



SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH  
RMP BAOR

No 14 Detachment  
93 Section  
British Forces Post Office 45

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See Distribution

Reference 53052/7

Date 25 Aug 87

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SPECIAL INVESTIGATION  
(Interim Report)

1. Herewith four copies of an Interim Report in respect of SIB RMP enquiries into the death of Herr WRR Hess - Allied Prisoner 7.
2. Enquiries are continuing; a further report will be submitted in due course.

Enclosure:

Report by [redacted] RMP,  
statements of witnesses and Annexes

Major [redacted]  
Royal Military Police

Distribution:

Action:

Board of Governors  
Spandau Allied Prison  
Wilhelmstrasse 23  
1000 Berlin 20

Information:

File

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25 Aug 87

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

Person deceased: Walter Richard Rudolf HESS  
Born: 26 Apr 1894 at Alexandria, Egypt

Prisoner Number 7  
Spandau Allied Prison BERLIN

1. On Mon 17 Aug 87 about 1600 hrs, information was received from 15 Chief of Staff HQ Berlin (British Sector) that earlier that afternoon, Herr Rudolf Hess (born: 26 Apr 1894) hereafter referred to as Allied Prisoner No 7, the sole remaining prisoner detained at Spandau Allied Prison, Berlin, had been conveyed to the British Military Hospital Berlin. It was intimated that Allied Prisoner No 7 was dead and the Chief of Staff directed that investigations be made surrounding the circumstances of his admittance to the hospital.
2. Enquiries within imposed limitations were immediately commenced and 'Operation Tennyson', the SIB RMP response to such information was put into effect.
3. It was learned from 3 US Army that from 1 Aug 87, elements of the 5th Bn of the 502nd US Army Infantry Regiment, McNair Barracks, Berlin, had been on guard at Spandau Allied Prison. 3 was the OC of the guard. Such duties are rotated monthly with soldiers from the four Allied governments guarding the prison. The security and care of Allied Prisoner No 7 is also administered by civilian prison warders who are employed by the four Allied Powers.
4. Investigations have revealed that about 1427 hrs on Mon 17 Aug 87, Allied Prisoner No 7 left the prison building ostensibly to go for a walk while in the charge of 2 an American civilian warden who was on duty from 0745 hrs to 1640 hrs. At that time, 2 had already unlocked a summer house, which is a one storey construction (portacabin) located in the prison garden. Entry to that building is via a single door at the rear of two sliding glass doors at the front of the building. The garden is located in the north-west area of the prison grounds and about 1430 hrs 2 saw Allied Prisoner No 7, who had walked slowly from the prison building, enter the summer house via the rear door. For ease of reference, sketch plans depicting the summer house and surrounding area are attached at Annexes A-C to this report.
- 5.

S30

S30  
 S30 S44 S30  
 S30 S44 S44 S44  
 S40 S44 S44 S44 S30  
 S44 S30 S44 S44  
 S44 S44  
 6. S30 S30 S30  
 S30 S30 S30

7. At the relevant time, 9 was the American soldier on duty in Tower 3, which is located north-west at a distance of 126 feet from the summer house. On noting 2 obvious agitation and learning from him that there was something amiss in relation to Allied Prisoner No 7, 9 informed 3 at the Guardroom by radio that first-aid was required at the summer house. 3 S30

S30 2 3  
 that Allied Prisoner No 7 appeared unconscious, but he did have a pulse. The first medical support at the scene was by 4 a trained Field Combat Medic, who arrived at the summer house about 1450 hrs. He was followed shortly afterwards by a second US Army Medic namely 5 who arrived about 1500 hrs in possession of emergency first-aid equipment. Both these specialists immediately commenced S44 and S44 upon Allied Prisoner No 7. It is worthy of note that while attending to Allied Prisoner No 7, 4 noted a red mark running from ear to ear around the patient's neck.

8. Whilst the aforementioned S44 measures were being made by 4 and 5 16 (UK), a warder on duty at the Gate guardhouse (block 23), telephoned the BMH, Berlin, at 1455 hrs and using the codeword 'Paradox' summonsed an ambulance and medical aid to the prison. In rapid response, 6 the RMO 1 KOSB, travelled from Brooke Bks to the prison where he arrived about 1510 hrs. Simultaneously, an ambulance driven by 17 a British civilian driver, c/o 62 Sqn RCT, BFPO 45, was dispatched from the hospital. Resuscitation measures in the prison grounds were continued by 6 and about 1535 hrs the ambulance which contained the following persons: Allied Prisoner No 7, 6 18 (a civilian nurse employed at the prison), 5 8 (USA) and 30 (France) - both prison warders, departed for the BMH. On arrival at the hospital about 1550 hrs, Allied Prisoner No 7 was taken to a prepared ward on the 2nd floor of the hospital building where 7 late RAMC, the CO of the BMH, took charge. All efforts to revive Allied

Prisoner No 7 failed and at 1610 hrs that day life was pronounced extinct by. 7

9. Evidence has been adduced in relation to continuity and the formal identification of Allied Prisoner No 7. It was subsequently learned that a one page hand-written letter in the form of a suicide note was found in the clothing of Allied Prisoner No 7 following his admission to the BMH. SIB RMP, however, were not privy to the contents and therefore further comment at this juncture would be pointless.

10. Examination of the summer house within the garden area of Spandau Allied Prison revealed evidence of considerable activity and the entire floor area was strewn with medical equipment and associated debris. However, fastened to the rear window handle, positioned at a height of 1.40 m from the floor was a 2.75 m long plastic coated electric extension cable, which clearly had a loose knot in the lower region. The significance of this particular electrical cable can be gleaned from the statement of his attending warder, 2 a copy of which is attached to this report. No other marks or material of evidential value to suggest criminal involvement of any person was apparent during an examination of the scene. Because of free access to the summer house by all concerned with the prisoner, the lifting of latent finger impressions was not considered practical.

