CROSS-REFERENCE

GERMAN EXTERRATION CAMPS - SERVENTONK, BELGIUM

(Name of Applicant)

(Application Number)

FOR: BRITISH ARMY REPORT ON GERMAN ATROCITIES IN DUTCH AND BELGIAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS

SEE: CHARGED TO THE WAR DEPT. 6/9/45, AND IS TO BE RETURNED
April 2, 1945

Dear Mr. Russell:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the
British Army report on German atrocities. Your courtesy
in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Friedman,

Mr. John W. Russell,
British Embassy,
Washington 8, D. C.
BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 29th, 1945

Ref: 310/4 /48

My dear Mr. Friedman,

You may remember that at the beginning of January, you asked me about a British Army report on German atrocities in Dutch and Belgian concentration camps. In reply to my request, the Foreign Office has now sent us two reprints, one of which I am passing on to you herewith.

The Foreign Office tells us that, when the report was originally published, it was released to accredited correspondents only, with the proviso that none of the names mentioned should be published. They ask us to draw your attention to this point and to request you to be so good as to treat the material as confidential.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

John W. Russell

Mr. Friedman,
War Refugee Board,
c/o United States Treasury,
Washington, D.C.
Embassy of the United States

Miss Florence Hodel,
Assistant Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Florence:

In Jim Mann's absence I am sending to you here-with two copies of a pamphlet entitled "Report on German Atrocities" prepared by Headquarters, 21 Army Group. This material was requested by NRB 35. You will note that the report does not contain photographs.

I am also enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Debates (House of Lords) for March 20, 1945. This pamphlet contains certain debates on war criminals which may be of interest to the Board.

Everything is going well and we have been enjoying about ten days of thoroughly delightful weather which nobody expects to continue. Give my best to everyone and in particular to the two Joe's (P. and D.).

Regards,

[Signature]

Edwin F. Rains
Ensign, USNR
U.S. Treasury Representative,
Acting Deputy Special Representative of the War Refugee Board, ad interim

Enclosures.

P.S. The British Foreign Office states that the
Monther Report is not for publication.
INCOMING TELEGRAM

ALB-221
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington
1358, February 8, 4 p.m.

Foreign Office states that no copy of report on concentration camps in Holland and Belgium issued by Twenty-first British Army group is available in London (REDIPCEL 177, January 9, midnight WET). Foreign Office is asking for copies from British Army authorities in Belgium. Foreign Office states that American Embassy Brussels was on distribution list for this report.

WINANT

BB
The following for Maim is WRB 55.

Newspaper PM of January 4 under heading of Reuters article dated January 4, Headquarters 21st British Army Group, summarizes 12 page report issued by British army authorities describing the German prison camp at Breendonk Libredonck during the occupation of Belgium. According to the newspaper article the report is accompanied with a volume of photographs.

Please forward a copy of this report by air mail, together with photographs if possible.

SIEFRIED KUHNE
(OMN)

STETTINIUS

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

URB: MNY: KG
1/8/49

DC

WE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 11/11/72
By R. H. Parker Date SEP 1 1972
CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD TO AMBASSADOR WILSHIRE FOR MANN,
LONDON, ENGLAND

Newspaper PM of January 4 under heading of Reuters article
dated January 4, Headquarters 21st British Army Group, summarizes
12 page report issued by British army authorities describing the
German prison camp at Breendonck Libredonk during the occupation
of Belgium. According to the newspaper article the report is
accompanied with a volume of photographs.

Please forward a copy of this report by air mail, together
with photographs if possible.

This is WBR Cable No. 35

11:00 a.m.
January 6, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the SBO's) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Daboll,
Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pohle, Files

M. Marks 1-6-45
February 1, 1945

Mrs. Kloes
Miss Hodel

I send you herewith a photostatic copy of the British report of atrocities at Breendonck, Belgium. Please note that copies of the appendices were not made available to us and therefore are not attached. It is possible that the copies obtained through Mann in London may be complete.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Attachment.

Filed 2/1/45
INTRODUCTION

PART I - LIST OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN HÜNTZINGKONZENTRATION CAMP

PEOPLE WHO WERE IMPRISONED AND/or EXECUTED

PART II - LIST OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN PLACES OTHER THAN HÜNTZINGKONZENTRATION CAMP

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<td>SF</td>
<td>Sicherheitspolizei - The GERMAN Security Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>Gestapo - Polizei - The GERMAN FIELD POLICE</td>
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<td>VNV</td>
<td>Vlaamsche National Verbond - BELGIAN PRO-GERMAN movement</td>
</tr>
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<td>NB</td>
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INTRODUCTION

1. The object of this paper is to collect evidence of atrocities committed by the GERMAN Security Service (Gestapo) and SS, which form part of the German Army.

