

Secret Intelligence Service

Room No. 15

Notes (I) Enhanced Interrogation (Torture)

(C-IV)

28012017CIVR15tyxz

Position : Overcome with intelligence, NOT via appeal to bestiality

Table of Interrogation Techniques Apparently Recommended/Approved by U.S. Officials

Technique	Category	Proposed by Phifer 10/11/02	Legal per Beaver 10/11/02	Approved by Dunlavey 10/11/02	Approved by Hill 10/25/02	OK'd by Haynes 11/27/02; Approved by Rumsfeld 12/02/02	Status after Rumsfeld's 1/15/03 Order	Proposed by Working Group 4/4/03	Approved by Rumsfeld 4/16/03
Direct, straightforward questions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Yelling at detainee	I	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Approved for discretionary use	OK	Yes	Yes
Deception: multiple interrogators	I	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Approved for discretionary use	OK	Yes	Yes
Deception: Interrogator is from country with reputation for harsh treatment of detainees; "False Flag"	I	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Approved for discretionary use	OK	Yes	Yes
Incentive or removal of incentive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes,
Playing on a detainee's love for a particular group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Playing on a detainee's hate for a particular group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes

Significantly/ or moderately increasing fear level of detainee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Reducing fear level of detainee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Boosting the ego of detainee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Insulting the ego of detainee, not beyond the limits that would apply to a POW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Invoking feelings of futility in detainee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Convincing detainee interrogator knows all	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Convincing detainee that interrogator has mistaken detainee for someone else	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Continually repeating same questions to detainee during same interrogation period	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Convincing detainee interrogator has damning/inaccurate file, which must be fixed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Good cop, bad cop	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Rapid fire questioning w/ no time for answer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Staring at detainee to encourage discomfort	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
New interrogation environment: change of scenery up/down	II	Yes,	Yes	Yes	Yes	Approved for discretionary use	Requires specific prior approval by Rumsfeld	Yes	Yes
Dietary manipulation (e.g. hot food to cold MREs)	II	Yes,	Yes,	Yes	Yes	Approved for discretionary use	Requires specific prior approval by Rumsfeld	Yes	Yes
Use of stress positions (e.g. prolonged standing)	II	Yes	Yes, but	Yes	Yes	Approved for discretionary use	Requires specific prior approval by Rumsfeld	Yes for prolonged standing and	No
Use of falsified documents or reports in interrogation	II	Yes,	Yes, but	Yes	Yes	Approved for discretionary use	Requires specific prior approval by Rumsfeld	—	—

Threatening to transfer detainee to a country from which he would fear death or torture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	No
Environmental manipulation (exposing detainee to temperature adjustment or unpleasant smell)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Exposure to cold weather or water (with appropriate medical monitoring)	III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	May be legally available, but not approved for discretionary use	No change	—	—
Threat of imminent death to detainee or his family members	III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	May be legally available, but not approved for discretionary use	No change	—	—
Use of wet towel and dripping water to induce misperception of suffocation	III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	May be legally available, but not approved for discretionary use	No change	—	—
Use of mild, non-injurious physical contact such as grabbing, poking in the chest, and light pushing	III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Approved for discretionary use	Requires specific prior approval by Rumsfeld	Yes	Yes

Notes Accompanying Table

Use requires permission of the OIC, Interrogation Section

Request to use technique must be made through the OIC, Interrogation Section, to the director, Joint Interrogation Group. Extensions beyond initial thirty days must be approved by Commanding General.

Technique may only be used by submitting request through the director, JIG, for approval by the Commanding General with appropriate legal review and information to Commander, USSOUTHCOM. Technique "required for very small percentage of the most uncooperative detainees (less than 3 percent)." Technique should "be administered by individuals specifically trained in ...safe application."

Use deemed lawful subject to caveat that "the technique is employed to further an important governmental interest like intelligence gathering, that no severe pain is inflicted, and that it is not done with the intent of causing prolonged mental harm."

Use deemed lawful subject to caveat "that technique is not done with specific intent to cause prolonged mental harm and absent medical evidence that it would; notes that caution should be exercised with this method, as foreign courts have already advised about the potential harm this method may cause.

Use deemed lawful so long as "technique is not done to punish or cause harm but done for legitimate government purpose of obtaining information or maintaining health standards."

Use deemed lawful but with recommendation that all techniques in Category II and III be given further legal review prior to their use.

Use deemed lawful but with note that the technique constitutes an assault under military law.

Authorized but with caution that "nations that believe that detainees are subject to POW protections might view the use of this technique as inconsistent with Geneva Convention requirements" and urges consideration of such views before application of technique.

Authorized but with caution that "based on court cases in other countries, other nations may view application of this technique in certain circumstances to be inhumane. Consideration of these views should be given prior to use of this technique."

Authorized but with note that "caution should be applied with this technique because the torture statute specifically mentions making death threats as an example of inflicting mental pain and suffering."

Technique recommended but with caveat that it should be subject to the following limitations: that the technique is conducted at strategic interrogation facilities, that there is reason to believe the detainee possesses critical intelligence; that detainee is medically and operationally evaluated as suitable; that interrogators are specifically trained how to administer the technique; that there is a specific interrogation plan (including reasonable safeguards, limits on duration, intervals between applications, termination criteria, and the presence or availability of qualified medical personnel) is developed; that appropriate supervision is provided; and appropriate specified senior level approval is given for use with any specific detainee

Klaus Barbie : Women Testify of Torture by his Hands

23 03 1987 – from an issue of The Philadelphia Inquirer

LYON, France--In 1944, when she was 13, Simone Lagrange testified yesterday, Klaus Barbie gave her a smile as thin as a knife blade, then hit her in the face as he cuddled a cat at the Gestapo headquarters in Lyon.

Lise Lesevre, 86, said Barbie tortured her for nine days in 1944, beating her, nearly drowning her in a bathtub and finally breaking one of her vertebrae with a spiked ball.

Ennat Leger, now 92, said Barbie "had the eyes of a monster. He was savage. My God, he was savage! It was unimaginable. He broke my teeth, he pulled my hair back. He put a bottle in my mouth and pushed it until the lips split from the pressure."

The three women were among seven people who took the witness stand yesterday to testify against Barbie, the former head of the Gestapo in [Paris] during the Nazi occupation of France in World War II.

Barbie, 73, is on trial in Lyon, accused of torturing Jews and members of the French Resistance and deporting them to Nazi death camps.

But he did not hear their testimony because he has refused to attend the courtroom sessions since the second day of the trial, as he may do under French law.

He has, however, denied the accusations against him and has contended that his 1983 extradition from Bolivia to France was illegal.

Several of the seven witnesses yesterday sobbed as they told of arrest, torture, rail convoys to the Drancy collection center near Paris and on to concentration camps.

They depicted Barbie as a harsh, sadistic officer ready to resort to any cruelty to extract information.

Lagrange, her voice breaking, recalled the arrest of her father, mother and herself on June 6, 1944, the day Allied troops landed in Normandy to drive back the Germans.

Denounced by a French neighbor as Jews and Resistance fighters, Lagrange and her parents were taken to Gestapo headquarters where a man, dressed in gray and caressing a cat, said Simone was pretty.

"I was a little girl, and wasn't afraid of him, with his little cat. And he didn't look like the typical tall, blond SS officer we were told to beware of," she said.

The man, whom she identified as Barbie, asked her terrified parents for the addresses of their two younger children.

"When we said we did not know, he pulled my hair, hit me, the first time in my life I was slapped," she said.

During the following week, the man hauled her out of a prison cell each day, beating and punching at her open wounds in an effort to obtain the information.

"He always came with his thin smile like a knife blade," she said. "Then he smashed my face. That lasted seven days."

Later that month, Simone and her mother were put aboard a sealed train for the Auschwitz concentration camp on a horror ride "which turned us into different people" and that still gave her nightmares 40 years later.

From Auschwitz, where her mother was gassed, the inmates were marched to Ravensbruck, where only 2,000 of the 25,000 people who began the march arrived alive. On the way, Simone saw her father marching in another convoy.

"A German officer told me to embrace him. As we were about to meet, they shot him in the head," she said. "It wasn't Barbie who pulled the trigger, but it was him who sent us there."

Ennat Leger, who lost her sight at Ravensbruck after her arrest, was hoisted to the witness stand in her wheelchair by four policemen.

She was a Resistance fighter nearly 50 years old when she was arrested in 1944, she said, and Barbie and his men "were savages, brutal savages, who struck, struck and struck again."

"Have you heard of the Gestapo kitchens?," she quoted him as saying, in an allusion to the torture chambers.

Lise Lesevre, frail and upright despite her 86 years, described the defendant as "Barbie the savage," saying she recognized him decades later because of his "pale eyes, extraordinarily mobile, like those of an animal in a cage."

Lesevre, who belonged to a resistance group, said the Gestapo arrested her on March 13, 1944, while she was carrying a letter intended for a Resistance leader code-named Didier.

She said Barbie spent almost three weeks trying to learn if Lesevre was Didier, and if not, who was. She was interrogated for 19 days, she said, and tortured on nine of them.

First she was hung up by hand cuffs with spikes inside them and beaten with a rubber bar by Barbie and his men. "Who is Didier, where is Didier?" were Barbie's main questions, she said.

Next was the bathtub torture. She said she was ordered to strip naked and get into a tub filled with freezing water. Her legs were tied to a bar across the tub and Barbie yanked a chain attached to the bar to pull her underwater.

"During the bathtub torture, in the presence of Barbie, I wanted to drink to drown myself quickly. But I wasn't able to do it. I didn't say anything.

"After 19 days of interrogation, they put me in a cell. They would carry by the bodies of tortured people. With the point of a boot, Barbie would turn their heads to look at their faces, and if he saw someone he believed to be a Jew, he would crush it with his heel," she said.

"It was a beast, not a man," she said. "It was terror. He took pleasure in it."

During her last interrogation, she said, Barbie ordered her to lie flat on a chair and struck her on the back with a spiked ball attached to a chain. It broke a vertebrae, and she still suffers.

"He told me, 'I admire you, but in the end everybody talks.'" But she never did, and she heard Barbie say finally, "Liquidate her. I don't want to see her anymore."

She was condemned to death by a German military tribunal for "terrorism" but was placed in the wrong cell and deported to Ravensbruck concentration camp, where she survived the war. Her husband and son did not. She said they were both deported to their deaths by Barbie.

Lesevre said she identified Barbie in February in a face-to-face confrontation at St. Joseph Prison, where he is being held.

Germany's allies, the Japanese, went one sick step further down the road of depravity and their secret police, the Kempeitai, were behind acts of such evil that they put the atrocities meted out by the Gestapo in the shade.

Few today have heard of this vile organ of terror, yet tens of thousands died at the hands of the Kempeitai in their torture houses and prison camps. Scandalously, most of their members were allowed to slip away at the end of the war and were never brought to justice.

Now a new book aims to set the record straight and lay at the door of modern-day Japan the ultimate responsibility for the cover-up of these crimes against humanity.

Its author Mark Felton, a British historian living in China, reveals the Kempeitai's torture of Britons in China and Japan, their systematic degrading of women prisoners and, even more sickeningly, their perverted scientific experiments on POWs, including British soldiers.

The Kempeitai's most extensive torture chambers were at Bridge House in Shanghai. The victims were mainly Chinese but Westerners were also rounded up when Japan entered the war.

