



GENERAL BLASKOWITZ
The ninth suicide

(AP) Wirephoto

Nazi General Kills Self in Prison Leap

NUERNBERG, Feb. 5 (AP)—General Johannes Blaskowitz, 64-year-old Wehrmacht veteran, leaped to his death today from the top tier of Nuernberg Prison.

He jumped only a short time before he was to have gone on trial before an American court on war crime charges, along with 13 other German military leaders.

Blaskowitz broke away from a file of prisoners on the third tier of high catwalks surrounding the prison rotunda as guards watched helplessly. He clambered up a seven-foot protective wire and hurled himself over it, landing on a tile floor 30 feet below.

The general died at 10:30 a. m. in the 385th United States Military Hospital. Doctors said his chest was fractured and his lungs were punctured by ribs broken in the fall.

As Blaskowitz lay in the hospital, his comrades were taken into court for the opening of the prosecution's case against them.

The particular charge against Blaskowitz was that he mistreated and caused the deaths of prisoners of war and civilians in Poland, where he commanded the Eighth Army.

He was the ninth suicide to die in the Nuernberg Jail since Hermann Goering and other war crimes prisoners were brought here in November, 1945.

Among the others were Goering; Robert Ley, former Nazi labor boss, and Dr. Leonardo Conti, accused founder of an inhuman medical experiment program.

Blaskowitz commanded the armies of occupation in Czechoslovakia in 1939 and in the same year became Governor of Bohemia.

Later, after the outbreak of the war, he was made commander in Southern Poland. From 1942 to 1943 he commanded the First Army in Russia.

In mid-1944 he was leading an army group in Southern France, but the following March he was shifted to the northern sector of the Western Front.

Subsequently, he was reported removed from his army group command. He was heading the 25th Army when it surrendered to the Canadians in the Netherlands May 5, 1945.

Burglars Dig Through Vault to Steal \$8931

ATHENA, Ore., Feb. 5 (AP)—Theft of \$8931 by burglars who dug through a wall of the Athena Bank vault was discovered this morning.

The burglars pried open a side door to enter the bank building. They failed to get the bulk of the bank's cash, kept in a steel safe within the vault.

The bank in this small town is a branch of the U. S. National of Portland.

Nuernberg Trial

13 Former Military Leaders Accused Of Rearming Reich Before Hitler

NUERNBERG, Feb. 5 (AP)—A few minutes after one of their number, General Johannes Blaskowitz, committed suicide in prison, 13 other former German military leaders today were escorted into the all-American court for the twelfth and last war crimes trial to be held in Nuernberg. They are accused of rearming for war even before the rise of Hitler.

Among the defendants are three field marshals, one admiral and nine generals, all charged with crimes against peace and humanity. Prosecutors said this case might well "prove of greater importance to Germany than any other."

The top defendant is Field Marshal Wilhelm Ritter von Leeb, who was an army group commander in the invasion of France.

Brigadier General Telford Taylor of Chevy Chase, Md., chief U. S. war crimes prosecutor, told the court in his opening statement that the army men guided the old German reichswehr until it became a hard-striking, aggressive weapon.

OTHERS ABSENT

Absent from the dock, but mentioned repeatedly in Taylor's opening speech, were Field Marshals Karl Rudolf Gerd von Runstedt, Walther von Brauchitsch and Fritz Erich von Manstein. Each was a field commander and the first two were commanders in chief at various times. They are now held by the British.

Taylor said he had asked for permission to indict the topmost men, but had been denied their custody.

He asserted that German generals were leaders in breaking the Versailles treaty in the 1920's. He said they embarked on rearmament—"it was not invented by Hitler." The whole thing, he declared, was part of a common plan having to do with eventual war.

Taylor outlined the part played by each defendant in relation to the general staff. He contended that the general staff kept Germany's war spirit alive with a quiet, effective program for militarism between wars.

He did not mention that the general staff—as a unit—was acquitted by the international military tribunal in the first Nuernberg trial, from April, 1945, to October, 1946.

The tribunal ruled that the general staff was not an organization in the definition of the court's charter and therefore could not be found guilty as such. However, it convicted the chief of staff, Colonel General Alfred Jodl, and he died on the gallows.

GERMAN LAWYERS

German lawyers for the current defendants said they intended to

raise the issue of the international tribunal's decision in their opening statement.

Of the profession of soldiery, Taylor said: "It is redeemed and ennobled only when the sword is the guardian and restorer, not the destroyer, of peace."

"Millions of innocent civilians were wantonly slaughtered by troops under the command of the defendants and their colleagues," the prosecutor said.

He took up individually the cases of these defendants:

Leeb—He was commander of the 12th Army in occupation of the Sudetenland and later commander in chief of an army group invading France.

Field Marshal Hugo Sperrle—Commanded the Condor Legion in Spain and later Nazi Air Fleet 3, bombing England from bases in France.

Field Marshal Georg von Kuechler—Commanded the 18th Army and later the Army Group North, both in Russia.

General Hermann von Hoth—Commanded the 4th Panzer Army in Russia.

General Hans Reinhardt—Commanded the 3d Panzer Army and later an Army group center in Russia.

General Hans von Salmuth—Commanded the 15th Army in France.

General Karl Holidt—Commanded the 6th Army in Southern Russia. Later he was liaison officer to Hitler's Reichschancellor.

Admiral Otto Schniewind—Successively operations officer, chief of the navy armament office and commander of naval battle forces in Norway.

Lieutenant General Karl von Rouques—A group commander in Southern Russia and later commanders of the rear area of Army Group A in the Caucasus.

Lieutenant General Walter Warlimont—Jodl deputy military envoy to Franco in Spain in 1936. Later he was chief of the department of national defense on the armed forces operation staff.

Lieutenant General Otto Woehler—Commanded Army Group South in Russia.

Lieutenant General Rudolf Lehmann—Legal counsel of the German army.

Lieutenant General Hermann Reinecke—Chief of staff of the National Socialist guidance staff of the high command.

Oldest Navy Grad Dies

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 5 (AP)—Commodore Edward Lloyd, 91, who was the oldest living graduate of the Naval Academy, died here today.

NO TRACE OF FRITZ KUHN FOLLOWING ESCAPE

MUNICH, Feb. 5 (AP)—Investigations today failed to produce a trace of Fritz Kuhn, former German-American Bund leader, or to explain how he escaped Tuesday from a German internment camp in Dachau.

U. S. constabulary units moved into the widespread search. Camp inmates were questioned fruitlessly.

German police were alerted to hunt him throughout the American occupation zone.

So far authorities could not even establish the time when Kuhn disappeared from the camp, while awaiting trial by a German denazification court.

Camp officials said Kuhn mingled little with fellow inmates and that this made it difficult to trace his movements.

The camp contains about 3000 persons. It is operated by Germany, with an American officer as super-

visor.

Kuhn, 51 years old, was reported to be in excellent health, although he has been imprisoned since last July. Before his arrest he lived quietly with his wife, son and daughter. He worked as a chemical engineer in a small German plant.

His wife told reporters she knew nothing about his flight.

The 20-year-old son demanded "to be left alone."

"We have been persecuted these last 12 years," he said. "We are not criminals."

Committee on the Budget