

BOTHE - PELZER, (ICD School Class Nr.1)

### I. Denazification Program

Upon answering this question it is a prerequisite to explain the term "Nazi". I place the Nazis into different categories and all these into a main category, namely that of the narrow-minded, the egotists, those lacking a long range point of view, the sadists and the shirkers. What, then, prompted so many Germans to join the party? Below, the different categories:

Some entered for reasons of pure idealism - so they say. That is before 1933. I am very sceptical. I rather believe that these were people who had nothing to lose and everything to gain and whose idealism went only as far as to brawl with members of other parties in the beer halls, "to beat each other's head to pulp." The entire structure of the party even in those days already bears the mark of the fatalism of the Prussian military clique, which, after the ~~xxx~~ accession to power, came to the fore more and more clearly. How can people pin the title of "idealists" on themselves, if they consented to, supported or even preached the spirit of militarism? Can they claim that Hitler's oft-boasted "love for peace" was genuine? No! - They cannot deny that Hitler was synonymous with War.

The other type of P.G. - - 1933 ! The party had won! For heaven's sake, let's not miss the boat! There are a lot of jobs waiting for me. Money, distinction, and a trim-looking uniform. So they joined. They, too, I suppose, will claim they did not recognize when during the Röhm-Putsch he had thousands from his own ranks butchered? Is there a clearer way for a man to show his brutality, his true face?

Others still entered the party in '37 and '40. This is the class of the frightened ones and of those "carried away" after the "glorious victories". The ones worried for their job, the

others for their business. Big industry saw the buds of the plants they had sowed, spring open and the petty officials saw themselves rising to the topmost positions. Everywhere, thus the hunt after honors, wealth, for power, each one driven on by his malignant pride and egotism, blinded, without feeling for the suffering of the many racially persecuted, without pity for those who would rather die than surrender their freedom, their own opinion and their loathing for the brutality of the Nazis for their own gain.

I stand firm on my conviction that everyone of the Nazis described above is guilty of having cemented Hitler's might and thus having taken part in bringing mass desolation upon the world.

Another category of Nazis comprises of the peasants and workers in the villages and small towns of Germany. These people who never got beyond the bounds of their native village and with whom Goebbels accordingly had an easy task of stuffing his propaganda down their throats, were, as far as I can see, not experienced and intelligent enough to recognize the true character of Nazism. Very few of them derived any real advantage from joining the party. Their limited scope, their stupidity made them ideal party members. It would have to be determined just how guilty they really were - whether they were merely formal members, whether they vexed others and whether they bore the military spirit within them.

Now, to the denazification program itself. I think, it just that no Nazi may hold a leading position. Many business men will try to enter their former concerns disguised as ordinary workers, in order to carry on the business to their own likes, unseen. These backdoors must be kept shut for these active party members. By their work of hand, by hard work, they shall gain the honor of justness in the hard years of reconstruction lying before us. Their talk has changed, but the spirit has not. The last ~~shell~~ shell had hardly been

fired, when they already hoped for a new war, so that in the <sup>h</sup>caos resulting the close watch over them be relaxed and they once more have the chance to agitate.

I make big business responsible for the unbelievable power of the Hitler regime. Often times I gained the impression, that Hitler could only break treaties and promises, that he could act with an ever-growing affrontery before the eyes of the German people, that he could create a new Wehrmacht, and finally that he could about this most horrible of wars, because he knew big business would back him up and because its leaders had only too g<sub>l</sub>adly lent an ear and a hand in the preparation for this war. These man must be punished. They are to blame for Hitler's criminal war and no assertion of being guiltless shall exculpate them. They had some of the main parts in the Hitler drama, played their role in a disguise, but with the whip hidden beneath their cloak, played it until the abominable, horrifying finale.

They had the power, the influence necessary to weaken Hitler's power, or perhaps even to bring about his downfall. Untouched by the suffering of the world they delivered the goods of war and almost died of reverence, if Hitler, overjoyed about a rise in production, patted their shoulder or pinned a medal on their chest.

The German civil servants, too, were to blame for the strength of Hitler's position after his accession to power. They became willing executors and guardians of the laws which the incapable Hitler unloosened upon the people. They followed each and every command of Hitler's down to the last dotted i and thus worsened the position of their victims to an unbearable point because of their blind bureaucracy. Their fear of loosing the pension or of be<sup>h</sup>en transferred to a lower position made willing servants to Hitler of them. There are but a few exceptions and they will known to the community and will not have to suffer unjustly. No Nazi public employee will remain in

his post. But he shall work and make good all the wrong he has done to his fellow human beings.

Among the independent occupations, I think it will be least difficult to differentiate between those who are guilty and those who are not. As far as artists, authors, theater and movie people, painters, sculptors, lawyers etc. are concerned, it can easily be determined whether or not they were Nazis by investigating their activities and publications. If they are Nazis, then they must be treated roughly. Cultural activity is out of the question, where they are concerned. For only he can spread culture who possesses it; He who loves it. Their cooperation with the Nazis proves beyond a doubt that they sacrificed their artistic conscience and their love for their art for the barbaric, the inhuman.

## II. War Criminals

All those who actively urged this war. All Nazis who preached "Greater Germany" and whose dreams were aimed at German predominance in Europe; all those who became rich through this war, all those imbued with the spirit of militarism, all diplomats who undermined an understanding with the Powers, all propagandists for a militant Germany. The degree of their guilt should be determined in regular court proceedings and they should be punished more or less severely according to the crime.

## III. Reeducation Problems

It shall take a number of years to make free-thinking, individually acting human beings of the so-called "little Nazis". This reeducation should not be entrusted to the new parties springing up, but only to those people who, by virtue of their past life, their knowledge of other nations, and proof of their humanitarianism and goodness have become predestined to open the eyes of others to a free, wholesome, democratic way of life and to lead them forth upon this path which leaves to the welfare of the country and the individual himself. There are probably quite a few militarists within the ranks of the present day parties, who are primarily thinking of

the battle to be waged with those of the opposition and perhaps are even laying down the strategy for a future war.

We need human beings. Human beings who love peace and the freedom of the individual. These are to be called upon to educate or even to take a leading position in one of the governments to be formed. Human beings who live a democratic life and whose example to follow, will be the purest joy. Only thus will the terrible spirit of the past 12 years come to pass and will Germany's lost honor be granted her once again by the world. We want to help to heal the wounds that were inflicted upon so many countries by Germany.

#### IV. K.Z. Films

Yes. These films should be shown for those people who still do not want to believe, with what sadism Hitler and his fellows reigned. This, too, is a means of rousing those who do not want to learn.