

Student Activity

Alfred Steer: Responsibility and Justice

Name _____

Alfred Steer was born May 30, 1913, in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, the son of Quakers. Alfred served with distinction in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II before becoming the head of the language division at the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, Germany. In his visual history testimony, Alfred shares a number of stories about individuals involved in the Nuremberg trials.

Directions: Below are several members of the court, as well as two defendants mentioned by name in Alfred's testimony. In the blank, match the letter assigned to the person's name with the sentence that best summarizes Alfred's recollection of that person. Then, choose one person and explain why you think Alfred included a story about him/her in his testimony. In small groups, share your answers.

Court Personnel Mentioned in Alfred's Testimony

- A. Colonel Leon Dostert, Chief of Interpreters
- B. Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, British Prosecutor
- C. Captain Gustav Gilbert, Army Psychologist
- D. Virginia G., Interpreter
- E. Justice Robert H. Jackson, Chief of Counsel for the U.S.

1. _____ He had made interpreting his career in the Army and was Eisenhower's interpreter.
2. _____ She was an interpreter who could not bring herself to translate a defendant's obscenities.
3. _____ He started the cross-examining of defendant Hermann Göring.
4. _____ He completed the cross-examination of defendant Hermann Göring.
5. _____ In court, he showed the movies taken during the liberation of concentration camps.

Choose one of the above court personnel included in Alfred's testimony. What was Alfred's point or reason for relating a story about this person?

Defendants Mentioned in Alfred's Testimony

- A. Hermann Göring
- B. Julius Streicher

1. _____ He edited *Der Stürmer*, a virulently antisemitic newspaper and was sentenced to death.
2. _____ He was Hitler's No. 2 man in the German Nazi hierarchy. He was sentenced to death but committed suicide on the eve of his execution.

Choose one of the above defendants and explain why you think Alfred chose to include him in his testimony.

