

# SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

MASS HOSTAGE MURDERS PROVE GERMANS' MORAL DEGENERACY IS NOT CONFINED TO INFAMOUS GESTAPO

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POLISH CIVILIAN HOSTAGES ARE FORCED TO DIG MURDERED COUNTRYMEN'S GRAVES, BEFORE FACING FIRING SQUAD IN BAFFLED NAZIS' ATTEMPT TO STAMP OUT SPREADING SABOTAGE

**O**NE of the most brutal features of Hitler's so-called "war strategy" is the ruthless mass-killing of innocent "hostages" in outrageous defiance of International Law.

Newspapers habitually report *executions* of hostages by Nazis. This is misleading. An *execution* is a legal proceeding. People imprisoned by the Germans in reprisal for anonymously-committed acts against the invader, and subsequently shot, have not been *executed*, but *murdered*. Such news items ought to state, therefore, that hostages were *murdered* by the Germans.

When, after the first World War, Allied armies occupied the Ruhr and the Rhineland, there were many instances of sabotage, and even open attacks upon the policing forces. If a saboteur was caught, he was brought before a military court, and legally tried. Found guilty, as was Leo Schlageter, whom the Germans later made a great hero, he was shot in accordance with established martial law. But the Allies did not resort to the killing of hostages.

Making no secret of their sinister intentions, the Nazis station native "industrial guards" in factories of occupied countries. In the event of sabotage by undiscoverable offenders, the "guards" are held responsible. Actually, they are hostages!

Numerous attempts to blow up German military trains have resulted in a recent Nazi announcement that henceforth 50 hostages will travel on every train, so that patriots attacking it must necessarily endanger the lives of their fellow-countrymen.

As a rule, hostages are outstanding members of the community, such as priests, professors, doctors, lawyers, leaders of economic or social organizations, or of trade unions. Frequently, however, they are chosen at random: merchants, artisans, workmen, peasants. More recently, the Germans have been making it a practice to impose their new order on rural areas by the hostage device.

## Der Fuehrer's Hostage Racket

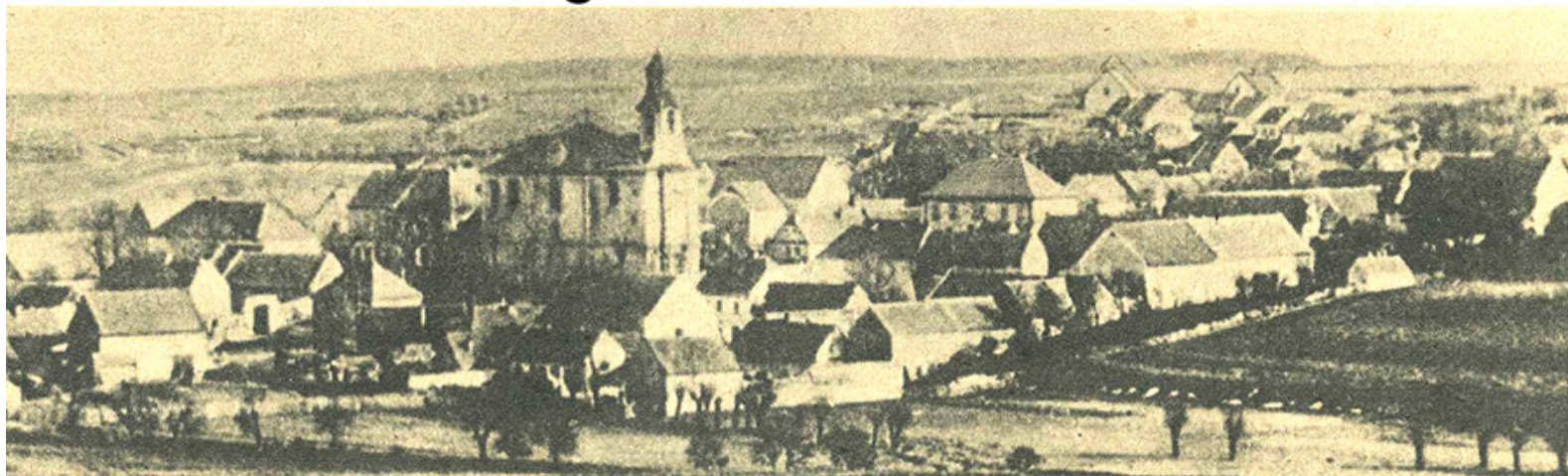
A committee of trustees composed of a village mayor, priest, teacher, head of the leading store, and other prominent members of the village, is appointed. The "trustees" are in reality hostages responsible for delivery by the community of a specified amount of grain for feeding German troops in the occupied locality, and for export to Germany. If, as often happens, the enormous levy cannot be met, the trustees are sent to concentration camps. Hundreds of such hostages have already been put to death.

