

GERMAN EXTERMINATION CAMPS - BREENDOCK, Belgium
Volume 2

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CROSS REFERENCE ON GERMAN EXTERMINATION CAMPS -
BREENDONK, BELGIUM VOL. 3

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REPORT
ON
GERMAN
ATROCITIES

BY
HEADQUARTERS,
21 ARMY GROUP.

B.L.A.,
December, 1944.

- I N D E X -
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NOTE: The following abbreviations occur in some of the appendices:-

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
SS	= Schutz Staffel - Bodyguards
SD	= Sicherheitsdienst - The GERMAN Security Service
SP	= Sicherheitspolizei - The GERMAN Security Police
GFP	= Geheime Feldpolizei - The GERMAN Field Police
VNV	= Vlaanisch National Verbond - BELGIAN PRO-GERMAN movement
MNB	= Movement Nationale Belge - A resistance organization.

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- (e) to a BELGIAN underground movement.
- (e) People who had been denounced to the GERMANS by their personal enemies usually by anonymous letters. In many cases these people belonged to no political or patriotic party and are unable to say why they were imprisoned.
- (f) Hostages.

Details of some of the persons who were imprisoned are shown at App. "A". Some of these persons were killed or died but detailed statements have been received from several of the persons named in this Appendix and these stories are set out in Appendices "B" to "J".

PLACES OF IMPRISONMENT and/or TORTURE or EXECUTION.

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
8. (a) BREENDONCK, nr. MALINES	Concentration camp originally for JEWS only. Prisoners were tortured and executed there.
(b) BRUSSELS	
(i) Place Rouppe,	Political prisoners interrogated and tortured by Walloons and Flemish SS.
(ii) 45 Avenue Louise (later removed to No. 349)	Gestapo HQ. Suspects interrogated and tortured.
(iii) Avenue de St. GILLES	A certain amount of interrogation of political prisoners carried out.
(iv) Rue Traversiere	HQ Secret Field Police
(v) St. Anne Barracks, LAEKEN	
(vi) TIR NATIONAL	Where prisoners were shot
(c) Citadelle de NAMUR	For political prisoners
(d) CHARLEROI	
(i) Prison	Political prisoners were tortured
(ii) Caserne TRESIGINNES	
(e) OOSTRACHER, nr. GHENT	Place where GESTAPO tortured and carried out executions
(f) École Militaire, LIMBOURG, BOURG LEOPOLD.	Political prisoners interrogated and tortured by Walloon and Flemish SS.
(g) Fortresse de HUY, nr. LIEGE	
(h) ANTWERP	
(i) Prison	Political prisoners were held and tortured
(ii) 22, Avenue Reine Elisabeth	Gestapo HQ
(i) LIEGE	
(i) The Citadel	Political prisoners and partizans were tortured and shot
(ii) Lycee, Boulevard D'Avoy	Gestapo HQ
(iii) Hotel Britannique	HQ Secret Field Police

The above list is not exhaustive as many other places of imprisonment and torture existed. Of the above places, two will be described in this paper, namely BREENDONCK and the TIR NATIONAL.

BREENDONCK CONCENTRATION CAMP

General

- 9. This was originally a fort built as part of the outer defences of ANTWERP. It is situated on the main BRUSSELS - ANTWERP road about 20 Kms. from BRUSSELS and about 22 Kms. from ANTWERP. The fort is a squat grey building surrounded by a wide moat, over which runs a causeway, the only entrance into the fort. Round the moat is a stout barbed wire fence some 7½ feet high. Most of the buildings were partially covered with earth in order to provide additional protection for the garrison and to camouflage the fort. The GERMANS made the prisoners remove the earthen banks and at the time of the liberation most of the earth had been removed. The fort had been allowed to fall into disuse by the BELGIANS after the 1914-18 War. It was however occupied by the BELGIAN G.H.Q. for a few days when the GERMANS invaded the country in May 1940. At first the fort was used by the GERMANS as a concentration camp for JEWS but after a short while every kind of prisoner was incarcerated there, although by and large they were mainly political prisoners.

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The "Torture Chamber"

- 13. This is a circular shaped room without windows and a stone floor with a shallow gutter across the width which serves as a drain. In the room is a coke stove, a bed and a table. It is lighted by electricity and in addition there is an electric point similar to that used for an electric fire. There are three marks in the wall and ceiling where a pulley was installed by the GERMANS. This pulley was dismantled by the GERMANS some weeks before they fled and the holes filled up with cement.

Camp Staff

- 14. The camp was commanded by a GERMAN SS Major. Under his command were two or three SS Lieutenants, a small number of GERMAN SS guards and six to eight FLEMISH SS. This formed the permanent staff. Their names and other particulars are shown in Appendix "V". There was also a detachment of the WEHRMACHT attached to the camp for guard duties. The number of WEHRMACHT troops was approximately fifty, but they were constantly changed. Most of the personnel lived in the camp; at first in the fort itself and later in wooden huts which were constructed near the entrance. Most of the Officers and NCOs were billeted in houses near the fort. Madame VERDICT who lives in a small house at the entrance to the camp had some of the Officers and NCOs billeted on her. At Appendix "W" is a paraphrase of a statement which Madame VERDICT has made to the BELGIAN authorities. It should be noted that although a total of approx seven women prisoners were held at different times there were no wardresses.
- 15. In addition a certain number of civilians who lived out of camp were employed; one was a cook, another a gardener and another engaged in looking after the live-stock which belonged to the garrison. In addition a local blacksmith who was in the SS was employed to do general repair work at the camp. This man made the instruments of torture. Two other civilians were also employed at the camp from time to time - an electrician from BREENDONK who looked after the electric supply and a general contractor. The names and particulars of all the civilians referred to above are shown in Appendix "X". Statements made by those of the civilians who are available are shown at Appendices "Y-CC".

Organization of Camp.

- 16. Each room was in charge of a prisoner who was made responsible for the discipline and cleanliness of the room. Prisoners put in charge of rooms were nearly always GERMAN Jews. Apart from this Jewish prisoners were generally kept quite separate from the other prisoners.
- 17. Some of the SS Guards were employed indoors, whilst some were employed outside. All the guards were armed and they generally carried a whip or crop which they rarely hesitated to use. The WEHRMACHT troops did not come into contact much with the prisoners.
- 18. All orders were given in GERMAN. Prisoners had to understand or take the consequences. Prisoners were only allowed to speak to the guards if they required anything. If they tried to indulge in normal conversation they were invariably punished.

Entry into the Camp

- 19. Prisoners were arrested by the Gestapo or Secret Police and taken first to the Police H.Q. Sometimes they were interrogated and beaten up there, but this was not an invariable rule. Sometimes they were charged with an offence against the GERMANS and sometimes they were not. Quite a number of prisoners were sent to the camp from other prisons. On entering the camp prisoners were made to stand strictly at attention inside the entrance of the fort or in the prison yard. They were usually made to stand with their faces against a wall. Sometimes they were kept standing for only a short while, but more often it was

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19. several hours. During this time they were not allowed to move or go (cont) to the lavatory. If one wanted to go to the lavatory he relieve himself where he stood and was punished by the guards for uncleanliness. The batch of prisoners which entered with ANTOINE ABBELOOS of 627 CHAUSSEE DE MONS, ANDERLECHT, BRUSSELS, on 22 June, 1941, was kept standing at attention for forty-eight hours. They were not allowed to move and were not given any food or water. They collapsed like flies with heat, thirst and fatigue whereupon they were revived by the guards kicking them and made to stand to attention again. After this period of standing at attention prisoners were taken to their rooms or cells.

20. Shortly after this they had to hand in their clothes and ALL their personal belongings and received delapidated prison uniform instead. This prison uniform consisted of old BELGIAN army uniforms, a pullover, or shirt, a cap, a belt and a pair of sabots. The sabots were often too small whilst it was often forbidden to wear the cap - it had to be carried in the belt. Each uniform had sewn on it the prisoner's number and a distinguishing mark shewing the class of prisoner to which he belonged. Some of these uniforms can still be seen in the fort. In addition each prisoner was given a towel - but no soap was issued. Prisoners who were locked up in the rooms were given two or three thin blankets and a palliase. Prisoners locked up in the cells were not given, as a rule, any form of bed covering.

21. The prisoners then had their heads shaved. Any prisoner who had a moustache or beard also had it shaved off. Prisoners also had a brief medical inspection during which they were made to stand naked in the prison yard no matter what the weather was like.

Allotment of Prisoners to Rooms or Cells.

22. The majority of the prisoners lived in the barrack rooms, but those who were considered to be "more dangerous" were kept in the cells, whilst the "most dangerous" type of prisoners were locked up in the dark cells. Quite often the prisoners in the cells or dark cells wore hand-cuffs or shackles the whole time they were there. The prisoner who was allotted to the cell which has the shackles cemented into the wall was made to eat his meals on all fours owing to the fact that the food was placed on the ledge of the trap-door in the cell door and he was not allowed to lift it into the cell.

23. Prisoners who were locked up in the cells were only allowed out under escort to empty their latrine buckets which took a matter of four to five minutes daily. They were allowed no exercise. Prisoners held in the dark cells had a black hood put over their heads before they left their cells on this daily duty. This prevented other prisoners seeing who they were and formed an additional punishment.

Food

24. From the opening of the camp in 1940 until sometime in 1944, the food was very bad and quite insufficient. It was quite common for a prisoner to lose three to four stones after being in the camp for three months. According to the statements made by MOENS, the cook, at Appendices "BB" and "CC" the daily ration per prisoner was originally:-

	<u>Grammes</u>	<u>Equivalent in ozs</u>
Bread	175	6.125
Jam	20	.7
Sugar	30	1.05
Butter or Margarine	30	1.05
Cheese per two days 10 grammes or .35 ozs.	5	.175
Meat with bone which is equivalent without bone to	30 20	1.05 .7

The total ration shown above is 9.8 ozs per man. The prisoners however did receive in addition a litre (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ imperial pints) of watery soup per day and two mug-fuls of ersatz coffee. After some time the bread ration was increased to 250 grammes per day which is equivalent to 8.75 ozs making the total ration exclusive of soup 12.425 ozs per man. The BELGIAN RED CROSS made every effort to supplement the rations, but only a fraction of the goods they supplied reached the prisoners. From 1943 the FOYER LEOPOLD III delivered all kinds of food and, from this time, the prisoners rations improved although the prisoners only received a portion of what was delivered. In 1944 the food improved a great deal as the ration of bread was increased to 500 grammes per day or 17 ozs, and 1 kilogram (or 2.2 lbs) of Potatoes were authorised to be issued. The prisoners however rarely received their full rations. They rarely received any meat except perhaps occasionally in the soup.

25. In the early days prisoners were allowed to receive parcels of food, etc from outside, but this privilege was stopped on the grounds that Communist literature was being smuggled into the fort and that the parcels contained rationed foods which must have been bought on the Black Market.

26. There were three meals a day which consisted of the following:-

- a) Breakfast: which took place between 0600 hrs and 0730 hrs depending on the time of year. A slice of dry bread and a mug of ersatz coffee.
- b) Midday Meal : took place any time between 1100 and 1400 hrs and consisted of a bowl of watery soup. The only thing which the prisoners say in its favour is that it was very hot.
- c) Supper : which took place at 1900 hrs. Consisted of a piece of bread, sometimes a small piece of butter or margarine or a tea-spoon of jam. Occasionally a potato or a salted sardine was also issued. A mug of ersatz coffee was also issued.

Clothing, Mail etc.

27. Parcels of clothing which were sent to the prisoners by their families and friends were confiscated as a rule. Sometimes, however, they were delivered to the prisoners. Normally prisoners were only issued with clothing when that which they were wearing was completely unfit for further use.
28. As a rule only non-political prisoners were allowed to write or receive letters and this privilege was only granted occasionally. The civilian employees and sometimes some of the guards did smuggle letters in and out of the fort.
29. No smoking was allowed. Prisoners found with tobacco in their possession were punished. Occasionally, however, the head men of the rooms were given one cigarette which they had to smoke immediately.
30. All prisoners were made to pass through the showers once a week. Very rarely was soap provided and the prisoners were rarely given time to dry themselves and accordingly had to put on their clothes whilst still wet.

Medical Inspections

31. There was no resident medical officer on the staff but only a medical orderly. The medical orderlies changed periodically. They varied tremendously - some were good whilst some were very bad, one in particular used to beat the patients. An ~~English~~ doctor ~~was~~ was imprisoned in the camp from March 1941 until a short time before the liberation. (See Appendix "A", Serial 28). Shortly after he entered the camp he was put to work in the infirmary where he remained for some eighteen months. This doctor was under the orders of the medical orderly and was not given a free hand to practise medicine. It was the medical orderly or one of the camp staff who really decided the medical condition of a prisoner. All prisoners were medically examined by a visiting GERMAN army doctor about once a month, everyone being inspected at the same time. For this inspection the Commandant ordered the prisoners to be lined up in the courtyard completely naked whatever the time of the year or weather. One of the visiting medical officers, Major FOHL, was very sympathetic towards the prisoners and endeavoured to improve the conditions of the camp. Another medical officer, KOCHLING, was completely indifferent to their fate. It appears that the medical inspections for all the prisoners, who sometimes numbered over six hundred, often only took little over an hour. The camp authorities did take pains to prevent serious infectious diseases or epidemics from breaking out - hence the weekly bath. But often scanty attention was paid to cuts, wounds and sores on the prisoners' bodies brought about by ill-treatment and undernourishment. Normally the infirmary contained 40-50 sick prisoners but on one occasion at least it held over 150 patients. Prisoners there received no extra food.

A Typical Day of a Prisoner Detained in one of the Barrack Rooms

32. At reveille, which was normally 0600 hours, the prisoners had to spring out of their beds. Anyone who was found in bed after reveille was lashed by the guards. Prisoners in the barrack rooms had to form up outside their rooms and stand strictly at attention. The head man of the room then reported his room to the guard. Any prisoner who was slow in getting out of bed was lashed by one of the guards and in addition often struck by the head man of the room. As so many of the prisoners were in a very weak state of health, or were old and infirm (some being as old as seventy years of age) they often did not move with the alacrity which the GERMANS demanded and as a result they were beaten without mercy. After the prisoners had been counted, they washed naked to the waist in the ablution benches in the corridors. They were not provided with soap. They were allowed about two minutes for washing. After this, they had to clean up their rooms and make their beds. All beds had to be made in the GERMAN army fashion with the blankets folded on top on the paillasses. Great importance was attached to the correct making of beds and no breakfast was issued until the guards were satisfied with them. If they were not considered satisfactory, the guards used to show their displeasure by thrashing the prisoners.

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33. The prisoners were escorted to the lavatory where they were allowed to remain for two minutes. This was often the only time during the day when they were allowed to use the lavatory. As many of the prisoners had dysentery they wished to remain in the lavatory for more than two minutes but they were not permitted to do so. Anyone who was considered to be loitering was beaten. Incidentally no lavatory paper was provided.
34. The prisoners were then put to work. Some were employed in the carpenter's shop although most of them worked outside the fort. The outside work consisted of building a large bank round the fort to prevent people from seeing inside; or removing the earth which covered a great deal of the fort; or breaking some of the concrete emplacements into pieces. Picks, shovels and wheelbarrows were provided for this work.
35. During this outside work, the prisoners were often, for no apparent reason, made to do exercises. They were formed up in squads and made to run, lie down, and run again. They even had to get down into puddles of water. They were often lashed for getting their uniform wet or dirty. In addition, the prisoners were made to goose-step. Very often the prisoners carried out these exercises with packs on their backs containing heavy stones, although this was normally reserved as a punishment if the guards thought the prisoners were not working sufficiently fast. The aged or infirm were not excused.
36. If a prisoner wanted to go to the lavatory, he had to ask permission from one of the guards and often stand strictly to attention whilst awaiting the answer. Very often the guards would not answer for a considerable time or refuse permission. If a prisoner who was made to wait fouled his uniform he was punished. All prisoners state this was a regular occurrence.
37. All work and exercises were supervised by the GERMAN and FLEMISH SS Guards who took every opportunity of ill-treating the prisoners. They were helped by some of the head men of the rooms, the names of whom are at Appendix "DD". When a prisoner was spoken to by an officer he was made to stand at attention and he was not allowed to answer back in any way. Some of the ordinary SS used to insist that prisoners also stood to attention when they addressed them. Anyone who answered back was flogged or accused of mutiny and committed to the cells. Work and exercises continued no matter how cold it was and very often when it was wet. When the prisoners got wet through they were sometimes allowed to return to their barrack room but they had no other clothes to change into. The Jews were generally singled out for the worst treatment and they were often flogged unmercifully and were made to undergo every humiliation.
38. No prisoner was allowed to report sick without the permission of one of the guards. Even when a prisoner was flogged so that the wounds on his undernourished body were bleeding, permission had to be obtained to go to the infirmary to see the medical orderly. And that permission was not readily given. If permission was obtained to go to report sick the prisoner was kept waiting by the medical orderly for an indefinite time in the courtyard outside the infirmary. Prisoners were sometimes kept waiting thus for hours and they were completely naked - that being the rule when reporting for a medical inspection. As often as not the prisoner was told to return to his work as there was nothing wrong with him.
39. The only break during the hours of work was for the mid-day meal which took place any time between 1100 hrs to 11:00 hrs or later. If the guards considered that any prisoner had infringed any of the rules or was not working sufficiently hard the mid-day meal was postponed for two or three hours.
40. The prisoners did not normally work after the last meal of the day but remained locked in their rooms. Each room had one small bucket for a night latrine. This was soon filled and after this there was no alternative but to use the floor of the rooms. When this happened the guards invariably beat the prisoners some of whom say that the guards endeavoured to make some unfortunate persons eat their own excreta.

Prisoners confined to the Cells

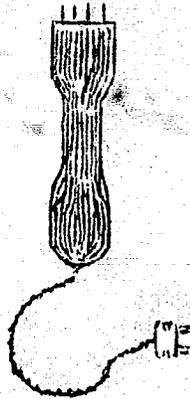
41. At reveille their beds were pinned to the wall or removed from the cell. The only time these prisoners were allowed out of their cells was to empty their latrine buckets which took a matter of three or four minutes. Prisoners in the dark cells had hoods placed over their heads when they were escorted out to empty their buckets. This was to prevent their being recognized by other prisoners and to act as an additional torture. These "cell" prisoners generally did no work at all whilst many of them were kept in manacles, handcuffs and/or shackles. Prisoners in the dark cells were not allowed to lean against the whitewashed walls. If they did so the whitewash came off onto their clothes and when the guards saw it they were beaten.

42. Prisoners who normally lived in the rooms were committed to the cells for the most trivial offence. PAUL LEVY (referred to in Appendix "A", Serial 19) has stated that he was severely flogged with a whip by one of the SS Lieutenants and committed to the dark cells for saying "I'll try" when one of the guards told him to move faster when he was working in the camp grounds. He was told he had "mutinied". He was released on the third day and allowed to return to his room. On his return his fellow-prisoners told him that a parcel had arrived for him. Shortly after his release the SS Lieutenant who had flogged him came to the barrack room and asked him if he had anything to say. LEVY asked whether he could have the parcel which he was told had arrived at the fort for him as it would contain food and he was hungry. The Lieutenant said that there was no parcel and marched him to the office to make sure. The SS in the office said there was no parcel. As a result, the same SS Lieutenant who three days previously had flogged LEVY for saying "I'll try" gave him a large cake. LEVY states that this incomprehensible action made him think that he was in a lunatic asylum.

Interrogations

43. Prisoners were not normally interrogated until they had been in the camp for a month or two, on the principle that their powers of resistance would have decreased during that period. ~~Some~~ Prisoners were ~~never~~ interrogated shortly after their entry. Interrogations were sometimes carried out in the offices to the accompaniment of blows across the face and body. If the prisoner would not talk and the GERMANS particularly wanted to obtain information from him, he was taken to the torture chamber. Here he was generally stripped naked. During these interrogations the prisoner was usually handcuffed and subjected to one of the following tortures:-

- (a) Being hit across the face or body particularly in the region of the sexual organs with a truncheon or cat o' nine tails.
- (b) Being laid across the table and thrashed.
- (c) Being hauled up to the ceiling by means of the pulley referred to in paragraph 13 above and thrashed whilst in mid-air, or released from the ceiling so that he crashed onto the ground, or onto the sharp edges of wooden blocks.
- (d) Being burned on the body with cigar ends.
- (e) Having his fingers crushed in a press.
- (f) Having his body burned with an instrument which was connected to the electric plug in the torture chamber. This instrument which is shown in the sketch consisted of a flat metal circular plate which contained several short needles and which had a handle. It is believed that this instrument was brought to the fort from BRUSSELS or ANTWERP.



44. Women were not excused these tortures. Madame PAQUET in her statement at Appendix "F" gives details of the treatment she received in the torture chamber when she was interrogated whilst she was completely naked. SINGER, the doctor who worked in the infirmary, in his statement at Appendix "G" says that a BELGIAN woman was also beaten up in this torture chamber whilst she was completely naked.
45. Before people could be subjected to torture application had to be made by the Commandant of the Camp to the SS HQ in BRUSSELS, who it is believed had to apply to BERLIN. It is understood that the camp authorities never waited for the reply to their application, but proceeded to torture the victims immediately.

Instruments left behind by the GERMANS

46. The following articles and instruments of torture were found in the camp after the departure of the GERMANS:-
- a) A heavy leather whip.
 - b) A string thong threaded with leaden beads.
 - c) A pair of handcuffs.
 - d) Two pairs of shackles.
 - e) A form of chain handcuffs which can be tightened as required.
47. The Camp moat is at present being drained in order to ascertain whether or not it contains any other instruments which the GERMANS may have thrown away in their hurried departure. Up to date nothing of importance has been found.
48. A press similar to that used as a finger press in BREENDONK was found in a GERMAN HQ in SOIGNIES. It is understood that the press was designed as a clamp for the rudder of an aircraft when it is grounded. Madame PAQUET identifies it as similar to the instrument in which her fingers were crushed (see Appendix "F").

Places of Execution

49. Prisoners who were sentenced to death were generally shot. It appears to have been the custom for the condemned persons to erect the railway sleepers which served as their execution posts. The prisoners were shot from about 15 yards range. Ten railway sleepers have been erected in the fort in the place where prisoners say the shootings took place, the GERMANS having removed the posts before departure.
50. Other prisoners were executed by hanging. The gallows was taken down by the GERMANS before their departure, but a facsimile has been constructed by the BELGIANS on the site of the original and from descriptions given by former prisoners. This gallows is built out-of-doors in a corner made by two walls. It consists of a platform with a trap-door in it which is operated by an iron handle. There are some steps for mounting the platform. Above the platform and resting on the two walls is a horizontal beam from which the condemned persons were hanged. Some ex-prisoners say that chains were used for the hanging and not ropes. Part of this facsimile was found in the fort - namely the steps and the iron handle. According to the cook MOENS the gallows was erected by the smith CARLEER about April 1944 (see Appendix "BB"). DE SCHUTTER the electrician states that CARLEER made the iron work and the wood work was done by the prisoners themselves (see Appendix "Y"). AMELINCKX, the former pig-man states that the gallows was made by five prisoners (see Appendix "AA").
51. It is not known how many people were executed. MOENS states that the number was at least 350 and that it included a FRENCH woman (the wife of an ENGLISH officer) who was shot some seven or eight weeks before the GERMANS fled (see Appendix "BB"). LE MAITTE states that he has seen more than eighty persons leave for the execution post including HERMAN, the Chief Postman of BRUSSELS, MARTIAL VAN SCHNELLE the Olympic athlete and also a blind man (see Appendix "D"). FRANKIGNOULE says that three persons were hanged on 10 May 1943, including one FRAITEUR (see Appendix "H"). VICTOR TRIDO says that twenty men were shot on 6 January 1943 and twenty-one on the 13 January 1943 (see Appendix "A" Serial 29).

52. SINGER states that over 300 people were shot and about 15 people hanged between March 1941 and March 1944 (see Appendix "G"). None of the dead, whether they were executed or died from other causes was buried in the fort, except perhaps temporarily. They were taken away to an unknown destination. Some hundreds of bodies are reported to have been buried in a secluded wood and arrangements are at present being made by the BELGIAN police to verify this information. All the dead were put into crudely and cheaply made coffins whether or not they were executed. The coffins were not made in the fort. There are still a few coffins to be seen there.

Number of Prisoners who died in the Camp

53. It is not known how many prisoners died in the Camp as a result of ill-treatment. SINGER, the AUSTRIAN doctor says that over 500 men died during his stay at the Camp from 3 March 1941 to 31 March 1944 (Appendix "G"). This figure includes over 300 people who were shot and approximately 15 people who were hanged. It thus seems that about 200 people died in the Camp in three years as a result of their ill-treatment. In addition, however, it must be realized that many of the sick were removed to other hospitals (e.g. in ANTWERP) and no doubt many died there.

Escapes

54. Very few prisoners managed to escape. In 1941 a Jew managed to escape according to information received from Madame VERDICT (see Appendix "W"). One prisoner who tried to escape was killed by the guards. Details of this are in Appendix "EE".

Charges, Trials and Releases.

