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## NIKOLAUS VON FALKENHORST

Formerly Generaloberst in  
the German Army*Edited by*E. H. STEVENS, O.B.E., M.A., LL.B.,  
Writer to His Majesty's Signet*with a Foreword by*THE RIGHT HON. SIR NORMAN BIRKETT, P.C.,  
Member of the International Military Tribunal  
at Nuremberg

By the Rt. Hon. Sir NORMAN BIRKETT

The publication of this book is an event of great importance, as indeed the record of any War Crime Trial must necessarily be. Its importance, moreover, will grow as the years pass. It is to be regarded as much more than the account of a criminal trial, and much more than the mere exposition of international or municipal law; it is a valuable contribution to history of a highly specialised kind. It records the trial of General von Falkenhorst, the Commander-in-Chief of the German armed forces in Norway from 1940 to 1944. He was arraigned on nine separate charges, but in reality, there was one main charge which governed and dominated the whole. Dr. Muller, the German counsel for von Falkenhorst, stated the issue quite clearly when he said to the Court: "We can take the whole of the charges one to eight as one, because all those charges have one root, that of the Führer Order of October 18th, 1942 . . . this is the main point of the whole trial." In plain language, that main point was: whether von Falkenhorst had decreed the deaths of Allied fighting men taken prisoner by the German forces in Norway, contrary to the laws and usages of war; and if he had, was there any lawful justification or excuse for his actions. These nine charges, and the facts relating to each of them, are fully discussed by the Editor, Mr. E. H. Stevens, in the masterly Introduction which follows this Foreword. His qualifications for the task are plainly to be seen in the nature and quality of his work. When dealing with the facts, Mr. Stevens possesses one very great advantage in that he was Second-in-Command of the R.A.F. Occupational Forces in Norway at the time of the happening of the events he discusses with so much knowledge and insight. His Introduction, therefore, is not only vivid and accurate, and of intense and moving interest, but it is informed at all times by the knowledge gained at first hand. That knowledge is skilfully used to describe the operations in which the men were engaged, for whose deaths von Falkenhorst was held to be responsible. Whether it was the landing of the little party of

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## PREFACE

In the compilation of this account of the von Falkenhorst trial, assistance has been readily forthcoming from many sources. For permission to reproduce the transcript of the trial, the Royal Warrant, and certain photographs and other material, the Editors are indebted to the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office. Photographs are also reproduced through the courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, whilst in this respect particular thanks are due to Mr. Henrik Huitfeldt of *Aftenposten*, Oslo, who took much trouble to secure suitable illustrations not readily available in Great Britain. Acknowledgment is gratefully made to the staff of the Information Department of the Royal Norwegian Embassy and of the Norwegian State Railways Travel Bureau, London, for their help in checking many of the place names. Colonel R. C. Halse, of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, who prosecuted von Falkenhorst, kindly placed much useful material at the Editors' disposal, and thanks are likewise due to the British Admiralty and War Office for their assistance. Lord Wright and the Allied Members of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, now dissolved, are acknowledged with gratitude for their guidance throughout. The sudden death of the Editor, Mr. E. H. Stevens, has unfortunately precluded him from witnessing the publication of this book, but he had completed his work on this volume before he died. To the many personal friends who assisted him with information and advice the Editors tender their thanks.

*Assistant General Editor.**War Crimes Trials*

- Vol. I—The Peleus Trial
- Vol. II—The Belsen Trial
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etc., etc.