

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Rudolf Hess und Günther von Rohrscheidt.

Mann, Erika

Nürnberg, 1945-11-22

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EXERIK A MANN

PRO EVENING STANDARD LONDON

HYDE

Civil Affairs Detachment DSC

Co. 8, 1st ECA Regiment

828 OPA

US ARMY

Nurnberg November 22nd

Rudolf Hess continued today to pay no attention whatever to the proceedings and to devote himself entirely to his reading of

"Der Loisl, The Story of a Girl" by Hans Fitz. His counsel, Dr. Guenther von Rohrscheidt, a tall, gray-haired East Prussian appointed by the court, shrugged rather discouragedly, when asked if Hess had begun to recall things past.

"Nothing doing", he said; "the man is obviously abnormal."

I inquired whether, as a last resort, Hess was planning to plead insane.

"Not by any means", I was told. "He insists that though he can't remember anything, he is ~~perfectly~~ perfectly normal. Moreover, he says that since he has been indicted along with 21 others all of whom must once have been close to him, he wishes to share their fate. Except for his amnesia he talks coherently and not without intelligence."

I asked if Hess remembered what happened yesterday.

He did. Actually had was able to recall events ~~huhuhuhuhuh~~ that occurred up to a fortnight ago. But when he was first confronted with Goering, he said: "I understand that both of us used to be top

~~Nazi~~ Nazis. How are you?"

ASKED

client

~~questioned~~ as to why his ~~huhuh~~ never listened to what was going on in the court room, von Rohrscheidt replied that Hess was (a) not interested in having his memory refreshed at so unpleasant a juncture and (b) did not think very highly of the trial as such. As for the question

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why Hess ~~should~~ would wish to share ~~the~~ fate of a bunch of men who for all he knew might be ordinary criminals or politicians whose views might be most repulsive to him, the ~~lawyer~~ ^{LAWYER} observed that Hess' mind was not easily read. "Nor", he said, "do I think that American psychiatrists would necessarily be able to understand him. They might fail correctly to evaluate his condition. I have requested that a Swiss specialist examine my client. Above all, however, I wish Geheimrat Bumke, the internationally famous Munich authority, to be called in on the case. Bumke has been accused of having been a Nazi. But I shall not bow to any American assertion to the effect that Hess is sane, unless Geheimrat Bumke confirms it."

I asked whether the Swiss specialist's testimony would convince Dr. von Rohrscheidt. He said that only a German authority - preferably Bumke - would be satisfactory to him.

While, despite ^{GENERALLY EFFECTIVE} ~~generally valid~~ de-nazification rules, four Nazi lawyers have been admitted by the tribunal so as not to hamper the defendants' ~~high~~ chances, one might assume that no Nazi doctor such as Bumke would be acceptable to the court. The ^{DEFENSE} ~~defense~~ is not expected to be unbiased. Physicians asked for their professional opinion regarding the defendants must be known to be objective. end article.

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which he knows to be erroneous and untrue.
In addition, he has for years been a devoted member of the defense
of the country to the point that he has not hesitated to be imprisoned
many times, one might assume that he must have been in the front
been admitted by the government so as not to hinder the defense.
After the war, he has been a member of the defense, and he has been
much to be satisfied to him.
He has said that only a few men in the world - the few who
I have met are the only ones who are really men. I am
satisfied to believe that there is some sense in the world, some
reason for being in the world. But I shall not go to any American
man who might be called in on the case. There has been
a great deal of work done, I am sure, by the international
community in the world. I have learned that a great deal of work
has been done to help the world. They might not collect to
help. "No," he said, "no I am sure that the world is a
great deal better to him, the world is better than we are, and
he knows that he is a member of the world. He knows that he
is a member of the world. He knows that he is a member of the world.

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APO 658
US ARMY

NOTE: This is a copy of a letter from the head of the Civil Affairs Detachment D5C1, Co. B, 1st ECA Regiment, APO 658, US ARMY.

hs been declared fit
the tribunal declared
Shortly after ten o'clock this morning Rudolf Hess was declared
to be fit for trial. In the minds of many people - especially in that
of his counsel the tribunal's verdict ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~erroneous~~ ^{erroneous}
US ARMY