55. Many of the prisoners never had any charge preferred 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. Sometimes after a period of weeks or months a prisoner might be released, even though he had been flogged and subjected to every kind of brutality during his detention. Very often prisoners who were to be released were taken off work and kept in the infirmary in order to give them an opportunity to recover some of their strength and for their wounds to heal. Every prisoner who was released had to sign a statement which reads as follows:-

UNDERTAKING

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

I understand that my release is governed by these conditions and that I am liable to fresh forfeiture of my freedom if I do not carry out this undertaking.

I also declare hereby that I shall make no claim in respect of any measures which have 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 GERMAN Security Police.

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

Visit to BREENDONK.

57. It is suggested that readers of this report visit this camp as it is impossible to convey the real atmosphere of this place on paper. There they will see scratched on the walls of the rooms and cells, calendars, names, messages and drawings of the head of Christ. Many of these messages and drawings were scratched out by the GERMANS but many still remain.

TIR NATIONAL

58. This is a large barracks with rifle ranges. It is in BRUSSELS. Nurse CAVELL was executed at the TIR NATIONAL during the 1914-18 war. Her statue which was erected outside the barracks after the last war was destroyed by the GERMANS in 1940. It is estimated that about a thousand people were shot here during the GERMAN occupation of this war, the victims being brought from different prisons throughout BELGIUM. The prisoners were tied to post and shot from a range of about 15 yards. The Director, Major WASTELAIN, found three of these posts "in situ" after the GERMANS had left. He also found in a small shed some fifty posts ready as replacements.
59. There are two cemeteries at the TIR NATIONAL where some 360 people are buried. Major WASTELAIN has found a list of the people buried in one of these cemeteries and has thus been able to identify the graves. The graves in the other cemetery are marked with numbers only. It must be remembered, however, that all the victims were not buried in these two cemeteries, many of the bodies being taken off to unknown destinations.

PARTICULARS OF GERMANS AND COLLABORATORS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT.

60. With regard to BREENDONK, reference has already been made to the names of the permanent staff (paragraph 14 and Appendix "V"), the names of the civilians employed there (paragraph 15 and Appendix "X") and also the head men of the rooms (paragraph 37 and Appendix "DD"). The names of all other GERMANS and Collaborators mentioned in this report or in any of the appendices are shown at Appendix "CC".

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Some of the people who were imprisoned and ill-treated or tortured or killed by the GERMANS

PART I - Imprisoned in BREENDONK Concentration Camp

Serial	Name and Address	Remarks
1.	M. H. BOUCHERY	Ex-Minister of Transport and first Vice-President of the House of Representatives in BELGIUM. Died in BRUSSELS in November, 1944, as a result of ill-treatment during his imprisonment.
2.	O. VAN KEERSBEEK	Councillor of MALINES and ex-member of Parliament. Died two weeks after his release as a result of ill-treatment.
3.	A. HEINDELS, 11, Kolvenierstraet, VULSVOORDE.	Communitistic Senator. Now a prisoner in GERMANY.
4.	J. BORCEWINS, 154, Rue de Preres Trynans, TUMIEE.	A member of Parliament. Now a prisoner in GERMANY.
5.	G. FROMONT	A member of Parliament and Burgomaster of WILLEBROECK. Was imprisoned from 1 Feb - 28 June, 1941. He was accused of sabotage. He lost 44 lbs during his imprisonment. He saw a JEW beaten to death. He himself was beaten many times and made to crawl using his elbows only. He does not know why he was released.
6.	JACQUES OCHS	Director of the Academy of Fine Arts, LIEGE. Was imprisoned in BREENDONK from 6 Dec 1940 to 20 Feb 1942. His crime was being a Jew.
7.	FRANZ FISCHER Place Gambinne de Meux, BRUSSELS.	A member of Parliament, Leader of the Socialist Party and Honorary President of the BRUSSELS Press. (Serials 1 - 6 were imprisoned in BREENDONK at the same time as M. FISCHER). M. FISCHER was only imprisoned in BREENDONK for eight weeks in 1941. For his account of life in the camp see Appendix "B".
8.	A. DENNIS, 23, Rue Joseph Berger, GENAPPE.	Son of Lt-General DENNIS, a former Minister of War. Is a notary and President of the GENAPPE section of the BELGIAN RED CROSS. For his account of life in the camp see Appendix "C".

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Serial	Name and Address	Remarks
9.	C. LEMAITRE, 6, Boulevard d'Ypres, BRUSSELS.	Postman. Was imprisoned with 41 other BRUSSELS postmen on 1 Sep 42. Was released after 9½ months imprisonment. For his account of life in the camp and his complaint to the Public Prosecutor, Court of Justice, BRUSSELS, see Appendix "D".
10.	P. E. MERANS.	Head Postman of BRUSSELS. Executed.
11.	MARTIAL VAN SCHNELLE	An Olympic swimmer. Was a member of the Belgian underground movement. Was imprisoned tortured and executed. Was executed whilst LEMAITRE was in BREENDONK (Serial 9).
12. 13. 14.	PIERRE CROCKAERT JACQUES BONNEVILLE J. LISSEN	} - BRUSSELS postmen imprisoned with LEMAITRE (Serial 9). They all died from blows received from FERNAND WEISS, one of the BELGIAN SS Guards.
15.	SERASTIER DEGREEF	Sorter in BRUSSELS post office, imprisoned with LEMAITRE. Died from blows received from FERNAND WEISS.
16.	ALBERT DE FONDE	BRUSSELS postman. Died as a result of ill-treatment.
17.	JEAN VAN DOVEL, of ANTWERP	Died of blows received from FERNAND WEISS.
18.	LOUIS SPANBOCK, 2, Avenue de Conge, BRUSSELS.	Was imprisoned in BREENDONK for 13 months from 3 Oct. 1940. He has a small scar on his head and is deaf in one ear as a result of being beaten. His wife is at present a prisoner in GERMANY and his small child died as a result of neglect by the GERMANS. He was in BREENDONK with PAUL LEVY (Serial 19). His prison number was 18, PAUL LEVY's was 19. SPANBOCK is a Jew.
19.	PAUL LEVY, 442, Avenue George Henri	He was born in BRUSSELS in 1910. He is well-known broadcaster in BELGIUM being chief editor of the Commentators Service of the Belgian Broadcasting Agency. He was a professor of the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Belgique and a member of the Royal Central Commission for Statistics. He was arrested by the Gestapo on 18 September 1940. He was accused of (a) Being anti-German before the War (b) Having reported the May 1940 campaign in an anti-German manner (c) Having written an injurious letter to the GERMAN Authorities when he refused a GERMAN request to broadcast. He was sent to BREENDONK on 29 November 1940 and released on 20 November

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Serial	Name and Address	Remarks
19 (Contd).	PAUL LEVY	1941 after a D.B.C. announcement that he had died from ill-treatment during captivity. He was transferred to the Camp infirmary before his release. He escaped from BELGIUM in April 1942 and made his way to ENGLAND arriving in July 1942. He returned to BELGIUM after the liberation, having written articles, given lectures and done broadcasts on BREENDONK during his stay in ENGLAND. An account of his experiences is at Appendix "E".
20	ANTOINE ABDELOOS 627 B Chaussee De Mons Anderlecht, BRUSSELS.	A garage proprietor. Was imprisoned for 14½ months because he had sent some of his cars to help the Red cause during the SPANISH revolution. Weighed 5 stone 10 lbs when released in November 1941. When he arrived in BREENDONK he together with some other prisoners were kept standing in the prison yard at attention for 48 hours. No toilet facilities were available. Those who fell with fatigue remained on the ground and were not removed. He saw many of his fellow prisoners killed, i.e. one boy who was struck by a GERMAN, attacked his tormentor and was immediately shot; one Jew was knocked on the head whilst working and killed for no apparent reason.
21	Mme. D. PAQUET, 28 Rue du Zephyr Woluwe St.Lambert, BRUSSELS.	The wife of a BELGIAN officer who was killed early in the war. She was arrested in August 1940 as a result of a DR DECORTES having declared that he had seen a BRITISH and FRENCH officer in civilian clothes at her house. After being interrogated she was released seven days after arrest. She was re-arrested in December 1942, and sent to BREENDONK. It is believed that only seven women were ever sent to BREENDONK, she being one of them. No women wardresses were there and she was looked after only by men. She was sentenced to death and sent to GERMANY but was sent back to BRUSSELS for further questioning. She was in hospital and was liberated when the British Army arrived. An extract from a statement she has made is at Appendix "F". There are photographs
22	LOUIS WEILL 130 Rue du Marche, Schaerbeek, BRUSSELS	Was Reuters correspondent in BRUSSELS. He was imprisoned in BREENDONK from 12 May 1941 to 29 May 1942 during which time he attempted to commit suicide (by cutting a vein in his wrist) rather than endure the ill-treatment he was receiving. He was released owing to the fact that he developed tuberculosis. He is a very sick man having a tube in his side. He is providing a photograph which he had taken on his release from BREENDONK. He is a Jew.

Serial	Name and address.	Remarks.
23	<p>MAURICE RIME 21 Rue de la Procession Anderlecht, BRUSSELS</p>	<p>Was imprisoned along with 70 other men from the Ministry of Labour. He was kept in BREENDONK from 2 April to 1 June 1943, during which time he was ill-treated. On one occasion he was given a severe thrashing across the back. He was nearly dead when he was released and did not expect to recover. He is still being treated by a doctor.</p>
24	<p>ALPHONSE FAECK 13 Rue Martha BRUSSELS.</p>	<p>Was in BREENDONK from 2 April to 23 June 1943. He was a tram conductor. He does not know why he was imprisoned or why he was released. His physical and mental condition were so bad that he was unable to speak for some months after his release. He is still too ill to work.</p>
25	<p>EMILE MARONAND 20 Rue Ronsard Anderlecht, BRUSSELS</p>	<p>A hunch-back now aged 61 who is General Secretary of the Workers Association. He was imprisoned from 2 April 1942 to 14 November 1943 for refusing to work for the GERMANS. He was placed on a table and his hands and ankles bound; then he was whipped until he was black and blue. He saw one man who was too weak to lift any more stones, fall over. One of the GERMAN guards jumped on his stomach until he was dead. He weighed 5 stones at the time of his release.</p>
26	<p>ALOIS DE PAEPE 256 Rue du Tilleul Schaerbeek BRUSSELS</p>	<p>A poor man who is now 70 years of age. He was imprisoned for four months in 1941 from 22 July - 22 November. He belongs to no political party and has no idea why he was taken into custody. His ankle was broken by a blow from a rifle. He has terrible scars on his thigh which are a legacy of the camp. His stories of ill-treatment correspond with those received from other prisoners. He was never interrogated and no charge was preferred against him.</p>
27	<p>- BROUHE 69 Rue Antoine Dreart St. Gilles, BRUSSELS.</p>	<p>A Russian who refused to work for the GERMANS. He is still in bed but is slowly recovering.</p>

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Serial	Name and address.	Remarks.
28	DR. ADOLPHE SINGER 53 Rue de la Levure Ixelles, BRUSSELS.	An Austrian doctor who was in BREENDONK from 3 March 1941 to 31 March 1944 and was employed in the camp infirmary for about a year and a half. See Appendix "G" for notes taken at two interviews with Dr. SINGER.
29	VICTOR TRIDO Commissionnaire de Police LA BOUVERIE	Was in BREENDONK from 31 December 1942 until April 1943 being accused of sabotage. His personal belongings were stolen in the camp. He was kicked by DE BODT, the S.S. guard, and had a big wound on his leg which refused to heal. He was beaten practically every day. On three occasions he was singled out for special punishment: on the first, he received twenty strokes with the lash from the S.S. WEISS and was left covered with blood; on the second, he received fifteen strokes with a lash and fifteen strokes with a rod from the S.S. WEISS and DE BODT; on the third, he was placed between the shafts of a barrow and beaten for twenty minutes until he was covered with blood. He states that twenty men were shot on 6 January 1943 and twenty one on 13 January 1943. He states that he saw about eleven men buried alive one day in February or March 1943. He is publishing a book on his experiences in the camp.
30	T. FRANKIGNOULE, 24 Rue de Perme St. Gilles, BRUSSELS	Was imprisoned in BREENDONK from 2 April to 21 May 1943, after which he was transferred to the CITADELLE DE HUY where he remained three months. For an account of his experiences see Appendix "H".
31	WATERE VAN HOVE 99 Avenue de Roodabake Scharbeck BRUSSELS.	BRUSSELS Employed on the BREENDONK trans. He was in BREENDONK from 2 April until August 1943. He had been selling newspapers for the resistance movement. He was very badly treated and has terrible scars on his body which will not heal up owing to his blood being in such a bad state. He was in the Torture Chamber once during which time he was stripped naked and beaten. He saw the pulley in the Torture Chamber (See paragraph 13 & 42 of the report). He saw many dying and others who were shot. A man hanged himself during the time he was there rather than endure the hardships of the camp.

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Serial	Name and address.	Remarks
32	Major STIENS STIENS	A regular officer of the BELGIAN Army who was imprisoned in BREENDONK for 4-5 months. He was sent to GERMANY in February 1944 (See statement by A. DENIS at Appendix "C" final page).
33	ALBERT VAN ROY	Town Clerk of WILLEBROECK. Imprisoned from 1 February - 28 June 1941 with the Durgomaster (see Serial 5). He was subjected to the usual treatment. His hands were scratched by one of the guards and the wounds turned septic as he could not get any treatment. Whilst he was imprisoned his house was looted by the Garrison. The Commandant stole his car when he fled at the beginning of September 1944.
34	VICTOR VAN HAMME, 162, Avenue Rogier, BRUSSELS.	He was arrested with forty one other postmen. He was detained in BREENDONK from 1 Sept. 1942 until 1 February, 1943. He weighed 76 kilos (11 stone 13 lbs) before he entered the camp and only 42 kilos (6 stone 9 lbs) when he was released. His health is bad and he now has tuberculosis. He states:- " I was arrested without reason and taken to BREENDONK where the GESTAPO accused me of being a Communist which was completely untrue as I had never belonged to the Communist Movement. I was beaten there nearly every day and one day I had to carry a heavy bag of stones with which I had to exercise until I could no longer lift myself from the ground. I was then beaten until blood issued from my mouth and ears. I received a blow from a shovel which left a scar on my head and from which I still feel pain at the present time. I also received blows in the region of my thighs which to-day prevents me from walking fast. " Photographs are available showing VAN HAMME after his release.
35	E. EMILE SCIEUR, 27 Rue Massart, MONCREAU-SUR-SAA BRE.	Entered BREENDONK on 2 December, 1942, and left on 17 December, 1943. For details of his stay see Appendix "I". Photographs are available showing marks on SCIEUR's legs, etc.
36	RAYMOND HANARD, 422 Chaussee de Bruxelles, BRUSSELS.	Aged 50. Was imprisoned at BREENDONK from 23 Dec 1942 to 3 Jul 1944. He lost 52 lbs in weight during his imprisonment. He was accused of terrorism. He was struck frequently. Photographs are available showing HANARD after his release.
37.	EMILE RENARD Police Inspector of JUMET	He was imprisoned in BREENDONK on 12 December, 1942 and finally released on 3 July, 1945. He was accused of being a terrorist and hiding arms and ammunition. An extract from his statement is given at Appendix "J". Photographs are available showing marks on RENARD's body.

PART II - IMPRISONED IN PLACES OTHER THAN BREENDONK

Serial	Name and Address	Remarks
38	PAUL DE RUDDER, 130 Rue des Palais, BRUSSELS.	A young man who was arrested on 16 March, 1944 on a charge of espionage. He was interrogated and tortured. He was released from BEVERLOO Camp near BRUSSELS on the liberation. For an account of his experiences see Appendix "K". There is a photograph showing scars on his legs. He was a Member of the Underground Movement.
39	Major VAN ROOSBROECK, 96 Rue Paul Devigne, Schaerbeck, BRUSSELS. (Now in No.10 Auxiliary Hospital, Rue de la Poste, BRUSSELS)	Was arrested in May 1942 and accused of having organized the departure of BELGIANS to ENGLAND. He was locked up in ST GILLES PRISON and later MERKSPLAS. He was released in May 1943. Three weeks after being released he was re-arrested and locked up in ST GILLES. He was then sent to MERKSPLAS and later to the WATTEN Camp near ST OMER. In all places he was tortured and subjected to brutal treatment. He was released in Jan 1944. Since this time he has been in hospital. It is improbable that he will recover. For an account of his experiences see Appendix "I". There are two photographs showing VAN ROOSBROECK before and after imprisonment.
40	HUBERT GENIS, 9, Rue de Duc, BRUSSELS.	Was arrested on 18 Feb 1944. He was interrogated at HQ of the Field Police in Rue Traversiere, BRUSSELS, and later transferred to the ST ANNE'S BARRACKS at LAEKEN. He was tortured. He was in the train in BRUSSELS station which contained prisoners whom the GERMANS intended to take to GERMANY. Owing to the speed of the Allied advance and sabotage the train did not start (See Report Paragraph 4). All the GERMANS fled and the prisoners were freed. For an account of his experiences see Appendix "M".
41	R DEFONSECA 20 Rue de Montenegro, BRUSSELS.	A police officer at ST GILLES. In 1942 and again in 1943 he was arrested as a hostage and imprisoned at LOUVAIN and at HUY. Was re-arrested in Feb 1944 when convalescing from an operation. He was taken to ST ANNE'S BARRACKS, LAEKEN and tortured. He was on the prisoners' train with GENIS (Serial 40). For an account of his experiences see Appendix "N".
42	Mme AULOTTE, 354 Chaussee de Bruxelles, Forest, BRUSSELS	She was denounced by a BELGIAN, seized by the GESTAPO in March 1944 and tortured. Was in the prisoners' train for GERMANY which did not start (See Serial 40). For an account of the tortures see Appendix "O". There are two photographs of Mme. AULOTTE, one showing the scars on her legs.

000657

Serial	Name and Address	Remarks
43	Lieut. Baron ALBERT GREINDL, Succite de l'Etat, Room 403, Shell Bdg. BRUSSELS	He was caught in FRANCE after coming from ENGLAND. Was imprisoned at PERTEGMAN and tortured. Was later transferred to WILSNES near PARIS where he was again tortured. Was released on 18 August when PARIS was liberated. For an account of his experiences see Appendix "F".
44	JIMN BAPTISTE CHARRIN, 52, Rue de la Borne, BRUSSELS.	Was denounced to the GESTAPO by a BELGIAN as an agent of the Allies. He was tortured in ST GILLES Prison, BRUSSELS. He was on the train bound for GERMANY which failed to start (See Serial No.40). For an account of his experiences see Appendix "G". There are some photographs of scars on his body. He was in the Underground Movement.
45	HUBERT A. H. LAUDE, Rector of the Colonial University, ANTWERP.	He was denounced to the GESTAPO as a member of the underground movement and arrested in ANTWERP on 26 August, 1944. He was condemned to death on 1 September. On the 3 Sep he was put on a train for GERMANY where he was to have been shot. Owing to no engine being available to pull this train and the speed of the Allied advance he was liberated when BRITISH troops entered ANTWERP (See paragraph 4 of the report). For details of this story see Appendix "R". Mr. LAUDE was disabled in the 1914-18 war.
46.	LEON JOSEPH ERNULD, 107 Rue Gerard, Ixelles, BRUSSELS.	Arrested by the Secret Field Police on 9 March, 1944, being accused of receiving arms by parachute. He was liberated by the arrival of the BRITISH troops on 5 September 1944. For an account of his experiences see Appendix "S".
47.	EMILE LABBE, 23 Rue Jules Bouillon, BRUSSELS.	Arrested in Nov 1943 and taken to ST GILLES Prison. Interrogated and brutally treated. For an account of his experiences see Appendix "T". Mr. LABBE is now 34 years old.
48.	ABIE JULES QUINTEET, 7 Rue Grand, PAINURAGES, near MONS.	Was arrested on 25 June 1943 and charged with assisting parachutists. He was freed from the train in BRUSSELS station which was to convey off prisoners to GERMANY (See Serial 40 above). For an account of his experiences see Appendix "U". There is a photograph of the abbot. His name must not be used in the press.

000658

STATEMENT MADE BY FRANK MESTER ON BREENDONK
CONCENTRATION CAMP, BELGIUM
(Translated from the French).

General Considerations

I have been asked to write a detailed report on the living conditions and the treatment of prisoners interned in the concentration camp of BREENDONK, during the GERMAN occupation of BELGIUM. Obviously, in this modest account, a complete picture cannot be given, nor is it even possible to give the approximately correct figure of the numerous victims of the barbaric measures that were incarcerated in this prison; of those who succumbed as a result of the harsh and difficult slave work that was inflicted on them; of the brutalities, beatings and tortured they had to suffer; of the systematic malnutrition that made them perish, and particularly of the purely physical tortures that caused so many deaths among them. Nor am I counting those who were shot or hanged, often without any trial whatever. But the number of victims of this hard and terrifying imprisonment, that lasted for more than four years, is surely in the thousands, and the number of those who perished at BREENDONK or after having left it, is in the hundreds. It is possible, and in any case highly desirable, that the BELGIAN Government should be able to make an enquiry into this question. Meanwhile, it was morally necessary that the authoritative voice of those who were able to reconstruct the memory of their stay at BREENDONK, should be heard. Already a large quantity of literature of authentic, documentary statements is in the course of production, and the author of this account will publish, in the course of the next few days, a volume of souvenirs of his captivity in that prison. (The Hell of BREENDONK - Scenes relived. "Labor" Edition, at BRUSSELS). This is therefore less of a complete and detailed report, than the relating of a few episodes that happened in captivity, and quoted here more as examples, with which I would like to make known to those in GREAT BRITAIN, who wish to take an interest in these painful and tragic facts dealing with the reign of cruelty and terror that the NAZI domination imposed on the BELGIAN people.

What was the prison of BREENDONK? An ancient, abandoned fort, on the first military defences of ANTWERP. Situated alongside the BRUSSELS-ANTWERP "autostrade", about a kilometre from the large industrial district of WILLEBROECK. This military building had been abandoned owing to its strategical uselessness and its unhealthiness, for the antique casemats were cold and damp and allowed water to penetrate.

It had first been decided, at the beginning of the German occupation to make it into a concentration camp for the Jews whom the GESTAPO were tracking down everywhere, and with whom they had filled to overflowing the BELGIAN prisons. But very soon hostages were also brought there, political prisoners and BELGIAN personalities who were considered undesirable. And then when GERMANY declared war on the SOVIET Republic, communists or anyone with any kind of communist sympathies were sent there. Among this number were some who had no communist sympathies whatever, but who had been denounced as such to the NAZIS, mostly anonymously. For my part, I was incarcerated in BREENDONK for more than two months, after which I was transferred for eight weeks to the cellular prison of ST. GILLES, near BRUSSELS, without having been tried or even questioned. For this was the custom in these imprisonments. The majority of those miserable beings who were there were in complete ignorance as to why they were held. There were some who remained there months and years. Hundreds of others, after a fairly long stay, were sent to camps in GERMANY. And very many came out of that hell in coffins, they had not been able to withstand the horrible treatment, the wounds and illnesses not cared for, or they had just simply been killed.

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The Prisoners

It would be hard for me to name all the personalities who underwent this hard and cruel detention at BREEENDONK. I only want to remember certain names among them, those that I met during my own captivity. These were:- M.M. BOUCHERY, ex Minister of Transport and first Vice-President of the House of Representatives of BELGIUM; VAN KERSBEEK, Councillor at MALINES and ex member of Parliament; the communist senator EYNDELS and BOTTEMANS the Member of Parliament, the Advocate General and the Chief of the MALINES Police Force, FROMONT the M.P. and bourgmaster of WILLERBROEK, the President of the Polish Club of BELGIUM, the famous artist JACQUES OCHS, director of the Academy of Fine Arts at LIEGE, a Belgian Officer whom I am told was GENERAL LANGLIER, the Reverend Father GOUBERT, Director of the Catholic Institute "Arts et Motiors", at LILLE, M. LEVY, the most popular of all broadcasters in BELGIUM, etc. All these personalities had to undergo the very same regime as all the other prisoners, had to do the hardest of all forced labour, had the same under-nourishment and suffered the same bad treatment. M. BOUCHERY is still ill as a result of his ill-treatment and sufferings, (Note:- he has died since this statement was written) and his colleague from MALINES, M. VAN KERSBEEK died sometime after his liberation, worn out by the privations and physical sufferings as well as the moral ones.

The Hunger Diet

Everything was organised to bring about that slow death caused by utter exhaustion. Here is a list of the food that we were given:- for a whole day two pieces of dry bread, one at five in the morning, the other at five in the afternoon. This represented all told a weight of about 100 grs; in addition at two o'clock, a bowl of soup. And that was all. During a short time the prisoners had been authorised to have sent to them, from outside, parcels of food of six kilos a fortnight, but when I arrived at the camp this "favour" had been abolished, the excuse being given that communist literature could have been hidden inside these parcels. In this way the prisoners could actually be seen losing weight, but those who were caught eating grass, like sheep do, to satisfy their hunger, were put into solitary confinement, I being among that number.

