Torture by "Democratic Allies" 1946 in Germany and 2004 in Iraq



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American hangmen on sentences by American Judges after prosecution by American prosecutors, the trials are being assailed by another American judge who made an official examination of procedure against war criminals.

Edward Leroy van Roden, president judge of the orphans court of Delaware County, Pa., whose official report is under War Department suppression, is charging in lectures and after dinner speeches that shocking third degree methods were used to obtain confessions from those placed on trial at Dachau military courts. The courts were held where the Nazis had spread terror among inmates of a concentration camp.

CHARGES LISTED

The judge who was appointed to make an investigation along with Justice Gordon Simpson of the Teas Supreme court, by War Secretary Royal, has charged the following methods were used to obtain confessions: Beatings and brutal kicking, knocking out teeth and breaking jaws, mock trials, solitary confinement, torture with burning splinters, posing as priests, semi-starvation, family reprisal threats, false promises of freedom.

A digest of the judge's charges was released today by the National Council for Prevention of War .Van Roden examined 139 death sentences which at the time of the examination had not been carried out. Some 152 Germans had already been executed. He noted that of 1672 men tried, 1416 were convicted.

CALLS ACTION WICKED

In recommending revision of death sentences in 29 cases, Van Roden said, "The tragedy is that so many of us Americans, having fought the war with so much sweat and blood, and having defeated the enemy, now say, "all Germans should be hung". "We won the war but some of us want to go on killing. That's not fighting. That's wicked".

Van Roden found that American trial procedure was disregarded to admit second and third hand testimony. That the prosecution threw in "everything but the kitchen sink." There were no juries, only courts of ten officers sitting as judge and jury and only one law member, the only person with legal training, whose rulings on admissibility of evidence were final, the judge found.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

The statements which were admitted as evidence v were' obtained from men who had first been kept in solitary confinement for three, four and five months. They were confined between four walls, a with no windows, and no opportunity of exercise. They were not allowed to talk to any one. They had no communication with their families or any minister or priest during that time.

This solitary confinement proved sufficient in itself in some cases to persuade the Germans to sign prepared statements. These statements not only involved the signer but often would involve other defendants. The 74 Malmedy massacre defendants were tried in one room, at one time, in

one trial. Their lawyers, who had been given two weeks to prepare a defence, were frantic. Horrible beatings had made some of the defendants afraid to talk.

TELLS OF BEATINGS

"In our offices in Munich, we interviewed over 100 persons including the Catholic Archbishop of Munich and Freisung, and Bishop D. Worm of Stuttgart. We talked to the legal member of the Dachau court. We talked to the AMG dentist at the trials. He said the great majority of the German defendants had had their teeth knocked out, and three of them had gotten broken jaws during the investigation. "The investigators would put a black hood over the accused head and then punch him in the face with brass knuckles, kick him and beat him with a rubber hose."

The judge said use of mock trials and violence was admitted. Van Roden told of an 18 year old boy, subjected to a series of beatings, who hanged himself rather than "utter another lie."

"Sometimes," Van Roden said, "a prisoner who refused to sign was led into a dimly lit room, where a group of civilian investigators, wearing United States Army uniforms were seated around a black table draped like a coffin, with a crucifix in the centre and two candles burning, one on each side. "You will not have your American trial," the defendant was told.

"The sham court passed a sham sentence of death, then the accused was told, "You will hang in a few days, as soon as the general approves the sentence; but in the meantime sign this acquitted" Some still wouldn't sign.

"We were shocked by the crucifix being used so mockingly. "In another case, a bogus Catholic priest (actually an investigator) entered the hall and went to the cell of one of the defendants, heard his confession, gave him absolution, and then gave him a little friendly tip. Sign whatever the

investigators ask you to sign. It will get you your freedom, even though it's false, I can give you absolution now in advance for the lie you'd tell."

