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THE NUREMBERG TRIALS

SPEECH

Judges from Britain, America, Russia and France assemble in Nuremberg's Court House. Empowered to impose sentences of death (or such punishment as it may consider just) the Tribunal sits in judgment upon twenty leaders of the Nazi Party. After a first day spent in reading the 30,000 word indictment, the unemotional tones of Lord Justice Lawrence, President of the Court, open the second day's proceedings.

SPEECH

So begins the case of humanity against the makers of war.

SPEECH

Thinner and without the notorious medals, the once mighty Nazi Number Two still postures in the limelight. While he waited in the dock, he wrote a statement which he tried to read before entering his plea. He said "Before I answer the question whether I am guilty or not....." and that was as far as he got.

SPEECH

Furious, the one-time Reichsmarshal shouts, "I declare myself not guilty." And now Hess, the mentally hazy Hess, the lost-memory man.

SPEECH

Ribbentrop, pale, nervous; picks up the refrain of "Not guilty."

SPEECH

Object lessons in psychology, the character of each comes out in the manner of his "Not Guilty" plea.

SPEECH

AFTER CALL
FRICK

Ex-Minister of the Interior.

AFTER CALL
STREICHER

Pronounced sane by medical experts, Jew baiter number one stands trial with the rest.

AFTER CALL
FRICK

Hitler's ex-Economic Adviser.

AFTER CALL
SCHACHT

Hitler's money wizard varies the words, - but still pleads, "Not guilty."

AFTER CALL
RAEDER

Ex-U boat chief.

SPEECH

The Nazi Youth Leader.

AFTER CALL
INQUART

Ex-Gauleiter of Holland

AFTER CALL
SPER

Now the backbone Nazi and armaments chief.

There have always been ambitious and ruthless men ready to gamble with the lives of their fellows; now for the first time, international gangsters stand trial as common criminals. Goering, still trying to read his statement, and still getting nowhere.

JUDGE

"You are not entitled to address the Tribunal except through your Counsel at the present time."

Opening the Allied case against the defendants; chief American prosecutor Justice Jackson.

SPEECH

JUSTICE
JACKSON

"In opening the first trial in history for crimes against the peace of the world imposes a grave responsibility. The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored because it cannot survive their being repeated."

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Goering was still switching from glum despair to spells of clowning at the end of the second days proceedings; but the lengthening lists of counts covered by the indictment left its mark on everyone but Hess, who showed little interest in anything. Goering wrote sheet after sheet of notes and suggestions for his defending counsel; ex-war-chief Keitel and Ribbentrop spoke only rarely.

Hess came to life once. Perhaps he'd forgotten to remember he'd lost his memory.

On the third day Major Coogan the prosecution took over.

SPEECH

MAJ. COOGAN

First a brief reference to the history of the Nazi Party. The court will no doubt recall that the National Socialist Party....."

Imagination sickens at the crimes laid upon the accused, now stripped of the trappings of power. The world's writ has run to Nuremberg, and justice waits.