

Flickner

Second Lt William Flickner, navigator in Fridget Bridget, and 1st Lt Richard Fromm, pilot of H model B-24 080, had been on the run for a week, surviving mainly on a diet of apples and berries. The pair had travelled about twenty-five miles south-west to the village of Nenterode where they walked into a Landwacht patrol composed mostly of elderly first-world-war veterans. The patrol had been attracted to a house by the sound of barking dogs when they saw the two Americans and challenged them. The airmen gave up without any resistance. On the way to the village of Rengshausen, where there was an empty cell to put them in at the juvenile correctional facility, they met the English-speaking manager Georg Noble, who started to interview the two fliers. He got no reply from Richard Fromm and turned to William Flickner to see whether he could get any answers from him. Richard used the lack of attention on him as an opportunity to escape and, despite an intensive search of the area, the Landwacht weren't able to find him. This probably saved his life.

The unresisting William was put in the Beiser-haus detention cell for the night and in the morning was collected by a 52-year-old policeman, Johannes Gremmler, who took him in the direction of Ersrode. There were no witnesses to the next events, so it's a mystery what happened, but William was shot in the back five times by Gremmler 'while trying to escape' and became the 117th and final casualty. **Gremmler was arrested after the war but committed suicide before his trial.**

Richard Fromm continued to evade capture and was on the run until Saturday, 21 October, but after twenty-four days the weakened and very hungry pilot was finally captured by a civilian armed with a hunting rifle in a wood near Lembach. He was handed over to local policeman Sergeant Walter, who turned out to be more humane than Gremmler. Richard was handed over to the Luftwaffe unharmed and started his journey to a PoW camp as the 121st and last 445th airman captured.

Flach & Huffman

T/Sgts Ferdinand Flach and Lee Huffman, both gunners, came down together in woodland near the village of Hattenrod. There they were discovered by a young woman called Anna Kutscher, out walking with her infant son. She took them to the local Burgomeister. From his office they were collected, separately, by Lt Herman Noack, a disabled member of the airborne infantry, and Karl Boess, a butcher by trade and part-time member of the local fire brigade. The first airman was put in Boess's car and driven off, ostensibly to the local airbase at Giessen. En-route the car turned into a sideroad and the flier was ordered out and told to walk ahead of Noack. He was shot in the back three times and, after taking his shoes and leaving the body, the Germans set off back to the Burgomaster's office to collect the other airman, who was still under guard. They followed the same routine as before and the airman was told to show them where his parachute was. He was driven towards the forest at Lich, ordered out of the car and, walking towards the wood, he was also shot in the back. The pair then returned to Hattenrod, collected two men and shovels and went to bury the first corpse. They then repeated the process for the second corpse, but with two different men, telling all involved that the fliers had been shot while trying to escape and to keep their mouths shut about the affair.

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Hermann Noack executed August 14th, 1947 (Landsberg am Lech, Germany)

Boess sentenced to 8 years.



Second Lt Harold Allen, co-pilot in 2nd Lt Howard Jones's ship Roughhouse Kate, came down by parachute near Döringsdorf. After being brutally beaten up by a civilian, he was taken to Eschwege airfield hospital where he died of internal injuries at 18:15

no one ever prosecuted for this crime

T/Sgt James Fields – had come down near the town of Nentershausen. James had only just landed by parachute when he was shot and killed by a soldier, called Rubsman, who happened to be home on leave.

After parachuting to safety near Nenter[s]hausen an American airman immediately surrendered to a crowd of people. The crowd grew in size and the airman was attacked by all of the accused. Eventually, the airman was shot in the head and killed

Baesse, Martin - 25 Years
Beck, Reinhard - Acquittal + 2 Years
Crumbach, Josef - Acquittal
Ehlen, Jacob - Acquittal + 3 Years
Rubsamen, Paul - Death Sentence
Schrader, Karl - 12 Years
Winkler, Paul - Death Sentence

DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE
7708 WAR CRIMES GROUP
EUROPEAN COMMAND

12 May 1947

UNITED STATES)

vs)

Paul RUBSAMEN, Paul WINKLER,
Martin BAESSE, Karl SCHRAEDER,
Jacob EHLEN, Reinhard BECK,
and Josef CRUMBACH, German
nationals.)

