

and distributed by, the defendants herein. The defendants ordered troops under their command and jurisdiction to burn, destroy, and level to the ground entire villages and towns, and, on numerous occasions, to execute the inhabitants of such villages and towns. Such arbitrary, inhumane, and disproportionately harsh measures of reprisal dislocated hundreds of families, made thousands of peaceful noncombatants homeless and destitute, and brought untold suffering, humiliation, misery, and death to vast numbers of innocent civilians.

8. This program of wholesale devastation was carried out not only as part of a cruel, senseless pacification-through-terror scheme, wholly unwarranted and unjustified by military necessity and in flagrant violation of the laws and customs of war, but also in furtherance of a long-range plan to despoil and retard for decades the economic and industrial potential of the occupied territories.

9. The acts of destruction and other crimes charged in this count included, but were not limited to, the following:

*a.* On or about 10 October 1944, the Commander in Chief of the 20th Mountain Army, the defendant Rendulic, issued an order, to troops under his command and jurisdiction, for the complete destruction of all shelter and means of existence in, and the total evacuation of the entire civilian population of, the northern Norwegian province of Finmark. During the months of October and November 1944, this order was effectively and ruthlessly carried out. For no compelling military reasons, and in literal execution of instructions to show no sympathy to the civilian population, the evacuated residents were made to witness the burning of their homes and possessions and the destruction of churches, public buildings, food supplies, barns, livestock, bridges, transport facilities, and natural resources of an area in which they and their families had lived for generations. Relatives and friends were separated, many of the evacuees became ill from cold and disease, hundreds died from exposure or perished at sea in the small boats and fishing smacks used in the evacuation, while still others were summarily shot for refusing to leave their homeland—in all, the thoroughness and brutality of this evacuation left some 61,000 men, women, and children homeless, starving, and destitute.

*b.* On or about 25 September 1941, in Serbia, troops under the command and jurisdiction of the commanding general in Serbia were ordered to burn, and did burn, villages and farms in and around the plains of Drina and at the bend of the Sava River.

*c.* During the months of September and October 1941, in the course of so-called “punitive expeditions” (Strafexpeditionen), troops under the command and jurisdiction of the 12th Army burned and completely destroyed the following villages in the