# HISTORY OF THE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

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PROCEDURE
OUTLINE OF PROCEDURE OCCWC PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

The primary mission of the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, OCCWC, was to provide information and photographs about the Nurnberg Trials to the news media of the world, and thereby to inform the public of the purpose, progress, outcome, and significance of the trials.

As this office was part of the organization of the prosecution at Nurnberg, the emphasis of its work was put on prosecution affairs; however, since this was the only public relations office in operation at the trials, the office on occasion also handled news pertaining to defense and to tribunal affairs.

Because of the nature of this office's activities, and of the specialized abilities of its personnel, it was called upon to perform a number of other tasks, the nature of which will be explained later in the report.

As any public relations office of a government agency might be expected to do in conducting its business with news correspondents in an overseas theater, this office assisted correspondents in matters of information, photography, communication, transportation, mess, billeting, and so forth. Throughout the trials, a policy of maintaining friendly, helpful relations with correspondents was followed, to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Though the size of the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE staff varied from time to time, due to unfilled staff positions, resignations, terminations of contract, phasing-out procedures, etc., the staff in a functional sense was organized as follows:

A Public Relations Officer in charge, directly responsible to the Chief of Counsel for War Crimes on all matters of public relations; a Deputy Public Relations Officer, in general charge of news gathering and dissemination, and acting for the Public Relations Officer in the latter's absence.
In order that the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE be fully informed on all developments in the trials, the PRO staff maintained liaison with all branches of the Office of Chief of Counsel, with the Office of the Secretary General, with the individual tribunals, and with the Army Security Office in the Palace of Justice. In turn, all persons in positions of authority were asked and encouraged to keep this office informed on developments, particularly those of possible news interest.

American, Allied, and German news agencies, newspapers, magazines, radio stations and networks, and other media were represented -- some full time, some part time -- at the Nuremberg trials. Associated Press and United Press maintained full time representation here, as did Agence France Presse (French), LPD (German), and DEMA (German). The New York Times correspondent for Bavaria spent a great deal of time at the trials also. For the most part, German newspapers were represented by greater numbers of individual correspondents than were those of other countries.

Following, in some detail, are explanations of the work performed by this office in its major fields of activity:

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1. Functional chart and job description sheets are attached to this report. (Ex. 1)

2. Memorandum from Chief of Counsel to his staff chiefs on this subject is attached to this report. (Ex. 2)
Information

This office sought to keep informed on all matters of news interest concerning trials in the making, trials under way, and trials completed. This in itself was a task of major proportions. Members of this staff, particularly those in most frequent contact with correspondents, endeavored to have readily available at all times detailed items of information as to charges filed against the many defendants, biographical data on all personalities of possible news interest, dates of major developments in the individual cases, and facts about day-to-day events of news value. In short, whether the individual correspondent was newly arrived in Nurnberg and needed a complete briefing on the trials, or whether he was a resident correspondent merely stopping by this office to check on a point in question, this office sought to have the answers available or to make them available in short order. This practice was followed in the interest of being helpful to the correspondent, and also to assure accurate coverage of the trials.

Requests from individual correspondents for assistance in developing news leads were answered with energy and dispatch. This at times involved considerable research work on the part of PRO personnel. Customarily, when the occasion demanded, press interviews with key trial personnel were arranged.

On news matters of general interest to the correspondents, this office prepared and distributed news releases in German as well as English, time permitting, though time frequently did not permit translation into the German. Not only were these news releases handed to correspondents on the spot in Nurnberg, but were sent by teleprinter to press centers in other cities for the information and use of correspondents there. Experience proved that correspondents appreciated and utilized this service.

1. Sample releases are attached. (Ex. 3)
both those correspondence located in Nurnberg and those located elsewhere.

The office prepared and mailed to news media in the United States numerous "home-town" releases about individuals participating in the trials. Information for these releases was gathered on prepared forms and kept on file.

Through the document section of this office, correspondents were provided all manner of useful material (as mentioned in outline of personnel), such as printed copies of the indictments and booklets containing courtroom charts. Documents being offered in evidence were made available to the press concurrently with their being presented in court. Other material, such as transcripts of court proceedings, were filed on receipt and were then available for study and use by correspondents.