Forced Labour

All prisoners, regardless of who and what they were, from six in the morning, in shifts of two hours, had to accomplish, without interruption, without stopping for one single second and without lifting their heads, the most difficult labour. They had to level off banks with shovels, push trucks laden with earth or do the same work with wheel-barrow, they had to carry large stones, extracted from the bank, and finally, a job reserved for the very oldest and most infirm, the breaking of bricks into small pieces. All this punctuated by beatings with whips and sticks, noted out by the supervisors and soldiers when the work was not progressing quickly enough. For hours on end one could only hear the brutal yells that were supposed to stimulate this forced labour, one could also hear the dull thuds of the sticks connecting with the bodies, and the painful moanings of the victims. Later on, another torture was reserved for those who were too weak to carry out the work. Cells still to be seen at BREEENDONK a little larger than telephone cabins, were built for them, and they were obliged to remain standing for twelve consecutive hours, and if they weakened they were beaten.

At times, particularly when we were undergoing a collective punishment, in which the camp's three hundred prisoners had to continue their work after their eight hours, men could be seen to fall like flies and their comrades would pick them up and take them to an unclean casemate, where all the sick were piled and which, ironically was called the infirmary. But more often than not, in the early morning, one could see prisoners sadly carrying oblong boxes: they were the coffins of the unfortunate ones who had succumbed to similar sufferings. After some time, they were not even worried about giving these victims a decent burial. They were all buried together in the camp very secretly. It was thus that fifty Jewish prisoners were buried anonymously, under a small hillock that can still be seen at BREENDONK.

Wounds, Murders and Tortures.

Have I said that punches and kicks were the rule in this accursed camp? Sometimes was added, under the pretext of a collective punishment, the denial of all food for a whole day. But all this was nothing to what happened in that back room, in the guard house, which one only passed with shudders. It was there that the original cells were built, and prisoners were thrown in them who were considered insolent, or who at work, had not obeyed the brutal orders that were shouted to them and which they usually did not understand since they were always in German. I got to know these cells the very same day on which I was liberated. I was made to go through a room with large, barred cages all around it, similar to cages that are found in zoos. When I passed the poor prisoners gripped the bars of their cages to try to enter into conversation with me. But I also was put in a cell, without light and without air where I could not hold myself straight. This torture luckily only lasted an hour. By what follows, I was able to admit, as anyone who visits BREENDONK must admit, the executioners had perfected their methods. Narrow solitary confinement cells have been built, so small that one could hardly stand, a room for "reflections", where to get confessions, the unfortunate ones had to undergo first the cold bath, then the boiling hot one and finally there was a torture room with all the implements for maiming the flesh and breaking the bones complete with a gutter to let the blood run away. It is quite true that close by all this, in a sinister enclosure, there are the execution posts and the scaffolds for those that were hanged. He who will not believe this, let him go and see for himself.

The Executioners

If I were asked to denounce the culprits of these atrocities, I would answer that in the very first place, the most guilty one is the regime. The most humane of the officers who guarded us, assured me that it was by similar methods, in their own concentration camps, that the NAZIS had been able to quell the thousands of GERMAN adversaries, of whom they had rid the REICH. But it was obvious that the actual executioners in this abominable system of repression at BREENDONK put a sadistic seal in their work and they also are held responsible. Are names wanted? You can well imagine that our torturers did not identify themselves to please us. The Camp Commandant was a certain MAJOR SCHEIDT, a man who was impassive and insensitive, who would pass by us with a disdainful air and who did not seem to be worried by our martyrdom. But he had given the reins to a brute who directed all the labour, he would shout insults and would swear in the face of everyone, he would strike the prisoners with his riding whip or with his gloves, and it was he who gave out all those orders of torture. This horrible and grotesque character went under the name of LIEUTENANT FOLSOM. Is it his true name? I could not say, but he remained a sufficient number of years at BREENDONK for him to be identified. Try to seize him in GERMANY and make him pay the price for the immense number of his crimes against humanity. Crimes that he committed in the camp of famine and torture.

I certify that this account is authentic and true.

(Signed) FRANZ FISCHER.

Belgian Member of Parliament,

Honorary President of the Brussels Press.

Notes by the compiler of this report:-

- (i) No definite proof of bodies being buried in BREENDONK has been produced.
- (ii) It is considered that Lieutenant "FOLSOM" is really Lieutenant FRAUSS.

APPENDIX 'C'

STATEMENT made by A. DENIS regarding the
Reprisals Camp of BREENDONK.
(Translated from the French)

GERMAN WAYS. Dante in his work entitled "THE INFERNO" says in so many words: "Abandon hope all ye who enter here".

The Fort of BREENDONK was destined to receive those political detainees classified by the GERMANS in the category of Terrorists. This category included in their mind every type of resistance to the occupants and particularly the pro-British, who wore on their prison uniform a special sign (white and red bar), the other detainees wearing different signs according to their classification. This visual sign enabled the gaolers to inflict on the different detainees every kind of annoyance and cruelty without having to examine the particular case of each one.

There were two types of detention: (1) complete isolation (2) communal. The workers in the latter category were compelled to do the most laborious tasks under inhuman conditions; loading wagons (about thirty a day) to be conducted and unloaded for filling up pits under the guard of the German and Belgian Nazis (V N V-Flemish and Rexist Walloons) who were provided with lashes with which they beat up the detainees. When to their mind a detainee did not work fast enough, as a punishment they placed on his back an army pack filled with bricks and weighing about thirty kilos, with which, under the blows of the lash, they had to do the same work as the others. These unfortunates were drilled and martyred continually; they wore clogs and had to march to attention before the guards, jumping in the air at each step.

THE LIFE OF DETAINEES IN COMPLETE ISOLATION. (Solitary confinement). Brought to the Fort handcuffed, the detainee was taken to an office where he was searched and where every object in his possession was taken away from him. All these operations, which took place at the Fort, were done with the face to the wall against which for the slightest thing he was knocked by a blow in the neck. The search finished, a blue sack, without any opening and descending as far as the belt, was placed on the head of the detainee who was conducted by an S.S. to a cell.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CELLS. Area 1 metre by 2, only one opening: a door, with a small peep-hole, and provided with an outside bolt padlocked. The ceiling of the cells was formed by a grate which allowed to penetrate the air already fouled by those other detainees who lived communally. A plank fixed to the wall by a hook (which manipulated from the outside of the cell rendered it mobile and allowed it to be lowered to form a bed) constituted along with a bucket the entire furniture of the cell. It was constantly damp, water percolating from the walls. In the extension of the central passage from which the cells jutted off were two windows, closed and blacked-out in such a manner that neither air nor daylight could penetrate.

A few hours after entering the cell the detainee was conducted, as indicated above, to the clothing store where his clothes were taken from him and where he received a pair of trousers and a cap (which it was forbidden to wear but had to be carried in the belt of the trousers), also an army jacket bearing the signs referred to above and his prison number in large figures and in addition, a pull-over, a blanket and a hand towel. After this procedure, the detainee was re-conducted back to his cell. Only in his cell could the detainee rid himself of his pack which he handed over to the Nazis who came for it.

LIFE OF THE PRISONER. Reveille at 6 a.m. with immediate fixing of the plank to the wall. From reveille until bed-time, which was at 8 p.m., that is 14 hours without being able either to sit down or squat or lean against the wall, the prisoner was obliged to remain standing, the guard opening at every moment the peephole of the door and each time the prisoner had to stand to attention and cry out "Eins". The suffering caused by the fatigue was indescribable and had a very bad effect on the health. Fifty strokes of the rod was the immediate punishment for any breach of the rules. At 7.30 a.m., the prisoner received a bowl of so-called coffee which with that given him at 5 p.m. was the only drink given him during the entire day. Suffering from thirst was permanent. At 8.30 a.m. the S.S. took the prisoners from their cells, one at a time, and conducted them to the latrines to empty their buckets; to go there, it was necessary to follow various interior passages where the prisoner was beaten up both by his own warder and the warder of the preceding or following prisoner. Certain of these warders forced their prisoner to strike another prisoner with the bucket he was carrying. The NAZI warders used to hit their prisoners in the face with their fists, kick their bodies and strike them with chains, pieces of wood etc. About 11 a.m. the principal meal of the day, composed of a bowl of soup, was distributed. At 5 p.m. the prisoner received a bowl of ersatz coffee, a ration of bread, a potato or a salted sardine and the equivalent of a thimble-full of butter.

The food was prepared by the prisoners but furnished by the BELGIAN authorities, who did what they could, but not only was the quantity totally insufficient but also the quality. At 8 p.m. the plank was unscrewed and the prisoner could at last rest. The prisoner left his cell only to empty his bucket (during which time he was beaten up regularly) at that time and before returning to his cell he could in a fashion wash himself at the ablutions installed in one of the passages. In order to do so, the prisoner rid himself of his sack, rapidly threw his jacket on the ground and put his head under the tap, not even having the time to wash his hands, for the NAZI warder considered this was all that was required. Whilst this took place the prisoners face was against the wall, so he was not able to recognise the guard who came along and continued to beat him up. Replacing the sack on his head, picking up the bucket with one hand and his jacket with the other, the prisoner was led back to his cell under the blows of the NAZI warder.

Several times a week both the cell and the prisoner were searched by three NAZIS, who took advantage of each occasion to beat up the prisoner thoroughly, this being in addition to the daily punishment. Once a week the prisoner received some clean linen which was in rags, and was conducted with a sack on the head, to the showers, which he passed through by himself so as not to be able to see any other prisoner and where he had to put on his clothes whilst he was still wet, as insufficient time was allowed for washing himself.

Any relaxation supposedly humanitarian only took place for form's sake. Each prisoner dreaded having to leave his cell for he knew the ill-treatment which awaited him.

At the time of his entry to the Fort, the prisoner had a so-called medical examination by the GERMAN M.O., the examination lasting four seconds. The prisoner, naked but with his head covered by a sack, passed through a passage and across an open yard, where after waiting, he was brought before the doctor. The doctor merely made the prisoner open his mouth and applied his stethoscope in the neighbourhood of the heart; never had the prisoner an opportunity of being looked after by a doctor either for illness or wounds contracted at the camp.

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The prisoner was generally held 7 to 8 weeks before being interrogated, this period being intended to weaken him physically, so that his moral resistance would be less when the NAZI officials of the Gestapo came to the camp to interrogate the prisoners. These interrogations were carried out in the presence of NAZIS of the camp who were there to assist the interrogators in their mission, that is to say, to make the prisoners talk by striking them with a whip on the head and the face and all over the body, including the groin. The stubborn prisoners were taken to the torture rooms situated in the cellars of the Fort. The sufferings of these unfortunates was such that, from their cells, the prisoners heard them scream and moan inhumanly, sometimes for hours.

Furthermore, in the Fort were a number of ferocious police dogs. The NAZI conductors saw that the prisoners passed near these dogs and were bitten each time by them. During my first night at the Fort, a prisoner two cells away from mine managed to get out of his cell, intending to escape or die; he was caught five metres from his cell and chained and delivered over to the dogs. When he lost consciousness (which was many times), the GERMAN NAZIS on guard jumped, both feet together, with their big nailed boots on the victim, whose cries of agony we heard for hours before he died.

LIFE OF THE PRISONERS LIVING COMMUNALLY. In addition to the facts already set out above, further confirmation was given to me by a prisoner from BREENDONK, whom I met in the cells at the prison of ST. GILLES and who is at present in GERMANY, if he has not been shot. He is Major STIERS, an officer of the BELGIAN REGULAR ARMY and of the Colonies, who left for GERMANY at the beginning of FEBRUARY 1944 without having been judged and after having passed 4 to 5 months at BREENDONK, and as long at ST. GILLES. He informed me that he had many times during his stay at BREENDONK, attempted suicide rather than endure the ill-treatment and tortures imposed upon the prisoners.

He had been confronted with the only too famous so-called SPANIARD named ANNIE, or ANITA, informer and mistress of DE ZITPER, alias Capt. WILLY, etc., one of the heads of the GERMANY Counter-Espionage in BELGIUM, having to his credit the discovery of the leading members of the pro-allied organizations in BELGIUM; he started certain resistance movements, subsidising them and furnishing them with arms, causing the Patriots to visit the stores for arms supposed to have arrived from ENGLAND (one of these depots or stores was thus visited by one of my friends - a villa full of arms at STOCKEL).

A book recounting the ordinary prison life at BREENDONK will shortly be published and has been written by the Depute FISCHER, who lives at Place Gemblinne de Meux BRUSSELS.

The articles which appear in the 'MOUSTIQUE' can be considered as being perfectly true and sincere. I recall a story of Major STIERS. He told me that he had seen the NAZIS at a time when there were too many prisoners in the camp, force them, by lashing them with a hide whip to crawl in the water, in the middle of the winter, then force them to remain immobile for hours in the cold until they died.

Speaking generally, a prisoner afflicted with any kind of illness was destined to die through lack of care. I can speak from experience having had a festering bruise behind the ear for four weeks, the result of a blow from a fist, and I only received the attention of a GERMAN Orderly every 4 or 5 days when he came to see if my wound had developed into a mastoid, which would have caused my death in very little time.

To resume BREENDONK was a hell for those who passed through there.

(Signed) A. DEHES.

17.10.44.

Compiler's Note: "MOUSTIQUE" referred to above is a BELGIAN Magazine.

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STATEMENT ON BREENDONK by G. LIENATRE
(Translated from the French)

This report relates to happenings which took place during the period from 1st September 1942 to 12th June 1943.

During the GERMAN occupation few details were known by the BELGIAN population of BREENDONK, an ancient fort belonging to the outer defences of ANTWERP, which is situated a short distance from the "autostrade" from BRUSSELS to ANTWERP, owing to the fact that very few prisoners came out alive from this GESTAPO punishment camp. Those that did had to sign a declaration by which they promised to reveal nothing of what they had seen or heard at BREENDONK. In this same declaration, the liberated prisoners engaged themselves "to take no action against the GERMAN authorities".

This helps to explain why, under the terror of the GESTAPO and its accomplices, it was somewhat difficult for the public to know exactly what went on in this terrible camp, aptly named the "hell of BREENDONK". Nobody from the outside world entered the camp, except members of the GESTAPO who arrived from various centres to interrogate the prisoners. Contact with the outside world was impossible; the prisoners were definitely cut off.

All the personnel, except the officers, slept in the camp. The camp was commanded by three GERMAN officers: Major SCHMIDT, of the SS troops, Lieut. SCHNAFSCHESTOCK and Lieut. FRAUSS, both of the SS. Under their orders were: 45 soldiers including a number of NCOs, of the WEHRMACHT for guard duties 8 SS soldiers in grey uniform, with the SP badge (Security Service), BELGIAN subjects, volunteers for this work and well paid receiving more than Frs. 4000 per month. It is these officers and these BELGIAN SS men who are mainly responsible for the terrible reputation of the camp; they did the beating and killing. Amongst the BELGIAN SS, particularly notorious were the following: WEIS Ferdinand, of ANTWERP, who killed more than 30 men during the sojourn there of the author of the present report, DEBODE Richard, of BRUSSELS, and RAES Glémont, of BRUSSELS. The others have certainly also crimes to account for, which only a strict investigation, together with the collaboration of ex-prisoners, will be able to prove.

The prison regime of the camp consisted mainly of hard labour, clearing away the earth covering the fortified galleries and cupolas; levelling off the borders of the fort and the land adjacent. The earth was excavated with broken down trucks.

The SS guards insisted on the maximum amount of hard work being done, striking prisoners for nothing and often to death. The prisoners had to work in all weathers without their jacket, even in winter. According to the whim of an officer or an SS, they had to work stripped to the waist or in the rain. During the extremely cold periods, it was forbidden to warm themselves by striking their sides; whoever was caught doing so risked being beaten to death.

One was always bareheaded and with head shaved; forbidden to put their hands in their pockets; forbidden to cease work because of a wound; all the time at the orders of an officer or an SS for everything; forbidden to go to the hospital unless half dead, or without orders; forbidden to cease work, even for a couple of seconds.

Punishment at the work yards consisted of gymnastic exercises, running with tools, shovels, pick-axes, throwing oneself on the ground at the order "lie-down", "run", "lie-down", "run" and to crawl on the stomach over a long distance, even in the icy water of the pools. Whoever did not carry out the exercise well enough was beaten, often to death. These exercises were ordered at any hour of the day and without apparent reason. The orders for collective movements, falling in, march, break off, salutes, were given in GERMAN. One had to understand or guess, or be beaten.

48 and even 50 men were piled into the barrack rooms, transformed into prisons, rooms which in peace time normally took 20 men. Cango beds, in wood, with dirty and holed straw sacks. Very few blankets and scarcely any hygiene.

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Vermin was abounding. The rooms were in ill and damp. Smoking and talking were absolutely forbidden.

The very little food was distinctly insufficient in vitamins and calories. About 225 grammes of bread, a few grammes of sugar and jam and ersatz coffee (acorns?) was the daily ration, with a few cold cuts, badly cooked in water and without salt.

Apart from the barbarous treatment inflicted by the midwives, the majority suffered from distinctly characteristic illnesses, such as: general anaemia, ulcers and boils. There were many deaths on this account. Those sick who were absolutely incapable of working were placed apart and received no treatment. By order of the GERMAN doctor, who could only see those whom the officers allowed to report sick, once a month, a few rare pills were given. The author of this report never saw a sick person get better at BREFFENDONK; the man affected were not allowed to see the doctor. The writer was in this category.

We were arrested, 41 men of the BRUSSELS postal service, on the 1st September 1942, the majority about 4 a.m. at home, by agents of the GESTAPO of BRUSSELS. We were conducted to the GEBUUDING, Avenue Louise, and after verification of our identity, taken in 1942 to BREFFENDONK. The writer was beaten up the first morning at BREFFENDONK. We were searched and all our personal objects, including jewellery, was taken away from us. We were given a number and prison clothes: BELGIAN soldiers' trousers and tunic, with a number in big figures on the left side and a coloured badge, a similar badge being on the back of the tunic. These badges indicated either: JEW (yellow and red), communist (white and red), terrorist (Large "A"), having previously escaped (red and white ring). If one was not a JEW one was a communist. That was the definition adopted by the GESTAPO. Without being interrogated, we were immediately treated as though we were guilty, receiving ill-treatment and beatings and vile food.

We were interrogated after about two and a half months.

These interrogations were carried out in a brutal manner; we were tortured and beaten, without knowing the reason for our arrest. Within a few weeks, half of our party had already been admitted into hospital, incapable of working. At the end of four months, the following were dead:-

CROCKAERT, PIERRE, BRUSSELS Postman, died from blows received from SS WEIS.

BONNEVILLE, JACQUES, BRUSSELS Postman, died from blows received from SS WEIS.

TISSIN, J., BRUSSELS Postman, died from blows received from SS WEIS.

DEGREEF, SEBASTIEN, sorter (BRUSSELS Post Office) died from blows received from SS WEIS.

Shortly after, in January, 1943, DE POLLE, Albert, BRUSSELS Postman, died after having been beaten up and following a general poisoning of the system.

VAN BOVEN, JEAN, of ANTWERP, mason, died from blows received from SS WEIS.

A few of the forty-one postmen were liberated in November, 1942; about 15 at the end of January 1943; some in February 1943; some in March-April 1943; the writer in June 1943 - the last one of the group to be freed.

The majority are still under treatment and are incapable of resuming their duties at the Post Office. Some have to follow special treatment, injections and careful dieting. The writer of the present report, at the time of his arrest, measured 1m72 and weighed 82 kilos. When liberated, he measured only 1m69 and weighed 48 kilos. The writer was in a lamentable condition, his head still open from boils and the blows received, his chest open and damaged and badly scarred. His legs are damaged and even to this day he is incapable of walking without the help of a stick.

During the month of March 1943, the writer saw the SS WEIS set upon the prisoners and kill five of them in the afternoon. These scenes were not rare; already in September, during his first days of captivity, the writer saw a prisoner who, savagely beaten, did not get up on the order of the SS and was covered over with earth and stamped upon. Buried alive! It is not known what became of this unfortunate prisoner whom it was forbidden to assist, under pain of death. It was also forbidden to look. Another was drowned and had his head split open by blows with a spade. These were more frequent events and to relate them all would require more than a report.

It is also to be noted that the officers and the SS robbed the prisoners of their food; the prisoners having been obliged to give up their ration cards for the general use of the camp. Even parcels sent by the BELGIAN Red Cross were stolen by the SS personnel and the officers. The writer saw two baskets of biscuits from a Red Cross parcel given away for the cows.

The prisoners who were shot at BREENDONK were killed during the period from November 1942. The execution posts, ten railway sleepers, were erected by the prisoners. On the day these execution posts were erected, ten prisoners were shot at 3 p.m. Amongst them were men who that very morning did not know they were condemned to death, and had themselves assisted in placing the posts. The writer has seen more than 80 men leave for the execution post. Amongst those, the Head Postman of BRUSSELS, HERRMANS, also MARTIAL VAN SCHNELLE, well-known in the sporting world. All, including a blind man, went to the post upright and proud.

The hanging of May 1943, took place during my sojourn at the military hospital of ANTWERP.

The undersigned, LEMAITRE, C.G., Postman at the Central Post Office, BRUSSELS, domiciled at 6, Boulevard d'Ypres, BRUSSELS, born at BRUSSELS on the 3rd March 1896, volunteer for the 1914-18 war, war invalid, President du Conseil du Personnel de Bruxelles 1 postal section, 31 years service at the Post Office, certify on my honour the entire accuracy of the present report and affirm being able to guarantee its authenticity, with the testimony of my colleagues, ex-prisoners of BREENDONK.

A copy of the complaint addressed to the Public Prosecutor, BRUSSELS, is attached together with a copy of a paper in which is published an article on BREENDONK written by the undersigned (Note: only the letter is attached).

Further documents, such as the German order regarding deprivation of office, an additional punishment received at the time of liberation, are available for any useful conference on BREENDONK.

BRUSSELS, twenty first of October, 1944.

(signed) C.G. LEMAITRE.

Membre du Comité de l'Association des
Rescapés de BREENDONK,
6, Boulevard d'Ypres.

BRUSSELS, 30th September, 1944.

(Translated from the French)

The Public Prosecutor,
Court of Justice,
BRUSSELS.

Dear Sir,

I, the undersigned, **FRANÇOIS Constant**, postman at BRUSSELS 1, born in BRUSSELS the 3rd March, 1896, and domiciled at 6, Boulevard d'Ypres, BRUSSELS, ex-prisoner at BREENDONK, beg to lodge a complaint against :

1) The GERMAN SS MAJOR SCHMIDT, Commandant of the Camp of BREENDONK, responsible for the ill-treatment which I suffered in this camp where I was interned for 9½ months (from 1 Sep 42 to 12 Jun 43). Even his dog bit me on two occasions whilst in his presence without his attempting to prevent the animal from savaging me above the calf of the leg.

2) The GERMAN SS LIEUTENANT SCHNAPSCHUSTOCK. This officer's functions were those of a torturer and he responsible for the death of a number of prisoners; he, himself, shot a number with his revolver.

3) The GERMAN SS LIEUTENANT PRAUSS, who on numerous occasions struck me savagely.

4) The SS Troops of the GERMAN Security Section, BELGIAN subjects, employed at BREENDONK, responsible for the death of many prisoners, some of whom were killed during the same day. (I have personally loaded onto a cart the bodies of 5 men killed by the SS one afternoon during the month of May 1943).

Amongst these SS Troops an individual named **FERNAND WEISS**, of ANTWERP, was particularly notorious. During my stay at BREENDONK I witnessed more than thirty deaths to his account. He was beaten in such a manner that I had to be transferred to the military hospital in the Avenue Marie, ANTWERP. It is a miracle that I and my postal colleagues of BRUSSELS, arrested at the same time on 1st Sep 42, are still alive. Five postmen arrested at the same time as myself, died at BREENDONK, as a consequence of the blows and ill-treatment which they received. They were beaten up from the morning onwards and died the same evening.

5) Two detainees, BELGIAN subjects, employed by the GERMANS to be in charge of the barrack camp; they beat up the prisoners in a most ignoble manner and stole the prisoners' food. These two individuals are: **DEVOS VALERE**, of GAND, and **HERMANS RENE**, whose last known address was 72, Rue Peter Benoit, HASSELT. Together with my colleagues, including **M. DEMINFER**, Percepteur Principal des Postes, BRUSSELS, we hope that a rapid and justly severe issue will be made to the present complaint.

(signed) **C. LEMAITRE**

President of the Employees Committee (Postmen), BRUSSELS 1.
6, Boulevard d'Ypres, BRUSSELS.

STATEMENT MADE BY PAUL LEVY REGARDING CONDITIONS IN BREENDONK

(Note: This statement is an exact copy of the original statement which is written in ENGLISH)

I was brought to Breendonk on Nov.29th 1940 coming from the prison of Saint-Gilles-Brussels. As I had neither been tried nor even warned, I wondered about this transfer; the Gestapo-feldwebel in charge answered that it had been decided to keep me in SCHUTZHAFT (protective custody) for the duration of the war.

There were at the time about sixty prisoners in Breendonk: ten of them were Polish and Lithuanian Jews condemned by Belgian judges before the war and brought from Merxplas to Breendonk by the Germans apparently to create a right "convict mood" in the new camp; twenty other Jews of various nationalities (including Germans but no Belgians); and thirty non-Jewish people (mostly Belgian blackmarketeers plus one German and one Belgian communist).

I was beaten during my first day by sentries (rifles), by the SS lieutenant Prauss (bare hands and feet) and to my great amazement by a fellow prisoner (Obler, the head of my room). The opportunities for being beaten were in the first place "not working as ordered" (barrows not full enough, going too slow etc.) or "answering senior people when addressed" or "not falling in with the quickness and discipline ordered", etc. Further, I was insulted when at work by the officers and men who took as a general theme for their speeches "It is easier to get the Belgian people excited about our paratroops and to have them killed by others with criminal radio-speeches than to fight decently on a battlefield". I had to attend a so-called medical examination by a German army doctor who declared me fit at a glance.