CASE NO. 12-1915

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Tried at Dachau, Germany, 28 August to 3 September 1946.

<u>ACCUSED</u>	<u>DATA</u>	<u>SENTENCE</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
Paul RUBSAMEN	Married, 5 children Age 45 E. M. German Army, World War II Occupation miner	Death	Approval
Paul WINKLER	Married, 2 children Age 51 E. M. German Army World War I Occupation mining inspector	Death	Approval
Martin BAESSE	Married, 3 children Age 50 E. M. German Army, World War II Occupation auto lacquerer	25 years from 25 June 1945	Approval
Karl SCHRAEDER	Married, 1 child Age 46 occupation machinist	12 years from 14 July 1945	Approval
Jacob EHLEN	Married, 7 children 7 grandchildren	3 years from 25	Approval

	<u>Pleas</u>	<u>Findings</u>
FIRST CHARGE: Violation of the Laws of War		
PARTICULARS: In that Paul RUBSAMEN, Paul WINKLER, Martin BRESSE, Karl SCHRADER, Jacob EHLEN, Reinhard BECK, and Josef CRUMBACH, German nationals, did, at or near Nenterhausen, Germany, on or about 27 September 1944, willfully, deliberately and wrongfully encourage, aid, abet and participate in the killing of an unknown member of the United States Army, who was then an unarmed surrendered prisoner of War in the custody of the then German Reich.	RUBSAMEN NG WINKLER NG BRESSE NG SCHRADER NG EHLEN NG BECK NG CRUMBACH NG	G G G G NG NG NG

	<u>Pleas</u>	<u>Findings</u>
SECOND CHARGE: Violation of the Laws of War		
PARTICULARS: In that Paul WINKLER, Martin BRESSE, Karl SCHRADER, Jacob EHLEN, Reinhard BECK, and Josef CRUMBACH, German nationals, did, at or near Nenterhausen, Germany, on or about 27 September 1944, wrongfully encourage, aid, abet and participate in an assault upon an unknown member of the United States Army, who was then an unarmed, surrendered prisoner of war in the custody of the then German Reich.	WINKLER NG BRESSE NG SCHRADER NG EHLEN NG BECK NG CRUMBACH NG	G G G G G G

EVIDENCE

For the Prosecution: On or about 27 September 1944 an American pilot parachuted to safety near a settlement in the vicinity of Nenterhausen, Germany, surrendered to and was searched by local citizens (R 16, 17, 74, 75, 76, 98, 99; Pros. Exs. 10, 11). A crowd gathered. were excited. were pushing each other and yelling.

accused WINKLER saw accused BECK hit the flyer with a horsewhip (Fros. Ex. 5). BECK made a pre-trial statement to the effect that he protected the flyer (Fros. Ex. 11). In a pre-trial statement one Franz NOTZEN averred that he saw CRUMBACH hit the flyer once with his fist and kick him (Fros. Ex. 3). Accused WINKLER beat the flyer with his open hand (R 29; Fros. Exs. 9, 10, 14). In a pre-trial statement written in German WINKLER stated that he took part in the calls of the people to kill the flyer, hit the flyer twice on the head with his fist, and along with the crowd encouraged accused RUBSAMEN again to kill the flyer (Fros. Ex. 5). There is some evidence that WINKLER ordered RUBSAMEN to kill the flyer (Fros. Exs. 7, 8, 14). RUBSAMEN in a pre-trial statement said WINKLER attempted to take the gun from him, that when he refused, WINKLER with many others beat and kicked the pilot, that WINKLER again demanded the rifle and threatened to take it from him, then he (RUBSAMEN) called "Look out" and shot the pilot. RUBSAMEN further stated that WINKLER gave him an order to shoot the pilot (F. Ex. 14). Following the beating and kicking of the flyer by the other accused and the calls of the crowd to kill the flyer, RUBSAMEN shot the flyer in the back of the head with his carbine and killed him (R 32, 66, 80, 94, 95, 103; Fros. Exs. 5, 12).

