Américans torture Germans to extort "confessions"

By FRED REDMAN

TODAY I am able to tell the full story, revealed in Washington, of the American war trials scandal. It is an ugly story of barbarous tortures inflicted in the name of Allied justice.

It is time that the British people know all the facts. Little has appeared in the Press until today.

The charge is that American soldiers, building evidence against Germans accused of war crimes, have behaved with the same sadistic cruelty as the beasts who terrorised Europe when it was under Nazi domination.

The truth has come out through the persistence of an American lawyer and the frank horror of an American judge who refuses to be muzzled. Judge Edward Van Roden, member of the U.S. Army Commission of Inquiry, tells how barbarous methods were used under the fingernails of a prisoner by American investigators to extort a confession. For months, he says, men were kept in solitary confinement on starvation rations and then beaten up and savagely kicked till strong men were reduced to broken wrecks ready to mumble any admission demanded by their persecutors.

The War Department has shown the judge's personal report on the General Lucas Clay case. The reason was that it was too shocking for public dis- close.

But Judge Van Roden is not so squeamish. The grim truth, he declares, must be told.

There has been an inquiry already. The Army Commission of Inquiry, which Judge Van Roden was a member of, found that methods used to get evidence from prisoners were scandalous.

The commission sent to Germany to investigate was even more candid.

"All but two of the Germans, in the 129 cases we investigated, had been kicked in the testicles and, in almost all cases, had been treated with the utmost cruelty and inhumanity."

This was standard operating procedure with American investigators.

They would put a black hood over the accused's head and then punch him in the face with brass knuckles.

U.S. Army prosecution teams had, he said, posed as priests to hear confessions and give absolution.

At mock trials men who refused to confess were confronted by a cruel and burning candles. Those sham courts, attended by men in U.S. Army uniforms, passed sham death sentences. Then the accused were told: "Sign this confession and we will grant you acquittal.

Army witnesses explained that they had "a tough case to crack" and that "persuasive methods" were necessary.

Is it possible that the tragic fate of the Dachau trials could have happened also in the British Zone?

"No," says the War Office. "Germans on trial have been treated with all the kindness and respect accorded to any prisoner of war."

Budget: Letter

STONED TO DEATH ON BOMB SITE

ERNEST CLIFFORD MELVILLE—a man with a "an enemy"—was last night "out on a billboard" in the city of Swansea, a town of about 10,000 people.

"He had no gun," said the man pictured, "and he had no enemies.

Melville, thirty-six, was a corporal of the 1st South African Diamond Rush of the 19th century. The victim was identified by his wristwatch.

Melville was last seen on a Friday evening, when he left his parents' home in Watkin-street, after going to his usual drink at The Full Moon public house, facing the bomb site.

Gaol breakers on car murder bid charge

THREE men recaptured at Southampton yesterday after escaping from Maidstone Gaol were later charged with attempting to murder a woman and her husband. Donald Sedgley by tying him down with the woman's body.

The men, Keith Stephen Bridge, 22; Albert Edward Simpkins, 26; and Joseph Roberts, 22, were remanded until tomorrow.
Budget: Letter to shopkeepers

THOUSANDS of shopkeepers throughout the country will next week receive from the National Union of Small Shopkeepers a letter warning them: "Don't buy until after the Ariel Budget!""Owing to the possibilities of a budget, a large number of shopkeepers will buy only the minimum amount of goods in the next three months. If you purchase too many goods, you will be left without stock on their shelves. The shop office is the union were working too fast yesterday to get the letters sent out.

'I'd rather have a King - Cripps'

Sir Stafford Cripps, speaking at Bristol last night, told a Communist meeting that it was the one thing he objected to in his proposals to prevent the war. "It is in the interests of the nation that we should have the war led by the Liberal party, and the Liberal party should have the credit of having led the war."

One-armed man lowered from fire

A one-armed man was lowered six stories by a rope when the Hindenburg Express crashed in a house in the middle of Manchester. The firemen were carrying a ladder to the fire, and the rope was the only thing useful to them in the case. The man was a sailor, and his arm was broken in the accident.

A bishop praises Lenin

DECLARING that Com- munism is the only sys- tem that can prevent a similar object, the wel- fare of the working man in all countries, is Dr. E. W. Barnes, addressed to a meeting of the Birmingham Trades Council yesterday: "Unfortunately in many lands the fall has been too rapid." His letter was in reply to a correspondence in the Birmingham Post.

"There goes Nurse Franklin!"

In the black Gladstone bag, the one that fascinates little girls and boys, Nurse Franklin has packed all that she needs for helping people in the sickness. Swabs, scissors and salves; bandages, masks and forceps. And, like every other District Nurse in Britain almost without exception, she carries a bottle of DETTO.

FILTHY LETTERS FOR MOTHER OF GIRL WHO WED PRIEST

By DONALD ZEC

The parents of the twenty-two-year-old Patria Wall, who married Mr. Tim O' Connery, a Catholic priest, in Swanscombe, in a London register office on Thursday, have received a number of abusive letters from the American. Mr. O' Connery broke his vows of celibacy in marrying Miss Wall, one of his parishioners, and his wedding has meant excommunication for them both.

But the brunt of the attack was from people all over America. The bishop has been thrown out of the church and his wife, in her Swansea home, Mr. O' Connery told me, "We have received the most incredible letters, all over the country, from..."

Walking-dire to go for his usual drink at The Full Moon pub house, facing the bombed site.

The men, Keith Stephen Cripps, 22, Albert Edward Simpson, 26; and John Roberts, 22, were remarked until tomorrow. By the time Chief Constable, Mr. C. G. Box, told the magistrates that at 1.25 a.m. the three men were seen in a stolen car. A crowd of police in charge of Sergeant, Sedgley, was drawn across the road, but the car did not stop and the constables had to jump to avoid being run down. A policeman jumped on to his bonnet. It then reversed and struck a traffic bollard. It continued in reverse into a side road, where it struck some railings and stopped.