

News Digest By The Associated Press

Nazi trial begins in Jerusalem

Court suspects former U.S. citizen 'Ivan the Terrible'

JERUSALEM — Retired Ohio auto-worker John Demjanjuk went on trial Monday on charges he ran gas chambers at a Nazi death camp where 850,000 Jews died.

Holocaust survivors in the audience wept. One shouted that Demjanjuk had strangled his family.

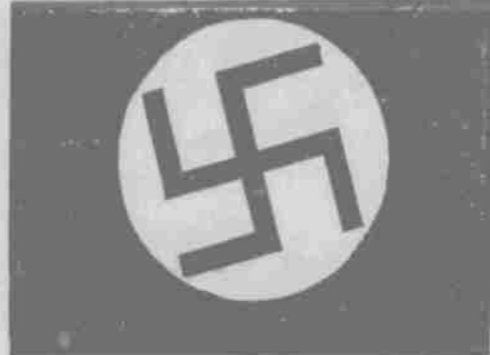
Demjanjuk, who says he is innocent, could face execution if convicted. He is only the second man to be tried in Israel on Nazi war crimes charges.

During the session, he sat hunched over, his face expressionless, as he faced a capacity crowd of 400 journalists and spectators in a movie theater that had been converted into a courtroom for the trial.

'John Demjanjuk stands accused of responsibility for the most terrible and heinous crimes in history.'

—Blattman

The indictment charges Demjanjuk was the notorious guard "Ivan the Terrible" who beat and tortured victims before turning on the gas chamber engines at Treblinka, a death camp in German-occupied Poland, in 1942 and 1943.



He is charged with "crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes against persecuted persons."

Demjanjuk pleaded innocent when his trial began Nov. 26.

O'Connor has maintained his client

is a victim of mistaken identity.

O'Connor also said the case against his client should be dismissed because Demjanjuk was extradited from the United States on an order specifying he would be tried for murder, not war crimes.

But Judge Dov Levine, chairman of the three-member panel hearing the case, rejected the argument, saying "the (U.S. extradition) document made it clear that by murder, it meant all the crimes mentioned by the extradition request."

Demjanjuk, a former resident of the Cleveland suburb of Seven Hills, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship before being extradited in February 1986.

Food trucks enter South Lebanon refugee camps

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Shiite Moslems lifted a four-month blockade Monday and let food trucks enter two small Palestinian refugee camps in south Lebanon, but there was no indication of an end to the camp siege in Beirut.

The United Nations said the four trucks unloaded 47 tons of flour, 90,000 cans of sardines and 564 canisters of skim milk in al-Bass and Bourj el-Shamali near the port of Tyre.

Militiamen of the Shiite militia Amal also allowed thousands of Palestinian women and children from the much larger Rashidiyah camp to travel two miles to Tyre to buy food. No men emerged from the camp, fearing capture by the Shiites.

Amal allowed a U.N. convoy carrying food to enter Beirut's Bourj el-Barajeh camp Saturday only after an equal amount of food was delivered to the surrounding Shiite slums.

Shiite gunmen from Amal have blockaded the three camps 50 miles south of Beirut since Oct. 1 as part of a campaign to keep Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat from regaining the Lebanese base he lost with the 1982 Israeli invasion.

A police source in Tyre said Amal gunmen allowed the convoy to enter the two smaller camps only after they confiscated "one-third of the flour."

In Beirut, officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which donated the food, would not comment on the police report.

In Brief

Manson: I wouldn't kill a bug

NEW YORK — Although it has been 18 years since the brutal Tate-LaBianca murders, Charles Manson, serving a life term in California's San Quentin prison, is anything but remorseful.

"I've done nothing I'm ashamed of," Manson, 52, told Life magazine in an interview published in the March issue. "Nothing I couldn't face God with. I wouldn't kill a bug."

"But you'd kill a person?" Manson was asked.

"I'd probably kill all of them if I could. . . . Hey, time and circumstance made me into this Manson guy. . . . I'm nobody. Give me a bottle of wine and put me on a train."

In August 1969, his "family" of followers slaughtered actress Sharon Tate, supermarket owner Lenó LaBianca and five others.

Cronkite begins S. African visit

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Former CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite arrived in South Africa on Monday, but South African authorities refused to let CBS News film his visit.

Cronkite, who is still active with CBS News, said he planned to meet prominent South Africans, including government and opposition leaders.

He said the government issued him a restricted visa that apparently prevents CBS from filming his interviews and travels.

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Army moves to overhaul system for identifying casualty remains

WASHINGTON — The Army has soberly set out to modernize the process of handling the remains of fallen soldiers, convinced the military logistics of death have become outdated.

Among the concerns that now are being discussed are how the remains of soldiers killed as a result of nuclear, chemical or biological war should be recovered and handled; what new technologies are available for use in a war zone to assist in identification of remains, and what can be done to automate the process of tracking remains through what is now a maze of paperwork.

Those concerns, particularly that of a war



fought in a "dirty environment" of nuclear or chemical contamination, already have led a study group to confront the need for new equipment such as radiation detectors and a new type of pouch to handle remains.

The overhaul of procedures for the task of retrieving and transporting combat casualties has been entrusted to a unit, the Graves Reservation Work Group. It was formed after the Army's Quartermaster School completed a critical study last August, concluding that the military was still relying on methods dating to World War II.

"This has not been a subject that's been popular and so it's been somewhat ignored," says Gary L. Wieting, a logistics specialist on the Army's Pentagon staff who heads the working group.

According to Wieting, his group has a relatively simple charter — use fresh approaches "to carry graves registration into the 21st century; to quickly and reverently recover and evacuate remains. . . on the future battlefield."

Although the study is classified, an unclassified executive summary has been released. It discloses recommendations to the working group to consider automating the Army's system for identifying and handling remains, including the purchase of mini-computers for graves reservation specialists.

It also calls for research in such areas as the use of bar-code tags that can be scanned electronically to keep track of casualties as they are transported home.

Also recommended were studies of the use of automated, digital x-ray equipment to produce records on remains in the war zone for later use in positive identification, and even the use of "micro dot tooth tags" — tiny computer chips with identifying information that can be "cemented" with resin on a soldier's tooth.

Correction

The UNL College of Journalism split from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1978, not in 1975 as was printed in the Feb. 16 Daily Nebraskan. Because of another typographical error, the Dean of the College's name, R. Neale Copple was misspelled. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the errors.

Daily Nebraskan

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