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**Nuernberg Trials Records
Register Cards to the NOKW
Document Series
1946-1949**



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World War II War Crimes Records

Record Group 238

NUERNBERG TRIALS RECORDS
REGISTER CARDS TO THE NOKW
DOCUMENT SERIES
1946-1949

On the two rolls of this publication are micro-filmed register, or master, cards for the NOKW (Nuernberg Armed Forces High Command) document series, numbered 1-3573 with gaps. This series was assembled by the Evidence Division of the Office, Chief of Counsel for War Crimes (OCCWC), for the 12 U.S. military tribunals trying war criminals at Nuernberg during the 1946-49 period. Each register card describes an individual record item of the NOKW document series and its uses before the tribunals. Many of the individual records of this series were offered as evidence in the List and the von Leeb cases, 2 of the 12 cases tried before the U.S. military tribunals.

Background

Jurisdictions and Cases

In Europe, the United States participated in war crimes trials under three jurisdictions: that of the International Military Tribunal (IMT), that of the U.S. military tribunals at Nuernberg, and that of the U.S. Army courts. General authority for the proceedings of all three jurisdictions derived from the Declaration of German Atrocities (Moscow Declaration), released November 1, 1943, which expressed Allied determination to arrest and bring to justice Axis war criminals. Brief descriptions of the war crimes trials records in the National Archives are in the Record Group Statement near the end of this introduction. Microfilm and other publications available at the National Archives and Records Service are mentioned in the Related Records section, which concludes the introduction.

International Military Tribunal

The IMT tried 24 major Nazi war criminals and a number of organizations in 1945 and 1946. Specific authority for U.S. participation in the IMT is found in Executive Order 9547 of May 2, 1945, which authorized Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson to represent the United States in war crimes matters and to act as Chief of Counsel; the London Agreement of August 8, 1945, (as amended by the Berlin

Protocol of October 6, 1945), in which the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union agreed to hold the IMT; and the IMT Charter (an annex to the London Agreement), which outlined the rights and obligations of defendants, judges, and prosecutors.

U.S. Military Tribunals At Nuernberg

From 1946 to 1949, U.S. military tribunals at Nuernberg tried 185 individuals in 12 separate proceedings grouped according to type of crime or organization. Specific authority for the U.S. tribunals, which tried these 12 cases, is found in Allied Control Council Law 10 of December 20, 1945, which outlined trial procedures patterned after those of the IMT; Executive Order 9679 of January 16, 1946, which authorized the establishment of U.S. military tribunals; Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.) (OMGUS) Ordinances 7 and 11 of October 18, 1946, and February 17, 1947, respectively, which spelled out details of trial procedures outlined by Allied Control Council Law 10; and United States Forces, European Theater (USFET), General Order 301 of October 24, 1946, which appointed Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor as Chief of Counsel for War Crimes for the 12 U.S. military tribunals at Nuernberg.

U.S. Army Courts

From 1945 to 1948, U.S. Army courts (military commissions and special or general military courts) tried 1,672 individuals in 489 proceedings. Specific authority for these proceedings is found in Joint Chiefs of Staff Directive 1023/10 of July 8, 1945, which placed responsibility for certain war crimes trials in Germany on the Commander, USFET. The Commander, in turn, empowered the commanding general of the Western Military District (territory occupied by the U.S. 3d Army (Bavaria)) to appoint military courts, predominantly at the site of the former concentration camp Dachau, for the trial of war criminals not heard at Nuernberg. This was done in a letter on the subject of "Trial of War Crimes and Related Cases" of July 16, 1945. The commanding general of the Eastern Military District (territory occupied by the U.S. 7th Army (Hesse, Baden-Wuerttemberg, and Bremen)) was similarly authorized to commence war crimes trials, mainly at Ludwigsburg. In order to streamline operations, the Commander, USFET, revoked this division of authority in a letter of October 14, 1946, and assigned responsibility to

prosecute war criminals to the Deputy Judge Advocate for War Crimes, USFET. Henceforth, all cases were tried at the site of the former concentration camp Dachau because centralization of war crimes activities appeared necessary in view of the large body of cases and investigations.

