

FRENCH MASSACRE TRIAL

In Bordeaux, the last chapter is written to a story of war - the story of the village of Oradour Sur Glane. These are the men whose chapter it is - they stand accused by France of aiding the murder of 642 people who lived in the village.

Monsieur Saint-Saens presides at their trial. Here for their defence is Herr Schreckenberger, a German lawyer. Within the court-room the trial begins. Seven of the accused are German S.S. men, but France, while demanding vengeance, grieves that the twelve who stand with them are their own countrymen. Twelve men of France, accused of the slaughter of their own people. The crime that is believed to be theirs can bring but one penalty. France will decide. Those who are to make judgment on their fate remember these scenes. For this is the village of Oradour Sur Glane, filmed a few days after the savage massacre.

All the men-folk of the village were shot to death by machine-guns. The women, and the children (some only a few weeks old) were imprisoned in the church, which was then set ablaze. Now Oradour Sur Glane is dead - for the people who were her heart are dead.

Only seven villagers survived the slaughter. One, Madame Rouffange, broke through a window in the blazing church and made her escape. Severely wounded by machine-gun bullets, she lay, feigning death, outside - and lived to tell her dreadful story. Now in Bordeaux, that same lady comes to pay her tribute to those who died. With her are other survivors, who were but children on that fateful day.

The war is over - but the suffering goes on. And already the evil that is Nazism threatens to rise once more. This time we must not weaken - for this could happen again.