

III/23  
6th December, 1945

UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

Report on the Czechoslovak Case No. 1962  
(Reinhold Boecker) referred to Committee III

By the Secretary to Committee III

- I. On November 28th, 1945, the Czechoslovak National Office presented to the Commission a charge against Reinhold Boecker, Captain of the Waffen S.S., concerning crimes committed in 1944 - 1945 in Podbrezová (Slovakia). The accused is charged on three counts:-

1. Attempts to denationalise the inhabitants of occupied territory.
2. Torture of civilians.
3. Wanton destruction of private property.

The short statement of facts contained in the charge reads as follows:-

"The accused participated in the criminal Nazi system of Germanisation. He tortured civilians. He wantonly burned down the administrative building of a factory."

The particulars of the alleged crime state that:-

"The accused was appointed by the German Wehrmacht's Security Agent in the Prodbrezová Iron Works, at Prodbrezová (Slovakia). He participated in the criminal Nazi policy of Germanisation, he especially forced on the management of the Prodbrezová Iron Works German employees and workers by systematically removing employees and workers of Slovak or Czech nationality.

He denounced and handed over to the Gestapo and the S.D. (Security Service) Czechoslovak employees and workers.

He participated in the investigation and "interrogation" of imprisoned members of the Underground Movement and of partisans and personally took part in the ill-treatment and torture of the prisoners.

In complicity with four Germans he burned down the management's administrative building of the Prodbrezová Iron Works, containing important documentary material, and caused thus a damage of more than two million pre-war crowns to the Iron Works."

- II. In its meeting held on December 6th, 1945, Committee I decided to put the accused Reinhold Boecker on List A on the second and third counts mentioned above.

With regard to the first count, Committee I adjourned the case and referred it to Committee III, asking for its opinion,

- a) whether count 1 of the charge No. 1962 is covered by Document C. 149, and
- b) whether the facts under count 1 of the charge constitute a war crime.