When the flood of hostage murders was at its peak in France, Winston Churchill pointedly remarked: "The butcheries in France . . . are

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**General view** of ill-fated Czech village of Lidice before its destruction by German barbarism in reprisal for Nazi "Hangman" Heydrich's assassination. Similar "revenge" for sabotage and non-collaboration with invaders was visited upon many another European town. "Lidice" has become appalling symbol for Nazi terrorism.



**Rounded up** by German soldiers, after undisclosed patriots' act of crippling sabotage, community's leading citizens are marched beyond town limits to reprisal slaughter.



**Nazi executioners** (above) are busy all over occupied Europe, but millions of survivors stand ready to fight for national honor and liberation, when the hour strikes.

but a foretaste of what Hitler would inflict upon the British and American peoples, if he had the power to do so."

Much has been said and written about the tragic fate of the Czech town of Lidice. But hundreds of less-publicized "Lidices" were destroyed all over Europe. The Yugoslav town of Kragujevac, for example, will forever remain a monument of shame to all Germans.

General Karl Zimmerman, German Army Chief in Yugoslavia, one day posted the following proclamation in both German and Serbian: "For every German soldier killed, 100 Serbs will be shot. Families giving shelter to guerrillas will be shot, and their homes bombed. Every explosion either planned or carried out will result in the shooting of 150 Serbs . . ."

The following day, Mikhailovitch's Chetniks attacked a German garrison, killing ten German soldiers and wounding twenty-five. Immediately, the Germans combed the town for hostages. From houses, offices and shops they took every man they could find. From the churches, they took several priests. Then they entered the courthouse where a trial was in progress, took the judge from his seat of justice, witnesses and male visitors from the public gallery. All were herded outside by German soldiers armed with automatic rifles.

### Schoolboys Shot As Hostages

Next, they went to the nearby high school. Disregarding the frantic protests of the teacher, they ordered all boys from the upper classes to leave the school and follow the other hostages.

The prisoners, numbering about 4,000, were marched through the



## Slaughter of the Innocents

streets and out into the open country, where they were forced to dig their own graves. When the graves were nearly ready, General Zimmerman ordered his defenseless victims shot in batches of 50. A German sergeant was deputized to keep count as the murder squads went into action.

When, after two days and two nights of slaughter, 2,250 townspeople lay dead, the sergeant reported that the quota was completed and the ten dead and twenty-five wounded Germans "avenged." But the sadistic German general instructed the firing squads to continue, and 4,000 innocent people died. When the martyrs' graves had been filled, the Germans drove tanks over the spot where the terrible massacre had occurred, and leveled the ground covering the bodies.

### **Wehrmacht Responsible for Hostage Murders**

Historians writing of the gratuitous slaughter of innocent thousands by "Master Race" gangsters will find no dearth of material.

Undoubtedly, the Gestapo will go down in history as a loathsome Nazi instrument. But the mass-murders of guiltless hostages come under the jurisdiction of the Prussian military governors and generals, and officers of the regular German *Wehrmacht*.

Especially true of France, there is definite proof that this is the case, also, in Holland, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and other countries.

The name of General von Stuelpnagel is today a symbol for hostage-murder. Yet, Stuelpnagel is neither Gestapo chief nor high-ranking Nazi party leader, but a typical Prussian general descended from an old German Junker family.

What General von Stuelpnagel is to France, General von Falkenhäusen is to Belgium, General von Falkenhorst to Norway, General Christiansen to Holland, General Zimmerman to Yugoslavia. None are Gestapo chiefs or Nazi big-wigs, but regular German generals. They are responsible for the mass-murders of innocent hostages in Europe. *Let no one forget this when the peace terms are written!*

# **SEE**

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p. 24