11. 11 5 Bn, 502 Inf Regt, US Army, was SNCO I/C Spandau Allied Prison from 1 Aug. S30

S30 . 11 S30  
S30

S30 Although yet to be confirmed through interview with the respective warders, it would appear reasonable to suggest that the electric cable found in the summer house was used to extend the flex of either of the two standard lamps therein, so as to provide sufficient length to reach the centre of the room where the prisoner's chair was situated.

12. Following his demise on Mon 17 Aug 87, the remains of Allied Prisoner No 7 were secured within the mortuary of BMH Berlin pending post-mortem examination there on Wed 19 Aug 87 by 20 Professor of Forensic Medicine, London Hospital Medical College. About 0820 hrs on Wed 19 Aug 87, 7 CO BMH Berlin, formally identified the body of Allied Prisoner No 7 to 20 together with pathologists from the respective Allied Powers: 21 (Brit), 22 (USA), 23 (Fr) and 24 (Sov). Post-mortem examination revealed that Allied Prisoner No 7 had died following asphyxia caused by compression of the neck. Copies of the relevant death certificate and certificate of identification are attached to this report at Annexes D-F.

13. Various pathological samples were obtained during post-mortem examination and these have been forwarded to the Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, London, for toxicology and histology examination. When

to hand, the results of these examinations will be made known to the appropriate addressees under separate cover. At this juncture, however, it is stressed that no evidence has come to light during the course of enquiries to suggest that the death of Allied Prisoner No 7 was caused other than by his own hand.

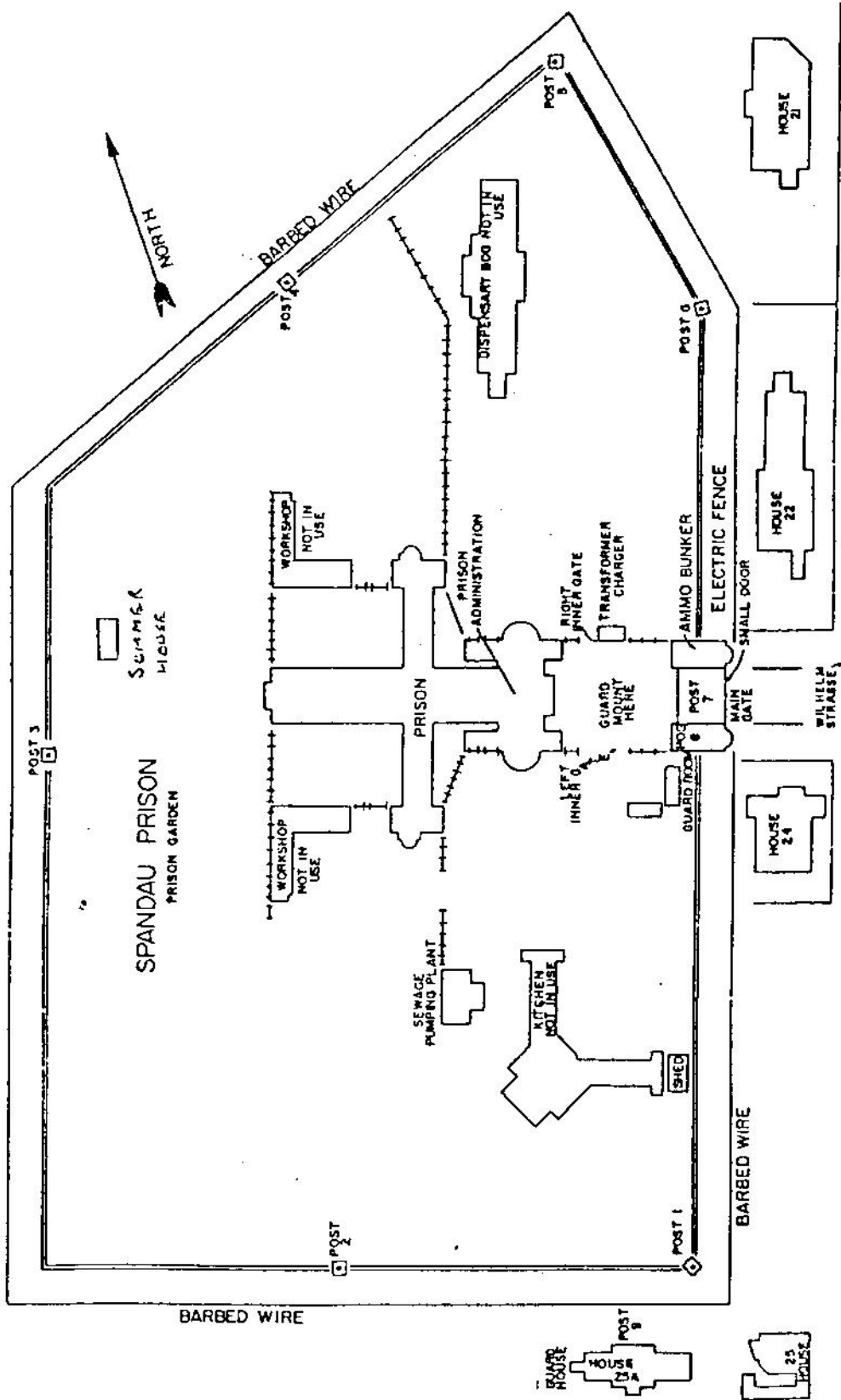
14. Nevertheless, it has been suggested to the authorities that arrangements be made for expert comparison to be made of Allied Prisoner No 7's known writings with that of the suicide note found in his possession following admission to BMH.

15. On Thu 20 Aug 87, disposal of the remains of Allied Prisoner No 7 was formally effected by the governors of Spandau Allied Prison. His body was delivered to his family by RAF transport following a flight from RAF Gatow, Berlin, to the US Air Base at Grafenwoehr near Nurnberg.