The 489 cases tried by the U.S. Army in Germany can be divided roughly into four categories: main concentration camp cases, subsequent concentration camp cases, flier cases, and miscellaneous cases. The first category comprises 6 cases with about 200 defendants, mainly staff members and guards at Dachau, Buchenwald, Flossenburg, Mauthausen, Nordhausen, and Muehldorf concentration camps. The second category includes about 250 proceedings against approximately 800 guards and staff members of the outcamps and branch camps of the major camps. The third category encompasses more than 200 cases in which about 600 persons, mostly German civilians, were prosecuted for the killing of some 1,200 U.S. nationals, mostly airmen. The fourth category consists of a few cases, including the Malmedy Massacre Case, in which 73 SS men were tried for murdering large groups of surrendered U.S. prisoners of war; the Hadamar Cases, in which a number of Hadamar Asylum staff members stood trial for the killing of about 400 Russian and Polish nationals; and the Skorzeny Case, in which some members of the German Armed Forces were charged with wearing U.S. Army uniforms while participating in the Ardennes offensive (Battle of the Bulge).

OCCWC

The Office, Chief of Counsel for War Crimes, was officially established October 24, 1946, having evolved from the Subsequent Proceedings Division of the Office, Chief of Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality (OCCPAC), which had been prosecuting Nazi war criminals at the International Military Tribunal at Nuernberg.

The Evidence Division of OCCWC included, in addition to the Apprehension and Locator Branch and the Interrogation Branch, the Document Control Branch, headed by Lt. Fred Niebergall, which handled the safekeeping and registration of all documents collected or produced for evidentiary purposes and assembled them into document series. From these series, items were selected, placed in document books, and introduced as evidence before the various tribunals.

There are six U.S. Nuernberg trial record series: The NG (Nuernberg Government) series, containing 5,889 numbered records items with some gaps; the NI (Nuernberg Industrialists) series, holding 15,681 record items also with gaps; the NM (Nuernberg Miscellaneous) series, with 20 record items; the NO (Nuernberg Organizations) series, consisting of 6,039 record items with many gaps; the NOKW (Nuernberg Armed Forces High Command) series, containing 3,573 record items with gaps; and the NP (Nuernberg Propaganda) series, composed of 119 record items. These series include records of potential evidentiary value from the era of the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich and a few records of an earlier period. The NI series records deal mainly with German industry, finances, and economic affairs, particularly those affecting the Krupp, Flick, and I. G. Farben industrial firms. The records of the NI series refer largely to trade unions and labor affairs. The records of the NO series relate most often to the various functions and formations of the SS (Schutz Staffel). Those of the NOKW series refer to the different German military commands. The NP series deals with the records of the Nazi Party abroad.

The N series were constituted at Nuernberg from many sources, including the Rosenberg collection of records, the I. G. Farben Library at Griesheim, and the output of various document teams; however, by far the largest number of records stemmed from OCCWC's permanent branch in Berlin and its temporary branch in Washington. In Berlin, six record series were established: the BB, BBH, F, BBT, SS, and WA series. If they were of sufficient evidential value, individual records of the first three series were converted at Nuernberg to N series records, usually to NI series documents: many BBT series items were redesignated with NG series numbers; and a large number of documents of the SS series became NO series items. Several WA series records were converted to NG and NO series documents. In Washington, the WB and WC series were established. Records of the WB series became NOKW series records, and documents of the WC series became NI series records at Nuernberg.

The NOKW Series

About half of the records of the NOKW Series pertain to divisions, army high commands, and army corps, while the remaining documents concern army groups, rear areas, and area commanders. There are also many smaller lots and individual items in this series.

Records of German military divisions were the source of 637 documents, approximately 18 percent of the volume of the NOKW Series. Nearly two-thirds of these relate to infantry divisions while the rest pertain to security divisions, reserve divisions, light divisions, mountain divisions, armored divisions, and individually named divisions. Many documents deal with partisan and antipartisan actions including the destruction of villages, the collecting and shooting of hostages, and the imposition of bounties on partisan leaders.