The general regime at the time was hard. Here is the time table of the camp during the first months:

- 6 a.m. stand up; washing; dressing; making of beds; cleaning of rooms preparing for breakfast
- 7 a.m. breakfast
- 7.30 P.T.
- 7.50 Fall in; work given out.
- 8 to 12 Work: removing earth from inside to create courtyards and bringing it outside to build a wall round the fortress
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13 evtlly 14 Work as in the morning; to 18.00
- cleaning of tools and uniforms falling in and roll call
- 19.00 supper.

The menu was:

- Breakfast: 4 ounces bread; two cups ersatz coffee (grilled acorns)
- Lunch: 2 plates soup (with beans, onions, potatoes, very few minced meat - beginning)
- On Sunday (in 1940 only) lunch with a small piece of meat and vegetables
- Supper: same as breakfast

Parcels allowed in 1940 once a week.

As work was hard and under the constant strain of surveyors (soldiers, SS and heads of rooms) the prisoners were in a poor physical condition. Since food was really deficient in comparison to the labour involved they lost weight got small blisters, bleeding gums, cold feet (remaining cold during months), "unsensible" toes and fingers, swollen hands and feet in the evening, swollen faces in the morning. This general bad condition went worse and worse, and was practically at its worst in Spring and Summer 1941 when the camp was overcrowded (patriots, communists and Russians) and when the outside parcels were wholly suppressed. In March 1941, I wrote in a clandestine letter: "Here the regime is growing worse and worse. There is a real rain of punishments. To-day, precisely at the time when I saw you on the road a prisoner 63 years old was beaten to death...." That was really the first death of the camp (a German called Nathan). After months (more than 5 months) of suppression of outside parcels, the prisoners were allowed on Sept.9th 41 to write home asking for a parcel including "2 shirts, 2 pants, 2 pairs socks and 4 apples".

This regime produced not only a permanent morbid state but turned prisoners to "foodmad people": they grew really maniac about food, some of them kissing and keeping food got from home until it was rotten while they were starving,

other ones studying during days the way of eating a cake before actually cutting it, still other ones cutting their bread rations in very thin slices or in tiny little cubits, etc. One of the most amazing and demonstrative cases was the case of a young German Jew (Edgar Hirsch-19 years old) who after six months Breendonk was brought back to Saint-Gilles prison to carry out a fortnight solitary confinement he was condemned for coffee black marketing; being brought back to Breendonk after three weeks absence... we realised that he got fat in jail although the food there was not at all first class... far from that.

Very often the officers imposed collective punishments: when a prisoner had escaped, or when too many people were found getting grass or leaves to eat or when the amount of work done was supposed to be insufficient. These collective punishment were for example: working on Sunday, running and going up and down, lying flat and standing up at whistle, working through the whole day without eating before night. Individual punishments were the different varieties of arrests (combinations or work and eating and sleeping in a cell), standing before the wall (the nose two inches from the wall) at attention and fingers straightened out.

Some of the sentries took opportunity of the fact that the prisoners had to ask for permission of attending personal needs in a prescribed form (standing at attention, cap in right hand, three yards from the sentry and with prescribed words-Sir sentry, I ask you most respectfully to be allowed to go out for a while-) not to answer or to refuse to grant that permission; as the prisoners were awfully weak that meant a new kind of an ordeal.

One of the favourite collective or personal punishments was performing P.T. with straightened out arms having heavy tools (pickaxe or shovel in the hands). An other one was "race on the belly" with guards whistling, yelling and running all around the punished people.

As I told before the first prisoner who ever died in Breendonk was beaten to death, other ones committed suicide (one by hanging, one drowned, one by jumping from the roof where he was working), one was shot by mistake by a drunken sentry but his corpse was used to impress the other prisoners as having tried to escape, but most of the people who died were actually exhausted (some grew mad) and no accurate figure can possibly be given since they died in the infirmary (not created before March '41) in the Hospital in Antwerp or in the military hospital-Brussels.

"Jews" and "Aryans" were grouped in different sections first in Dec. '40. In August-September '41, two different infirmaries were created, but the Jewish prisoner Dr. Adolf Singer remained in charge of both.

About special cases of ordeal, I saw the following ones:

A young Flemish worker guilty of stealing a German army motorcar (apparently), tried to steal the pistol of an SS officer. He was beaten successively by the SS Officers and N.C.O's, by the army N.C.O's, by the soldiers, by some of the German Jewish heads of rooms. One of the last ones claimed to have washed his bleeding face with vinegar. We had to parade before the practically unconscious man standing at attention before the wall on which he was beaten.

Four kilogs potatoes having been stolen by people of room 4, while they were peeling them, the whole room (32 prisoners at the time) was condemned to perform P.T. without eating during a whole Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

One of the prisoners being very weak and having caught a cold asked to remain lying in the morning (at the time no infirmary existed). He remained in his bed up to the roll call when the lieutenant growing furious got him out half-dressed in the courtyard and threw cold water on him to "get him up". The prisoner (N.64) died a few hours later.

On an evening roll call the order "caps off" was repeated nineteen times because one of the prisoners being completely exhausted always came late. This prisoner was not allowed to attend the sickward. He had no strength enough that night to have his supper. The following morning he was found dead.

A prisoner found guilty of eating grass was beaten put in a wheelbarrow and in that way thrown in the water. He succeeded in getting out remained in the water a few days. Suddenly he recovered but was mad: he insulted the Germans in French, he spoiled his clothes, etc. He was brought to a cell. Next day he was released from the cell and got "light work". Two days later he committed suicide by hanging.

Two brothers of Antwerp (Lithuanian) were arrested together (brothers Sbirsky). The first one physically weak not knowing French nor German was asked to report at the Gestapo. His brother stronger and knowing French, Flemish and German decided to accompany him. Both were arrested and sent to Breendonk without being interrogated. The first one had to sing for the benefit of the staff!!! He had to work as well and died completely exhausted. His brother became mad. The lieutenant told their mother "that he was keeping them under his personal protection".

Some prisoners tried to fake a greater weakness than the real one. It didn't help at all since the SS were never impressed by it but on the contrary tried to get weak people completely down. An Antwerp peddler (I. Nourmann N.22) a dwarf quite insane, was brought to the camp "for being too late outside in Antwerp". He was used as a puppet by the staff who had him dancing when visitors came or singing. He got light work but enjoyed bad treatment from the head of the room N.1. Very often he didn't get any breakfast since his bed was not done according to the rules (he was really unable to do it). Of course he was unable to perform any decent P.T. (He didn't find out the difference between right and left). And very often he was physically punished for it. He died completely exhausted after 5 or 6 months.

sgd. PAUL H.C. LEVY.

APPENDIX "F"

EXTRACT FROM A STATEMENT made by MADAME PAQUET of 28 Rue de ZEPHYR, WOLUVE, ST. LAMBERT, BRUSSELS, on 30 OCT 1944.

(Translated from the French)

" At BREENDONK I lived in a cell (Room 8 - cell 16) upright from 6 o'clock in the morning till 8 at night and sleeping at night without covering or mattress. During my stay I had on handcuffs both day and night; they were only taken off for 10 minutes in the morning to allow me to empty the white metal coverless bucket which served me as a latrine. This emptying took place in the inside of the camp, where I was led by an armed soldier, my head being covered by a hood.

I was interrogated six or seven times in the S.S. room. This was a round room without windows with a table and a bench on which S.S. sat as spectators. On the left at the end was a pulley attached to the ceiling from which passed a rope ending in a running knot. My hands were tied behind my back with big wood fibre handcuffs which were passed through the running knot. Entirely naked I was lifted above the ground and beaten with a rubber truncheon covered in leather and wielded by Major SCHMIDT, Lieut PRAUSS and the S.S WEISS and DEFOU. In the course of one of these interrogations, I had my nails crushed in a kind of iron letter-copying machine. After the first interrogation the medical orderly VLEGGERS gave me an injection in the breast. Thinking that it was intended to stupify me, I took advantage of a moment's inattention to put my fingers down my throat thus making myself vomit. I heard the orderly say to Major SCHMIDT "It's no good, the injection makes her sick". In addition I, as well as my cell companions, received almost every day punches and truncheon blows, which, among other things, broke my teeth.

In the course of the daily outing to empty the bucket I received a bayonet wound in the arm, the sentry thinking that I was lifting up my hood. Another time he struck me with the stock of his rifle in the back of the neck, resulting in a curvature of the spine. "

NOTES:-

- (1) The press found at SOIGNEE which is referred to in paragraph 47 of the report was taken to Madame PAQUET. She identified it as identical with the instrument with which her finger nails had been crushed off. She was loath to look at it for long and expressed a wish that it might be taken away as quickly as possible.
- (2) Madame PAQUET was a member of the Underground Movement.

NOTES MADE AS A RESULT OF TWO INTERVIEWS WITH
ADOLF SINGER, 60 PLACE COLIGNON, SCHARBEEK, BRUSSELS -
AN AUSTRIAN JEWISH DOCTOR

(Note: The original notes were signed by Dr. SINGER)

Entered BREENDONK 3 March 41
Left BREENDONK 31 March 44.

SINGER was arrested for entering BELGIUM from FRANCE without the permission of the GERMAN authorities. He was released by the arrival of Allied troops in BELGIUM - he was at Caserne d'Ossin in MALLINES preparatory to being sent East.

SINGER did not know where the bodies of BREENDONK victims were taken for burial although to his knowledge some 300 people were shot and about 15 hanged during his time at the camp.

In practice in VIENNA as a doctor before the ANSCHLUSS, SINGER was appointed to assist in the BREENDONK infirmary. He held this post for a year and a half. In this capacity he entered the "torture chamber" to treat the victims of the ordeal. To his knowledge, 5 or 6 women were tortured in this room and received just as brutal treatment as the men; suspension, lashings, beating, etc. During the winter of 1942/1943 he personally attended a BELGIAN woman, a lawyer's wife, who had been severely beaten after being suspended from the pulley on the ceiling. He treated her in her cell. Her thighs were badly marked. She was later sent into GERMANY. He treated Mme PAQUET for heart trouble (see Appendix "F").

SINGER was only allowed to attend non-political prisoners. He worked with the following medical orderlies:-

- KEMP - a good man who did as much as he could for the prisoners under his care.
- FELSEGGER - A really bad character who beat the patients brought before him - the worst type possible.
- FLIEGAUF - A brutal man who ill-treated those under his care.

The GERMAN doctor who was responsible for the camp in the beginning was one KOCHLING who really did nothing for the prisoners. He visited the camp twice a week but hardly cared about the conditions. Many men died because of his indifferent attitude. He was succeeded in his job by Major POHL, a Wehrmacht doctor, who did a great deal to improve conditions in BREENDONK and who personally intervened with GENERAL FALKENHAUSEN to secure more food for the prisoners. He was a good man.

SINGER also knew Mrs. SCHMIDT, the Camp Commandant's wife, and says she had sadistic tendencies. She would watch the prisoners work and faint from ill-treatment. She acted as her husband's secretary for a time. She was about 5' 6" in height, had dark hair and eyes, full lips and had a sensual appearance.

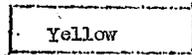
SCHMIDT and PRAUSS were responsible for making the prisoners stand naked while awaiting medical inspection. They sometimes had to stand for nearly two hours while waiting to be examined. Prisoners were often lousy in spite of attempts at disinfection. Each new arrival from another prison brought more lice with him. The most men at one time in the camp numbered 600 or slightly more. The most in the infirmary at one time numbered 150.

To SINGER's knowledge about 500 men were killed or died at BREENDONK during his time there. He knows of no women who were killed.

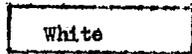
After the fall of STALINGRAD S.S. KATSOHUSTER gave an order to S.S. WEISS and S.S. DE BODT that 18 Jews and 2 Aryans were to be thrown into the water because he said the Jews were responsible for the STALINGRAD defeat and RUSSIA coming into the war. These men were thrown into the water and beaten on the head until they drowned - Dr. SINGER saw the bodies afterwards.

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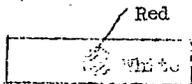
SIGNS USED TO MARK THE PRISONERS AT BREENDONK
(As stated by Dr. SINGER)



- Jews



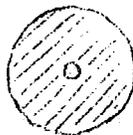
- Aryan



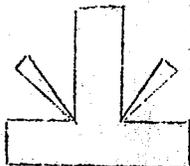
- Those suspected of political activity had a red mark superimposed on the bar. The Jews had one on their yellow bar.



- British sympathisers were denoted by a red V.



(Compiler's Note:-
The "V" stood for Victory - this being GERMAN humour.)
- A red circle worn front and rear indicated those that might attempt an escape.



- This marked the prisoners for special attention and surveillance.

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NOTES ON MY STAY AT BREENDONK CAMP FROM 2 APRIL TO 21 MAY 1943.

BY T. FRANKIGNOULE (translated from the French)

I was arrested at home at 4 o'clock in the morning by a serjeant and two gendarmes. I was taken to the GESTAPO HQ., Avenue Louise, where I was put in a garage, face to the wall, guarded by two sentries who were already indulging in brutalities against the men who were brought there. Certain prisoners who were made to keep their hands in the air for half an hour, were kicked, punched and beaten with rifle butts. I remained standing without moving until midday. Then the men were loaded into lorries - 48 in mine - and in the most impossible positions. We were taken straight to BREENDONK. On our arrival, the ill-treatment began immediately. We were lined up in twos (we were 73 in number) in the tunnel which leads to the camp and lashes of the whip fell like rain on those who dared to move. The lieutenant set the example.

We were immediately sent to the barbers (hair, beards and moustaches cut off) divested of our civil clothes and everything we had on us, papers, money etc., and dressed like convicts (khaki trousers and coats with numbers and distinctive signs, after which we were taken to a room containing 48 prisoners. Towards 1400 hours we went outside and were handed over to the BELGIAN SS who made us do marching drill. We had to throw ourselves on the ground, crawl, etc., this to the accompaniment of many a blow, and without regard to age or state of health. The next day we were put to work - digging, working with the pick, filling and wheeling barrows and carrying baskets, picking up stones, always under the threat of blows.

As soon as we arrived we could see the pitiful state of the unfortunate people who had preceded us. Some were covered with sores and boils. The torturers of the camp nearly always set on the same ones. I have personally witnessed atrocities which pass imagination. A JEW one day suffered such martyrdom at the hands of the head of his room, a GERMAN JEW called OBLAT, that he died the following night. The scenes were of a daily occurrence. Another day a prisoner was caught by a Flemish labourer who worked on the farm, whose name was AMELINCKX and horribly beaten for having taken a piece of swede. An SS called FELEMAN who came along, fell on the unfortunate man with blows and kicks, leaving him covered with blood. Almost daily we heard the frightful cries of men and even women, who were undergoing the most terrible tortures in the rooms designed to make them talk. I remember the cries of one woman which left a most atrocious impression on my mind.

We were ill-nourished and after a few days almost the whole of our contingent were the victims of lice. We had to carry out the most filthy tasks, empty the ditches of dung-water, etc.... In the yards where we worked our hands were easily injured. We received no treatment and on our return to camp we were made to clean our shoes, shovels and picks etc., in a great trough full of muddy water containing the remains of urine and other impurities.

A day rarely passed but the prisoners, lined up in the courtyard, had to witness the punishment of one or other of the men, called from the ranks to receive, bent over double, up to twenty five or thirty strokes of the stick. It was nearly always SS WEISS who was allotted this atrocious job, which he carried out with unparalleled fury. The day after he was beaten in this manner, a man, whose back was but one single sore, was made to work all day at the hopper with a sackful of bricks. He received many a blow in the course of that terrible day's work. We were not even quiet at night. Several times we were woken and beaten for a trifle.

One day all our room were punished by the "stone job". That day we were put on loading stones, some weighing up to 30 kilos (66 lbs), on our shoulders, and carrying them 700 yards away. This work had to be carried out at the run. This lasted 2½ hours.

My wife sent me various parcels of clothing and food. Nothing, however, was given to the prisoners.

At the beginning of the month of May the prisoners who were working as carpenters had to prepare the scaffold and gallows intended for some people condemned to death. I myself worked on the clearing of ground which the NAZIS

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were preparing for the place of execution. It was opposite the ten posts where numerous BELGIANS had been shot before. On 10 May 1943 they made us stop work sooner than usual. SS DE BODT had told us there were to be three hangings. The GERMANS had made a real ceremony of it. There were many officers and members of the GESTAPO there to witness the execution. I saw from my window the procession crossing the courtyard. Poor FRAITEUR, who walked first of the three condemned (they all had their hands tied behind their backs) was led by the left arm by the Lieutenant, and by the right arm by a member of the GESTAPO. The second was held by SS WEISS the third by SS DEBODT, and both of them by a member of the GESTAPO. A quarter of an hour later the procession repassed through the courtyard. A car contained the coffins of the three victims. The next day I was able to ascertain that they had been hung in chains.

The Medical Officer, SCHMITT, had a big Alsatian. This dog cruelly bit several internees. The lieutenant, BRAUSS, speaking to the dog, said in so many words "Would you like to tear them all to pieces". The Medical Officer's wife often walked about the yards all dressed up. A little girl, daughter or relative of the M.O. was also seen on this ground. She might have been 12 or 13 years old. The surgery was open in the mornings. The sick or wounded hesitated to go there. Sometimes you got blows there. Sometimes the corporal medical orderly exempted a man from work. But he had to go on parade in the courtyard. It was the lieutenant who decided in the end. This he sometimes did with strokes of the stick.

Some men were hungry. They picked up whatever they could, grass, roots, leaves, potato peelings or even bones buried in the manure. A dead lamb, stripped of its fleece, was buried. Some prisoners having seen this, ~~did~~-interred the lamb and ate it.

I remained two months at BREENDONK and three months at the CITADELLE DE HUY. My health was affected by it. I had to give up my employment as a civil servant for seven months. I underwent an intestinal operation in July 1944. I am still to this day underweight about 13 pounds.

3 November 44

(Signed) T. FRANKIGNOULLE.

34 Rue de Parme, Saint Gilles,
(BRUSSELS).

Notes by the compiler of this report:-

- (i) This is the only evidence produced of a Medical Officer named SCHMITT.
- (ii) Lieutenant "BRAUSS" referred to is really Lieutenant "PRAUSS".

APPENDIX "I"

STATEMENT made as a result of an interview with EMILE SCIEUR, 27 Rue Massart, MONCEAUX-SUR-SAMBRE on 25 November, 1944.

1. He entered BREENDONK 21 Dec 42 and left 17 Dec 43. During this time five months were passed at the ST MARIE Hospital at ANTWERP. He was arrested for terrorism.
2. SCIEUR underwent a first questioning in the torture room where he was hung by his hands bound behind his back. In this position he received numerous blows from a lash which rendered him unconscious. A second questioning was later attempted with the same methods as the first. No satisfaction was obtained.
3. It became known to the SS guards that the prisoners in SCIEUR's room were complaining that packages sent to them had been stolen by the SS personnel. This was true as no package that was sent was ever received. For the above reason 13 men from the room were taken to the torture chamber for punishment and example. During this phase SCIEUR had his teeth broken by blows from the fists of the SS guard WEISS.
4. While working outside, the SS guard WEISS rolled a stone of some 50 kilos down onto the prisoners. This stone broke SCIEUR's left leg. Badly looked after, the leg turned gangrenous and necessitated SCIEUR's removal to hospital in ANTWERP. The treatment at the military hospital was much better than at BREENDONK.
5. He is at present incapable of any work.
6. SCIEUR stated that one DE MONCEAU, a BELGIAN prisoner accused of spying was "crucified" to a wall by means of iron shackles. DE MONCEAU was kept against a wall day and night and fed only enough to keep him alive. He had to perform all his functions in this spreadeagle position. His arms turned gangrenous and finally he was taken away and shot.

APPENDIX "J"

EXTRACT FROM A STATEMENT BY EMILE RENARD, POLICE INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE
(Translated from the French)

" I was forced to do hard labour during my period of detention, being given such tasks as carrying sacks of sand, broken pieces of concrete slabs, etc. In spite of the weak our guards (FLEMISH SS DE BODT, WEISS, PELLEMANS etc) and the GERMAN Officers in charge of the camp, beat us constantly with lashes. I was myself often beaten and one day in February, 1943 received twenty-seven strokes of the lash for not observing the prison rules and again in April, 1943, when I was made to go into what was called the torture chamber where I received twenty-five strokes of the lash on the back and around the kidneys. I was made to bend over a desk for this purpose. After having been beaten, SS WEISS slipped a lanning knot around my head and neck and by means of a pulley suspended from the ceiling jerked me up and down several times while I was strung up. Finally, exhausted and weakened I was admitted to the camp infirmary on 23.4.43 and from there was sent to the hospital at ANTWERP from which I was released on the 27.6.43 and returned to the BREENDONK infirmary where I remained until 3.7.43, the date of my release. "

Appendix "K"

PRECIS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY EUD. DE RUDDER, 150 RUE DE PALAIS,
BRUSSELS

(The original statement was in French)

1. He was arrested on 16 May at 1030 hours and taken to the H.Q. of the Secret Field Police at the Rue Traversiere, BRUSSELS. He was accused of espionage. Unfortunately some incriminating papers were found in his possession. He was interrogated daily in the Rue Traversiere from 16 May to 20 May during the course of which he received no food. Each night he was sent to the ST. GILLES Prison, BRUSSELS.
2. During the first interrogation the GERMANS hit him with their fists and truncheons. During the second they tied him to a table and flogged him, then took his trousers down and flogged him with a cat o' nine tails. During the third interrogation a wet towel was tied round his head and a metal bar passed through the knot. The metal bar was then twisted until he fainted. He was revived by kicks in the kidneys. During the course of the fourth interrogation his bare feet were whipped. During his fifth interrogation he was beaten with a rubber truncheon until he fainted. He was then sent to ST. ANNES Barracks, LAEKEN where the medical officer attended to his wounds.
3. After about a fortnight he was again interrogated and his healing wounds broken open again.
4. On 1 September he was sent to BEVERLOO Camp where he received no food for two days. He was released by the BELGIAN Gendarmes on 4 September.
5. On his release DE RUDDER found that the GERMANS had stolen all his savings about B.Fcs. 18,000⁰⁰ together with his furniture and personal belongings.

Appendix "L"

PRECIS OF A STATEMENT BY MAJOR VAN ROOSBROECK, 96 RUE PAUL DERIQUE
SCHAEFERDICK, BRUSSELS.

(The original statement was in French)

1. He was first arrested in May, 1942, and was released in May, 1943. He was accused of organizing the departure of BELGIANS for ENGLAND and imprisoned in ST GILLES where he was taken from his cell and interrogated a week. He received many kicks, his hands and feet were bound and he was thrown into a corner of the office where he was punched in the face from time to time. They also hit him with an iron rule while his hands were manacled. He was so bruised that it was impossible for him to lie down.
2. He was then sent to MERKSPLAS from where he was liberated a year later, but three weeks after being set free he was again arrested and accused of working against the GERMANS. The ill-treatment started again. He was sent a second time to MERKSPLAS but he found it difficult to recover from the ill-treatment of ST. GILLES. From here he was sent to the WATTEN CAMP (PAS DE CALAIS area) where there were 400 BELGIANS and 700 FRENCHMEN guarded by BELGIAN, FRENCH and RUSSIAN traitors. There were 100 men in each barrack room, who slept on straw mattresses which were riddled with vermin. VAN ROOSBROECK still has marks of many bites. One bucket acted as latrine for 100 men. Soap was quite unknown.
3. Reville was at 5 am. All men were made to work unless their temperature was over 102°. Any man who said he was ill without the required temperature was made to empty a latrine with a sardine tin. He was then made to fill a pail and run and empty it 200 metres away. All this accompanied by blows. Another punishment was moving stones weighing 300 Kg. They were allowed to

rest for a few minutes every hour. Some men were made to stand against a post - arms raised - for eight hours, any sign of weakness bringing blows. Each man had a food card which was punched at meal times but for any sign of slackening the card was taken away and the man received no food.

4. On leaving MERKSELAS each prisoner received a bottle of coffee. One day the men were made to line up the bottles which were shot to pieces by the guards with light machine guns. The prisoners were made to pick up the pieces and were beaten for not working fast enough.

5. The torture chamber was a walled-in pen where many received intensive ^{beatings} from a BELGIAN - CAMILLE GOVAERTS aged 20 who was assisted by a DUTCHMAN. All new arrivals had to pass in front of him whilst he assured them that he took a personal interest in them and gave each a punch in the face.

6. VAN ROOSBROECK was freed in January, 1944, being a complete wreck. Since his release he has been in bed and is at present in hospital.

Appendix 1a

PRECIS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY HUBERT GENIS, 9 RUE DE DUC, BRUSSELS

(The original statement is in French)

1. He was arrested on 18th February, 1944, at 7.30 am and was taken to ST. GILLES PRISON where he waited until 6 pm without food. About 6.30 pm. he was taken by car to the Gendarmepolizei, Rue Traversiere, where interrogation began at once. He was asked to admit that he was a member of the M.N.D. (Belgian National Movement).