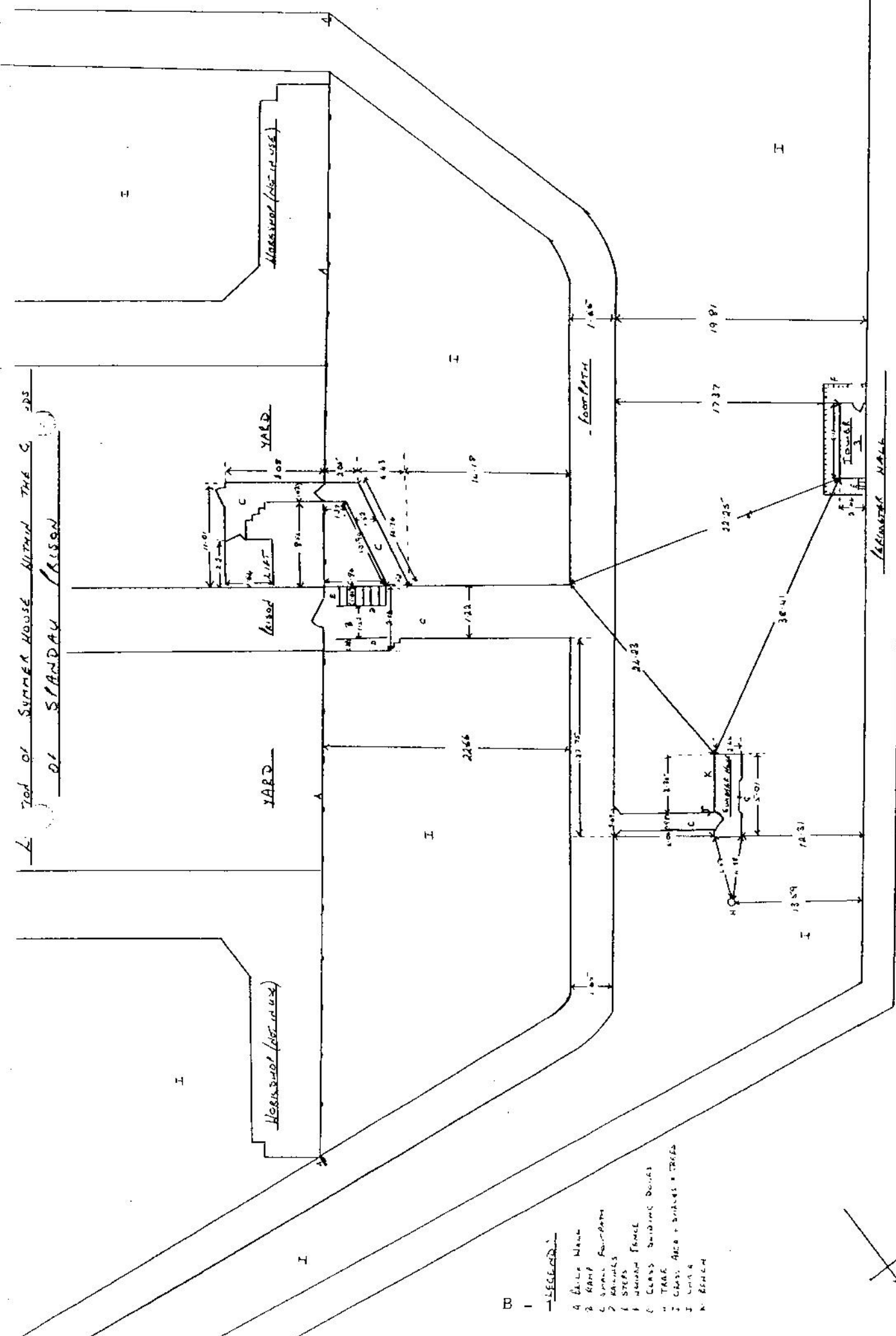
16. Copies of all relevant statements recorded during the course of these enquiries are attached to this report. The original statements, together with all clothing recovered from the deceased, have been handed to *LS* British Governor, Allied Prison Spandau, against receipt.

Major *[Signature]*  
Royal Military Police

APPENDIX H--DIAGRAM OF SPANDAU PRISON



A. Top of Summer House within the S. 20's  
DI SPANDAU PRISON



- B
- 1. LEGEND
  - 2. GATE WALL
  - 3. GATE
  - 4. WALL FOUNDATION
  - 5. WALLS
  - 6. STEPS
  - 7. WINDOW FRAME
  - 8. CEILING
  - 9. TRAIL
  - 10. GRASS AREA + BRUSH + TREES
  - 11. WALL
  - 12. BRICK

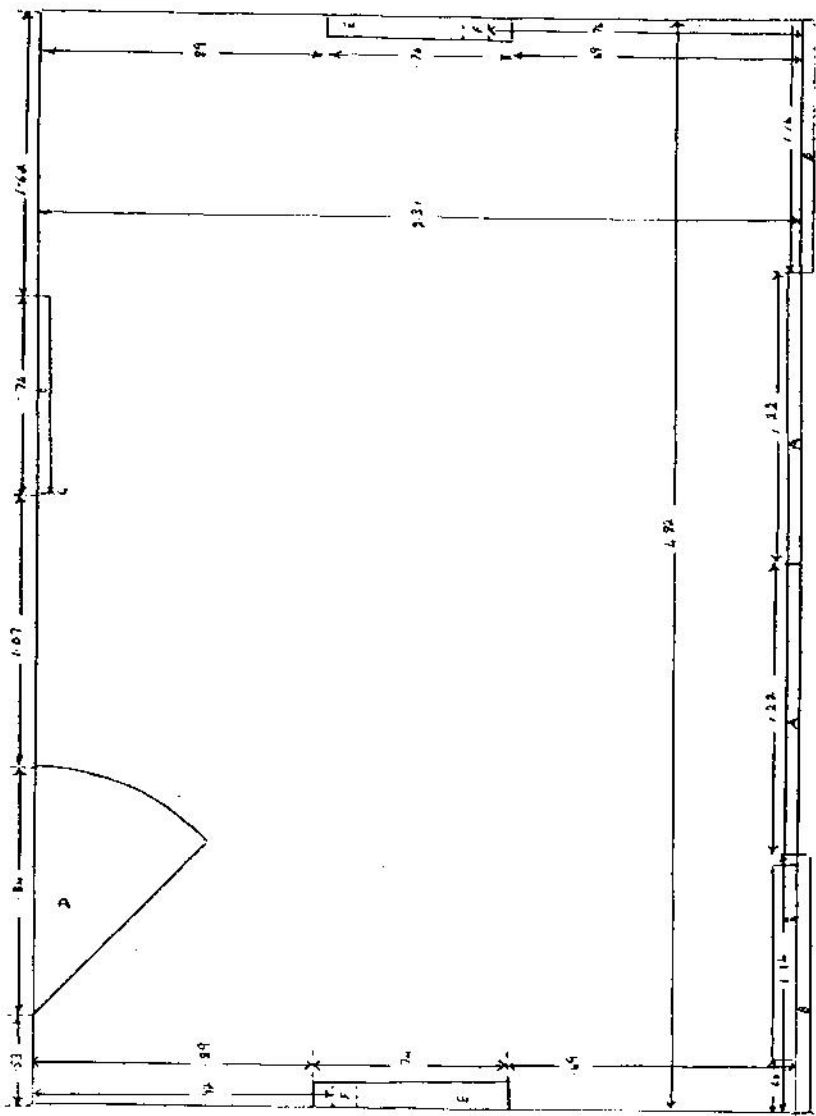
SKETCH PLAN DRAWN AND COMPLETED BY  
LFB  
RML  
247 HQ Coy RML 977 14 OCT 88 P/PO.43