At the time of the Japanese takeover of the International Settlement in Shanghai in 1941, there were about 6,000 British

and 1,300 Americans living in the city, mostly businessmen, bankers or journalists and their families.

One British journalist named Elroy Healey, who had made anti-Japanese broadcasts on local radio, was so severely beaten that he was driven insane and died in agony, crippled by his injuries.

Even diplomats were not safe. Sixty Kempeitai troops forced their way into the British Embassy in Tokyo, beat up the ambassador and arrested the information officer Herbert Vere Redman on suspicion of espionage. He endured 600 hours of torture before the charges were dropped.

The Kempeitai had developed their own special forms of torture and even published an interrogator's handbook. It advised that beatings should be followed by water torture, involving ramming a hosepipe down a prisoner's throat and then jumping on his stomach. Unsurprisingly, many died. Other methods involved electric shocks and intense heat, usually hot irons applied to the genitals.

The Kempeitai's terror regime held sway all across occupied Asia. A Malaysian resistance member, Catholic mother Sylvia Kathigasu, gave evidence at a British War Crimes trial in 1946. She had been held for three months, enduring water torture, burning with red-hot irons and severe beatings. Metal slivers were hammered beneath her fingernails but still she would not divulge information.

Her torturer, Kempeitai Sergeant Ekio Yoshimura, had her young daughter captured and hung over a roaring fire, threatening to cut her down into the flames unless Mrs Kathigasu confessed.

The pair refused to talk and Mrs Kathigasu was sentenced to death although this was later commuted. She survived the war and was reunited with her daughter.

The Japanese military regarded women as little more than sex slaves. They charged the Kempeitai with rounding up women and girls to fill custom-built brothels throughout the occupied areas. Euphemistically known as "comfort women", they were initially recruited from the ranks of prostitutes but young women were later forcibly taken from prison camps.

In February 1944, a group of Dutch women at a civilian internment camp in Java were taken from their families and

repeatedly raped for four months. One of them was 21-year-old Jan O'Hearne.

"They dragged us away one by one," recalls O'Hearne, who married a British soldier and now lives in Australia. "I could hear screaming and this large, fat, bald Japanese officer appeared, grinning at me. I put up an enormous fight but he just dragged me to the bedroom. I never thought suffering could be that terrible."

At 86, O'Hearne is still calling for an apology from the Japanese for the treatment received by the "comfort women". The Japanese government, however, has consistently refused to admit that they were anything other than prostitutes working willingly for the state.

For any act of resistance, terrible retribution was taken by the Kempeitai against interned Allies and often civilians. Shrunken rotting heads were displayed on top of iron stakes outside the Cathay Building in Singapore as warnings.

SEVEN months after the fall of Singapore in 1942, a daring force of British and Australian commandoes infiltrated the port and sank or seriously damaged seven Japanese ships. The Kempeitai were sent in to exact reprisals.

Elizabeth Choy, a British Chinese model who was awarded an OBE for her efforts to save her fellow prisoners, was tortured for 193 days. She told a British post-war trial: "When my interrogators could not get any information out of me they dragged my husband from Outram Prison, tied him up and made him kneel beside me. Then, in his full view, they stripped me to the waist and applied electric currents to me."

Perhaps the most horrifying example of the Kempeitai's methods lies in the barely-documented story of one of their camps known only as Unit 731 at Pingfang in Manchuria, which ranks in evil alongside Belsen and Auschwitz. Manned by Japanese scientists, up to 12,000 PoWs, women and children are believed to have been murdered there. Victims were infected with germs and parasites, then dissected, sometimes while still alive and without anaesthetic.

Limbs were amputated, frozen and then re-attached to different parts of the body to study the effects of gangrene on live tissue. Giant centrifuges were built to test how much G-force

the body could take. X-ray radiation was also administered in fatal doses.

Incredibly, after the war, the Americans protected many of the Japanese scientists, offering them jobs, visas and immunity from prosecution in return for their biological and chemical warfare know-how.

With the end of the war imminent the Kempeitai operated a "leave no survivors" policy and oversaw the notorious death marches of British and Australian PoWs. They were still beheading captured Allied pilots two weeks after the official surrender in August 1945.

The Kempeitai destroyed evidence to cover their tracks and most of them vanished. Few were brought to trial.

Author Mark Felton, who lives in Shanghai and teaches history at Fudan University, reveals one final act of Kempeitai barbarism. In August 1945, 387 British PoWs being used as slave-labourers were at work in the mines of Japan's Sado Island when their guards quietly withdrew after the surrender. A series of explosions entombed them behind thousands of tons of rock and rubble.

Dr Felton says: "The prisoners' bodies remain inside the mine, forgotten victims of the Kempeitai."

The Interrogation Camp Which Turned Prisoners into Living Skeletons

German spa became a forbidden village where Gestapo-like techniques were used

Despite the six years of bitter fighting which lay behind him, James Morgan-Jones, a major in the Royal Artillery, could not have been more specific about the spectacle in front of him. "It was," he reported, "one of the most disgusting sights of my life."

Curled up on a bed in a hospital in Rotenburg, near Bremen, was a cadaverous shadow of a human being. "The man literally had no flesh on him, his state of emaciation was incredible," wrote Morgan-Jones. This man had weighed a little over six stones (38kg) on admission five weeks earlier, and "was still a figure which may well have been one of the Belsen inmates". At the base of his spine "was a huge festering sore", and he was clearly terrified of returning to the prison where he had been brought so close to death. "If ever a man showed fear - he did," Morgan-Jones declared.

Adolf Galla, 36, a dental technician, was not alone. A few beds away lay Robert Buttlar, 27, a journalist, who had been admitted after swallowing a spoon handle in a suicide attempt at the same prison. He too was emaciated and four of his toes had been lost to frostbite.

The previous month, January 1947, two other inmates, Walter Bergmann, 20, and Franz Osterreich, 38, had died of malnutrition within hours of arriving at the hospital. Over the previous 13 months, Major Morgan-Jones learned, 45 inmates of this prison, including several women, had been dumped at Rotenburg. Each was severely starved, frostbitten, and caked in dirt. Some had been beaten or whipped.

The same week that Major Morgan-Jones was submitting his report, a British doctor called Jordan was raising similar concerns at an internment camp 130 miles away. Dr Jordan complained to his superiors that eight men who had been transferred from the same prison "were all suffering gross malnutrition ... one in my opinion dying".

They included Gerhard Menzel, 23, a 6ft German former soldier who weighed seven stones, and was described as a living skeleton. Another, admitted as Morice Marcellini, a 27-year-old Frenchman, later transpired to be Alexander Kalkowski, a captain in the Soviet secret police, the NKVD. He weighed a little over eight stones, and complained that he had been severely beaten and forced to spend eight hours a day in a cold bath.

Prisoners complained thumbscrews and "shin screws" were employed at the prison and Dr Jordan's report highlighted the small, round scars that he had seen on the legs of two men, "which were said to be the result of the use of some instrument to facilitate questioning". One of these men was Hans Habermann, a 43-year-old disabled German Jew who had survived three years in Buchenwald concentration camp.

All of these men had been held at Bad Nenndorf, a small, once-elegant spa resort near Hanover. Here, an organisation called the Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre (CSDIC) ran a secret prison following the British occupation of north-west Germany in 1945.

CSDIC, a division of the War Office, operated interrogation centres around the world, including one known as the London Cage, located in one of London's most exclusive neighbourhoods. Official documents discovered last month at the National Archives at Kew, south-west London, show that the London Cage was a secret torture centre where German prisoners who had been concealed from the Red Cross were beaten, deprived of sleep, and threatened with execution or with unnecessary surgery.

As horrific as conditions were at the London Cage, Bad Nenndorf was far worse. Last week, Foreign Office files which have remained closed for almost 60 years were opened after a request by the Guardian under the Freedom of Information Act. These papers, and others declassified earlier, lay bare the appalling suffering of many of the 372 men and 44 women who passed through the centre during the 22 months it operated before its closure in July 1947.

They detail the investigation carried out by a Scotland Yard detective, Inspector Tom Hayward, following the complaints of Major Morgan-Jones and Dr Jordan. Despite the precise and formal prose of the detective's report to the military government, anger and revulsion leap from every page as he turns his spotlight on a place where prisoners were systematically beaten and exposed to extreme cold, where some were starved to death and, allegedly, tortured with instruments that his fellow countrymen had recovered

from a Gestapo prison in Hamburg. Even today, the Foreign Office is refusing to release photographs taken of some of the "living skeletons" on their release.

Initially, most of the detainees were Nazi party members or former members of the SS, rounded up in an attempt to thwart any Nazi insurgency. A significant number, however, were industrialists, tobacco importers, oil company bosses or forestry owners who had flourished under Hitler.

By late 1946, the papers show, an increasing number were suspected Soviet agents. Some were NKVD officers - Russians, Czechs and Hungarians - but many were simply German leftists. Others were Germans living in the Russian zone who had crossed the line, offered to spy on the Russians, and were tortured to establish whether they were genuine defectors.

One of the men who was starved to death, Walter Bergmann, had offered to spy for the British, and fell under suspicion because he spoke Russian. Hayward reported: "There seems little doubt that Bergmann, against whom no charge of any crime has ever been made, but on the contrary, who appears to be a man who has given every assistance, and that of considerable value, has lost his life through malnutrition and lack of medical care".

The other man who starved to death, Franz Osterreicher, had been arrested with forged papers while attempting to enter the British zone in search of his gay lover. Hayward said that "in his struggle for existence or to get extra scraps of food he stood a very poor chance" at Bad Nenndorf.

Many of Bad Nenndorf's inmates were there for no reason at all. One, a former diplomat, remained locked up because he had "learned too much about our interrogation methods". Another arrived after a clerical error, and was incarcerated for eight months. As Inspector Hayward reported: "There are a number against whom no offence has been alleged, and the only authority for their detention would appear to be that they are citizens of a country still nominally at war with us."

Today, the older people of Bad Nenndorf talk about August 1 1945, the day the British arrived, with undisguised bitterness. A convoy of trucks pulled into the village, and the Tommies took over from an easygoing US infantry division. Within hours, the British had ordered everybody in the centre of the village to pack their belongings and leave. Bad Nenndorf was heaving with refugees from the bomb-ravaged ruins of Hanover, 18 miles to the east: hundreds of people were given 90 minutes to pack some food and valuables, and get out.

"We thought everyone would be allowed back in a few days," recalls Walter Münstermann, now a retired newspaperman, but then a 14-year-old. "Then the soldiers started putting barbed wire fences around the centre of the village, and slowly we began to realise that this was going to be no ordinary camp."

Walter and his neighbours realised that the centre of their village was being transformed into a prison camp when they heard that the British were converting a large, 40-year-old bath-house, ripping out the baths and installing heavy steel doors to turn each cubicle into a cell. They saw the first batch of prisoners arrive in the back of a truck. Later groups arrived at the village railway station in cattle trucks.

Ingrid Groth, then a seven-year-old, said locals claimed that if you crept up to the barbed wire at night, you could hear the prisoners' screams. Mr Münstermann, who passed the main gate on his way to school each

day, insists that the opposite was true: that it was a sinister place precisely because "you never, ever saw anyone, and you never heard a sound". Among the people of Lower Saxony, Bad Nenndorf became known as das verbotene dorf - the forbidden village.

