To: Brig. Gen. R. McClure,
   Chief, PWD,
   SHAEF (Main)

(For Mr. C.D. Jackson)

From: Brigadier A.G. Neville
       BGS(P & PW)
       Main HQ,
       21 Army Group.

Two copies of:

REPORT ON ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE GERMANS
AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF BELGIUM

H.Q. 21 ARMY GROUP
30 APR 1945
REPORT ON ATROCITIES
COMMITTED BY THE
GERMANS AGAINST THE
CIVILIAN POPULATION
OF BELGIUM

FEBRUARY
1945

BY HEADQUARTERS
21 ARMY GROUP.
This report was originally published in December, 1944, by Headquarters, 21 Army Group under the title of "REPORT ON GERMAN ATROCITIES". It has now been decided to publish separately that part of the original report which dealt with atrocities committed by the GERMAN soldiers against the civilian population in BELEND. Since the original report was published certain additional information regarding GERMAN atrocities against the civilian population has become available and has been included in this edition.

The following abbreviations occur in the text:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td>Schutz Staffel - Originally meant bodyguards - now signifies SS Party Troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Sicherheitsdienst - The GERMAN Security Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Sicherheitspolizei - The GERMAN Security Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHM</td>
<td>Deutsches Hilfspolizei - The GERMAN Field Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WVN</td>
<td>Vlaamsch National Volland - A BELGIAN pro-GERMAN movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNB</td>
<td>Mouvement Nationaliste Belge - A BELGIAN resistance organization</td>
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STATEMENT MADE BY A MEMBER OF THE GERMAN SECURITY POLICE
LIST OF GERMANS AND COLLABORATORS REFERRED TO IN THE REPORT WHO ARE NOT SHOWN IN APPENDICES XV OR DB
1. The object of this report is to collect evidence of atrocities committed by the GERMANS against the civilian population in BELGIUM. It should be remembered that this report cannot be regarded as exhaustive. It merely summarizes the evidence which has been collected by a small number of officers over a period of three weeks. An album of photographs has been compiled and should be examined in conjunction with the report.

2. Atrocities were committed against the civilians by:

(a) The GERMAN Security Police (Sicherheitspolizei) of which the Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei) forms part
(b) MILITARY and NATIONAL SS in BELGIUM
(c) The Secret Field Police (Geheime Feldpolizei), which forms part of the GERMAN Army
(d) The GERMAN Army guards at concentration camps.

3. The first thing that strikes one when mentioning GERMAN atrocities is the savagery of the BRITISH troops and the BRITISH civilians. The idea of torture and mutilation is so abhorrent to the BRITISH mind that it is not easy to believe that practices which are associated with the SPANISH inquisition could be carried out in the twentieth century by EUROPEANS. This paper produces evidence of GERMAN atrocities. Whilst it is not easy to find people who bear signs of mutilation it must be remembered that the worst mutilated people were killed or died or were taken off to GERMANY. Nevertheless, several people have been found who carry signs of mutilation, their mutilated bodies have been examined and their stories obtained. These stories have been cross-checked as far as possible. Despite the fact that many of the people questioned were quite unknown to each other their stories all bear a striking similarity as to the treatment civilian prisoners received in the hands of the GERMANS. Many of these stories would not have been obtained if two trainloads of prisoners had not been taken to GERMANY from BRUSSELS and ANTWERP at the beginning of September 1944. Owing to sabotage of the engines, damage to the tracks and the speed of the Allied advance the GERMANS were compelled to leave these prisoners behind. A FLEMISH member of the GERMAN Security Police who is now in the hands of the BRITISH Police has given details of how civilian prisoners were ill-treated, which confirms the stories of the prisoners. Some accounts of atrocities cannot however be substantiated or have been found to be exaggerated. No cognizance has been taken of such stories.

PEOPLE WHO WERE IMPRISONED AND ILL-TREATED

4. These included:

(a) Jews
(b) Political prisoners especially those who had or were suspected to have anti-Fascist or communist tendencies
(c) People who were known or suspected of having pro-German sympathy
(d) People who were working against or suspected of working against the GERMANS, e.g., people who assisted Allied airmen to escape or belong 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) Haltages.
Details of some of the persons who were imprisoned are shown in the Table. Some of these persons were killed or have 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.

5. PLACE
   (a) BREendonk, nr. Malines

   (b) BRUSSELS
       (i) Place Rogge, nr. Care du Midi.
       (ii) 453 Avenue Louise (later removed to No. 349)
       (iii) Prison de St. GILLES Avenue Dupontiaux.
       (iv) Rue Traversiere
       (v) St. Annes Barracks,
       Laken
       (vi) TIR NATIONAL

   (c) Citadelle de Namur

   (d) CHARleroi
       (i) Prison
       (ii) Caserne Tresignies

   (e) OOSTRACHER, nr. Ghent

   (f) Ecole Militaire, Liège, BOURG LEPOMD.

   (g) Fortresse de Huy, nr. Liège

   (h) ANTWERP
       (i) Prison
       (ii) 22, Avenue Reine Elisabeth

   (i) Liège
       (i) The Citadel
       (ii) Lycee, Boulevard D'Avoy
       (iii) Hotel Britannique

   Remarks

- Concentration camp originally for JEWS only. Prisoners were tortured and executed there.
- Political prisoners interrogated and tortured by Walloon and Flemish SS.
- Gestapo HQ. Suspects interrogated and tortured.
- A certain amount of interrogation of political prisoners carried out.
- HQ Secret Field Police.
- Political prisoners were tortured.
- Where prisoners were shot.
- For political prisoners.
- Political prisoners were tortured.
- Place where GESTAPO tortured and carried out executions.
- Political prisoners interrogated and tortured by Walloon and Flemish SS.
- Political prisoners were held and tortured.
- Gestapo HQ
- Political prisoners and partizans were tortured and shot.
- Gestapo HQ
- 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 report namely BREndonk Concentration Camp and the TIR NATIONAL.

BREndonk Concentration Camp

General

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 square grey building surrounded by a wide moat, over which runs a causeway which is the only entrance. Round the moat is a stout barred wire fence some seven and a half feet high. Most of the buildings were originally 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 GQ 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

Accommodation for Prisoners

7. This consisted of:-

(c) Eleven rooms, each measuring approximately forty-two feet long,
twenty-one feet wide and thirteen feet high, with a door at one
end and at the other end two windows which were painted over with
blue paint. The door had a lock and a heavy iron bar which was
placed in position on the outside when the prisoners occupied the
rooms. The windows were kept open all day. Part of the floors
of these rooms were stone and part of them wood. Each of the
rooms contained a stove which was lit during the winter at 1700
hours. Forty-eight prisoners were accommodated in each room in
triple-decker bunks. There were also a few small tables and
stools in each room in the small space which was not occupied by
the bunks. In addition each room contained one bucket for use
as a night latrine. A total of five hundred and twenty-eight
prisoners could be held in these rooms.

(b) Four huts measuring approximately thirty-six feet long by eight-
teen feet broad and eight feet high were built especially for
Jewish prisoners. These are built of wood and match-boardings,
being somewhat similar to the rooms described above, except that
the windows are smaller. All the huts are covered with corrugate,
which makes them very dark. They contain no stoves or any form
of heating. They were furnished with triple-decker bunks, a few
small tables and stools and one bucket per hut for use as a night
latrine. One of these huts was used as a workshop. Forty-eight
Jews were imprisoned in each of the other three, the maximum number
being one hundred and forty-four.

(c) Thirty-two brick cells built by the GERMANS in two of the rooms
of the fort. These cells are 1.95 metres (6 ft. 5 ins.) by 1.37 metres
(4 ft. 6 ins.) wide. The top of each cell is enclosed by an iron grill
which is about 8 ft. from the ground. All the doors are of wood,
some of which were reinforced by iron bars whilst others have a large
iron grill. The plain wooden doors have small trap-doors so that
the warders could look into the cells and through which the prisoners'
food was passed. At the foot of each of the doors which have a large
iron grill is a small trap-door for passing food to the prisoners.
The cells contained a wooden board which served as a bed. This board
was kept upright during the day by means of an iron bar which was
operated from the outside of the cell. The bed was lowered at bedtime
and raised at reveille. Each cell also contained a bucket
which served as a latrine. One of these cells has a pair of shackles
concreted into the back wall.

(d) There are six dark cells into which no daylight can penetrate. These
cells have white-washed walls and stone floors. They each contain a
plank bed which was kept against the wall during the day or removed
from the cell. In addition there was a bucket for a latrine.

(c) It will be noted that the camp had sufficient accommodation for seven
hundred and ten prisoners.

(f) All the above rooms and cells were lit by electricity, but that was
only used for inspection by the guards.

8. The GERMANS installed an up-to-date kitchen, very good showers and also
latrines for the prisoners. There was also an infirmary.

The "Gas Chamber"

9. There are two rooms which each shaped like a horse-shoe, one of which is
known as the "Gas Chamber". One enters each of the rooms through two steel
doors. Neither has windows but each has two ventilation shafts and a coke stove. Popular rumour is that the GERMANS used to gas prisoners in the "Gas Chamber" by means of the flames from the coke stove. No proof of this has however been obtained. The rooms were designed as gas-proof chambers after the last war. Some prisoners state that the room known as the "Gas Chamber" was used as a mortuary and sometimes contained up to twenty bodies.

The "Torture Chamber"

10. 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.

The Camp Staff

11. The camp was commanded by a GERMEN SS Major. Under his command were two or three SS Lieutenants, a small number of GERMEN SS guards and six to eight FLEMISH SS. This formed the permanent staff. Their names and other particulars are shown in Appendix "F". There was also a detachment of the WERMACHT attached to the camp for guard duties. The number of WERMACHT troops was approximately fifty, but they were constantly changed. Most of the personnel lived in the camp; 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 VENDIERT 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 VENDIERT has made to the BRITISH authorities. It should be noted that although a total of approximately seven women prisoners were held at different times there were no wardresses.

12. 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 some of the instruments of torture. Two other civilians were also employed at the camp from time to time - an electrician from GRODNO village 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 "X - CC".

Organization of Camp

13. 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 GERMEN JEWS. Apart from this Jewish prisoners were generally kept quite separate from the other prisoners.

14. Some of the SS guards were employed indoors, whilst some were employed outside. All the guards were armed and they generally carried whipa or crops which they rarely hesitated to use. The WERMACHT troops attached for guard duties did not come into contact much with the prisoners.

15. All orders were given in GERMEN. 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

16. 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 GERMEN 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 several hours. During this time they were not allowed to move or go to the lavatory. If one wanted to go to the lavatory he relieved himself where he stood and was punished by the guards for uncleanness. The batch of prisoners which entered with ANTOINE ABELLOOS of 627, CHAUSSÉE 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.

17. Shortly after this they had to hand in their clothes and ALL their personal belongings and received dilapidated 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 showing 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 pallisage. Prisoners locked up in the cells were not given, as a rule, any form of bed covering.

18. 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

19. 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 prisoner were locked up in the dark cells. Quite often the prisoners in the cells or dark cells had handcuffs or shackles on 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.

20. 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

21. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammes</th>
<th>Equivalent in ounces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jam</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter or Margarine</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese per two days</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 grammes or .35 ounces</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat with bone</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which is equivalent without bone to</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.125
.7
.05
.05
.175
.05
.7
The total ration shown above is 9.8 ounces per man. The prisoners however did receive in addition a litre (1½ imperial pints) of watery soup per day and two mugs of creata coffee. After some time the bread ration was increased to 250 grammes per day which is equivalent to 8.75 ounces making the total ration exclusive of soup 12.425 ounces 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 a BELGIAN Charity, the REYER 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 17½ ounces, and 1 kilogram (or 2.2 pounds) of potatoes were authorized to be issued. The prisoners however rarely received their full rations. They rarely received any meat except perhaps occasionally in the soup.

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

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

a) Breakfast: which took place between 0600 hours and 0730 hours depending on the time of year. A slice of dry bread and a mug of creata coffee.

b) Midday Meal: took place any time between 1100 and 1400 hours 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 hours. 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 creata coffee was also issued.

Clothing, mail, etc.