NOT TO SCALE  
DIMENSIONS IN METRES



Sundek House SPANDAU PRISON (Not to Scale)  
INSIDE MEASUREMENTS IN METERS

REAR



- LEGEND
- A SLIDING GLASS DOORS
  - B FULL HEIGHT WINDOW
  - C WINDOW WITH MESH AND SCREEN HEIGHT OF FRAME IS 1.40m FROM FLOOR
  - D DOOR HEIGHT : 1.90m
  - E NEW HEATED CONCRETE FLOOR TO HEATS : 1.30
  - F ELECTRICAL SOCKET : 1.70m SUBJECT TO (GROUND) 91
  - G WINDOW HEIGHT - CENTER Pt OF WINDOW LEADER TO FLOOR : 1.40

FRONT

SUNDIA HOUSE DRAWING AND CONSTRUCTION BY 48  
 247 LA LOY RUM RTT IN DET 313 RTT 8 APR 87  
 20 AUG 87  
48  
 RTT

Sundek House (inside)  
 Measured from Rear to Chimney = 2.14



SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH  
RMP BAOR

No 14 Detachment  
93 Section  
British Forces Post Office 45

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See Distribution

Reference 53052/7

Date 11 Sep 87

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SPECIAL INVESTIGATION  
(Final Report)

Herewith Final Report in respect of SIB RMP enquiries into the death of Herr WRR Hess - Allied Prisoner 7.

26

Captain  
Officer Commanding

Enclosure:

Report by Captain 26 RMP  
Statements of witnesses, Annexes and  
Photographic Supplement

Distribution:

Action:

Board of Governors  
Spandau Allied Prison  
Wilhelmstrasse 23  
1000 Berlin 20

Information:

File

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53052/7

11 Sep 87

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

Person Deceased: Walter Richard Rudolf HESS  
Born: 26 Apr 1894 at Alexandria, Egypt

Prisoner Number 7  
Spandau Allied Prison BERLIN

1. Further to this office report of even reference dated 25 Aug 87, it will be recalled that during the late afternoon of Mon 17 Aug 87, Herr Rudolf Hess - Prisoner Number 7, the remaining prisoner at Spandau Allied Prison, Berlin, had been conveyed to the British Military Hospital, Berlin, where he was declared dead at 1610 hrs that day.

2. Enquiries have continued and additional facts of the case are summarized in this report.

3. It was learned from <sup>25</sup> the British Governor of Spandau Allied Prison that a one page handwritten letter thought to be a 'suicide note' had been recovered from the clothing of Prisoner Number 7 following his admission to the British Military Hospital. That letter although retained by the Prison Governors was made available to SIB RMP and it was seen that a handwritten note had been recorded on the reverse of the first page of a two page type written letter received by the prisoner on 29 Jul 87, following censorship, and from his <sup>540</sup> <sup>44</sup> <sup>540</sup> <sup>45</sup>

<sup>540</sup>

4. On Tue 25 Aug 87, at Spandau Allied Prison, <sup>27</sup> Questioned Documents Section, Laboratory of the Government Chemist, Cornwall House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XY, examined the 'suicide note' (questioned writings) together with known writings by the prisoner. He also examined six pens recovered from the prisoner's clothing at the time of his death.

<sup>27</sup> stated that although his examination was conducted in non-laboratory conditions, and whilst he is restricted by his very limited knowledge of the German language, and in particular, characteristics peculiar to the old German writing style; he was, nonetheless, of the opinion that there was a marked area of resemblance together with detailed features which were considered to be characteristic of the writer. This then gave him no reason to doubt that the author of the questioned writing was Prisoner Number 7. A photocopy of the handwritten note, a typewritten version of that note and an English translation, are attached to this report.

5. It is known that Spandau Allied Prison has operated in its present form since July 1947. Additionally, it was ascertained from the French Governor of the Prison that Prisoner Number 7 <sup>28</sup> <sub>544</sub> went on to state that from perusal of minutes of the weekly Governors' meetings he was able to provide a record of the following incidents:

a. <sub>544</sub>

b. <sub>544</sub>

6. It was ascertained that the Warders' duties at Spandau Allied Prison and in particular regard to their supervision of Prisoner number 7 were outlined in a Prison document titled DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WARDER IN THE CELL SECTION - POST NUMBER 2. A copy of that document is shown at Annex D of this report. A number of warders namely:

<u>France</u>	
30	31
32	
<u>USSR</u>	
33	34
35	36
<u>USA</u>	
37	2
8	
<u>United Kingdom</u>	
38	16
39	40

were interviewed in regard to their duties. It was subsequently learned that during the prisoner's exercise periods, some of the warders were in the habit of allowing him to sit alone in the summer house whilst they remained outside the building. All however confirmed that they checked the prisoner at frequent intervals. The warders were given no specific briefings or instructions vis-a-vis the prisoner's <sub>544</sub>

In essence it would appear that all the warders were quite conscientious in their duties and whilst some were more vigilant than others, the prisoner was never left alone for lengthy periods.