2. (a) The GESTAPO Security Service (overhauled) of which the Gestapo (Schutzstaffel (SS) detachment) forms part.

   (ii) The Secret Police (Gestapo) and the Secret Police (Kriminalpolizei) which form part of the German Army.

   (iv) The SS and the concentration camps.

(b) The only evidence of atrocities committed in the early stages of the war against civilians was collected by Dr. K. L. The investigation could not be carried out in the strictest secrecy by Dr. K. L.

3. It must be admitted that this report cannot be published in full, but it most summarises the evidence which has been collected by a small number of officers over a period of three weeks.

4. The first thing that strikes one when considering GESTAPO atrocities in the occupied countries is the enormity of torture and mutilation. It is no exaggeration to say that it is not easy to believe that on and after March 1940, the GESTAPO was responsible for such atrocities. This paper presents evidence of GESTAPO atrocities, and it is not easy to find people who believe this is true. It must be assumed that the worst mutilated people were killed or died of ill-treatment.

   Nevertheless, you have to bear in mind that in some cases, the mutilated bodies have been identified and stories have been heard of many of the people who were tortured. Unofficial reports are all based on civilian information, and the truth about the matter remains open. Relevant information has been obtained through the help of the local police in Brussels, and elsewhere, and they have been compiled from the reports of the SS who is now in charge of the Department of Information about how German prisoners were ill-treated, when possible. This is why they have been found to be true or false. It is difficult to check these stories.

5. This paper is divided into three parts:

   PART I - GESTAPO ATROCITIES AROUND THE WORLD

6. An album of photographs has been compiled and will be published in conjunction with this report.

   PART II - GESTAPO ATROCITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, FRANCE, AND THE UK.

   PART III - CONCLUSION AND REMARKS

7. Those included:

   (a) Jews.

   (b) Political prisoners, especially those who were suspected of having communist or socialist tendencies.

   (c) People who were known or suspected of having political associations.

   (d) People who were convicted of having political associations. The GESTAPO, e.g. people who exhibited solidarity with the Jews.
(c) People who had been the sole by the Germans by their personal enemies, usually by anonymous letters. In many cases these people belonged to no political or patriotic party and were unable to say why they were imprisoned.

(f) Noting...

Details of some of these persons were shown at App.

"AA". Some of these persons were killed or had their political statements have been made, and several of the prisoners held in Terezin and those statements are not in App. which is 7."

PLACE OF BIRTH, or VOYAGE or IN PRISON

(a) RUSKIN, and place

(b) BRENNER

(i) Czecho-Slovakian (vi) The Commune

(ii) Austria

(iii) Rumania

(iv) The Czecho-Slovakian

(v) see note (vi).

(c) IVANOVIC, or SHETT

(d) ORANGE

(i) Prague

(ii) House of Royal

(e) BURDIK, or SHETT

(f) Parrott, or RUSKIN

(g) RUSKIN, or IVANOVIC

(h) BRENNER

(i) Place

(ii) 22nd, 23rd

(iii) 25th

(1) Linds.

(2) J. J.

(3) L. H.

(4) Guard

(5) Out

(6) and in line.

The above list is not exhaustive, and other places of imprisonment and torture existed, if the above shows, too will be noticed in this paper, namely BOHEMIA and the RHINELAND.

END OF REPORT

GENERAL

The data was taken from a report on the one hand or

"if it is situated on the main line - or from places on the other hand..."

"in order to provide additional protection for the prisoners to escape..."
10. Tho installation of:

(a) Eleven rooms, each containing a latrine, were built at one end
and at the other end of each of these rooms twenty-six foot high
sleeping bunks were placed in the room. There were stone
windows and doors in each of these rooms. Two of these rooms
were stone and the other twenty-four rooms were made of
brick. The author has seen many camps in which a latrine
which was in meters at the winter of 1916 was installed in one
room in triple Fowler's huts. There were also a few small tables
and stools in each room. In one small room which was
not occupied by the bunk. In addition each room contained
one bucket for use as a night latrine. A total of 392 prisoners
could be held in these rooms.

(b) Four huts measuring approximately thirty-six feet long by
eighteen foot broad and eight feet high were built especially for
prisoners. These are made of wood and match-hardin. They are
what similar to the rooms described above, except that the windows
are small. All the huts were covered with creosote, which makes
very dark. They contain no stove or any form of lighting.
They were furnished with three, double bunks, one small table
and stools, and one bucket per hut for use as a night latrine. In
these huts was used as a washing. 100 ha. of linen was in each
of the other times, the washing machine being in.