The commanding officer was Robin "Tin Eye" Stephens, 45, a monocled colonel of the Peshawar Division of the Indian Army who had been seconded to MI5 in 1939, and who had commanded Camp 020, a detention centre in Surrey where German spies had been interrogated during the war.

An authoritarian and a xenophobe with a legendary temper, Stephens boasted that interrogators who could "break" a man were born, and not made. Of the 20 interrogators ordered to break the inmates of Bad Nenndorf, 12 were British, a combination of officers from the three services and civilian linguists. The remaining eight included a Pole and a Dutchman, but were mostly German Jewish refugees who had enlisted on the outbreak of war, and who, Inspector Hayward suggested, "might not be expected to be wholly impartial".

Most of the warders were soldiers barely out of their teens. Some had endured more than a year of combat, at the end of which they had liberated Belsen. Some represented the more unruly elements of the British Army of the Rhine, sent to Bad Nenndorf after receiving suspended sentences for assault or desertion. Often, Hayward said, they were the sort of individuals "likely to resort to violence on helpless men".

The inmates were starved, woken during the night, and forced to walk up and down their cells from early morning until late at night. When moving about the prison they were expected to run, while soldiers kicked them. One warder, a soldier of the Welsh Regiment, told Hayward: "If a British soldier feels inclined to treat a prisoner decently he has every opportunity to do so; and he also has the opportunity to ill-treat a prisoner if he so desires".

The Foreign Office briefed Clement Attlee, the prime minister, that "the guards had apparently been instructed to carry out physical assaults on certain prisoners with the object of reducing them to a state of physical collapse and of making them more amenable to interrogation".

Former prisoners told Hayward that they had been whipped as well as beaten. This, the detective said, seemed unbelievable, until "our inquiries of warders and guards produced most unexpected corroboration". Threats to execute prisoners, or to arrest, torture and murder their wives and children were considered "perfectly proper", on the grounds that such threats were never carried out.

Moreover, any prisoner thought to be uncooperative during interrogation was taken to a punishment cell where they would be stripped and repeatedly doused in water. This punishment could continue for weeks, even in sub-zero temperatures.

Naked prisoners were handcuffed back-to-back and forced to stand before open windows in midwinter. Frostbite became common. One victim of the cold cell punishment was Buttlar, who swallowed the spoon handle to escape. An anti-Nazi, he had spent two years as a prisoner of the Gestapo. "I never in all those two years had undergone such treatments," he said.

Kalkowski, the NKVD officer, claimed that toenails were ripped out and that he had been hung from his wrists during interrogation, with weights tied to his legs. British NCOs, he alleged, would beat him with

rubber truncheons "while the interrogating officers went for lunch". Hayward concluded, however, that "there was not a shred of evidence to support these allegations".

Whatever was happening during the interrogations must have been widely known among many of the camp's officers and men. In common with every CSDIC prison, each cell was bugged, so that the prisoners' private utterances could be matched against their "confessions".

Inspector Hayward's investigation led to the courts martial of Stephens, Captain John Smith, Bad Nenndorf's medical officer, and an interrogator, Lieutenant Richard Langham. The hearings were largely held behind closed doors. A number of sergeants - men who had carried out the beatings - were told they would be pardoned if they gave evidence against their officers.

Langham, who had been born in Munich and fled to England with his parents in 1934, at the age of 13, denied that he had mistreated prisoners and was acquitted. Charges of manslaughter against Smith were dropped but, after a court martial held entirely in secret, he was found guilty of the neglect of inmates and sentenced, at the age of 49, to be dismissed the service.

It is unclear whether any of Stephens's superiors knew, or condoned, what had happened at Bad Nenndorf, although his lawyers said they were prepared to spread the blame among senior army officers and Foreign Office officials. Before his court martial began there was nervous debate among ministers and government officials about how to avoid the repercussions which would follow, should the truth become known.

Ministers were anxious that nobody should learn that CSDIC was running a number of similar prisons in Germany. There was also what the chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Frank Pakenham, later to become Lord Longford, described as "the fact that we are alleged to have treated internees in a manner reminiscent of the German concentration camps". The army, meanwhile, said it was determined the Soviets should not discover "how we apprehended and treated their agents", not least because some would-be defectors might have second thoughts.

Finally, there was the inevitable fall-out for Attlee's Labour government. As Hector McNeill, foreign minister, pointed out in a memo to Ernest Bevin, the foreign secretary: "I doubt if I can put too strongly the parliamentary consequences of publicity. Whenever we have any allegations to make about the political police methods in Eastern European states it will be enough to call out in the House 'Bad Nenndorf', and no reply is left to us."

Stephens was eventually court martialled behind closed doors. Amid complaints of a half-hearted prosecution, he was acquitted of two charges, two others were withdrawn, and he was free to apply to rejoin MI5.

In Bad Nenndorf, the remaining prisoners were shipped out, the wire ripped down, and the prison shut down. The baths were reinstalled in the cubicles and, gradually, the spa returned to its traditional business of catering for the health needs of elderly German tourists.

The closure of Bad Nenndorf was not the end of the story, however. The archives reveal that three months later a custom-built interrogation centre, with cells for 30 men and 10 women, was opened near to the

British military base at Gütersloh. The inmates were to be suspected Soviet spies, and would be medically examined before interrogation.

When Frank Pakenham complained that most of the interrogators had been at Bad Nenndorf, and demanded that "drastic methods" should not be employed, Major-General Sir Brian Robertson, the military governor, put his foot down.

Why, he exclaimed, if the military authorities were required to justify the arrest of each inmate, and then handle them according to the standards "enforced by the prison commissioners in our own enlightened country", there was little point in having an interrogation centre at all.

The Death Trick

One of the most bizarre episodes at Bad Nenndorf followed the death of a former SS officer called Abeling. He had been so severely beaten during his arrest in January 1947 that he was unconscious on arrival at the prison, and died shortly afterwards.

The camp's officers instructed a local gravedigger to prepare a grave for a British officer who had died of an infectious disease. Abeling's corpse was sewn into a blanket, lowered in, and covered with quicklime. A firing party was on hand to ensure that the dead man was buried with full British military honours, and a white wooden cross with a false name was erected over the grave.

The reasons for such subterfuge are made clear in declassified Foreign Office papers at the National Archives. Abeling, formerly a member of an "annihilation squad" in Warsaw, had been working as an agent for the Americans at the time of his death, spying on his old Nazi comrades under the codename Slim.

The report notes that the Americans "insisted that 'Slim's' death must be kept a very closely guarded secret, because of the fact that the US authorities had been employing him in the full knowledge that he was wanted by the Polish government as a major war criminal".

Today the wooden cross over Abeling's grave has been replaced with a gravestone. It still bears the name of the man that local people believe to be buried there: John X White, born 1.8.1911, died 17.1.1947.

Enhanced Interrogation - Torture

Skrevet av Gro Kvanvig

311 Norwegians were exposed to systematic torture at Arkivet. The oldest was aged 67 years and the youngest was aged 16 years. The majority of the torture victims were between the ages of 20 and 45. There were several Soviet prisoners of war tortured at Arkivet as well and were later executed. You can see here on the wall, the names of those tortured here at Arkivet.

Four of the torture victims were women. Henriette Bie Lorentzen was pregnant when arrested. She was examined by a German doctor who confirmed she was 4 months pregnant before being tortured. Henriette tells how the Gestapo had put a pillow under her belly before they started beating her. She delivered the baby at Grini. The child was placed with its aunt while Henriette was sent on to the Ravensbrück women's camp. You can see and hear Henriette Bie Lorentzen tell her story here in the torture chamber.

Normally, the use of heightened interrogation was authorized by the Commander of the German Secret Police in Stavanger. However, if there was not enough time to wait for approval, each case worker at The Archive was permitted to make the decision. Torture methods and tools were made by the Gestapo themselves. They used what they had on hand. It was, therefore, an archive rod, where the victims were bound by the arms and legs and raised up, which became one of the most used methods. Beating instruments, whips, and handcuffs were used as well. Blows and kicks to vital organs were also widely used which led to significant physical ailments. Other prisoners have told about slower, psychological torture, where one was forced to stand for hours with one's hands over one's head.

Doctor Frimannslund who received prisoner Pål Eiken at Kristiansand Hospital after the latter being tortured at Arkivet.

"I treated Eiken the night before he died. He was admitted to the hospital by a German doctor with the diagnosis of asthma. However, there were no signs of this disease. Eiken suffered from kidney illness and a high degree of uremia. The patient was unconscious a couple of hours before he died. He himself informed that he was constantly exposed to abuse during the interrogations. He was made to lie on his stomach over a chair while two Germans beat him with clubs on his back and behind during the interrogations. He was also kicked by the Germans in the stomach, behind, and genitals. Eiken had obvious marks from these abuses. The skin on his behind, the lower part of his back and stomach, and the genitals were blue-black in colour, and there were some surface grazing. [...]2

Pål Eiken was the only one to die directly due to the injuries he received during torture at Arkivet. However, there are several other prisoners who died later in captivity because of the abuse they received at Arkivet.

There were at least 34 Soviet prisoners transported in to Arkivet, in addition to Norwegian prisoners. They came from several of the major work camps where they worked as slave labourers. The abuse of these prisoners was the most brutal. There different reasons for why they came to Arkivet. It could be a refusal to work, or as punishment for attempting escape or stealing food. Approximately 50 Soviet prisoners were executed by the Gestapo at Arkivet. It is uncertain as to where the execution orders for these prisoners came from and for what reason. None of the Gestapo in Kristiansand were convicted for these murders, in the end, because of the lack of evidence. However, in connection with later investigations of the murder of the Soviet prisoners of war in the fall of 1945, the Gestapo themselves were made to participate in the exhumation of the bodies.

