

Massacre de Gaggenau du 25 novembre 1944

En voici la synthèse figurant dans le rapport d'enquête du major Barkworth « Missing parachutists » *

Case 11

Gaggenau

25. 11. 1944

The final evacuation of Schirmeck camp was decided towards the middle of November 1944. According to Karl Buck, Dr. Isselhorst visited him about the 17th of November and gave him verbal orders. These orders included the instruction to shoot the 10 English and American prisoners still confined in the cells (see page 9). Either through fear of leaving fresh traces of a crime, or because in the confusion of organising the move across the Rhine there was no opportunity, this order was not carried out at Schirmeck.

Buck meanwhile had left for his temporary H.Q. at Oberweiler. On the night of 21/22 November 1944, a large convoy left under Oberleutnant Nussberger for Gaggenau, and on the night of 22/23 November, the last convoy left under Oberwachtmeister Muth. The remaining male prisoners, and all 10 British and Americans were included in this party. A few hours afterwards the first American troops entered the town.

At 6 o'clock in the morning the convoy passed through Strassburg, which town was occupied by the Americans before noon, and arrived at Rotenfels some three hours later, on the morning of the 23rd of November. As there were no cells at Rotenfels, the 10 Allied prisoners of war were confined in Barrack 3, where they were seen by a large number of witnesses.

On the morning of the 25th November Karl Buck visited Rotenfels camp and ordered the Lagerkommandant Wunsch to arrange for the execution of the English and American prisoners. Wunsch states that he passed this order to the police lieutenant of the camp, Nussberger.

On the afternoon of the 25th November, the allied prisoners were taken by truck to the wood near the Gaggenau cemetery, shot and buried in a bomb crater.

The following members of the Rotenfels camp staff were present at the scene of the murder according to various witnesses: —

Wachtmeister ULLRICH

Oberwachtmeister NEUSCHWANGER Heinrich

Nota : détails, développements... ne sont pas l'objet de cette publication. Le procès principal des auteurs est toutefois consultable ici : https://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/Law-Reports_Vol-5.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A288%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22FitH%22%7D%2C829%5D

Meister d. Schupol.	OSTERTAG Erwin
?	ZIMMERMANN
Oberwachtmeister	MUTH Josef
?	DINKEL
?	ARNOLD Albert (the French prisoner who drove the truck)

The bodies of these allied prisoners were identified and are now buried in the Gaggenau cemetery.

This case was investigated in conjunction with No 6823 U.S. War Crimes Team, commanded by Colonel Chavez Jnr, and their report has already been forwarded to AG 3 (VW).

Further evidence is contained in the attached statements.

1. Staf. Isselhorst
2. Oberwachtmeister Muth

Accused and Suspect Accused.

Gauleiter	WAGNER Robert
Staf.	ISSELHORST Erich
Obstuf.	SCHNEIDER Wilhelm
Hstuf.	MEIER Ernst
Stubaf.	UHRING Robert
Ostuf.	GEHRUM Julius
Hstuf.	BUCK Karl
Ustuf.	WUNSCH Robert
Olt.	NUSSBERGER Karl
?	ZIMMERMANN
Meister	OSTERTAG Erwin
Oberwachtm.	NEUSCHWANGER Heinrich
Oberwachtm.	MUTH Josef
	DINKEL
Wachtm.	ULLRICH Benno
?	ARNOLD Albert

Evidence appended

1. Statement by Erich ISSELHORST
2. Statement by Josef MUTH

Case 12

Niederbühl

ca. 2. 12. 1944

Pet. Wertheim, who had been captured on the 5th of October and lodged in the Rue du Fil prison at Strassburg, was seen on the 23rd of November at Niederbühl camp by Roger Souchal. The latter remembers him by name,