Van Roden is a veteran of World War 1 and 2. He went ashore in Normandy on D-day with the 7th corps. His report found the 29 men whose sentences were recommended for commutation did not have fair trials by American standards. Although the War Department has suppressed the report, Van Roden said he expected the men will have sentences commuted to life in 27 cases and to shorter prison terms in the other two cases. The report technically exonerates the courts but finds there is a disgraceful situation in Germany which should be cleared up.

FOUR NAMES RUN THROUGH GERMANS' TORTURE CLAIMS. ARMY PLEADS INABILITY TO IDENTIFY MEN.

An Army review board, condoning third degree tactics employed against German defendants at the Dachau trials, said that in certain instances interrogators exceeded the bounds of propriety but that the board was unable to identify those cases. This statement appears to be inconsistent with the facts as reviewed by the Tribune's correspondents. Affidavits signed by Germans charging Americans with extreme brutality identify some of the accused Americans by name. Others cite the time and place of the alleged atrocities committed in United States army prisons by investigators for the American war crimes prosecutions. Army rosters of investigators on duty at the time and place of the beatings could be made available to the senate committee, presumably.

Not all of the condemned Germans, beaten and threatened in extorting confessions, have been hanged. Many are in prisons in Germany serving sentences imposed by American military courts. Other torture victims have been liberated and can easily be located in Germany, thru their registrations for ration cards.

American names most frequently mentioned as inquisitors in affidavits obtained by German defence lawyers are LT. WILLIAM PEARL, HARRY THON, a Mr. ELLOWITZ, and a Mr. KIRSCHBAUM. Further identification would appear to be simple.

Typical of the affidavits, identifying, at least partially, the accused Americans is one signed by Horst Vollbrecht. He is now 23, a mechanic, Ebersberg Kreis Erbach in Hesse (American occupation zone). At 19 he was in the 2nd company of Liele-standarte SS tank regiment, No. I and fought in the Ardennes offensive as a tank driver. At the end of the war, he was in a German military hospital in Czechoslovakia recovering from a wound received in February 1945. He was turned over to the American army.

Porst, throughout his internment, was repeatedly interrogated on whether he had seen disarmed American soldiers massacred at a crossroads near Engelsorf during the battle of the bulge. He consistently denied, and still does so, that his tank was at the location of those killings.

At the Schwaebisch Hall United States army prison camp from February, 1946, until the following April, Horst was interrogated first by officials of the counterintelligence corps and then by "MR. ELLOWITZ AND MR. KIRSCHBAUM." I was unable to learn anything about general conditions in this prison," the affidavit reads, "because a blood-soaked hood was put over my head every time I was taken from my cell.

The criminal investigation officials (CIC) wanted me to testify that my unit leader Oberstrumfuehrer Crist, had read an order at the beginning of the Ardennes offensive that all prisoners should be shot. I refused to do so because this was not true. They said I was lying. Then I got in the hands of **Mr. ELLOWITZ** and **Mr. KIRSCHBAUM**. Kirschbaum looked at me a few moments and said, "You rascal how many prisoners did you shoot in Russia and on the other fronts?

"Before I could answer he struck me and then kicked me in the face, in the belly and in the groin. Ellowitz accused me of lying. He spit in my face, I was beaten for 10 minutes. Later Ellowitz showed me some maps and some statements made by my comrades. He said I was the only one who had refused to confess."

Horst was confronted by two of his comrades in arms. One of them, Rolf Ritzer, 24, a student from Erlangen, is one of those who had since sworn

that his prison made "confession" was taken by duress and was false. **REWARD FOR CONFESSION**. "Ritzer," the Vollbrecht affidavit continues, "told me that if I would confess I would be left in peace and discharged soon. Ellowitz asked the men, in my presence, how they were treated after having made their confessions. Ritzer replied, "It seems that we were rewarded for our deeds."

