GUIDE TO THE RECORDS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION
LONDON, 1943 - 1948

Corrigendum


RECORD GROUP COPY
GUIDE TO THE RECORDS OF THE

UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

LONDON, 1943 - 1948

Prepared in:
Archives Section
Communications and Records Division
27 August 1951
History and Functions of the War Crimes Commission

The United Nations War Crimes Commission was established on 20 October 1943, by a meeting of Allied and Dominion representatives convened for the purpose at the Foreign Office in London. The first official meeting was held on 11 January 1944, and the Commission continued its work actively until the end of March 1948.

The Commission, which was composed of representatives of the member governments, performed valuable functions in connection with the development of principles of international law and planning for international tribunals. Its primary task, however, was to collect, investigate and record evidence of war crimes, and to report to the governments concerned those instances where the material available appeared to disclose a prima facie case. In carrying out this function, the Commission was assisted by National Offices established by each of the constituent members. Formal charges against alleged or suspected war criminals were submitted to the Commission by the National Offices, along with the supporting data and a description of evidence available. It was the responsibility of the Commission to determine whether there appeared to be sufficient evidence to warrant the listing of the persons charged as war criminals in order that they might be detained and prosecuted by the member governments.

The War Crimes Commission took no part in the detention of persons listed or in the prosecution of the cases, and it should be noted that only a very small proportion of the persons listed as war criminals by the Commission have ever been prosecuted.

The Commission established three main committees:

Committee I, the Committee on Facts and Evidence. The responsibility of Committee I was to study the charges made by governments and to prepare the listings of war criminals.

Committee II, the Committee on Enforcement. The term "Enforcement" comprised all measures considered necessary to ensure the detection, apprehension, trial and punishment of persons guilty of or responsible for war crimes.

Committee III, the Legal Committee. Its function was to advise the Commission and the Governments on legal questions.

Other committees were the Far Eastern Committee, the Public Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Legal Publications Committee.

A Research Office was established to do further investigation where necessary, to meet requests for information, and to arrange for the publications of the Commission.

On 10 October 1944, a Far Eastern and Pacific Sub-Commission was set up as a branch of the War Crimes Commission, with headquarters at Chungking. The Sub-Commission established two sub-committees, a Committee on Facts and Evidence and a Finance Committee.
To assist the National Offices, the Commission, in May 1945, called together and organized a Conference of the National Offices, which considered problems of coordinating the work of the National Offices and the War Crimes Commission.

The Records of the War Crimes Commission

The W. C. C. records in the UN Archives now consist of the minutes and documents of the Commission and its Committees, with indexes in some cases; Research Office documents (and reference material used by that Office); the Charge Files and related materials; the W. C. C. Periodical Lists of War Criminals, Suspects and Material Witnesses; similar lists submitted to the W. C. C. by outside authorities, and some of the correspondence of the W. C. C. Also included are transcripts (printed) of proceedings, exhibits and records of the International military Tribunal, Nuremberg, of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo) and of various national military tribunals, which these tribunals submitted to the W. C. C. either for information or for reference and which were transferred to the UN Archives along with the W. C. C. records.

The W. C. C. destroyed a part of their records, mostly administrative files, which were considered to be of no continuing value. The documents held by the Research Office, which had been received from government departments in London were, in most cases, returned to the respective ministries. Records of the following bodies were not received by the UN Archives and their whereabouts is not known: Far Eastern Committee of the Main Commission, Public Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Executive Committee, Legal Publications Committee and the two sub-committees of the Far Eastern and Pacific Sub-Committee, viz., the Committee on Facts and Evidence and the Finance Committee.

Related Records

Related to the records of the War Crimes Commission are documents and transcripts of proceedings of twelve trials known as the "Subsequent Proceedings" held at Nuremberg from November 1946 to April 1949. The trials were held under international authority before courts constituted by the American Military Governor. These materials and also those relating to the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg are in the UN Archives, (see UN Archives Reference Guide No. 7/Rev.1).