Another large grouping of records consisting of 608 documents was created by the army high commands. The content and form of the documents are similar to those of the division records and include such items as excerpts from war diaries, daily activity and intelligence reports, and figures on losses. The reports deal with partisan movements, treatment of hostile urban populations, the recruitment of Tartars, and other topics.

The corps level records contain 555 documents. They are concerned with topics not unlike those mentioned above and include documentation on partisan and antipartisan activities in Serbia, Greece, Albania, and the Soviet Union. Also in the series are papers pertaining to the attack on Holland, reports on food and labor conscription, and a Hitler directive on political education.

Resembling the record groupings mentioned above are the 295 record items which originated with army groups and army areas. On the other hand, the 252 documents produced by the rear area commands not only are more closely associated with partisan activities and their suppression, but to a greater extent relate to the treatment of Jews, the establishment of concentration camps, and other terrorist measures for the control of a hostile population.

Area commanders such as the military commander of Serbia or of the Southeast, the commander of Greece, and the commander of Northwestern France and Belgium generated 219 NOKW Series documents. Most deal with partisan and antipartisan movements; however, several of the records of the military commander of Northwestern France and Belgium are concerned with the deportation of laborers to Germany and the economic spoliation of the area.

The remaining documents in the NOKW Series came from over 100 different provenances. Many of these documents relate also to the Armed Forces of Nazi Germany and pertain to armored groups, the air force, army, and navy high commands. They include directives, orders, and items similar to those already described. There are also 175 affidavits and 38 interrogation reports largely made by or concerning military personnel such as Hermann Goering, the Chief of the Luftwaffe, and Generals Jodl and Warlimont. Also included in the NOKW Series are 70 situation maps depicting areas in Eastern Europe, particularly the Soviet Union.

A few documents originated in ministries or ministry-level agencies; these include records from the Munition and Armament Ministry, the Air Ministry, the Labor Ministry, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Justice Ministry. Several records came from the files of important Nazi officials such as Luftwaffe General Erhard Milch and Alfred Rosenberg, Minister of the Occupied Eastern Territories. Among the remaining miscellaneous documents are such items as a pass of a Yugoslav Liberation Army soldier, an order of battle, a copy of the on the retaliatory shooting of Germans by the French General LeClerc, a copy of Hitler's marriage certificate and last will, and excerpts from the Judgment in the Ohlendorf case. The majority of the documents in the NOKW Series are photostatic copies in German; the few original documents are mainly affidavits and interrogation reports.

The NOKW Series can thus be broken down according to document and type into the following seven categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Records</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Items from military units from the high command down to the division level.	2,909	81
Affidavits, interrogations, and other depositions	213	6
Ministry-Level agencies documents	70	2
Non-German governmental agencies records	66	2
Personnel files	40	1
Publications and press clippings	42	1
Miscellaneous records	233	7

Over three-quarters of the records of the NOKW Series came to the Office of the Chief of Counsel for War Crimes from the German Military Document Section in the Pentagon, where they had been assembled by the Military Intelligence Division (MID) for intelligence purposes. The remaining records in the NOKW series are publications collected by the Nuernberg Library, interrogations and affidavits made by OCCWC, or documents sent to Nuernberg from various document centers. Many individual items reached the prosecution staff at Nuernberg from document holders such as the Political Intelligence Division of the British Foreign Office, the Yugoslav War Crimes Commission, and the Berlin Document Center.

Records Description

The Document Control Branch prepared a master, or register, card for each NOKW series document. This card, mostly in English, contains data relating to the document and notes its status. The card includes such information as the origin of the

records, type, title, subject, language, and number of pages. Other data are also included concerning the availability of staff evidence analysis, the documents's uses in the various cases and its introduction as evidence before a tribunal, including the exhibit number, date, and case. The master document card thus furnished a history of the document and recorded its changing status. The NOKW series items, which the register cards describe, are reproduced as Microfilm Publication T1119. Each register card is annotated with the microfilm publication and roll number as well as the number of the first frame of the microfilmed document. The records are arranged numerically by consecutive NG document number.