Forty Nine Variants of Torture

K. Moczarski's letter to the [communist] Chief Military Prosecutor Office dated 14 02 1955:

During the investigation proceedings launched against me on the grounds of my alleged collaboration with Germans (I was faulted with left-wing uncovering activities) - in the period from 30 Nov 1948 to 22 Sep 1952 - the following officers and non-commissioned officers of the former Department of Investigation [of Polish Secret Police from the Ministry of Internal Security - abr. MBP]: Lt Col Dusza Jozef, Maj Kaskiewicz Jerzy[1], Capts Chimczak Eugeniusz and Adamuszek Adam, Sc Lt Szymanski Tadeusz, Staff Sgt Mazurkiewicz and Sgt Stanislaw Wardynski ([vel] Wardenski or Wardeski) employed the following 49 types of torture and battery against me:

Beating of the whole body (any possible spot) with:

1. bare hands (Dusza, Kaskiewicz, Chimczak),
2. a rubber truncheon (Dusza, Kaskiewicz),
3. a brass rod (Dusza),
4. a bar [Dusza and Sgt Stanislaw Wardynski (Wardenski or Wardeski)],
5. a wooden rule with metal fittings (Dusza, Kaskiewicz, Chimczak),
6. a stick (Dusza)
7. a whip (Kaskiewicz)
8. a blotter and inkwell base (Chimczak, Adamuszek);

Beating of particularly sensitive areas of the body:

1. bridge of the nose with a rubber truncheon (Dusza),
2. protruding shoulder blades with a rubber truncheon (Dusza),
3. gland area of the chin - which resemble mumps when swollen - with a rubber truncheon (Dusza) and rule (Dusza, Kaskiewicz),
4. shoulder joints with a rubber truncheon,
5. the outside of my bare feet and in the toe area with a viscous-rubber covered bar (Kaskiewicz),
6. finger tips with a blotter and inkwell base (Chimczak and Adamuszek),
7. bare toe tips with a rubber truncheon (Dusza),
8. bare heels (series of 10 blows - with a rubber truncheon - to a heel, several times a day) - (Dusza),

Pulling of hair:

1. off the top of my skull (Dusza, Kaskiewicz, Chimczak),
2. off my temples, above the ear and neck area - so called goose plucking (Dusza, Kaskiewicz, Chimczak),
3. off my beard and moustache (Dusza, Chimczak),
4. off my chest (Chimczak),
5. off my crotch and scrotum (Chimczak);

Burning:

1. of the eye and lip area with a glowing cigarette (Chimczak),
2. of each hand's fingers with a burning torch (Dusza, Kaskiewicz, Chimczak),
3. Crushing each hand's fingers placed between two pencils (Dusza, Kaskiewicz),
4. Crushing each foot's toes (jumping on my feet) - (Dusza, Kaskiewicz, Chimczak),
5. Kicking legs and torso (Dusza, Kaskiewicz and Sgt Stanislaw Wardynski),
6. Kicking shin area in particular (Dusza, Kaskiewicz, Chimczak),
7. Stabbing with pins and nibs, etc. (Dusza, Chimczak),

8. Face and ears pinching with a hand and key (Chimczak),
9. Forcing me to sit on the edge of the stool (Dusza, Chimczak),
10. Forcing me to sit on a bolt hurting my rectum (Dusza),
11. Cuffing my hands with American automatic handcuffs (*pol. amerykanka*) which was followed by tearing them off my wrists (Dusza with a platoon Sgt Tadeusz Szymanski),
12. Physical exercises - forcing me to do knee bends until I swooned (Dusza),
13. Forcing me to run up and down the stairs for about 20-30 minutes - with the ward supervising at Lt Col Dusza's command),
14. Solitary confinement for indefinite time (also naked) - (Dusza),
15. Sleep deprivation for the period of 7-9 days through waking me (I was standing in a freezing cell) with continuous slaps on my face performed by the guarding officer of the former MBP. The method called Beach or Zakopane pushed me into semi-dementia and resulted in mental health problems - visual and auditory hallucinations - their symptoms resembled the body's condition after taking mescaline or peyote (Dusza with wards),
16. Standing to attention in a prison cell for indefinite time (Dusza with inspecting officers and wards of Mokotow Unit 11 and later (after 11th Nov 1950) Mokotow Block A,
17. Standing to attention in a prison cell and interrogation room with my hands raised above my head for indefinite time (Dusza with inspecting officers and wards of Mokotow Units 10 and 11),
18. I was not allowed to receive parcels from my family (every week my sister would send parcels with food, although - according to the regulations at that time - I was allowed to collect merely 10 - 15 out of 70 parcels. The remaining number on Dusza's orders was not returned to my sister.),
19. Reduction in food rations (during the peak period of my investigation I would be given only 0,5 of coffee, about 350 grams of bread and a litre of thin soup daily). Furthermore, there were times when I would not be allowed to have anything to drink - the torture of thirst on Dusza's orders,
20. Security checks in my cell, at nights when - after waking - I was forced to stand to attention, unclothed and in a freezing draught for up to an hour (the torture was supervised on Dusza's orders by an inspecting officer - called Hiszpan or

Gruby - of Unit 10 and wards.),

21. Removing windows from my cell (October 1949) for 24 hours while I was sleeping under 1 blanket, partly touching the concrete floor (1 pallet shared between 3 prisoners). The torture was supervised by an inspecting officer of Unit 11 with Mazurkiewicz, a ward, all that at Dusza's orders,
22. Pouring buckets of water in to the cell regularly. The torture was supervised by an inspecting officer of Unit 11 and the wards - Mazurkiewicz and Stanislaw Wardeski. All of that on Dusza's orders,
23. Medical help deprivation, although I was ill (urinating blood for 1,5 month). I was suffering at Dusza's orders until dr Kaminska's medical attention (very caring attitude) to all prisoners from Block A,
24. I was not allowed to have open air [outside] walks and [was] prohibited from leaving the building for the period of 6 years and 3 months on Dusza's orders until 22nd September 1952 when I had my first walk in cell 22 of Mokotow Block A. In addition, I could not have showers for the period of 2 years and 10 months,
25. Moral abuse. Vulgar and elaborate verbal insult aimed at me and my family members. The abusers included Lt Col Dusza, Maj Kaskiewicz, Capt Chimczak and inspecting officers of Mokotow Unit 11 (Mazurkiewicz, Wardynski and others). While in Unit 11 I was continually bullied by the inspecting officers and wards on Dusza's orders,
26. I was deprived of any contact with the family (not a single letter or a piece of news from my mother, wife and sister for the period of 4 years) or the outside world (no newspapers etc.) or books (from 30th Nov 1949 to 6th Nov 1952 I did not read a single printed word). All of those on Dusza's orders,
27. I was subject to moral tortures of the following types:
 - a) an official (yet false) statement - read to me by Col Rozanski in the presence of Capt Dusza - that my wife, Zofia Moczarska, whom I love dearly, died of tuberculosis
 - b) an insinuating statement (additionally embellished with crude remarks and insults) of Capt Chimczak concerning an alleged unethical conduct of my wife,
28. I was subject to moral tortures supervised by:
 - a) Maj Kaskiewicz who, similarly to other investigating

officers, called me a Nazi and wrote the word in bold on my forehead with an acrylic pencil. Furthermore, he would not allow me to wash it off and I was forced to wear it in my cell and during the interrogation,

b) Lt Col Dusza who - in order to humiliate me - ordered to place me in one cell with Nazis (the executioner of the Warsaw Ghetto - SS Gen. J. Stroop among others

Lt. Col. Dusza Jozef, Maj. Kaskiewicz Jerzy, Capt. Chimczak Eugeniusz, Lt. Adamuszek Adam, an inspecting officer [Ludwik Wlodarczyk], whom prisoners called Hiszpan or Gruby (currently one of the three inspecting officers of Mokotow Block A and wearing lieutenant uniform or civilian clothes; in 1949 he used to have a badge of the participants in the Spanish Civil War pinned to his jacket lapel; he is about 5.8 ft, obese, 40-something-year-old), the following inspecting officers: Tadeusz Szymanski (recently a Sc Lt of Mokotow Unit 10), Mazurkiewicz (recently a Staff Sgt for general purposes in Mokotow), Wardynski (Wardenski or Wardeski) Stanislaw (recently a Staff Sgt in Mokotow Prison) and many others, whose names I do not know, employed all previously described tortures and abusive methods against me with the consent and in the presence of Cols [Jozef]Rozanski and [Anatol Feigin, as well as the Deputy Minister - General Romkowski. The latter declared - around 30th Nov 1948 and in the interrogation room situated on the first floor of Unit 10 as well as in the presence of Col Rozanski - that I will experience a "living hell" - and apparently he was right about it.

I would also like to stress that not all of the investigation and inspecting officers of Unit 10 and Block A and not all wards, although clearly instructed and ordered as to the methods of torture and abuse, would gladly and eagerly employ them against me.

The initial fragments of K. Moczarski's letter to the Chief Military Prosecutor Office dated 14 February 1955 are published in accordance with the description enclosed in K. Moczarski's letter to a solicitor, Wladyslaw Winawer, and sent from prison in Sztuma on 25th February 1955 - a typescript copy from the collection of Aniela Steinsberg. The content of this document, and its translation is being published here under the Greater Public Good doctrine.

Maria Hattowska, Home Army (AK) / Wolnosc i Niezawislosc (WiN) Soldier

"I told them that I will betray no one, and that I can only talk about myself. Then, Rozanski jumped from behind his desk and kicked me so hard that I fell down [on the floor] along with the chair. When I got up, he kicked me in the stomach again; once more, then again. I lost consciousness after the second time. Then he continued to kick me many more times in my stomach. When I got weak, and couldn't stand on my own anymore, the two of them held me by my arms and Rozanski was kicking me. Naturally, at this point he changed the style of the 'conversation'; he no longer addressed me by madam, but ... I am sorry that I will have to say that - but until the end - he would call me 'an old whore'. [From that point on] he would address me in this way [...]

I noticed that Humer went to another room, and returned with a riding crop [pol. "nahayka"]. I noticed that metal bearing was hanging off a small metal chain that was attached to the tip of the crop. Humer was pacing around the room hitting himself nervously on the leg with it. He was very excited. I noticed that exactly. Then after Rozanski was apparently tired of kicking me - I was laying down on the floor - all others were beating me; Humer and others whose names I already gave. Humer was beating me with riding crop; somebody else also had one. I saw that to the side of me. I don't know. Maybe one of them was beating me with a belt. I am not sure. But, each one of them was hitting me very hard with some sort of object. All of them were beating me; all over my body. I didn't lose consciousness and I saw and heard everything. I also remember one very small detail. During these beatings Humer received a call. I even remember what he said: 'Don't wait for me with supper darling, I'll be home very late, because I have an urgent matter to take care of here'. He was talking on the phone holding the riding crop in his hand. Suddenly, Humer said, 'Now, let's hit her in her kidneys, because it hurts more'. While others were pacing around the room, Humer was hitting my kidneys by himself with the riding crop, and counted as he went along. He counted one hundred fifty blows. After that, he said, 'Somebody take over, I am tired' but, 'Give her another hundred fifty blows to the kidneys'. Then Chimczak and others were hitting my kidneys, and Humer who was standing over me was counting. After some time, Humer said to one of those in the room to spread my legs. I felt something [on my legs], but didn't see, I couldn't ... I couldn't move my head ... but, I precisely saw everything that was happening to the side of me. I felt that two [of them]; I felt boots of two people on my legs. They were holding me, you know, by my legs that were spread out, and Humer was hitting me with a riding crop in my crotch area. He was beating me for quite some time".

With the part of the riding crop that had the metal bearing attached to it?

– "Yes. With the same riding crop, and I was still laying down on the floor completely powerless. Then Humer called for a doctor. He made a comment, mentioned a name, and asked for such and such doctor only to be brought in. Naturally, the doctor arrived very quickly. He looked at me briefly. He didn't examine me. He took my hand, looked at me for a moment, and said that there was no hope for me anymore because I was in agony. Then, Humer in particular, began to beg him to save me. But, not to save me because I am a human being, but because for some reasons they still needed me alive. I thought then, unfortunately I will live".

Marian Skuza, Home Army (AK) / Wolnosc i Niezawislosc (WiN) Soldier

Were you imprisoned during the war?

- "Yes".

Who arrested you then?

- "The Gestapo".

Where were you in 1945, at the end of the war?

- "I was in Mauthausen."

Mauthausen-Guasen, the Nazi concentration camp?

- "Yes".

When did you return to Poland?

- "[I came back] in December, 1946. I was arrested by a gentleman, who was known to me then as Mr. Izak Fleischfarb; but his [last] name was later Jozef Swiatlo. That's the one who later escaped to the West".

What did the interrogations look like?