24. 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.

25. 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 camp.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. There was no chaplain attached to the camp. It is not known whether or not a CHRISTIAN chaplain was present at all the executions. It is understood that one was in attendance on some of those occasions.

Medical Inspections

29. There was no resident medical officer on the camp but only a medical orderly. The medical orderlies who it is stated belonged to the WEHRMACHT changed periodically. They varied tremendously - some were good whilst some were very bad, one in particular used to beat the patients. An AUSTRIAN Jewish doctor called SINGER was imprisoned in the camp from March 1941 until March 1944 when he was transferred to another prison (see Appendix "A", serial 22.
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 officer and was not given a free hand to practice 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 CEMAN 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 of the Weinmachen, was very sympathetic towards the prisoners and endeavored to improve the conditions of the camp. Another Weinmachen medical officer, KOHLING, 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 under-nourishment. Normally the infirmary contained forty to fifty sick prisoners but on one occasion at least it held over one hundred and fifty patients. Prisoners there received no extra food.

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

30. 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 CEMANs demanded and as a result they were beaten without mercy. After the prisoners had been counted they washed naked in the basins in the ablution boxes 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 CEMAN army fashion with the blankets folded on top of the pallets. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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 uniforms wet or dirty. In addition, the prisoners were made to go on a 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.

34. If a prisoner wanted to go to the lavatory, he had to ask permission from one of the guards and often stand strictly at attention whilst awaiting the answer. Very often the guards would not answer for a considerable time
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 some of whom are at Appendix "DF". 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 exercise 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 humility.

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 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 medical inspection. As often as not the prisoner was told to return to his work as there was nothing wrong with him.

The only break during the hours of work was for the mid-day meal which took place any time between 1100 hours and 1400 hours 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.

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 floors 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.

It appears that sometimes there was no work on Sundays, but this was by no means an invariable rule as many prisoners say they were made to work every day.

Prisoners confined to the cells.

At reveille their beds were pinned to the wall or removed from the cell. The only time those prisoners were allowed out of their cells was once daily to empty their latrine bucket and to wash 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. When these prisoners washed no other prisoners were allowed to be present. 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 loan against the whitewashed walls. If they did so the whitewash came off onto their clothes and when the guards saw it they were beaten.

Prisoners who normally lived in the rooms were committed to the cells for the most trivial offences. 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 was "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 on
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 INVI for saying "I'll try" gave him a large cake. INVI states that this incomprehensible action made him think that he was in a lunatic asylum.

Interrogations.

42. 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 however were 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 10 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 AMSTERDAM.

43. Women were not excused these tortures. Madame PAQUET in her statement at Appendix "G" 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 HELSIAN woman was also beaten up in this torture chamber whilst she was completely naked.

44. 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.

45. 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.
46. The Camp mast has been drained in order to ascertain whether or not it contains any other instruments which the GERMANS may have thrown away in their hurried departure. Apart from a machine-gun, ammunition and various articles of army equipment, the only articles found have been a pair of shackles and a heavy hide whip.

47. A press similar to that used as a finger press in BREMBOKE was found in a GERMAN HQ in SCHRÖDEN. 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

48. 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 fifteen 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.

49. 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 BEGINDERS 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 "E"). DE SCHUETTER the electrician states that CARLEER made the iron work and the wood work was done by the prisoners themselves (see Appendix "M"). ANKELINCKX, the former pig-nut states that the gallows was made by five prisoners (see Appendix "A").

50. It is not known how many people were executed. MOENS states that the number was at least three hundred and fifty 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 "E"). DE MALIUS states that he has seen more than eighty persons leave for the execution post including HERMAN, the Chief Postman of BRUSSELS, MARCEAU VAN SCHELDE the Olympic athlete and also a blind man (see Appendix "D"). FRANKICKELE says that three persons were hanged on 10 May 1943, including one TAIMER (see Appendix "H"). VICTOR TRINO says that twenty men were shot on 6 January 1943 and twenty-one on the 13 January 1943 (see Appendix "A" Serial 29).

51. SINGER states that over three hundred people were shot and about fifteen people hanged between March 1944 and March 1945 (see Appendix "O"). 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. It is believed that a few of the victims were buried in some unmarked graves in RASSHOWN Camp near JUSTOHE, whilst a few may be buried in the unmarked graves at the URI NATIONAL in BRUSSELS referred to in paragraph 50 below. This information has not yet been verified. There are as yet no definite details available as to the burial places of the hundreds of victims who died or were executed in the camp. It is thought that many may have been cremated. 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

52. It is not known how many prisoners died in the Camp as a result of ill-treatment. SINGER, the AUSTRIAN doctor says that over five hundred men died during his stay at the Camp from 3 March 1944 to 31 March 1944 (Appendix "O"). This figure includes over three hundred people who were shot and approximately
fifteen people who were hanged. It thus seems that about two hundred people died in the camp in three years as a result of their ill-treatment, but it must be remembered that the camp was in operation for over four years and no information is available as to the number who died during the whole time the camp was in operation. In addition, however, it must be realised that many of the sick were removed to other hospitals (e.g. in ANVERS) and no doubt many died there.

Escapes.

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

Charges, Trials and Releases

54. 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:

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

55. At Appendix "W" 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 BERSCHERS

56. 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 or the roofs and cells calendars, names, messages and drawings of the head of Christ. Many of those messages and drawings were scratched out by the GERMANs but many still remain.

TIR NATIONAL

57. This is a large barracks with rifle ranges. It is in BRUSSELS. Nurse CAVERI was executed at the TIR NATIONAL during the 1914-18 war. Her status which was created 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 posts and shot from a range of about fifteen yards. The Director, Major WASTENMANN, 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.

58. There are two cemeteries at the TIR NATIONAL where some three hundred and sixty people are buried. Major WASTENMANN 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 ceme-
teries, many of the bodies being taken off to unknown destinations.

PARTICULARS OF GERMANS AND COLLABORATORS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT.

59. With regard to BERENDONK, reference has already been made to the names of the permanent staff (paragraph 11 and Appendix "Y"), the names of the civilians employed there (paragraph 12 and Appendix "X") and also some of the head men of the rooms (paragraph 35 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 "GG". 
### APPENDIX "A"

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

**PART I - Imprisoned in BРЕЕДЕНДОК Concentration Camp**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Name and Address</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M. M. BOUCHERY</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>O. VAN KEERBEEK</td>
<td>Councillor of Malines and ex-member of Parliament. Died two weeks after his release as a result of ill-treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A. HEYNELIS</td>
<td>Communist Senator. Now a prisoner in GERMANY.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>J. BOREMANS, 161, Rue de France Trysens, Brussels</td>
<td>A member of Parliament. Now a prisoner in GERMANY.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>G. FROMONT</td>
<td>A member of Parliament and Burgomaster of WILLEBROOK. Was imprisoned from 1 Feb - 28 June, 1944. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>JACQUES COES</td>
<td>Director of the Academy of Fine Arts, LIEGE. Was imprisoned in BRЕЕDЕНDОК from 6 Dec 1940 to 20 Feb 1942. His crime was being a JEW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FRANZ FISCHER, Places Gambinne de Meeuwen, BRUSSELS</td>
<td>A member of Parliament, Leader of the Socialist Party and Honorary President of the BRUSSELS Press (Serials 1 - 6 were imprisoned in BRЕЕDЕНDОК at the same time as M. FISCHER). M. FISCHER was only imprisoned in BRЕЕDЕНDОК for eight weeks in 1944. For his account of life in the camp see Appendix &quot;B&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A. DENIS, 23, Rue Joseph Borger GENAPPE</td>
<td>Son of Lt. General DENIS, 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 &quot;C&quot;.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The document appears to be a form or a list of instructions. It includes sections such as '3. Name of Patient,' '4. Address of Patient,' '5. Date of Birth,' '6. Death Certificate,' and various other fields likely related to patient information or medical records. The text is somewhat difficult to read due to the quality of the image, but it seems to be a standard medical or administrative form.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Name and address</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>EMILE MARCHAND</td>
<td>A luncheon 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 was one man who was too weak to lift any more stones, fall over. One of the GERMANS guards jumped on his stomach until he was dead. He weighed five stones at the time of his release.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>ALOIS DE PAELE,</td>
<td>A poor man who is now seventy years of age. He was imprisoned for four months in 1941 from 22 July - 22 November. His belongings are not in a 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 -- a legacy of the camp. His doctors of ill-treatment correspond with those received from other prisoners. He was never interrogated and no charge was preferred against him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>BROMES, 69, Rue</td>
<td>A Russian who refused to work for the GERMANS. He is still in bed but is slowly recovering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antoine Brouet,</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Gilles, BRUSSELS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>DR. ADOLPHE SINGER, 53, Rue de La Louve de la loaf, Ixelles, BRUSSELS</td>
<td>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 &quot;A&quot; for notes taken at interviews with Dr. SINGHER. He is referred to in paragraphs 29, 51 and 52 of this report, and also in Appendix &quot;B&quot; (The statement by Paul Levej). Dr. SINGER's name must not be used in the press.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>VICTOR TRISO, Commissionnaire de Police</td>
<td>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 SS HOFF, the SS 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 SS WRAYS and was left covered with blood; on the second, he received fifteen strokes with a lash and fifteen strokes with a rod from the SS WRAYS and SS HOFF; 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 and twenty-one on 15 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serial</td>
<td>Name and address</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>T. FRANKENDOELLE, 34, Rue de France, St. Gilles, BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>Was imprisoned 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 &quot;E&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>VANIERE VAN HOEVE, 99, Avenue de Reiddaque, Schaarbeek, BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>Employed on the BRUSSELS tram. 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 paragraphs 10 and 12 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Major SCHIES</td>
<td>A regular officer of the BEGELIN Army who was imprisoned in BREendonk for four - five months. He was sent to GERMANY in February 1944. (See statement by A. DEES at Appendix &quot;G&quot; page 25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>ALBERE VAN ROY</td>
<td>Town Clerk of WILDELAU. Imprisoned from 1 February - 26 June 1944 with the Burgomaster (see Serial 53). 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 nose was broken by the Garrison. The Commissant stole his car when he fled at the beginning September 1944.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>VICTOR VAN HAME, 162, Avenue Regnier, BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>He was arrested with forty-one other passport. He was detained in BREndonk from 1 Sept 1942 until 1 February, 1943. He weighed 75 kilos (11 stone 15 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: - &quot;I was arrested without reason and taken to BREndonk 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.&quot; Photographs are available showing VAN HAME after his release.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serial</td>
<td>Name and address</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>R. DESUNCEPA, 20, Rue de Montenegro, BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>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 concealing for an operation. He was taken to ST. ANNE's BARRACKS, LEUVEN and tortured. He was on the prisoners' train with GENIS (serial 40). For an account of his experiences see Appendix &quot;F&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Mme. AILLOTTE, 154, Chaussée de Bruxelles Forest, BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>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 &quot;G&quot;. There are two photographs of Mme. AILLOTTE, one showing the scars on her legs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Lt. B. ALICE CRINOL, Surete de l'Etat, Room 42, Shell Bldg., BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>He was caught in FRANCE after coming from ENGLAND. Was imprisoned at PERIGUEUX and tortured. Was later transferred to MARESLES near PARIS where he was again tortured. Was released on 18. August when PARIS was liberated. For an account of his experiences see Appendix &quot;F&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>JEAN BAPTISTE CHAPHEM, 52, Rue de la Borne, BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>He 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 &quot;G&quot;. There are some photographs of scars on his body. He was in the Underground Movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>HUBERT A.H. LAUBE, Rector of the Colonial University, ANTWERP.</td>
<td>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 engines being available to pull this train and the speed of the Allied advance he was liberated when BRITISH troops entered ANTWERP (see paragraph 5 of the report). For details of this story see Appendix &quot;H&quot;. Mr. LAUBE was disabled in the 1914-18 war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>LÉON JOSEPH ERNOULD, 107, Rue Garard, Tesselos, BRUSSELS.</td>
<td>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 &quot;S&quot;.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATEMENT MADE BY FRANZ FISCHER ON BERENDONK CONCENTRATION
CAMP, BERENDONK, BELGIUM.