Available Finding Aide

UN Archives Reference Guides Nos.: 
11. Index to minutes and documents of the W. C. C.
12. Index to the documents of the Research Office of the W. C. C.

Restrictions on the Records of the W. C. C.

1. Subject to the following restrictions and to normal administrative controls, all archives of the W. C. C. are available to any person who appears, to the satisfaction of the Chief of the Archives Section, to be engaged in bona fide research in the history of the Commission or in related problems in international law or associated fields.
2. The following records are not available for inspection and use except as specified in Rule 3 below:

a. Those parts of the minutes and documents of the Commission and its Committees and of the Research Office "Documents" that refer to specified individuals charged or suspected of war crimes.

b. The lists of war criminals, suspects and witnesses; related indexes, and the formal charges and related papers.

3. The restricted records described in Rule 2 above may be inspected and used only for official United Nations purposes, subject to the agreement of the United Nations Archivist.

It is understood that the United Nations has not inherited the functions of the W. C. C., and the Secretariat therefore cannot be called upon to reply to inquiries regarding persons charged or suspected of war crimes.
LIST OF RECORDS

(The records below are, unless otherwise noted, mimeographed and unbound).

Box Numbers


II. SUMMARY MINUTES OF MEETINGS. 4 feet.


5. Minutes and Documents of the National Offices Conference, 31 May - 2 June 1945, ½ inch.

III. DOCUMENTS. 5 feet 5 inches.


4. Committee I documents, (I/1 - I/102), 24 Apr. 1945 - 9 Feb. 1948, 1 inch. (This was the Committee on Facts and Evidence).

5. Committee II documents, (SC II/1 - SC II/51), 14 Feb. 1944 - 22 June 1945, ½ inch. (This was the Committee on Enforcement).
III. DOCUMENTS (continued)

6. Committee III documents, (III/1 - III/118), 18 March 1944 - 14 November 1947, 2 inches. (This was the Legal Committee).

7. Documents Distribution lists with signed receipts, December 1944 - December 1948, 4 inches.


9. Documents Issued by the Commission. Listed chronologically, December 1943 - April 1948, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Lists only "C" and "Misc" documents.

IV. RECORDS OF THE RESEARCH OFFICE, 1½ feet.


4. Index to War Crimes News Digest, 49 pp., $\frac{1}{2}$ inch


9. Research Office: German Medical War Crimes, 15 pp., printed, bound.


IV. RECORDS OF THE RESEARCH OFFICE (continued)

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<td>14</td>
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</table>

12. Results of Trials, 1/8 inch.

13. 3 maps of concentration camps in Austria and Germany, 1 inch.


V. CHARGE FILES AND RELATED MATERIAL. (Restricted)

Approximately 8000 charges were submitted by member Governments against about 40,000 German, Italian, Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Rumanian and Japanese war criminals, suspects and material witnesses.

The files are arranged numerically by governments presenting the charge. An alphabetical index of 40,000 cards refers to charge files and to the Periodical Lists of War Criminals, Suspects and Material Witnesses prepared by the W.C.C.

