

# Heusinger's Nazi Record

**The war crimes of the chairman of  
the NATO general staff**

**By CHARLES R. ALLEN, JR.**

*Charles R. Allen, Jr. delivered this speech at the Stop Heusinger Protest Meeting Jan. 31, 1961 at the Hotel Diplomat, N. Y. Mr. Allen is national director of publicity of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union, UE (Ind.), has written often for The Nation and from 1952 to 1955 had many exposés of McCarthyism in Jewish Life.*

*The campaign against Heusinger's appointment as head of the Permanent Military Committee of NATO, which sits in Washington to plan NATO military operations, has been spreading. In Canada, several steel, auto and electrical workers' locals as well as the United Jewish People's Order have protested. Israel Horizons (Jan.-Feb.) has an editorial, "An Affront to Peace," protesting the appointment. See page 35 for a report of a Los Angeles Conference of the American Jewish Congress. Public opinion is mounting to persuade Pres. Kennedy to initiate action in NATO to annul Heusinger's appointment.*

**O**N OCT. 5, 1942, the Einsatzgruppen (Special Extermination Squads) at the explicit direction of the so-called OKW (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht)—the high command of the Nazi armed forces—carried out the following atrocity on the Eastern Front, according to eyewitness testimony developed before the Nuremberg Tribunal:

"... I went directly to the pits. I heard rifle shots. The people who had got off the trucks—men, women and children of all ages—had to undress upon the order of an SS man who carried a whip. They had put down their clothes in fixed places, sorted

according to shoes, top clothing and underclothing.

"Without screaming or weeping these people undressed, stood about in family groups, kissed each other, said farewells. Waited for the sign from another SS man who stood near the pit, whip in hand. During the 15 minutes that I stood near the pit I heard no complaint or plea for mercy . . .

"An old woman with snow-white hair was holding a one-year old child in her arms and singing to it and tickling it. The child was cooing with delight. The parents were looking on with tears in their eyes. The father was holding the hand of a boy about 10

years old and speaking softly to him. The boy was fighting his tears. The father pointed to the sky, stroked his head and seemed to explain something to his son.

"At that moment the SS at the pit shouted. Twenty persons were counted off. I remember a girl, slim, lovely, with black hair who, as she passed close to me, pointed to herself and said, '23 years old' . . .

"I walked around the mound and found myself confronted by a tremendous grave. One thousand people were closely wedged together and lying on top of each other so that only their heads were visible. Nearly all had blood running over their shoulders from their heads. Some were still moving. Some were lifting their arms and turning their heads to show that they were still alive. I looked for the one who did the shooting. He was an SS who sat at the edge of the pit, his feet dangling into the pit. He had a tommy gun on his knees. He was smoking a cigarette.

"The people, completely naked, went down the steps and clambered over the heads of the others lying there. They lay down in front of the dead or wounded. Some caressed those who were still alive and spoke to them in a low voice. Then I heard a series of shots . . . bodies were twitching, blood running. The next batch approached . . . lined themselves up and were shot. Later the Jews still alive were ordered to throw the corpses into the pit. Then they themselves had to lie down to be shot. Five thousand were so murdered. I swear before God that this is the absolute truth."<sup>1</sup>

The chief of operations of the OKW through which command this directive for "action" by the Einsatz unit was carried out was Gen. Adolf Hausinger.

When Hitler planned the invasion of Belgium, Holland and France, he

kept his criminal scheme so secret that he excluded even his own General Staff from it. "Our studies," Hitler stated in documents captured by the Allies after World War II, "must not be left to the General Staff. Secrecy would then no longer be assured." Hitler then ordered that a small planning staff in OKW be set up to work out the military plans.<sup>2</sup>

The one who worked out the plans for Nazi aggression against Belgium, Holland and France, the one entrusted by Hitler himself with his 'secret' was the then Col. Adolf Heusinger.

On July 20, 1944 a bomb exploded at Rastenburg, East Prussia during a meeting of Adolf Hitler and his top Generals. Unfortunately Hitler was not killed, only wounded. Just 11 hours after the attempt to assassinate Hitler, the Nazi Fuehrer took to the radio to reassure the Fascists that he was all right.

"I am unhurt and well," Hitler said over the radio. "But you should know of a crime unparalleled in German history. The bomb seriously wounded a number of my true and loyal collaborators."<sup>3</sup>

- 1 This incident is described on pages 961-963 of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* (N.Y., 1960) by W. L. Shirer. As Shirer points out, the official policy of the Wehrmacht was to direct the Einsatz commandos to follow in the wake of the army and carry out their atrocities against the civilian populace, especially Jews and Communists. See also Gerald Reitlinger's *The Final Solution* (N.Y., 1953) and his *SS-Alibi of a Nation* and, especially, J. W. Wheeler-Bennett, *The Nemesis of Power: The German Army in Politics, 1918-1945* (N.Y., 1953, 1960), for elaborate evidence of the OKW's necessary executive role in this phase of the Nazi operations. Reitlinger (SS, p. 386) also says Heusinger planned the levy en masse of the civilian populace on the Eastern front.
- 2 Cf. Shirer, work cited, p. 487. "Case White" was the Nazi code name for the secret plans (March, 1939) to invade Poland, the Lowlands, France and England. See p. 487 for Hitler's decision to entrust only Jodl, Col. Blumentritt, von Rundstedt, von Manstein and, as deputy to Jodl, necessarily Heusinger.
- 3 For Heusinger's role in the aftermath to July 20, 1944 bombing see Shirer, pp. 1044 et seq; Reitlinger, SS, pp. 386 et seq. See especially Wheeler-Bennett, work cited, for what happened after the abortive bombing.