(Translated from 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 BERENDONK during the GERMAN occupation of BELGIUM. Obviously, in this modest account, a complete picture cannot be given, nor is it even possible to give approximately correct figures of the numerous victims of the barbaric measures that were incorporated 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 tortures 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 BERENDONK 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 inquiry 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 BERENDONK 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 memoirs of his captivity in that prison. (The Hall of BERENDONK - 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 pris." of BERENDONK? An ancient, abandoned fort on the first military defenses of ANVERS. Situated alongside the BRUSSELS-ANVERSPantstraat, about a kilometre from the large industrial district of WILDEKE. This military building had been abandoned owing to its strategical uselessness and its unhealthiness, for the antiques casemates 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 when the GERMAN forces 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 NAZI, mostly anonymously. For my part, I was incarcerated in BERENDONK for more than two months, after which I was transferred for eight weeks to the cellular prison of ST. CELLES, 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 colding; they had not been able to withstand the horrible treatment, the wounds and illnesses not cared for, or they had just simply been killed.

The Prisoners

It would be hard for me to name all the personalities who underwent this hard and cruel detention at BERENDONK. I only want to remember certain names among these, 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 KERSTEN, Councillor at MALINES and ex-member of Parliament; the Communist senator ETHERIS and BOCHMAN the Member of Parliament; the Advocate General and the Chief of the MALINES Police Force; BROUGHT the M.P. and burgo-
master of WILKESBOURG, the President of the Polish Club of BRITISH, the famous artist JACQUES DE S, Director of the Academy of Fine Arts at LIEGE, a GERMAN Officer whom I am told was GENERAL LANGERLE, the Reverend Father GUIDONE, Director of the Institute "Arts et Matières" at LILAS, M. LEY, the most popular of all broadcasters in BRITISH, 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 hard treatment. M. ROUXEUX 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 HAUTE, M. VAN KESSELY died sometimes after his liberation, worn out by the privations and physical sufferings as well as the moral ones.

The Hunger Diet

Everything was organized 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 one hundred grammes; in addition to this, a cup of soup. And that was all. During a short time the prisoners had been authorized to have meat, from outside, parcels of about 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 satiate 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 until six 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 wheelbarrows, 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, acted 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 full thesis of the sticks connecting with the bodies, and the painful moanings of the victims. Late on, another torture was reserved for those who were too weak to carry out the work. Cells still to be seen at FRENDONK, 2 tiles 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 carcases would pick them up and take them to an unclean cesspool, where all the sick were piled and, ironically, was called the infirmary. But more often than not, in the early morning, one could see prisoners sadly carrying empty 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 under a small hillock that can still be seen at FRENDONK.

想着，出生和受苦。

Here I said that punches and kicks were the rule in this accorded camp. Sometimes, I 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 was only passed with shudders. It was there that the original cells were built and prisoners were thrown in then 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 them all 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
bers of their cases 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 making 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 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 ENGLAND. But it was obvious that the actual executioners in this abominable system of repression at BREENDONK put a sadistic zeal 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 SCHMITT. A man who was impulsive 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 POLSKA. 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 GERMA¥ 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 the report:

(i) No other evidence of bodies being buried in BREENDONK has been produced, nor have excavations revealed any bodies.
(ii) It is considered that Lieutenant "POLSKA" is really Lieutenant DRUMS.

APPENDIX "A"

STATEMENT MADE BY A. DENIS REGARDING THE REPRESALS CAMP OF BREENDONK

(Translated from French)

German Ways

Dante in his work entitled "THE INFERNO" says in so many words "Libandon hope all ye who enter here".

The Camp of BREENDONK was destined to receive these political detainees classified by the GERMANs in the category of Terrorists. This category included in their mind every type of resistance to the occupiers and particularly the parachutists, who wore on their uniform a special sign (white and red bar), the other detainees wearing different signs according to their classification. This visual sign enabled the guards to inflict on the different detainees every kind of suffering 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 ENGLISH guard (W. V. FISHER and BENJAMIN WALLS) who were provided with lashes with which they beat the detainees. When to their mind a detainee did not work fast enough, as a punishment they placed on his back an army pail filled with bricks and weighing about thirty kilos, with which, under the blow of the lash, they had to do the same work as the others. These unfortunate were grilled and martyred continually; they were瞎了 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 SS to a cell.

Description of the Cells.

A room one metre by two, only one opening: a door, with a small peep-hole, and provided with an outside bolt palm-hold. The ceiling of the cell was formed by a plate which allowed to penetrate the air already filtered by other detainees who lived occasionally. A plank fixed to the wall by a hook (which protruded from the inside 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 blackened 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 NAZI 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 in fourteen 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 peep-hole 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 8 p.m. was the only drink given him during the entire day. Suffering from thirst was permanent. At 8.30 a.m. the SS 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 warders and the warders of the preceding or following prisoner. Certain of thesewarders 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 them, 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 sausage and the equivalent of a thinmeful of butter.

The food was prepared by the prisoners but furnished by the NAZI.
authority, 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 not 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 recognize 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 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 dressed 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.

The prisoner was generally held seven to eight weeks before being interrogated, this period being intended to weaken 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 bludgeon 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 unfortunate 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 officials were 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 cursed, 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 Commonly

In addition to the facts already set out above, further confirmation was given us by a prisoner from BRESLUND, whom I met in the cells at the prison of St. CILLES and who is at present in FRANKFUR, if he has not been shot. He is MAJOR HENZER, an officer of the BERLIN Regular Army and of the Caucasus, who left for FRANKFUR at the beginning of FEBRUARY 1944 without having been judged and after having passed four to five months at BRESLUND, as long as St. CILLES. He informed me that he had many times during his stay at BRESLUND, attempted suicide rather than endure the ill-treatment and tortures imposed upon the prisoners.

We had been confronted with the only too famous so-called SPANIARD named ANTON, or ANITA, informer and mistress of IE SHUTER, alias Capt. WILLY, etc., one of the heads of the GERMAN Counter-espionage in FRANKFUR, having to
his credit the discovery of the leading members of the pro-allied organisations 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 NIGERIA (one of these depots or stores was thus visited by one of my friends - a villa full of arms at STOKKEL).

A book recounting the ordinary prison life at BEERENTJCK will shortly be published and has been written by the Deputy FISCHER, who lives at Place Coudlinne de Nood Koushine. (Note: This book has now been published).

The article which appear in the 'HISTOIRE' can be considered as being perfectly true and sincere. I recall a story of Major SHERS. 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 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 feverish disease behind the ear for four weeks, the result of a blow from a flat, and I only received the attention of a GERMAN orderly every four or five 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 sum up BEERENTJCK was a hell for those who passed through there.

(signed) A. DENIS

17.10.44

Compiler's Note: "HISTOIRE" referred to above is a BELGIAN magazine

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APPENDIX "D"

BEERENTJCK BY C. LEMAIRE
(Translated from French)

This report relates to happenings which took place during the period from 1st September 1942 to 16th June 1943.

During the GERMAN occupation few details were known by the BELGIAN population of BEERENTJCK, an ancient fort belonging to the outer defence of ANVERS, which is about a two-hour's distance from the "centraille" from BRUSSELS to ANVERS, 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 BEERENTJCK. 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 "all of BEERENTJCK". 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 SCHEITZ, of the SS troops, Luit. SCHEBROTENSTOCK and Luit. FRANG, both of the SS. Under their orders were forty-five soldiers including a number of MOSS of the WERMMOTT for guard duties, eight SS soldiers in grey uniforms, with the SP badge (Security Police), BELGIAN subjects, volunteers for this work and well paid receiving more than four thousand francs 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: VERS Perand, of ANVERS, who killed more than thirty men during the sojourn...
there of the author of the present report, DE GODRichard, of BRUSSELS, and RAEs Clement, of BRUSSELS. The others have certainly also crimes to account for, which only a strict investigation, together with the collaboration of expatriates, 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 border 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 weather without their jackets; 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 period, they were forbidden to warm themselves by striking their sides; whoever was caught doing so risked being beaten to death.

They were always shaved and with the 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 during work 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.

Forty-eight and even fifty men were piled into the barrack rooms, transformed into prisons, rooms which in peace time normally took twenty men. There were wooden cage beds, with dirty and holey straw packs. There were very few blankets and scarcely any toilet arrangements. Vomiting was abounding. The rooms were cold and damp. Shaving and bathing were absolutely forbidden.

The very little food was definitely insufficient in vitamins and calories. About two hundred and twenty-five grammes of bread, a few grammes of sugar and jam and about fifty grammes of coffee (accords?) was the daily ration, with a cup of soup, badly cooked in water and without salt.

Apart from the barbarous treatment suffered by the prisoners, 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 BREDIQUE; the men affected was not allowed to see the doctor. The writer was in this category.

We were arrested, forty-one 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 GESTAPO HQ, Avenue Louise, and after verification of our identity, taken in lorries to BREDIQUE. The writer was beaten up the first evening at BREDIQUE. We were searched and all our personal objects, including jewellery, was taken away from us. We were given a number and prison clothes: BELGIAN military tunic 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 signified either: JEW (yellow and red), Communist (white and red), terrorist (large "T"), having previously escaped (red and white ring). If one was not a JEW and 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 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:

CROCHET, PIERRE, BRUSSELS Postman, died from blows received from SS WEIS
BONNEVILLE, JACQUES, BRUSSELS Postman, died from blows received from SS WEIS
TISSEY, J, BRUSSELS Postman, died from blows received from SS WEIS
DEGEER, SEBASTIEN, sorter (BRUSSELS Post Office) died from blows received from SS WEIS

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

VAN BOYEN, JESUS, of ANTWERP, messenger, died from blows received from SS WEIS

A few of the forty-one postmen were liberated in November, 1942; about fifteen 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 1.72 and weighed eighty-two kilos. When liberated, he measured only 1.69 and weighed forty-eight kilos. The writer was in a lamentable condition, his head still open from blows 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 for in September, during his first days of captivity, the writer saw a prisoner who, shamefully beaten, did not get up on the order of the SS and was covered over with earth and stumped upon. Buried alive! It is not known what became of this unfortunate prisoner when it was forbidden to assist, under pain of death. It was also forbidden to look. Another was drowned and 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 FREIZINGEN 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 eighty men lined up for the execution post. Amongst these, the head Postman of BRUSSELS, HEMAE, also MARTIN VAN SOESSUDE, well-known in the sporting world. All, including a blind man, went to the post up-right and proud.

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

The undersigned, LEAFLAB, C.O., Postman at the Central Post Office, BRUSSELS, domiciled at 6, Boulevard Patrice, BRUSSELS, born at BRUSSELS on the 3rd March 1936, volunteer for the 1942-1943 war, war invalid, President du Conseil du Personnel de Bruxelles l 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 FREIZINGEN.
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 BRENDONK 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 BRENDONK.

BRUSSELS, twenty-first of October, 1944.

(signed) C.G. LEFAUTRE

Membre du Comité de l’Association des Rescues de BRENDONK,
6, Boulevard d’Iphes, BRUSSELS.

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BRUSSELS, 30th September, 1944.

(Translated from French)

Dear Sir,

I, the undersigned, LEFAUTRE Constant, postman at BRUSSELS 1, born in BRUSSELS the 3rd March, 1896, and domiciled at 6, Boulevard d’Iphes, BRUSSELS, ex-prisoner at BRENDONK, beg to lodge a complaint against:

1) The GERMAN SS MAJOR SCHMIDT, Commandant of the Camp of BRENDONK, responsible for the ill-treatment which I suffered in this camp where I was interned for nine and a half 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 SCHNAPSCHMIDT. This officer’s functions were those of a torturer and he is responsible for the death of a number of prisoners; he, himself, shot a number with his revolver.