Although there are different forms of the master card, most contain the information indicated above. In a number of cases, not only the NOKW document number is given but also the document numbers under which the record item was known previously. Whenever a master card is missing, a card is inserted noting the reason why the card or the document that it describes was not filmed

Filed at the beginning of roll 1 are key documents from which the tribunals derived their jurisdiction: the Moscow Declaration, U.S. Executive Orders 9547 and 9679, the London Agreement, the Berlin Protocol, the IMT Charter, Control Council Law 10, U.S. Military Government Ordinances Nos. 7 and 11, and U.S. Forces, European Theater, General Order 301. Affidavits by the chiefs of the respective documentation divisions of OCCPAC and OCCWC, Major Coogan and Fred Niebergall, which certify the authenticity of the documents, are filmed immediately after them.

Record Group Statement

The register cards are part of National Archives Collection of World War II War Crimes Records, RG 238, which contains war crimes records produced or accumulated by war crimes agencies other than those of the U.S. Army.

Most of the records of European and Japanese war crimes cases tried by the U.S. Army are part of one or more of the following three record groups (RG): Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army), RG 153, which includes case records and other files pertaining to war crimes trials

maintained by that Office in Washington, D.C.; Records of U.S. Army Commands, 1942- , RG 338, which contains the records generated by Army war crimes agencies subordinate to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Europe; and Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, World War II, RG 331, which contains the war crimes records created by the Supreme Commander Allied Powers and subordinate units in the Far East.

Related Records

NARS microfilm publications produced to date are listed below under the appropriate headings. Two lists are followed by a description of printed publications, including finding aids, that are available at NARS.

Records of International Military Tribunals

Diary of Hans Frank, T992, 12 rolls;
Prosecution Exhibits Submitted to the International Military Tribunal, T988, 54 rolls;
War Diaries and Correspondence of General Alfred Jodl, T989, 2 rolls;
Mauthausen Death Books, T990, 2 rolls;
United States Trial Briefs and Document Books, T991, 1 roll;
Guertner Diaries, October 5, 1934-December 24, 1938, M978, 3 rolls.

The nearly complete record of proceedings of the IMT at Nuernberg and most of the documentary evidence have been published in Trial of the Major War Criminals Before the International Military Tribunal (Nuernberg, 1947), 42 vols. Two NARS publications--PI 21, Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the United States Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality, and PI 180, Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East--are also available. NARS also holds motion pictures, photographs, and sound recordings of the IMT proceedings at Nuernberg.

Records of the U.S. Military Tribunals at Nuernberg

Nuernberg Trial Records Register Cards to the NG Document Series, 1946-49, M1278, 3 rolls;

Records of the Office of the United States Chief of Counsel for War Crimes, Nuernberg Military Tribunals, Relating to Nazi Industrialists, T301, 164 rolls;

Records of the United States Nuernberg War Crimes Trials:

NOKW Series, 1933-1947, T1119, 47 rolls; described by the register cards in this microfilm publication;

NG Series, 1933-1948, T1139, 70 rolls;

NM Series, 1874-1946, M936, 1 roll;

NP Series, 1934-1946, M942, 1 roll;

WA Series, 1940-1945, M946, 1 roll;

Records of the United States Nuernberg War Crimes Trials Interrogations, 1946-1949, M1019, 91 rolls;

Records of the United States Nuernberg War Crimes Trials, United States of America v.:

Karl Brandt et al. (Case I), November 21, 1946-August 20, 1947, M887 (Medical Case), 46 rolls;

Erhard Milch (Case II), November 13, 1946-April 17, 1947, M888 (Milch Case--Luftwaffe), 13 rolls;

Josef Altstoetter et al. (Case III), February 17-December 4, 1947, M889 (Justice Case), 53 rolls;

Oswald Pohl et al. (Case IV), January 13, 1947-August 11, 1948, M890, (Pohl Case--SS), 38 rolls;