'The others were taken from the room and Kirschbaum started beating me again. He hit a wound in my thigh which had not entirely healed. I fell down in pain. Kirschbaum, told about my war wound, said, 'Now I finally found a place where I can get you pliant. This was in March of 1946. The weather was cold. Horst was taken by Kirschbaum to an unheated cell with wind coming turn a barred window. Kirschbaum, "the affidavit - ked how long I could stand the cold. I told him I had suffered from an inflammation of the lungs. He replied, 'all the better. "Later Ellowitz visited me. He told me that if I did not change my mind my parents would be deprived of their ration tickets." In Germany, this meant that the parents might starve to death. But Horst never agreed to sign the statement he avers was contrary to the truth. He was in confinement until after the Dachau trials of his comrades for whom he was an ineffectual defence witness.

Ritzer in an affidavit has named Thon and Pearl as well as Kirschbaum and Ellowitz as having been present when he wrote a statement in prison incriminating himself and others. "On March 15, 1946," reads the affidavit, "I was taken hooded from my cell to a hearing room where soon appeared Ellowitz and Kirschbäum. I was seated on a stool, my back to a wall and a table in front of me."

CONFESSION DICTATED

"Kirschbaum dictated what I was to say while Ellowitz offered suggestions. Every time I protested against the falsity of the statements, Kirschbaum jammed the edge of the table into the pit of my stomach. The pressure was maintained until I agreed to write the sentence as dictated. "During this time, the door to a neighbouring cell was opened. Lt. Pearl called, 'Hey, Harry, Ralph" (supposedly the first names of Thon and

another interrogator). There was a crash. A chair was thrown into the comer. A man started crying horribly. Mr. Thon came into our room saying, 'Hey, guard, bring this S.O.B. into cell No. 10. "That is the atmosphere in which I wrote my false statements."

(Chicago Tribune Press Service) Frankfurt, Germany, Feb. 13,1949 A pattern of brutalities inflicted by Americans working for the war crimes commission to wring false confessions or testimony from Germans is told by August Bender, German physician. Bender, born in 1909, served as a combat officer in the German army from September, 1939, to January, 1944. He then was assigned as a medical officer for working parties dispatched from Buchenwald to labour outside that concentration camp. Bender has been found innocent of any crime and is trying to rebuild his medical practice at Kreuzau near Dueren in the British zone. UNDER BLANKET INDICTMENT Bender was among 31 persons taken as prisoners of war during the armistice period of 1945 and included in a collective indictment in the so-called first Buchenwald trial, which was held at Dachau. In this trial the American prosecution demanded the death sentence and is charged with using false testimony to prove-its case.

THREATENED WITH PUNISHMENT

"Before I could regain my breath, Schmidt was thrown in with me. Later we were instructed by a sergeant in the presence of numerous enlisted men not to lie down. We were threatened with severe punishment if we were discovered not standing at attention and facing the side opposite the door. Thereafter, every 15 minutes the guards would either open the door or rustle keys, pretending to open it.

"While we were standing there being sweated, several buckets of cold water were thrown on us, as well as on the radiator, Water on the radiator produced much steam and breathing was difficult. "Then they handcuffed us, first chest to chest. Later they chained us together back to back; again, much later, side to side. They pushed several pipes thru the slightly opened door and yelled, 'Gas, gas! Something resembling DDT powder was blown in, which hampered our breathing and hurt our eyes. The

shackles on our arms were made tighter and tighter. When they finally were taken off, blood was coming out of my lower arms.

"During the night two others, who had been transferred in my group to Oberursel, were thrown into our cell. They had received the same treatment as we had.

"From the morning of Sept. 19, 1945, the plan and regularity of tortures could be ascertained." Bender said, "During 12 1/2 days we were subjected to uninterrupted pressure as three sergeants worked on us around the clock.

In a letter to the Roman Catholic bishop of Munich, Bender said: "Without a written or oral opinion stating what I was convicted for, I was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on Aug. 19, 1947. On June 18, 1948, I was notified that my release had been ordered."

