I, 1539).

^{38/} RGBL, I, 1395. ^{39/} RGBL, I, 2077. ^{40/} Ref. to this decree is made in a Goering decree of 15 Aug. 1941, pub. in Herresverordnungsblatt, Vol. 23, No. 50, 5 September 1941.

of the Four Year Plan on 26 August 1940. ^{41/}

In addition, Goering, as Commissioner for the Four Year Plan, exercised authority over the military and civilian occupation authorities and was responsible for such appointments as that of Dr. Hans FRANK as Commissioner General for the Four Year Plan in the Government General. The exploitation of foreign labor in both Occupied Europe and Germany proper was placed directly under Goering by a decree of 24 April 1942, dissolving the labor supply division of the Four Year Plan Office and establishing the office of Delegate General, who submitted proposed labor laws or modifications to him. ^{42/}

As head of the Reichswerke Hermann Goering, the defendant wielded the primary instrument for the Germanization of industry in the territories occupied and annexed by Germany.

The defendant, in his various governmental capacities, was the recipient of stolen property, in the form of art treasures and other illegally confiscated property. He also received money from private industries whose interests he represented and favored as President of the Reichstag and in other official capacities.

^{41/} Quoted in Kommentar zur Wirtschaftsgesetzgebung, p. 728.

^{42/} Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1942, I, 257.