Friedrich Flick et al. (Case V), March 3-December 22, 1947, M891 (Flick Case--Industrialist), 42 rolls;

Carl Krauch et al. (Case VI), August 14, 1947-July 30, 1948, M892 (I. G. Farben Case--Industrialist), 113 rolls;

Wilhelm List et al. (Case VII), July 8, 1947-February 19, 1948, M893 (Hostage Case), 48 rolls;

Ulrich Greifelt et al. (Case VIII), October 10, 1947-March 10, 1948 M894 (RuSHA Case--SS), 38 rolls;

Otto Ohlendorf et al. (Case IX), September 15, 1947-April 10, 1948, M895 (Einsatzgruppen Case--SS), 38 rolls;

Alfried Krupp et al. (Case X), August 16, 1947-July 31, 1948, M896 (Krupp Case--Industrialist), 69 rolls;

Ernest von Weizsaecker et al. (Case XI), November 4, 1947-October 28, 1948, M897 (Ministries Case), 173 rolls;

Wilhelm von Leeb et al. (Case XII), November 28, 1947-October 28, 1948, M898 (High Command Case), 67 rolls;

Excerpts from subsequent proceedings have been published as Trials of War Criminals Before the Nuernberg Military Tribunal Under Control Council Law No. 10 (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950-1953), 15 vols. Detailed published finding aids with computer-assisted indexes for the microfilmed records of the Ohlendorf Case (Special List 42) and the Milch Case (Special List 38) have also been published. The National Archives and Records Service holds motion pictures and photographs of many sessions of the 12 U.S. Nuernberg proceedings.

Records of the U.S. Army War Crimes Trials

United States of America v. Alfons Klein et al. (Case Files 12-449 and 000-12-31), October 8-15, 1945, M1078 (Hadamard Case), 3 rolls;
United States Army Investigation and Trial Records of War Criminals, United States of America v.:
Kurt Andrae et al. (and Related Cases), April 27, 1945-June 11, 1958, M1079 (Nordhausen Cases), 16 rolls;
Franz Auer et al., November 1943-July 1958, M1093 (Muehldorf Case), 13 rolls;
Juergen Stroop et al., March 29, 1945-August 21, 1957, M1095 (Superior Orders Case), 10 rolls;
Records of the United States Army War Crimes Trials, United States of America v.:
Ernst Dura et al., June 9-23, 1947, M1100 (Wiener-Neudorf Outcamp Case), 2 rolls;
Kurt Goebell et al., February 6-March 21, 1946, and United States of America v. August Haesiker, June 26, 1947, M1103 (collectively known as the Borkum Island Case), 7 rolls;
Otto Skorzeny et al., July 13, 1945-December 13, 1948, M1106 (Skorzeny Case), 24 microfiche;
Johann Haider et al., September 3-12, 1947, M1139 (Haider Case), 2 rolls;
Martin Gottfried Weiss et al., November 15, 1945-December 13, 1945, M1174 (Dachau Concentration Camp Case), 6 rolls.
Michael Vogel et al., July 8-15, 1947, M1173 (Muehldorf Ring (Vogel) Case), 2 rolls;
Hans Joachim Georg Geiger et al., July 9-August 5, 1947, M1191 (Ebensee Outcamp Case), 2 rolls;
Friedrich Becker et al., June 12, 1946-January 22, 1947, M1204 (Flossenbug Concentration Camp Case), 16 rolls;

Ernst Angerer et al., November 26-December 3, 1946, M1210 (Angerer Case), 1 roll;
German Documents Among the War Crimes Records of the Judge Advocate Division, Headquarters, United States Army, Europe, T1021, 20 rolls;
Reviews of the Yokohama Class B and Class C War Crimes Trials by the U.S. Eighth Army Judge Advocate, 1946-1949, M1112 (Yokohama Reviews), 5 rolls.

The register, or master, cards of the NOKW series were arranged for microfilming by Diane Nell. John Mendelsohn wrote these introductory remarks.

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