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

4) The SS Troops of the GERMAN Security Section, BELGIAN subjects, employed at BRENDONK, responsible for the death of many prisoners, some of whom were killed during the same day. (I have personally landed onto a cart the bodies of five men killed by the SS one afternoon during the month of May 1943). Amongst these SS Troops an individual named ERWIN WHIT, of ANVER, was particularly notorious. During my stay at BRENDONK I witnessed more than thirty deaths to his account. I myself was beaten in such a manner that I had to be transferred to the military hospital in the Avenue Léopold, ANVER. It is a miracle that I and my postal colleagues of BRUSSELS, interned at the same time on 1st Sep 42, are still alive. Five postmen arrested at the same time as myself, died at BRENDONK, 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 GERMAN to be in charge of the barracks camp; they beat up the prisoners in a most ignoble manner and stole the prisoners’ food. These two individuals are: DEVOS VALENE, of GAND, and HERMAN REMY, whose last known address was 72, Rue Peter Benoit, HAMELLE. Together with my colleagues, including M. DEWINTER, Percevoir Principal des Postes, BRUSSELS, we hope that a rapid and justly severe reatum will be made to the present complaint.

(signed) C. LEFAUTRE

President of the Employees Committee (Postmen) BRUSSELS, 1.
6, Boulevard d’Iphes, BRUSSELS.
STATEMENT MADE BY PAUL LEVY REGARDING CONDITIONS IN BREendonk

(Nota: 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-Cilles-Bruxelles. 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 SCHRITTER (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 Korcezcan 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 blackmarketers plus one German and one Belgian communist).

I was beaten during my first day by the sentries (rifled), by the SS lieutenant Praus (bare hands and feet) and to my great amassment by a fellow prisoner (Obier, 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 ordained", 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:

6.0 a.m. stand up; washing; dressing; making of beds; cleaning of rooms; preparing for breakfast
7.0 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
12 to 14.30 Work as in the morning
15 to 18.00 Cleaning of tools and uniforms falling in and roll call
19.00 Supper.

The menu was:

Breakfast: Four ounces bread; two cups cappuccino coffee (grilled sooms)
Lunch: Two plates soup (with beans, onions, potatoes, very few mixed 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 surveys (soldier, SS and heads of routes) the prisoners were in a poor physical condition. Since food was really deficient in comparison to the labor involved they lost weight got small blisters, bleeding gum, cold feet (remaining cold during months), "uncontrollable" 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 run of punishments. Today, precisely at the time when I saw you on the road a prisoner sixty-three years old was beaten to death.... That was really the first death of the camp (a
German called Nathan). After months (more than five months) of suppression of外出派遣品, the prisoners were allowed on Sept. 9th 43 to write home asking for a parcel including "two shirts, two pants, two pairs socks and ... four apples!"

This regime produced not only a permanent morbid state but turned prisoners to "foot-sold people": they grew really manic about food, made them kissing and keeping food got from home until it was rotten while they were starving, other ones studying 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 cubes, etc. One of the most amazing and demonstrative cases was the case of a young German Jew (Eger Hirsh - 15 years old) who after six months in Breendonk was brought back to St. 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 realized 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. Those collective punishments 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 right. Individual punishments were the different varieties of corrections (combinations of work and standing 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 sentences took opportunity of the fact that the prisoners had to ask for permission of attending personal needs in a prescribed form (standing at attention, open 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 weakly 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 gunmen 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 gruel) and no accurate figure can possibly be given since they died in the infirmary (not created before March '41) in the Hospital at 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 ordal, I saw the following ones:

A young Polish working man guilty of stealing a German Army motor car (apparently), tried to steal the pistol of en N.C.O. He was beaten successively by the SS officers and N.C.Os, by the army N.C.Os, 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 in which he was beaten.

Four kilos potatoes having been stolen by people of room 4, while they were peeling them, the whole room (thirty-two 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 guarding furious got him out half-dressed in the courtyard and threw cold water on him to "get him up". The pri-
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 M.I.E.B. during a few days. Suddenly he recovered but was M.A.B. 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 Shirske). 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 pedlar (I. Neumann H.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 his dancing when visitors came or singing. He got light work but enjoyed bad treatment from the head of the room M.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 five or six months.

(signed)  PAUL M.G. LEVY

APPENDIX "E"

EXTRACT FROM A STATEMENT MADE BY MADAME TACQUET OR 28 RUE DE ZEPHIR, VOLUME 32, LAMBERJEM, BRUSSELS, ON 30 OCT 1944

(Transcribed from French)

"At Breendonk I lived in a cell (Room 8 - cell 16) uptight 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 ten 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 SS 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 SCHNIDER, Chief PRÄSS and the SS WITs and DEHOUT. 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 VILDEZES 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 SCHNIDER "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 duty 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.

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NOTES:

(1) The press found at SOKNEE which is referred to in paragraph 47 of the report was taken from 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) PAQUET was a member of the Underground Movement.

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APPENDIX "G"

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

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

Entered BREENDONK: 3 March, 1944
Left BREENDONK: 31 March, 1944

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'Osmin in MALINES preparatory to being sent East.

SINGER did not know where the bodies of BREENDONK victims were taken for burial although to his knowledge some three hundred people were shot and about fifteen 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 five or six women were tortured in this room and received just as brutal treatment as men; suspension, lynchings, 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 CERMANY. He treated two PAQUET for heart trouble (see Appendix "G").

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

KEMP - a good man who did as much as he could for the prisoners under his care.

FREIBERGER - a really bad character who beat the patients brought before him - the worst type possible.

MEIKEFF - a brutal man who ill-treated those under his care.

The GERMAN doctor who was responsible for the camp in the beginning was one KOBELING 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 FOILL, a Wehrmacht doctor, who did a great deal to improve conditions in BREENDONK and who personally intervened with GENERAL FALKENHAUSER to secure more food for the prisoners. He was a good man.
SINGER also knew Mrs. SCHMIDT, the Camp Comendant'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 five feet six inches in height, had dark hair and eyes, full lips and had a sensual appearance.

SCHMIDT and FRANZ and responsible for making the prisoners stand naked while waiting 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 six hundred or slightly more. The most, in the infirmary at one time numbered one hundred and fifty.

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

After the fall of STALINGRAD SS KATSCHEK gave an order to SS WEISS and SS DE BODE that eighteen Jews and two 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.

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

- Yellow - Jews
- White - Aryan

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

- Red - British sympathisers were denoted by a red 'V'
(Camplin's Note: The "V" stood for Victory - this being GERMAN humour)

- Red - A red circle worn front and rear indicated those that might attempt an escape

- Black - This marked the prisoners for special attention and surveillance.
I was arrested at home at four 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 midnight. Then the men were loaded into lorries - forty-eight in nine - and in the most impossible positions. We were taken straight to BERENONK. On our arrival, the ill-treatment began immediately. We were lined up in two (we were seventy-three 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) directed of our civil clothes and everything we had on, 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 forty-eight prisoners. Towards 1000 hours we went outside and were handed over to the BERGIAN 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 sat 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 OHLERT, that he died the following night. The scenes were of a daily occurrence. Another day a prisoner was caught by a FINNISH labourer who worked on the farm, whose name was ARLENIX and horribly beaten for having taken a piece of bread. An SS called FELMAN 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 EISE 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 trifile.

One day all our room were punished by the "stone job". That day we were put on loading stones, some weighing up to thirty kilos (sixty-six pounds) on our shoulders, and carrying them several hundred yards away. This work had to be carried out at the run. This lasted two and a half hours.

Our wife sent us 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 were preparing for the place of execution. It was opposite the ten posts where numerous BELGIANs had been shot before. On 10th May 1943 they made us stop work sooner than usual. SS DE SIEG 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 FRATHEM, 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 one was held by SS WETZ, the third by SS DEROIT, and both of them by a member of the GESTAPO. A quarter of an hour later the procession passed 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, SCHNITT, 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 Medical Officer was also seen on this ground. She might have been twelve or thirteen years old. Th surgery was open in the mornings. The sick or wounded hastened to go there. Sometimes you got blown 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, disinterred the lamb and ate it.

I remained two months at BREENDONK and three months at the CITADELE 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 by about thirteen pounds.

(signed) T. FRANKECHEULE
31, Rue de Papesi, Saint Gilles,
BRUSSELS.

Notes by the compiler of this report:

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

APPENDIX "Y"

STATEMENT MADE AS A RESULT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH EMILE SCHEUR, 27 RUE MASSART, MONEAUX-SUR-ESCHERIE ON 25 NOVEMBER, 1944.

He entered BREENDONK 21 Dec 42 and left 17 Dec 43. During this time five months were passed at the ST MARIE Hospital at ANYWERE. He was arrested for terrorism.

SCHEUR 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 on the legs which rendered him unconscious. A second questioning was later attempted with the same methods as the first. No satisfaction was obtained.

It became known to the SS guards that the prisoners in SCHEUR'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 thirteen men from the room were taken to the torture chamber for punishment and example. During this phase SCHEUR had his teeth broken by blows from...
the fists of the SS guard WEISS.

While working outside, the SS guard WEISS rolled a stone of some fifty kilos down onto the prisoners. This stone broke SCHIER's left leg. Bally looked after, the leg turned gangrenous and necessitated SCHIER's removal to hospital in ATTERP. The treatment at the military hospital was much better than at ERENDBURG.

He is at present incapable of any work.

SCHIER stated that on DE LONCEAU, a BELGIAN prisoner accused of spying "crucified" to a wall by means of iron shackles. DE LONCEAU 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 ROYARD, POLICE INSPECTOR OF JUMER

(Translated from 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 work our guards (FREMISH SS DE BOH, WEISS, BELGIANS 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 sloughed a running 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 strapped up. Finally exhausted and weakened I was admitted to the camp infirmary on 23rd, 1943 and from there was sent to the hospital at ATTERP from which I was released on the 27th, 1943 and returned to the ERENDBURG infirmary where I remained until 3rd, 1943, the date of my release."

APPENDIX "K"

FACTS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY PAUL DE RUDE, 190 RUE DE PALAIS, BRUSSELS.

(The original statement is in French)

He was arrested on 16 May at 1030 hours and taken to the HQ 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. GIILLES Prison, BRUSSELS.

During the first interrogation the GERMAN hit him with their fists and truncheons. During the second day 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 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 truncheons until he fainted. He was then sent to ST. ANNES Barracks, LUXEM where the medical officer attended to his wounds.

After about a fortnight he was again interrogated and his healing wounds broken open again.

On 1 September he was sent to EVERLOO Camp where he received no food
for two days. He was released by the BELGIAN Government on 4 September.

On his release DE RIDDER found that the GERMANs had stolen all his savings about eighteen thousand Belgian Francs together with his furniture and personal belongings.

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APPENDIX "L"

FACTS OF A STATEMENT BY MAJOR VAN ROOSTEBOCK, 96 RUE PAUL DEVIGNE
SCHLIERBECK, BRUSSELS

(The original statement is in French)

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 daily for 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.

He was then sent MERSERAS 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 BELGIANs. The ill-treatment started again. He was sent a second time to MERSERAS but he found it difficult to recover from the ill-treatment of St. GILLES. From here he was sent to the WESTEN CASE (HAS DE GILLES area) where there were four hundred BELGIANs and seven hundred GERMAN guards by BELGIAN, MONCH and BELGIAN traitors. There were one hundred men in each barrack room, who slept on straw mattresses which were riddled with vermin. VAN ROOSTEBOCK still has marks of any bitten. One bucket acted as latrine for one hundred men. Soup was quite unknown.

Reville was at 5 a.m. 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 sanitary tin. He was then made to fill a pail and run and empty it two hundred meters away. All this accompanied by blows. Another punishment was moving stones weighing three hundred 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.

On leaving MERSERAS 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.

The torture chamber was a walled-in pen where many received intensive beating from a BELGIAN - CAMILLE COWANS aged twenty who was assisted by a GERMAN. 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.

VAN ROOSTEBOCK was freed in January, 1944, being a complete wreck. Since his release he has been in bad health and is present in hospital.

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APPENDIX "K"

FACTS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY HUBERT GINZ, 96 RUE DE DUD, BRUSSELS

(The original statement is in French)

He was arrested on 18th February, 1944, at 7:30 a.m. and was taken to St. GILLES PRISON where he waited until 6 p.m. Without food. About 6:30 p.m. he was taken by car to the Geheime Feldpolizei, Rue Traversaire, where interrogation
began at once. He was asked to admit that he was a member of the K.M.B. (Belgian National Movement).