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<tr>
<th>Faithfuls</th>
<th>file nos.</th>
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<td>1. Belgium vs Germans</td>
<td>1-399</td>
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<td>2. Canada vs Germans</td>
<td>1-11</td>
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<td>3. China vs Germans</td>
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<td>5. Czechoslovakia vs Hungarians</td>
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<td>6. Denmark vs Germans</td>
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<td>7. Ethiopia vs Italians</td>
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<td>8. France vs Germans</td>
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<td>9. France vs Italians</td>
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<td>10. Greece vs Albanians</td>
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<td>11. Greece vs Bulgarians</td>
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<td>13. Greece vs Italians</td>
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<td>14. Luxembourg vs Germans</td>
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<td>16. Norway vs Germans</td>
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<td>17. Poland vs Germans</td>
<td>file nos. 1-1864  8 feet</td>
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<td>18. United Kingdom vs Germans</td>
<td>1-672  5½ feet</td>
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<td>19. United Kingdom vs Italians</td>
<td>1-114  6 inches</td>
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<td>20. United Kingdom vs Rumanians</td>
<td>1-2  1/8 inch</td>
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<td>21. U.S.A. vs Italians</td>
<td>1-114  6 inches</td>
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<td>22. U.S.A. vs Germans</td>
<td>1-258  1½ feet</td>
<td>105 - 108</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Yugoslavia vs Albanians</td>
<td>1  1/8 inch</td>
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<td>24. Yugoslavia vs Bulgarians</td>
<td>1-40  4 inches</td>
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<td>25. Yugoslavia vs Germans</td>
<td>1-561  3 feet</td>
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<td>26. Yugoslavia vs Hungarians</td>
<td>1-10  1/2 inch</td>
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<td>27. Yugoslavia vs Italians</td>
<td>1-221  1 foot</td>
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<td>28. Australia vs Japanese</td>
<td>1-19  2 inches</td>
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<td>29. France vs Japanese</td>
<td>1  1/4 inch</td>
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<td>30. United Kingdom vs Japanese</td>
<td>1-28  2 inches</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>31. U.S.A. vs Japanese</td>
<td>1-241  1 foot</td>
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<td>32. W.O.O. charges</td>
<td>1-12  1 inch</td>
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<td>33. Adjourned cases, Europe: Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Belgium, France, Greece, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, U.S.A., Yugoslavia, Pacific: Australia. 2½ feet.</td>
<td>125 - 130</td>
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<td>34. Colonel Hodgson’s files: Misc. drafts 1944-1945, notes, Committee I meetings 1945, misc. papers re Yugoslav charges and United Kingdom charges, nos. 1087 and 1365, 5 inches.</td>
<td>131</td>
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<td>35. Committee I, Notes on Cases, August 1945 - March 1948, 1 inch, 131 typed, unbound.</td>
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<td>36. Correspondence with National Offices re charges, Arranged by countries, Australia - Yugoslavia, 8 inches.</td>
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<td>37. Registers of Charge Files, showing registration and numbering of Charge files, chronologically arranged, 7 bound volumes, 1 foot. (For alphabetical index to charge files see VI, 12, page 8)</td>
<td>134 - 135</td>
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VI. PERIODICAL LISTS OF WAR CRIMINALS, SUSPECTS AND MATERIAL WITNESSES AND RELATED MATERIAL. (Restricted) 45 feet.

1. Periodical Lists of War Criminals, Suspects and Material Witnesses listed by the Commission, nos. 1-80, including about 40,000 names, 2 feet, mimeographed, bound.

2. Annotations to lists nos. 7 and 9, March 1947, 2 inches.


4. Nominal Rolls of Alleged War Criminals held in the Middle East, January 1945, ½ inch, typewritten, unbound.


6. Correspondence re Priority Lists, 1947, 1 inch.

7. List of German Senior Officers, 7 pp.

8. Correspondence re detained German Senior Officers, 1947, ½ inch.

9. List of Automatic Arrestees, ½ inch.


13. Alphabetical Card Index of War Criminals, Suspects and Material Witnesses listed by the U.N. W.C.C., containing about 40,000 cards, reference to Periodical Lists and to Charge Files, 42 feet.

VII. LISTS OF WAR CRIMINALS SUBMITTED BY OUTSIDE AUTHORITIES.

1. Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects. (CROMCASS), Allied Control Authority:

   i. Instructions on CROMCASS, ½ inch

   ii. CROMCASS Wanted Lists, nos. 1-13, July 1945 - October 1946, alphabetically arranged, 1 foot, printed, bound.
VII. LISTS OF WAR CRIMINALS SUBMITTED BY OUTSIDE AUTHORITIES (continued)

1. Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects (CROWCASS), Allied Control Authority: (continued)


   iv. Detention Lists, nos. 1-20, August 1945 - March 1948, 1½ feet; Lists nos. 1-8, mimeographed, unbound; Lists nos. 9-20, photo offset, bound.

   v. Detention Reports, alphabetically arranged, 3 inches.

   vi. Miscellaneous correspondence on CROWCASS lists, 1945 - 1947, ½ inch.


