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**Records of the United States
Nuernberg War Crimes Trials
United States of American
v. Ulrich Greifelt et al.**

(CASE VIII)

October 10, 1947-

March 10, 1948



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RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES NUERNBERG WAR CRIMES TRIALS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V. ULRICH GREIFELT ET AL. (CASE VIII)
OCTOBER 10, 1947-MARCH 10, 1948

On the 38 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of Case VIII (*United States of America v. Ulrich Greifelt et al.*, or the "RuSHA" Case), one of the 12 trials of war criminals conducted by the U.S. Government from 1946 to 1949 at Nuernberg subsequent to the International Military Tribunal held in the same city. These records consist of German and English language versions of official transcripts of court proceedings, prosecution briefs and statements, and final pleas of the defendants as well as prosecution and defense exhibits and document books in one language or the other. Also included in this publication are a minute book, the official court file, order and judgment book, clemency petitions, and finding aids to the documents.

The transcripts of this trial, assembled in two sets of 13 bound volumes (one set in German and one in English), are the recorded daily trial proceedings. The prosecution briefs are also in both languages but unbound, as are the final pleas of the defendants delivered by counsel or defendants and submitted by the attorneys to the court. The unbound prosecution exhibits, numbered 1-904, are those documents from various Nuernberg record series offered in evidence by the prosecution in this case. The defense exhibits, also unbound, are predominantly affidavits by various persons. They are arranged by name of defendant and thereunder numerically. Both prosecution document books and defense document books consist of full or partial translations of exhibits into the English language. Loosely bound in folders, they provide an indication of the order in which the exhibits were presented before the tribunal.

The minute book, in one bound volume, is a summary of the transcripts. The official court file, in two bound volumes, includes the progress docket, the indictment, amended indictment, and the service thereof; appointments and applications of defense counsel and defense witnesses and prosecution comments thereto; defendants applications for documents; motions and physical examinations of defendant reports; uniform rules of procedures; and appendixes. The order and judgment book, in one bound volume, represents the signed orders, judgments, and opinions of the tribunal as well as sentences and commitment papers. Clemency petitions of the defendants contained in three bound volumes were directed to the military governor, the Judge Advocate General, the Secretary of State, and the Supreme Court of the United States. The finding aids summarize transcripts and exhibits.

Case VIII was heard by U.S. Military Tribunal I from October 10, 1947, to March 10, 1948. The records of this case, as the records of the other Nuernberg and Far East (IMTFE) war

crimes trials, are part of the National Archives Collection of World War II War Crimes Records, Record Group 238.

The Greifelt case was one of the 12 separate proceedings held before several U.S. Military Tribunals at Nuernberg in the U.S. Zone of Occupation in Germany against officials or citizens of the Third Reich, as follows:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>United States v.</u>	<u>Popular Name</u>
1	<i>Karl Brandt et al.</i>	Medical Case
2	<i>Ehrhardt Milch</i>	Milch Case (Luftwaffe)
3	<i>Josef Altstoetter et al.</i>	Justice Case
4	<i>Oswald Pohl et al.</i>	Pohl Case (SS)
5	<i>Friedrich Flick et al.</i>	Flick Case (Industrialist)
6	<i>Carl Krauch et al.</i>	I. G. Farben Case (Industrialist)
7	<i>Wilhelm List et al.</i>	Hostage Case
8	<i>Ulrich Greifelt et al.</i>	RuSHA Case (SS)
9	<i>Otto Ohlendorf et al.</i>	Einsatzgruppen Case (SS)
10	<i>Alfried Krupp et al.</i>	Krupp Case (Industrialist)
11	<i>Ernst von Weizsaecker et al.</i>	Ministries Case
12	<i>Wilhelm von Leeb et al.</i>	High Command Case

Authority for the proceedings of the International Military Tribunal against the major Nazi war criminals derived from the Declaration on German Atrocities (Moscow Declaration) released November 1, 1943, Executive Order 9547 of May 2, 1945, the London Agreement of August 8, 1945, the Berlin Protocol of October 6, 1945, and the Charter of the International Military Tribunal.

Authority for the 12 subsequent cases stemmed mainly from Control Council Law 10 of December 20, 1945, and was reinforced by Executive Order 9679 of January 16, 1946; U.S. Military Government Ordinance Nos. 7 and 11 of October 18, 1946, and February 17, 1947; and U.S. Forces, European Theater General Order 301 of October 24, 1946. The procedures applied by U.S. Military Tribunals in the subsequent proceedings were patterned after those of the International Military Tribunal and further developed in the 12 cases, which required over 1,200 days of court sessions and generated more than 330,000 transcript pages.