2. He was taken to ST. ANNE'S BARRACKS at LAEKEN where a sack was placed over his head, and he was tortured for three hours. To begin with he was clothed but as he refused to speak he was stripped, laid face down on the table and the torture started again and only finished when he fainted. GENIS underwent ten such interrogations during one of which they tried strangulation with a scarf twisted at the back of the neck by an iron ruler. The patient thought that his head would burst and lost consciousness. During another interrogation he had a testicle injured by a kick

Appendix 1b

PRECIS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY RAYMOND DE FONSECA, 20 RUE DE MONTENEGRO, BRUSSELS, - POLICE OFFICER AT ST GILLES PRISON, BRUSSELS.

(The original statement is in French)

1. He was arrested on 17th February, 1944, whilst convalescing after an operation for peritonitis. He had already been arrested in 1942 and 1943 as a hostage and shut up in LOUVAIN and HUY. He was denounced to the GERMANS as being chief of a resistance movement.

2. He was sent to ST ANNE'S BARRACKS at LAEKEN and taken at once into the interrogating room where he was placed on a table and beaten with a stick. As he refused to talk they twisted his scars and opened a wound which discharged for a long time. He received no medical attention. For a month he was submitted to daily torture. Several times he had to remain standing, handcuffed, with his hands raised for several hours. At the slightest sign of weakening he was beaten with a bludgeon or a lash or thick cord of wet plaited leather. On two occasions after being beaten for several hours, his head was plunged into a bath of water whilst he was still chained. After being revived with brandy he was sent back to his cell. Strangulation was also practised. A scarf being wrapped around his neck and twisted at the back by means of a ruler, until he became unconscious and was revived with brandy. He was made to stand against a wall for seven hours during which time he was revived with brandy. After each interrogation he was too weak to walk and had to be supported to his cell. As he refused to talk they threatened him that they would injure his wife and children.

Appendix "O"

PRECIS OF STATEMENT MADE BY LEOPOLDINE AULOTTE, 354 CHAUSSEE
BRUXELLES, FOREST, BRUSSELS.
(The original report is in French)

1. Mme. AULOTTE hid and fed GUY VAN DEN PLAS for some time but later he denounced her to the GERMANS, who confronted her with her denouncer.
2. She was taken to the GESTAPO Office, Avenue Louise, on 3 March, 1944, by a certain Fraulein FOHR and driven there by a "Dubois Taxi" (the driver of which she could recognise again) and thrown into a cellar where she remained for a day and a night without food. At the time of her arrest she had been given a document of extreme importance. During the forty-eight hours she was in the cellar she managed to swallow it.
3. The first interrogation lasted from 0900 hours until 1600 hours the next day - she subsequently had to remain standing for 24 hours. Her interrogator was a GERMAN called PIETERS who accused her of espionage and hiding ENGLISH parachutists. For this questioning she was stripped naked and her hands were handcuffed behind her back. As she refused to speak she was struck with a bludgeon until she fainted. After hours of interrogation and persisting in her refusal to talk, PIETERS, mad with rage, gripped her by the throat. Four similar interrogations followed. Each time she was stripped naked and beaten with a heavy stick and cat o' nine tails. Ten teeth were broken whilst her right leg was covered with sores. During the last interrogation she was confronted with her denouncer but she still remained silent and in consequence she was condemned to be shot in GERMANY.
4. She was put in a cattle-truck of the last train which was unable to leave BRUSSELS owing to the rapid advance of the BRITISH into BRUSSELS and sabotage of the line on the part of BELGIAN patriots.
5. The GERMANS stole from her 4000 francs and her jewellery and also stole 8000 francs from her husband.
6. She has a medical certificate dated 24 October, 1944, giving details of her state of health.

Appendix "P"

STATEMENT MADE BY LIEUTENANT BARON ALBERT GRENDEL OF THE BELGIAN ARMY
ON THE TREATMENT HE RECEIVED FROM THE GERMANS
(Translated from the French)

" Coming from Great Britain to carry out a mission on the continent I had the misfortune to be arrested on 23 April last in the South of FRANCE and imprisoned in the CITADELLE DE PERPIGNAN.

The only ventilation in the cell was a hole with a grill above the door but happily the cell was only infested with fleas instead of lice like those of my neighbours. We had 10 minutes walk every morning, after having 3 minutes in which to wash, plus two further minutes in which to empty the pail and attend to the needs of nature (No paper provided of course!)

Every 8 or 15 days, according to the work the turnkeys had in hand we had a shower, where, in record time, you had not only to wash, but also try to wash any linen you happened to possess.

As for food, this consisted of a quarter of a litre of coffee or tea at 6.30 in the morning and at 3 o'clock, and half a litre of soup at 11 o'clock; the soup was water with the addition of vegetables or sometimes noodles but fortunately it was always very hot. Besides this you got 200 grammes of bread to which was sometimes added a spoonful of jam sent by the Secours National.

The second day after my arrest I was taken to the GESTAPO of the town of PERPIGNAN. As these gentlemen said they did not believe what I said, they questioned me handcuffed with my hands behind my back, interspersing their questions with punches and slaps in the face, and by taking my head by the hair

to knock it against the wall etc.... I pretended that I was telling the truth - they took me up to the attic. There they made me take my trousers off, put handcuffs in front, and made me kneel in front of a chair with my elbows on the chair. There were two GERMANS there. They then began to beat me with a belt, taking care that the buckle of it hit me as hard as possible. They had to take it in turn, as the exercise was warm work, but were determined to do it twice each; they only stopped when the flesh was beginning to burst and was so swollen that my trousers would scarcely go on. They must have been well-informed as to the resistance of the tissues, as eight weeks after all traces had disappeared.

The first sitting over, they took me down to the cellar where a little beam projected from the frame of the door. They put the manacles behind me again and attached them to a cord hanging from this beam and thus gradually hauled me up by the handcuffs, turning my arms backwards. To increase the discomfort of this position, they made me swing backwards and forwards until the cord slackened and my feet touched the ground. They then took me down long enough to start the operation again and this lasted until, feeling I was going to faint, I pretended to do so. They laid me on the ground and threw a bucket of water on my head, which made me completely deaf in one ear for three weeks but forced me to open my eyes. I have not yet, by the way, recovered the full strength in my arms. They finally said they would finish me off on the spot as I still maintained I spoke the truth. This time they blindfolded me, saying in answer to my refusal to be blindfolded that it was the rule. They allowed me five minutes in which to think, telling me of the expiry of each minute. On the fifth they asked me if I had not a last wish to express and I gave the name and address of a lady friend in LONDON in order that the authorities for whom I was working might be advised and they promised to notify the Red Cross of GENEVA within three days. My only reflection was on the excellence of the American fountain pen of the GERMAN who lent it me to write down the address. They gave me another three minutes, eyes bandaged again, put away their pistols and the farce was over.. They then took a note of my statements and did no more than kick my legs. I was again questioned the next day and only received blows of the fist.

On the 5 May I was sent to FRESNES near PARIS. For this 24 hour journey by rail they gave us 200 grammes of bread and twice on the way we received a little coffee. I did the whole journey attached by the foot to another prisoner while I shared a pair of handcuffs with a third. At FRESNES I was shut up in a cell in a part reserved for dangerous prisoners illuminated day and night but luckily with running water and reasonable sanitary arrangements. The food was more plentiful than at PERPIGNAN; the bread was better, with a trace of real butter daily and a litre of soup sometimes fairly thick. Further the parcels of the Red Cross and the Secours National were issued there almost fortnightly. On the 8th and the 11th May I was very correctly interrogated at 27 Avenue Foch, Room 8, but on the 12th one of the head men who was little satisfied with what I had to say (the same as I had said at PERPIGNAN) had me taken to a house belonging to the Rothschilds where I had to undergo an icy bath session. Three times I was thrown into a bath head first feet tied together, and hands manacled behind my back, with each time two or three total immersions of the head until I had lost my breath completely. Each time I came out of the bath, these gentlemen, four FRENCHMEN under the direction of a GERMAN, in order to revive the circulation of the blood and respiration, whipped me with thin sticks of green wood all over my body, accompanying this with punches and slaps in the face delivered with all their might. I got away by inventing a new story, which was believed as there was no way of checking on it and thus ended my unfortunate relations with these gentlemen.

I was kept in the cell until the 8 June, then transferred to a larger cell but always in secret. The advance of the Allies and the liberation of PARIS put an end to my stay in prison on the 18 August.

Appendix "Q"

EXCERPTS OF A STATEMENT BY JEAN BAPTISTE CHATRIN, 55 RUE DE DE LA DORNE
LOLITTE-2, BRUSSELS.

1. He was arrested at 6 am on 13th June, 1944, and was freed from the prison train which never left BRUSSELS at the liberation. He was denounced by one DELRUE and accused of espionage and distributing secret leaflets.
2. He was taken to 6 Rue Traversier, BRUSSELS (HQ Gohcimo Feldpolizei) for identification and then to ST. GILLES PRISON. The following day he was dragged from his cell with kicks and blows and his jaw was dislocated. He was taken back to Rue Traversier for interrogation. The interrogators tried to make him give the names of his accomplices.
3. The second interrogation finished with a shower of blows. The third day as he refused to speak he was undressed and put on the table and hands and feet were tied to a small windlass. The cords were pulled and he fainted. When he revived in his cell he saw that his trousers were soaked in blood and he was in agony. The muscles on the side of his thighs were torn. He was also burnt on his legs with a cigar. As a result he was so ill that he was in hospital for three weeks but as soon as he was better the interrogating started again.
4. For thirty-two days he was submitted to questioning and during one of these sessions of torture his vertebrae was put out of joint by kicks. The name of one of the GERMANS who interrogated him in 6 Rue Traversier was KLEINPOULL.

Appendix "B"

STATEMENT MADE BY M. HUBERT LAUDE, RECTOR OF THE COLONIAL UNIVERSITY
ANTWERP

(Translated from the French)

I, the undersigned, HUBERT A.H. LAUDE, Rector of the Colonial University in ANTWERP, General Secretary of the Royal Geographic Society in ANTWERP, Member of the Royal Colonial Institute of BELGIUM, Member of the Institute of National Parks of the BELGIAN Congo, Member of the Academy of Colonial Sciences of FRANCE, declares on my honour:-

I was arrested on the 26th August 1944 at the Colonial University by the GESTAPO and the Gohcimo Feldpolizei of ANTWERP. In my Office, on the order of Captain Inspector BROSS of the G.F.P., and in the presence of Lieutenant BARMAN of the G.F.P. one of the GERMANS struck me eighteen times with an iron bound stick on the back and on the legs. I received several punches in the stomach and on the head and I had my face slapped on several occasions. About 1530 hours I was taken to the GESTAPO Building, 22 Avenue Reine Elisabeth in ANTIWERP. At the University, my Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH GUYENS, and a student, Mr. OUYERES were also beaten with an iron bound stick. At the GESTAPO building I was completely undressed and I was taken to a cellar whilst they hit and spat in my face. I remained there until 28 August, being beaten with sticks, kicked with heavy boots, knocked out with blows of the fist about every two hours. I received neither drink nor food.

On Monday 28 August I was taken to ANTWERP Prison, in the Rue des Beguines. Without being questioned I was taken from there between 1400 hours and 1700 hours to the G.F.P. Building in the Avenue de Belgique. I was interrogated for eight hours a day without stopping from 29th August until 1st September.

When I returned to the prison I was forced to clean out my cell every few hours, the guards throwing buckets of water; I had to clean dirty objects with powder which I obtained by rubbing two bricks together. When I stopped a guard came and swore at me and slapped my face. In addition, having lost consciousness on two occasions in the GESTAPO Buildings my wounds were soaked in

soaked in salt which caused intense pain. I had a chain about my neck, my hands and my feet.

I was condemned to death on Friday 1 September about 1700 hours. I was to have been shot at BRAESSCHAET on 3 September. The priest came into my cell on 2 September about 1900 hours. On 3 September they came and told me that I would be shot in GERMANY. That night about 2200 hours I was taken to the Dam Station and towards 2 o'clock in the morning, as there was no engine, the train could not leave, and I was brought back to the prison. I was freed by the arrival of the first tanks of the BRITISH Army on 5 September about 1500 hours.

The G.F.P., on the orders of Captain Inspector BROSS pillaged my personal belongings and took away food, jewels, clothings and personal belongings of my wife and son. They destroyed and sacked the scientific collections of the University, carried off the files, typewriters, money and food. Most of the loot was divided amongst the Secret Field Police by Captain Inspector BROSS in my presence in the G.F.P. Building, Avenue de Belgique.

I estimate I have lost at least five hundred thousand francs and the University more than a million francs.

(Note: In the original report the entry of BRITISH troops into ANTWERP is shown in error as 3 September instead of 5 September)

Appendix "S"

STATEMENT MADE BY LEON JOSEPH ERNOULD ON 3 NOVEMBER, 1944, ON THE
TREATMENT HE RECEIVED FROM THE GERMANS

(Translated from the French)

" On the 9th March, 1944, I was arrested by the G.F.P. (Geheime Feld Polizei) of Rue Traversiere, at ST JOSSE-TEN-NOODE. That same day I was interrogated by GERMAN policemen in uniform attached to that service who beat me all over. For five days I had to undergo the tortures of these policemen during the interrogations.

On the last interrogation, that is to say on the 14 March, 1944, I was shut up about 0830 hours in a very small cell, my wrists being chained behind my back. About 1630 hours I was taken into an office, still at the Rue Traversiere, where I was again questioned. During the interrogation I was again beaten on the back by the same policemen with a long bludgeon. I do not know the name or rank of these GERMAN policemen but I could recognize them if I saw them again. This ill-treatment was meted out to me because I was accused of receiving arms which had been dropped by parachute by the ENGLISH, and I refused to give the names of my accomplices. Afterwards I was transferred to the prison of ST GILLES and thence to BOURG LEOPOLD. I did not receive any blows in these last two places.

I still bear the traces of this ill-treatment and to prove it can show a medical certificate given by Dr. A. SIMAR, 24 Rue de Tongres, dated 13.9.44. I add that I was liberated by the arrival of the ENGLISH on 5 September, 1944."

Appendix "T"

PRECIS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY EMMIL LABBE ON THE TREATMENT HE
RECEIVED FROM THE GERMANS

(Translated from the French)

1. He was arrested in November, 1943, and taken to ST GILLES Prison, BRUSSELS, where he spent five days in a dark cell without any bedding. He was interrogated daily when he was beaten and his fingers crushed. He was transferred to an ordinary cell later. He was taken every two or three days to the GESTAPO HQ in the Avenue Louise, BRUSSELS, for interrogation during which time he was hit on the face and subjected to similar ill-treatment.

2. One night he was taken to a place where he was put into a dark room and again questioned and beaten. "Afterwards my hands were fastened behind my back

by means of handcuffs. They passed a slip knot through the handcuffs and then lifted me up off the ground. Before this they had tied to my back a haversack containing paving stones. Whilst I was hanging I was asked about my activities, the head of my group and my connections. I still denied everything and that cost me blows in the sides with the butt of a revolver. They then let me crash onto the ground where I lay flat, exhausted and unable to move. It was due to this that I broke my wrist". A GERMAN doctor set his wrist and next day he returned to ST GILLES.

3. He was continually interrogated until he was released in March, 1944. His right wrist has not mended properly, he is deaf in the right ear and he has a bump on the forehead. He has a doctor's certificate date 30 July, 1944 giving details of his disabilities.

Appendix "U"

PRECIS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY ABBE JULES QUIENTET ON HIS TREATMENT BY THE GERMANS.

1. He was arrested by the GESTAPO from CHARLEROI on 23 June, 1943, on the charge of assisting parachutists. He was knocked about because the school children made a demonstration whilst he was being taken away.
2. He was taken to the GESTAPO HQ and on 27 June transferred to CHARLEROI prison. On 27th December, 1943, he was taken to ST GILLES Prison, BRUSSELS.
3. He was interrogated many times and had his teeth knocked out; matches put under his finger nails then lighted, feet twisted. The GERMANS threatened to torture his mother and sister if he refused to talk. The GERMANS alleged that he was immoral.
4. On 6 Dec 1943 they invited him to take the Catholic prisoners confessions in CHARLEROI prison. He refused so they dressed up a member of the SS as a priest and he heard the prisoners' confessions.
5. He states that the mental torture was even worse than the physical.
6. He was put on the train for GERMANY which never left BRUSSELS station and was freed by the BRITISH entering BRUSSELS.

LIST OF PERMANENT STAFF AT BREENDONK CONCENTRATION CAMP

Serial	Name	Date at Camp (if known)	Sources of Information		Remarks
			Name	Appendix	
1	Major SCHMIDT	1940 - early 1944	FRANZ FISCHER C. Le MAITRE Mme. PAQUET Mme. VERDICKT P.J. De SCHUTTER F.A. AMELINCKX L.O. MOENS Member of Security Police FF	B D F W Z AA BB FF	An SS Officer who was Commandant. A very heavy drinker. He rarely hit prisoners himself. He left matters much to his Lieutenant PRAUSS. SCHMIDT had a very fierce Alsatian dog, which he used to set at the prisoners who were frequently bitten. SCHEIDT took part in the torture of Mme. PAQUET. SCHMIDT returned to BERLIN early in 1944. His description is given in Appendix FF
2	Major SCHONKEMPER	1943 until 2 or 3 Sept 1944	P.J. DE SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS Member of Security Police FF	Z BB & CC FF	Succeeded SCHMIDT as Commandant. He struck prisoners and stole their belongings. He stole most of the RED CROSS parcels sent to the Camp and used to declare to the RED CROSS incorrect numbers in order to obtain a greater number of parcels.
3	Lieutenant PRAUSS (or perhaps BRAUSS)	1940 until 2 or 3 Sept 1944	C. Le MAITRE Mme. PAQUET T. FRANKIGNOUILLE Mme. VERDICKT P.J. De SCHUTTER F.A. AMELINCKX L.O. MOENS Member of Security Police FF	D F H W Y & Z AA BB FF	An SS Officer who was a native of BERLIN. He was considered one of the most brutal of the Guards. He was continually flogging prisoners and was responsible for the deaths of many. He took part in the tortures of Mme. PAQUET. His description is at Appendix FF.
4	Lieutenant SCHEINFSCHUSTOCK	Was there from 1 Sept 1942 - 12 June 1943	C. Le MAITRE	D	An SS Officer who acted as torturer. Killed a number of prisoners with own revolver. It is considered that this man is really KEMPFER or KANCHESTER (Serials 6 or 7).
5	Lieutenant LAMOTHE		P.J. De SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS	Z BB	Behaved in a brutal manner towards the prisoners. He stole parcels sent to the prisoners. He was replaced by KEMPFER (Serial 6)

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Serial	Name	Date at Camp (if known)	Sources of Information		Remarks
			Name	Appendix	
6	Lieutenant KELPFER		P.J. De SCHUTTER	Z	Was only about three months in the Camp, replacing La MOTTKE (Serial 5). Was very brutal towards the prisoners.
			L.O. MOENS	BB	
			A. SINGER	G	
7	Lieutenant KANCHUSTER (or KANCHUSTER)	Was there in December 1942	P.J. De SCHUTTER	Z	Was nearly always drunk. Ill-treated the prisoners, especial- ly the Jews. Was reputed to have killed one prisoner with his revolver. He was only at the Camp about four months.
			L.O. MOENS	BB	
8	Lieutenant WILLEMS	1940	Mme. VERDICKT	W	
9	Lieutenant SPECIER		P.J. De SCHUTTER	Z	Replaced KELPFER (Serial 6). Was very brutal towards the prisoners. He only stayed in the Camp about three months.
			L.O. MOENS	BB	
			Member of Security Police	FF	
10	Lieutenant LAIS	About six months in 1941 or 1942	P.J. De SCHUTTER	Z	Was not so brutal towards "Aryans" as some of the other guards but he behaved in a disgraceful manner to the Jewish prisoners. He made the cook give Jewish prisoners less to eat than the "Aryans". He can be recognised by his "boxer's" nose and "his swaying gait". His description is given in Appendix FF. He is a native of BADEN-BADEN.
			L.O. MOENS	BB	
			Member of Security Police	FF	
11	HERTEL	1940 until 2 or 3 Sept 1944	Mme VERDICKT	W	An N.C.O. He was in charge of transport and equipment. He was not often in contact with the prisoners and it appears that he did not ill-treat them.
			P.J. De SCHUTTER	Z	
			L.O. MOENS	BB	
12	ZIMMERMAN, Kurt	1940 until early in 1942	Mme. VERDICKT	W	A Serjeant who was in charge of supplies. He was appar- ently the most humane member of the staff. Only one case has been reported of his striking a prisoner. On this occasion the prisoner had taken a loaf of bread.
			P.J. De SCHUTTER	Z	
			L.O. MOENS	BB and CC	
13	MULLER	1940 until 2 or 3 Sept 1944	Mme VERDICKT	W	Was in charge of the Garrison pay accounts. He received and held in safe custody the prisoners' belongings. He used to strike prisoners whenever he came into contact with them. He was extremely cruel and brutal.
			P.J. De SCHUTTER	Z	
			L.O. MOENS	BB	

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Serial	Name	Date at Camp (if known)	Sources of information		Remarks
			Name	Appendix	
14	BAELE of COSTACHEM (near GHEENT)	Arrived in 1941. Left about May, 1944.	P.J. De SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS	Z BB	One of the FLEMISH SS. Was in charge of the prisoners who cleaned the offices. He struck prisoners daily and killed some of them. In 1944 his attitude towards the prisoners changed as he believed that GERMANY would lose the war. He asked several prisoners to give him letters to the effect that he had always behaved well towards them. As far as is known, no prisoner complied with this request.
15	LAMPAERT of ANTWERP	Arrived in 1941, stayed three years.	P.J. De SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS Member of Security Police	Z BB FF	FLEMISH SS. An office employe most of the time. He assisted in the interrogation and torture of prisoners. He ill-used any prisoners with whom he came into contact. His description is given in Appendix FF.
16	PELLEMANS (or PELEMAN), of REEST who lived in ANTWERP	Arrived in 1941. He left in 1943	T. FRANKIGNOUILLE E. SCIEUR P.J. De SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS	H J Z BB	FLEMISH SS. employed in the office. He did not ill-treat prisoners as much as some of the guards.
17	RAES, CLEMENT, of Laeken, BRUSSELS	Arrived in 1941 and only stayed about 6 mths.	C. Le MAITRE P.J. De SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS	D Z BB	FLEMISH SS. A very brutal man who was always striking the prisoners. He was responsible, along with SS WISS* and SS De BODT (see serials 20 and 21) for the deaths of some of the prisoners.
18	DE SAFFEL, of Dentelbergen, near GHEENT	Arrived in 1941	P.J. De SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS Member of Security Police	Z BB and CC FF	FLEMISH SS employed in the office. He assisted in the torture chamber. He was stated to be extremely cruel. He used to read out the death sentences in FLEMISH to the prisoners
19	CUYT, of HINGENE	Arrived in 1941	P.J. De SCHUTTER L.O. MOENS	Z BB	FLEMISH SS. Ill-treated the prisoners with blows and kicks.
20	WYSS (WJSS or WEISS) FERNAND, of ANTWERP	Arrived in 1941	A. SINGER V. TRIDO C. Le MAITRE Mme. PAQUET T. FRANKIGNOUILLE E. RENAUD P.J. De SCHUTTER F.A. AMELINCKX L.O. MOENS E. SCIEUR	A-Ser. 29 D F H J Y & Z AA BB I	FLEMISH SS. All say that his brutality equalled that of FRAUSS (Serial 3). Le MAITRE states that he flogged four BRUSSEL's postmen so badly that they died. MOENS stated that he killed at least six prisoners. He assisted in the torture of Mme. PAQUET. He used to throw prisoners into the moat and when they came out, flog them until they lost consciousness, then cover them with earth in order to smother them. WYSS was a fairly well-known pugilist before the War.

000686

Serial	Name	Date at Camp (if known)	Sources of Information		Remarks
			Name	Appendix	
21	De BODT (or DEBOT or De LOODT), Richard, of WILLEBROECK.		V. TRIDO C. Le MAITRE Mme. PAQUET T. FRANKIGNOULLE E. RENARD P. J. De SCHUTTER T. A. AMELINCKX Member of Security Police	A-Serial 29 D F H J Y & Z AA FF	FLEMISH SS. His brutality was in the same category as that of WISS (Serial 20). He used to flog prisoners to death and assisted in their torture. He was one of the torturers of Mme. PAQUET. His description is at Appendix FF. A. SINGER G L.O. MOENS BB Mme DALEMANS EE
22	BRUSSELEERS, of Heyst Op Den Berg	Arrived in 1941 and left 2 or 3 Sept 1944	P. J. De SCHUTTER L. O. MOENS	Z BB	FLEMISH SS employed on outside work with the prisoners. During the last few months of the occupation, there was a tendency for some guards to be less cruel owing to the fact that they began to be uncertain of a GERMAN victory. BRUSSELEERS, however, became more brutal than ever and at the end was probably the most vicious of the guards.
23	VAN HUL, of LIEGE	Arrived in 1941	P. J. De SCHUTTER L. O. MOENS	Z BB	FLEMISH SS employed in office work. Behaved brutally towards the prisoners.
24	WESTERLINKE of BLESRODE	Arrived in 1941	P. J. De SCHUTTER L. O. MOENS	Z BB	FLEMISH SS. Used to be an insurance agent. There is no evidence of his having ill-treated prisoners and he appears to have behaved decently.
25	VAN DE VOORDE, Gaston, 1 Prinses-Cleman-tinalaan GHEWT	Arrived about May 1944. Left about 2 or 3 Sept, 1944.	P. J. De SCHUTTER L. O. MOENS Member of Security Police	Z BB FF	FLEMISH SS. A "blond" who for a long time was a guard at the telephone exchange and later the entrance to the GESTAPO HQ., at ANTWERP. His home was somewhere near GHEWT. He was employed in the office. He struck prisoners and ill-treated them whenever possible. His description is given in Appendix FF. Replaced LAMFAERT (Serial 15).
26	--- NOELIN, of BERLIN.	Arrived early in 1942. Did not stay very long	L.O. MOENS	BB & CC	An NCO who replaced ZIMMERMANN (Serial 12). He was about 6ft 3ins. tall. He used to strike the prisoners continually. His surname is at present unknown; it might, however, be NORMAN.
27	FRANZ, of STRASBURG		L.O. MOENS	BB & CC	Arrived after the departure of NORMAN --- (Serial 26). He subjected the prisoners to brutal treatment and sold their rations.