(c) Thirty two brick cells built in the north in the rear of
the fort. These cells contain 12 men each. In these
(1916), the cells on the second floor were made of iron
which is iron. The doors of the cells which were opened by
iron bars and iron doors. Each cell had
grill. The 1916 which was lined by a small
window could look into the small cell below with the prisoners
foot while the feet cells with the feet cells with
front and back in. Each cell had a small
grill in a small trap-door for food. Due to the cold the
food was kept upright during the day. Some of these
windows to the outside of the cell. The small window was
opened and closed at will. Each cell also contained other
items such as a mat. One of these cells in a cell of these
converted into the back cell.

(d) There are six brick cells into which no cell which does not
have a small window and stone floors. They each consist of
plank beds which are kept against the wall during the day or removed
from the cell. In addition there was a bucket for a latrine.

(e) All the above rooms and cells were lit by electric light, but
they were only used for inspection by the guards.

11. Tho GERMANS installed an up-to-date kitchen, very room and also
latteries for the prisoners. There was also a laundry.

12. The "Gas Chamber"

There were two rooms which are placed like a horse-shoe and which
is known as the "Gas Chamber", on an arch of the room through
two steel doors. Each of these rooms has windows but each has two ventilation
shutters and a coke stove. Regular prisoners and the 300 to 400
prisoners in one of the rooms by means of the small door. A room
of this has also been obt. The rooms were made of
proof chambers after the last war. Some prisoners at one of these
are known as the "Gas Chamber" has used as a mortuary and sometimes contained
up to twenty bodies.
13. This is a typical floor of a large block on the first floor with a shell of about 200 prisoners. The rooms in each block are about 8 feet by 10 feet, but the shell is overcrowded and the cells are only about 6 feet by 10 feet. The prisoners are housed in double bunks, and the floors are electrically lit. Additionally, there was a shop and a canteen in each block, which was run by the Germans.

Case 327

14. The camp was occupied by a GERMAN SS. Under the general were two or three SS Leaders, a small number of GERMAN SS guards, and to eight SSJEWS. This formed the movement staff. The number of prisoners is known from another source, but the number constantly changed. The camp was located in the north of the canton of the canton of Zürich in a village which was established near the camp. The GERMAN and JEWISH prisoners lived in a small building at the camp's entrance to the camp, near the area of the entrance of the hill that was at Appendix "A" in a map printed in the camp, which was located in the vicinity of the camp.

15. In addition, a section of prisoners, the first and last room in each block, was kept in another section of the camp, which was used for similar purposes. This section was used as a temporary holding area for prisoners who were to be deported. In addition, there was a section of prisoners who were engaged in civilian work, which was located in the camp. This section was used for agricultural work, which was performed by the prisoners, and was used to supply the camp with food.

16. Each room was divided into a small area for the prisoners, which was about 8 feet by 10 feet, and a larger area for the guards, which was about 12 feet by 15 feet. The prisoners were housed in single bunks, and the floors were electrically lit.

17. Some of the prisoners were employed as guards, while others were employed as workers. The guards were usually more strictly controlled than the prisoners, and were not allowed to leave the camp. The workers were also more strictly controlled, and were not allowed to leave the camp. The workers were paid a small amount of money, and were allowed to buy some food from the canteen.

18. All prisoners were kept in the camp, and were only allowed to go out of the camp if they were doing work. If they refused to work, they were put in solitary confinement.

19. Prisoners were allowed to vote in the election, and were also allowed to attend religious services. The prisoners were also allowed to have mail, and were allowed to send and receive letters. The letters were opened by the guards, but were not read by them. The prisoners were also allowed to have visits from family members, and were allowed to have meals in the canteen. The canteen was run by the prisoners, and was supplied with food by the GERMAN SS. The prisoners were also allowed to have some personal items, such as clothing and books, and were allowed to have some personal money.
27. Revels of clothing which were sent to the prisoners by their families and friends were distributed as follows. Outfits of clothing were delivered to the prisoners, or all persons of the regiment, and the clothing when that which they wore was so dirty that it would be impossible to use it was exchanged for new. A number of pieces of clothing were delivered to the prisoners, and occasionally, when the prisoners were taken to the hospital, they were also given new outfits which they had to return when the change of outfit was over.

