

HEADQUARTERS
6850TH INTERNAL SECURITY DETACHMENT
INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
APO 403, U.S. ARMY

26 October 1945.

SUBJECT: Report on Suicide of Dr. Robert Ley.

TO : Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater
APO 757 U. S. Army, (ATT: G-1 Division)

1. Confirming oral report of night of 25-26 October 1945, the following is submitted.
2. At 2010, 25 October 1945, the sentinel on Post #8 noted that the prisoner, Dr. Robert Ley, serial number 31G 350028, was seated on the toilet seat where only his knees could be seen. Upon completion of four rounds, which made the fifth check of that cell, he concluded that the prisoner had been sitting there too long for just a toilet. Coincidentally the Corporal of the Guard came, checking on the turning in of eyeglasses. Eyeglasses are taken from the prisoners at night to prevent their breaking the lenses and using the broken glass in suicide attempts.
3. The sentinel called prisoner Ley by name and received no answer. The Corporal of the Guard immediately unlocked and entered the cell. The Corporal discovered prisoner Ley seated on the toilet, his mouth stuffed with rags apparently torn from his own underwear. Around his neck was the hemmed edge of a towel fastened to the top of the toilet flushpipe.
4. The Corporal of the Guard immediately called the assistant prison officer, Lt Paul H. Graven. They cut the prisoner down and put him on the bed. Dr. Pfluecker, the German interned doctor in the cell block, was called in the meantime. After the prisoner was cut down the German physician immediately injected 1 CC cardiazol and 1 CC lobulin and applied twenty minutes artificial resuscitation although the prisoner was obviously dead when he arrived. He then pronounced the prisoner dead of strangulation.
5. The sentinel had but four cells to guard. The chief prison officer, Captain Hubert H. Biddle, had made a complete shak-down inspection that very day, and had even changed the mattress lest some suicide utensil might have been secreted in the old one.
6. These precautions were taken realizing that subject prisoner was one of our most potentially suicidal risks, having been so advised by the American Army psychiatrist.
7. Detailed investigation disclosed that the noose was obtained by manually ripping the hemmed edge of a GI bath towel, twisting the strip of cloth so obtained and soaking it in water.
8. Lt Colonel Rene H. Juchli, the American prison physician arrived promptly from his quarters and arranged for the removal of the remains. He approved the actions taken by the German physician as the only actions possible under the circumstances.

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9. The body, accompanied by Colonel Juchli, was taken in an ambulance to the mortuary of the 116th General Hospital at approximately 2130. A post-mortem was done during the early hours of 26 October and the remains locked in the mortuary icebox until they were removed at approximately 1330 and taken to the Nurnberg Municipal Cemetery Morgue, where it will be interred in an unmarked grave. Colonel Juchli will remain with the body until the grave is closed this afternoon.

10. All other precautions having already been taken, the only additional security measures that can be employed to prevent a similar incident, is to place a sentinel on each prisoner. With the concurrence of the Commanding General, First U.S. Infantry Division, who is making available another company for the additional guards required, this is now being done.

11. A similar report is being sent to: Commanding General, USFET, ATT: G-2
Commanding General, 3d Army
Mr. Justice Jackson's Office,
U. S. Chief of Counsel
Commanding General, First Division

B. C. ANDRUS
Colonel, Cav
Commandant.