The maltreatment experiences Bender reports began on Sept. 17, 1945, when he was transferred to the American interrogation camp at Oberursel near Frankfurt. He was transferred with five others, now serving terns in the Landsberg prison, He was put in a cell with Dr. Hans Theodor Schmidt. "The American sergeant in charge closed the cell window and switched on the electric heating," Bender said. It became excessively hot and they told the guard so. "He laughed and the heat stayed on," Bender asserted. "In the evening there was a rumpus in the corridor and I was taken out of the cell. Americans stood along the corridor and were forming a gantlet through which I had to pass," Bender told the Tribune reporter, Then he continued: "As I went thru, they beat me with belts, brooms, sticks and buckets, hit me with their fists, kicked me in the shins and then pushed me into an orderly room.

There I had to undress in the presence of an American captain and some enlisted men. They let me keep on my heavy boots. I had to go back through that same row, naked, and was dealt the same treatment as before, and then pushed into a room which was extremely hot. The cell was 6 x 8 feet. There were no windows, no ventilation. The walls and

floor were tightly insulated. There was electric radiator in this room, too and it was kept hot."

"The first nine of the twelve days, we were in darkness and in increasing heat. From the tenth to the thirteenth, I was separated from my comrades and had to undergo tortures of a special kind in the cold. They would push me thru the usual gantlet, to the far end of the barracks, into a cell consisting of boards with about 40 x 40 inches of floor surface and 8 feet in height. There was no window nor any heating. Between the lower door rim and the floor there was a hole in the wall about the size of a hand. "The room looked like it had served as a closet for brooms and brushes. It was filthy. The cell was near the entrance of the barracks and the barracks door was kept open. Through the hole, under the cell door, the September air continued to come in, and thru the holes between the wall boards there was a constant draft."

PUT IN A DRAFTY CELL

"I was naked. For eight days I had suffered from extreme heat. Now I did not get a blanket or anything else to cover me.! was kept for 3 days in this room/ Bender told of gouging of eyes, twisting of ears and kicks in the groin.

Dr. Bender asserted he and other prisoners were prohibited from using ordinary toilet facilities. "We had no wav of cleansing our bodies and were compelled to smoke cigarettes and gulp the burning butts." He said, "We were given exercises to cause bodily exhaustion. This was my experience for 12 ½ days.

"Our meals were poured on the ground and then they tried to compel us to eat them. We were always hungry and thirsty.

"Inmates," Bender said, "began to suffer from hallucinations and started to attack one another. "One evening we were compelled to go over the cell floor with toothbrushes, instead of giving us water for this work they threw hot water on our legs and feet.

"Regularly we were taken to an alleged doctor who had to check the vitality still left in us, He never applied any treatment, and, told me he had neither instruments, medicaments nor bandages." **TELLS HOW U.S. OFFICER KICKED, BEAT GERMAN.** Prison camp worker reveals tortures. (Chicago Tribune Press Service.) Frankfurt, Germany Feb. 14, 1949

Tortures inflicted by American investigators upon Germans in efforts to obtain convictions in war crimes trials were not confined to any one camp. They also extended to all three groups of defendants and witnesses:

- 1) to prisoners of war charged with involvement in the Malmedy massacres;
- 2) to those charged with the murder of American flyers forced down in Germany during combat, and
- 3) to others charged with atrocities in the treatment of prisoners of war at Schwäbisch Hall in Wuertemberg, where the Malmedy cases were investigated, paralleled that at Oberursel, near Frankfurt, where concentration camp atrocities were investigated.

The Tribune has statements of two German attendants in the Schwaebisch Hall prison, which, with numerous other affidavits, disclose conditions there. One statement is by a dental surgeon, Dr. Eduard Knorr, official prison dentist. The other is by Dietrich Schnell, 27, student of medicine, who lives in Goeppingen, Wuertemberg. Schnell was a prisoner of war internee and worked there from Sept. 18, 1945, to tune 22, 1946.

The story of this camp begins in the early days of December, 1945, when between 600 and 700 members of the 1st SS tank division were brought there for interrogation in the Malmedy trial. Neither Knorr nor Schnell was allowed to communicate with the men, but both stated the prisoners were kicked, beaten and deprived of all personal belongings the day they arrived. The prisoners never were taken out into the air for exercise.

The only time they got out was when they were to be questioned. For this purpose black hoods were put over their heads. They were guided in groups of 5 to 10 to the interrogation room by an American.