He was taken to St. Anne’s Barracks at Laken 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 tortures 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 tendine injured by a kick.

APPENDIX "A"

FEED OF A STATEMENT MADE BY REYMOND DE FONSECA, 20 RUE DE MONTENEGRO, BRUSSELS, POLICE OFFICER AT ST. GILES PRISON, BRUSSELS.

(The original statement is in French)

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 TOUVAI and HUY. He was denounced to the GESTAPO as being chief of a resistance movement.

He was sent to St. Anne’s Barracks at Laken 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 arms and opened a wound which discharged for a long time. He received no medical attention. For a month he was subjected 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"

FEED OF A STATEMENT MADE BY LEOPOLDINE AULOTTE, 35, CHAUSSEE BRUXELLES, FORST, BRUSSELS.

(The original report is in French)

Mrs. AULOTTE hid and fed M. VAN DEN ELIS for some time but later he denounced her to the GESTAPO, who confronted her with her denouncer.

She was taken to the GESTapo Office, Avenue Louise, on 3 March, 1944, by a certain Franklin NUK and driven there by a "Dubois Taxi" (the driver of which she could recognize again) and thrown into a cell 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 cell she managed to swallow it.

The first interrogation lasted from 0900 hours until 1600 hours the next day - she subsequently had to remain standing for twenty-four hours. Her interrogator was a GERMAN called KUNZ 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 she persisting...
in her refusal to talk, FIETRES, and with rage, gripped her by the throat.
Four similar interrogations followed. Each time she was stripped naked and beaten with a heavy stick and cut off nine tails. Ten teeth were broken whilst her right leg was covered with sores. During the last interrogation she was confronted with her denouement but she still remained silent and in consequence she was condemned to be shot in GERMANY.

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.
The GERMANS stole from her four thousand francs and her jewellery and also stole eight thousand francs from her husband.

She has a medical certificate dated 24 October, 1944, giving details of her state of health.

APPENDIX "E"
STATEMENT MADE BY LIEUTENANT BARON ALBERT GRIFFITHS OF THE BELGIAN ARMY ON THE TREATMENT HE RECEIVED FROM THE GERMANS

(Translated from French)

"Coming from GENT, BRITAIN to carry out a mission on the Continent I had the misfortune to be arrested on 23 April last in the north 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 infected with fleas instead of lice like those of my neighbours. We had ten minutes walk every morning, after having three 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 eight or fifteen days, according to the work the turnkeys had in hand we had a shower, there, in record time, you had not only to wash, but also try to wash any lines you happened to possess.

As for food, this consisted of a quarter of a litre of coffee or tea at 6 o'clock 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 two hundred grammes of bread 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 those gentlemen said they did not believe what I said, they questioned me handcuffed with my hands behind my back, interposing 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 as hard as possible. They had to take it in turn, as the exercise was hard 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 handcuffs 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
protested 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 re-
ceived blows of the fist.

On the 5 May I was sent to FIRSTERS near PARIS. For this twenty-four
journey by rail they gave us two hundred 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 FIRSTERS I
was put up in a cell in a part reserved for dangerous prisoners illuminated
by day and night but luckily with running water and reasonable sanitary arrange-
ments. The food was more plentiful than at FERPIGNY; 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 interro-
gated at 8 Avenue Funk, 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 FERPIGNY) had
me taken to a house belonging to the Rothschilds where I had to undergo an
joy bath session. Three times I was thrown into a bath head first, feet tied
together and hands cannzoled behind my back, with each time two or three total
inversions of the head until I had lost my breath completely. Each time I came
cut of the bath, those gentlemen, Four FRENCHIES under the direction of a
GERMAN, in order to revive the circulation of the blood and respiration, whip-
ped 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 in-
venting 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 15 August.

APPENDIX "A"

FIRSTERS OF A STATEMENT BY JEAN BAPTISTE CHAREIN, 55 RUE DE LA BOEUX,
MOLINEUX

(The original statement is in French)

He was arrested at 6 a.m. on 13th June, 1914, and was freed from the
prison train which never left BRUSSELS at the liberation. He was denounced by
one BELGIE and accused of espionage and distributing secret leaflets.

He was taken to 6 Rue Traversiere, BRUSSELS (HQ Gelaime Polizani) 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 Traversiere for interrogation. The interrogators tried to
make him give the names of his accomplices.

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 his 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 sides 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.

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 Traversière was KLEIN-FOUILL.

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

(Translated from French)

I, the undersigned, HUBERT A.H. LAUDE, Rector of the Colonial University in ANVERS, General Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society in ANVERS, 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, declare on my honour:

I was arrested on the 25th August at the Colonial University by the GESTAPO and the cellphone Police of ANVERS. In my Office, on the order of Captain Inspector BRASSOSS of the G.F.P., and in the presence of Lieutenant BARNIN of the G.F.P., one of the GERMANS struck me eighteen times with an irong 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 ANVERS. At the University, my Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH GUIFFENS, and a student, Mr. GUIFFENS were beaten with an iron-bound stick. At the GESTAPO building I was completely undressed and I was taken to a cell 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 flat about every two hours. I received neither drink nor food.

On Monday, 26 August, I was taken to ANVERS Prison, in the Rue des Beguinés. 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 days a day without stopping from 29 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 more at me and slapped my face. In addition, having lost consciousness on two occasions in the GESTAPO Buildings my wounds were 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 BRASSCHAAT 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 Es 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 1900 hours.

The G.F.P., on the orders of Captain Inspector BRASSOSS pillaged my personal belongings and took away food, jewels, clothing 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 BRASSOSS 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 5 September instead of 3 September)

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APPENDIX "S"

STATEMENT MADE BY LEON JOSEPH MINDOUX ON 3 NOVEMBER, 1944, ON THE TREATMENT HE RECEIVED FROM THE GERMAN

(Translated from French)

"On the 9th March, 1944, I was arrested by the G.F.P. (Scheisse Feld Polizei) of Rue Traversiers, at ST. JOSEPH-EN-HOODE. 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 0630 hours in a very small cell, my wrists being chained behind my back. About 1600 hours I was taken into an office, still at the Rue Traversiers, where I was again questioned. During the interrogation I was again beaten on the back by the same policemen with a long blackjack. 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 noted out so 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 then to ST. JUNO LEUVEN. 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. SICON, 2th Rue de Rognon, dated 15.4.44. I add that I was liberated by the arrival of the ENGLISH on 9 September, 1944."

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APPENDIX "T"

PRECEDES OF A STATEMENT MADE BY EMMILE LABEZE ON THE TREATMENT HE RECEIVED FROM THE GERMAN

(Translated from French)

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.

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.

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 his forehead. He has a doctor's certificate dated 30 July, 1944, giving details of his disabilities.
APPENDIX "U"

PRECELS OF A STATEMENT MADE BY AIME JULES QUINTER ON HIS TREATMENT BY THE GERMANS.

(The original statement is in French)

He was arrested by the GESTAPO from CHARLEBOI 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.

He was taken to the GESTAPO HQ and on 27 June transferred to CHARLEBOI prison. On 27th December, 1943, he was taken to ST. GILLES Prison, BRUSSELS.

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.

On 6 Dec 1943 they invited him to take the Catholic prisoners' confessions in CHARLEBOI prison. He refused as they dressed up a member of the SS as a priest and he heard the prisoners' confessions.

He states that the mental torture was even worse than the physical.

He was put on the train for GERMANY which never left BRUSSELS station and was freed by the BRITISH entering BRUSSELS.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date at Camp (if known)</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Major SCHMIDT</td>
<td>1940 - early 1944</td>
<td>FRANZ FISCHER B</td>
<td>An SS Officer who was Commandant. A very heavy drinker. He rarely hit prisoners himself. He left matters much to his Lieutenant FRANZ. SCHMIDT had a very fierce Alsatian dog, which he used to act as the prisoners who were frequently bitten. SCHMIDT took part in the torture of Lieut. PAQUET. SCHMIDT returned to Berlin early in 1944. His description is given in Appendix FF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Major SCHWERTER</td>
<td>1943 until 2 or 3 Sept 1944</td>
<td>P.J. DE SCHUTTER Z</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lieutenant PRAUSS</td>
<td>1940 until 2 or 3 Sept 1944</td>
<td>C. LEMAITRE D</td>
<td>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 death of many. He took part in the torture of Lieut. PAQUET. His description is at Appendix FF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lieutenant SCHAEPSCHENSTOCK</td>
<td>Was there from 1 Sept 1942-12 Jun 43</td>
<td>C. LEMAITRE D</td>
<td>An SS Officer who acted as torturer. Killed a number of prisoners with our revolver. It is considered that this man is really KEMPTER or KUNKESTEN (Serials 6 or 7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lieutenant LAMOTTE</td>
<td></td>
<td>P.J. DE SCHUTTER Z</td>
<td>Behaved in a brutal manner towards the prisoners. He stole parcels sent to the prisoners. He was replaced by KEMPTER (Serial 6).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The entries provide information about the personalities involved in the camp, including their roles, actions, and dates associated with their presence. This information is crucial for understanding the historical context and the impact of these individuals on the concentration camp experiences.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Source 1</td>
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<td>Description 7</td>
<td>Detail 7</td>
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<td>Source 8</td>
<td>Description 8</td>
<td>Detail 8</td>
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**Notes:**
- Source 1: Description 1 Detail 1
- Source 2: Description 2 Detail 2
- Source 3: Description 3 Detail 3
- Source 4: Description 4 Detail 4
- Source 5: Description 5 Detail 5
- Source 6: Description 6 Detail 6
- Source 7: Description 7 Detail 7
- Source 8: Description 8 Detail 8

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<th>Date at Camp</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>as. WYSS was a fairly well-known pugilist before the War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>De HOF (or DE HOST or De LOOF &amp; KROJNL of WILLESBROOK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FLEMISH SS. His brutality was in the same category as that of WYSS (Serial 20). He used to flog prisoners to death and assisted in their torture. He was one of the torturers of as. FAUVE. His description is in Appendix FF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>BRUSSELEERS,</td>
<td>Arrived in 1941 and left 2 or 3 Sept</td>
<td></td>
<td>FLEMISH SS employed in 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 GERMANY victory. BRUSSELEERS, however, became more brutal than ever and at the end was probably the most vicious of the guards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>VAN HUL,</td>
<td>Arrived in 1941</td>
<td></td>
<td>FLEMISH SS employed in office work. Behaved brutally towards the prisoners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>WESTERLING of ELSBOE</td>
<td>Arrived in 1941</td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>VAN DE VOORDE,</td>
<td>Arrived about May 1944, left about 2 or 3 Sept 1944</td>
<td></td>
<td>FLEMISH SS. A &quot;blind&quot; 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 GHENT. He was employed in the office. He struck prisoners and ill-treated them whenever possible. His description is given in Appendix FF. Replaced HEMMEL (Serial 19).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>HORLIN,</td>
<td>Arrived early in 1942, did not stay very long</td>
<td></td>
<td>An SS who replaced ZANGERMAN (Serial 12). He was about 5ft 3ins tall. He used to strike the prisoners continually. His surname is at present unknown; it might, however, be HORLIN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serial</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>PRUZ, of STRASBURG</td>
<td>L.O. HOENS</td>
<td>BB &amp; CC</td>
<td>Arrived after the departure of NOVAN, (Serial 26). He subjected the prisoners to brutal treatment and sold their rations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>VLEIGERS</td>
<td>Was there in 1943</td>
<td>Histo. PAGUET</td>
<td>A medical orderly. Took part in the torture of Histo. PAGUET. SINGER (Appendix G) the AUSTRALIAN doctor never knew this man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>SCHMITT</td>
<td>Was there in 1943</td>
<td>T.A. KUIKENHOFFEL</td>
<td>Medical Officer. KUIKENHOFFEL states that SCHMITT had an Alsatian dog which, he said, bit and tortured the prisoners. ALEXIS and others state that the Commandant SCHMITT (Serial 1) had an Alsatian dog which bit the prisoners. SINGER, the AUSTRALIAN doctor (Appendix G) knew nothing of a dog called SCHMITT. It appears that KUIKENHOFFEL has made an error and that there was no dog called SCHMITT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>KINTING</td>
<td>A. SINGER</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>A Wehrmacht doctor who visited the camp about twice a week. He was completely indifferent to the prisoners' fate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>FOEL</td>
<td>A. SINGER</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>A Wehrmacht doctor (a major). He tried to improve the conditions in the camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>SIEG</td>
<td>A. SINGER</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Medical Officer - good man who did what he could for prisoners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>FEIGEBEURG</td>
<td>A. SINGER</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Medical Officer - was very brutal towards the prisoners - used to strike them when they reported sick. It is believed he succeeded KRIP (see previous Serial).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>FLEURANT</td>
<td>A. SINGER</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Medical Officer - behaved brutally towards the prisoners. (It is believed he succeeded FEIGEBEURG see previous Serial).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>KERTEL</td>
<td>Aug. 1940</td>
<td>Histo. VERDICT</td>
<td>Major SCHMITT's driver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>VAN NECK</td>
<td>L.O. HOENS</td>
<td>L.O. HOENS</td>
<td>A driver. Sold the prisoners' rations. Helped to kill another prisoner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>SCHUZAR</td>
<td>There in 1944</td>
<td>Histo. BALENCHE</td>
<td>Two MOOs who behaved brutally towards the prisoners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>EISEN</td>
<td>L.O. HOENS</td>
<td>BB</td>
<td>Criminal Commissioner. Is the same as Serial 10?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>KLEIN</td>
<td>Departed 2 - 3 Sep 1944</td>
<td>Histo. VERDICT</td>
<td>55. Is he the same as Serial 36?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At the end of August 1940, the fort of BREMEN, near to which Madame VERDICT 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 HERM, a member of the Schmacht. Madame VERDICT thinks that SCHMIDT was member of the Gestapo because he had on his collar and on his kepi a "Death's head". SCHMIDT asked for a room with board and Madame VERDICT dare not refuse. She warned to move to another house and went to see Bargemeister FORKON 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 VERDICT was left with one room and a bedroom. The VERDICT family had to do their cooking in the wash-house which also served as a living room. Madame VERDICT was forced to cook for the eight men for twenty-five francs 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 VERDICT 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 house: ALFRED HERTZ, Lieutenant FRANZ of the "animal tamer", Obersthauptmann HERRE, ST. WALTER MILLER, Criminal Commissioner LEYS and Lieut. WILMER.