An important function of the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, in connection with information, was to arrange for attendance at the various trials by correspondents. A number of seats was allocated in each courtroom for correspondents, and this office had the responsibility of distributing tickets for these seats. There was seldom any difficulty with press seating in the so-called "large courtroom" in the Palace of Justice, where the International Military Tribunal had held court. However, in the smaller courtrooms, situations arose on occasion when the assigned number of seats for correspondents was insufficient -- for example, testimony by a particularly newsworthy defendant or witness usually attracted more correspondents than there were seats. When these situations arose,

1. Sample "home-town" release attached (Ex. 4)
2. Copy of biographical form attached. (Ex. 5)
3. Tribunal book attached. (Ex. 6)
4. "permanent" green pass, and the "temporary" pass samples are attached. (Ex. 7)
the problem was generally solved through arrangement with the
Administrative Division of OCCWC whereby some seats under charge of
that Division were allocated to the correspondents. It would have
made for better public relations in general, however, in the opinion
of the PRO, if spectators' sections in the smaller courtrooms had
been larger, not only to accommodate the correspondents better but
also to accommodate greater numbers of general spectators (such as
German university students).

A very helpful arrangement, in assuring more accurate
coverage of testimony of witnesses and defendants, was had by this
office with the court reporting section, whereby the PUBLIC
RELATIONS OFFICE could obtain transcripts of such testimony shortly
after its being transcribed by court reporters. In general practice,
this service was not utilized frequently, but at times the
availability of the service was of real importance in clearing up
questions as to the exact statements of a witness or a defendant.

In addition to its efforts to reach the reading and
listening public of the world through the above-mentioned activi-
ties, this office succeeded in informing many thousands of
individuals in Germany about the trials through use of the public
lecture and discussion method. The Deputy for German Affairs
devoted a great deal of time and effort to appearances before
German audiences, most of them gathered together on invitation
of German newspaper publishers in individual communities. Generally,
this representative of OCCWC spoke briefly on the purpose and
progress of the Nurnberg Trials, presented a motion picture of
45-minutes duration showing part of the German Supreme Court Trials
of individuals who plotted the death of Adolf Hitler in 1944, and
then answered questions by the audience. More invitations for such
appearances were received than time and facilities permitted
this office to accept. Besides these appearances before strictly German audiences, members of the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE staff occasionally accepted invitations to discuss the trials with groups sponsored by American Red Cross and such organizations.

Another successful project sponsored by this office, in its efforts to spread information about the trials, was that of inviting small groups of students from German universities to Nurnberg to witness the trials in progress for periods of three or four days. This met with popular acceptance among the students, and many more desired to come to Nurnberg than could be accommodates -- for it fell the duty of OCCWC to arrange billeting and messing for these students during their visits, and such accommodations were extremely limited. And, as has been mentioned previously, only one of the courtrooms was of size adequate to seat many spectators.
Photographic

This office, from the beginning to the end of the twelve trials, maintained a full time photographic section charged with the principal mission of photographing the trials and of distributing photographic prints to interested photo agencies, newspapers, and magazines. In addition, of course, the Photographic Section rendered assistance to visiting accredited photographers in their work of trial coverage, such as use of photo darkroom. (The Army Pictorial Service, of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, also photographed the trials regularly but since the Public Relations Office of OCCWC had no responsibility for or jurisdiction over this work, no details other than this mention are to be made herein).

Contrary to a majority of courts in the United States, in which photographers are not permitted to operate, tribunals at Nurnberg -- with the exception of one -- took no offense at the presence of photographers in the courtrooms. However, restrictions as to movement were laid down in the interests of order and decorum, and photographers were required to make their pictures from set positions in the courtrooms.

Booths for photographers, and batteries of floodlights, had been built into the "large courtroom" for the NMT proceeding, and here the photographers found themselves less handicapped. However, even under the floodlights, they found it necessary to make their pictures at slow shutter speeds and wide lens apertures. In the smaller courtrooms, photographers worked at a definite disadvantage because of lack of floodlights and lack of space. It is to their credit that even under the most unfavorable conditions in these smaller courtrooms, they succeeded in obtaining many excellent candid photographs of proceedings and personalities. Flash photography was
not permitted in any courtroom during trial sessions. The one tribunal which <strikethrough>barred</strikethrough> photographers during the course of its trial, feeling a need for photographs for the historic record as well as for personal scrapbooks, held a short "unofficial" session during the closing day of the trial in order that photographers could record at least a few scenes from this particular case.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE photographers utilized, for the most part, government-owned 4x5 Speed Graphics. They found telephoto lenses to be of almost absolute necessity in getting close-ups of individuals -- which sort of pictures, experience proved, were the ones in which editors were most interested. Lack of sufficient government issued specialized equipment at times made necessary the use of personal equipment by the PRO photographers.

The PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION maintained a darkroom, staffed with German personnel, in which all processing was done.

The Section wrote captions for all photographs, filed all negatives and proofs with captions attached, trial by trial.

The Section also made identity photographs of all defendants for the records. In cooperation with prison officials, a series of pictures were also made for the record of life in the prison.

As in any project of the size and historic importance of the Nurnberg Trials, participating individuals were especially anxious to obtain prints of action photos in which they and their friends appeared. Literally dozens of requests for "free" prints were directed to the photo section. Under the standing policy that no prints of trial activities, made from photo paper purchased from government funds be given out for private use, the answer to such requests was always "no". However, through an arrangement made by the PHOTO SECTION with the Post Exchange, a set of negatives

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1. Sample photograph and caption attached. (Ex. 9)
of photos made during each trial was provided the PX for the purpose of meeting requests of individuals for prints. At almost cost price, the PX photo department then made prints available to persons enjoying Post Exchange privileges. This arrangement was not completely satisfactory to all individuals wanting prints, since frequently the set of negatives supplied to the PX did not contain the particular photograph desired by an individual. For the most part, however, the arrangement worked very well for all concerned.

Commercial newsreel organizations paid little attention to the trials. However, the Army Signal Corps frequently made sound motion pictures, especially of events in the "big courtroom", and from time to time the Information Control Division of OMGUS sent its "Welt im Film" motion picture cameramen to the trials to make footage for German theaters.
Communications

Technical descriptions of the various means of communication will not be covered in this report of the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, but will be left to the Signal Section for explanation.

Communication, with information, is the life-blood of news. During the International Trial of Goering et al., Nurnberg was the center of one of the greatest communications set-ups in the world, and the press utilized its telephone, telegraph, and wireless and air courier facilities to the utmost. After the IIMT, most of these communications facilities were either taken away entirely or greatly reduced, and as time passed correspondents in Nurnberg found themselves with only telephone and teleprinter outlets over which to move their copy to cable heads in Frankfurt or Berlin. In times of much news -- such as the handing down of a final judgment and sentences by a Tribunal -- these facilities were hardly adequate to move copy nearly as rapidly as would have been desirable.

The PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE eventually located a teleprinter machine in one of its rooms, this machine being part of the zone-wide EUCOM Public Information Division teleprinter circuit. A teleprinter machine was also located in the Press Room, set up in the Grand Hotel for use of correspondents on suggestion by this office.

The German telephone system being what it was, use of it for telephoning news copy was never completely satisfactory due to noise in the instruments, fading of volume, and the incredible continuance of being "cut off" in the middle of conversations. Withall, personnel of the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, correspondents, and Signal Corps personnel did the best they could with the facilities at hand.

10.
Messing and Billeting

Other than to make frequent hotel reservations for American and Allied correspondents, and to give them information about mess facilities, the OCCWC PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE had little part in these functions as they concerned the press. Nurnberg only occasionally has correspondents present sufficient to warrant the operation of a separate "press club", such as existed here on a large scale during the IMT.

The situation was different as it concerned the German correspondents. This office rendered them continual and vital assistance in obtaining billets, in issuing them certificates entitling them to mess with other German personnel of the trials, and so forth. Careful check was kept on the credentials of German correspondents to see that only those entitled to this assistance received it.
Transportation

Information about train and plane schedules and such matters was made available to correspondents through services of this office. Correspondents visiting Nurnberg without benefit of private automobile transportation were frequently assisted in obtaining local transportation to accomplish their work. As time went by, the Army's system of taxicab service proved to be a benefit to correspondents and relieved this office of considerable effort in helping correspondents to move about Nurnberg.
1. Staff Requirements