- "They ordered me; it was always this way ... they ordered me to put my hands on my knees. I didn't do it the next time. They were punching me in the esophagus. Aside from spoons used to crush my testicles I didn't see other instruments [of torture ...]. At first, they would cuff my legs around my ankles, then they would cuff my hands behind my back, so I wouldn't resist ... you know I would resist, I was strong."

Did you have to stand, were you sitting down, or laying down?

- "When they were crushing my testicles? I was standing up. It was difficult [for them] with those spoons, because I would throw myself around. I was 30-years old. I was strong. Then they [the secret police] came up with new technique, probably suggested by Szawlowski, that they would not use the spoons, but while I was cuffed, they would put my testicles bag on the top of the drawer, and then they would close the drawer [...] During winter, I would be thrown into the cell [with no glass in the window] while being kicked, they would close the door [...] but, before that, a German who worked there [in the prison] would come ... there were only Germans who worked there in this capacity. There wasn't a single Pole there. Even the doctor was German. [His name was] Zeibold. They told this German to pour [cold] water all over me. I would be sitting in that cell for 48 hours at a time. It [the length of this torture] depended on how long I lasted".

Were you wearing any clothes at that time?

- “No. I was naked. They would throw me into the cell naked. They came and read to me that I was sentenced to death”

Maria Wlasik, Home Army / Wolnosc i Niezawislosc (WiN) Soldier

"Who interrogated you?

- “I was interrogated only by Wieslaw Trutkowski”.

What did these interrogations look like?

- “On the first day, they wore the proverbial white gloves, by getting my [basic] personal information. They would write that down. I thought to myself - It isn't so bad. Then, on the following day [they said] – ‘Start talking! I have nothing to say [I told them]. What am I to say? It started [then].

[From that point on] the interrogations were conducted with the proverbial red gloves on. One day, he [Trutkowski] says – 'Start talking! [I said] I have nothing to say. 'He said, I am going to make an 'airplane' out of you'. He turned a small stool with narrow square feet upside down, and told me – 'Sit on it! I said – 'I am not going to sit on it. I can't sit on a thing like this [a stool leg]'. I told him – 'You show me how!. He said – 'Then, I'll show you! So, he forced me to sit on it. He shouted - 'Spread your arms to the side'. You'll have wings'. He lifted my legs up and held them on the top of his own legs. I was falling. The pain was unimaginable. I couldn't walk. Everything was swollen. I crawled back to the cell on my hands and knees”.

Ruta Janina Czaplicka, Home Army (AK) / Wolnosc i Niezawislosc (WiN) Soldier

What did the interrogations look like?

"[They were] beatings [...] I was summoned to the Jozef Rozanski's office. Inside the office was he the Rozanski, and other men wearing military uniforms. I don't remember how many of them were there. Immediately, they asked me to lay down [on the floor], and since I didn't feel like it, they forced me down. And, then they were beating me”.

How were you beaten?

- “I think they used belts with [metal] hooks attached to it – I am not sure though, it is difficult to look behind you [when you are beaten] you know”.

What torture instruments did they use?

- “I am not sure, I think they were some sort of belts with metal objects attached to the end, because I

was bleeding all over”.

Was Rozanski there?

- “Rozanski was hitting me with some sort of ruler. I was told to extend my hands in front of me, and when they swelled and closed from pain, he would jab me in my ribs with it; if I didn’t keep them in front of me, that is” [...] It was at night; when they were taking me back to my cell (actually it was an underground dungeon) through a long hallway – I remember it was very long - I remember fainting, and that they poured water on me to revive me. Then, I heard that they [the secret police] were bringing someone in. I heard the sound of a stretcher, and someone who was lying on it had a death rattle sound when breathing, and was moaning. He had to be in a horrible condition. They walked down these small steps, and put the stretcher down. I could hear his nonstop rattling breath and moaning. Someone asked for his name. I heard his name very clearly. It was Tadeusz Labedzki”

Did you have any contact with this individual after that?

“Never [after that day]. But, I remember that a friend of mine, named Leszek Roszkowski, was telling me that they even put his head under a heavy dresser and slammed him with it; and many other horrible things like that. I was held in the cell neighboring with that of Stanislaw Kasznica. My cell was also next to Witold Pilecki’s cell as well. There were many prisoners whose cells were next to mine. I knew some of them [personally], or knew of them. My friend said, that Pilecki was said to be so horribly beaten, that his entire body was covered with stripes like a zebra. I got 10 years sentence”.

Out of these 10 years, for how many years were you physically incarcerated?

- “I was imprisoned for 10 years”.

.

In the matter of General Emil August Fieldorf,

Kazimierz Gorski, Polish secret police, the UB, interrogator, testified in 1997:

"Jozef Rozanski would stop by frequently during many of my interrogations of General August Fieldorf [nom de guerre "Nil"], and he would have conversations with him on many subjects. The prosecuting attorney Benjamin Wajsblech would show up frequently as well, and would, on many occasions, give me verbal instructions. I prepared a decision to refuse the general's [defense] evidence materials. I wrote it under the dictation of Wajsblech. I didn't decide as to whom, and how, I should interrogate."

Witold Gattner, Communist-Stalinist Prosecuting Attorney, testified in 1992:

"My immediate superior, Director Leon Penner told me that the condemned [General Emil August Fieldorf] is a traitor of the Polish nation, and that he had fraudulently reached the highest levels of the command in the [anti-communist] resistance by collaborating with the German occupiers. Then, Penner used very strong words against the condemned; they were swear words. The Deputy Director Graff was in Penner's office. I was given instructions about [Fieldorf's

approaching] execution, and it was said that it concerned a particularly dangerous criminal; they gave me the documents in his file [...] It was a room; probably without windows. It was brightly lit. After a few moments, a man wearing prison garb was led from the hallway. His head was not covered. He was led in by two guards. He wasn't led by force, but rather, they assisted him. This man didn't resist. He walked calmly. I stood looking towards the door. The condemned stood in front of me. After verifying his personal information, I began to read his sentence. I read the document that attested that the Council of State rejected his appeal for commutation [of death sentence]. I asked the condemned if he had any wishes. Fieldorf responded: - 'Please notify my family'. I stated that his family would be notified. I was nervous. I felt that my legs were shaking. The condemned persistently looked straight into my eyes. He stood erect. No one was holding him. He made an appearance of a very strong man. One would almost admire his composure amidst such dramatic events. He neither screamed, nor made any gestures. I said: Carry out [the execution]! The executioner and one of the guards approached the condemned [...] I went to see the warden afterwards, and then by my own hand I prepared the protocol of the execution."

General Emil August Fieldorf, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army (Armia Krajowa), nom de guerre "Nil", was murdered by the communists on February 24, 1953.

Danuta Socha, née Jakubczyk, nom de guerre "Rad", daughter of Franciszek Socha, born on August 17, 1927 in Rzemien, Poland. Rank: Corporal. During 1942-1946, courier with the Bazow District, sub-district of the Polish Home Army (AK – Armia Krajowa). During 1946-1948, a courier attached to the IV General Staff of the Wolnosc i Niezawislosc (WiN), nom de guerre "Zakopianska".

"I attest that on February 17, 1948, along with my friend Zbigniew Bernatowicz [2], I was arrested by [Polish secret police] Urzad Bezpieczenstwa at the Zakopane train station. After a short [period of] interrogations in Krakow, I was transported to the Ministry of Public Security [pol. Ministerstwo Bezpieczenstwa Publicznego] MBP building on Koszykowa Street in Warsaw [...]

After several days of interrogations, and confrontations with my superior [officer, who was a witness in the case against me, named] ...I was transported to the investigative prison on Rakowiecka Street. My interrogations were assigned to Roman Laszkiewicz [...]

The first days of the interrogations conducted by Roman Laszkiewicz, were attempts to intimidate me by screaming [at me], stomping on my dignity as a human being, and as a woman, physical and psychological torture, as well as the use of vulgar language. I was a 20-years old student then. My maiden name was Danuta Socha. In addition to the above mentioned [torture] methods, on February 17, 1948, I was inhumanly, and severely beaten for the first time by my tormentor, Roman Laszkiewicz. From this day on, he was beating me each and every day for the period of three months, on every part of my body with a rubber truncheon; he would hit me on the face with his fists, while demanding that I reveal names and addresses of members of AK [pol. Armia Krajowa – Home Army] and WiN [pol. Wolnosc i Niezawislosc – Freedom And Independence].

He would demand that I reveal details about their activities, particularly those in the ranks of the WiN. Roman Laszkiewicz is a sadist – he was laughing at me while inflicting moral, physical, and psychological pain upon me. He is a tall man, with blond hair; he has slightly bulging eyes, and

protruding teeth. He speaks Polish with Russian accent. He tortured me with premeditation. He tried to break my spirit by placing me in [a very small] isolation place - it was a small place, made of concrete, in which one could move only on his hands and knees. [During this time] the outside temperature was - 25 Degrees Celsius [-13 degree Fahrenheit]. The floor in this place was covered with human urine and excrements. The day before, my leg was severely injured by Laszkiewicz. I spent at least 24 hours in that isolation hole. At times, there were two people who were torturing me [at the same time]. I don't know the name of the other torturer. They were beating me with truncheons. My entire body was black and blue [from beatings], and my teeth were loose from blows to the face. Often times, particularly during the latter phase of the interrogations, Laszkiewicz used tortures in the form of forcing me to do squats until I lost consciousness; this particular method caused heart problems, and also caused unspeakable muscle pain, particularly in the area of the thighs, while leaving no visible signs [of abuse] on one's body. On one occasion, after a great number of squats, I almost lost consciousness, and Laszkiewicz ironically said: 'You look like the Christ taken down from the cross'. I reacted to it by saying: 'Don't you dare mention God and Faith'. [After I said that] he came close to me and jumped with his boots on my feet with such force, that he almost crushed my toes. As a result, I lost my toenails. Laszkiewicz would often spin my hair around his fingers and with a quick jerk he would pull hair from my head. Laszkiewicz tortured me not only to extract information, but also to pay me back for:

1) Immediately after my arrest I partially swallowed, and flushed down the toilet, information received on February 6, 1946 from the WiN General-Command [pol. Delegatura] courier in London. [This information was delivered to me] most likely by Roman Boryczko,

2) After my arrest, I didn't turn in 10,000 zloty that I carried with me to Zakopane. This money was found only after I was searched five consecutive times – A [Communist] snitch named Jadwiga Samaniewicz told them that with the help of a needle borrowed from her, I was sewing them into my jacket. They were hidden in my boots before that,

3) I 'agreed' to testify to another interrogations officer, whose name I don't remember, and gave him [only] names and addresses of people who were [already] dead, and names few AK members who were abroad.

After few days, the interrogations were taken over by Roman Laszkiewicz again. As he was discovering during the interrogations about those additional 'crimes' mentioned above, he was beating me for each and every one of them. He was furious, that even after inflicting such horrendous pain upon me, he was still unable to make me scream, cry, or moan. I never cried in my cell either. I was silent; in order to spare the others from the feelings I was experiencing myself while hearing sounds of torment and tortures used by our tormentors against defenseless people.

