English Translation of Video:

volksfront-medien

Dr. Alfred De Zayas:

After WWII, the focus on historical research inquiring about German war crimes may have ultimately been caused by the lack of concrete documentation showing violations of international law by the Allies. It must be the responsibility of historical science to shed light onto this, undoubtedly, uncomfortable chapter of history to determine in what situations which crimes against humanity were perpetrated and to establish a prerequisite for better compliance with the norms of human rights in warfare.

Heinz Matthias [white shirt]:

And with this [this incarceration? or with May 8? ] began really a gruesome... by far the most gruesome time in my life.

[text]:

Rheinwiesenlager [They call it Wiesen (meadows) but they were often just mud flats]

Death Planned by the Victors

[speaker]:

In view of the May 8 celebration in the whole world and the assertion of an alleged liberation of Germany in 1945, it is the duty of every loyal German to show the other side of the coin: namely, in 1945, the Allies liberated Millions of Germans indeed, but from their property, from their homeland, and from their life.

At the end of the war, roughly 11 Million German soldiers were in the hands of the Allies. Of those, about 8 Million in custody of the British and Americans. This film addresses the prison camps located at the so-called "Rheinwiesenlager." We loyal Germans do not celebrate an alleged liberation on May 8; instead, we mourn on this day the German victims after the war who were exterminated by starvation, hypothermia, and other murder methods.

During the Hague Convention, at the beginning of the 20th century, the participating countries decided to subjugate themselves to international law. This international law was meant to humanize warfare amongst other things, meaning that, for example, violence against defenseless humans or prisoners of war is excluded [from warfare.] On
January 26, 1910, the Hague Ground War Rule was ratified by the attending countries, including [Germany], England, France, and the USA.

Regarding prisoners of war the following is laid down as law in the Hague ground war rules, Article 7:

[text read]:

The government in charge of the prisoners of war is required to assure provisions for the prisoners. In absence of any special agreement between warring countries, the prisoners of war are to be treated equal to the troops that took them into custody regarding nourishment, accommodation, and clothing...

[speaker]:

On July 27, 1929, the protective provisions of the Geneva Convention which were formerly only granted to the wounded of a war, were now also extended to all prisoners of war. It was determined here that the prisoners are to be treated equally in every respect to the troops of the victor.

[moderator]:

You arrived in Remagen and were lead through the gates of the camp or driven through it and then put into your quarters. Do you want to describe what that looked like?

Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller [checkered jacket with glasses]:

Well, the way you describe it, it almost sounds as if I was arriving at a nice vacation retreat; but the experience was completely different. The [bad] situation began already in Niederbreisig and then also in Remagen in the same way with an enormous shock. We were chased off the trucks, and then we saw the alley, the Gauntlet alley which the American soldiers formed all the way to the gate with 2 rows, armed with wooden boards, chasing us through the gauntlet with the boards, "Come on, let's go!" "Come on, let's go!" always hitting us across the lower back; and this was really an experience I thought could not be possible. I was then thinking: "If soldiers are capable of doing this to other soldiers, then we can expect them to do just about anything to us." [And he was right.]

[speaker]:

Above all, prisoners must be under the observation of the International Red Cross. After the conclusion of warfare, all prisoners are to be released as soon as possible. This addition at the Geneva Convention, the so-called 'Liberators of 1945,' also signed.
In 1943, the Allies agreed [by their own accord], to categorize the German prisoners of war not as prisoners of war but as criminal prisoners, disregarding international law. The respective highest commanders of the Allies were free to handle the prisoners as they pleased. In this sense, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Dwight David Eisenhower, received on March 10, 1945 the authorization from Washington not to release the German prisoners of war held on German ground but to keep them imprisoned as so-called "Disarmed Enemy Forces." As a result, the prisoners had no protection under international law and were abandoned to the ill will of the victors.

Josef Dreßen [black shirt]:

The outrage is, that the Americans purposefully starved hundreds of thousands and starved to death a large part of them, or caused them to die from debilitation. The Russians also took prisoners. The Russians were very bad off themselves, and so the prisoners suffered equally; the ones guarding the prisoners were not much better off than the prisoners. The Russians could not help it because they did not have the resources. But the Americans-and that is the outrage-they even turned away help from charities because they wanted to do this to us.