3. List of Yugoslav Criminals, 4 inch, typewritten.

4. Lists of War Criminal Suspects held in South East Asia Command, 20 February 1946, 5 inches.

5. S.E.A.C. Lists of Suspects, nos. 1-24, October 1945 - August 1946, 2 inches.


8. Australian Military Forces Lists of Japanese Criminals Held by S.E.A.C., SCAP or other areas, 23 August 1946 - 5 May 1948, nos. 2-6, 3/4 inch.


10. Australian Military Forces Consolidated List No. 1 of Japanese Criminals not in Custody, 9 December 1946, ½ inch.


13. Monthly Summations, nos. 7-29, prepared by Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, April 1946 - February 1948, (nos 1-6, 21-22, missing), 2 inches.
### VII. Lists of War Criminals Submitted by Outside Authorities (continued)

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Persons Confined at Sugamo Prison, 1 August 1947, ½ inch.</td>
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### VIII. Correspondence of the War Crimes Commission. 2½ inches.

Box Numbers: 154

2. Cables, re trial results, release, sentences, etc., 2 inches.  
Box Numbers: 154

### IX. Documents and Transcripts of International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg. 155 – 164

1. Records of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, 1945-1946, containing official documents, transcripts of proceedings and exhibits:

   - In English: 22 volumes, 2 feet, printed, bound, (incomplete).
   - In German: 42 volumes, 6 feet, printed, bound.

### X. Documents and Transcripts of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo Trials), 29 April 1946 – 22 July 1948, 35 feet.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Judgment, 1 November 1948, 1211 pp.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Dissenting judgment of the member from France, 23 pp.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Separate opinion of the President, 21 pp.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Concurring opinion of the member from the Philippines, 35 pp.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Opinion of the member from the Netherlands, 249 pp.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Judgment of the member from India, 1235 pp.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Indictment against Japanese War Criminals, 50 pp.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Transcripts of proceedings in Chambers, appr. 1000 pp.</td>
<td>228 - 229</td>
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X. DOCUMENTS AND TRANSCRIPTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST (TOKYO TRIALS) (continued)

10. Numbered Papers, containing motions, objections, arguments, and decisions (incomplete), 6 inches.

11. Document 0001, chronological summary of such parts of the oral and documentary evidence given by the Prosecution up to 10 December 1946, as are reasonably capable of being dealt with in that way. Cross references to the transcript of the court proceedings and also references to exhibits and witnesses, 342 pp.

12. Document 0002, Statement and analysis by the Prosecution's Section, 50 pp.

13. Exhibits, numbers 12-2518 (incomplete), 6 feet.

14. Photo exhibits, one album, 1 inch.

15. Index of Witnesses, alphabetical, with references to page numbers in the transcripts of the court proceedings, 5 inches.

16. Index of Exhibits, with references to page numbers in the transcripts of the court proceedings, 4 inches.

17. Index of Motions, Objections, Arguments and Decisions with references to the numbered papers, 1 inch.

XI. REPORTS OF NATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNALS. 65 feet.

1. Synopsis of Trial Reports received by the W.C.C. from National Authorities. Numerically arranged by country; gives date and place of trial, charge, verdict, and sentence, and serves as an index to trial reports and transcripts, 5 inches.

