

Alfred Steer, War Crimes Trials Participant Responsibility and Justice

The following glossary has been created to assist students and teachers with potentially unfamiliar words, phrases, or concepts in Alfred's testimony.

Der Stürmer² (“The Stormtrooper”), virulently antisemitic newspaper established in 1923 by Julius Streicher. In 1938, Streicher’s *Der Stürmer* reached its high point in terms of circulation.

Fyfe, Sir David Maxwell² A British prosecutor at the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg.

Göring, Hermann¹ Born in Rosenheim, Germany (1893-1946) Göring served in World War I and distinguished himself as a fighter pilot. In 1922 he joined the Nazi Party. He was elected to the Reichstag in 1928, and in 1932 he was elected speaker of the House. In 1935 he was made commander of the Luftwaffe. After the *November Pogrom*, Göring was put in charge of the “Jewish question.” On January 24, 1939, he issued orders for the establishment of the Central Office for Jewish Emigration. On July 31, 1941, Göring ordered Reinhard Heydrich to “carry out all preparations with regard to the Jewish question in the German sphere of influence in Europe.” The ineffectiveness of the Luftwaffe during the war eventually lowered Göring’s stature in Hitler’s eyes, and shortly before the war ended he was dismissed from all his posts and from the party. Göring was captured by the Allies and sentenced to death at the IMT in Nuremberg. On October 15, 1946, he committed suicide.

International Military Tribunal (IMT)¹ During the war, the Allied powers (the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union) agreed in a series of meetings that the Nazis and their allies would be held accountable for acts of brutality against military personnel and civilians, which violated international agreements on the conduct of war. In London, on August 8, 1945, the Allies created the charter for an International Military Tribunal (IMT), which was to convene in Nuremberg. The IMT tried twenty-two of Nazi Germany’s political, military, and economic leaders. The defendants were accused of committing and conspiring to commit crimes against the peace (i.e., waging aggressive war), war crimes (violations of the laws and customs of war), and crimes against humanity (chiefly, the murder of civilians). The judgment, delivered on September 30, and October 1, 1946, sentenced twelve of the defendants to death. Seven received terms ranging from life imprisonment to ten years, while three were acquitted.

Jackson, Justice Robert Houghwout¹ Born February 13, 1892, Spring Creek, Pennsylvania. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1941. Jackson served as United States Chief of Counsel for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, from 1945 to 1946. He died October 9, 1954, in Washington, D.C.

Quaker¹ Quakers or Society of Friends, also called Friends Church, is a Christian group that arose in England and the American colonies in the mid-17th century. Also known as Quakerism, it represents the extreme left wing of the 17th-century English Puritan movement. Friends was founded in England by George Fox (1624-1691), a nonconformist religious reformer.

Shoah³ A Hebrew word meaning “catastrophe,” referring to the Holocaust.

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Streicher, Julius¹ Born in Augsburg, Bavaria, Streicher (1885-1946) was an SA official and founder of the antisemitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*. Streicher also organized the April 1933 boycott against Jewish businesses and helped to create the Nuremberg Laws of 1935. He was arrested by the Americans on May 23, 1945, and tried at the Nuremberg IMT; he received the death sentence in 1946.

War Crimes¹ Criminal acts (e.g., torture, murder, looting, etc.) committed by individuals and organizations against an enemy, prisoners of war, or civilians in wartime, which violate international agreements or that are adjudged to be offenses against humanity.

War Crimes Trial Participants¹ People who took part in trials of alleged perpetrators of war crimes and/or crimes against humanity committed during World War II and/or the Holocaust.

Source of Definitions:

¹ USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archives Search Terms and Definitions

² The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum online glossary, *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, and/or photo archives.

³ *Echoes and Reflections: a Multimedia Curriculum on the Holocaust*