000687

Serial	Name	Date at Camp (if known)	Sources of Information		Remarks
			Name	Appendix	
28	VLEIGERS	Was there in 1943	Mme FAQUET	F	A medical orderly. Took part in the torture of Mme. FAQUET SINGER (Appendix G) the AUSTRIAN doctor never knew this man.
29	SCHMITT	Was there in 1943	T.A. FRANKIGNOUILLE	H	Medical Officer. FRANKIGNOUILLE states that SCHMITT had an Alsation dog which flew at the prisoners. AMELINOVY and others state that the Commandant SCHMIDT (Serial 1) had an Alsation dog which bit the prisoners. SINGER, the AUSTRIAN doctor (Appendix G) knows nothing of a doctor called SCHMITT. It appears that FRANKIGNOUILLE has made an error and that there was no doctor called SCHMIDT.
30	KOCHLING		A. SINGER	G	A Wehrmacht doctor who visited the camp about twice a week. He was completely indifferent to the prisoners' fate.
31	POHL		A. SINGER	G	A Wehrmacht doctor (a major). He tried to improve the con- ditions in the camp.
32	KEMP		A. SINGER	G	Medical orderly - a good man who did what he could for the prisoners.
33	FELSEGGER		A. SINGER	G	Medical orderly - was very brutal towards the prisoners - used to strike them when they reported sick. It is believed he succeeded KEMP (See previous Serial).
34	FLERHAUT		A. SINGER	G	Medical orderly - behaved brutally towards the prisoners. (It is believed he succeeded FELSEGGER (see previous Serial))
35	HEBEL	Aug. 1940	Mme. VRELINOVY	W	Major SCHMITT's driver.
36	VAN HECK		L.O. MOENS	CC	A driver. Sold the prisoners' rations. Helped to kill
37	SCHNEIDER	There in 1944	Mme. LAUREMANS	EE	an escaping prisoner.
38	ELART		L. O. MOENS	BB	Two NCOs who behaved brutally towards the prisoners.
39	LEYS	1940	Mme VERDICT	W	Criminal Commissar. Is he the same as Serial 10?
40	Lieutenant VAN HECK	Departed 2 or 3 Sep 44	L.O. MOENS	BB	S.S. Is he the same as Serial 36?

000688

PARAPHRASE OF A STATEMENT MADE BY MADAME VERDICKT
TO THE ANTWERP POLICE ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 1944.
(Translated from Flemish)

At the end of August 1940, the fort of BREENDONK, near to which Madame VERDICKT lived was taken over by the GERMANS. One day she received a call from Oberlieutenant SCHMIDT, later promoted to Major. He was accompanied by his driver HERTEL, a member of the Wehrmacht. Madame VERDICKT thinks that SCHMIDT was a member of the Gestapo because he had on his collar and on his kepi a "Deaths head". SCHMIDT asked for a room with board and Madame VERDICKT dare not refuse. She wanted to move to another house and went to see Burgomaster FROMONT who advised her to stay where she was.

Later six other GERMANS and also SCHMIDT's wife, who was fetched from GERMANY, came and so the GERMANS virtually took possession of the whole house while Madame VERDICKT was left with one room and a bedroom. The VERDICKT family had to do their cooking in the wash-house which also served as a living room. Madame VERDICKT was forced to cook for the eight men for 25 Frs. a day. For this sum they insisted on having an egg in the morning and meat at midday and in the evening. Washing was also included in this price. Madame VERDICKT naturally could not "make do" for this price and was therefore compelled to buy meat, etc., in the black market. She could not complain as SCHMIDT told her that if she was asked black market prices, she was to inform him, and he would have the people shut up in the fort.

In addition to SCHMIDT and his wife the following also lodged in the house: ALFRED HERTEL, Lieutenant FRAUSS called the 'animal tamer', Oberscharnfuhrer KURT ZIMMERMAN, Sjt. WALTER MULLER, Criminal Commissar LEYS and Lieut. WILLEMS.

During September 1940 the first prisoners arrived at the fort, four in number. Among them was a man called GALANTE of BRUSSELS. The Sunday after the arrival of the prisoners, GALANTE's wife came to leave a parcel for her husband. Madame VERDICKT received the parcel after obtaining permission from SCHMIDT who was drunk. After Madame GALANTE had left, the packet was opened by ZIMMERMAN but Madame VERDICKT took it from him to look at it. She saw that it contained bread, smoked meat and butter, but she told ZIMMERMAN that there was nothing but bread. He took the packet to the fort and she thinks GALANTE received it.

At that time they had practically no furniture in the fort and Madame VERDICKT believed the prisoners had to sleep on the floor. There was no water and the prisoners had to get permission to come and draw water from her house.

Later on the prisoners were brought in every day amongst whom were FREEDMAN and his two sons. They were tailors from BRUSSELS. It is thought that the father is dead as he was taken to GERMANY. The sons are now free and came to see Madame VERDICKT after the liberation. Among the other prisoners were the Members of Parliament, VAN KESEBEEK and BOUCHERY of MALINES, FISCHER of BRUSSELS, Burgomaster FROMONT of WILLEBROEK and RENE DILLEN of ANTWERP whom she thinks was taken to GERMANY. There were many others whom she cannot now remember.

She helped the prisoners when they came to her for water, and although SCHMIDT's wife knew this, she did not betray her. Madame VERDICKT gave them bread, butter and meat. She bought the bread for them herself, whilst she managed to save the butter and meat from the GERMANS who lodged with her. She and her husband sometimes gave their food to the prisoners. They continued to give the prisoners food as long as the men were allowed

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to draw water from her house, which was until about the end of 1942.

On 5th April 1941 the above named GERMANS left and went to live in the villa belonging to DE NAEYER who was known as KASTEELTJE. Madame VERDICKT had then to provide accommodation for ALFRED HERTTEL and Sergeants of the Wehrmacht from time to time. SCHMIDT wanted her to cook for them at KASTEELTJE, but she refused. As long as the GERMANS lodged with her Madame VERDICKT was able to see that Frau SCHMIDT quarrelled with her husband who was a drunkard and had several mistresses. Frau SCHMIDT was a native of HOBOKEN in AMERICA (Compiler's note: in the State of NEW JERSEY) and her maiden name was ILSE BERKHOFF. Her husband appears to have always been a ne'er-do-well and was turned out of his parents' house, or so Frau SCHMIDT told Madame VERDICKT. She once saw Frau SCHMIDT put a stamp on a document for a man from DUFFEL, whose name she cannot recall. Frau SCHMIDT did this without her husband's knowledge, in order to prevent the young man from being sent to GERMANY. Later it was discovered that this document was not in order and he was summoned to the "WEHRBESTELLE" at ANTWERP. Madame VERDICKT went with him, but they took his papers from him and he had to go to the doctor, but instead he went into hiding.

In 1941 a Jew prisoner from BRUSSELS (Madame VERDICKT does not know his name) told her that he had received so many blows that he was going to try and escape. She could see that his face was very swollen and he told her that it was FRAUSS who had ill-treated him. He had some clothes placed in a sack in the shed beside the house. After changing and leaving his prison clothes in the shed he asked her what time a bus left for BRUSSELS. He went to WILLEBROEK and it appears that a poulterer of SCHAAFTSTRAAT called VAN INGELGHEM who was about 35 years old took him by bicycle to the tram at LONDERZEEL. She learned later from the brothers FREEDMAN that he got away to SWITZERLAND. Enquiries were made and she was obliged to say that she had found the prison clothes in the shed. It was thanks to Frau SCHMIDT that Madame VERDICKT and her husband were not shot, as the GERMAN lodgers were drunk at the time and they wanted to shoot them both with their revolvers. After this, the prisoners were not allowed to fetch water from the VERDICKT's house unless escorted. However, as long as they were allowed to come to the house she heard from them details of the ill-treatment they had to endure at the fort, particularly at the hands of FRAUSS and MULLER.

Major SCHMIDT had a dog which was trained to bite prisoners in the leg. Madame VERDICKT saw it bite them many times. She had a particularly good view of the fort through a back window of her house and from there she could see the prisoners working. They had to carry stones on their backs and they were beaten by the guards if they did not move fast enough. She could also see the prisoners who were cutting stones. They were supervised by the FLEMISH S.S. DE BODT and WEISS who pelted the prisoners from a hillock with stones and wounded them in the head. She saw many with their heads bandaged as a result of this. She heard continual complaints from prisoners concerning DE BODT and WEISS as well as VAN PRAET of BORNHEM who has been arrested and is in prison at MALINES. VAN PRAET was formerly a gardener at the fort but had also been a prisoner. One day a lawyer from VILVOORDE (whose name she does not know) was working outside her door. VAN PRAET who was guarding the prisoner said "Come on lawyer you are not working with a pen now, but with a shovel". She came between them and VAN PRAET said to her "You'd better look out, VALEKEN, or you'll be doing the same". (Compiler's note: VALEKEN is the name by which Madame VERDICKT is known in the neighbourhood).

In May 1944 the VERDICKT's were informed that they would have to leave their house as they were not considered to be trustworthy. The GERMANS wanted them to be further away from the fort so that they could not see into it.

Major SCHMIDT was replaced by Major SCHONWETTER but he never lodged with the VERDICKT's. Major SCHMIDT is said to have been sent to DENMARK but his wife said she would not follow her husband as she wished for a separation.

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LIST OF CIVILIANS WHO WERE EMPLOYED IN BREENDONK

Serial	Name and address	Remarks
1	JAN DE SCHUTTER, 1, Beenhouwerstraat, BREENDONK.	Electrician called in to maintain lighting system and install extra electric light points. For details of his story see Appendices "Y" and "Z".
2	FRANS ALOYS AMELINCKX, ZWELEWEG, WILLEBRORCK.	Employed to look after the pigs, cattle, etc., in the camp. For details of his story see Appendix "AA". He is at present held by the Belgian police.
3	CLAYLINS, WILLEBRORCK. (Now lives at MALINES)	Employed as cook and punished, then dismissed for smuggling in letters for the prisoners.
4	MOI, DEARSVELD, nr. WILLEBRORCK.	Employed as cook after CLAYLINS was dismissed. For statement see Appendices "BB" & "CC"
5	VAN ACHTER of PUURS	Was employed for a time as gardner. Was caught by the Commandant, Major SCHONWETTER, smuggling letters out of the camp. He was badly beaten up and imprisoned for six weeks after which he was discharged.
6	TIERENS of BREENDONK	Contractor to the Camp. He also belonged to the SS, and gave lectures to the civilian employees and to the FLEMISH SS. He was very friendly with the first Commandant, Major SCHMIDT. He fled with the GERMANS.
7	CARLEER Franz of LONDERZEEL	Was employed to do general repair work. He made some of the instruments of torture and assisted in making the scaffold in April 1944. He ill-treated the prisoners and reported them to the guards. He fled with the GERMANS.

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Appendix 'Y'

STATEMENT GIVEN BY LETRUS JOANNES DE SCHUTTER
OF 1 BIEKHOUWERGSTRAAAT, BREENDONK, WHEN
QUESTIONED BY THE ANTWERP POLICE.
(Translated from Flemish).

"In August 1940 I was called upon by the Commune of Breendonk to assure the installation of electricity in the camp here. I have never been a member of any political organisation either before or during the war.

My work here consisted in the maintenance of lighting and the installation of new lighting installations. I have never been called upon to instal installations for the torture of prisoners. Nor have I ever seen such installations. I did once put in a point in a so-called bunker; I heard from prisoners that the bunker served as a torture chamber, and that the point served to work an apparatus which the interrogators brought from Brussels with them. This apparatus was said to have been put on the most sensitive parts of the body. The voltage in the camp is 220 volts.

Most implements of torture were made by the smith CARLIER FRANZ VAN LONDERZEEL here in the smithy. This person left with the departing German.

The greatest brutes in the camp appeared to be: Lieutenant FRAUSS, of German nationality, DE BODT and WYSS, Flemish SS.

I did not come into contact with the prisoners. I have never heard the name of the Substitut SEVENS of Antwerp. I cannot give you the slightest information about this man.

The remaining people were as far as I know taken away by car in the direction of Brussels. What there took place I do not know. I do not think that people were buried in the camp itself."

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STATEMENT GIVEN BY PETRUS JOANNES DE SCHUTTER
of 1 BEENHOUWERSTRAAT, BREENDONCK, WIEN
QUESTIONED BY THE MALINES POLICE in OCTOBER 1944
(Translated from Flemish).

I was summoned by the Commune of BREENDONCK in August 1940 to put the electrical installation of the Fort in order.

In October 1940 the first prisoners came here, namely a group of about thirty Jews. At first there were fairly few staff here, namely Major SCHMIDT, FRAUSS, and HERTEL, supported by soldiers of the Wehrmacht, who were frequently changed. Later the staff was increased, and also included LAMOTICE, LAIS, ZIMMERMANN, MULLER, KAMCHUSTER, and later still Major SCHONWETTER. About the middle of 1941 the 'FLEMISH SS' came, RAELE, LAMPART, PELLEMAN, RAES, DE SAFFEL, WYSS, DE BODE, BRUSSELEERS, CUYT, and WESTERLINCK.

Until about the end of 1943, I went each day to the Fort, if not to work the whole day here, then for a few hours. After the departure of Major SCHMIDT and his replacement by Major SCHONWETTER, I only came when sent for. I no longer enjoyed confidence, and when I came to the Fort I was led to my place of work by a sentry.

I had to go all over the Fort to carry out electrical work. I was assisted in my work by one or more prisoners, so I was able to obtain some information as to what went on here.

The staff in general acted in a scandalous way towards the people held prisoner. It was blows all day of all sorts.

Major SCHMIDT himself did not hit much, he left it all to Lieutenant FRAUSS. He did however set his big dog on the prisoners to bite their legs.

Lieutenant FRAUSS: his cruelty passed all belief. Like all the S.S. men he was always in possession of a crop, a bull's pizzle threaded with steel wire. Without the slightest reason he used to strike the men. I think in the course of the year 1942, I saw him on the right of the cookhouse knock a prisoner unconscious; he kicked and beat him still after he lay on the ground. He decided to bring him back to consciousness, and threw a jug of water over this person. But he was dead. I cannot give the name of this person. This occurrence I saw personally. I have heard say that many prisoners died in consequence of the blows they received from FRAUSS. I had as assistant MICHEL DE BREYNE, an electrician from SCHILLE, an Escout workman. He was imprisoned here for 18 months and then released. He worked all this time with me. I think he came here about August 1942 until February-March 1944. He should be able to furnish extensive information on the conduct of Lieutenant FRAUSS, for he himself had much to endure on account of it.

Oberlieutenant KAMCHUSTER was also very barbarous. It often happened that he was blind drunk and lost all control over himself. The prisoners had a great deal to put up with from him. I cannot say exactly when he commenced his duties here. He did not stay here long. He stayed with VERBRUGGEN on the road to WILLEBROEK. Perhaps you can find out there when he was here. I have heard that KAMCHUSTER shot a Jew dead with his revolver. I did not see that myself. I remember now that he was here at Christmas 1942. In the kitchen he hit MARCEL VAN HOOFF of BOOM hard while he was lying on the ground, and he also got a kettle of boiling water or coffee over him. I do not know whether the kettle fell over him or whether it was upset over him by KAMCHUSTER. MOENS should know that better.

Sjt ZIMMERMANN. I only once saw strike, and it was when a prisoner had taken a loaf. Often, on the contrary, I saw that he gave a piece of bread to my assistant DE BREYNE. He was certainly not one of the worst, and I have heard very few complaints about him.

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LAIS was rather a crafty fellow; he went the gentle way about getting people to make admissions. In general he struck very little. He generally sat in the office interviewing. I cannot say exactly how his conduct towards the Jews was. I found nothing out about it, nor did I hear any complaints. I came little into contact with the Jews. They were shut up separately.

LAMOTTKE was a treacherous fellow; he struck the prisoners a great deal, or reported them to PRAUSS who in his turn proceeded to further illtreatment. I do not know if he killed anyone outright; I do not think so. I cannot remember when or how long he remained here.

HERTEL came little into contact with the prisoners. He was in charge of materials, and I heard no complaints of him.

MULLER was a bad person, and hit as often as he got the chance; he was in charge of pay and came little into contact with the prisoners. On all occasions and pretexts, however, he illtreated the prisoners on every opportunity he got.

SCHONWETTER, Major, Under his command I had less often to come to the Fort. According to the prisoners he also dealt them blows very readily.

His chief preoccupation was to acquire for himself the belongings of the prisoners. A lady from the Red Cross, Madame VREVEN, often came to find me to ask how many prisoners were present there, and if they had received certain things. Also Mons JOLCME from LAEKEN came to ask me similar questions. It appears that all sorts of goods and clothing sent by the Red Cross were retained by SCHONWETTER. Each time he went on leave he took with him very big boxes in which all sorts of goods were packed which had been hidden in the Fort.

I think there was also a Lieutenant KEMPFER here, but I can no longer remember him.

Lieutenant STECKMANN also knocked people about.

As for the Flemish SS who came later, that is to say in 1941, WYSS was the worst of all, followed by DE BODT. They went about always whip in hand, and struck in all circumstances and without the slightest reason. WYSS was particularly barbarous; I have seen him strike a man on top of the head so that blood flowed. From hearsay I know that he sometimes threw a shovel into the water from the fort and made a Jew go in and fetch the shovel out. Many were said to have been drowned in this way. It was generally thought in the fort that WYSS was certainly responsible for the death of about twenty people. It was also said that WYSS and DE BODT had a bet as to who should be the first to kill a Jew. But I heard and saw nothing of this. It was said to have been WYSS who killed the first person.

Each time anybody drowned in the moat they were dragged out. I think I can say with certainty that no corpses remain lying in the moat.

BAELE was also very barbarous. He was in charge of the prisoners who had to clean the offices, and struck and kicked wherever he could. But for some time now he foretold the defeat of Germany, and then began to turn, and attempted to find evidence from people that he had conducted himself well towards the prisoners. That had already begun when Dr CASMAN and his sons were held prisoners here. On a certain day he brought a piece of bread to the father CASMAN, and asked him at the same time if he would bear witness later that he had been good to him. He also tried to get MICHEL BREYNE to give him a paper to the effect that BAELE had always behaved well at the Fort. BREYNE did not do so. I think he tried to do the same with other prisoners. It is said that BAELE has been arrested at BRUSSELS. That I was told last Sunday by the father-in-law of MARCEL VAN HOOFF, who lives at BOOM on the way from NIEL. BAELE was said to have gone to a former prisoner to ask for a certificate that he had conducted himself well; this person had him arrested.

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LAMPAERT, was employed in the office, and claimed to have been the first to deal out blows to the prisoners on arrival at the Fort. I have, however, never seen him strike, but I learnt from prisoners that he could hit hard.

Of PELLEMANNS I can say little; he was employed in the office and I could never get in there while prisoners were there. I have never heard anything particular of PELLEMANNS from the prisoners, or complaints about him.

RAES I cannot remember.

DE SAFFEL also worked in the office; his was the most private of the offices and he was particularly barbarous, always dealing blows. I cannot say if it was he who went in with people to the torture chamber.

VAN DE VOORDE I knew little. He was here in the last four months, a time that I was less frequently here. I can say little about him.

BRUSSELEERS I cannot remember, I do not think I knew him.

CUYT, I know ill treated prisoners also.

Concerning WESTERLINCK I can say nothing in particular; there were in general no complaints about him.

VAN HUL, was irascible and brutal, and much ill treated the prisoners.

CARLEER and VAN PRAET were no better than the Germans or Flemish S.S. They also beat and kicked the prisoners, or carried all sorts of stories to PRAUSS, who ill treated the prisoners.

CARLEER made all the torture implements for the torture chamber, and for the cells - shackles for hands and feet. Also the ironwork for the scaffold. The woodwork for the scaffold was made by the prisoners themselves.

VAN PRAET spent his first time here as a prisoner; he then became sort of chief over the other prisoners, whilst he was still detained here. Although he was a prisoner he bullied the other people in the usual way. The Germans saw in him a man after their own hearts, and when he was released, engaged him as gardener. He made himself really barbarous to the prisoners. In the lunchtimes he often sat in the office. He learned that someone from WALLONIE was to be released. He made out that he had wangled the liberation, and in this manner managed to get possession of a side of pork from the person. This was generally known at the Fort.

There was here an imprisoned Jew OBLER, who had lived at 14, Rue Notre Seigneur at BRUSSELS. Through his tale-telling and crawling to the invaders, he managed to get himself made head-man over all the imprisoned Jews, and then in fact over all the prisoners. It was he who was in charge of the work. This he made use of to make money. He could detail prisoners for any work he wished, either carpentry, printing, cooking or suchlike; in general something or other than labouring with earth. These posts were much sought after, for one was less open to ill treatment. OBLER usually sold these advantages. A letter was secretly smuggled out addressed to the family of the person seeking to obtain such a preference. The family were instructed to remit a prearranged sum to Mrs OBLER at BRUSSELS. By an agreed sign in one of the future packages, it was made known that the sum was paid over, and if this confirmation was received the applicant received the coveted job. He himself grossly ill treated the prisoners; it might be said that he beat them to death. The GERMANS or FLEMISH S.S. were delighted when OBLER beat the

prisoners. When packages were allowed to be received, these had to be handed to the head of the room, who handed them out to the addressees. He was naturally the head of the room. He first extracted from the packages what he himself could use. About September 1943 I believe he was released, and have learned that he found employment with the Security Police in BRUSSELS. When Lieutenant FRAUSS went for a prisoner with words, and OBLER was around, he it was who struck the first. This OBLER was really inhuman here.

Here in the fort at regular intervals people were shot. No single member of the personnel (Belgian) could then come into the fort. The executions generally took place very early in the morning. The people who were executed, as well as those who died as a result of sickness or ill treatment were all confined.

I have never seen people being buried in the fort; I do not believe that people were buried here. The bodies were taken in the direction of BRUSSELS by van, generally a motor van of the Red Cross. Exactly where the people were buried is unknown to me.

I know no Mr SEVENS here in the Fort, who you say was brought here on the 29 July 1944. I cannot give you the slightest information concerning him.

During the last days before the liberation I came seldom to the Fort. I cannot say how the prisoners were taken away or to what destination; or by whom or in what manner this removal was effected; the last to remain here were about fifteen Jews and these were taken to MALINES in a motor bus. The last time I came here was to the office, where I was paid, the Wednesday before the liberation. I did not enter into the fort, and do not know if the prisoners were already evacuated then.

Appendix "AA"

STATEMENT GIVEN BY FRANS ALBERT AESTERDORCK OF
6 ZAVELWEG, WILHELMOROK, 1939, INTERVIEWED BY
THE MALDEN POLICE, in OCTOBER 1941.
(Translated from Finnish)

" I was employed at the Fort at WILHELMOROK from the beginning of the month of August 1941 until the flight of the GERMANS. My work consisted chiefly of the care of pigs, cows, sheep, and rabbits. I came into this situation at the request of a young man of LONDERZEEL, who I only knew by the Christian 'Rik', and who had had enough of it because he had to work on Sundays and could not go to the fair. I cannot imagine why I was kept on. I am not a member of the V.N.V., the VLAG or of any political organisation, nor have I ever been a member of one; nor have I ever supported the policy of GERMANY.

Among the captives in the Fort I knew a Jew, a certain OBLER, who had command over a large group engaged on forced labour. In general he appeared very brutal, and although I was often absent, I have seen him strike the prisoners. He generally struck with the flat of his hand. He dealt out hard blows, but not so hard that the victims fell to the ground. I have never seen him strike with a lash or stick. He struck prisoners for sometimes being in possession of a carrot, a cabbage or some pig-potatoes which they had taken to eat in order to appease their hunger. I never saw him sell pig-potatoes, carrots or roots, nor have I ever heard from prisoners that he had done such things.

I remember that in the beginning of the year 1942, a considerable sum of money was found by a mason under the tiles above the pigsty. I heard that said, but I can give you no exact information about it. I do not know if jewels were also found there, and can give you no useful information concerning the persons who hid it there.

