



NUREMBERG

By Dr. Bing Johnson, 32° KCCH

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A recent PBS documentary on the Nuremberg Trials in 1946

reminded me that there was a Masonic connection. The following is a brief look at that connection.

At the Potsdam Conference President Roosevelt, a Master Mason, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshall Stalin decided that the Nazi leadership should be held accountable for the atrocities they had committed. Roosevelt and Churchill felt there should be a formal trial so that the whole world could watch and see that justice had been done. Stalin's idea was have a trial if you must but then execute them.

Nuremberg was chosen as the location for the trial as the Palace of Justice was undamaged by the war and was large enough to accommodate the trial. Also it was the birth place of the Nazi party.

There was great concern that the trial would incite rioting throughout Germany by rank and file Nazi party members. Fortunately this did not occur.

President Roosevelt died before the trial was to begin. Most Worshipful Bro. Harry S. Truman, Past Grand Master of Masons in Missouri, named Supreme Court Associate Justice Jackson as Prosecutor. After some misgivings Jackson accepted and then proceeded to do a very careful and thorough prosecution of the defendants. Some of those on trial were Heinrich Himmler, Rudolph Hess, Herman Goring, Gen. Kittel and Albert Speer.

Each defendant represented by counsel, was informed of the charges and then allowed to plead. With one exception they all pleaded not guilty and stated that they were merely following orders given by a superior. The first charge against the defendants was that of Crimes against

Peace or starting war by the unprovoked invasion or blitzkrieg of Poland. There was a very lengthy paper trail that proved this beyond any doubt. Herman G6ring was the first witness. He was a very articulate, crafty and combative witness who worked hard to defend his position.

The second charge against the defendants was that of Crimes Against Humanity or genocide. Justice Jackson had a table placed in the court room that was covered by a white cloth. At the appropriate time the cloth was removed. Underneath it was the head of a concentration camp prisoner that had been shrunken and was being used as a paper weight. *Then there* were multiple witnesses and pictures which showed the death camps, furnaces, "the showers" and mass graves. This time G6ring's behavior was very much different. He was markedly subdued and non-combative.

The third charge against the defendants was that of Crimes Against Property. Signs were posted in all public places in Germany that said Jews, Freemasons and dogs are forbidden. Hitler put Julius Rosenberg in charge of the Freemason problem.

The Gestapo would enter and occupy Masonic Temples. Membership lists were seized and members were quickly arrested and sent to concentration camps. Very few Masons survived this experience. The Gestapo would seize bank accounts, art objects such as paintings, statues and tapestries and any items of value. Consequently Masons hid-their membership lists and the Temple's items of value. All symbols that could identify one as a Mason were removed. Very frequently the Gestapo would occupy Temples and use them as their headquarters. The Gestapo caused tremendous damage to Masonic Temples. They would build fires on the floors, use paintings and statues for target practice, torture and execute prisoners in Masonic Temples. At the wars end most of the Temples they had occupied were totally destroyed. Bombs and artillery caused relatively little damage to Masonic Temples compared to that caused by the Gestapo. Many European Masonic Temples were magnificent edifices. One Temple in Amsterdam had 205 rooms.

At the conclusion of the trial a number of the defendants were sentenced to death by hanging. On the day of the hanging Herman Goring some how had obtained cyanide and committed suicide. The rest were hung. Their bodies were placed in Army trucks and removed from Nuremberg. Out side the city a road block was set up that stopped the press and Nazi followers. The caravan then proceeded out of sight . Quite some time later it was learned that the bodies were taken to Munich, cremated and the ashes scattered in the river so that there could never be a memorial or shrine to those human monsters.

Albert Speer had pleaded guilty. He was greatly different from all of the rest. Hitler chose him as a young architect to design and build his city that would last a thousand years. Near the end of the war Hitler made him Minister for Armament and War Production. Speer didn't want that position but Hitler was not an equal opportunity employer. He served 12 years in the Allied Prison and was released. His memoirs have been published Rudolph Hess spent the rest of his life in the Allied prison. He never expressed any regret and was defiant to the end

The second world war and the Nazi atrocities were the worst man made disasters the world had ever known. The Nuremberg trails clearly, showed that this must never happen again. But has it? Tragically, since the formation of the United Nations in 1945 there have been 78 wars, civil actions and genocidal atrocities.

Some of the worst were the Chinese cultural revolution under Mao Tse Jung with the death of 30 million. The worst genocidal acts of recent times was committed by the Hutus in Rwanda. Pol Pot, was responsible for the death of 1.7 million people in Cambodia. Saddarm Hussein- killed at least 600,000 Iraqis, Slobadan Milosovic about 180,000 and Hafez Al Assad of Syria killed at least 25,000 people.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Many men cry peace! But they refuse to do the things that make peace." There are many Institutes for Peace and the Nobel Prize for Peace but they have been largely ineffective. Bro. Tom Goeller, a German journalist, makes the case for a

Masonic Institute for Peace based on Masonic knowledge and Masonry's ability to spread seeds unto all countries. He quotes Albert Pike as saying "Masonry is the greatest peace society of the world wherever it- exists, it struggles to prevent international difficulties and disputes."

