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RCA
exERIKA MANN
proEVENING STANDARD LONDON
Hyde

Yesterday at Dachau, the war crimes trial of Joseph Goldbrunner and Alfons Jakob Wilm - the eighth to be held in Third Army territory - resulted in two acquittals. Both, the former Hitler Youth Leader of Erding near Munich, and the local party treasurer, who were charged with having unlawfully aided, abetted and encouraged the killing of the American flier, Arthur W. Manosh, on July 19th 1944, were pronounced not guilty.

The trial lasted from 10.30 am till 6.30 p.m. (with ^aone hour recess at noon) and brought a number of dramatic ^rsurprises.

Anton Schosser, the doomed killer, whose stubborn denials last Friday had not prevented his ~~conviction~~ conviction, appeared as a witness for the defense. Schosser was a changed man.

"I killed", he said, "and I lied. But now that I have seen Father Roth (the prison priest), I have found back to my religion."

His crime, he confessed, was premeditated and deliberate. But those, whose orders he obeyed, were equally responsible.

According to Schosser, the nazi party leadership had repeatedly demanded the murder of all allied airmen who fell into German hands. Through an official order issued by Reich's leader Borman, Nazi functionaries throughout the Reich had been bound in duty to kill as many fliers as they could find. He, Schosser, a flimsy, weakish little man of 43, had ^{NEVER} ~~had~~ been too successful a party member. Though he joined in 1933, it was not before the ~~late~~ summer of 1940 that he was given a job as district business leader of Erding. If he now failed to murder at least one flier, he might lose his position. His immediate superior, Kreisleader Breitenstein of Erding, was an ambitious man and on his part responsible to the Gauleader of Munich

through whom Reich's leader Borman ~~was~~ kept ^{HIMSELF} informed.

The two men who accompanied Schosser on his gruesome errand - the accused Goldbrunner and Wilm - were, he insisted, wholly unaware of his intentions. He walked with his prisoner, while his friends followed slowly in the escape car. Even so they had no incling of what was to happen. ~~When~~ One of them helped him to carry the ^{corpse} ~~body~~ to the edge of the canal, but neither assisted in the shooting. Nor should they be blamed for not reporting the incident to the police.

"The Kreisleader" said Schosser, "made them promise to keep silent."

Testifying in their own behalf, the dfendents corroborated Schosser's new story. Another eye witness, however, the gardener Lorenz Liegl, described vividly, how the weapon from which the fourth and fatal shot was fired, had been handed by Goldbrunner to Wilm and by Wilm to Schosser. If the accused themselves could not be considered unprejudiced, the court had to weigh Liegl's unbiased testimony against ^{THE ASSERTIONS} ~~that~~ of the converted Schosser.

While the commission deliberated, I went to talk to the latter. He seemed sincerely remorseful.

"The party", he said, "employed every means to encourage those horrible killings. Gauleader Gieseler of Munich, for instance, offered a box of cigars to anyone who murdered a flier. I know of at least one man who received such a box."

Since his own conviction was based largely on the declarations given by Wilm and Goldbrunner, I wondered^d, why, as a witness, Schosser had seemed so eager to prove their innocence. Perhaps his new christian fervor had caused him to forgive his enemies and to re-pay evil with good.

"When you had talked to the priest", I inquired, "did you feel that it would be a good and noble thing for you to help save the lives of your comrades?"

He nodded.

"You had taken one life", I went on; "did the desire to save two others move you to speak as you did?"

He cried.

"Yes" he said finally.

I mentioned this conversation to the Chief Prosecutor~~Chhnhhhhhhh~~ Captain Victor H. Miles, who notified the commission that he wished the case to be re-opened. The defense protested. Their objection was overruled. I was sworn in and testified to what I had heard.

Schosser, re-appearing for the defense, was unable to remember precisely what had been said, but denied that his testimony had been dictated by anything but the truth.

Once again the commission withdrew. Twenty minutes later the defendents were acquitted and released. As to myself, I ^{MAY} ~~should~~ have to think twice before turning up anywhere near Erding. Particularly at night. End article beginning message hope pictures arrived ~~hahhhhh~~ suggest their use with this piece regards

Dachau
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