

CLOSEUP OF HITLER

By Witnesses to His Actions

By: Horace R. Hansen
9 Sunset Lane
North Oaks, MN 55127

Tel: Office - 612/227-8056
Home - 612/484-5758

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1. BACKGROUND

Hitler's nihilist view of value of man was deep-seated. "Man is nothing but a louse. You can smash it." Killing of millions didn't bother him says witness Dr. Ewald Reynitz. Concentration camp deaths resulted mainly from starvation due to embezzlement of food money by SS commanders. Millions of slaves from conquered areas were manpower for Hitler's war machine, says prosecutor William D. Denson. As author I recount my war crime experiences, first as field investigator of what happened in the conquered areas, then the slave camps in Germany, finally preparations for the prosecutions in the trial facilities at the Dachau camp.

PART I

CHAPTER 2: WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION

Ninth Army's General Simpson letter to Allied commanders about my duties. Intense orientation. Uncovering war crimes in northern Germany; the atrocities against slave laborers from conquered countries in concentration camps; their labor sold by SS to privately-owned factories. Liberated slaves in Displaces Person centers.

January to March, 1945

CHAPTER 3: OCCUPATION VICTIMS

Witnessing liberation of civilians in France, Belgium and Holland after four grim years of Nazi occupation. Plundering down to bare necessities; forced labor; terrorizing Jews.

July to September, 1944

CHAPTER 4: GERMAN CIVILIANS

Conduct of Germans toward Americans. Non-fraternization and Military Gov't. Rules.

October, 1944 to March 1945

CHAPTER 5: PANIC AND SURRENDER

Move to destination, Elbe River; fresh atrocity at Gardelegen; slave laborers killed, some burned alive, per Hitler's order. Fear-crazed German soldiers flee Russians to surrender to us.

April, 1945

CHAPTER 6: DEALING WITH RUSSIANS

Russians take over our occupation zones and German civilians flee toward Bavaria in mortal fear. Russian officer's conduct toward Americans.

April, 1945

CHAPTER 7: AMERICANS AND GERMANS

Attitudes of German civilians toward Americans. Visions of Americans fighting Russians. I meet Winifred Wagner, related to composer.

June, 1945

CHAPTER 8: OCCUPATION SIDELIGHTS

Czechs friendly to us; hate Germans. Counterfeit currencies of many countries made by Nazis; switch to new money. Hitler "baby farm."

Summer, 1945

CHAPTER 9: ASSIGNMENT TO DACHAU

Over 30,000 SS, Gestapo and other Nazis held in sanitized compound formerly used for slave laborers. Mission: to link perpetrators to war crimes. Contrasting Nuremberg and Dachau indictments.

October, 1945

CHAPTER 10: ABOUT WILLIAM D. DENSON

His unique qualifications; trial prosecutor of four major concentration camp cases from November, 1945 to August, 1947, a lasting record.

October, 1945

PART II

CHAPTER 11: OVERVIEW OF EVIDENCE

Denson describes reasons for starvation of slave laborers (commanders embezzled food money); for extreme brutality and killings by SS Death Head units.

CHAPTER 12: COMMON DESIGN

Legal basis for four concentration camp trials. "Superior orders" defense. Trial procedures same as in American courts.

NOTE:

CHAPTERS 13 THROUGH 17 OMITTED IN PROCESS OF SHORTENING PART I.

CHAPTER 18: LIFE AT DACHAU

Liberation disclosed dead and dying prisoners, little more than skin and bone. Trial testimony of living conditions and starvation of slave prisoners.

CHAPTER 19: BEATINGS AND TORTURE

Witnesses and victims testify to constant beatings of slaves, using whips, sticks and chains. Standing cell; wrist hanging behind back; gruelling exercises. Sadistic conduct of SS guards.

CHAPTER 20: FORMS OF KILLINGS

Shooting of slaves by pistol or machine guns; hangings and lethal injections. Direct quoted from verbatim trial record.

CHAPTER 21: HUMAN GUINAE PIGS

Slaves used as guinea pigs in medical experiments -- freezing water; salt water; air-vacuum; liver punctures; phlegmon; blood poisoning and malaria. Skin and bone museum. all on orders from SS Chief Himmler. Hitler ordered evacuation of slaves from camps if enemy came close, or kill them.

CHAPTER 22: SENTENCES OF DEFENDANTS

Petitions for clemency. Automatic review of 1900 page trial record by two higher authorities. Some sentences reduced. Statements of some defendants at gallows.

PART III

HOW AND WHY IT ALL HAPPENED

CHAPTER 23: HITLER AS POLITICIAN

Dr. Ewald Reynitz is eye-and ear witness to Hitler's speeches and activities from 1923. Hitler hypnotizes rally audiences. Reaction of Germans to Hitler's promises of jobs and regaining lost territories. Less response to Hitler's themes of master race of Aryan Germans, Lebensraum (more living space for a greater Germany) and ridding Germany of Jews, Communists and Gypsies.

1923 to 1929

CHAPTER 24: HITLER'S RISE TO POWER

Street riots between Nazis and Communists. Anarchy and martial law. Military leaders support Hitler to avenge "unfair" 11/1/18 Armistice. Hitler a charlatan, using Big Lie propaganda. Hitler successful politician, being appointed Chancellor 1/30/33 after extreme pressure.

