

DOENITZ DEFENDS PROLONGING WAR

Says It Saved 'Millions' of Germans From Death at Hands of Russians

NUREMBERG, Germany, May 9 (AP)—Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz said today that "millions of German lives" had been saved by prolonging the war until last spring so that Germans could flee from the Russian armies and reach sanctuary in the west.

Testifying before the International Military Tribunal, Doenitz said that Germany had to continue to preserve the eastern front from the winter months of 1945 until spring because a break there would have meant "the extermination of the people behind the front. We knew that because of our practical experiences," he said.

Doenitz said that "it was painful to go on fighting" and "go on losing lives from bombings of our cities," which took 300,000 to 400,000 more lives during those months. He charged that the Allies' bombing of Dresden "cannot be justified on a military basis," but he said that the loss of life there "was small compared with the millions of Germans who would have been lost in the east if we had capitulated during the winter."

Doenitz said that, when he made contact on May 2, 1945, with Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery to surrender German troops in Denmark and the Netherlands and began overtures for final surrender to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, "the same basic principle to save the German people motivated me." He testified that he had received a radio message from Adolf Hitler's headquarters on April 30, 1945, announcing that Hitler had "designated me his successor and authorized me to take all measures necessary."

The next day, however, another message informed him, he said, that he was to become President, with the late Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels as Chancellor. Key posts were to have gone to Martin Bormann, Hitler's missing deputy, and to Arthur Seyss-Inquart, now on trial.

He said that he had ignored the second message because it contradicted the first and because "under no circumstances would I have agreed to collaborate with the people mentioned, except Seyss-Inquart."

Hitler, he testified, had proposed in 1942 that U-boats kill survivors of torpedoed ships at the scene so that they could not be rescued to fight again, but he said that the German Navy had refused this idea. Dangers to U-boats from air attacks were so great, he added, that an order forbidding German submarine commanders to attempt to rescue survivors of torpedoings was justified.

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