

Two Nazis to Hang For Murdering Canadian Flier

By ROSS MUNRO

Aurich, March 25 (CP).—After a four-day hearing the second RCAF war crimes trial concluded late today with death sentences to Wilhelm Junge and Johann Schumacher, accused of the murder of a captured Canadian airman.

The court then began a third trial but adjourned for one week to give German defense counsel an opportunity to prepare their cases.

Air Vice-Marshal R. E. McBurney of Montreal, Ottawa and Saskatoon, the court president, announced the court's decisions in the second case in a brief two-minute session. He told the accused, standing grey-faced before the bench, that they had been convicted of being concerned in the killing of an unnamed Canadian airman at Oberweier, Bavaria, in July, 1944, and had been sentenced to death by shooting. Junge was former burgomaster of the village. Schumacher a soldier-policeman there.

Subject to Review

The findings and sentences are subject to review and confirmation by Air Marshal G. O. Johnson, air officer commanding the RCAF overseas, and defense counsel may appeal for commutation of the death sentence.

In the first trial the court convicted Johann Neitz, former German marine, of shooting FO. Rudolph Roman of Toronto with intent to kill, and sentenced him to life imprisonment. This conviction and sentence also is subject to confirmation by Air Marshal Johnson.

The next case to be heard when the court resumes, April 1, involves three Germans charged with being concerned with the killing of an unknown Canadian airman at Opladen in the Ruhr in March, 1945.

The accused are Robert Holzer, Walter Weigel and Wilhelm Ossensbach, all former members of the German Army. The prosecution, conducted as in the first two trials by Wing Cmdr. Pat. Durdin of London, Ont., will maintain that this trio shot the captured Canadian to death, despite the fact the airman was badly wounded.

The three Germans appeared in court today, but were not asked to plead.

German Lawyers Act

Each is being represented by a German lawyer. This is the first time in the current RCAF trials that German counsel are to act for the defense, and it resulted from a protest by Sqdn. Ldr. Vic Collins of Dunnville, Ont., against a situation where Canadian barristers were ordered to defend Germans. Sqdn. Ldr. Collins was defense counsel for Neitz and Junge.

All three German lawyers asked the court for an adjournment of at least 10 days. They said none could speak or read English, and they were unaccustomed to the court's procedure.

Air Vice-Marshal McBurney said the court had decided on a week's adjournment, which it felt would give counsel sufficient time to prepare their cases.

He ordered that the services of the judge advocate, Wing Cmdr. A. A. Cattnach of Ottawa, be put at the disposal of the German lawyers, and that, if available, RCAF legal officers would be appointed to assist in interpretation of war crimes regulations.

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