

## INTRODUCTION

The "RuSHA Case" is officially designated *United States of America vs. Ulrich Greifelt, et al (Case 8)*. "RuSHA" is the German abbreviation of "Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt Race and Settlement Main Office), an SS agency which played a very important role in the case.

The defendants were leading officials of "RuSHA" or of three other offices or agencies of the SS. These four agencies, all branches of the Supreme Command of the SS, were the "Staff Main Office of the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germanism" (Stabshauptamt des Reichskommissars fuer die Festigung des deuthscen Volkstums, abbreviated RKFDV); "Office for Repatriation of Ethnic Germans" (Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle, abbreviated VoMi), a subdivision of the RKFDV; the "Race and Settlement Main Office" (RuSHA); and the "Lebensborn", which was both a private association (Verein) and a department of the Personal Staff of Heinrich Himmler, the Supreme or Reich Leader SS. Lebensborn may be roughly translated "Well of Life". It was founded by the SS before the war to ensure the support of legitimate and illegitimate children of SS men. It was used during the war for the selection for Germanization of "racially valuable children" of foreign nationals.

The defendants were charged with criminal conduct allegedly arising out of their functions as officials of the four agencies mentioned. It was alleged that the crimes charged to the defendants were connected with a systematic program of genocide.\* In its judgment the Tribunal hearing the case declared that these SS organizations existed "for one primary purpose in effecting the ideology and program of Hitler, which may be summed up in one phrase—The two-fold objective of weakening and eventually destroying other nations while at the same time strengthening Germany, territorially and biologically, at the expense of conquered nations".

The "RuSHA Case" was tried at the Palace of Justice in Nuernberg before Military Tribunal I. The Tribunal convened 121 times,

---

\* Since World War II genocide has become the widely used term to describe the systematic persecution and elimination of ethnic or religious groups. After the completion of this trial the General Assembly of the United Nations, by resolution of 9 December 1948, adopted a convention entitled "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide".

PURL: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/a1f70e/>

and the trial lasted approximately eight months, as shown by the following schedule:

Indictment	1 July 1947
Indictment served	7 July 1947
Arraignment	10 October 1947
Prosecution opening statement	20 October 1947
Defense opening statement	20 November 1947
Prosecution closing statement	13 February 1948
Defense closing statements	16-17 February 1948
Judgment	10 March 1948
Sentences	10 March 1948
Affirmation of sentences by the Military Governor of the U. S. Zone of Occupation	12 February 1949

The English transcript of the Court proceedings runs to 5,408 mimeographed pages. The prosecution introduced into evidence 904 written exhibits (some of which contained several documents), and the defense 1,148 written exhibits. The Tribunal heard oral testimony of 27 witnesses called by the prosecution and of 70 witnesses, excluding the defendants, called by the defense. Each of the 14 defendants testified in his own behalf, and each was subject to examination on behalf of other defendants. The exhibits offered by both the prosecution and defense contained documents, photographs, affidavits, interrogatories, letters, maps, charts, and other written evidence. The prosecution introduced 93 affidavits; the defense introduced 522 affidavits. The prosecution called 33 defense affiants for cross-examination; the defense called 47 prosecution affiants for cross-examination. The Tribunal was in recess between 10 and 20 November 1947, to give the defense additional time to prepare its case. A further recess was taken from 2 to 13 February 1948, to allow both prosecution and defense time for the preparation of their closing arguments.

The members of the Tribunal and prosecution and defense counsel are listed on the ensuing pages. Prosecution counsel were assisted in preparing the case by Walter Rapp (Chief of the Evidence Division), Herbert Meyer, Fred Rodell, and Larry Wolff, interrogators, and Margit Braid, M. L. Dezborowska, Stanley Donath, George Grant, Olga Lang, Dorit Margen, Stephen Mayer, Eduard Rolling, Frank Young, and Hedy Wachenheimer, research and documentary analysts.

---

Selection and arrangement of the "RuSHA Case" material published herein was accomplished principally by Arnost Horlik-Hochwald and Olga Lang, working under the general supervision

PJURL: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/a1f70e/>

of Drexel A. Sprecher, Deputy Chief Counsel and Director of Publications, Office U. S. Chief of Counsel for War Crimes. Catherine W. Bedford, Henry Buxbaum, Emilie Evand, Paul H. Gantt, Enid M. Standring, and Dr. Wolfgang Theobald assisted in selecting, compiling, editing, and indexing the numerous papers.

John H. E. Fried, Special Legal Consultant to the Tribunals, reviewed and approved the selection and arrangements of the materials as the designated representative of the Nuernberg Military Tribunals.

Final compilation and editing of the manuscript for printing was administered by the War Crimes Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General, under the direct supervision of Richard A. Olbeter, Chief, Special Projects Branch, with Alma Soller as editor, Amelia Rivers as assistant editor and John W. Mosenthal as research analyst.