1923 to January 1933

CHAPTER 25: HITLER'S USE OF POWER

As Chancellor, Hitler took bold actions, but step-by-step. Outlaws labor unions, then replaces all independent groups with his appointed leaders. Ousted state governments and appoints his leaders in turn to appoint local Nazis as officials and court judges. Reichstag building fire allegedly started by Communists as excuse to suspend civil rights and to obtain Enabling Act (rule by Hitler's decrees). National boycott of Jews to drive them from Germany. Takeover of schools. Hitler and Pope sign Concordat, restricting only independent group to survive.

January, 1933 to 1934

CHAPTER 26: BUILDING POWER

Hitler's military buildup defies WW I treaties. Purge of SA. When President Hindenburg dies, Hitler assumes dictatorship. Oath of allegiance controls military. Draft starts in 1935. Tricky future debt finances buildup. Decree against Jews.

CHAPTER 27: GETTING BOLDER

Bloodless military move into Rhineland. Reactions. Building Siegfried Line. Olympic Games. Blitzkrieg tested in Spanish civil war. Hitler admires Stalin. Anti-Comintern Pact with Italy and Japan.

1936 and 1937

CHAPTER 28: INVASION

Hitler's technique in annexing Austria. Plebiscites approve. Munich Pact and occupation of Sudetenland. Last bloodless move: occupation of Memel, Lithuania in early 1939.

1938 to autumn 1939

CHAPTER 29: INSIDE GERMANY

Hitler controls Protestant churches. Chrystal night. Billion-mark fine on Jews. Gassing retarded people. Sterilizing people with chronic diseases. Free love for more babies.

1938 to autumn 1939

CHAPTER 30: START OF WW II

Hitler's demand for Polish Corridor. Shocking Pact with Russia. Hitler attacks Poland a week later. Reactions. Secret division of northeastern countries.

September, 1939

CHAPTER 31: CONQUEST SWITCHES WESTWARD

Hitler: "My goals satisfied." (After Poland). No advance warning for taking Denmark and Norway. Hitler then strikes through Benelux countries. Near disaster at Dunkirk. Churchill's speech: "We shall never surrender." British bombers strike Germany. Reynitz explains switch westward.

Early 1940

CHAPTER 32: INTO FRANCE

Hitler's delayed speech on invasion. Germans alarmed. Lies about bombings of Germany and Britain. Hitler rescues Mussolini of Italy.

Latter 1940 and early 1941

CHAPTER 33: INTO RUSSIA

Hitler's speech: "Lebensraum needed for a greater Germany" (his excuse for invading Russia). Russia counterattacks. Reactions in Germany. Japan hits Pearl Harbor. Four days later, Germany declared war on U.S. A deal? Hitler's Night and Fog Decree to move Jewish families out of Germany.

Latter 1941

CHAPTER 34: CONQUEST VERSUS GENOCIDE

Hitler directs two wars: conquest for territory and genocide of Jews. The latter a hindrance to the former. Hitler's ninth anniversary speech stresses uprooting Jews from Europe, but used many in armament factories.

CHAPTER 35: HITLER'S HEADQUARTERS

Reynitz meets Hitler who tells him: "Whoever will give away anything he has seen or heard here will lose his his head." Verbatim transcripts of Hitler's twice daily military situation conference. Ten to twenty attended. Grim atmosphere at headquarters in Russia.

Latter 1942

CHAPTER 36: HITLER CONDUCTS WAR

Hitler controls military chiefs by harsh speeches and two spy systems. Hitler uses his intuition in overruling advice of generals. Stalingrad "turning point." Why generals obeyed Hitler's senseless orders, then were blamed for defeats. Mussolini overthrown and Hitler orders his troops into Italy, considers possibility of invading Vatican. Gen. Rommel appointed to defend northern France against Allied invasion.

1943

CHAPTER 37: HITLER'S PERSONALITY

Hitler's humor rare. Vegetarian. His fears of food poisoning and toothache. Health failing. Spartan life. A workaholic. Views of other national leaders. Hatred of Catholic Church. Fear of poison gas in bunker. Had no friends, purposely.

1943 to 1945

CHAPTER 38: HITLER FACES PINCERS

Reynitz describes Hitler's conduct in fateful 1944. Taking slave laborers stepped up. Hitler ignores war crimes. Angry about Allied bombings in Germany. Hitler's goal to bomb Britain into submission. His reaction to Allied invasion of France. Eyewitness account of bombing attempt on Hitler. Volkssturm formed. Hitler plans counterattack to take Antwerp, Allied supply port to occur in fog season to avoid bombing. Allied troops cross German border. When

counterattack fails, Hitler orders new attack. Reynitz and colleagues assess Hitler's demonic conduct, ignoring reality and fancising.

1944

CHAPTER 39: FINAL DAYS

Hitler's twelfth and last anniversary speech. His attitude toward chiefs in inner circle. Hitler issues Annihilation Order. Speer contradicts and is dismissed. Hitler uncertain: stay in Berlin or continue war from Alpine Redoubt.

April, 1945

CHAPTER 40: AFTER HITLER

Hitler's recorders help American Intelligence Officers at Berchtesgaden find and translate secret documents stored there. Kempka's statement about suicide of Hitler and Eva Braun. Their cremation to avoid Russian "freak show."

Summer, 1945

CHAPTER 42: REFLECTIONS

Hitler had connected WW I and WW II. Hitler's wrong philosophy and orders in 1944 and 1945. His obsessions about Jews, concentration camps and secrecy. Reynitz views neo-Nazis.

Epilogue)
Glossary)
Characters) In Process
List of Illustrations)
Index)