I wish here to observe that, besides the above mentioned OBLER, another Jewish prisoner was responsible for the care of the pigs, whose name I do not know, and who was known by no other name than the 'pig-man'. I have never seen or heard of this 'pig-man' ever selling pigs-food to the prisoners. I was myself responsible for the pigs about a year ago, when OBLER and the pig-man were away, i.e. away at another prison camp. I never sold anything to the prisoners, but I did, when I had the opportunity, give them some pigs-food and some bread. It even happened that I gave the sufferers some tobacco. As I was away so often getting food for the animals, and had to look after the sheep and cows outside the fort, I can give you little information concerning the treatment of the prisoners. But though I was seldom in the courtyard of the fort, I saw that the prisoners were heavily beaten, chiefly by a certain WIJSS, an SS, and also by a certain DE BODT, who was also an SS, and these superintended the work carried out by the prisoners, which was principally labouring.

I have never personally seen prisoners beaten to death, but I have heard prisoners speak of this. I also learnt from the prisoners that young men had been shot, but also I did not see any shootings. From the prisoners I learnt that some of them had been hung. At the place where the executions took place, I noticed that there were ten posts standing, against which the victims were stood when they were shot, and in the corner I saw a wooden erection with a cross beam at the top. I never saw ropes hanging from this beam.

I only saw this wooden erection from a distance, as I could not get into the immediate vicinity of it. I noticed that it was made out of planks, and was about 1m. 35 high and had an upper surface of 2.50 m x 2 m. As I only saw it from afar off I could not see whether there were traps in it. The cross beam which was placed over the corner, and which apparently served to make the ropes fast to, had a length of about 4 m; a breadth of about 30cm., and a thickness of about 15cm. I can only give these measures approximately, as I could see all this only from a distance. The gallows with the wooden erection were put up by a prisoner called "GASTON" together with four other prisoner-carpenters over whom he supervised. This "GASTON" was a resident of somewhere in MALINES, and went with about thirty other prisoners to the prison of ST. GILLES a few days after the landing.

I cannot say if many victims were hanged, and cannot say with certainty how many were shot. I certainly heard the shots of the 'execution platoon' but I do not know how many people there were each time, and I also often went to WILLEMROEK from whence I could not hear anything. I saw that the same day as the executions took place, the bodies were taken away from here in a grey Wehrmacht van. I do not know where the bodies went to. To my knowledge none were buried in the fort itself.

In all the time I was working at the Fort I only saw one body. This was a victim that was shot by DE BODT for attempting to escape, it appeared.

I now recall, in connection with the OBLER affair, that he and the 'pigman' were punished when the money was found under the roof of the pigsty.

In the Fort was also a certain PRAUSS, who was a German Lieutenant, a very brutal fellow who conducted himself violently towards the prisoners. Now and then I saw him strike prisoners. He struck with his hand, and I can say that they were violent blows. I do not know the reasons for them. I have often seen him in possession of a whip. I do not know whether he struck the prisoners with it. All the prisoners and myself had a terrible fear of him.

Concerning Major SCHMIDT, I never saw him deal any blows. He had a big dog of the 'German sheepdog' (alsation) breed. I never saw the dog bite prisoners, although he often flew barking at them.

I repeat that I know in fact very little of what went on at the Fort. I always had to get my information from the cook Louis MOENS or sometimes from the electrician DE SCHUTTER or other employees of the fort.

I can give you no further information."

STATEMENT GIVEN BY LODEWIJK OCTAVE MOENS
of 22 RUE NOUVELLE, WILLEBROECK, on 2 OCT 44
WHEN QUESTIONED BY THE ANTWERP POLICE

(Translated from Flemish)

" I have been here in the service of the Fort as cook since the beginning of 1942. It was the chief of the WILLEBROECK Branch of "De Vlag" who forced me to do so by threatening me that, in case of refusal I should be sent to Germany to work.

When I arrived at the fort it was under the command of SS Major SCHMIDT; his assistant was the Hauptsturmfuhrer LAMOTKE; the other members of the staff in charge were Lieutenant PRAUSS, a native of BERLIN, U. Sturmfuhrer LAIS, easily recognisable by his boxer's nose and his sailor's walk (swaying walk). Other Germans were ZIMMERMANN, HERTEL and MULLER. As Flemish SS there must be added BAELE, of OOSTACKER near GHEENT, LAMPAERT of ANTWERP, PELLEMANS a native of REET, but having lived for a long time at ANTWERP, RAES of LAEKEN LEZ BRUXELLES, DE SAFEL of DENTMILBERGEN near GHEENT, WYSS of ANTWERP, BRUSSELIERS of HEYST OP DEN BERG, CUYT of HINGENE, DE BODT of WILLEBROECK, VAN HUL of LIEGE, WESTERLINCK of BAESRODE, a former insurance agent.

Early in 1944, Major SCHMIDT returned to BERLIN and was replaced by Major SCHONWETTER. Towards May 1944, BAELE left and was replaced by VAN DE VORDE who came from the S. D. of ANTWERP. Some time after my arrival here, the German ZIMMERMAN left and was replaced by an NCO, a very tall man, nearly two meters (6ft 3ins) whose christian name was Norman, but whose surname I do not know. He was a native of BERLIN.

I was only to go into the kitchen, according to what I was told, but in order to go and find things I needed like wood, coal, and vegetables, I went to different parts of the camp. From one side of the kitchen I could see the courtyard where the prisoners worked. I was forbidden to go behind the Fort, but in the lunch hours, when the Germans had gone, I went there all the same, and saw the state of the place. I wish to point out in passing that the reconstitution of the emplacement of the execution posts and the gibbet resembles the real thing very closely.

MAJOR SCHMIDT left things entirely to Lieutenant PRAUSS. He was a heavy drinker, and never punished a prisoner himself. He had a big dog and had taught him to bite people's legs. It happened more than once that he set this dog on the prisoners. This happened particularly when the prisoners were called on parade. Various prisoners had wounds, and moved with difficulty. It was against those people who did not take their place in the ranks quickly enough that the dog was set, and bit the prisoner's legs. I also noticed that he often took the numbers of prisoners who sometimes rested a second, and that he afterwards passed these numbers to Lieutenant PRAUSS, who then took the necessary action. The Major always walked about with a crop. Personally I never saw him strike a prisoner himself, but I learnt from the prisoners that he did go so far as to strike.

A man called TIERENS of BRESENDONK worked here as contractor: he carried out work here, but at the same time he belonged to the S.S., and besides the execution of his work, he gave lectures to the civilian staff who worked here, and to the Flemish S.S. I never had to attend his lectures. Major SCHMIDT was very attached to this TIERENS, and regularly went drinking with him at the Fort canteen. It was known by everyone that TIERENS carried into account many deliveries of construction materials which had never been made, and that SCHMIDT took advantage of the profits, which could thus be used to settle for his drinking bouts. Besides this SCHMIDT had continuous relations with TIERENS's wife, and it was said that he had intimate relations with her. He was also very attached to PHILIPPENS of FUURS, who I think was burgomaster there. I do not know if this person ever came to the camp, because I do not know this person by sight.

LIEUTENANT PRAUSS was the true tyrant of the fort, and properly speaking the one who reigned supreme over the prisoners. He was always in possession of a crop, consisting of a bull's pizzle in which a steel wire was woven. It was chiefly with this instrument that he struck the prisoners. When he happened to be without his crop he hit with his hands

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or his feet. He always hid behind a door or wall to spy on the prisoners so as to discover an alleged offence which served as a pretext for ill-treatment. I never saw anyone killed outright by blows but I know that some people died several days after as a result of them. How many people died of them is difficult to say, but I think they can be counted in tens. FRAUSS conducted himself in a really unheard of and disgusting manner towards the prisoners. In most cases there was no reason for these blows they were delivered really as a matter of habit. It happened on more than one occasion that a person was beaten without reason; when his blows sagged under the pain, he was again beaten for not holding himself upright. If they passed a puddle of water the prisoner was made to throw himself into it and received further blows because his uniform was wet. I have sometimes seen that over a distance of several hundred yards the same prisoner was struck up to five times. This state of affairs lasted from my arrival at the fort and in FRAUSS's case until the flight.

The prisoners were taken away in motor lorries very early in the morning about a week before the camp was evacuated. This exodus took place before my arrival at the fort that day. The party was divided into two groups. I learned from LIEUTENANT VAN HECK, also an S.S., whom I forgot to mention before, that the prisoners were taken towards BOIS LE DUC. At this time there were about 300 people. VAN HECK was a driver and he had also driven a prison van. MAJOR SCHONWETTER took charge of this convoy and came back again. I cannot state with how many lorries this move was effected.

LIEUTENANT STURMFUHRER LAIS did not conduct himself too badly towards the prisoners who were considered as 'Aryans'. I learned that he had also resorted to blows and kicks but to a much less extent than FRAUSS. On the other hand LAIS was much more zealous regarding the Jews, whom he struck and kicked brutally. He came to the kitchen and told me to give the Jews less to eat than the other prisoners. Several times he made the kitchen staff, myself included, take a part of the food out of the bowls. I never saw him beat Jews to death but they were often ill as a result of his beatings. He did not hit with any special instrument but did it with whatever he came across, either a stick or his fist. He had a very heavy fist; he had, by the way, the appearance of a boxer. Each time he gave a blow with his fist the prisoner fell over. He was here about half of 1942 and in his place but a long time afterwards, came:-

OBERLEUTNANT KANCHESTER, whom I also forgot to mention above. This man was in the true sense of the word a thorough beast. He was drunk from 8 o'clock in the morning onwards. I never saw him otherwise. He behaved in the most odious manner towards the prisoners and in an even more horrible manner towards the Jews. I have been told by the prisoners that, when he had been here at the Fort three days, he met a Jew in the court-yard and, without further ado and without even speaking to him, drew his revolver and shot down the Jew in cold blood. I know that a so-called enquiry was held on this matter and on its conclusion the findings were published to the prisoners. The prisoners were informed that the Jew had mutinied and had brought his death upon himself as a deserved punishment. All the prisoners were unanimous in declaring that no word had been exchanged between them. KANCHESTER remained here about four months and his disgusting conduct never changed. One exact case against him - At a moment when I was out of the kitchen, KANCHESTER came in alone, drunk as usual. There were several cans of boiling coffee there at the time. He struck one MARCEL VAN HOOFF of TERHANGE. The latter fell and KANCHESTER poured on him one of the cans of boiling coffee. Further he drew his revolver, or tried to, but could not as he was so drunk. VAN HOOFF was terribly scalded and remained under treatment for several weeks. After several weeks VAN HOOFF was taken to BOIS LE DUC and I think his parents said he was dead.

HAUPTSTURMFUHRER LAMOTKE was a thorough hypocrite, an artful chap. He hit like the others, but most of the time he let FRAUSS do it, and he punished in his usual bestial manner. However, more than once, he committed acts of violence too. He examined the packets which were sent to prisoners; he took out for himself whatever came under the heading of "luxury foodstuffs" chocolate, sardines He kept them for himself.

ZIMMERMAN was a real soldier, scrupulous to the extreme. He was in charge of supplies, and he controlled everything concerning them. He sometimes came into the kitchen and ate a piece of bread; he refused to put any butter on it, because it was, he said, the prisoners' ration. There is nothing to complain of about him. I only heard of two occasions on which he had given a prisoner a blow. He was the only decent person in the administration of the camp. I gave him as much rations as was necessary, and they were always regularly issued.

HERTEL, non-commissioned officer, in charge of equipment, especially the motor transport. He was not often in contact with the prisoners. I never saw him strike a prisoner, and I never heard anyone complain about him.

MULLER had no rank, and the prisoners did not have to stand to attention for him. He insisted, however, that they did, and this was the pretext for continual blows when he had the chance. He acted as paying officer, and had to receive and hold in safe custody the objects belonging to the prisoners. He was a regular brute, and for that matter, even more cruel than FRAUSS. It is fortunate that he was not able to be in continual contact with the prisoners. When he passed by chance somewhere where he saw some prisoners, he always struck at them, either with his hand or with a stick, or whatever else was handy. I know of no cases in which prisoners died as a result of his blows.

After the departure of SCHMIDT, Major SCHONWETTER arrived as Camp Commandant. I cannot refer to him other than as a thief and a pilferer. When he had been in office a short time, that is to say during 1943, the Foyer Leopold Charity of BRUSSELS interested itself in the prisoners. As a result of this were supplied supplementary rations in the form of biscuits butter, smoked horse meat and chocolate. This work was under the patronage of the PRINCESS DE LIGNE. I knew this lady, and told her how many prisoners were detained here. This served as a guide for the division of the supplementary rations. SCHONWETTER always quoted a higher strength than there really was and thus disputes arose between the charity mentioned and SCHONWETTER. The Princess even came one day because 28 more people than I had mentioned had been included. The major tried by every means to justify that there really were 28 people. No, I'm wrong, it was Schonwetter who went to see the Princess at BRUSSELS. This Charity had distributed at a certain time up to 75 Kilograms of butter, and a quantity of smoked horse meat. Of this nothing went to the prisoners. All of it was immediately divided among the officers of the camp. Some chocolate was distributed, three bars had been provided per prisoner, I having informed the charity that there were 430 prisoners. The charity decided to send fifteen hundred bars, to make sure that each prisoner received three bars of chocolate, for they knew some of it would be kept by the Germans. Major SCHONWETTER gave two bars to each prisoner, and kept for himself 600 bars.

He himself struck and ill-treated the prisoners on more than one occasion. However he left most of it to FRAUSS. A certain Van Achter of Puurs came here to the fort to work as a gardener. The latter did many good turns to the prisoners, notably by sending off their letters outside. Once he was caught by the Major, and very badly ill-treated by him. He was really ill as a result of it.... Afterwards he was imprisoned for six weeks and then discharged from the camp.

The tall officer to whom reference has been made is the one whose christian name was NORMAN - as mentioned above. He, among others, assisted in the arrest of the COUNT DU MONOEAU DE BERGENDAEL at BRUSSELS. This NORMAN was a real tyrant towards the prisoners. He hit them continually. It happened on more than one occasion that he beat the same prisoner with FRAUSS, and I can say with certainty that NORMAN shared the responsibility for the death of several persons. The COUNT DE MONOEAU was shot. I managed to get a roll

of lavatory paper to him and he left several notes that I passed to BARON DE MEESTER after the liberation

Someone called FRANTZ came after the departure of Norman. He was a native of STRASBURG. The latter is comparable to SCHONWETTER as a thief. In addition, he ill-treated the prisoners. He was not, to my knowledge, directly responsible for the death of any prisoners.

I also knew an Oberlieutenant who also struck the prisoners and who very cruelly supervised them. Oberlieutenant STECKMAN was also in permanent contact with the prisoners and also made himself responsible for several tortures. KEMPFER and STECKMAN stayed only a very short time here; each about three months, I think. LAMOTTKE was replaced by KEMPFER and the latter by STECKMAN.

In the course of 1944 there were still the N.C.O.s. SCHUNZLAR and ELART who also were guilty of brutalities. They left about two months before the liberation.

Let us turn to the Flemish S.S. The worst were WYSS and DEBODT. WYSS was there when I arrived at the fort. He behaved in the most disgusting manner towards the prisoners. He never stopped hitting the men with a bull's pizzle, a piece of iron, or even with stones. I have seen him in the courtyard beat a man to death and then stand on the dead man's head shouting "I've got another one". He was a Jew. I also know he drowned several Jews. Several times he kicked them into the water until they lost consciousness, then he pulled them out and covered them with earth until death was caused through asphyxiation. He always boasted of having killed prisoners. According to what I know, at a conservative estimate, he killed at least six people during the period I was here. It is impossible for me to give the names of those persons. In all these repulsive deeds he was actively seconded by DEBODT. The latter behaved in the same way as WYSS and helped him kill the people. It can be said that he himself killed several people, either alone or in company with WYSS. These two individuals genuinely equalled PRAUSS in brutality.

BAELE was also serving here when I arrived. He also behaved cruelly towards the prisoners by means of blows and tortures. It appears that for the last six months he felt that he should disassociate himself from GERMANY and that they would lose the war; from that time onwards he changed radically and tried to get on good terms with the prisoners. One day two people from the environs of CHARLEROI were liberated. He conducted these people as far as the causeway, insisted that he had always been good to them and asked these people to write to him. These persons never complied. Some time afterwards, two people from the same district were also released. He also pressed these people to write to him and to try to get in touch with the first two to ask them to write to him. He tried on all sides to get people to send him letters which would make it appear that he had conducted himself well. Nobody complied. It is certain in any case that, until the beginning of 1944, he was no better than the others and that he ill-treated the prisoners with equal violence. I do not think he was directly responsible for the death of people as WYSS and DE BODT were. According to what I hear DE BAELE has been arrested and detained at BRUSSELS.

LAMPAERT was an office employee. It was usually in his office on their arrival at the Fort that the prisoners received their first blows. This was LAMPAERT's work. Nearly all prisoners who came into the Fort received blows from LAMPAERT. LAMPAERT assisted at the questionings in the interrogation rooms and the torture chamber. He also made himself an accessory to the ill-treatment which always accompanied these interrogations. He was also at one time on outdoor service and there also was responsible for serious tortures. DE BODT however told me one day that LAMPAERT was much too mild. I can however say that LAMPAERT can be called cruel.

PELLEMANS was an office employee and I have nothing ill to say of him. He did not ill-treat anyone. One day I came into contact with people from WAARLOOS whose son was imprisoned here and who was shot. These people told me that someone in the Fort had called and they had given him food for their boy and a certain amount of money to buy delicacies. This young man had been taken to the prison at ANTWERP and the parents had been allowed to

to speak to him. Their son had told them that he had received the food in question and also other things, notably delicacies, which had been bought with the money given. The person who did this was described by the parents -- I now remember their name - GYSEMANS. The description coincides fairly well with FELLEMAN and I still wonder if the person who did that was not FELLEMAN. I am not in the least certain on this subject. I have, in any case, no ill to say of FELLEMAN: I have discovered nothing against him, and I never heard the prisoners speak against him. The GYSEMANS I spoke about is actually MICHEL GYSEMANS, a member of the Reserve, implicated in the affair of COLONEL HAUSMAN, J. S. DE BOURBOINE and others. FELLEMAN left here about a year before the liberation.

RAES was here about six months and was in any case as cruel as WYSS and DE BODT. He also struck the men in all ways. I can say that he collaborated with WYSS and DE BODT in causing directly the death of several persons. I cannot remember the names of the persons killed. There were here a group of postmen prisoners. Two of these were martyred. I can certify that this was the work of WYSS, DE BODT and RAES.

DE SAFTEL was also an office employee. He was extraordinarily cruel. He did not have much chance of coming into contact with the prisoners but when he saw the opportunity, he struck, kicked and ill-treated the men in every way. He accompanied (them) very often to the torture chamber. He must have conducted himself in a most bestial manner. From the kitchen where I was, in spite of the distance, the corridors and the shut doors, I could hear the shrieking of the tortured in the torture chamber. In the kitchen I had as an assistant one FRANS MICHELS of BRUSSELS. He was arrested as a suspect at the beginning of the war between Germany and Russia. This person was never interrogated. I happened on more than one occasion that MICHELS was called to fetch someone from the torture chamber and take them back to their cell. It often happened that several hours after having left the torture chamber the person died of the effects of the blows, ill treatment and torture.

VAN DE VOORDE, a blond, was for a long time guard at the telephone exchange at Antwerp and guard at the gate of the Security Police Building at ANWERP. He is a native of GHEET or thereabouts. He was employed in the office and did not come into contact with the prisoners who worked outside. He was never in the torture chamber to my knowledge. I have, however, heard that he also struck the prisoners and ill-treated them in his office.

BRUSSELEERS was also attached to the outside department of the prisoners. He was as cruel as WYSS and his chiefs. He was himself the terror of the prisoners. During the last months I can say that WYSS and DE BODT (certainly for fear of the German collapse) were a little less cruel in their work. BRUSSELEERS on the contrary doubled his cruelty and at the end he was the worst of all; he was the real terror of the prisoners.

CUYT was attached to the outside department and to the stores. I heard that he had also ill-treated prisoners with blows and kicks. But he was much less harsh than the WYSS group.

WESTERLINK was a real idealist national-socialist. I learned nothing about him. As usual I asked the prisoners. I will not say that he never struck but if so, this must have been rare. I must say that he behaved himself decently.

VAN HUL was an office employee and I have heard say of him that he also acted in a brutal way towards the prisoners. The story is that one day VAN HUL bet with DE BODT that he would kill a prisoner at nine o'clock in the evening. I never discovered if that was true. I cannot say that VAN HUL personally caused the death of anybody.

At the Fort were also attached L. CARLEER of LONDERZEEL as smith and VAN PRAET of BOINHEM as gardener. Of CARLEER I can only say that he was in charge of all the general repair works. He made the instruments of torture, the pulley of the torture chamber, the irons in which the men were chained; lastly he also made the scaffold. This scaffold was put up towards April 1944 I think; as far as I know it was first used for hanging ...

FRAITEUR and his two companions, condemned to death for the murder of PAUL COLLIN. As far as I know, only a few people were hanged. CARLEER was as bad as the Flemish S.S. He also ill-treated the prisoners continually or relied upon FRAUSS to punish and ill treat the people for him. CARLEER was also secretary of the VNV at LONDERZEEL; he was really wicked and his conduct towards the prisoners was scandalous.

VAN PRAET was the gardener of the Fort. He also conducted himself scandalously towards the prisoners. He also struck the prisoners or went and told all about it to FRAUSS. It happened on more than one occasion that the people, impelled by terrible hunger, ate or tried to eat a loaf of cabbage, or trimmings of vegetables which remained on the path. He snatched them from their hands, struck the man and afterwards went and told FRAUSS. He acted thus to a boxer of BRUSSELS who was also a prisoner there; as a result of this the latter was confined to his cell for 15 days and terribly ill-treated. This was the work of VAN PRAET. He was a crook into the bargain; he sometimes succeeded in learning at the office that one prisoner or the other was to be released. He then went and found the person and said that through his intervention he was going to be released. The people were filled with joy at such an eventuality and each would have given everything he possessed to leave here. They, therefore, made many promises. On another occasion he sought out some people and told them the dates when they would be released. All this took place as he had said although he had nothing to do with it. In most cases the people kept their promise, thus it was that a farmer of WALLONIE promised him a side of pork, some butter and other things if he secured him his freedom. VAN PRAET did actually get them because he went to fetch them one Sunday and told me on the Monday that he had such a time as he had never had in his life before.

PRISONERS FOOD

The food in general was very bad until the beginning of 1944. The prisoners received first 175 grammes of bread a day - later the ration was increased to 250 grammes, 20 grammes of jam, 30 grammes of sugar, 30 grammes of butter, 10 grammes of cheese every 2 days. At midday a soup which consisted of water and vegetables. The issue was 30 grammes of meat per person per day (meat with bone). Meat and butter in particular were generally partly held back. I often had arguments with the Germans when I demanded this ration. This was not the case while ZIMMERMAN divided up the rations; I then received the exact amount. The meat, however, only amounted to a ration of 20 gr. so that the soup had not a great nutritive value. From the beginning of 1944, the food greatly improved. Then came the Foyer Leopold. The ration of bread was raised to 500 grammes, the potatoes to 1 kilogramme and the meat to 100 grammes. However these rations were never fully issued so that it could be said that the Germans kept back much of them for themselves. However from then on the food became passable.

GENERAL INFORMATION

I consider that since the time of my arrival here at the Fort there have been about, and without overestimation, 350 people executed, the majority shot. The posts against which the persons to be shot were placed were changed after being used two or three times. The old posts were used as firewood.

The Foyer Leopold provided clothing at the same time as food. In general few clothes were issued. The men generally went about with their shirts in shreds. It was only in case of absolute need and if nothing else could be done, that a shirt or other article of clothing was granted. MAJOR SCHONWETTER had a lorry filled with all sorts of clothes some days before the evacuation. This convoy left for HASSELT.

As instruments of torture there was also a form with sharp corners; it was not a chair, but a form. It was placed in the torture chamber under the pulley. The people were brutally thrown against it and banged their knees against the sharp corners which, according to what I have been told, was very painful.

Those members of the S.D. who conducted interrogations generally acted as torturers; after which they carried off the prisoners. During the interrogation the staff of the fort, Germans and Flemish SS entered and left and also took their turn at hitting the victims.

On Saturdays the prisoners went to the baths room by room. It often happened that the prisoners, in winter as well as summer had to wait their turn for quite a time in the courtyard. The people were only dressed in their shirt and trousers. I think there was a monthly medical inspection by the doctor. This only took one hour for all the prisoners who sometimes numbered 450. Everyone had to wait their turn quite naked in front of the kitchen, in the courtyard. I often saw them from my kitchen.

When executions were to take place I was not allowed to come to the fort. I received the order the day before, not to come in the morning or to come at 10 o'clock. I then knew that executions were going to take place.

There were also personnel who did not belong to the SS but to the Wehrmacht. These did all sorts of guard duties. Generally they behaved themselves decently, except that here and there an individual also behaved brutally.

I can report that one of the members of the Wehrmacht went and extracted a sum of Fes 5000 from the family of Doctor REYNAERTS of SCHEUT to have him set free. After that he went back to say that he had been set free, but that he had been killed by the guards at the moment when he attempted to escape. None of this was true. Doctor REYNAERTS remained at the fort and left with the convoy of prisoners towards BOIS LE DUC. In passing I have to remark that Dr REYNAERTS spent four weeks in a cell for having put a dressing on a Russian prisoner of war.