After three to 3-1/2 months, Laszkiewicz stopped beating me with the truncheon, and used other methods until the end of the investigation. From the cell I shared with a snitch, named Jadwiga Samaniewicz, I was put in the so called 'pojedyнка' [solitary confinement] where day and night they would interrogate and torture me. They wanted to finish me off psychologically. Samaniewicz reported to them, that it is more difficult for me to endure sounds of torture of other prisoners than my own physical pain. I couldn't sleep at night hearing the moaning, screaming, and crying of people who were interrogated [on the floor above my cell]. The interrogations became less frequent. Laszkiewicz wanted to coerce me to give false testimony by forcing me to do squats, and demanded that for example, I

should state that, I joined the WiN under the barrel of a gun. He was promising me only 5-years of probation if I cooperated. When I categorically refused, he assured me that I would be in prison until I die. During one of the interrogations, Laszkiewicz asked me what we [the prisoners] were doing in the cell between interrogations. When I told him that I walk a lot, and count for how many kilometers, they forbade me from walking anymore. They would keep the cell window open nonstop, which was yet another form of abuse. On the day of Holy Ascension (pol. Zielone Swieta) guards rushed into the cell and ordered me to run while screaming: 'Can't you run any faster? Are you afraid you are going to loose your virginity?' But, I didn't have any strength left in me – for almost a month my only sustenance was a cup of black coffee once every 24-hours. My stomach stopped digesting anything. They wouldn't allow a doctor to help me. Obscenities such as 'whore,' and many others like this, that belittled me as a woman, would constantly come out of Laszkiewicz's mouth. I filed a grievance with the Director of the Investigative Department Jozef Rozanski, (he spoke with me three or four times during my interrogations), demanding a medical exam that would contradict such insinuations. The medical exam was refused, and Laszkiewicz no longer called me a whore. Every morning, for about a month, while I was sitting during breakfast I was asked: 'When are you going to hang yourself, or go insane?' Laszkiewicz was assuring me that one night they will come for me and will finish me off. There were inscriptions on the wall of my cell that were scratched by the prisoners condemned to death who spent their last nights of their lives awaiting executions. They came for me one night – ordered me to pack my prison belongings – I had only a long jacket. I was certain that I would be murdered. My family didn't know anything about my fate. Surprisingly, I was at peace. They lead me upstairs, and there among other things, it was said: 'Who is your interrogating officer?' I stated that I don't know. Earlier, during interrogations, another interrogator by accident mentioned in my presence the real name of my tormentor. I remembered it. It was Roman Laszkiewicz. On September 11, 1948, a court proceeding RE: SR 985/48 [concerning my person] took place. I was sentenced by the Regional Military Court to 9 years of prison along with revocation of my citizen's rights for 3 years, and forfeiture of personal property.

After serving seven and a half years, on August 25, 1955 I was released from prison because of my poor health. On the decision of the State Council [pol. Rada Panstwa] from August 17, 1955, the remaining 1.5 years were changed to two and a half years of probation.

The interrogations and imprisonment had left me with: severe problems with my nervous system (particularly heart problems, accelerated heart-rate, 120 heart palpitations per minute), low blood pressure, edema of my lower extremities, and hernia. The prison physician in Frodona determined that I am unable to perform physical labor, and have clinical resentment towards the Russian language (because of Laszkiewicz's accent), and clinical fear of police. The latter subsided only after some time in Canada. To this day I am unable to tolerate crying, screaming, and moaning because I can still see the Mokotow prison dungeons on Rakowiecka in Warsaw, before my eyes. I have lived in Canada since November 14, 1959. I believe that I survived because of Divine Providence and a strong will to live.

Roman Laszkiewicz is not that much older than me. I believe that it is my duty and moral responsibility to give the testimony of truth. Roman Laszkiewicz, my tormentor in 1948, is a liar, and a coward who to this day denies [partaking in Communist crimes].

Danuta Socha Jakubczyk".

Memoirs of a Scotsman – Pol. "Wspomnienia 'Szkota'"

I was arrested on 03 07 1948 in Siedlce. The initial investigation and the interrogations that followed took place at the MO (People's Militia; pol. Milicja Obywatelska) headquarters in Siedlce. The interrogations lead by [Polish secret police] interrogator [named] Kowalczyk took place in a large room adjacent to his government-issued apartment. The front door to the room was guarded by armed [secret police] sentry.

Before the interrogations began, I had to strip naked. From beginning to the end of interrogations, I would hear more cursing and profanities in Russian than in Polish. Whether I answered any questions or not, I was beaten with a riding crop called "nahayka".

When the interrogator got tired of hitting me with the riding crop he would start over again, this time hitting me with an edge of a long ruler. Helped by another functionary, whom he would call to assist him, he would strike the most intimate parts of my body. These interrogations would last usually between 3 to 6 hours. In order to make this "play" more fun, they would also use various electrical devices. One of the functionaries would attach the end of a cable to my finger, and the other cranked the generator. The faster he cranked the more I was shocked; it felt as if my entire body was being torn to pieces from within.

The only sensible questions were asked of me during my first interrogation: my name, my nom de guerre, and code-name of my underground unit. The questions that followed later were of more intimate nature, such as: "when did you fuck last time, you son of a whore"? "What is the name of your whore ... How much did you pay her?", "... What? Only this much?", "... I pay 500 zloty, and you [pay only] 300 [Zloty]?", "... you son of a whore, you take advantage of our girls ...". And then the "nahayka" would be put to use again, and again: "How many ours did you kill you son of a whore"? The riding crop was unleashed on me again. "Where did you hide your weapons, you son of a whore?"- and then round and round again.

In order to amuse himself even more, he ordered my brother Mieczyslaw to be lead into the interrogation room. Mieczyslaw who just about this time brought some sandwiches for me to the jail, was stopped by the duty officer standing guard on the first floor of the County Office of Public Security [pol. Powiatowy Urzad Bezpieczenstwa Publicznego] They were already done with my interrogation; I was dressed, with my hands cuffed behind the back.

Then the door opens and the functionary leads my brother in. What occurs next is nearly identical to what I endured [moments earlier]: "Get undressed! Take off all of your clothes you son of a whore ... How many of ours did you kill?" – every few moments the riding crop is being put to work – "Where did you hide weapons, you son of a whore " – round and round to no end.

When the interrogator got tired his demeanor softened; he took out pack of cigarettes and offered one to my brother. "I don't smoke" – my brother stuttered. The interrogator went crazy: "What? You don't smoke, you son of a whore? Wait. You'll smoke in a minute. I'll teach you!". The riding crop went to work. My brother started to smoke, but didn't inhale because he never smoked in his life and the smoke was aggravating him. The interrogator went crazy again and jumped towards him with a riding crop. My brother tried to inhale, but choked on the smoke and began to cough and groan. I couldn't look at it anymore. I tried to free myself from the cuffs, but to no avail. It lasted around two hours. I had to look at what was happening [to my brother]. One would think that my brother Mieczyslaw would have to suffer so much only for trying to bring some food for me to the jail.

One day while being lead out of the cell severely beaten and cuffed, a young armed guard jumped towards me and without saying a single word, punched me on the face with a fury, and then tried to hit me with a butt of his rifle. Just in time I managed to move aside. The guard was maybe 18 years old, had a round, red face, with an expression of a hired-help village simpleton. I have to say that this slap on the face hurt me thousand times more than all the tortures combined I had endured until that moment.

The senseless interrogations and beatings went on for seven days. Tired of this merry-go-round of profanities and beatings, the interrogator made a small talk with me. He ordered me to stand near the wall, and while sitting behind his desk took out Soviet TT handgun [Tokarev TT-33, 7.62 mm. x 25 mm. automatic pistol] inserted a magazine, loaded bullet into the chamber, and then asked me unsuspectingly: "Do you believe in God?" "Yes, I do" – I answered. "So kneel and pray because this is your last hour, you son of a whore". He extended the hand with the gun and started to point it towards me. I've had enough. Surprising myself, I murmured: "Shoot, if you want to shoot. I know when and before whom I have to kneel. I am sure that it isn't before you ...". My throat got dried, but once again I told him with all the bravery I was able to muster: "Go ahead, shoot, hurry up, what are you staring at?" The "comrade" interrogator was dumbfounded. His eyes, like a fish, got larger, as if he had seen me for the first time ever. He lowered the hand holding the gun and laid the gun on the desk.

I have to say that this moment, this personal test of my own dignity would determine my future fate while incarcerated, for from this moment on I would stand-up to them. What it meant was that I would fight back, and that meant fighting back physically. It cost me my health, but helped me with getting released sooner. But, this is another long story.

Almost at the same time when I was arrested another special crew lead by Lt. Kowalczk barged at night into the house of my parents to conduct a search. Several years later I found out what this "search" looked like. Under the guise of searching for weapons the secret police men from the PUBP [pol. Powiatowy Urząd Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego – County Office for State Security] destroyed everything in their path. My mother was very sick and because of her illness had stayed in bed for some time. But, these beasts didn't pay attention to anything, and while cursing and with physical force tried to throw my mother out of her bed. My father tried to defend her. A scuffle and a physical fight ensued. My father was so severely beaten with rifle butts and kicked that his entire head was bleeding. Despite this, while searching for weapons, they threw my mother out of bed and tore all bedding, covers, and mattresses.

But it wasn't enough for them. They dragged my father to the butcher shop and there they beat him so he would show them where the weapons were hidden. In the end the Bezpieka men [Bezpieka - derisive slang, short form of Bezpieczeństwa] pushed him inside the smokehouse through the opening on the top while screaming: "Look for the weapons you son of a whore, we won't let you out until you find them". The smokehouse wasn't that large, because our butcher shop wasn't open during the war, and the building wasn't lit, the policemen started a fire with dry wood in the furnace - sawdust, and papers which they found in the smoke house. The fire and thick smoke filled the smoke house. On the outside were heard loud laughs and obscenities while inside unconscious, beaten and knocked laid abused with fire and smoke by the Stalinist lackeys old man.

Fairness dictates that I must mention that among them was one man who didn't partake in this "game" and who dared to loudly ask them "Is this necessary?" I am indebted to him for this. This functionary's name was Mieczyslaw Strzalek. He was a friend of mine from the Adam Mickiekiewicz Elementary School, and a neighbor.

I am trying to rationally assess my defeats like a boxer. One who enters the ring should also anticipate defeat. Politically or militarily, such defeat may have serious consequences. One who is conquered becomes a slave and as such has no rights

This is a tribute to the amazing courage of so many young women during World War II who were put to death for plotting and fighting against the Nazis, as resistance fighters, partisans and activists in towns and concentration camps. It is estimated that more than 4,000 women of various ages were hanged by Nazi forces between 1939 and 1945. Many more were shot or guillotined and many were tortured before minimal or non-existent trials. They could be sentenced to death by People's Courts and executed within prisons, by the commandants of concentration camps or by military commanders in the field and summarily executed, usually in public. Some of these "field" executions were documented and photographed. A lot of the photographs were private snaps taken by individual soldiers and discovered after they had been captured or killed. Hanging was the preferred method for the execution for partisans as it produced more of a public spectacle than shooting and was used to terrorise the local populace as well as entertain the troops. Guillotining within prisons was used for German citizens convicted of treason and other offences after trial by the People's Courts.

Executions in the Field

A gallows was used when the Nazis wanted to make a particular example of the prisoner and these were usually crude and simple structures that did not have a trapdoor or drop. They typically consisted of just a post with a short beam projecting

from the top cross braced to the upright. Trees or balconies were also used as was any other structure that was available, e.g. the roof beams of a barn.