"Many times I saw them beaten during this walk," Schnell says, "and before the people charged with the Malmedy massacre arrived, a special room with a black covered table bearing a crucifix and an open Bible had been prepared. On both walls were spotlights. This room was used mostly at night as the whole war crimes commission worked more at night than in the day."

When we took him down we found his underwear glued with blood crust to his body, his genitals excessively swollen, and his upper jaw crushed." Schnell heard of three more suicides during that period. He said that frequently he could observe through a window Lt. Pearl interrogating prisoners. One time about midnight he heard Lt. Pearl yell, "You lying pig." Then, Schnell says, "I saw him hit the interrogated man in the face and kick him, often at night we heard yelling and screams of pain. Neighbouring citizens heard it too. Once at night, we hear for hours someone crying. "O, do help! me, please - 0 do help me, please. They are torturing me so terribly." Schnell explains how Lt. Pearl got an 18 year old boy to sign a false statement. The youth was told that unless he did so his mother and sister would not get ration cards and would be forced to enter a life of prostitution. The youngster, Schnell says, signed a false statement against someone else. "Later he pleaded with me to give him the means so he could commit suicide."



The following article on those behind the Nuremburg Trials was originally published by the late Arnold S. Leese in his publication GOTHIC RIPPLES May 12,1952

Some feeble comfort may be derived from the fact that the "fame-up" (I use this ghastly term because it is Yiddish New York distortion of English, and therefore appropriate to the occasion) was not of British

invention. It was Jewish from start to finish. That it happened at all is due to the Allied Nations all being Jew run. No amount of Easter religious services can alter that. The Jew M. Perizweiq of the World Jewish Congress said at Glasgow (Jewish Chronicle, 16th December. 1949) that it was that body which "had secured the holding of the Nuremberg trials at which it had provided expert advice and much valuable evidence."

The way this was done is explained in Chapter 3 of Part 5 of "Unity in Dispersion," the W. J. C.'s official history published in New York, 1948. The prime mover was judge Samuel I. Rosenman, who was special counsellor to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman; and through him the Allies were persuaded to set up an international military tribunal to try the Jews' chief enemies, the German leaders. The Gentile Robert J. Jackson was appointed as figure head of the USA. prosecution team, but behind him were the Jews Sheldon Glueck and Harold Lev- enthal. Of the eight Judges two were Jews (Volchkov and Falco) and at least two, (Biddle and Parker) were Freemasons, the former being advised by a Jew H. Wechsler.

On the War Crimes executive was the Jew Prof. Lauterpacht.

The Jew A. Jacoubovitch did the translations when the judges were "deciding" their verdict. (Imagine the fate of the two So.let Judges if they had found the defendants "not guilty." At a UNO meeting on the 6th of February, Gromyko had already decided the verdict: "The chief war criminals now on trial at Nuremberg were going to pay with their lives for the crimes they had committed, whether anyone was going to defend them or not.") The Jew W. Frank translated the sentence to the prisoners. The Jew Karl Jacobi prepared the documentary film used in evidence.

The Jew Col. B. C. Andrus was in charge of the prisoners before the "trial." The Jew S. N. Binder took charge in the period between sentence and execution. The prison psychiatrist was the Jew L. N. Goldenshohn. It was a triumph for the Jews to get the executions done on the Jewish feast day Hashana Raba. It was a greater triumph to have them carried out and purposely bungled by the Jew John C. Woods, a sergeant in the U.S. army. In an article by the official undertaker, one Peckham, who was

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present at the executions, in a monthly magazine named Stag (Vol. 3 No. 1) wrote in an article in my possession 'The Jewish American boy in charge of the execution (Julius Streicher) let him hang horribly for a long, long, minute."

The murdered men were all apparently given short drops so that their necks would not be instantaneously broken and they would strangle slowly. Not one of the Nazi leaders subjected to Jewish sadism ever broke down. Streicher, murdered for the same sort of work I am now doing, i.e. exposing the Jew Menace, fought physically to the last.





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