2. British Military Courts, 1945-1947, trial reports and transcripts of proceedings, cases nos. 1-524, 6 feet.


i. U.S. Military Courts, 1945-1947, trial reports and transcripts of proceedings, cases nos. 1-809, 47 feet.

ii. Record of Trial of Klein et al. at Wiesbaden, Germany, 8-15 October 1945, 5 inches.

iii. Record of Trial of Francisco Braganza by a U.S. Military Commission, 3 July - 7 August 1901, in Luzon, P.I., 5 inches.

iv. Record of Trial of Artur Andrae et al., Dachau, Germany, 7 August - 30 December 1947, vols. 16-88, 1 foot, (incomplete).
XI. REPORTS OF NATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNALS (continued)

3. U.S. Trials (continued)


a. Review of Record of Trial with annex, 186 pp.

b. Pleadings, 43 pp.

c. Application from General Yamashita to the U.S. Supreme Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus and Writ of Prohibition, and the Opinion of the Court, 2 inches.

d. Transcript of court proceedings, vols. II-XXXIV, 2 feet, (incomplete)

e. Exhibits, nos. 1-406, 5 inches.


i. Microfilm copies of transcripts and exhibits, cases 5, 8, 9, 40, 43, 48, 49, 51, 52, 64, 65, 80, 85, 91, 113, 251, 255, 35 mm., negative, 21 reels.

5. Canadian Trials, 2 feet.

i. Transcript of trial of General Kurt Meyer, 10-28 December 1945, at Aurich, Germany, 857 pp., 2 vols., mimeographed, bound.

ii. Exhibits in the Meyer case, ½ inch.

iii. Transcripts of trial of Johann Neitz, 15-20 March 1946, at Aurich, Germany, 284 pp., mimeographed, bound.

iv. Transcripts of trial of Wilhelm Jung and Johann Schumacher, 15-29 March 1946, at Aurich, Germany, 270 pp., 2 vols., mimeographed, bound.

v. Transcript of trial of Robert Hoelzer, Walter Weigel, and Wilhelm Osenbach, 25 March - 6 April 1946, at Aurich, Germany, 410 pp., mimeographed, bound.

vi. Reports of No. 1 Canadian War Crimes Investigation Unit re shooting of Canadian Prisoners of War by the German Armed Forces in Normandy, France, 8 and 11 June 1944, 2 inches, 2 vols., mimeographed, bound.

6. Reports of the Allied Court of Inquiry re shooting of Prisoners of War by German Armed Forces in Normandy, France, during June 1944, ½ foot, 7 vols., mimeographed, bound.
XI. REPORTS OF NATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNALS (continued)

7. French Military Tribunals, trial reports on cases 1-253, 23 February 1945 - 16 April 1948, 5 inches (in French).
   
8. Polish Trials, 2 feet.
   i. Trial of Dr. Joseph Buhler, Polish Supreme National Tribunal, 15 May 1948, indictment and judgment, 1 inch (in Polish).
   
   
   iii. Trial of Albert Forster, Polish Supreme National Tribunal, 5-29 April 1948, indictment, transcript of proceedings and judgment, 10 inches, (in Polish).
   
   iv. Polish Trial Reports and Reviews of Cases, 1 inch (in Polish and English).
   
   
   
   
   

XII. REFERENCE MATERIAL USED BY THE RESEARCH OFFICE,* 7 inches.

1. Military Government Gazette, Germany, British Zone of Control, nos. 2-27, 1945-1949, 2 inches, printed, bound.

2. SHAEF: Germany, Basic Handbook.
   i. German Concentration Camps, 119 pp., printed, bound.
   
   ii. The German Police, 155 pp., mimeographed, bound.
   
   iii. Nazi Occupied Europe, October 1944, 116 pp., printed, bound.


* As appears from the title of this series, these are not strictly records, but reference material collected by the Research Office for its use.
XII. REFERENCE MATERIAL USED BY THE RESEARCH OFFICE. (continued)

4. Publications on War Crimes, submitted by the Governments of Belgium, Ethiopia, Greece, and Yugoslavia; 4 inches; printed, bound. 403

5. Manual for Trial of War Crimes and Related Cases, prepared by War Crimes Group, U.S. Forces, European Theater, 1 February 1947; ½ inch, mimeographed, bound. 404