

EHRI Online Course on Holocaust Studies
IfZ/A MA1564/8
The Germans and the Holocaust – The Practice of Murder
Translation: *D03 Report about Shootings of Jews as "Reprisal Measures"*

Plenipotentiary Commanding General
October 1941.
in Serbia.

Local Hqs, 20

Qu Branch

To: Report 2nd Bn., 521st Signal Bn/Ila
of 15 October 1941.
Subject: Reprisal measures for 22 fallen
members of the 2nd Bn, 521st Signal Bn.

Senior Signal Officer, Serbia.

It is requested,

1.) That a final report concerning the execution of the reprisal measures be presented

2.) That the 2nd Bn, 521st Signal Regiment be ordered to submit reports only through
channels. (penciled initial) Pm

For the Plenipotentiary Comanding General in Serbia
The Chief of the General Staff:

(sgd) Pemsel

(penciled notes) Qu v.o. Chief Serbia. Administration Staff
with a request for acknowledgment

20 October
Werntmuth

Seen 21 October

(signed)

(Rubber stamp)

(penciled note) 21 October

In original

To the Plenipotentiary Commanding General of Serbia

Belgrad

handed back after acknowledgment

(rubber stamp)

For the Plenipotentiary
Commanding General in Serbia

17729.9

The Chief of the Administrative
Staff

XVIII AK

For:

2nd Bn, 521st Signal Regiment

Chief submitted.

Branch II

Subject: Surprise attacks of Communist

Bandits on Members of the Battalion.

(Rubber stamp)

(penciled notes)

18th Corps

Received 15 October 1941

First Supplement

Reference:

Distribution

The battalion present as a supplement to the reports about Communist bandit surprise attack, a report concerning the shootings of Jews, which have been carried out.

Further shootings could not be carried out by the battalion, since an allocation of men was impossible on account of their being utilized for re-establishment of the telephone lines from Sabac to Loznica.

The Pongruber corps Signal Battalion was charged by Col Murster with the carrying out of further executions.

(sgd) Major and Battalion Commander.

Distribution:

12th Army

Plenipotentiary Commanding General,

XVIIIth Corps

Commander of Serbia

LXVth[?] Corps

Senior Signal Officer

521st Signal Regiment (two copies)

Liepe.
First Lieutenant and Company Commander

Local Headquarters, 13. Oct. 41
APO 26 557

Report

Concerning the shooting of Jews on 9 and 11 October 1941.

1. Mission: On 8. October 1941, the shooting of 2,200 Jews, who were in the camp at Belgrade, was ordered.
2. Leadership and Participation: First Lieutenant Liepe and Comrades of field units 26557 and 06175, of which two officers and twenty men were killed, 16 were missing, and three were wounded.
3. Medical Care and Mission: Oberarzt Dr. Gasser, field Unit 39107 and Corporal Bente, MD, of unit 26557.
4. Transport and Vehicles: Transport and guard of the prisoners furnished by the participating units. Vehicles were allocated by the motor pool of the Belgrade administrative sub-area Hos[?, word not mentioned in German original]. The transport of the soldiers taking part was furnished by army trucks.
5. Place of the Action: 9 October 1941. – forest about 12 km east of Kovin. 11 October 1941 – in the vicinity of the Belgrade shooting range, on the road to Nis.
6. Security and Concealment: Took place in close agreement with the security police in Belgrade and Pancevo.
7. Film and Pictures: "S" Propaganda Company.
8. Supervision: First Lieutenant Liepo, 2nd Lieutenant Vibrans, 2nd Lt. Luestraeton, SS-Oberscharfuehrer Enge, Security Police Belgrade.
9. Execution: After basic exploration of the place and preparation, the first shooting took place on 9 October 1941. The prisoners were picked up with their emergency baggage from the camp in Belgrade at 0530 hours. Through issuing of spades and other working tools a working party was simulated. Each truck was guarded only by three men so that from the strength of the guard no suspicion should arise concerning the true action.

The transport took place without difficulties of any sort. The mood of the prisoners during the period of the transport and preparation was good. They were happy about the removal from the camp, since their accommodation there was allegedly not according to their desires. The prisoners were occupied eight k, from the place of shooting and brought up later as required. The place was covered sufficiently as regards the preparation as well as the shooting. The shooting took place with rifles at a distance of 12 meters. Five shots were ordered for the shooting of each prisoner.

In addition the doctor was allowed two shots which had to cause death by shots in the head according to instruction of the doctor.

Articles of value and superfluous things were removed under supervision and were later sent to the Nazi People's Welfare and/or the Security Policy in Belgrade. The attitude of the prisoners at the shooting was calm. Two people tried to flee and were accordingly shot at once. Some expressed their feelings, in that they brought another hail[?] to Stalin and Russia.

180 men were shot on 9 October 1941.

The shooting was finished at 1830 hours. There were no special events worth mentioning. The units returned to their quarters satisfied. [Handwritten remark on the margin: "really now!"]

The second shooting could not take place until 11 October 1941 on account of construction work on the Danube ferry. As a result of the construction work the next shooting had to take place in the vicinity of Belgrade. For this, exploration of a new place was necessary and demanded a double precaution. The next shooting took place on 11 October 1941 in the vicinity of the shooting range. It went according to plan. 269 men were shot. No prisoner escaped in either shooting and the unit had no special events and occurrences to report. A platoon of the unit of major Pongruber under command of 2nd Lt. Hau was employed for strengthening the security. Altogether 449 [handwritten below in the original "269"] men were shot on the 9th and 11th of

October 1941 by the units named. Unfortunately, an additional shooting by the units named had to be stopped on account of commitment and a transfer of the mission to the unit of Major Pongruber resulted.

(sgd.) Liepe
1st Lt. and Company Commander

Translated by Frank Freudenthal during the Nuremberg trials.