7. Enquiries to date indicate quite clearly that it was normal practice for the warders to use their initiative and discretion in regard to the interpretation of their duties and responsibilities towards Prisoner Number 7. It was not uncommon, therefore, taking account of the prisoner's age and health, to leave him alone for a few minutes either in the cell block or garden area.

8. Although not directly relevant to the matter under report, it may be considered noteworthy that 29 the American Prison Governor plus all the Prison Warders named at paragraph 6 of this report have vouchsafed the correctness and fairness by 2 in his dealings with Prisoner Number 7. Furthermore, and again although not directly related to the matter under report, it might be considered of note that Prisoner Number 7 had complained against 2 on two separate occasions during May 1987. Both incidents had been recorded by the Prison Authorities and are outlined in a statement by 2 at page 29 of this report. It would appear that both complaints were totally without substance and from interviews with some of the other Prison Warders, it would appear that they might have been motivated by S40

S40

9. Following the admission of Prisoner Number 7 to the British Military Hospital, on Monday 17 August 1987, members of the Special Investigation Branch Royal Military Police visited Spandau Allied Prison (which is located in the British Sector of Berlin). Admission to the prison was granted by the duty staff, and acting on behalf of all four Prison Governors, a Scenes of Crime Examination was commenced at the summer house about 1610 hrs, 17 August 1987. It will be recalled that fastened to the rear window handle, within the building, and positioned at a height of 1.4 m from the floor was a 2.75 m length of plastic coated electrical extension cable, which clearly had a loose knot in the lower region. No other marks or material of evidential value to suggest criminal involvement of any person was noted. A series of black and white photographs were recorded at that time and a photographic supplement depicting the exterior and interior of the summer house is attached to this report. Photographs depicting the electrical cable, still tied to the window handle are included in that photographic record.

10. On the morning of Wednesday 19 August 1987, a post-mortem examination was conducted on the body of Prisoner Number 7 by 20 Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of London and The London Hospital Medical College.

S44

S44

344

In summary, 20 concluded

that Prisoner Number 7 had died of asphyxia caused by compression of the neck and suspension. It was also noted that the linear mark on the left side of the neck was consistent with a ligature.

11. It has been established that during the afternoon of 17 August 1987, three warders were on duty. They were:

- 32 (France) - the Chief Warder - on duty within the prison.
- 2 (USA) - escort for Prisoner Number 7 during exercise period.
- 16 (UK) - warder on duty at the prison gate.

Also on duty throughout daylight working hours was 18 (a Tunisian) who was employed as the prisoner's nurse. From interviews with 2 and the various other witnesses it would appear that having observed Prisoner Number 7 lying on the floor, 2 removed the electrical cord from the prisoner's neck and after making him comfortable, he telephoned 16 from the rear of the prison building, adjacent to the spiral staircase, requesting medical assistance. 16 S30

32 S30 16

S30

41 S30

S30

In response, an ambulance was dispatched to the prison. It is also known that immediately following the call from 16 32 telephoned 18 (who lives near the area of the prison, some 50 metres from the main prison gate), summoning him to the prison.

12. Although not all of the witnesses can be specifically accurate with timings, the general account given by 2 concerning his escorting Prisoner Number 7 to the summer house and events thereafter have been substantially corroborated. It was also noted that after the prisoner had gone into the summer house, 2 was also observed sitting on the bench by 13 who walked along the footpath at that particular time. After telephoning 16 2 also sought assistance from 9 the American soldier who was on duty in the nearby tower number 3. In response, 9 informed 3 US Army, the OC of the guard by radio, and minutes later, after being instructed via a radio message, 4 the American soldier (a trained medical orderly) was the first qualified medical person to arrive at the summer house. He was followed moments later by 18 4 commenced his resuscitation measures prior to the arrival about 1510 hrs of 6 RAMC, the first doctor at the scene.

13. At this juncture it is pointed out that whilst 18 has been questioned on three separate occasions he has declined to provide a written witness statement. Furthermore, the British Prison Governor has provided an additional statement outlining 18 duties and confirming that it was quite acceptable for him to be at his nearby residence at the time in question. No evidence has been adduced to



suggest any criminality or negligence by him. Based upon the evidence to hand it would appear that his reluctance to comment further makes no significant difference to the outcome of this enquiry. Additionally there is no reason to suspect that he was particularly slow in attending the prisoner; he had to pass via a number of secure areas before reaching the prison garden area.

14. Investigations to date have revealed that on at least

544

Whilst both incidents undoubtedly raised the vigilance of the prison staff in the immediate aftermath, the prisoner's conditions within Spandau Prison were nonetheless of a nature where he was on occasion left unguarded for brief periods. Taking account of his advanced age and general health it would be inconceivable in practice to keep him under total observation for 24 hours and nor was he.

15. Notwithstanding the prisoner's age, the evidence so far recorded indicates that Rudolf Hess - Prisoner Number 7, planned well in advance to take his own life. Whilst many of the warders recall seeing an electrical cable in the summer house, none suspected that such an apparatus would be used as the means to commit suicide. The actual cord had been in use for some time as an extension cable for two lamps within the summer house. Only ¶1, US Army, on commencing duty at the prison on 1 August 1987 noted the cable tied to the handle of the interior window. It would appear therefore that the cable remained in situ, that Prisoner Number 7 wrote a suicide note in his own hand which was on his person on the afternoon of 17 August 1987, and that shortly after 1430 hrs on that day whilst alone in the summer house he took his own life by placing the electrical cable around his neck and hanging himself. No evidence has been obtained to indicate otherwise. Furthermore, it would appear that 2 conducted his duties on the afternoon of 17 August 1987 in a manner no different to many other of his fellow warders.