The next day, Hitler himself ordered a special medal to be struck for those "loyal collaborators" who survived the bombing with this madman.

Now we know and must not forget that:

- The "loyal" Hitler general who was giving a detailed report on the Russian front at the precise time the bomb went off was Gen. Adolf Heusinger.
- That—though wounded—the general who led the vengeful hunt against the other Nazi generals who had failed in their plan to kill Hitler so that they could negotiate a separate peace with the West was Gen. Adolf Heusinger.
- That the top-ranking military figure who participated prominently in the mass executions that followed—wherein the victims were slowly strangled by piano wires as they hung from meat hooks, was Adolf Heusinger.
- That among the handful who survived the bombing and was called by Adolf Hitler himself as "my true and loyal collaborator" was one Adolf Heusinger.
- That the first recipient of Hitler's July 20, 1944 medal commemorating the bombing at Rastenburg was Gen. Adolf Heusinger.<sup>4</sup>

During the Nuremberg trials, the Nazi General, Adolf Heusinger, testified as a witness. Here is an excerpt from that testimony:

Q: "Do you know the defendant, Jodl?"

Heusinger: "Yes . . . well. Very well. He was my immediate superior. Jodl is a thoroughly decent man."<sup>5</sup>

Who was Jodl? Lest we forget, let me read to you from the official indictment at Nuremberg: "The defendant Jodl between 1932 and 1945 was: Lt. Col. Army Operations Dept., Wehrmacht, Col. Chief, OKW Opera-



*The Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto,  
by Zuni Maud (1892-1956).*

tions Dept., Major-General and Chief of Staff, OKW. The defendant Jodl used the foregoing positions, his personal influence and his close connection with the Fuehrer in such a manner that: he promoted the accession to power of the Nazi conspirators and the consolidation of their control over Germany. . . . He promoted preparations for war. He participated in the military planning and participation of the Nazi conspirators for wars of aggression. Jodl authorized, directed and participated in war crimes. He authorized, directed and participated in crimes against humanity, including a wide variety of crimes against persons and property."<sup>6</sup>

For these crimes, Jodl was hanged by the neck until he was dead shortly after 1 A.M. on October 16, 1946. This was the judgment at Nuremberg. To Adolf Heusinger, unreconstructed

<sup>4</sup> Wheeler-Bennett, pp. 1050 et seq.

<sup>5</sup> *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression—Nuremberg Trials*, cited in *Prevent World War III*, Summer, 1957, p. 44.

<sup>6</sup> Same.

Nazi vermin, Jodl was a "thoroughly decent man."

**After World War II**, Adolf Heusinger himself sparked the Nazi campaign for the freedom of those German officers who had been charged and imprisoned for war crimes. In 1950 he wrote a book called *Befehl im Widerstreit: Schicksalstunden der deutschen Armee*. In the book Nazi Gen. Adolf Heusinger attacked Hitler for failing to wipe out the British Army at Dunkirk and for his failure to destroy and occupy England before he attacked Russia.

This then is the record of one Adolf Heusinger! This is the Nazi criminal who now heads the military committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization!

Where is your silver medal from Hitler, Heusinger?! NATO: Where is his silver medal? Where is his book? Where are the millions of Jews cremated, shot, burned, buried alive, tortured and butchered by Heusinger and his like?

This is the Nazi who, as a precondition to West German "cooperation" with NATO, insisted that all war criminal charges against the German General Staff and Nazi officers Corps be dropped!

Heusinger! This Nazi criminal! A fine spectacle: a mockery of our American dead! NATO and Heusinger! What I want to know—in addition to protesting this scum's command in NATO—is this: why was not a final judgment rendered at Nuremberg against Heusinger as it was against his superior, Jodl? Why was not Heusinger hanged?

I say to you tonight that the same bunch that put Hitler into power in Germany—the big corporations, the big bosses—did so by first and foremost smashing the unions and the

### **War Criminals Sentenced**

- The Supreme Court of Soviet Lithuania March 1 sentenced three Lithuanians to death for liquidating 60,000 Jews, Poles, Byelorussians and Lithuanians during the German occupation.
- The Supreme Court of Soviet Estonia March 11 sentenced three Estonians to death for similar crimes. *New Times* (Moscow, No. 9, Feb., 1961) reports that Ain Ervin Mere "carried out the barbarous plan to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Estonia. More, Adolf Eichmann sent Jews from Czechoslovakia and Germany for extermination in the Jagala camp, which was under Mere's control." Mere's accomplices Ralf Gerrets and Jan Vijk were executed, but Mere now lives in England; the British refuse to extradite him.

working people. By degrading them through unemployment, by outright wage confiscation and by the process of turning each and every factory in Nazi Germany into an industrial prison. By eliminating trade unionism, Hitlerism triumphed.

Brothers and Sisters, this very process will be duplicated here if we submit. But—it does not have to happen. We can—and will—fight it.

Heusinger is scheduled to take his place in Washington, D.C. April 1. But we are not going to mock the memory of 400,000 American dead! We are not going to dishonor the solemn legacy of six million dead Jews! We protest his coming—and if he comes nevertheless, we shall act to force him to go home.

We shall do this, because we are eternally pledged: "Never to forget! And never to forgive!"