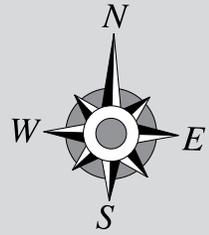
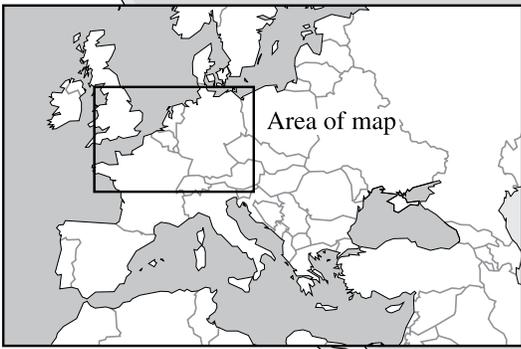


Witness to Barbarism



North
Sea

**THE
NETHERLANDS**

Amsterdam

Rotterdam

Kempen

Eindhoven

Venlo

M. Gladbach

Roermond

Roer

Bruxelles

BELGIUM

Maastricht

Liege

Aachen

Mons

Namur

Maas

Cambrai

LUXEMBOURG

GREAT BRITAIN

English Channel

AMERICAN

**BRITISH AND
CANADIAN**

UTAH
OMAHA

GOLD
JUNG
SWORD

Ste. Mère Église

St. Lô

Caen

Villedieu

Vire

Falaise

Mortain

Laval

Le Mans

**GERMAN
FRONT**

Rouen

Beauvais

Beaumont

Billancourt

Chartres

L'Aigle

Paris

FRANCE

Seine

Loire

Saône

— Author's route
 Author's side trip
 0 100 Miles
 0 100 Kilometers





Liberation at Dachau, April 28-29, 1945.



Witness to Barbarism

Horace R. Hansen

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On the front cover and frontispiece: Three from a series of photos taken upon the liberation at Dachau, April 28–29, 1945.

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The following images of key World War II figures, apparently in the public domain, are available on World War II internet sites: pp. 38, 131, 158–59, 163, 219–20, 226, 229, 234, 239, 250, 259, 274, 282, 287, 292 top, 296–97.

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Foreword

My father, Horace R. Hansen, dedicated many years to preparing the manuscript for this book before his death in 1995. His work as chief prosecuting attorney at the trial for Nazi war crimes at the Dachau prison camp, Germany, and his relationship with Hitler's chief stenographers, or recorders, provide its solid foundation. Other primary sources include his letters home and photos taken as he moved through Europe with U.S. replacement troops during World War II. Horace used his legal expertise to present this firsthand view of his experience of crimes against Jews, gypsies, political and military prisoners, and others who did not fit the Nazis idea of a master race.

Horace hoped to publish his story so that it would not be forgotten. This book is the culmination of his family and editor's work to fulfill that wish.

—Jean Hansen Doth, 2002

Acknowledgments

Many persons provided valuable help in the making of this book. I owe more than I can ever repay to Ludwig Krieger, Ewald Reynitz, Hans Jonuschat, Heinz Buchholz, and Karl Thoet, the recorders of Hitler's military-situation conferences who shared with me their personal knowledge of Hitler when they served on my staff as translators during the trials at Dachau. Ewald Reynitz confirmed and added to that information during my two visits with him in Germany in 1984 and 1985.

George R. Allen, the counterintelligence agent of the 101st Airborne Division who cleared the recorders at Berchtesgaden, Germany, in May 1945 (and now a rare book dealer in Philadelphia), shared much information by letter and telephone and critiqued my manuscript with great skill. A man who speaks excellent German, he provided the statement he took from Col. Erick Kempka, special adjutant to Hitler, telling of Hitler's last days in Berlin. Allen also wrote the foreword to Felix Gilbert's book *Hitler Directs His War* (New York: Award Books, 1950, and subsequent reprints) based on the unburned

records of Hitler's war conferences (about 1 percent of the total) found by Allen at Hintersee, Bavaria, after the war. While Gilbert extensively edited the translations of these papers, Ewald Reynitz assured me his book is a fair representation of Hitler's conferences.

Col. William D. Denson, chief trial judge advocate for the prosecution of the Dachau concentration-camp case, gave generously of his time for an interview in his New York law office in 1984.

The National Archives in Washington, D.C., gave me leads to the whereabouts of the English transcripts of interrogation of the recorders and their photographs, and of the half-burned documents of Hitler's minutes. This eventually led me to the photo of Heinz Buchholz. The members of Writers Unlimited, a 26-year-old writers' club to which I have belonged more than three years, and especially its spokesperson, Jean Barnum, who has taught creative writing at the college level for more than 30 years, gave me excellent critiques, enabling me to change the style of my writing.

Charles Knox, my neighbor, friend, and author of three published works, persistently encouraged me to write this one. Ellen B. Green, a free-lance editor in St. Paul, helped prepare my manuscript for publication [and later designed the text]. We edited and repunctuated my notes and recorded conversations to minimize repetition and increase clarity while maintaining their tone and content.

My loving wife, Ruth, and daughter Jean Hansen Doth spent many hours at the computer, typing my manuscript. [Daughter Gail Tromburg later designed the cover.] Along with my son, John Christian Hansen, they supported me in my research and writing in ways beyond counting.

—Horace R. Hansen, 1995