16. It will be recalled that various pathological samples were obtained during the post-mortem examination. The results of the associated toxicological and histological tests at the Royal Army Medical College, London, are still awaited. Upon receipt they shall be made known to the Prison Governors. Likewise the official Post-Mortem report by 20 will be forwarded direct to the Prison Governors.

17. Copies of further statements recorded during this enquiry are attached herto. The original statements are retained at this office and can be produced. A number of exhibits i.e. the electrical cable is retained by SIB pending the conclusion of the investigation.

26

Captain  
Royal Military Police

GERMAN TEXT OF 'SUICIDE' NOTE WRITTEN BY ALLIED PRISONER NO 7

Bitte an die Direktoren  
dies heimzuschicken.  
Geschrieben ein paar Minuten  
vor meinem Tode.  
Ich danke Euch allen  
meine Lieben für alles was  
Ihr mir Lieben angetan.  
Freiberg? Sagt, es hat mir  
mahslos Leid getan, dass ich  
so tun musste seit dem Nürn-  
berger Prozehs als kenne  
ich sie nicht. Es blieb mir  
nichts anderes übrig, sonst wären  
alle Versuche unmöglich ge-  
wesen in die Freiheit zu  
kommen.  
Ich hatte mich so darauf  
gefremt sie wiederzusehen,  
ich bekam ja Bilder von ihr  
wie von Euch allen.

Euer Grohser

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WARDER IN THE CELL SECTION

POST NUMBER 2

ANNEX D  
TO CCRIO 53052/7  
DATED 11 SEP 87

1. He will assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chief Warder in the absence of the latter.
2. He will assist in enforcing the security regulations as directed by the Chief Warder.
3. When on the day shift, he will be present whenever the prisoner is in the yard and supervise the bathing and issue of clothing to the prisoner on bath days, and be present at religious services.
4. He will search the prisoner when returning from the yard.
5. Any kind of unofficial communication between the Prison staff and the prisoner is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the warder to see that there is no such communication between United Nations personnel, e.g. the cook or dispenser and the prisoner.
6. He will constantly be alert to prevent attempts to suicide and will keep on the move to observe the prisoner. The cell blue lights or torches will be used to inspect the cell during the hours of darkness.
7. He will immediately report any unusual incident to the Chief Warder or, in his absence, to the Chairman Governor.
8. He will not leave his post until properly relieved.
9. He will have possession of the cell keys and will be responsible for turning the prisoner in and out of the cell when required.

10. He will see that the prisoner leaves the cell section only when authorised and that he does not leave the cell section unless escorted.

11. He will take the prisoner's spectacles away at lights out and will return them at 0630 hours.

12. He will be responsible for the enforcement of all regulations governing the conduct of the prisoner in the cell section.

13. He will escort the prisoner on the following occasions:

- (a) Exercise
- (b) Baths
- (c) Visits to the Dispensary
- (d) Other action detailed by the Chief Warder

14. All rules and regulations governing communications between Prison staff and the prisoner will be strictly observed by the Escort Warder.

15. When a shift change occurs he will report to the Chief Warder that he has assumed duty.

Certified true copy

14 ..... (Signature)

..... (Name)

RMP 518

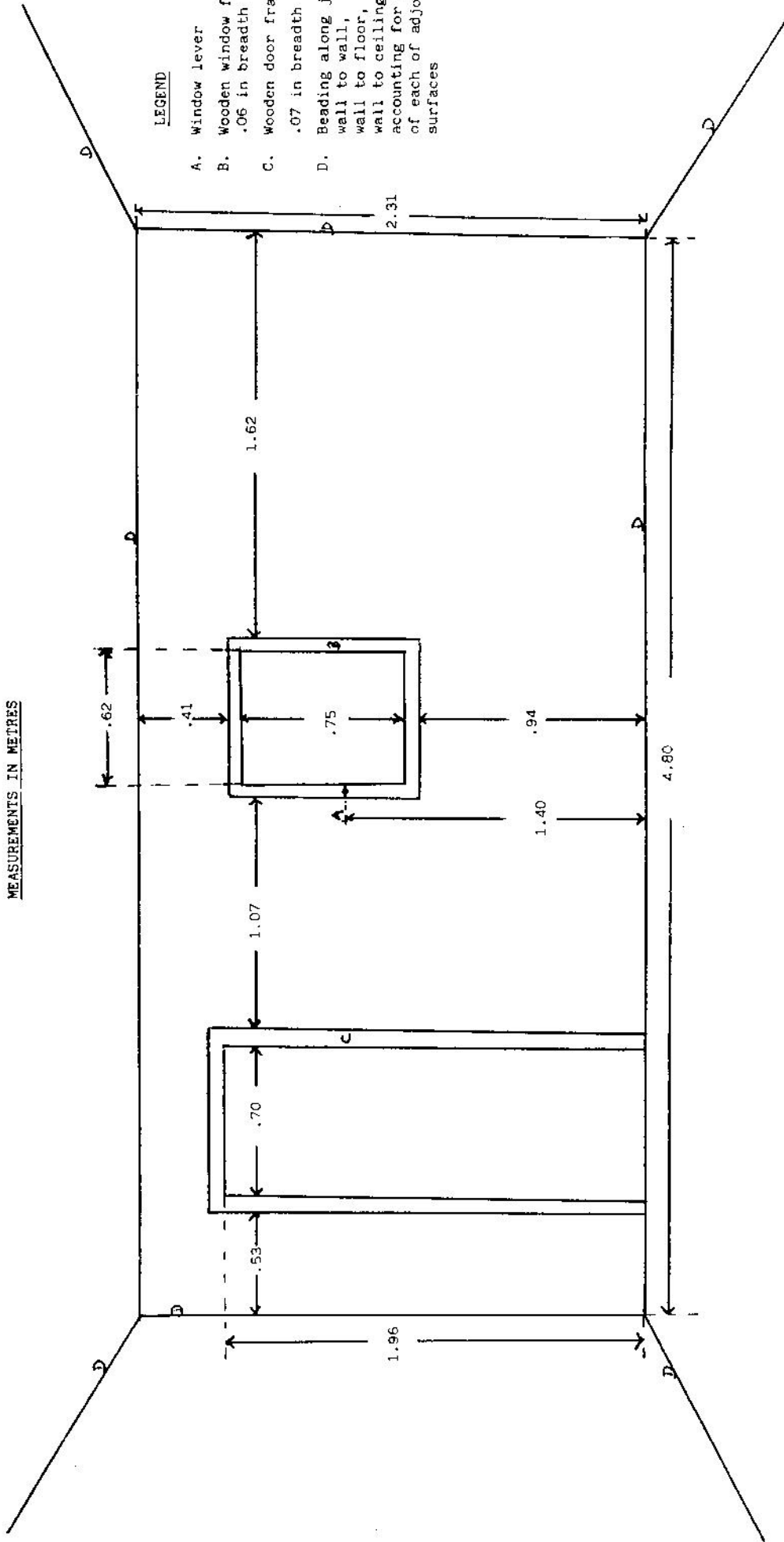
APPROXIMATE TIMINGS  
PRISONER NUMBER 7  
MONDAY 17 AUGUST 1987