In the cells there were different degrees of treatment; there were some who could only remain standing, others who had their hands tied, others their feet, and some hands and feet.

The people who worked for the fort, that is to say the prisoners who were attached to the fort as carpenter, electrician or printer, or helped me in the kitchen, underwent the same ill-treatment from the S.S. as the others, but they were better treated in the matter of food and tobacco, because myself, DE SCHUTTER, and the other members of the civil staff could occasionally pass them something.

Seven or eight weeks before the evacuation a woman was shot; I think she was a Frenchwoman, the wife of an English officer. This woman was only held prisoner here for about three months, she was later taken away elsewhere for three weeks. One morning at 4 o'clock she came back and was immediately shot. This is the only shooting of a woman I have heard speak of. The day she was shot was a fete day for the Germans and the Flemish S.S; all sorts of excesses were committed, especially drinking bouts.

According to my information persons who were shot had been condemned to death by a council of war, or their execution was envisaged as a reprisal. Their judgement was generally read before them, generally in German and in Flemish. This last being read by DE SAFFEL.

I cannot believe that people are buried in the fort. The dead were put together, and when a certain figure was reached they were taken to an unknown destination. The corpses were put in coffins, when they left here, and transported usually in a Wehrmacht lorry. It has happened that they waited until more than 20 corpses (had collected). The first lay there for 18 days.

Concerning the use of the so called gas chamber, it served as a mortuary. I never heard say that there was really a chamber for gas tortures.

The last days before the liberation there was a real panic, among the Flemish SS in particular. The Flemish SS had to leave their wives. They quarrelled with one another. Visibly they suspected me of having had contacts with the prisoners, and I had to disappear for several days. I learnt that everyone, including the SS personnel, left the fort on Saturday 2 September about 3 o'clock in the afternoon; the army remained until Sunday afternoon. From Sunday afternoon until Monday morning at 10 o'clock the population pillaged the fort; taking all sorts of objects such as kitchen utensils, cupboards, tables, chairs etc.....

STATEMENT GIVEN BY LOUWELJK OCTAVE MOENS
of 22 RUE NOUVELLE, WILLEBRORCK, on 17 NOV 44
WHEN RE-QUESTIONED BY THE ANTWERP POLICE
 (Translated from Flemish)

" While I was cook at the Fort of BREENDONCK I knew three sergeants there who were responsible for supervising the prisoners' rations. These were ZIMMERMANN, NORMAN and FRANZ.

The ration was fixed in accordance with the ration regulations; but a change took place about five months before the liberation when the 'FOYER LEOPOLD III' interested itself with the supply of food; then the prisoners got 100 grams of meat and 500 grams of bread a day, and extra rations of butter and smoked horseflesh were also provided. In the kitchen there was a board on which the number of prisoners was written; I drew the necessary foodstuffs in accordance with the strength shown thereon.

As long as ZIMMERMANN issued the rations I never had any trouble; the rations were there as laid down; he never withheld the slightest thing. With NORMAN things did not go so well; he tried now and then to retain something for himself; but as the rations were already insufficient in quantity, only little could be withheld. FRANZ withheld a great deal, particularly butter and meat. I very often had trouble with him; he affirmed that I had to issue what I got from him, and that I could exercise no control over him. One day a great argument took place because I got barely eight kilos of butter, whereas according to my calculation I should have received at least 12 kilos. I went and complained of this to Major SCHONWETTER, but without success. Later I understood the Major's attitude better when I discovered that he himself was concerned in the misappropriation.

I never had any idea how things were going to work out. The issue took place in the following manner. In the afternoon I received potatoes and vegetables which I had to prepare for the following day; I received meat, butter, cheese and jam in the morning for consumption the same day according to the strength of prisoners shown on the board. Prisoners got nothing to eat the day they entered the Fort, and any food they had with them was taken away. The incoming prisoners obtained their first meal in the midday after their arrival. Even those who were brought in in the morning got nothing to eat at midday; the Major issued strict orders about this; they had to wait until midday the next day. If it happened that only a couple were brought in I did manage to see that they got soup, but I had to do this by stealth; all other issues such as bread, butter, cheese or other provisions were out of the question in view of the shortness of the rations.

The vegetables issued to make soup were always insufficient; what was said to be a week's vegetables were issued at one time; they were then divided so as to go round. There was thus no specified weight or quantity given; a heap was divided over so many days; when NORMAN was in control the following incident took place: Wurzels were delivered, and he told me there were 1500 kilos and they were to be divided over so many days; I saw from the heap that there were hardly 1000 kilos and said as much; he maintained that there were 1500 kilos; I then weighed them and found they weighed 945 kilos. NORMAN then affirmed that 500 kilos were still to be delivered, but nothing came of it. So I had to get along with the 945 kilos as if they had been 1500 kilos. I suppose that NORMAN had 1000 kilos of wurzels delivered, but had taken 1500 kilos into account, and had misappropriated the difference.

The greatest difficulties concerning the food began when FRANZ took over: he was in charge when the 'FOYER LEOPOLD III' attended to the food.

I never obtained the weight of rations laid down; instead of the 100 grams of meat prescribed (with bone), I estimate that about 50 grams were issued. I could not complain, because the Major always put me in the wrong, from which I decided that FRANZ acted as he did with the knowledge of the Major, and that the latter had his share of the profits.

It once happened that FRANZ, with VAN NECK as driver, went to get some foodstuffs at ANTWERP; namely cheese, jam, sugar, barley. On the way back, at BOOM, they went into a cafe to see some of their lady friends; to pay the bill they sold a part of the rations intended for the prisoners. I heard of this from DE SAFFEL who was in the office and could not take part in the deal, and was therefore in a bad temper with FRANZ and VAN NECK. DE SAFFEL happened to be in the cafe at BOOM where FRANZ and VAN NECK had their party. DE SAFFEL once ratted on me into his confidence and he told me about this, adding that all sorts of goods had been sold to pay the bill. Some days later I noticed that DE SAFFEL avoided me, and made no further reference to his confidential disclosures about FRANZ; I concluded from this that DE SAFFEL had also got a share of the booty in order to keep him quiet.

The extra rations of butter and smoked meat were never issued to the prisoners; these were divided by the staff of the fort, that is to say the S.S. staff. The butter was divided between SCHONWETTER and FRANZ, the meat was divided all round. It can be said that everybody to a greater or less extent participated in what was misappropriated out of the prisoners' rations.

The ration of bread, whether it be 175, 250, or finally 500 grams was always regularly distributed; none was withheld. The bread was in order; it was delivered by SOMERS, the baker, of WILLEBROEK. This bread was carefully dealt with and delivered by weight. It was ordinary ration bread.

The cheese was properly issued as long as it was processed cheese: 5 grams a day being allowed per prisoner and issued every 3 days i.e. 15 grams. When loaf cheese was issued a quantity was held back. With the loaf cheese ten days might elapse before any was issued, then six days' rations were issued and four days' rations withheld. FRANZ then found that as so much cheese was issued an issue of butter could be postponed, and he said that a double ration of butter would be issued the day after, but nothing came of it, so that the butter ration for all the prisoners for one day was taken by him.

Later the 'FOYER LEOPOLD III' delivered dried goods such as macaroni, oat flakes, rolled barley; of these the GERMANS also withheld a quantity, while part was issued to me for soup. I can thus say that in the last four months the soup was of very .. (word missing in original) .. quality; before the intervention of the 'FOYER' the contents of the soup were very insufficient. The soup was issued in cans which were fetched by a couple of prisoners per room, always accompanied by a FLEMISH SS. It was laid down that each prisoner received a litre of soup.

The other items of food were issued in the evening about 1730 hours, first the bread was cut, later it was issued whole, and was distributed in the room where one or more knives were kept. The issue of sugar, cheese, jam, took place at the same time, the issue being 20 grams jam and 30 grams sugar; generally less was issued, as some was withheld, often even before the goods reached the Fort. I very often complained both to FRANZ and to the Major that I had received too few rations; I always got the answer that I could exercise no control but had only to divide out what I had received.

The 'FOYER LEOPOLD' also delivered linen goods; underclothes, shirts, socks. Very few of them were issued to the prisoners and it was really only when a prisoner had not a rag of underclothing to his back that he got anything. Shoes and knitted goods arrived. Absolutely none of these were issued to the prisoners, but all was divided among the S.S. staff; the WEHRMACHT people who did guard duty at the fort affirmed that they had never received anything of the misappropriated goods.

The GERMANS sent much home, the prisoners who had to work in the joiner's shop will be able to bear witness that they had to make endless boxes in which the goods were sent home to GERMANY by the GERMANS.

The prisoners received about a litre of malt coffee in two issues, morning and evening; apart from this they had nothing to drink, not even water.

LIST OF HEADMEN AT THE ROOMS IN BREENDONK

Serial	Name and Address	Date at Camp (if known)	Sources of information		Remarks
			Name	Appendix	
1	OBLATT or OBLER, 14 Rue Notre Seigneur, BRUSSELS	Until 1942	T.FRANKIGNOUILLE P.J.DE SCHUTTER F.A.AMELINCKX	H Z AA	A Jewish prisoner who was put in charge of all Jews. His treatment of the prisoners equalled in cruelty that of the SS guards. He used to extract money from the prisoners in return for allotting them indoor work and used to steal articles from any parcels the prisoners received. On his release in September 1942 he is said to have joined the GESTAPO in BRUSSELS.
2	DEVOS Valere GHEENT		C. LE MAITRE	D	} They both used to illtreat the prisoners and behaved in a scandalous fashion.
3	HEERMANS Rene 72 Rue Peter Benoit, HASSELT		-do-	D	
4	VAN PRAET of BORNHEM		Mme.VERDICKT P.J.DE SCHUTTER L.U.MOENS	W Z BB	Was made responsible for all prisoners. He used to bully prisoners and his conduct was just as bad as the guards. After a time he was released and engaged as a camp gardener.

STATEMENT MADE BY MADAME DALEMANS to the ANTWERP POLICE
on 14 NOVEMBER 1944.

(Translated from Flemish)

" During November 1942 DE BODT moved to PEPPERSTRAAT at WILLEBROECK and the removal was carried out by three prisoners. It was done in the morning. Round about midday one of the prisoners escaped by jumping over a hedge. At this time DE BODT and a GERMAN were acting as guards. They could not find the escapee for whom they searched for a good half-hour. The licensee of the GAMBRINUS CAFE in the PRESOONSSTRAAT then rang up the Port and some ten GERMANS arrived with a bloodhound. The run-away was soon found again. He was then beaten up in a dreadful way so that he collapsed on a dunghheap. There was one GERMAN present who did not do anything. DE BODT and the other GERMAN who had been with him since the morning were responsible for the ill-treatment. After having beaten up the prisoner DE BODT took one GERMAN's bayonet and pricked the prisoner with it in the belly; another GERMAN did the same in the chest. DE BODT then also fired at the prisoner. SS man FRANZ VAN NECK had arrived in the meanwhile and he also fired at the prisoner. How many shots were fired I cannot say.

The man in question died as a result of bayonet injuries and the shots. Later a lorry arrived and the corpse was loaded onto it.

The prisoner was strongly built and appeared to me to be 23 years of age, had black curly hair and was of medium height, about 1.68 m I should say, and wore Khaki Army uniform. I saw that his hair had been shaved but some of it had started to grow again, and I could make out some black curls.

There was no reason whatsoever for killing this person; they brutally murdered him after he had been taken prisoner. Whilst they were inflicting him with bayonet wounds I saw him trying to ward them off and it seemed to me that he implored them not to ill-treat him any further; he pressed one hand against his side and the other he raised above his head in token of submission.

I was never able to find out who the murdered man was; it was talked about in the village; rumour had it that he was a man from ETTERBEEK, others said he was a Jew. "

EXTRACTS FROM A STATEMENT MADE BY A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY POLICE TO THE ANTWERP POLICE in OCTOBER 1944.

- Notes: (i) The member of the ^{Security Police} Gestapo is Jan Lodewijk SCHUERMANS, born in LIER, BELGIUM in 1923.
- (ii) The original statement is in Dutch.
- (iii) The original statement together with enclosures is sixty one pages long.
- (iv) The Security Police works in conjunction with the GESTAPO.
- (v) SCHUERMANS states that he was really working for the Underground Movement and passing them information. He went into hiding from the GERMANS in August 1944.

1. " In July 1942 I entered the service of the Security Police at ANTWERP as interpreter....."
2. " My salary was 800 francs a month plus allowances for food and clothing When I married my salary was increased to 3000 francs a month....."
3. " I was taken on by LIENKE, SS Obersturmfuhrrer and Police Inspector, Department 1 - Section IA1 of the BRUSSELS office of the Security Police and Security Service....."
4. " I also had the job of tracking down people who appeared in anonymous letters, that is to say I had to go and identify these people from the directories....."
5. (SCHUERMANS was present when LAUDE, the Rector of The Colonial University, ANTWERP, was arrested. He was in the next room when LAUDE was interrogated). He says: "At the time of the interrogation I heard LAUDE screaming from the blows he received....." (See Appendix 'A' serial 45 and Appendix 'Q').
6. In his description of the organisation and personnel of the Security Police and Security Service in ANTWERP he describes:-

"VAN DE VOORDE, Gaston. Speaks with a GENT dialect and lived at 1 PRINSES-CLEMANTINALAAN, GENT - 1.70 high - slim - small hands - brown wavy hair - clear blue eyes - small features - broad forehead - clean shaven. VAN DE VOORDE formerly served with the WAFFEN SS, but was discharged on medical grounds and then joined the Security Police. He went to BREENDONK in the month of June 1944 to replace LAMPAERT "....."
7. " SCHMIDT (Mrs) Typist. Wife of Sturmabfuhrer SCHMIDT, Head of BREENDONK Camp. Personal description: 1.71 m tall - brunette - dark grey eyes - narrow face - broad mouth - robust build without corpulence - 32/33 years old"....."
8. " LAIS, Ernst, SS Untersturmfuhrer - Criminal Secretary. A native of BADEN-BADEN. 32/34 years old - 1.70 m tall - short grey hair - rather square head - dark grey eyes - flat nose with protruding bulbous end - very bandy-legged. LAIS is a member of the Criminal Police. He is a brutal beast. Those who fell into his hands did not get off lightly. He served at BREENDONK in 1941....."
9. " LAMPAERT, Adolf. This man lives at 4 Baron JOOSTENSTRAAT, ANTWERP. Aged 25/28 years - height 1.71 m - strongly built - coarse face - dark grey eyes, bushy eyebrows - fleshy nose. LAMPAERT served for three years at BREENDONK and satisfied his sadism on the prisoners there. He is an utter brute. Incidentally his bestiality can be read in his face"..
10. " VAN AKEN. It was probably this person who denounced the case of Mr LAUDE (see Appendix "A", serial 45) to the GFP. LAUDE had lent VAN AKEN financial support and also provided him with a false identity card as he had to disappear. After this VAN AKEN returned to LAUDE for a new identity card. The photo from the old card was put by LAUDE in a register. Some days afterwards when the GFP came to LAUDE they went and opened the

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register where the photograph was and stated that they were convinced that the photograph was to be used for a false identity card. A member of the GFP is said to have remarked 'The case cost us 50,000 francs, but it's a good case'....."

11. (The following paragraph shows the methods employed by the GERMANS)

" VARIOUS METHODS EMPLOYED BY THE SECURITY POLICE "

" People who were arrested for a trifle were scarcely ever ill-treated, the most they got was their cars bored. These people also had permission whilst in prison to write letters and to receive parcels and visits. Several prisoners were in one cell.

" When the reason for arrest was serious they were handled in a similar manner if they confessed. If this was not the case they were shut up alone and were forbidden to write letters, to receive parcels or visits. Custody on security grounds ("sicherheitshaft") was demanded by the Security Police for from one to three months.

" After a certain time the person in question was again interrogated. By reason of this severe seclusion the nervous system of the prisoner was strained to the utmost. Interrogation then was begun in a quiet way. If this did not produce any results, an attempt was made to make the prisoner amenable by boxing him on the ears and menacing him with truncheons and sticks or by telling him that he would be taken away to BREENDONK. If this again did not produce any results the notorious method of severe interrogation ('Verschärfte Vernehmung') was adopted. The prisoner was then placed on a table and was continuously beaten by one or two men with long rubber truncheons or for preference with bamboo sticks. It often happened that the prisoner collapsed then his torturers stopped hitting him. The victim was then revived with blows and kicks. Sometimes it was found necessary to give him an injection in order to prevent heart failure. This ill-treatment usually lasted for two hours. The prisoner completely exhausted both mentally and physically began to speak. Only those of exceptional will-power and stamina held out and did not say anything. They were then taken into a cramped, damp, dark cell where it was impossible to stretch fully. The prisoner in a strong sweat because of torture was now exposed to damp and cold and became feverish so that his remaining powers of resistance melted away. The prisoners received only little food and that was strongly salted in order to increase their thirst. On the following day the interrogations were resumed. The prisoner was struck in the same places, on the blood suffused parts of the body and the half closed wounds. These parts were even rubbed with salt water or strong tincture of iodine. It has happened on occasions that the victim died under this treatment.

" Yet another instrument of torture was used, one invented by WILLY VON HOREN, and much employed by VERHULSDONK. This instrument consisted of the handle of a file with a number of nails; all this was connected by flex with a plug which could be used with any circuit. The tortured man was pricked with this instrument and received a shock of 110 volts through his body. On the spot where he was pricked he felt a very strong burn consisting in a series of wounds which in a short time swelled and caused inflammation. If none of these measures produced results the prisoner was taken to BREENDONK. VETT tortured his prisoners in person with a metal nut-cracker with which he crushed the fingers of the prisoners.

" The prisoners who had been tortured but were not taken to BREENDONK because they had talked were not taken to prison immediately. They were kept for a number of days at the Security Police HQ so that the marks of the brutalities inflicted on them should disappear. It was feared that the prison M.O. when examining the prisoners might see the traces of violence and might make a report on them to the military commander".

" CUSTODY ON SECURITY GROUNDS ('SCHUTZHAFT') :

" This was awarded on the same grounds as custody on security grounds, but for more recalcitrant persons. 'Schutzhaft' was served in a concentration camp. As a rule the prisoners were not interrogated immediately.

but were first imprisoned for three or four weeks before cross-examination. It sometimes happened that in one case twenty or thirty arrests were made, usually 50% of these persons were innocent. After three or four weeks had elapsed the interrogations began: two to four persons a day. Those who thus were interrogated last and often were entirely innocent had served some two or three months for no reason whatsoever. They were then released without ceremony and without any excuses being made.

" The military court at ANTWERP dealt only with small cases. If a case comprised twenty or thirty or more persons these were sent to GERMANY before the Peoples Court ('Volksgericht'). A very long time elapsed before these cases came up in court - usually a year or more after conclusion of the evidence.

" The GERMANS emptied the prisons regularly during the last months of the occupation and sent the prisoners to concentration camps in GERMANY. The reason they gave for this was that the prisoners were here insufficiently protected against bombing. In actual fact they had erected munition factories in their concentration camps and were in need of manpower.

" I should add here that VERHULSDONK used a bull's pizzle to torture his prisoners. The blows inflicted with this bull's pizzle were very painful!"

12. " BREENDONK

" The Camp Commandant of BREENDONK to begin with was SS Sturmbannfuhrer SCHMIDT, who in November 1943 was replaced by SS Sturmbannfuhrer SCHONWETTER. SCHMIDT was a bestial fellow who was capable of all kinds of brutalities. The deputy commandant was SS Hauptsturmfuhrer STECKMANN. Then there was SS Untersturmfuhrer BRAUSS (this should read PRAUSS): height 1.68 m - heavy thick set build - aged 45/8 - greying hair - fleshy nose - pale colourless lips - small dark grey eyes - coarse face - hoarse voice - stutters slightly - BRAUSS is what one would call 'the Devil Incarnate'. He was known as 'THE TERROR' of BREENDONK, he was never seen without his whip with which he hit the prisoners mercilessly. It was BRAUSS who devised all the torture instruments at BREENDONK which he had made by the prisoners.

" His foremost collaborators in torturing the prisoners were:

DE BOT: ex lock-keeper at WILLEBROECK - domiciled there - 1.78 to 1.80 m tall - 42/45 years old - bright blue eyes - protruding eyes - clean shaven - round face - robust build - dark blond hair - round bald head. DE BOT was of the same calibre as BRAUSS and is also responsible for many people being tortured.

LAMPAERT, Adolf: Already described above. The same kind of brute as DE BOT and BRAUSS.

DE SAFFEL, Max: He came from near GHEENT. He lived in the fort of BREENDONK. He worked in the office.

" There were also a great number of guards of the BRUSSELS office among whom were also ROUMANIANS and BULGARIANS. All sorts of political prisoners were imprisoned in BREENDONK: Jews, Communists, Members of Resistance Organisations, etc. Their hair was always cut off and they received a khaki uniform worn to the thread. The treatment of prisoners varied considerably. It can be said that some were treated badly and others extremely badly.

" The people who were interned at BREENDONK and who had already been interrogated and had to await the pronouncement of their sentence had to carry out forced labour from morning till evening under the whip of the sadistic guards, and with insufficient food.

" There was another category of prisoners at BREENDONK - those who were under treatment to make them speak. These people were tortured continually and in all possible manners. They were kept in cells where they could scarcely lie down and were made to sleep on the damp ground without bedding, in cells which were completely open at the top and in which the draught was terrible. BRAUSS had also devised a sort of gallows whereby the prisoners were hauled up by their wrists which were tied behind their back. The victims were even unmercifully and mercilessly beaten with bludgeons, whips or sticks. When a tortured man lost consciousness he was given a strong smelling liquid to smell, his bleeding wounds were also rubbed with salt water.

" After being tortured the victim usually received a stimulating injection. In BREENDONK people were also executed. The condemned were shot by soldiers of the WEHRMACHT, while the barbarous S.S. administered the 'coup de grace'.

" BRAUSS was concerned with the hanging of people condemned to death.

" After a secret Communistic printing press was discovered the Security Police brought the press to BREENDONK where then a false 'Roodevaen' (Red Flag) was printed and distributed into letterboxes of individuals."

NAMES OF GERMANS AND COLLABORATORS REFERRED TO
IN THE REPORT or APPENDICES and NOT INCLUDED IN

- (a) Paragraph 14 and Appendix V - LIST OF THE PERMANENT CAMP STAFF IN BREENDONK
 (b) Paragraph 15 and Appendix X - LIST OF CIVILIANS EMPLOYED IN BREENDONK
 (c) Paragraph 37 and Appendix DD - LIST OF HEADMEN OF THE ROOMS IN BREENDONK.

Serial	Name (and address if known).	Source of Information		Remarks
		Name	Appendix	
1	DR. DECORTES,	Mme PAQUET	A serial 21	Denounced Mme PAQUET to the GERMANS
2	DE ZITTER	A. DENIS	C	Known as "Captain Willy".
3	Annie or Anita (Surname unknown)	A. DENIS	C	The SPANISH mistress of DE ZITTER (serial 2 above)
4	GOVAERTS, Camille	Major VAN ROOSERCKE	L	A BELGIUM aged about 20 in 1943. Tortured prisoners in LIERKSELAS.
5	VAN DEN PLAS, Guy	Mme AULOTTE	O	Denounced Mme AULOTTE to the GERMANS
6	Fraulein FOHR	"	"	A member of the GESTAPO. Arrested Mme AULOTTE.
7	PIETERS	"	"	A GERMAN member of the GESTAPO. Interrogated and tortured Mme AULOTTE in the GESTAPO H.Q., BRUSSELS.
8	DELARUE	J. B. CHARRIN	Q	Denounced CHARRIN to the GERMANS.

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Serial	Name (and address if known)	Source of Information		Remarks
		Name	Appendix	
9	KLEINPOULL	J. B. CHARRIN	Q	A GERMAN member of the GESTAPO. Interrogated and tortured CHARRIN in the GESTAPO H. Q. in BRUSSELS.
10	BROSS	H. LAUDE	R	Captain-Inspector in the Geheime Feldpolizei at ANTWERP. Arrested Mr. LAUDE and also interrogated and tortured him. Stole LAUDE's private belongings and also property of the Colonial University, ANTWERP. (See Appendix 'A' serial 45 and Appendix 'R').
11	BARMAN	"	"	Lieutenant in the Geheime Feldpolizei at ANTWERP. Assisted in the arrest of Mr. LAUDE.
12	SCHMIDT Ilse	A. SINGER Mrs VERDICKT Member of the GESTAPO	G W FF	Wife of the Commandant, Major SCHMIDT. She was born in HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A. Her maiden name was BIRCKHOLZ. She was about 5ft. 6in. in height and 32/33 years of age. She was a brunette with dark grey eyes. She had a narrow face and a broad sensual mouth. She was well built. She worked as a typist in the Security Police HQ in ANTWERP.
13	WILLIPFENS	L. O. MOENS	BB	Burgmaster of PUURS. A great friend of Major SCHMIDT, Commandant of BREENDONK Concentration Camp.
14	VON HOREN, Willy	Member of the Security Police	FF	A member of the ANTWERP Security Police. Inventor of the electric brush - an instrument of torture. (See para 43 of the report).
15	VEIT	"	FF	A member of the ANTWERP Security Police. Tortured people.
16	VERHULSDONK	"	FF	A member of the ANTWERP Security Police. Tortured people.

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