

# BIG FOUR INDICT 24 TOP NAZIS FOR PLOTTING AGAINST PEACE; ATROCITIES IN WAR CHARGED

## PARTY CORPS LISTED

Goering, Hess, 13 Others  
Accused on All Four  
Counts in Bill

## CABINET, SS, STAFF NAMED

Charges Based on Violations  
of Pacts and Conventions  
—Outrages Itemized

*The text of the indictment of major war criminals handed up to the International Military Tribunal in Berlin yesterday appears on Pages 11, 12, 13 and 14.*

By **RAYMOND DANIELL**

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, Oct. 18—An indictment was presented today before the international military tribunal representing the United States, Russia, Britain and France to charge twenty-four of Germany's war leaders—all Nazi followers of Adolf Hitler—with participation in the bloodiest, blackest plot against peace and humanity that has ever stained history's pages.

It was an unparalleled proceeding and never before have men been called on to answer for such heinous crimes on so vast a scale. All the human and material loss that Europe has suffered since Hitler came to power, including the blood of 5,700,000 Jews who were systematically exterminated, was laid to their criminal machinations. They were charged, too, with the ultimate responsibility for forcing more than 5,000,000 Europeans into slavery to Germany's war machine and for crimes committed by the German armed forces on the battlefield and at sea.

The prosecution requested the tribunal, which holds the power of life and death over the accused Germans, to declare that the Cabinet and the military and semi-military organizations that helped them to subjugate first Germans and then Germany's European neighbors be declared "criminal in purpose." The seven organizations included the Leadership Corps of the Nazi party, the Elite Guard, the Storm Troops, the Gestapo and the General Staff and High Command of the German armed forces.

### Would Minimize Later Trials

If this were done, it was pointed out, it would be unnecessary to hold any more protracted trials such as that to be held soon in Nuremberg. Such action by the court would relieve the prosecution of proving in each instance that the members of those organizations were war criminals and would transfer the burden of proof to thousands of defendants to show that they were unwilling or passive members of the outlawed bodies, thus reducing the proceedings in their cases to the level of magistrates' hearings.

The indictment contained four counts. The first traced the historical development of the plot to turn peaceful Germany into an instrument of aggressive war by submerging everything in the state to the Nazi will as personified by Hitler. All twenty-four defendants were accused under this count.

The second charged that under their leadership Germany had embarked on a series of aggressive wars in violation of her treaty obligations. The third charged that, in the prosecution of "total war," Germany had resorted to murder, pillage, torture and destruction in violation of the conventions of civilization and the penal laws of the countries where the crimes were committed.

The fourth count laid at the door of most of the defendants the responsibility for the extermination, enslavement and deportation of civilian populations before and during the war, and for the persecution, on political, racial and religious grounds, of all those who opposed them or threatened to do so. This count is entitled, "Crimes Against Humanity."

Fourteen of the prisoners now in the Nuremberg jail were made

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Left to right: Henri Donnedieu de Vabres, France; Francis J. Biddle, United States; Lord Justice Lawrence, Great Britain, and Maj. Gen. L. T. Nikitchenko, Russia.

Associated Press

## BIG FOUR INDICT 24 AS WAR CRIMINALS

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defendants on all four counts. Besides former Marshal Hermann Goering and Rudolf Hess, who were Deputy Fuehrers, these defendants were:

- Joachim von Ribbentrop, former Foreign Minister.
- Alfred Rosenberg, official "philosopher" of German racial theories and commissioner for occupied Russian territory.
- Wilhelm Frick, Minister of the Interior.
- Fritz Sauckel, commissioner for forced labor.
- Albert Speer, Minister of Production.
- Walther Funk, Minister of Economics.
- Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, armament manufacturer.
- Baron Constantin von Neurath, "Protector" of Bohemia-Moravia.
- Arthur Seyss-Inquart, commissioner for Austria and the Netherlands.
- Field Marshal Gens. Wilhelm Keitel and Alfred Jodl as members of the General Staff.
- Hans Fritzsche, arch-disseminator of German propaganda at home and abroad.

Four defendants—Ernst Kaltenbrunner, who helped to rule Austria; Hans Frank, Governor General of Poland; Robert Ley, leader of the Labor Front, and Martin Bormann, Deputy Fuehrer, still at large—were charged with complicity in the plot to wage aggressive war and with responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity, but their names were omitted from those who actually led Germany into war in violation of her treaties. Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, former president of the Reichsbank, and Franz von Papen, former Ambassador, were accused of plotting to wage aggressive war and doing so in violation of treaties, but they were not charged with any complicity in the commission of war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, former commander in chief of the navy, and his successor, Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, who assumed succession to Hitler, were called on to answer all the counts, including responsibility for submarine warfare, but they were not held accountable for the wholesale extermination and enslavement of conquered peoples.

All the defendants will have at least thirty days to prepare their defense.

As the indictment was drawn it places the whole Nazi system, if not totalitarianism itself, on trial. The conspiracy to subjugate Germany to Hitler's will dates back to 1921, when Hitler assumed the leadership of the party. After the abortive Putsch of 1923 Hitler and his followers decided to seize control of the German state by "legal" means and then, by the suppression of civil liberties and the imprisonment and murder of all opponents, use it for their own purposes. The Nazi party, the indictment charged, was the core and heart of the conspiracy and all the defendants joined it with full knowledge of its aims or became accessories to its evil purpose at some time during the development of the plot, which, it was charged, had three main objectives.

These were, first, to abrogate the Treaty of Versailles by "unlawful means," not excluding war; second, to recover German territory lost in the first World War and to gain European territory inhabited by so-called "racial Germans" and, third, to acquire "living space" at the expense of other countries.

"The aims and purposes of the Nazi conspirators were not fixed or static, but evolved and expanded as they acquired progressively greater power and became able to make more effective application of threats of force and threats of aggressive war," the indictment charged.

In furtherance of their plot against the peace of the world, it was charged, the Nazis fostered the growth of the myth that, as members of the "master race," they were destined to reduce other peoples to the status of helots. So, too, the Nazis hammered home the idea that war was necessary and noble for the same purpose, it was charged.

### Plot Against Germany Seen

The leadership principle and the idea that the State was everything and the individual nothing were dinned into the ears of the German masses until they accepted it and goose-stepped to destruction. All this was part of a scheme to bend the whole people to the leaders' plan for German aggrandizement, the indictment charged.

What happened after the Nazi party had gained power is all in the twenty-seven pages of the indictment, from the suppression of civil liberties at home after the Reichstag fire to the cruelties and barbarities practiced in the name of Germany in the countries that the Germans overran, each lured into a false sense of security by Hitler's worthless promises.

But that the evidence to be sub-

mitted at the coming trial will contribute some new details was indicated by the indictment's references to specific meetings of Hitler and his most influential followers while the plots against Austrian and Czechoslovak integrity were hatching. At one time when the Germans were seeking an excuse for aggression against Czechoslovakia, the indictment charged, Hitler and his satellites even debated whether to have Germany's Minister to Prague, Dr. Ernst Eisenlohr, murdered or to leave it to German agents-provocateurs to find the necessary casus belli.

Attached to the indictment is an appendix listing twenty-six breaches of international promises against countries in western Europe, eastern Europe, the Balkans and Scandinavia. Even the strengthening of the Rome-Berlin-

Tokyo Axis in September, 1940, was cited as another step in the German plot to dominate Europe, for it was charged that by encouraging Japan to embroil the United States and Britain in the Pacific the chances of German victory in Europe would be enhanced.