Prisoners were never hooded and rarely blindfolded. Their hands were normally tied behind their backs with cord but their legs usually left free. They were given little or no drop, partially to prolong the pleasure of the soldiers and because their cruel and slow deaths would act as a stronger deterrent to the local people who were often made to witness the event. Typically a thin rope was used, fashioned into a simple slip knot. It was not unusual for prisoners to kick and struggle after suspension and to lose control of their bladders and bowels. The bodies could be left hanging for several days as a grim reminder to others. In cold weather, they were sometimes left hanging for a week while in summer they would be taken down sooner, perhaps two to three hours after the hanging.

Masha Bruskina

Masha Bruskina was a Russian teenage female partisan. She was a 17 year old Jewish high school graduate and was the first teenage girl to be publicly hanged by the Nazis in Belorussia (Belarus), since the German invasion of Soviet Union on the 22nd of June 1941. Her execution and that of the two men hanged with her took place on the 26th of October 1941 in the city of Minsk. In the photos of her, you will see that she has blond hair, but her natural colour was dark. She dyed her hair when she started to work for the underground. Witnesses to her hanging, testified that Masha struggled hard and lost control of her bladder and bowels. After hanging for three days, she and the men were taken down and only when her body was traditionally washed before her burial by local people and members of her family, did her dark hair show up. She worked as a nurse in a military hospital and was a member of an underground cell which aided Soviet officers hospitalised there to escape and join the partisans. The members of this cell were informed on and quickly rounded up. Masha and two of her male comrades, Volodya Sherbatevich and Krill Troun, were sentenced to death. They were led through the streets with Masha.

Zoya Anatolyevna Kosmodemyanskaya & Vera Voloshina

Zoya Kosmodemjanskaja was another Russian partisan. She was born on the 14th of September 1923 and belonged to the Divisionsabteilung no. 9903 of the Soviet secret police (NKVD), which ran some 400 agents.

On the night of the 27th of November 1941, Zoya, together with two comrades, set fire to a building in the village of Petrischtschewo near Moscow. German soldiers quickly caught one of them - Wassilij Klubkow. Under interrogation he betrayed Zoya. She was arrested and tortured before being sentenced to hang.

Eighteen year old Zoya was executed near Moscow, on the 29th of November 1941. Round her neck was hung a sign describing the reason for her execution. Just before she was pushed off the stack of boxes they had placed under the simple gallows, she told the soldiers, "You can't hang all 190 million of us." Her partly clothed body was left to rot in the snow.

During Zoya's interrogation, she used the name of Tanya (a popular Russian first name) as an alias and her real name was only discovered much later. Even in the newspaper

article, where her execution was described in full detail, the author calls her Tanya. Zoya adopted this name from a woman called Tanya (last name unknown) who was one of the heroes of Civil War in Russia (1918-1922) and had been hanged by the White Guards. Zoya was posthumously decorated a Hero of the Soviet Union as was her brother, Shura, for his service in the Red Army tank corps. Vera Voloshina served in the same partisan group as Zoya and was described as a pretty 23 year old blonde. She had been wounded in the shoulder during a gun fight with German soldiers and captured. After torture, Vera Voloshina was also publicly hanged, later the same day.

Klava Nazarova

Klava Nazarova was hanged in 1942 and is one of the three women who were later made Heroes of Soviet Union. The other two were Zoya (above) and Maria Kislyak (see below).

Klava was born in 1918 and was 24 when she died. She was said to be quite an attractive girl. Klava was a Komsomol member and when the Germans occupied her town of Ostrov in Russia in 1941, she and her friends organised an underground resistance squad. On November the 7th 1942, Klava and another girl, Nura Ivanova with two young men, Nikolai Mikhailov and Konstantin Dmitriev, and the parents of another organisation member, husband and wife Nadezhda and Ivan Kozlovskiy, were all arrested. After torture, they were each sentenced to death.

The Nazis made a big show of the hangings to intimidate the town's people. On December the 12th 1942, a wooden gallows was erected in the town square of Ostrov and the townsfolk were forced to watch the proceedings. The executions were carried out in three parts.

Klava and Nura were first to suffer. The girls were led out and the soldiers hoisted Klava onto a stool beneath the beam. She was wearing a light grey coat without a hat or scarf and her hands were tied behind her back. The executioner put the noose around her neck and one of the officers took pictures of her. A moment before the stool was removed from under her feet, Klava, screamed to the crowd: - Farewell! We'll win! We... The next moment she was hanging. Nura was then hanged beside her.

From Ostrov a procession of soldiers went to the next village, Nogino. The executioners stopped at a barn in Nogino and put up two nooses on a crossbeam. Here they hanged Ivan and Nadezhda Kozlovskiy. Nadezhda was said to have been almost unconscious before she hanged.

The final pair of this series of executions took place in the village of Ryadobzha where Nikolai Mikhailov and Konstantin Dmitriev were hanged together.

Maria Kislyak

Maria Kislyak was born in March 1925, in the village of Lednoe in the Kharkov region of the Ukraine. The village had been occupied by the Germans during 1943. Maria and her school friend, Fedor Rudenko, who were both Komsomol members, hatched a plan to murder a German officer as an act of revenge for the cruelty inflicted by the Nazis on the local people. The plan was for 18 year old Maria, who was very pretty, to make friends with a German Lieutenant. She suggested to this man that they went for a walk in the countryside to which he naturally agreed. Outside the village, Fedor was waiting for them and came up behind the soldier and hit him over the head with an iron crowbar.

Maria was arrested the next day and violently beaten during her interrogations but maintained her innocence throughout. As they could not prove anything, they finally let her go.

Several months later, Maria and her friends murdered another officer in the same way. This time the Germans arrested nearly 100 inhabitants as hostages and declared that they would execute them all if the murderers didn't come forward. The following day Maria and her friends gave themselves up to the Gestapo and confessed to the murder. Maria claimed that she was the leader of the group.

On June the 18th, 1943, Maria, Fedor Rudenko and their comrade Vasiliy Bugrimenko (both 19) were publicly hanged on the branch of an ash tree.

Three nooses dangled from the branch each with a box under it. The prisoners were made to step up onto the boxes, the executioner noosed them and then boxes were kicked out from under their feet leaving them to slowly strangle to death.

Lepa Radic

Seventeen year old Lepa Radic was also publicly hanged from the branch of a tree, in Bosanska Krupa in Bosnia in January 1943, for shooting at German soldiers. She was made to stand on a large chest, her hands were tied behind her and she was noosed with a thin cord. The chest was pulled away leaving her suspended

>> The reasons for executing young girls in public were several fold. They were viewed as terrorists by the Germans (which in a sense they were), the hangings served as a grim example to the local population - if the Germans would hang a teenage girl then they would hang any adult, and finally that the executions provided a morbid entertainment for the soldiers. <<

Lots of men were hanged too and many men and women were shot. But hanging was always preferred for young girls for the reasons above. Many of these young people met their deaths with amazing courage. They were very brave anyway to do the things they did against the Nazis. Many of them also demonstrated a strong streak of defiance - they were not going to let the hated enemy soldiers see them cry or break down. I am sure they were very frightened - knowing that they would have a cruel and degrading death in public but they resolved to hide their fear. The last words of several of them indicate this defiance. I think there may well also have been a sense of martyrdom. They would have seen the appalling treatment of their people by the Nazis and decided to avenge it and didn't mind dying for what they believed in, having done so.

Executions in the Concentration Camps

Every concentration camp had a gallows and these were used to make an example of prisoners who had tried to escape or committed certain offences against the camp rules or members of staff. It was normal for all the camp inmates to be paraded and made to watch the hangings. In addition to hangings, many prisoners were shot and Auschwitz had a "death wall" where these executions were carried out. Guillotining was not used in the camps and the gas chambers were not seen as a method of execution but rather as a method of extermination.

Roza Robotka & Ala Gertner

Roza Robotka was a Polish Jew who was an underground activist in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. She was a member of the Birkenau Sonderkommando. In 1944, this group planned an uprising in the women's camp at Auschwitz. The plan was to blow up one of the crematoria which it was hoped would lead to a general uprising in the camp. Using dynamite that had been smuggled in stick by stick by girls who worked in the ammunition factory, they managed to blow up Krema IV (Crematorium 4) on October the 7th, 1944.

Ala Gertner, was a 32 year old married woman, who also became part of the resistance movement in the camp and recruited Estera Wajcblum and Regina Safirsztajn because they had access to explosives. They passed whatever they could steal to Ala, who transferred it to Roza, who in turn, gave it to other members of the Sonderkommando in preparation for the operation.

Roza and her three comrades, Ala, Regina Saperstein and Estera Wajcblum were arrested, interrogated and condemned for the theft of the explosives. All four went to the gallows on January 6th, 1945. They were led out and made to stand on folding chairs placed under the beam. Once they had been noosed and their death sentences read out to the assembled inmates, the chairs were taken away and they were left suspended. Roza's last word prior to her execution was, "Nekama!" Revenge! She enjoined the other inmates to "Be strong, have courage".

Mala Zimetbaum

Twenty two year old Mala Zimetbaum was another Polish Jew who been interned at Auschwitz. She was the first woman to escape from the camp but she and a young soldier named Edek, who absconded with her, were soon caught and returned to Auschwitz. Both were sentenced to hang in front of the assembled inmates. She was led out and mounted the gallows but while her sentence was being read out, she slashed her wrists with a razor blade she had concealed up her sleeve. As the guards tried to take the blade from her, Mala slapped one across the face with her bloodied hand and yelled, "I fall a heroine and you will die as a dog." She was not hanged but bled to death, dying on her way to the crematorium on a handcart pulled by women prisoners. Mala's story became a legend at Auschwitz as a symbol of courage and defiance.

A Child Hanged

There is eyewitness testimony of how a female guard named Braunsteiner ordered a 14 year old girl to be hanged in one concentration camp. An SS man was told to get a stool so the girl could step up into the noose dangling from a simple crossbeam gallows. She had the man ask the girl in her own language if she understood that she was going to be hanged. The girl said she understood it but didn't cry or scream. Moments later the stool was removed leaving her hanging.

Executions in Berlin's Plötzensee prison

Plötzensee prison in Berlin was designed by architect, Ludwig Alexander Herrmann, and was constructed between 1869 and 1879 to serve as the new state prison. It

occupied a plot of 62 acres with a six meter high perimeter wall. Within the walls were five three story prison buildings which were originally designed to hold 1,400 prisoners. These buildings, together with the workshops, other smaller buildings and a church, were separated by open courtyards creating a totally self-contained environment for the inmates. It can still be visited and there is a memorial centre to those who died there.

In the years 1928 to 1932, the number of executions in the whole of Germany had dropped to two or three a year but with the rise of the National Socialist party in 1933, there was a sudden increase in the application of the death penalty. Before 1933, only murder and high treason were capital crimes and in Berlin, beheading (with the axe) was the only lawful method of execution. (Other states used beheading with the axe or the guillotine). One of the last executions by the axe in Plötzensee were those of the Baroness Benita von Falkenhayn and her friend Renate von Natzner, who were convicted of spying and beheaded by the executioner, Carl Gröpler, on the 18th of February 1935. In all, 45 people were beheaded in the prison courtyard between 1933 and 1936. Only 36 had been beheaded here in the period 1890–1932, all for murder. There were 64 executions in Germany in 1933, 79 in 1934, 94 in 1935 and 68 in 1936. When Hitler came to total power, he decided that criminals and those who opposed his regime should suffer death by either guillotining or from 1942, hanging, and he ordered the construction of 20 guillotines. Hitler also greatly increased the list of capital crimes. Between 1933 and 1944, a total of 13,405 death sentences were passed. Of these, 11,881 were carried out. In 1940 alone, some 900 German civilians were put to death. In 1941, the minimum age for execution was reduced to just 14 years. The execution rate had risen to over 5,000 by 1943. Between 1943 and 1945, the People's Courts sentenced around 7,000 people to death. In the first few months of 1945, some 800 people were executed, over 400 of them being German citizens.