The world-wide significance of the "subsequent proceedings" at Nuremberg necessitated an adequate, qualified staff to facilitate complete and factual coverage of this history-making event. It is felt that the Public Information Office maintained the minimum staff required. Due to the number of separate trials and the multitude of complex issues, accurate press coverage of the proceedings would have been extremely difficult without the assistance rendered by this office. In our opinion, one additional staff writer, experienced in court coverage, could have been effectively employed in providing background information, particularly to editorial writers in the United States. Complete information on the charges as set forth in the indictment, and on evidence submitted by the prosecution was not always available to the press in the United States. Stateside newspapers had to rely on spot-news, dispatches of press association correspondents stationed at Nuremberg. Although these representatives did a splendid job, in most instances, certain trial issues were so complex that they could be properly explained only through interpretative articles of some length.

The Public Information Office was fortunate in being able to obtain the services of individuals with a varied background of practical experience in the field of news, information and public relations. Besides these qualifications, an expert linguist with a journalistic background proved an absolute necessity, due to daily contact with Allied and German correspondents who spoke no English.

2. Communications-Transportation

Communications difficulties confronting correspondents have already been covered on page 10 of the report proper. The movement of press copy Stateside would have been greatly facilitated had even a small portion of the excellent communications network established
during the I.T.T. been retained. Loss of the efficient services of such
American commercial firms as RCA, Naccay and Press wireless proved a
handicap to all correspondents. Deutsche Post was in no way prepared
to meet the minimum requirements of correspondents at the time American
firms were forced to retire from the field.

A jeep was assigned the Public Information Division during most
of the time covered by the "Subsequent Proceedings," and proved an
indispensable aid. However, in consideration of the importance of the
task assigned the Public Information Office, and the steady flow of
prominent editors and journalists with whom we had to deal, it is felt
that the assignment of a staff sedan would have been warranted.

3. **Liaison**

The staff of the Public Information Division was in daily contact
with all divisions of the Office of Chief of Counsel, administrative
as well as legal. Except in a very few instances, this liaison was
always reciprocal and contributed much to the successful operation of
this office. Some sub-divisions, occupied as they constantly were with
exacting legal duties, and lacking experience in such matters, never
fully appreciated the necessity for keeping the world press (through
the P1C) informed of the significant prosecution matters. The Public
Information Officer must of necessity keep himself fully informed
concerning every phase of the activities of the organization he represents.

No can best do this by sitting in on all meetings where are discussed
major policies, decisions and plans which may require interpretation to
the public. The Public Information Officer, as the expert in his vital
field, is in position to give advice and suggestions leading to a "good
press" and possibly the avoidance of acute embarrassment on occasion.

4. **Entertainment Expenses**

The staff of the Public Information Office was frequently
required to entertain at its own expense, numerous members of the press
corps in residence at, or visiting Nurnberg for the purpose of covering
the war crimes trials. Over a period of time, this expenditure proved considerable. That the investment was a worthwhile one is not disputed. Indeed, such entertainment was an indispensable phase of the activities of this office. However, it appears to be an imposition by the government upon its employees to expect them to stand this expense. It is felt that official funds for this purpose are justifiable, and should have been made available from some source.

5. Courtesies to the press

Members of the staff of the Public Information Division made themselves available on a 24-hour a day basis seven days a week to serve the press. This policy paid off richly on many occasions. Almost without exception the entire staff of the Office of Chief of Counsel were courteous and cooperative with the press, and made themselves available at all times. This accounts, in large part, for our "good press" generally.

The perhaps unintentional policy of not inviting local American and Allied correspondents to official functions proved a cause for embarrassment to members of the Public Information Office staff. It was always necessary for this office to make recommendations in this regard as each function was announced. Our recommendations were not always accepted. It was not always apparent to the press that some of the parties were of a semi-official, or even private nature. Correspondents could only conclude that they were unwanted, and this proved somewhat irritating to them. Various members of OCCC called us from time to time to inquire whether it would be appropriate and advisable to invite local correspondents to social functions they were sponsoring. This office always replied in the affirmative, having learned from experience that any courtesies extended to the press in the long run pay dividends.

Generally speaking, the military establishment is inclined to become agitated whenever anyone of so-called VIP status shows up. We are of the firm opinion that any reporter deserves VIP treatment. Any person
who writes for millions exercises considerable influence on the public mind, and is, therefore, very important, per se.