[speaker]:

After crossing the Rhine in March of 1945, the Americans decided that they did not want to bring the German prisoners of war to the camps prepared for them in northern France. By order of Eisenhower they settled the prisoners of war along the western shore of the Rhein on the fields.

Of 188 American prison camps, dozens were placed along the Rhein and its outback area. These so-called Rhein meadow camps stretched from Remagen across Mainz to Bad Kreuznach and all the way across Ludwigshafen. Other camps were frequently dissolved after a while, and the occupants deported to the Rhein meadow camps.

No determination can be made as to the exact numbers of occupants in the camps since the Americans did deliberately not register them. Only in isolated cases were incoming and outgoing numbers determined. The International Red Cross would have had the ability to take on this work, but they were denied access to the camps. One had to estimate the occupation to be 5 Million prisoners between April and September 1945 in the Rheinwiesen camps. At the end of the war the surrendering soldiers were captured at various battle locations. Also taken into captivity were an unknown number of old men, youths belonging to the Volkssturm group, civilians in uniform; for example, firemen, party officials, and members of the NSAPD. Further, injured soldiers on home visit were collected from hospitals, female support and news personnel, and sometimes even youth whom they deemed old enough to hold a weapon, were also hauled off.

Reasons for these breaks of international law and inhuman treatment cannot be seen as anything but a determined desire to take the greatest number possible of Germans as prisoners. What happened to the prisoners as they were taken into custody and
immediately thereafter was of unpredictable nature. The American G.I.s acted with great harshness, communicating to the German soldier that he was to feel completely defeated. We have documentation of physical abuse in every form with the intention to bring about death, both before and after the capitulation, mock executions, nightly arrests of young boys who were dressed only with a pajamas, but also—even if more seldom—proper behavior by the G.I.s

Independent of all this, most of the German soldiers claim that after the capitulation they have been repeatedly and systematically filched by the American soldiers. The Americans stole their watches, their cameras, even their wedding bands. No wonder that in bitter irony U.S.A. was translated into "Uhren sammelnde Armee" [Army of watch collectors.] The apparent wealth of having your own watch, which each German boy received for his Holy Communion or Confirmation, was not something the American soldiers had. Beyond that, the prisoners had to frequently give up other personal belongings, including shaving utensils, mess kits, rain protection and tarp.

[speaker]:

The Camp

Most of the Rheinwiesen camps were planned for about 100,000 men. The actual camp was a large square on an open field which was divided into cages. A cage usually had a length and width of about 250 meters. Depending on the location, a cage had between 5,000 to 15,000 prisoners made up of various groups. The cages were patrolled from all sides and at night they used floodlight. Attempted escapes were punished with immediate execution. But from time to time they even just shot into the masses for no reason.

Heinz Matthias [white shirt]:

We were located in smaller camps. There were several camps with 70,000 prisoners on this field, without a building, without a tent. Most of us were without a coat, sitting day and night in the mud, and were totally full of lice. I myself have stood in line for 14 hours, up to the ankles in mud to get a tin can of water. Whoever could not hold out that long, tipped over and belonged to the dead because no one came to bring him water.

[speaker]:

Guards

The prisoners were usually guarded by second rate soldiers, blacks or Polish help troops, and former foreign workers. These workers were commanded by white soldiers. These were seen by the prisoners as extraordinarily brutal, arrogant, explosive, and aggressive. Roll call ended with beatings for those who tipped over because of exhaustion. The
soldiers of the Waffen-SS were treated especially cruelly. Hours of punitive exercises and bestial beating to death were frequently witnessed. They did not even refrain from the maltreatment of high ranking officers.

[speaker]:

American investigations verified further war crimes. 104 German prisoners of war suffocated in an American train transport. 24 others and 3 civilians were murdered at Tambach. And in Luxemburg, US soldiers murdered 70 German prisoners of war.

[speaker]:

'Living Quarters'

Daily men and women arrived from collection camps behind the front cooped up in locked cattle cars and on trucks and were poured out of the trucks like trash into the cages behind the barbed wire. Some of the prisoners already died in transport. Life in the camps was shaped by the temperament of the camp commander and the insecurity of our future. It was the most basic battle for survival. The prisoners lived through burning heat in the summer and icy cold in the winter on bare ground on fields that turned into mud from rain and snow without any cover over their heads.

Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller [checkered jacket with glasses]:

And we stood there on the field and after three days it was a wasteland of mud; I can't even remember if it was a field or a meadow.

[speaker]:

During the 4 months under American commanders, each prisoner had 3-5 square meters. The occupants had no tools or material, whatsoever, to make their camp livable. The only possibility was getting a hold of some cardboard, using tin food cans or cutlery for digging, and dig holes into the ground to live in that gave some protection from the elements. Usually three to five prisoners shared one ground hole which was just large enough that they could lay in it sideways.

[speaker]:

The spring of 1945 was wet and cold. It rained and snowed off and on. The field turned into a wasteland of mud. Ernst Albrecht, then 18 years of age, tried to protect himself from the elements.

Ernst Albrecht [white jacket with glasses and black hat]:
After we got so lucky to get a hold of tin food cans, we scraped out a hole the length and width of our bodies. If it was raining, we put the blankets over our head and stayed this way until the blankets were soaked through.

[lady speaker]:

Starvation camp is what the prisoners called it. Frequently we had only a few crackers and dried beans. There was no drinking water access.

[speaker]:

The building of ground holes was forbidden time and time again and the prisoners were forced to close them back up. Not just because the ground holes were dangerous because the rainwater saturated them quickly and they collapsed, but it even happened that bulldozers ran through the camp and sealed up earth holes along with the inhabitants in them.

Tents were not given out even though there were plenty of them in the depots of the German military and the U.S. Army. About 40% of the prisoners lived in the earth holes. Only about 5% had the luck to have a tent and the rest camped on the earth.

Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller [checkered jacket with glasses]:

I have lived 4 weeks on the fields, others much longer, at a time in spring when after a warm weather spell then the typical March-April weather began: cold, damp, rain; and since we could not sit down anywhere, we stood most of the time or walked back and forth.

[moderator]:

Didn't you have any waterproof clothing and raincoats and tarp, or such, to protect yourselves from the rain?

Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller [checkered jacket with glasses]:

On average, I must say that most of them-and I cannot be absolute sure-had nothing but their regular uniform. They did not even have regular coats because they were usually taken from them. There were a few who had tarp, but really only very few. I myself received by sheer luck a good motorcycle coat during the last days of war. But they took it from me when they took me prisoner. But I stole it back from the heap of coats when we marched off, so that in regard to that I was in an especially good position.

There was only mud. There was no dry place. Since there was only mud, we could only wander around even at night, but at one time or another sleep overcomes you, and so I closed up my coat on the top, just like a pant with a band on the top, and let myself drop
into the mud in the hope that I would be able to sleep a few hours before my feet freeze off.

[speaker]:

After much difficulties, we finally had one latrine in every cage. The longer the condition of starvation continued the weaker the prisoners became. Whereas men first helped an ill comrade to the latrine, later they were all so weak that they relieved themselves wherever they were.

Heinz Matthias [white shirt]:

We then got lime for the dead and for the latrine. The only problem was, if a completely exhausted man finally made it to the latrine to sit on the rail and due to exhaustion fell backwards into it, he drowned. No one was capable of helping him. Soon we were only able to crawl. We no longer had the strength to stand.

Josef Dreßen [black shirt]:

Help? None! There were so many of us like that. Who could help anyone?

[speaker]:

I took a long while to get a water station set up. Before that, the prisoners got a water quota. The water was taken unfiltered from the Rhein or from a nearby creek and pumped full of Chlorine to prevent an epidemic.

For a prisoner to get water it usually meant he had to stand in line for hours even though he was already totally exhausted. Sometimes it took up to 10 hours to get a tin cup of water. Because of their great thirst, some prisoners drank even from puddles with the result of ruinous health issues. Their thirst was especially tormenting in the summer months when they were exposed to heat and sun without interruption.

A person needs about 1200 calories during rest. A working man between 2000 and 3000 calories per day. The prisoners in the Rheinwiesenlager received in the months of April to July 1945 only between 400 and 900 calories daily. In many camps they received no food at all on Sundays, and new arrivals had to wait two to four days before getting any food.

Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller [chekered jacket with glasses]:

And in this tin can, I had about this much of a food mash. Maybe you can appreciate what it means when I say that for 4 weeks I had no digestion; that's how little food I got. And when after 4 weeks I pressed out this hard, black stuff, I passed out and would have almost drowned in the cesspool, just missing it by a hair's breadth.
[moderator]:

How many calories do you think they gave you a day?

Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller [karierte Jacke mit Brille]:

I've researched this once comparing to modern tables

* [picture with text]: Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller mit 18 Jahren  (18 years of age)*

and I concluded that on this day, on this first day, which was relatively ample in comparison, we received, besides the two raw potatoes, 500 calories. With the potatoes, it then came to 700 calories. If we found a fire to put the potatoes into some ash, that helped.

[moderator]:

And how many calories does a man need to halfway survive?

Prof. Dr. Richard M. Müller [checkered jacket with glasses]:

Two thousand.

[speaker]:

One possibility to get additional food would have been through support from the residents of the nearby villages. But the residents were forbidden under death penalty to provide food to the prisoners. The German government was ordered to instruct their people accordingly. See written document [22:50]. If anyone still tried to get some food to the prisoners, he would be driven off or shot by the fence in front of the starving prisoners. There was no medical care in the beginning, as we had no medical equipment setup, and the Americans did not allow German doctors to practice. If they did it anyhow, then only from their own resources and without medications and equipment. They could only help with advice or try to mitigate pain. The International Red Cross, as mentioned, was not allowed access to the camps. Food and relief supplies which the Red Cross transported on trains to the camps were ordered to be returned by Allied Commander Eisenhower. Sick prisoners were not treated in the camps but only sorted aside by the Americans.

We can assume that only 20% had a normal amount of food, 60% were starving, and 20% had so little food that they died. Camp Kreuznach, the so-called Feld des Jammers [Field of Misery,] had a hospital but they only took patients that died within 24 hours. During the whole imprisonment, the prisoners were under constant stress because they did not know what will happen to them or what was happening politically all around
them. They had no idea as to what happened to their families. Furthermore, they were forbidden to write their relatives in order to give them a sign that they are alive.

[speaker]:

The Number of Deceased and what happened to them

First I need to say that there are no numbers at all available as to all types of suicides. Also no numbers are available about prisoners who died due to collapses of fox holes caused by weather conditions, or who were bulldozed over in their earth holes, who suffocated in the mud or in the cesspools, or who died from their injuries.

[blue shirt with white pullover]:

There was only one thing: the will to survive to get home some day... or, however to croak.

[speaker]:

There are no established numbers of prisoners who died due to punitive action against them or who stood shortly before their death and were sent to an evacuation hospital [Evakuierungs lazarett]. Further, there are no records of prisoners that were shot during escape or shot indiscriminately either by day or by night. It is frequently documented that prisoners had to take the clothes off the dead and remove their dog tags, load them onto trucks that had an undetermined destination. A small number of dead was buried in mass graves right by the camp. The clothes were then burned and the dog tags had to be given to the Americans who DID NOT give them to the Red Cross but melted them deliberately.

[black coat]:

And here in this field that has been build on, where you no longer can tell what happened here with all this time gone by, here rest-and the number is unknown-thousands of those poor individuals who had been cooped up out in the open without water and food.

[speaker]:

In the camp Bretzenheim, for example, there were three variations of graves without names. There were graves for those who apparently aroused the anger of the guards. The next one for those who for some reason gave resistance or were shot during escape. The third one was for those who fell into the cesspool or have been shot in willful random shootings. According to the Americans, only 3,000 prisoners lost their lives at the Rheinwiesenlager, which would be a quota of not even 1 per 1,000. This data refers to persons who died of their illnesses or due to refusal of help. Today we have in 12 months
approximately 15 death per 10,000 due to illness, for people in the range from 20 to 40 years of age. In these cases, we can assume that these people had enough food, clothing, a stable place to live, and medical help; in contrast to the prisoners who had almost no food and no medical care and lived on open fields. Considering this environment, these official numbers are nothing but a mockery. The unsuspecting Franko-Canadian journalist James Bacque determines the number of dead in his book "Der Geplante Tod"to be over a Million in the Rhein camps. But where are these dead? In the areas around the former camps, tenths of thousands lay buried but not hundreds of thousands.

Where did the U.S. trucks take the many corpses? Here it is conspicuous that these U.S. trucks came fully loaded with provisional supplies for the Allies from the main supply center in Antwerp and returned there empty. Empty? No, full of German corpses, and only this explains that in Belgium there is such a large number of unidentified corpses of German soldiers and civilians present who could not possibly all have fallen during the comparatively short duration of battles. The Belgium war cemeteries are full of unidentified corpses because their dog tags had been taken away from them, and they were dumped like garbage left and right along the roadside in the woods on the way to Antwerp.

