

Eichmann Dies on Gallows For Role in Killing of Jews

Ben-Zvi Rejects Appeal for Mercy by Former Gestapo Officer

By LAWRENCE FELLOWS

Special to The New York Times.

RAMLE, Israel, Friday, June 1—Adolf Eichmann was hanged just before last midnight for the part he played in rounding up millions of Jews and transporting them to their deaths in Nazi camps during World War II.

President Itzhak Ben-Zvi rejected Eichmann's appeal for mercy shortly before the execution.

Eichmann's body was cremated early today, as had been requested in his will. The ashes were scattered in the Mediterranean outside Israeli waters.

Cold and unyielding to the end, Eichmann rejected an appeal by a Protestant minister that he repent. His last words, spoken in German to a small group of witnesses in the execution chamber, were:

"After a short while, gentlemen, we shall all meet again.



Associated Press

Adolf Eichmann

So is the fate of all men. I have lived believing in God and I die believing in God.

"Long live Germany. Long live Argentina. Long live Austria. These are the countries

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

ISRAEL EXECUTES ADOLF EICHMANN

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

with which I have been most closely associated and I shall not forget them.

"I greet my wife, my family and friends. I had to obey the rules of war and my flag. I am ready."

A witness said Eichmann, in affirming his belief in God, had called himself "Gottesgläubiger"—an expression used by Nazis who had left the church under party directives but who still regarded themselves as believers.

The hanging was carried out in the gloomy, fogbound Ramle Prison only a few hours after Eichmann's final plea had been rejected by President Ben-Zvi.

During the day, the President had received hundreds of appeals for clemency. A delegation of Hebrew University professors, headed by the philosopher Martin Buber, urged him to prevent the execution.

But a brief announcement the President's office last night said: "The President of the State of Israel has decided not to exercise his prerogative to pardon offenders or reduce sentences in the case of Adolf Eichmann."

On receiving this word, the Rev. William Hull, the Canadian missionary assigned by the Government to attend Eichmann, returned to the prison, where he had talked with the prisoner earlier.

The minister's wife, who served as his interpreter said Eichmann had seemed hard and bitter after the Supreme Court rejected his appeal Tuesday.

Roads Under Guard

Guards were stationed along the roads here and traffic was diverted. But the streets were deserted. Fog shrouded the stark outlines of the prison.

Eichmann sat down at 7 P. M. to his last meal—regular prison fare of peas, bread, olives and tea. At 8 o'clock, the Commissioner of Prisons, Avraham Nir, notified him that the President had rejected his appeal.

Eichmann did not appear surprised, the commissioner said. At the prisoner's request, a bottle of dry red Israeli wine was brought. He drank about half of it. Two letters from a brother were brought to him and he read them.

Half an hour before midnight, Mr. Hull, head of the non-denominational Zion Christian Mission in Jerusalem, was taken to Eichmann. Again, Mrs. Hull interpreted.

Later, the minister said Eichmann "was not prepared to discuss the Bible—he did not have time to waste."

Mrs. Hull said Eichmann looked sad, but said he had peace in his heart and was ready to die.

Mr. Hull revealed that Eichmann had asked him: "Tell my wife to take it calmly. I have peace in the heart. I take it as proof my belief was correct."

He did not explain what he meant by his "belief," Mr. Hull said.

The minister led the fifty-yard walk from the cell to the execution chamber. Eichmann, his hands bound behind him, walked erect and apparently calm. He coughed once.

The gallows—the first to be used in the history of Israel—had been set up in a small room that formerly served as living quarters for guards on the third floor of the prison.

He Refuses Black Hood

Eichmann, who wore reddish brown trousers and a shirt open at the neck, was led to a black-painted trapdoor that had been cut in the floor.

Guards tied his ankles and knees. Eichmann asked them to loosen the bonds around his knees so that he could stand erect. He refused a black hood that was offered him.

Then, his eyes nearly shut, he stared slightly to the side and downward at the trap as he spoke his last words.

When he had finished, Commissioner Nir called, "Muchan!"—Hebrew for "Ready!" A noose was slipped over Eichmann's head. Again, the commissioner called "Muchan!"