Shortly after ten o'clock this morning Rudolf Hess was declared to
be fit for trial. Soem observers here - including Hess' counsel -
deem the tribunal's verdict erroneous. ~~Hess~~ ^{Hess} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~fit~~ ^{fit} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~trial~~ ^{trial}
the bombshell - they claim - which the defendant threw yesterday
into the courtroom, proved more than anything that Hess is stark
raving crazy. Nothing could be more insane for anyone ~~than~~ ^{obviously} ~~to~~ ^{abnormal} ~~assert~~ ^{than} ~~that~~ ^{than} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~faking~~ ^{faking} ~~his~~ ^{his}
abnormality and is in fact the only sane person present. ~~When~~ ^{When} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~delivered~~ ^{delivered} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~startling~~ ^{startling} ~~little~~ ^{little} ~~speech~~ ^{speech} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~6.30~~ ^{6.30} ~~pm~~ ^{pm} ~~yesterday~~ ^{yesterday}
there was something in Hess' scornfully amused smile that seemed to
indicate that ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~engaging~~ ^{engaging} ~~seven~~ ^{seven} ~~psychiatrists~~ ^{psychiatrists} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~five~~ ^{five} ~~countries~~ ^{countries} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~examine~~ ^{examine} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~"patient"~~ ^{"patient"} ~~;~~ [;] ~~received~~ ^{received} ~~voluminous~~ ^{voluminous} ~~reports~~ ^{reports} ~~on~~ ^{on} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~state~~ ^{state} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~mind~~ ^{mind} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~indulged~~ ^{indulged} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~a~~ ^a ~~discussion~~ ^{discussion} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~almost~~ ^{almost} ~~two~~ ^{two} ~~hours~~ ^{hours} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~determine~~ ^{determine} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~mental~~ ^{mental} ~~condition~~ ^{condition}
When he had delivered his startling little speech at 6.30 pm yesterday
there was something in Hess' scornfully amused smile that seemed to
indicate that the crazy ones - to his mind at least - were those who
felt for his fake, who engaged seven psychiatrists from five countries to examine the
"patient" ; received voluminous reports on his state of mind and
subsequently indulged in a learned discussion of almost 2 hours to
determine his state of mind. Even while he spoke, his counsel, Dr. Guenter
von Rohrscheidt, who had held that Hess was unfit for trial, looked about
triumphantly, as if to say: "There you are! I told you so!"
- a remark which he actually made as soon as the court

adjourned.

Although the tribunal has spoken and Rudolf Hess will stand trial as the war criminal, the argument as to whether he is or not the defendant is insane, is very likely to continue. There can be little doubt, however, that Hess is simply hysterical, ~~up to~~ to the extreme. He always has been. ~~He has been in the Munich Psychiatric Hospital for 19 years ago~~ Some 19 years ago ~~he~~ he was under the care of the Munich Psychiatrist in whose anteroom I first met him. His manic depressive, his ~~stomach~~ nervous stomach ailment, his ~~neurotic~~ ~~neurotic~~ ~~adoration~~ ~~of the "Fuehrer"~~ ~~they~~ ~~utter~~ all emanated from his ~~hysteria~~ hysteria. Like Hitler himself, Hess was a boundary case. Though organically sane, they both let their hysteria carry them ~~to~~ pathological extremes. ~~Like~~ Hess, the hysterical simulant, is hardly able to distinguish between truth and fake. When he wrote the first frightened note to his wife, saying that he could not remember anything, he was doubtlessly sincere. Later on he deliberately used his partial amnesia for what he himself calls "tactical reasons". Not he believes that he slyly invented the whole thing for the purpose of fooling the court. The true state of affairs, it would seem, is best characterized ~~by~~ ⁱⁿ the report submitted to the tribunal by three Russian psychiatrists. "The loss of memory by Hess" state the soviet authorities, "is not the result of some kind of mental disease but represents hysterical amnesia the bases of which is a subconscious inclination towards self defense, as well as a deliberate and conscious tendency toward it. Such behavior often terminates when the hysterical person is faced with an unavoidable necessity of conducting himself correctly. Therefore, the amnesia of Hess may end upon his being brought to trial."

appears
His amnesia ~~seems~~ to have ended. As far as Hess is in control
of himself, it certainly has. For the first time yesterday, his reactions throughout the session were completely normal. He did not miss a cue. and
laughed at the right moments, ~~grew nervous, excited, or annoyed~~ bored,
grew nervous, excited, or annoyed ~~through the changing course of the proceedings.~~
through the changing course of the proceedings.

One man in the courtroom was not in the least surprised
by the ~~change~~ change in the defendant's behaviour. Major Kelley,
the American psychiatrist ~~who~~ who has
been observing Hess ever since his arrival here, stated afterwards:
"Something of the kind was to be expected. Hess is neither crazier
nor less crazy today than he has been for years past. He remains
what he has always been: the prototype of
a psychopathic
personality."

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APO 928
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