We accuse!

[young man with glasses and cap]:

...as far as the lie goes, that we were liberated from something horrible, in reality, something horrible came over us. 7 Million Germans have lost their lives during the war. But now, note and remember this as an answer for those who tell you lies: 12 Million Germans were murdered after May 8, 1945! And the 1 Million that were murdered here, not on meadows, but in the sludge and mud of farmland by starving them to death within a few months, they also belong to this number!

[speaker]:

For one, what persuaded the Americans to incarcerate so many innocent people, and for another to keep them locked up under conditions presented here? Why were the prisoners not registered? What prevented the Allies from accepting German supply stock or to use the supplies from the Red Cross? Why these deliberate abandonment politics by the U.S. military authority [commandment]? Why was it not allowed to give the dead in the mass graves on the Rhein an honorable burial? In conclusion it has been assessed that the systematic murder of German prisoners has hardly gotten any attention in the public, and there is a great need for detailed research. We hope that this documentary can contribute, in a small way, to the findings and evidence of American war crimes. The goal of the Allies was and is [today] a targeted decimation of the German people.
Heinz Matthias [white shirt]:

I walked down the Berkusenstrasse (?), I think it was July 15, und took a turn into the Juklerstrasse (?). This was my neighborhood. And whilst I was turning into the street, my mother sat in the bath tub crying- I was able to reconstruct that exactly-because she did not know if her son was still alive. And then the bell rang. And then my mother washed her face and dried it off hoping that the stranger coming to the door would not see that she had cried. Then she walked down the hallway to the door and opened it and there I stood. And then my mother cried. She was not able to say my name. And then only on the third attempt she said, "My boy" and took me into her arms.

[text]:

The truth differentiates from the half-truth that it comprises the whole reality.

Part of the whole reality is the fact that the time that followed May 8, 1945, was a time of absolute oppression of the German people.

The fate of the Germans was in the occupation zones of the Soviets, the French, and the Americans especially terrible.

After May 8, 1945, 12 Million Germans died because of the crimes by the Allies.

Millions of German prisoners of war were murdered or have been killed in the camps of the Allies.

A total of 16 Million Germans fled from the eastern part of Germany or were systematically driven off [their homes and land]. The most shocking part is the methods used to force them out. These methods were enforced with unimaginable cruelty.

Millions of German citizens were murdered on the spot in their home town, or they were murdered in flight... or they did not survive the trauma of escape.

Further causes of death were documented: beating, executing, strangling, drowning, stabbing, repeated rape, castrating, crucifying, whipping, trampling.

... also, deaths through burning alive, mutilation, rolling in drums and pumping people full of sewage.

In the criminal and show processes, the Soviet interrogating officers had German prisoners of war frequently tortured or shot if they did not willingly inform.
American interrogating officers, in many cases, let German prisoners starve for many days, poured feces over them, put sacks over their heads whilst beating them to soften them up for interrogation.

In the "Malmedy-Litigation" the accused German prisoners had wooden wedges driven under their nails or had their testes crushed to force 'confessions.'

The US military authority forbade distribution of provisions and tents to the prisoners, available from the German and U.S. military depots and prohibited the provision of drinking water and food for the German civil population...

...ordered the helping civilians to take the food away and to destroy it.

Die Folgerung, daß die Deutschen den Krieg allein verursacht und damit die Vertreibung und das Elend ab 1945 selbst verschuldet hätten, ist historisch unhaltbar.

The judgment that the Germans alone are responsible for the war and therefore caused the expulsion of ethnic Germans since 1945, is historically unsustainable.

The causes of WWII start with the European disagreements that led to WWI...

...and continued with the merciless methods by the victors of that time to slip the German people the sole blame for WWI and then to plunder them...

... and continue on to the Danzig-dispute and the discrimination and persecution of the German minority in Poland.

The suffering of 16 Million German citizens driven off land and home, the captivity of 11 Million German men in death camps, and the deaths of far more than 6 Million German citizens on our land...

...after May 8, 1945 are far too significant to keep concealed from this day and stand in stark contrast to those who see themselves basically as liberated!