For the Defense. Nara IOWANOWSKI, a witness for the Prosecution was called as a defense witness and testified that she had lived near Nenterhausen, a village of about 2000 population, for 8½ years

Three members of 1st Lt James Baynham's crew in 702 squadron's King Kong – 2nd Lt navigator John Cowgill, bombardier Hector Scala and radio operator T/Sgt James Fields – had come down near the town of Nentershausen. James had only just landed by parachute when he was shot and killed by a soldier, called Rubsman, who happened to be home on leave. Second Lt Newell Brainard, co-pilot of 1st Lt Carrow's aircraft Patches, suffered a head injury when he landed nearby and was taken to a local house where a Red Cross nurse bandaged his head. T/Sgt John Donahue, radio operator of Clay Pidgeon, had also come down in the area and the pair were kept in an apartment building in Nentershausen until they were collected by Gestapo agents Hellwig and Eggert. They were then taken to 'Ostarbeitslager', a forced labour camp for Russian prisoners who were mining copper. In the headquarters conference room, the Gestapo men were joined by a willing group of volunteers to form an impromptu execution squad. The squad included camp commander Josef Ehlen, foreman Franz Mueller, miner August Viehl, local policeman Martin Baesse, Reinhard Beck, a local baker, and mining inspector Paul Winkler. After being repeatedly interrogated and beaten with fists, a chair leg and a bottle, the two airmen were taken outside and shot in the back of the head with pistols. A call from the nearby village of Suess that two more airmen were being held in the local church saw the Gestapo men and the miner drive there quickly. They administered beatings to John Cowgill and Hector Scala, both from 1st Lt James Baynham's King Kong, before taking them back to the conference room at the camp, where the same treatment was meted out to them. They too were taken out and shot.

Paul Winkler hanged Dachau 7/11/46

Josef Ehlen hanged Dachau 14/1/1949

August Viehl hanged Dachau 14/1/1949

Reinhard Beck. 4 years

Martin Baesse 6 years

Franz Mueller 6 years

Also involved Gestapo agents

Hellweg suicide July 1945 before apprehension

Eggert not in custody but sentenced to death 3 June 1947. c/no 12-551-1

Nb. it was he that shot Newell Brainard

Lt Donald Brent, Pilot B-24 H #42-50324 Eileen

landed on the road between Grandenborn and Netra where he was immediately shot by Policeman Georg Schultheiss.

The accused, while in charge of a work detail of French POW's, was given custody of an American airman who was to be transported to a police station in a neighboring town. While transporting the airman the accused feared he was about to be attacked and fired his weapon in the vicinity of the airman. It was later revealed that the victim was shot and killed

Acquitted trial 12-1418

Also seen to bail out successfully

S/Sgt. Woodard Watts (tail-gunner), S/Sgt. Milton Smisek (waist-gunner), and S/Sgt. George Linkletter (waist-gunner), all bailed out but didn't survive. Possibly some or all might have fallen into the hands of hostile civilians.

70 2	Brent	Donald	E		1st Lt	KIA	O-747730	Pilot
70 2	George	Walter	E	Jr	2nd Lt	POW	O-826917	Copilot
70 2	Linkletter	George	B		S/Sgt	KIA	33539866	Nose Turret Gunner
70 2	Mercier	Harold	M		2nd Lt	KIA	O-688502	Bombardier
70 2	Galuszewski	Constant	S		T/Sgt	POW	32583006	Flight Engineer
70 2	Weiner	Sammy	S		T/Sgt	POW	19061851	Radio Operator
70 2	Larson	Donald	W		S/Sgt	KIA	39571317	Left Waist Gunner
70 2	Smisek	Milton	C		S/Sgt	KIA	17937617	Right Waist Gunner
70 2	Watts	Woodward	C		S/Sgt	KIA	34366107	Tail Turret Gunner

2nd Lt Harold Mercier (navigator) and S/Sgt. Donald Larsen (nose-gunner), hadn't bailed out and their bodies were later recovered from the aircraft wreckage. Both were believed to have been killed when a number of cannon shells from the German fighters struck the nose section of the aircraft.

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