

Horace R. Hansen is a lifelong resident of St. Paul where he has practiced law over 50 years. He has three grown children.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942, having been a felony prosecutor for six years. After Fort Benning where he was commissioned a second lieutenant, he trained recruits in the South until being sent to England in May, 1944.

There he was advised to transfer to the Judge Advocate General's Department because at 34 he was 14 years over the average age of the soldiers he would lead at the front.

In the meantime, Hansen was assigned to duties at various headquarters near the front across Northern Europe.

In January, 1945 he was assigned to war crimes investigation in Germany. After the end of the war, then a Captain, he was appointed Chief of Staff at the War Crimes Branch at Dachau. The staff included several officer-lawyers and dozens of interpreters, translators and typists housed in factory buildings outside the camp, remodeled for offices and courtrooms.

Included on the staff were five Official Recorders at Adolf Hitler's headquarters during the war. They had been verbatim reporters in the civil service at the Reichstag (Parliament) in Berlin before the war. They gave Mr. Hansen inside information on Hitler and his conduct of the war and his mass destruction of Jews.

Mr. Hansen's mission was to prepare war crimes cases for trial, connecting the atrocities committed against the slave laborers by the SS perpetrators. The crimes occurred in the American occupation zone, at the Dachau, Buchenwald, Flossenbergr and Mauthausen concentration camps.

There were two types of crimes: ill-treatment and killing of unarmed American prisoners of war in violation of the Geneva Treaty and the ill-treatment, torture and killing of slave laborers from German occupied countries held in the four camps in violation of Hague Treaty. These Treaties made up the Official Rules of Land Warfare and called for prosecution of individual perpetrators, quite different from the legal bases for the trials at Nuremberg held in a courtroom about 65 miles north of Dachau, as Mr. Hansen explains.

The trials at Dachau were prosecuted by Lt. Col. William Denson with teams of lawyers prepared for trying the four concentration camp cases.

Mr. Hansen is presently writing a book on the first-hand experiences of Hitler's recorders, Denson and himself, due to be finished next year.