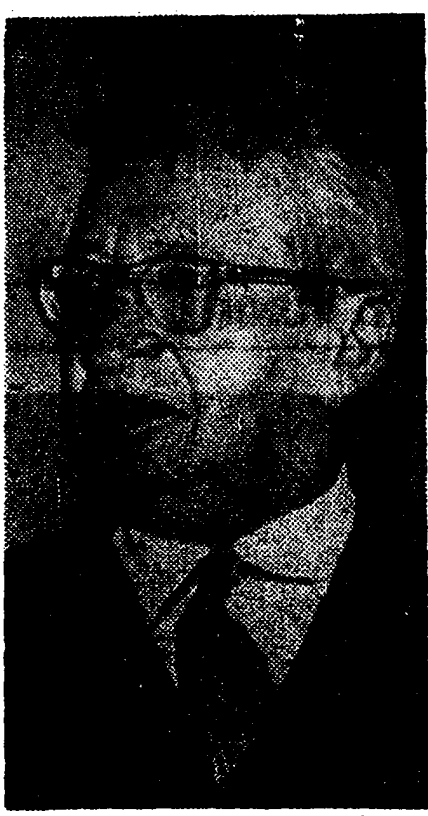
There was a rustle behind a blanket partition in a corner of the room, where three men stood at controls so rigged that none could tell which was the one controlling the gallows.

The trap opened, and Eichmann plummeted to his death.

The minister cried, "Christ, Jesus Christ."

A brief communiqué was issued an hour afterward by the Government. It said:

"Adolf Eichmann was executed by hanging today in accordance with the sentence of death passed by the Jerusalem District Court on Dec. 15, 1961, the appeal having been dismissed by the Supreme Court



Associated Press
REJECTED LAST PLEA:
President Itzhak Ben-Zvi of Israel, who rejected the appeal by Adolf Eichmann.

on May 29, 1962 and the Minister of Justice having certified that the President had decided not to exercise his prerogative of clemency.

"The body was examined by a Government physician who pronounced life to be extinct at 23:58 [11:58 P. M.]

"The execution was witnessed by: The superintendent of prisons; a Government physician; an officer of the Tel Aviv district administration; two police officers, who were present in court when the death sentence was pronounced to identify Eichmann as the person who was condemned to death; and a clergyman of the Protestant faith. Two representatives of the local press and two representatives of the foreign press were also present."

The two foreign correspondents who witnessed the execution were Arye Wallenstein of Reuters, chosen by the Foreign Press Association here, and Rudolf Kuestermeier of the German Press Association, designated by the Israeli Government.

In unanimous judgment, five justices of the Supreme Court accepted Tuesday the reasons and conclusions of the specially composed district court that tried Eichmann a year ago and sentenced him to death last December.

"The man," the Supreme Court wrote, "who was entrusted by no lesser eminence than Reinhard Heydrich, Gestapo General, himself, with the task of dealing with the final solution of eleven million Jews is no mere screw, small or large, of a machine propelled by others. He is himself one of those who propel the machine." The lower court had held that Eichmann's "legal and moral responsibility for those murders is in no way less than the measure of liability of him who put those persons with his own hands into the gas chamber."

Nazi Superiors Blamed

Eichmann objected to these findings of the courts in his appeal. He wrote to the President Tuesday after the Supreme Court handed down the final decision. The appeal was four pages long, written by hand in German.

"The judges of Israel," he wrote, "made a basic mistake because they did not distinguish between the responsible leaders, those who gave the orders, and the men of the line who only carried the orders out."

The familiar line of argument

the former Nazi held to through his long months of trial was that as a man bound to orders of his superiors he had no choice but to round up Jews he was directed to and send them to their deaths.

The argument was knocked down repeatedly in court, and the supreme court in its judgment said the line of reasoning had collapsed altogether.

"The appellant has never shown either repentance or weakness or any sapping of strength or any weakening of will in the performance of the task which he undertook," the Supreme Court held.

"He was the right man in the right place and he carried out his unspeakably horrible crimes with genuine joy and enthusiasm to his own gratification and the satisfaction of all his superiors."

The court also left little room in its judgment for the discussion of clemency. The justices, in their opinion, concluded:

"We know only too well how utterly inadequate this death sentence is as compared to the millions of deaths in the most diverse ways he inflicted on his victims."

"Even as there is no word in human speech to designate deeds such as the deeds of the appellant so there is no punishment in human laws that would fit in its gravity the guilt of the appellant."

The death penalty for ordinary murder was abolished in

police boat and the ashes scattered on the high seas.

"A similar procedure was followed with the remains of the Nazi war criminals executed by order of the Nuremberg international tribunal."

"Adolf Eichmann's will includes a request that his remains be cremated."

Israel, but the capital sentence was retained in the law for the punishment of Nazis and Nazi collaborators. Eichmann was tried under this law.

The Israeli Press Office has issued this bulletin:

"The remains of Adolf Eichmann were cremated today at 3:45 A. M. on board of an Israel