- 1355 hrs - 32 informed that Prisoner Number 7 is getting ready to go into the garden.
- 1410 hrs - 32 informed that the prisoner is on his way to the garden with Correction Officer 2
- 1430 hrs - Prisoner Number 7 enters summer house. 2 leaves the prisoner alone and sits about 10 m away from the summer house.
- \* Note: Around this time 13 walked past the summer house and saw a 540 2 nearby on a bench.
- 1435 hrs - 2 checks prisoner and sees him with 544  
544 2 enters summer house and renders first aid.
- 1445 hrs - 2 telephones main gate and requests medical assistance.
- 1448 hrs - 2 speaks to 9 at tower 3 asking for assistance.
- 1450 hrs - BMH Berlin receives 'OP PARADOX' following phone call from Mr 16
- 1512 hrs - Ambulance and doctor at prison (travelled separately, arrived simultaneously).
- 1530 hrs - Ambulance leaves prison with Prisoner Number 7.
- 1610 hrs - Prisoner Number 7 certified dead at BMH Berlin.

\*\* Note: These timings are approximately only and do not always coincide with the recollection of every witness

ANNEX F  
 TO CCRIO 53052/7  
 DATED 11 SEP 87

INSIDE VIEW OF REAR WALL OF THE SUMMER HOUSE  
 WITHIN SPANJAU PRISON  
 MEASUREMENTS IN METRES



SCALE: 5:100 cm

F - 1

SKETCH PLAN COMPILED AND DRAWN BY  
 RMP  
 418  
 247 PRO COY, RMP ATT 14 DET SIB, RPPO 45  
 3 SEP 87





SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH  
RMP BAOR

No 14 Detachment  
93 Section  
British Forces Post Office 45

See Distribution

Reference 53052/7

Date 20 Jan 88

ALLEGED SUICIDE  
(Addendum Report)

References:

- A. 14 Det SIB RMP BAOR Interim Report 53052/7 dated 25 Aug 87.
- B. 14 Det SIB RMP BAOR Final Report 53052/7 dated 11 Sep 87.

Herewith Addendum Report for your information and action where necessary.

26

Captain  
for Commanding Officer

Enclosures:

Report by 26 RMP  
Post Mortem Report  
Annexes A and B

Distribution:

Action:

CO SIB RMP BAOR

Information:

OC Western Region SIB RMP BAOR  
File

CO SIB RMP BAOR

20 Jan 88

ALLEGED SUICIDE  
(Addendum Report)

Person Deceased: Walter Richard Rudolf HESS  
 Born: 26 Apr 1894 at Alexandria, Egypt  
 Prisoner Number 7  
Spandau Allied Prison Berlin

1. Further to this office reports of even reference dated 25 Aug 87 and 11 Sep 87, it will be recalled that following the death of the above named, on the afternoon of Mon 17 Aug 87, Police enquiries were undertaken by SIB with technical support from the FWOs Eastern and Western Regions SIB RMP BAOR.
2. The conclusion of the SIB enquiry was that Rudolf Hess died by his own hand and the evidence to justify this, is illustrated in the two reports mentioned in the above paragraph.
3. Additional technical and administrative information, pertinent to the enquiry, has been received since publication of the final report and that information, together with some concluding points, is now summarized in this addendum report.
4. A copy of the Post Mortem report has been made available to this office and a copy is attached.
5. It will be recalled that a number of exhibits were recovered by SIB personnel; either within Spandau Prison or at the BMH Berlin where the body of Prisoner Number 7 was secured, prior to Post Mortem examination and the final release of the body on 20 Aug 87 when it was delivered by RAF transport aircraft to the family of Rudolf Hess in West Germany.
6. It was the decision of the four Prison Governors, with a particular emphasis by the Soviet Governor, that all of the prisoner's clothing and effects be destroyed. Accordingly, following a formal request, all exhibits recovered by SIB were delivered to the Prison Governors via <sup>25</sup> the British Prison Governor. A list of those exhibits is shown at Annex A of this report. It is known by SIB that those items were destroyed by fire, in the main, under the personal supervision of <sup>440</sup> the Soviet Prison Governor.
7. During follow up enquiries it was apparent that the Soviet Authorities in particular were anxious that Spandau Prison should not become a shrine to the Nazi era of German history and this possibly



explains the speed in which items were destroyed. The actual prison is now demolished and the rubble from it is buried within RAF Gatow.

8. On the afternoon of Fri 15 Jan 88, the three Allied Powers and the Soviet Authorities relinquished control over the prison and the area is now administered by the British Military Authorities.

9. In regard to the distribution of the Interim and Final Reports, the only official recipients were the Board of Governors, Spandau Allied Prison, Wilhelmstrasse 23, 1000 Berlin 20. Silent copies have been made available to higher formation and some other agencies. Such copies have been delivered by hand or dispatched by registered post. A list of those other addressees is shown at Annex B.