Condemned prisoners were kept in a large cell block building (House III) directly adjacent to the execution building. They spent their final hours shackled in special cells on the ground floor, which was known as the "house of the dead," before being led across a small courtyard to the execution chamber which was located in a separate two roomed brick building. Plötzensee's guillotine was delivered on the 17th of February 1937 from Bruchsal prison in Baden. In late 1942, a steel gallows beam was erected in the existing execution chamber, and originally had five, later eight hooks, for attachment of nooses. The two execution areas were separated by curtains. Between 1933 and 1945, some 2,891 people were decapitated or hanged in this building. Many of them were opponents of Hitler's National Socialist government. They had been sentenced to death by the People's Courts, having been found guilty of various offences against the regime. Some of them had belonged to Communist resistance groups, others to the Harnack/Schulze-Boysen Organization (the Red Orchestra), and still others to the Kreisau Circle. On the 20th of July 1944, an attempt was made on Hitler's life by a group of army officers led by Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg. The attempt failed, and between the 8th of August 1944 and the 9th of April 1945, a total of 90 people were executed in Plötzensee for their parts in the conspiracy.

Initially Roettger, the executioner, normally came twice a week and carried out his work in the early evenings. Guillotinings could be carried out at three minute intervals. Hangings were notably cruel, the prisoner was led in with their hands tied behind them and made to get up onto the two step step-up, the executioner following them and placing the thin cord slip knot around their neck. They were not hooded or blindfolded. The executioner got down and simply pulled the step-up from under them leaving them suspended with little or no drop. Second and subsequent prisoners had to witness the struggles of the first before it was their turn. On the night of the 7th–8th September 1943, 186 prisoners were hanged in groups of 8 at a time to prevent their escape from the prison following heavy damage by an Allied bombing raid in which the guillotine was destroyed. A further 60 were to be hanged over the next few nights.

Individual cases

Lilo Hermann

Liselotte “Lilo” Hermann was a 29 year old German student. She passed information she had received from Artur Göritz about Hitler’s secret rearmament program and the production of armaments in the Dornier plant in Friedrichshafen and about the construction of an underground munitions factory near Celle to the Central Committee of the German Communist Party in Switzerland. She was arrested in December 1935 and finally sentenced to death for high treason by the “People’s Court” in Berlin on the 12th of June 1937, becoming the first woman to be condemned for this offence by the Third Reich. She was guillotined together with her accomplices, Stefan Lovasz, Josef Steidle, and Artur Göritz, on the 20th of June 1938.

Mildred Harnack

Mildred was born Mildred Fish in Milwaukee USA on September 16th, 1902. In 1926, she married Arvid Harnack, whom she met while studying literature at Wisconsin University. In 1929, she and her husband moved to Berlin where she was a lecturer at the university. They became friends with Martha Dodd and were often invited to receptions at the American Embassy where she met many influential Germans. When the war started, Arvid and Mildred supported the resistance movement against the Nazi regime through their friendship with Harro Schulze-Boysen and the spy ring known as "The Red Orchestra". On September 7th, 1942, she was arrested and taken to Gestapo headquarters. At her trial in December 1942, she was sentenced to six years in prison for "helping to prepare high treason and espionage". On December 21st, Hitler rejected the sentence and ordered another trial which took place in January 1943 and resulted in a death sentence. At 6.57 p.m. on February the 16th, 1943, Mildred Harnack was guillotined, becoming the only American woman to be executed for treason in World War II. (By September 1943, all 51 members of the “Red Orchestra” had died, two by suicide, eight on the gallows and 41 by guillotine, including Harro Schulze-Boysen and his wife Libertas on the evening of the 22nd of December 1942).

Eva-Marie Buch

Eva was a bookseller and also worked for the Schulze-Boysen-Harnack resistance group. She was arrested on October 10th, 1942 for passing messages to French slave workers in factories. On February 3rd, 1943, she was sentenced to death by the People's Court and was reportedly hanged on August the 5th of that year. (It is more likely that she was guillotined, however, as this was the normal method for women.)

Cato Bontjes Van Beek

Cato was born in 1921 and grew up in Bremen, the daughter of an artist. In 1942, she joined the resistance group and spy ring "Rote Kapelle" but left after only six weeks because of disagreements within the group. When the German authorities investigated the group, her name was discovered and this was enough evidence on which to arrest her, charge her with treason and sentence her to death. She was guillotined in the early evening of August the 5th, 1943.

Elizabeth Gloeden

Elizabeth Charlotte Lilo Gloeden was a 31 year old Berlin housewife, who with her mother and husband, helped shelter those who were persecuted by the Nazis, by hiding them for weeks at a time in their flat. Among those they took in was resistance leader, Dr. Carl Goerdeler and the Mayor of Leipzig. Elizabeth, her mother and husband, were all arrested by the Gestapo, and subjected to torture under interrogation. On November 30th, 1944, all three were guillotined at two minute intervals.

Gertrud Seele

Gertrud was 28 years old at the time of her execution and was a nurse and social worker. She had been born in Berlin and served for a time in the Nazi Labour Corps. She was arrested in 1944 for helping Jews to escape Nazi persecution and for "defeatist statements designed to undermine the moral of the people". She was tried before the People's Court in Potsdam and executed on the 12th of January 1945.

Ilse Stöbe

Thirty one year old Ilse Stöbe worked for the German Foreign Secretary during World War II and was also involved with "Rote Kapelle". In the spring of 1942, she warned the Soviets about the planned attack on Russia but was ignored by the Soviet leaders. Her warnings were intercepted by the Gestapo and she was arrested and charged with treason. She was guillotined at 8.27 p.m. on the evening of December 22nd, 1942.

Sophie Scholl. Guillotined in Munich

Sophie Scholl was a 22 year old philosophy student at Munich University and she, her older brother Hans and his friend, Christoph were members of an anti- Nazi organisation called The White Rose. They were caught helping to distribute an anti-Nazi pamphlet in the university and were taken to Wittelsbach Palais, where they were interrogated for four days by they Gestapo before coming to trial on February the 22nd, 1943. They were quickly found guilty and sentenced to death. All three were guillotined by Johann Reichhart in Munich's Stadelheim prison within hours of the verdict on that same day. Sophie was taken to the guillotine first and reportedly walked to her death

"without batting an eyelash". Her last words were "Die Sonne scheint noch," which translates as "The Sun still shines." She is buried in the Perlach Cemetery next to the prison.

Krakow, Poland ; there is a non-descript building that sits on a side street corner. It is known as the Silesian House. It was there that the Gestapo set up its initial interrogation cells. Taken naked into this dungeon, for its cells were underground, a prisoner would be brought into one cell where a wooden device shaped like two x's connected by a central axis awaited her. There was no description of how this apparatus was used. It was left to your imagination.

One prisoner commented that as he was taken to that room, he saw a naked woman suspended head down from the ceiling of another cell. The human imagination in such cases was very effective. When stories of such a place "leaked out" to the larger city's population, fear and horror wove its way through the public mind. It was a form of terrorism. Such was intended to keep the occupied nation under control. Such methods -- tying women naked to ceilings and near-drowning -- were ultimately intended to save German soldiers' lives by revealing future Resistance attacks. The Nazis actually called these attacks terrorism.

There seems to be a debate today about what is considered torture. Much of the controversy centers on whether it "works." Such a mechanistic appraisal is very American. We are, after all, a practical nation. We like our computers to work, our airplanes to fly on time. We like our coffee to be hot when served. Anything, some argue, is authorized if it "saves one American life." This is, for many, a compelling argument.

There was another aspect of this argument, though, which I remember quite well from my visits to that chilling Dutch museum and terrifying Polish cell.

It was a quotation from a resistance fighter. He said, as I recall, that it was the sheer dread of the Gestapo members that made him decide to join the fight against them. His utter disgust at Gestapo methods hinted, rumored or actually used was enough for him to secretly do what he could to bring down the Nazi order. He hated them with a black passion that was not deterred by the fear. The fear made him, and thousands of others, join the fight against the Nazis. Who, then, was saved by the methods used?

Washington, D.C, regarding World War II. The Army commemorated a secret band of American interrogators from that war. For some 65 years, they kept the secret of their incredible success at interrogating Nazis at little-known Fort Hunt, which lies just outside our capital. These men, who broke the Nazi generals and scientists brought to them, >> **did so without using any controversial techniques. Indeed, they are outspoken in their denunciation of such methods as waterboarding, and they do not want their successes' recognition in any way to appear to justify today's methods.**<<

90-year-old Henry Kolm, a physicist at MIT: "We got more information out of a German general with a game of chess or Ping-Pong than they do today, with their torture."

These elderly men, whose interrogations in some degree literally helped win World War II, all denounce torture, pure and simple. They have no problem recognizing it and calling it what it is.

And they, perhaps more than anyone, know another, deeper reason to avoid the use of torture. They know what it can do to the torturer, too. Perhaps most powerful was 87-year-old George Frenkel's comment: "During the many interrogations, I never laid hands on anyone. We extracted information in a battle of the wits. I'm proud to say I never compromised my humanity."

Whether a system "works" in the short term never considers its effect on the man or woman required to apply it. The torturer is marked forever, with Macbeth-like blood which only they can see. They become secret sociopaths, alcoholics, drug users or worse. They do so to make the pain go away, if only for a while, because the memories never do.

I often wonder why two Germans I met confessed to me their awareness of such practices. One described a chance encounter with a former classmate who told him in a drunken rage in 1942 how "we are shooting them all" in torture fields of Poland. Another suffered in postwar years under a father whose drunken rampages displaced, at least for him if not for his child, the wartime interrogations he conducted in the Ukraine and Holland.

Hayden, when directly asked if waterboarding was torture and would the United State continue to use it, answered: "Judge (Michael) Mukasey (attorney general nominee) cannot nor can I answer your question in the abstract. I need to understand the totality of the circumstances in which this question is being posed before I can give you an answer."

The men who interrogated Nazis at Fort Hunt would have no problem answering that question. They know what torture is.

>>We can be proud of our men at Fort Hunt. They never compromised their humanity. The men at Fort Hunt helped reveal secret German weapons programs, strategies and plans. Their Nazi enemies were at least as brutal as those who confront us today. Our men overcame them with intelligence, not bestiality.<<

It has been said evil men are always amazed that good people can be clever, too.

Intuitively, it is the case that torture creates enemies. It doesn't stop them.

Torture breaks everyone involved. No amount of double-talk makes the pain go away.

>USA : Neither the head of the CIA nor any prospective Attorney General can bring themselves to admit categorically that waterboarding is torture.<

Secret Intelligence Service

Room No. 15 (C-IV)

Notes Enhanced Interrogation (Torture)

Adversitate. Custodi. Per Verum