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

At that time they had practically no furniture in the fort and Madame VERDICT allowed the prisoners 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 FREIMAN 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 VERDICT after the liberation. Among the other prisoners were the members of Parliament, VAN KEBBER and BOCHRY of MALINES, FISCHER of BRUSSELS, Bargemeister FREMON of WILLERBEEK and KON DUHON 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 VERDICT gave them bread, butter and meat. She bought the bread for 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 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 DR. HARTER who was known as KASEREN. Madame VERDICT had then to provide accommodation for ALFRED HERM and Surgeons of the Werkmacht from time to time. SCHMIDT wanted her to cook for them at KASEREN, but she refused. As long as the GERMANS lodged with her Madame VERDICT 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 HOROKIN in AMERICA (compiler's
In 1941 a few prisoners from BRUSSELS (Madame VERDICT 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 PELISS 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 WILLEBRORSE and it appears that a police officer of SCHAARTJE called VAN INGHOLMEN who was about thirty-five years old took him by bicycle to the train at LOKINGE. She learned later from the brothers VERMEERMAN 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 VERDICT 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 VERDICT's house unless escorted. However, as long as they were allowed to come to the house she heard from them how bad the ill-treatment they had to endure at the farm, particularly at the hands of FRANS and MILLER.

Major SCHMIDT had a dog which was trained to bite prisoners in the log. Madame VERDICT 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 carrying stones. They were superintended by the PELISS SS DE ROEST and PEISS who pulled the prisoners from a hillock with stones and wounded them in the head. She saw away with their heads bandaged as a result of this. She heard continual complaints from prisoners concerning DE ROEST and PEISS as well as VAN FRANK of LOKINGE who has been arrested and is in prison at MALINES. VAN FRANK was formerly a gardener at the fort but had also been a prisoner. One day a lawyer from VILVAEREY (whose name she does not know) was working outside her door. VAN FRANK 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 FRANK said to her "You'd better look out, VILVAEREY, or you'll be doing the same". (Compiler's note: VILVAEREY is the name by which Madame VERDICT is known in the neighbourhood).

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

Major SCHMIDT was replaced by Major SCHONWERT but he never lodged with the VERDICT's. Major SCHMIDT is said to have been sent to DEHRADEN but his wife said she would not follow her husband as she wished for a separation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Name and Address</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>JAN DE SCHUTTER, 1, Beenhouwerstraat, BEERENDONK</td>
<td>Electrician called in to maintain lighting system and install extra electric light points. For details of his story see Appendices &quot;Y&quot; and &quot;Z&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FRANS ALOYS HENRING, ZAVELIES, WILLEBROECK</td>
<td>Employed to look after the pigs, cattle, etc., in the camp. For details of his story see Appendix &quot;AI&quot;. He is at present held by the BELGIAN police.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>CLAYNEN, WILLEBROECK (now lives at MALINES)</td>
<td>Employed as cook and punished, then dismissed for smuggling letters for the prisoners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NOENS, ELSVEELD, mrs. WILLEBROECK</td>
<td>Employed as cook after CLAYNEN was dismissed. For statement see Appendices &quot;BS&quot; and &quot;CC&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>VAN ACHTER of FOURS</td>
<td>Was employed for a time as gardener. Was caught by the Commissar, major SCHONEBRUGGE, smuggling letters out of the camp. He was badly beaten and imprisoned for six weeks after which he was discharged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TIERENS of BEERENDONK</td>
<td>Contractor to the Camp. He also belonged to the SS, and gave lectures to the civilian employees and to the FELDHEER SS. He was very friendly with the first Commissar, major SCHMID. He fled with the GERNS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CARLHEK FRANZ, of LONBERGER</td>
<td>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 guard. He fled with the GERNS.</td>
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STATEMENT GIVEN BY FERDUS JOHANNES DE SCHUTTER OF 1 BERSCHOUTSTRAAT,
BERENDONK, WHEN QUESTIONED BY THE ANVERSPOLICE (Translated from Flemish)

In August 1940 I was called upon by the Commissie of BERENDONK 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 install 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 FRANS VAN LONDERZEE here in the smithy. This person left with the departing Germans.

The greatest bruit in the camp appeared to be: Lieutenant PLAUS, of GERMAN nationality, DE BOEIJ and WYSS, FLEMISH SS.

I did not come into contact with the prisoners. I have never heard the name of the Substitut SERING of ANVERG. 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.

STATEMENT GIVEN BY FERDUS JOHANNES DE SCHUTTER OF 1 BERSCHOUTSTRAAT,
BERENDONK, WHEN QUESTIONED BY THE MALLESPOLICE IN OCTOBER, 1944.
(Translated from Flemish)

I was summoned by the Commissie of BERENDONK 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, PLAUS and HERTEL, supported by soldiers of the Schremsch, who were frequently changed. Later the staff was increased, and also included LANBERG, DE LAATS, ZINKEMEYER, MILLER, KASCHUMER, and later still Major SCHWERTER. About the middle of 1941 the 'FLEMISH SS' came, BAKKE, LAMPAERT, EVELING, RAE, BESANT, WYSS, DE BOEIJ, BRUSSELSERS, CUYT and WESSELMAN.

Until about the end of 1942, 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 SCHWERTER, 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 there.

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

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

Lieutenant PLAUS: his cruelty passed all belief. Like all SS men he was always in possession of a crop, a bull's pizzle threaded with steel wire. Without
the alightest 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 throw 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 FRANUS. I had an assistant MICHEL DE BREYS, an electrician from SCHULZ, an Etonant working. He was imprisoned here for eighteen 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 FRANUS, for he himself had much to endure on account of it.

Oberlieutenant KASCHUTER 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 long. He stayed with VERBRUGGEN on the road to WILKENDER. Perhaps you can find out where he was here. I have heard that KASCHUTER 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 HOF of BON 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 KASCHUTER. MENKS should know that better.

Sgt. ZILKIMAN. 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 BREYS. He was certainly not one of the worst, and I have heard very few complaints about him.

LANE 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 in contact with the Jews. They were shut up separately.

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

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

MILLER 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 pretext however, he ill-treated the prisoners on every opportunity he got.

SCHOWMANN, Major. Under his command I had less often to come to the Fort. According to 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 VERDEN, often came to ask me how many prisoners were present there, and if they had received certain things. Also Miss JODGER from LERKEN came to ask me similar questions. It appears that all sorts of goods and clothing sent by the Red Cross were reconditioned by SCHOWMANN. 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 KREFTZ here, but I can no longer remember him.

Lieutenant STECKMANN also knocked people about.

As for the FLEISCHER SS who came later, that is to say in 1941, WISS was the worst of all, followed by DE BEY. They went about always whip in hand, and struck in all circumstances and without the slightest reason. WISS was particularly barbarous; I have seen him strike a man on top of the head so
that the blood flowed. From hearsay, I know that he sometimes threw a shovel into the water from the fort and made a jaw 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 ROTO 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.

BAKME 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. CAHAN and his sons were held prisoners here. On a certain day he brought a piece of bread to the father CAHAN, 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 BRIESE to give him a paper to the effect that BAKME had always behaved well at the Fort. BRIESE did not do so. I think he tried to do the same with other prisoners. It is said that BAKME has been arrested at BRUSSELS. That I was told last Sunday by the father-in-law of MARCEL VAN HOOF, who lives at ZOON on the way from NIEL. BAKME 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.

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 learned from prisoners that he could hit hard.

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

KAES I cannot remember.

DE SAYERS 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 he went in the torture chamber with people.

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

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

CUTT, I know ill-treated prisoners also.

Concerning WETERLUUK 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.

CARLIER and VAN PEERE were no better than the GERMANS or FRIESSE SS. They also beat and kicked the prisoners, or carried all sorts of stories to PRANDI, who ill-treated the prisoners.

CARLIER 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 PEERE 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 him a man after their own hearts, and when he was released engaged him as gardener. He made himself very barbarous to the prisoners. In the lunchtimes he often sat in the office. He learned that someone from WALLO- NIE 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 an imprisoned Jew, OHLER, who had lived at 12, 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 anything; in general something other than labouring with earth. These posts were much sought after, for one was less open to ill-treatment. OHLER 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 send the pre-arranged sum to Mrs. OHLER 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 easiest job. He himself grossly ill-treated the prisoners; it might be said that he beat them to death. The GERMAN or FLEMISH SS were delighted when OHLER beat the prisoners. The packages were allowed to be received, these had to be handed to the head of the room, who handed them out to the addresses. 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. Then Lieutenant PRUSS went for a prisoner with work and OHLER was around, as it was who struck first. This OHLER 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 off-loaded.

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 killing 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.

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APPENDIX "AA".

STATEMENT GIVEN BY FRANS ALOYS AMELINCK OF 5 ZAVELREG, WILLEBRORD, WHEN QUESTIONED BY THE MALINES POLICE, IN OCTOBER 1944. (Translated from Flemish)

I was employed at the Fort at MALINES from the beginning of the month of August 1943 until the flight of the GERMAN. 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 LONDERZIEL, who only knew by the Christian name "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 VNV, the VLAAM or of any political organisation, nor have I been a member of one; nor have I ever supported the policy of GERMAN.

Among the captives in the Fort I knew a Jew, a certain OHLER, 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 prisoner...
nour. 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 OHEER, 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 pig-food to the prisoners. I was myself responsible for the pigs about a year ago, when OHEER 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 pig-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 student in the courtyard of the fort, I saw that the prisoners were heavily beaten, chiefly by a certain WIESS, en SS, and also by a certain HEIDT, who was also en SS, and these supervised 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 learned from prisoners that young men had been shot, but also I did not see any shootings. From the prisoners I learned that some of them had been hanged. 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 elevation with a cross begun at the top. I never saw ropes hanging from this beam. I only saw this wooden elevation 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 by 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 corns; and which apparently served to make the ropes fast to, had a length of about 4 m; a breadth of about 30 cm, and a thickness of about 25 cm. I can only give these measures approximately, as I could see all this only from a distance. The gallows with the wooden elevation were put up by a prisoner called "GAST" together with four other prisoner-carpenters over whom he supervised. This "GAST" was a resident of somewhere in HABIES, and went with about thirty other prisoners to the prison of ST. OLENS a few days after the landing.

