

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

K.Z.-Films.

Mann, Erika

Nürnberg, 1945-11-29

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HEADQUARTERS

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PROVENING STANDARD LONDON

HYDE

Civil Affairs Detachment D3C1
Co. 8, 1st ECA Regiment
APO 628
US ARMYNURNBERG NOVEMBER ~~11th~~ 29th

After the most complete and shocking documentary film of German atrocities ever shown, ^{TODAY} the big twenty at the Palace of Justice turned out to be "just little men". Like the rest of their countrymen they have done, seen and known nothing. They all say "horrible, horrible, horrible!", but as far as they are concerned the responsible parties are not in this court room: Hitler, Bormann, Himmler, Heidrich, Kaltenbrunner - the missing, dead and ~~absent~~ absent.

Schacht, who graphically objected to looking at the film on the grounds that he might be ill in public, insisted that the show was an atrocity in itself. "I for one" he said, "should not be ~~exposed~~ exposed to this. I have myself suffered in a concentration camp for two weeks." (Schacht was arrested on July 25th 1944, allegedly in connection with the July 20th attempt on Hitler's life. He was first held at the Prince Albrechtstrasse Prison, then for a fortnight at Dachau and subsequently in Austria). His lawyer, Dr. Rudolf Dix, admits that Schacht was always treated ^{as} ~~like~~ a gentleman prisoner. Dr. Dix said that he, too, looked at the film only as often as he deemed necessary in order not to appear spectacular.

Hess' lawyer, Dr. Guenther von Rohrscheidt, noticed - like everyone else - that, for the first time his client had stopped staring into space.

"Here at last" ^{is} ~~was~~ said Hess, "something interesting. Up to now I have been bored to distraction. I am no longer allowed to take a book into court. Today there was something to see!"

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Actually Hess made it difficult for his neighbour, Goering, to watch the film, so eagerly did he lean forward. Although, according to his counsel, Hess does not remember if he ever saw the flesh ~~version~~ version of the horror picture, or knew of its existence, he was not horrified or astonished. Tomorrow the tribunal will deal with the conclusions reached by the psychiatrists' ^{findings} ~~findings~~ of Hess' "mental competence and capacity to stand trial". Hess who steadfastly ~~refuses~~ refuses treatment for his amnesia, says:

"I am mentally competent; I don't want any psychiatrists to jeopardize my capacity to stand trial. I understand that I was one of Germany's top leaders; obviously I wouldn't have been made a leader, had I not been sane; if I was sane, I must have been responsible for my actions; if I was responsible for my actions, my place is with the others."

Von Rohrscheidt who deeply admires what he calls Hess' "sharp thinking and irrefutable logic", observes that his client does not believe in medical science. The Rudolf Hess Hospital at Dresden employed only faith and nature healers, whom the deputy Fuehrer elevated to the rank of doctors. Though Rohrscheidt is somewhat ^{upset} disturbed by the fact that Hess' farewell letter to Hitler, which he has claimed as evidence, has not been recovered, he believes that Goering will be able to recall the text. Hess does not. He does not remember writing it, nor does he know that he ever flew to England.

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Counselors for Seyss-Inquart, Jodl and Streicher repeated the "Horrible, horrible, horrible"-refrain. But, because of more pressing subjects, they had not discussed the film with their clients. "We are expecting Schuschnig tomorrow", said Dr. Hans Laternser, Seyss-Inquart's lawyer; "there ~~was~~ ^{is} much to talk about".

Franz von Papen junior, assistant defense counsel for the elder von Papen, had talked to his father immediately after the film. "I was frightened, when I saw him", he said; "though he had - of course - nothing to do with these atrocities, he has never ~~before~~ before looked so ashen and desperate." (Papen never glanced at the film after the first two or three minutes but, as he speaks English, could not escape from the steady drone of the commentary).

Asked for the reactions of his three clients, Ribbentrop, von Schirach and Funk, Dr. Fritz Sauter declared: "None of them said a word. Knowing that Funk was a 'soft' man, I had warned him beforehand to pull himself together and not to make a spectacle of himself. Unfortunately he failed to oblige. " (Funk perspired, twitched and wept so vehemently, that prison authorities conferred throughout the film as to whether he ~~should~~ should be removed.)

As for Ribbentrop, his lawyer stated that his paleness tonight was positively ghastly. "assuming", said Dr. Sauter, "that he had heard ~~reports~~ reports regarding concentration camps, I had asked him in earlier conversations, whether - even if he considered only twenty % of such reports true - he had not been outraged. He replied: 'Never under Hitler have I ~~listened~~ listened to foreign broadcasts. To do so was not only unlawful, but

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the Fuehrer would have held it to be treason and a violation of our oath of allegiance to him personally. Only three men in Germany were permitted to ~~listen~~ listen: Goering, Goebbels and the propaganda minister's mouthpiece, Hans Fritzsche. All I knew was that in 1942 or 43 a Red Cross commission went on an inspection tour and found conditions in our concentration camps satisfactory. Since the Prince of Coburg-Gotha, President of the German Red Cross and until Germany's surrender Vice President of the International Red Cross, vouched for these findings, I had no reason to doubt their authenticity. After all, I was only Foreign ~~Minister~~ Minister."

For the first time tonight, Dr. Sauter felt unable to pay his three clients the customary visit after dinner. Instead, he went home and wrote two letters: one to the Bavarian Minister of Justice, Minister President Wilhelm ~~Hoegner~~ Hoegner, and one to the Chief of the Munich Police, saying that he profoundly regretted having accepted this disastrous task. ^{whether} Asked, ~~if~~ he could not withdraw, if his conscience compelled him to do so, he said:

" I feel more and more like a deputy defendant, sitting shield-like in front of these men. But as a German I, too, have to pay, even if ten days ago I did not know yet how dear was the price."

Dr. Sauter is no exception. The film, strongly though it affected the accused - Hess, Streicher and Sauckel were the only exceptions - , it left the counsels for the defense all but prostrate and wholly demoralized. Throughout their common dinner there was no conversation and little appetite. Paler than their clients, they went home, if not to sleep, to go on

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trying to ~~HE~~ defend the indefensible.

After the film one lawyer went so far as to comment:
"The sooner my client is hanged, the better." End ~~hahhahhah~~ article.

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