

# *Eichmann Is Expected To Betray Old Friends At His Trial*

**FRANKFURT, Germany (Associated Press).—Will Adolf Eichman tell the full story—not only his own—and implicate other fugitive Germans suspected of war crimes?**

German prosecutors believe there are hundreds of Eichmann's former Nazi henchmen trembling at the prospect of what Eichmann will reveal when he goes on trial in Jerusalem for million-fold murder.

All but a handful of former Nazis convicted by Allied war crimes courts are free again. But many others are hiding and are sought by German investigators.

Eichmann could be their ruin if he chooses.

"Much in our German war crimes investigation will depend on what Eichmann says," says Frankfurt's chief prosecutor, Heinz Wolf, who recently arrested a number of former Nazis.

"Eichmann's trial will be one of immense historical importance," says Dr. Robert Kempner, formerly on the American prosecution staff at the Nuremberg trials and now a lawyer in Frankfurt.

Eichmann himself repeatedly has warned that he "will not spare anybody, not even the highest ranking people."

## **"Nothing New"**

On the other hand, Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, a fellow Nazi elite guard officer who has known Eichmann since 1938, says "I don't expect anything essentially new."

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Eichmann has filled some 4,000 pages with his notes while held in a lonely rock fortress somewhere in Northern Israel.

Ten months of pre-trial custody have given him time to strain his memory about former colleagues who helped him in the process of achieving the "final solution" of exterminating the Jews.

As things are now, investigations are going on against at least 1,500 war crimes suspects in West Germany alone.

Austria, favourite hiding place of Nazi leaders in the closing phase of the war, also has investigations under way.

Officials of the Jewish community there said recently they had spotted at least eight Eichmann aides living free in the country.

German investigators, racing against deadline under the Statute of Limitations, have rounded up 121, including 28 in Frankfurt where Prosecutor Wolf is preparing a trial against the operators of the notorious Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

Those now in custody include Richard Baer, last commandant of Auschwitz, Lieutenant Colonel Richard

commandant of Auschwitz, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Krumei, who was on Eichmann's staff in Hungary, and another aide, Captain Franz Novak.

Krumei, twice released for insufficient evidence, was arrested a third time shortly before Israeli agents seized Eichmann in Argentina.

Baer was captured in December in a German village where he had lived as a woodcutter under an assumed name.

Novak was taken in Vienna in January—a few hours after the Frankfurt prosecutor appealed to the public to help find him.

### Rumours

Others sought include:

Martin Bormann, Adolf Hitler's right-hand man, sentenced to death in absentia and declared dead by a Ger-

man court. Rumours continue that he is alive.

SS General Heinrich Mueller, a top Gestapo officer and Eichmann's immediate superior, who faded away in the final stage of the war.

Rolf Guenther, SS Major and Eichmann's deputy, who is said by accusers to have equalled his master's ruthlessness. His friend Novak, seized in Vienna, claims Guenther committed suicide.

SS Major General Christian Wirth, inventor of Nazi Germany's gas chambers and a ruthless executioner.

Wirth is said to have been killed by Soviet partisans in March, 1944, but historians add a question mark.

SS Lieutenant General Odilo Globocnik, chief exterminator in Poland, who disappeared after being demoted for looting.

Globocnik's right-hand man, Lieutenant Colonel Hermann Hoefle, was arrested a few weeks ago.

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### Missing

Suspects investigated for months have disappeared on the day police plan to seize them. Investigators have not discounted the possibility of an underground network linking all the former Nazi chiefs.

Eichmann's defence in Jerusalem probably will be: "I carried out my orders."

At Nuremberg one of his comrades remembered the advice Eichmann gave him: "The most important thing is that you always can refer to orders from above."

Eichmann may name those who vanished, were executed or took their own lives:

● Hermann Goering, who swallowed poison as he was about to be hanged at Nuremberg.

● Gestapo boss Heinrich Himmler, who also took a lethal capsule when the British discovered him in a private's uniform.

### Master-mind

● Reinhard Heydrich, the master-mind of the Jewish extermination plans, who was killed by Czech partisans after he gave the go-ahead for the "final solution" of the Jewish problem in 1942.

Eichmann probably will be his own chief and sole defence witness. However, he may also furnish the bulk of prosecution testimony, as those who testified against him either are dead or will not come.

The Jerusalem court, however, can refer to the records of Nuremberg and other war crimes trials.

A quote that shocked the audience into silence at Nuremberg was: "Eichmann said he would laughingly jump into the grave because the feeling he had five million people on his conscience

lion people on his conscience was giving his great satisfaction."

SS Major Dieter Wisliceny, hanged by the Czechs in 1948, was the man who said this at Nuremberg.

No document remains to spell out exactly the meaning of the "final solution" which was hatched by the Nazi leaders on Berlin's Lake Wannsee on January 20, 1942, but Wisliceny made it clear in a Nuremberg affidavit:

### **Warrant**

"Eichmann told me that the words 'final solution' meant the biological extermination of the Jewish race.

"I realised at that time that the order was a warrant for millions of people, and that the power to execute this order was in Eichmann's hands, subject to the approval of Heydrich and later (Ernst) Kaltenbrunner (who was hanged in Nuremberg)."

Another witness against Eichmann would have been SS Lieutenant Colonel Rudolph Hoess, commandant of Auschwitz from 1940 to 1945, who was hanged by the Poles in 1947 for the killing of 1,300,000 inmates of the camp.

He told the Polish court: "The solution of the Jewish question was considered by Eichmann as the task of his life."