I cannot say if any victims were hanged, and cannot say with certainty how many were shot. I certainly heard the shots of the 'execution platform' but I do not know how many people there were each time, and I also often went to WILNERHOEK 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 RODT for attempting to escape it appeared.

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

In the Fort was also a certain PRAISS, 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 my blows. He had a big dog of the 'German sheepdog' (Alsatian) 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 VERES or sometimes from the electrician DR. SCHMITZ or other employees of the Fort.

I can give you no further information.

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APPENDIX "B"

STATEMENT GIVEN BY LOEMIJK OCTAVE VERES OF 22 AM BouVILL, WILLENROCK, ON 2 OCTOBER 1944 WHEN QUESTIONED BY THE ANWERP POLICE (Translated from Flemish)

I have been here in the service of the Fort as cook since the beginning of 1942. I was the chef of the WILLENROCK 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 Hauptsturmführer LÜTTLER; the other members of the staff in charge were Lieutenant BERLIN, Uff Sturmführer LATS easily recognizable by his boxer's nose and his sailor's walk (swaying walk). Other GERMANS were KEMPER, Heren and MILLER. As Flemish SS there must be added BAUER, of OOSTMACHER near GANT, LIMBERT of ANWERP, PETERS, a native of KEMPER, but having lived for a long time at Antwerp, RAZ, of LAMBERT DE BRUXELLES, DE SAAD, of DENTVLESAENG near GENT, VOGS of ANWERP, BROWN of KEMPER, GUILL of DINANT, De ROYAR of WILLENROCK, VAN HUL of LEIGE, WESTERLINCK of FREUNDO, a former insurance agent.

Early in 1943, Major SCHMIDT returned to BERLIN and was replaced by Major SCHMITZ. Towards May 1944, LÜTTLER left and was replaced by VAN DE VOORDE who came from the S.J. of ANWERP. Some time after my arrival here, the GERMANS KEMPER left and replaced by an NGO, a very tall man, nearly two metres (6ft 6in) whose christian name was Nuern, 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 re-constitution of the emplacement of the execution posts and the gibbet resembles the real thing very closely.

Major SCHMIDT left things entirely to Lieutenant FRuess. 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 these people who did not take their place in the ranks quickly enough that the dog was set, and bit the prisoners' 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 FRuess, who then took the necessary action. The Major always walked about with a crook. Personally I never saw his strike a prisoner himself, but I learned from the prisoners that he did go so far as to strike.

A man called TIMENS of LEBENDANK worked here as contractor; he carried out work here, but at the same time he belonged to the SS and besides the execution of his work, he gave lectures to the civilian staff who worked here, and to the FLEMISH SS. I never had to attend his lectures. Major SCHMIDT was very attached to this TIMENS and regularly went drinking with him at the Fort.
canteen. It was known by everyone that TIEBERG carried into account many deliveries of construction materials which had never been made and that SCHUM was in possession of a cup, consisting of a ball’s puzzle in which a steel wire was woven. It was chiefly with this instrument that he struck the prisoners. When he happened to be without this cup he hit with his hands or his foot. He always hid behind a door or wall to spy on the prisoners so as to discover any alleged offense which served as 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 illness is difficult to say, but I think they can be counted in tens. FRANKS conducted himself in a really unheard-of and disgusting manner towards the prisoners. In most cases there was no reason for these blows that were delivered really as a matter of habit. It happened on more than one occasion that a person was beaten without reason; when his knees sagged under the pain, he was again beaten for not holding himself straight. 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 FRANKS’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 usually took place before my arrival at the fort that day. The party was divided into two groups. I learned from Lieutenant WINTER, also on ES, when I forgot to mention before, that the prisoners were taken towards OOSTEN. At this time there were about three hundred people. VAN HOOG was a driver and he had also driven a prison van. Major SCHUMACHER took charge of this convoy and came back again. I cannot state with how many lorries this move was effected.

LEUTENANT KAYS was not so bold in his daily conduct as the prisoners who were considered as "Arabes". I learned that he had also resorted to blows and kicks but to a much less extent than FRANKS. On the other hand KAYS was much more severe towards the Jews, when 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, same.

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 eight 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 at the fort three days he met a Jew in the courtyard 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 committed 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 HOOF OF TERNAGE. The latter fell and KANCHESTER swore 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 HOOF was terribly scalded and burned under treatment for several weeks. After several weeks VAN HOOF was taken to HOIS LE DUC and I think his parents said he was dead.

HARTSTURMBOJER LAHOTTE was a thorough hypocrite, an artful chap. He hit like the others, but most of the time he let PRAIS at it, and he punished in his usual brutal manner. However, more than once, he committed acts of violence too. He examined the packets which were sent to the prisoners; he took out for himself whatever came under the heading of “luxury foodstuffs” chocolate, cordials... he kept them for himself.

ZERCHAIN 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’ rations. 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 many rations as was necessary, and they were always regularly issued.

VERIE, 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 brutal than PRAIS. 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 prisoner, 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 SCHWEATER arrived as Camp Commander. 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 Franciscan 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 LINEM. 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. SCHWEATER always quoted a higher strength than there really was and thus disputes arose between the charity mentioned and SCHWEATER. The Princess even came one day because twenty-eight more people than I had mentioned had been included. The Major tried by every means to justify that there really were twenty-eight people. No, I’m wrong, it was SCHWEATER who went to see the PRINCESS at BRUSSELS. This Charity had distributed at a certain time up to twenty-five kilograms of butter and a quantity of smoked horse meat. Of this nothing went to the prisoners. All of it was immediately divided along the officers of the camp. Some chocolate was distributed, three bars had been provided per prisoner. I having informed the charity that there were four hundred and thirty 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 GIRLANS. Major SCHWEATER gave two bars to each prisoner and kept for himself six hundred bars.

He himself struck and ill-treated the prisoners on more than one occasion. However he left most of it to PRAIS. A certain VAN SCHUTTER of TUBUS came here to the fort to work as a gardener. The latter did many good things 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 of a result of it. Afterward 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 LONGEAL DE HERSEYRIE at BRUSSELS. This MORIAN 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 FRANKS, and I can say with certainty that MORIAN shared the responsibility for the death of several persons. The COUNT DE LONGEAL was shot. I managed to get a roll of lavatory paper to him and he left several notes that I passed to BAIN DE HERSEY after the liberation.

Someone called FRANKS came after the capture of MORIAN. He was a native of SERASBET. The latter is comparable to SCHWEITZER 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 KEMPFER who also struck the prisoners and who very cruelly supervised their work. Oberlieutenant STRICKER was also in permanent contact with the prisoners and also made himself responsible for several tortures. KEMPFER and STRICKER stayed only a very short time here; each about three months, I think. LAMOTTE was replaced by KEMPFER and the latter by STRICKER.

In the course of 1944 there were still the MOOS SCHÜNZLAR and KLARI who were also guilty of brutalities. They left about two months before the liberation.

Let us turn to the FLEMISH SS. The worst were WYSS and DEBOY. 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 at least six people during the period I was there. It is impossible for me to give the names of those persons. In all those repulsive deeds he was actively seconded by DEBOY. The latter behaved in the same way as WYSS and helped him to kill people. It can be said that he himself killed several people, either alone or in company with WYSS. These two individuals genuinely equaled FRANKS in brutality.

BADE 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 at least he felt that he should disassociate himself from GERMAIN and that they would lose the way 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 CHARBON were liberated. He conducted those people as far as thecauseway, insisted that he had always been good to them and asked those people to write to him. Those persons never complied. Some time afterwards, two people from the same district were also released. He also pressed those 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 DEBOY were. According to what I hear DE BADE has been arrested and detained at BRUSSELS.

LAMARRE 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 LAMARRE's work. Nearly all prisoners who came into the Fort received blows from LAMARRE. LAMARRE assisted at the questionnaires 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 an outdoor service and there was also responsible for serious tortures. DE BOY however told me one day that LAMARRE was much too mild. I can however say that LAMARRE can be called cruel.

BELENS 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 speak. 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 - GYSBAMANS. The description coincides fairly well with PELLIEMANS and I still wonder if the person who did that was not PELLIEMANS. I am not in the least certain on the subject. I have, in any case, no ill to say of PELLIEMANS. I have discovered nothing against him, and I never heard the prisoners complain about him. The GYSBAMANS I spoke about is actually MICHEL GYSBAMANS, Lieutenant of the Reserve, implicated in the affair of COLONEL VANBALS, CASMIR BARTHET and others. PELLIEMANS 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 number of the persons killed. There were here a group of peasants prisoners. Two of these were martyred. I can certify that this was the work of WYSS, DE BODT and RAES.

DE SATTEL 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 succeeded (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 MICHIEUS of BRUSSELS. He was arrested as a suspect at the beginning of the war between GERMANY and RUSSIA. This person was never interrogated. It happened on more than one occasion that MICHIEUS 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 VORKIE, 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 ANTWERP. He is a native of GHENT or thenceabouts. 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.

BRUSSELEER was also attached to the outside department of the prisoners. He was as cruel as WYSS and his chief. 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 GERMEN collapse) were a little less cruel in their work. BRUSSELEER on the contrary indulged his cruelty and at the end he was the worst of all; he was the real terror of the prisoners.

CUTT 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 nationalist-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 beat 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 LONDERZEE as smith and VAN PRAYT of BORSEM 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 GAULFE 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 FRANZES SC. He also ill-treated the prisoners continually or relied upon FRANZIS to punish and ill-treat the people for him. CARLEER was also secretary of the W.V.-LONDERSEN; he was really wicked and his conduct towards the prisoners was scandalous.

VAN EMMIS 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 FRANZIS. It happened on more than one occasion that the people, impelled by terrible hunger, ate or tried to eat a leaf 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 FRANZIS. He acted thus to a boy of EMERSIS who was also a prisoner there; as a result of this the latter was confined to his cell for fifteen days and terribly ill-treated. This was the work of VAN EMMIS. 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 WALLONIS promised him a side of pork, some butter and other things if he secured him his freedom. VAN EMMIS did actually get them because he went to fetch them one Sunday and told me on the Monday when he had much 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, 50 grammes of butter, 10 grammes of cheese every two days. At midday a soup which consisted of water and vegetables. The issue was 50 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 GERMANIS 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 grammes so that the soup had not a great nutritive value. From the beginning of 1944, the food greatly improved. Then came the Feyer 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 GERMANIS 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, three hundred and fifty 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 Feyer 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 SCHÖNWEBER had a lorry filled with all sorts of clothes some days before the evacuation. This convoy left for HASSEIN.

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 bended their knees against the sharp corners which, according to what I have been told, was very painful.
Those members of the SD who conducted interrogations generally acted as torturers; after which they carried off the prisoners. During the interrogation the guard of the fort, GERMAN and FLENDIS SS entered and left and also took their turn at hitting the victim.

On Saturdays the prisoners went to the baths room by room. It often happened that the prisoners, in winter as well in 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 regular medical inspection by the doctor. This only took one hour for all the prisoners who sometimes numbered four hundred and fifty. Everyone had to wait their turn quite naked in front of the kitchen, in the courtyard. I often saw then 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 ten o'clock. I knew then 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 five thousand francs from the family of Doctor REYNAERS of SCHUT to have his son 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 REYNAERS remained at the fort and left with the convey of prisoners towards KITS LE BOU. In passing I have to remark that Dr. REYNAERS spent four weeks in a cell for having put a dressing on a BERNIN 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 SS as the others but they were better treated in the matter of food and tobacco, because myself, DE SCHUTER, and the other member 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 four 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 fateful day for the GERMAN and the FLENDIS SS; 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 judgment was generally read before them, generally in GERMAN and in FLENDIS. This last being read by DE SARTHE.