Accused in the RuSHA Case were leading officials of the Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt (Race and Settlement Main Office), generally referred to by its acronym RuSHA; the Stabshauptamt des Reichskommissars fuer die Festigung des Deutschen Volkstums (Staff Main Office of the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germanism), often known as RKFDV; the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle (Office for Repatriation of Ethnic Germans), commonly designated VOMI; and the Lebensborn (literally "source of life"). Working in conjunction with the RKFDV and the VOMI, the RuSHA carried out basic racial policies designed to safeguard

the "purity" of the German race and to resettle Germans, evacuating Slavs and other groups in the process. Widespread racial examinations carried out by the RuSHA formed the basis for forced Germanization, transfers of populations, slave labor, persecution of Slavs, and extermination of Jews. While the RuSHA was not concerned with the implementation of these acts, the prosecution charged that the acts were direct results of racial examinations carried out by Rasse und Siedlungsfuehrer (RuS leaders) and insisted that officers of the RuSHA be responsible for the consequences of their policy decisions. The defense, on the other hand, attempted to absolve the RuSHA of blame for the measures taken after the result of the racial examinations was known. The Deutsche Volksliste (German People's List) was a device for grouping the inhabitants of enemy countries into categories of desirability according to Nazi criteria. Those members of the population rated in the highest category were tapped for citizenship and concomitant compulsory participation in the German Armed Forces; the majority of people, rated as "undesirables," were marked for slave labor, privation, and in some cases extermination.

The concern with eugenics fostered by the RuSHA led to the premarital examinations of SS men and their prospective brides and to the SS establishment of Lebensborn homes to assist married and unmarried mothers of desirable children and to care for a small number of "racially valuable" children of aliens who were kidnapped or obtained in similar ways. Stress on children for the Nazi regime was paralleled by measures favoring abortions for women of undesirable racial background and by efforts to prevent the marriage and reproduction of these people.

The prosecution presented a variety of evidence to prove its case. Among the documentary evidence were office directives, affidavits, organization charts, office mailing lists, decrees, memorandums, and letters. Among oral sources, the testimony of defendants, their victims, and those affected by the activities of the offices were used. The prosecution graphically described the human suffering involved in carrying out the activities of resettlement and in the kidnapping and indoctrination of the children thus involved.

The transcripts of the Greifelt case include the indictments of the following 14 officers and deputies:

Ulrich Greifelt, SS Lieutenant General, Chief of the Staff Main Office of the RKFDV;
Rudolf Creutz, SS Senior Colonel, Chief of Amtsgruppe A of the Staff Main Office of the RKFDV;
Konrad Meyer-Hetling, SS Senior Colonel, Chief of Amtsgruppe C of the Staff Main Office of the RKFDV;
Otto Schwarzenberger, SS Senior Colonel, Chief of Amtsgruppe B of the Staff Main Office of the RKFDV;

Herbert Huebner, SS Colonel, Branch Chief of RKFDV Staff Main Office and representative of Race and Settlement Main Office for the Warthegau;

Werner Lorenz, SS Lieutenant General, Chief of VOMI;

Heinz Brueckner, SS Major, Chief of Amt VI of VOMI;

Otto Hoffmann, SS Lieutenant General, Chief of RuSHA from July 9, 1940, to April 20, 1943;

Richard Hildebrandt, SS Lieutenant General, Chief of RuSHA from April 20, 1943, to May 1945;

Fritz Schwalm, SS Lieutenant Colonel, Chief of Staff of RuSHA and RuSHA representative at the Immigration Center at Lodz;

Max Sollmann, SS Colonel, Chief of Main Department A of Lebensborn;

Gregor Ebner, SS Senior Colonel, Chief of the Main Health Department of Lebensborn;

Guenther Tesch, SS Major, Chief of the Main Legal Department of Lebensborn; and

Inge Viermetz, Deputy Chief of Main Department A of Lebensborn.

The indictment consisted of three counts. Count one was concerned with crimes against humanity, encompassing persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds and including forced Germanization, genocide, and other inhuman acts committed against civilian populations, including German nationals as well as non-Germans. Eight defendants were found guilty, while six were acquitted on this count. Count two of the indictment dealt predominantly with conventional war crimes, such as murder and ill treatment of prisoners of war and of the civilian population in countries occupied or controlled by German armies. Destruction and devastation not justified by military necessity was also covered by count two. Of those charged, eight defendants were found guilty, while two were acquitted of this count. The third of the three counts embodied membership after September 1, 1939, in organizations declared illegal by the International Military Tribunal, which included both the SS and the Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo or secret police), although in typical totalitarian fashion all members of the latter state organization had become members of the former Nazi Party organization by 1940. Thirteen defendants were found guilty of this count; Inge Viermetz was not charged.