Freemasons think and act globally. Every Masonic lodge is a temple of peace. Masonic teachings of equality, fraternity, harmony and cooperation are the only ties that can bind the human family together. President Eisenhower, who had great respect for the fraternity, stated "What couldn't a million masons do if they made a concerted effort to change the world. We could approximate brotherhood in the twinkling of an eye" Then maybe Emanuel Kant's vision of perpetual peace might finally be achieved. The following list of wars and conflicts and the number of casualties was compiled by Bro. Goeller:

- 1946 Chinese civil war - 1.2 million 1946 Greek civil war 50,000
- 1946 France - Vietnam war 600,000
- 1947 Partition-of India and Pakistan 1 million
- 1948 Colombian civil war 200,000
- 1948 Arab-Israeli, wars 70,000 1948 Kashmir's civil war 40,000
- 1949 Indian-Muslims Vs Hindus- 20,000
- 1950 Korean war -4 –million
- 1952 Kenya's Mau Mau insurrection 20,000
- 1954 French Algerian war 1 million
- 1958 Mao's Great Leap Forward 3-8 million
- 1960 South Africa vs. African National Congress ?
- 1960. Guatemala's civil war 200,000
- 1961 Kurds- vs. Iraq 180,000
- 1962 Mozambique Frelimo vs. Portugal, ?
- 1964, USA Vietnam war 3, million

- 1965 second India-Pakistan war over Kashmir
- 1965 Indonesian civil war 200,000
- 1966 Mao's Cultural! Revolution 11 million
- 1966-Colombia.'s civil war 31,000
- 1967 Nigeria-Biafra civil war 800,000
- 1968 Rhodesia's -civil war - ?
- 1969 Idi Amin Uganda 300,000
- 1969 IRA- Northern Ireland's civil war 2,000
- 1969 Francisco Macias Nguema, Equatorial Guinae 50,000
- 1971 Pakistan-Bangladesh 500,000
- 1972 Philippines vs. Muslim separatists 120,000
- 1972 Burundi's civil war, 300,000
- 1972 Rhodesia-Zimbabwe's civil war 30,000
- 1974 Ethiopian civil war 1 million
- 1974 Menghitsu, Ethiopia 1.5 million
- 1975 Khmer Rouge, Cambodia 1.7 million
- 1975 Boat People, Vietnam 150,000
- 1975 civil war in Lebanon.. 40,000
- 1975 Angolan- civil war 500,000
- 1976 Argentina's military regime 20,000
- 1976 Mozambique's civil war 900,000
- 1976 Indonesia-East Timor civil war 600,000
- 1976 Indonesia-Ache civil war 12,000
- 1979 Vietnam-China war 30,000
- 1979 Soviet Union invades Afghanistan million

- 1980 Iran-Iraq war 1 million million
- 1980 Sendero Luninos,- Peru's civil war 69,000
- 1980 El Salvador's civil war 75,000
- 1980 Kurds vs. Turkey 35,000
- 1981 Niagara vs. Contras- 60,000
- 1982 Hissen Habre, Chad 40,000
- 1983 Sri Lanka's civil war. 64,000
- 1983 Sudanese-civil war 2 million
- 1987 Palestinian intifada 4,500
- 1988. Afghanistan civil war 400,000
- 1988 Somalia-'s civil war 550,000
- 1989 Liberian Civil war, 220,000
- 1989 Uganda vs. Lord's Resistance Army 30,000
- 1991 Gulf War against Iraq to liberate Kuwait 85,000
- 1991 Congo's civil war 800,000
- 1991 Sierra Leone's civil war 200,000
- 1991 Russia-Chechnya civil war 200,000
- 1991 Armenia-Azerbaijan war 35,000
- 1992 Tajikistan's civil war 50,000
- 1992 Yugoslavia's civil war 260,000
- 1992 Algerian civil war 150,000
- 1993 Congo-Brazzaville's civil war 110,000
- 1993 Burundi's civil war 100,000
- 1993 Rwanda's civil war 900,000
- 1995 Pakistani Sunnis vs. Shiites 1,300

- 1995, Maoist rebellion in Nepal 12,000
- 1998 Congo/Zaire's war- Rwanda and Uganda vs. Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia 3.8 million.
- 1998 Ethiopia-Eritrea war 75,000
- 1999 Kosovo's liberation war NATO vs. Serbia 2,000
- 2001 Afghanistan's liberation war USA & UK vs. Taliban 25,000
- 2002 Cote d'Ivoire's civil war 1,000
- 2003 Iraq's liberation war – USA, UK and Australia vs. Saddam Hussein 14,000
- 2003 Sudan vs. JEM/Darfur 180,000
- 2003 Iraq's civil war 30,000
- 2004 Sudan vs. SPLM & Eritre

Sources: Public Television System Lancaster, C. N., The Role of Masonry In America Today, The Scottish Rite Journal, Aug. 2000; p24 Goeller, T., Today's Mission of Freemasonry, The Philalathes, v. LIX Aug 2006, p86
