

# TWO FOUND GUILTY AS NAZI SPIES

Jury Unable To Reach  
Verdict In Case Of  
Ex-Private

PLAN TO STEAL U. S.  
SECRETS CHARGED

German Ship Coiffeuse  
And Plane Mechanic  
Are Convicted

NEW YORK, Nov. 29—(AP)—Red-haired Johanna Hofmann, German ship coiffeuse, and Otto Hermann Voss, airplane mechanic, were convicted by a Federal Court jury Tuesday night of conspiring to steal military secrets of the United States.

Unable to reach a verdict on the case of a codefendant, Erich Glaser, former army air corps private, the jury retired at midnight with instructions to resume deliberations at 10 a. m., Wednesday.

The 28-year-old hairdresser received the verdict without show of emotion although she apparently had been weeping in an ante-room while waiting for the jury to report.

### Proceedings Interrupted

The verdict was announced after four hours, 25 minutes of deliberation on the testimony that ran through seven weeks of trial.

An hour before the verdict, the jury interrupted its proceedings for the third time to inquire whether a recommendation for leniency would be entertained.

"You must find the defendants guilty or not guilty," Judge John C. Knox told them, "and if you find some guilty and wish to add a recommendation of mercy I shall be glad to receive it."

The jurors called twice during the early deliberations for review of exhibits and transcripts of the case, which came under the close scrutiny of President Roosevelt and prompted investigations abroad by U. S. agents.

Conviction under the U. S. code concerning espionage carries a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment.

### Woman Cries

Fraulein Hofmann cried while being taken back to her cell. Her attorney, George V. Dix, told reporters lack of funds would prevent an appeal.

"If Hitler would send us money, certainly we would appeal," he said. "The Germans threw her down."

Glaser's attorney, Benjamin Matthews, said lack of money also would prevent his client from filing an appeal in case of conviction.

Among the 40 in the courtroom at the reading of the verdict was Reed Vetterli, who was chief of the New York F. B. I. office when the spy investigation was opened. He made no comment.

Judge Knox said in his charge that he regarded Guenther Gustav Rumrich, U. S. Army deserter and confessed German spy, in several phases of testimony as "an unmitigated liar" and urged the jury to examine his story "with the utmost discrimination."

He instructed them to disregard the nationalities of the defendants, declaring they all should receive consideration equal to that of American citizens. Voss and Glaser are German-born naturalized citizens and Fraulein Hofmann is a German. Rumrich, Chicago-born, spent his youth in Germany.

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The German companies submitted claims to foreign—primarily British—underwriters who carried re-insurance on the hundreds of Jewish synagogues, stores and homes which were burned, looted and damaged in what Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels called "spontaneous demonstrations" after a Jewish boy killed a German diplomat in Paris.

Jews themselves were ordered to repair the damages, but the government has seized the insurance claims to be applied to a \$400,000,000 fine against Jews for the slaying of Ernst Vom Rath, secretary in the Paris embassy, by Herschel Grynszpan.

### Claims To Be Resisted

It was learned the foreign companies would resist paying the claims on various grounds, including that adequate police protection was lacking for the insured places and that the outbursts were organized with connivance of the government.

Other developments Tuesday were:

1. Some Jews, among the estimated 60,000 in concentration camps, were being released if they had visas for emigration and enough cash to pay their share of the \$400,000,000 levy for the assassination of Vom Rath. The number released, however, was comparatively small.

2. Heinrich Himmler, chief of the secret police, forbade German Jews to appear in public Dec. 3, the day of national solidarity when government and Nazi party officials make street collections for the Winter relief fund.

The order, issued because "Jews do not participate in the solidarity of the German people," provided that Jews remain indoors from midnight to 8 p. m. Dec. 3 under threat of an unspecified punishment.

3. A ban on Jewish religious exercises aroused such resentment among Munich's predominantly Catholic population that secret police officials ordered the Jewish community in Munich to conduct services Friday. Other regular religious observances, however, continued to be forbidden Jews.

4. Blind Jews received notices that an entertainment planned for their benefit Tuesday night "cannot take place and must be deferred to a later period."

### Material Losses Estimated

A Rhineland insurance broker estimated the total material loss of the Nov. 10 violence at 1,300,000,000 marks (\$520,000,000), of which he said he thought about 700,000,000 marks (\$280,000,000) was covered by insurance.

A Berlin broker, however, said his figures showed that insurance claims amounted to 500,000,000 marks (\$200,000,000).

To explain the apparently high estimates, both said that some synagogues were worth millions of marks—the largest in Berlin being valued at 2,500,000 marks (\$1,000,000)—that the figures included damage to stores and private homes, that in some residences art works and antiques were of great value and that some of the shops looted sold costly articles like jewelry, furs and antiques.

BIRMINGHAM AGE-HERALD  
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