The transcripts also contain the arraignment and pleas of the defendants (all pleaded not guilty), opening and closing statements of defense and prosecution, and the judgment, which found 13 defendants guilty. A life sentence was imposed on defendant Greifelt; varying terms were given to defendants Creutz, Huebner, Lorenz, Brueckner, Hoffmann, Hildebrandt, and Schwalm. Defendants Meyer-Hetling, Schwarzenberger, Sollmann, Ebner, and Tesch were released as having served their time. Defendant Viermetz was acquitted.

The English language transcript volumes are arranged numerically, 1-13; pagination is continuous, 1-5,408. The German

language transcript volumes are numbered 1a through 13a and paginated 1-5,145. The letters at the top of each page indicate morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. The letter C designates commission hearings (to save court time and to avoid assembling hundreds of witnesses at Nuernberg, in most of the cases one or more commissions took testimony and received documentary evidence for consideration by the tribunals). There are numerous errors in the transcript book regarding correct numbers of prosecution exhibits. Some examples where prosecution exhibits are incorrectly labeled include transcript entries for exhibits 11, 66, 75, 107, 150, 197, 208, and 210.

The prosecution presented 904 documents for evidence. The exhibits draw on a variety of sources, such as reports and directives as well as affidavits and interrogations of various individuals. Maps and photographs depicting events mentioned are among the prosecution resources.

The first item in the arrangement of the prosecution exhibits is usually a certificate listing the document number, a short description of the exhibit, and a statement on the location of the original document of the exhibit. The certificate is followed by the document, the actual prosecution exhibit (most of which are photostats and mimeographed articles with an occasional carbon of the original). In rare cases the exhibits are followed by translations. In some instances, such as exhibits 360-363, the certificates are missing.

Other than affidavits, the defense exhibits consist of newspaper clippings, reports, personnel records, *Reichsgesetzblatt* excerpts, and other items. There are approximately 1,200 exhibits for the 14 defendants. The defense exhibits are arranged by exhibit number, each followed by a certificate wherever available.

The translations in each of the prosecution document books I-XVI are preceded by an index listing prosecution exhibit numbers, document numbers, descriptions, and page numbers of each translation. These indexes are often followed by a schedule of the order in which the prosecution exhibits were present in court. The defense document books are similarly arranged. Each book is preceded by an index giving document numbers, description, and page number for each exhibit. The corresponding exhibit numbers are generally not provided. There are several unindexed supplements to numbered document books. Prosecution briefs and defense statements are arranged alphabetically by names of defendants; final pleas follow a similar scheme. Pagination is consecutive, yet there are many pages where an "a" or "b" is added to the numeral.

At the beginning of roll 1 are filmed key documents from which Tribunal I derived its jurisdiction: the Moscow Declaration, U.S. Executive Orders 9547 and 9679, the London Agreement,

the Berlin Protocol, the Charter of the International Military Tribunal, Control Council Law 10, U.S. Military Government Ordinances 7 and 11, U.S. Forces, European Theater General Order 301, and names and functions of members of Tribunal I and counsels.

These documents are followed by finding aids, which consist of the transcript covers giving such information as name and number of case, volume numbers, language, page numbers, and inclusive dates. They are followed by summaries of the daily proceedings providing an additional finding aid for the transcripts. The exhibits are listed in an index, which notes type of exhibit, exhibit number and name, corresponding document number and document book and page, a short description of the exhibit, and the date when it was offered in court.

Not filmed were records duplicated elsewhere in this microfilm publication, such as prosecution and defense document books in the German language that are largely duplications of prosecution and defense exhibits already microfilmed or opening statements of prosecution and defense, which can be found in the transcripts of the proceedings.

The records of the Greifelt case are closely related to other microfilmed records in Record Group 238, specifically: prosecution exhibits submitted to the International Military Tribunal, T988; NI (Nuernberg Industrialist) Series, T301; NOKW (Nuernberg Armed Forces High Command) Series, T1119; NG (Nuernberg Government) Series, T1139; and records of the Ohlendorf case, M895. In addition, the record of the International Military Tribunal at Nuernberg has been published in *Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal* (Nuernberg; 1947), 42 vols. Excerpts from the 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: 1946-49), 15 vols. The Audiovisual Archives Division of the National Archives holds motion picture records of all 13 trials and tape recordings of the International Military Tribunal proceedings.

The English language records in this microfilm publication were prepared for microfilming by Jarritus Boyd, who collaborated with John Mendelsohn in the writing of this introduction. Harlan S. Stone assisted in the preparation of the German language records.

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