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 twenty corpses (had collected). The first lay there for eighteen 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 FLENDIS SS in particular. The FLENDIS SS had to leave their wives. They quarrelled with the gendarmerie. Visibly they suspected us of having had contacts with the prisoners and I had to disappear for several days. I learned that everyone
including the SS personnel, left the fort on Saturday, 2 September about three o’clock in the afternoon; the garrison remained until Sunday afternoon. From Sunday afternoon until Monday morning at ten o’clock the population pillaged the fort; taking all sorts of objects such as kitchen utensils, tables chairs, etc.

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APPENDIX "30"

STATEMENT GIVEN BY LOUIS WILLY, OCTAVE NOUVEAUX OF 22 RUE NOUVEAUX, WILLEMROCK, ON 17 NOVE 44 WHEN RE-QUESTIONED BY THE ANTWERP POLICE (Translated from Flemish)

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While I was look at the Port of BRUSSELS I knew three serjeants there who were responsible for supervising the prisoners’ rations. These were ZIDERSON, NORIN 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 ‘ROYAL BRITISH MILITARY’ (BRITISH) rifted itself with the supply of meat; 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 food-stuffs in accordance with the strength shown thereon.

As long as ZIDERSON issued the rations I never had any trouble; the rations were there as laid down; he never withheld the slightest thing. With NORIN 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 a little could be withheld. FRANZ witheld a great deal, particularly butter and meat. I very often had trouble with him; he affirmed that I had issued too much to him, and that I should 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 twelve kilos. I went and complained of this to major SCHUETZER, but without success. Later I understood the Major’s attitude better when I discovered that he himself was concerned in the mis-appropriation.

I never had any ideal 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 fort at 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 as we go round. There was thus no specified weight or quantity given; a heap was divided over so many days; when NORIN was in control the following incident took place: Vegetables were delivered, and he said to 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 there were 1500 kilos; I then weighed them and found they weighed 945 kilos. NORIN 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 NORIN had 1000 kilos of vegetables delivered, but had taken 1500 kilos into account, and had mis-appropriated the difference.

The greatest difficulties concerning the food began when FRANZ took over; he was in charge when the ‘ROYAL BRITISH MILITARY’ attended to the food.
I never obtained the weight of rations laid down; instead of the 100 grammes of meat prescribed (with bone), I estimate that about 50 grammes were issued. I could not explain, 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 profit.

It was happened that FRANZ, with VAN NECK as driver, went to get some foodstuffs at ANVERS; namely cheese, jam, sugar barley. On the way back, at BOMM, they went into a café to see some of their lady friends; to pay the bill they sold 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 café at BOMM where FRANZ and VAN NECK had their party. DE SAFFEL once rather took 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 SS staff. The butter was divided between SCHUERMER 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 grammes was always regularly distributed; none was withheld. The bread was in order; it was delivered by KESS, the baker, of WILNEMERK. This bread was carefully dealt with and delivered by weight. It was ordinary rations: bread.

The cheese was properly issued as long as it was processed cheese; 5 grammes a day being allowed per prisoner and issued every three days i.e. 15 grammes. 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 'ROYER LEXFOLD III' delivered dried goods such as macaroni, cat flake, 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 'ROYER' the contents of the soup were very insufficient. The soup was issued in cans which were touched by a couple of prisoners per moon, always accompanied by a FLEMMER 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 grammes jam and 30 grammes sugar; generally less was issued, as none 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 'ROYER LEXFOLD' 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 SS staff; the WEERMANN 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.

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APPENDIX "ED"

LIST OF SOME OF THE HEAD MEN OF THE HOSES IN BRUSSELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Name and Address</th>
<th>Date at Camp (if known)</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>OELAY or OBER, 14, Rue Notre Seigneur, BRUSSELS</td>
<td>Until 1942</td>
<td>T. FRANKI-GROUILL</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DEVOS Valere, GENT</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>C. LECLAIR</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HEMANS The 72 Rue Peter Benoit, HASSEM</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>- Do -</td>
<td>They both used to ill-treat the prisoners and behaved in a scandalous fashion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>VAN FRATET of BORHEIM</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Hbos. VERDIKT</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 WILKIE DALKINS TO THE AMSTERDAM POLICE ON
14 NOVEMBER, 1944. - (Translated from Flemish).

During November 1942 DE ROIT moved to PRESENDORF at WILLENROCK 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 ROIT 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 CAFE in the PRESENDORF then rang up the Post and some ten GERANS arrived with a bloodhound. The run-away was soon found again. He was then beaten up in a dreadful way that he collapsed on a dungheap. There was one GERMAN present who did not do anything. DE ROIT 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 ROIT took one GERMAN's bayonet and pricked the prisoner with it in the belly; another GERMAN did the same in the chest. DE ROIT 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 about twenty-three years of age, had black curly hair and was of medium height, about 166 metres I should say, and wore Kehl 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 the person; they brutally murdered him after he had been taken prisoner. Whilst they were inflicting his 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.

APPENDIX "EE"

EXTRACTS FROM A STATEMENT MADE BY A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY POLICE TO THE AMSTERDAM POLICE IN OCTOBER 1944.

Notes: (i) The member of the Security Police is JAN LOEWENJ
SCHERMANS, born in LIEGE, BELGIUM, in 1923
(ii) The original statement which is in the NETHERLANDS
language, is sixty-one pages long.
(iii) The Security Police works in conjunction with the
GESTAPO
(iv) SCHEMANS 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 AMSTERDAM as interpreter...."

2. "My salary was eight hundred francs a month plus allowances for food and clothing.... When I married my salary was increased to three thousand francs a month...."

3. "I was taken on by LIEKE, 33 Obersturmführer and Police Inspector, Department 1 - Section III of the BRUSSELS office of the Security Police and Security Services...."

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. (SCHMIDT was present when LAUBE, the Rector of The Colonial University, ARRIVED, was arrested. He was in the next room when LAUBE was interrogated). He says: "At the time of the interrogation I heard LAUBE screaming from the blows he received...." (See Appendix "A" serial 45 and Appendix "A").

6. In his description of the organization and personnel of the Security Police and Security Service in ANWERP he describes:

"VAN DE VOORDE, Canton. Speaks with a GENT dialect and lived at 1 FRINKES-COLMANSRAAD, 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 WANNEF SS, but was discharged on medical grounds and then joined the Security Police. He went to ERENDONK in the month of June 1944 to replace LAMPAER.

7. "SCHMIDT (Mrs) Typist. Wife Sturmabm.Führer SCHMIDT, Head of ERENDONK GAMP. Personal description: 1.71 meters tall - brunette - dark grey eyes - narrow face - broad mouth - robust build without corpulence - thirty-two - thirty-three years old".

8. "LAIS, Ernst, SS Untersturmführer - Criminal Secretary. A native of BAKEN-BABEN. Thirty-two - thirty-four years old - 1.70 meters tall - short gray hair - rather square head - dark grey eyes - flat nose with protruding bulbous end - very beady-legged. LAIS is a member of the Criminal Police. He is a brutal being. Those who fall into his hands did not get off lightly. He served at ERENDONK in 1941/42."

9. "LAMPAER, Adolf. This man lives at 4, Baron JOSEFENBURG, ANWERP. Aged twenty-five - twenty-eight years - height 1.71 meters - strongly built - coarse face - dark grey eyes, bushy eyebrows - flashy nose. LAMPAER served for three years at ERENDONK 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. LAUBE (See Appendix "A", serial 45) to the GPF. LAUBE had lost VAN AKEN financial support and also provided him with a false identity card as he had to disappear. After this VAN AKEN returned to LAUBE for a new identity card. The photo from the old card was put by LAUBE in a register. Some days afterwards when the GPF came to LAUBE they went and opened the register where the photograph was and stated that they were convinced that the photograph to be used for a false identity card. A member of the GPF is said to have remarked "the case cost us fifty thousand 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 rifle were scarcely over ill-treated, the most they got was their car boxed. Those 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 ("Fahlscheidung") 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 scolding the nervous system of the prisoner was strained to the utmost. Interrogation then was begun in a quiet way. If this did not produce results, an attempt was made to make the prisoner manageable by boxing him on the ears and manhandling him with truncheons and sticks or by telling him that he would be taken away to ERENDONK. If this again did not produce any results the notorious method of severe interrogation ("Verschafffung..."
Vernehmung") was adopted. The prisoner was then placed on a table and was continuously beaten by one or two men with long rubber transcums 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 mortally 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, dark cell where it was impossible to stretch fully. The prisoner in a strong state by reason 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 surmounted 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 SÖHN, 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 bun consisting in a series of wounds which in a short time swelled and caused infection. If none of these measures produced results the prisoner was taken to BREENDONK. VEIT tortured his prisoners in person with a metal hot-orecoker 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 HQ 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 ('SCHUTZABEIT')"

"This was awarded on the same grounds as custody on security grounds, but for more recalcitrant persons. 'Schutzabteilung' 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 20% of those persons were innocent. After three or four weeks had elapsed the interrogations began. Two to four persons a day. Those who than 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 curses being made.

"The military court at ANTWERP dealt only with small cases. If a case comprised twenty or thirty or more persons those 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 Sturmbannführer SCHMIDT, who in November 1943 was replaced by SS Sturmbannführer SCHENWETTER. SCHMIDT was a brutal fellow who was capable of all kinds of brutalities. The deputy
commandant was SS Hauptsturmführer STREICHER. That there was SS Untersturmführer BRÜSSE (this should read BRÜSSE); height 1.60 metres – heavy thick-set build – aged forty-five – forty-eight – greyish hair – thin, nose – pale, colourless lips – small dark grey eyes – coarse face – hoarse voice – stutter slightly – BRÜSSE 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 BRÜSSE who devised all the torture instruments at BREendonk which he had made by the prisoners.

"His foremost collaborators in torturing the prisoners were:

DE ROT: ex look-keeper at WILLERSBOEK – described there: 1.78 to 1.80 metres tall – forty-two – forty-five years old – bright blue eyes – protruding eyes – clean-shaven – round face – robust build – dark brown hair – round bald head. DE ROT was of the same calibre as BRÜSSE and is also responsible for many people being tortured.

LAMPEK, ADOLF: Already described above. The same kind of brute as DE ROT and BRÜSSE.

DE GAEPEL, Max: He came from near GENT. 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 BULGARIANS and BULGARIANS. All sorts of political prisoners were imprisoned at BREendonk: Jews, Communists, Members of Resistance Organizations, etc. Their hair was always cut off and they received a khaki uniform worn to the thread. The treatment of the 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 admit 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 continuously 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. BRÜSSE had also devised a sort of gallows whereby the prisoners were hanged up by their wrists which were tied behind their back. The victims were even undressed 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 victims usually received a stimulating injection. In BREendonk people were also executed. The condemned were shot by soldiers of the Waffen SS while the barbarous SS administered the ‘scoop de grace’.

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

"After a secret Communist printing press was discovered the Security Police brought the press to BREendonk where then a false ‘Red Flag’ (Red Flag) was printed and distributed into letterboxes of individuals."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Name (and address if known)</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SCHMIDT Ilse</td>
<td>A. SINGER G</td>
<td>Wife of the Commandant, Major Schilde. She was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, USA. Her maiden name was Bierkholz. She was about 5ft 6in. in height and thirty-two - thirty-three years of age. She was a brunette with dark grey eyes. She had a narrow face and broad sensual mouth. She was well built. She worked as a typist in the Security Police HQ in Antwerp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>PHILIPPENS</td>
<td>I.O. HOKIS BB</td>
<td>Burgomaster of Fours. A good friend of Major Schilde, Commandant of BEORENK Concentration Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>VON HOREN, Willy</td>
<td>Member of the Security Police FF</td>
<td>A member of the ANTWERP Security Police. Inventor of the electric brush - an instrument of torture (See para 43 of the report).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>VEIT</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>VERHULSDONK</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>LENKE</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Police Inspector - Security Police at ANTWERP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>VAN AKEN</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Probably denounced by Lube (Appendix &quot;A&quot;, serial 45 and Appendix &quot;R&quot;) to the Germans.</td>
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