10. The only other items/exhibits currently retained by SIB Berlin are two 60 minute video cassettes recorded by ~~47~~ 14 Det SIB RMP BAOR. One depicts an aerial view of Spandau Prison and the second is the visual 'Scene of Crime' record within the prison building and grounds which was recorded on the afternoon of 17 Aug 87. It is proposed that those two films are eventually taken out of Berlin and placed in safe keeping, together with the original statements, for historical purposes, and as directed by the CO SIB RMP BAOR.

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Captain  
for Commanding Officer

EXHIBITS DELIVERED TO  
PRISON GOVERNORS - SPANDAU PRISON

1. The following items were handed to the British Prison Governor on 27 Aug 87 by the OC 14 Det SIB RMP BAOR.

- a. WLF/2 - Grey nylon scarf, blue/white linen handkerchief, two knitted wristbands
- WLF/3 - Fawn coloured Trench Coat
- WLF/6 - One plastic comb
- WLF/7 - Electrical extension lead (inclusive of plug and socket, 8ft 10ins length)
- NL/1 - One jacket - light grey check
- NL/2 - One pair of grey trousers
- NL/3 - One white shirt
- NL/4 - One pair of Long John underpants colour white
- NL/5 - One pair of Boxer Shorts colour white

b. Miscellaneous items - no exhibit labels

- One pair of blue socks
- One pair of brown shoes
- One truss

2. Note: Exhibit WLF/1 was a half set of dentures, these were retained by the Medical Authorities at time of Post Mortem.

3. The two remaining exhibits were recovered by the British Prison Governor from 14 Det SIB RMP BAOR on 7 Dec 87. They are:

- WFL/4 - One straw Sombrero hat
- WFL/5 - One wooden walking stick

4. Note: The British Prison Governor signed a receipt for all the exhibits as listed.

RECIPIENTS OF 'SILENT'  
COPIES OF INTERIM AND  
FINAL REPORTS - CCRIO 53052/7

It was directed or incumbent to make copies of the Interim and Final Reports to the following addressees:

1. CO SIB RMP BAOR
2. OC Western Region SIB RMP BAOR
3. OC Eastern Region SIB RMP BAOR
4. SO1 Police/Legal HQ PM (ARMY)
5. Provost Marshal BAOR
6. British Military Government Berlin - POLAD/Head of Chancery
7. US Mission (American Sector) Berlin - Political/Military Officer
8. CCRIO RMP London

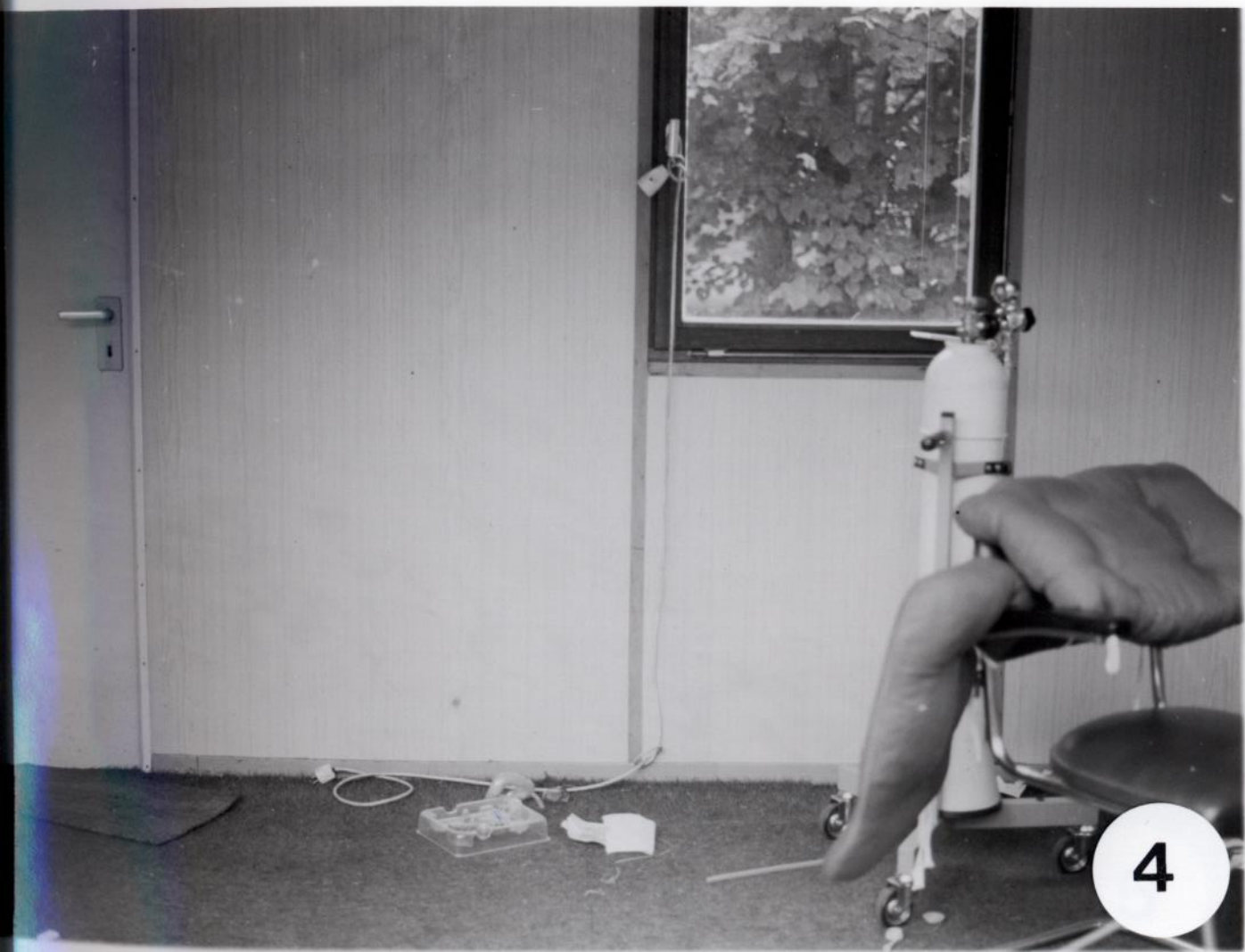




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3



4



5





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