28. As a rule, the prisoners were allowed to receive letters and parcels from friends, and occasionally, the colonel would send a letter to the prisoner which they had to return when the change of outfit was over.

29. All the mail was taken to the post office to pass through the mail, and only a small number of pieces of clothing was delivered to the prisoners. A number of pieces of clothing was delivered to the prisoners, and occasionally, when the prisoners were taken to the hospital, they were also given new outfits which they had to return when the change of outfit was over.

30. As a rule, the prisoners were allowed to receive letters and parcels from friends, and occasionally, the colonel would send a letter to the prisoner which they had to return when the change of outfit was over.

31. The regulation of clothing was as follows. Outfits of clothing were delivered to the prisoners, or all persons of the regiment, and the clothing when that which they wore was so dirty that it would be impossible to use it was exchanged for new. A number of pieces of clothing were delivered to the prisoners, and occasionally, when the prisoners were taken to the hospital, they were also given new outfits which they had to return when the change of outfit was over.

32. At a certain time, the prisoners were allowed to receive letters and parcels from friends, and occasionally, the colonel would send a letter to the prisoner which they had to return when the change of outfit was over.
It is not known how many prisoners died in the Camp as a result of ill-treatment. JONER, the AUMFELD doctor says that over 500 men died during his stay at the Camp from 3 March 1941 to 31 March 1941 (Appendix "W"). This figure includes over 300 people who were shot and approximately 150 people who were hanged. It thus seems that about 20 people died in the Camp in three years as a result of their ill-treatment. In addition, however, it cannot be recorded that many of the sick were removed to other hospitals (e.g. in AMZEB) and no doubt many died there.

Becapoe

Very few prisoners managed to escape. In 1941 a Jew managed to escape according to information received from Tadeusz WINDT (see Appendix "Y") One prisoner who tried to escape was killed by the guards. Details of this are in Appendix "Z".

Charges, Trials and Punishments

Many of the prisoners never had any charge recorded against them. If a prisoner was charged he was given no opportunity to defend himself, or given any sort of a trial at the camp. There was a period of weeks or months when a prisoner might be held on, even though he had been floged and subjected to other kinds of cruelty during his detention. Very often prisoners were sent to be held in a prison or a camp of guards and kept in the infirmary in order to die. There was no hope of reformation of their strength and for that reason, the prisoners did not receive any medical treatment and were released.

I, the undersigned, hereby undertake in future to refrain from any political or propagandist activity.

I understand that if I am prosecuted by the authorities and I am liable to such punishment of my choice if I do not carry out this undertaking.

I also declare hereby that I shall make no claim in respect of any measure which has been taken against me by the police.

I am aware that I must say nothing about anything which I have seen during the time of my imprisonment, otherwise I shall be re-arrested and detained in a concentration camp. I have to report immediately to ________.

Statement by a Member of the GSTOR Security Police

At Appendix "T" is an extract of a statement made by a member of the Security Police who is in the hands of the GSTOR police. This statement confirms the stories of former prisoners.

Visit to AUMFELD

It is reported that much of the report visit the camp is it is impossible to convey by real research of this type on paper. There they will be permitted to use only one coal, one calendar, one letter, one picture in the name of the patient. Many of these messages and drawings were carried out of the camp but were still remain.
58. This is a large bomb site in Berlin. It is in KREUZE. Three GRENADIERS were engaged at the FEUDALISM during the 1942-43 war. This area, which was erected outside the bomb site after the last war was destroyed by the GRENADIER in 1944. It is estimated that about a thousand people were shot here during the GRENADIER operation of this area, the vic-
tim being brought from different zones throughout KREUZE. The prisoners were tied to posts and shot from posts of about 15 yards. The Director, Major Ruprecht, told me that on the posts "in situ" after the
GRENADIERS had left. He also had a new and some fifty posts ready
as replacements.

59. There are two cemeteries at the KREUZE where some 300 people
are buried. Major Ruprecht has given a list of the people buried in one
of these cemeteries and thus been able to identify the graves. The
graves in the other cemetery are buried with names only. It must be
remembered, however, that all the victims were not buried in these two
cemeteries; many of the fallen being taken off to unknown destinations.

PARTICULARS OF OTHER AND COLLABORATORS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT.

60. With regard to DEREGUL, reference has already been made to the names of the permanent GRENADIERS (paragraph 54 and appendix "M"), the names of the civilians employed there (paragraph 55 and Appendix "M") and also the head
men of the crew (paragraph 57 and Appendix "M"). The names of all other
GRENADIER and collaborators mentioned in this report or in any of the append-
dices are shown at Appendix "M".