

Dr Herta Oberheuser's affidavit concerning medical experiments conducted at Ravensbrück and Hohenlychen (sulphanilamide, bone transplants)

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES AFC 124-a U.S. ARMY	
<u>STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS</u>	By: H. Sachs Date: 4 November 1946
Doc. No.	NO 487
Title and/or general nature	1. Sworn statement by Dr. Hertha Oberheuser on the part played by her in experimentation on human beings at Ravensbrueck and Hohenlychen.
Date.	1 November 1946
Source (Location of original, etc.)	CCC Nurnberg, Document Room.
PERSONS, FIRMS OR ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED	Dr. Hertha Oberheuser Prof. Dr. Karl Gebhardt Dr. Fritz Fischer Dr. Baumteggert Dr. Schmidlauskay Dr. Sonntag Dr. Rosenthal
TO BE FILED UNDER THESE REFERENCE HEADINGS.	Same as above Experimentation on Human Beings Concentration Camps General Concentration Camps - Ravensbrueck.
SUMMARY (Indicate page nos.)	
In this four page sworn statement Dr. Oberheuser reports on her activities in Ravensbrueck and Hohenlychen in connection with experiments carried out on concentration camp inmates.	

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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

S t a t e m e n t

I, Dr. Herta Oberheuser, duly sworn, depose and state:

1. I was born in Cologne on the Rhine in Germany on 15 May 1911, studied medicine in Bonn from 1931 to 1933 and thereafter in Duesseldorf till 1937. I received my doctors diploma in Bonn in 1937. I joined the NSDAP in May 1937 and was since 1935 in the BDM. In this organization I had the rank of District Physician (Ringarztin) and was one of the district physicians in Duesseldorf. I worked at the medical clinic in Duesseldorf and at the Dermatological clinic in Duesseldorf, and came thereafter as Specialist and Camp Physician to the concentration camp Ravensbrueck. Later I was transferred to Hohenlychen, to the hospital of the Red Cross under Professor Karl Gebhardt.

2. Through my capacity as camp physician and specialist at the concentration camp Ravensbrueck and as assistant physician to Professor Dr. GEBHARDT at the hospital in Hohenlychen and because of the fact that I assisted Dr. Karl GEBHARDT, Dr. Fritz FISCHER and Dr. STUMPFEGGERT in their operations and experiments, I have a detailed knowledge of the sulfonamide experiments and bone transplantations performed in Ravensbrueck and Hohenlychen. I am therefore able to make the following statements about these facts:

Sulfonamide Experiments

3. The sulfonamide experiments were carried out in the time between August and the end of 1942, for the purpose of determining the effects of sulfonamides.

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The experimental subjects needed for these experiments were named to me on a list furnished by the camp administration, and it was my duty, to examine the condition of health of the proposed persons. Mainly, I had to examine their skin and their heart. Some of the proposed prisoners were also X-rayed. When I considered one or the other of the prisoners as not sufficiently healthy for the performance of the operation, I notified the camp physician, at that time Dr. SCHIEDLAUSKY, by telephone, and he replaced him with another one. Only perfectly healthy Polish nationals were used for the experiments.

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4. The operations were performed by Dr. Fritz FISCHER. Sometimes I helped and assisted at these operations, and had the duty, to attend the patients after the operation. Different series of experiments were conducted; in some, glass- or wood splinters and cloth fibers were forcibly brought into the wound, in order to cause gangrene. For this purpose, a cut on the calf of an approximate length of 10 centimeters was usually made. I don't recall how deep these wounds were, and I don't recall either, which muscle was used for the purpose of the experiment.

5. I cannot say, how many persons, on whom experiments were conducted, suffered permanent injuries. But I know, that three

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died as victims of these experiments. I found that their heart failed. But since I had examined these three persons before the experiments were conducted on them, it is very probable that they died because of the infection which was caused by the experiments.

6. As far as I can remember, a total of 40 persons was used for these experiments.

Bone Transplantation

7. The experiments with bone transplantations were carried out, as far as I can remember, at the end of 1942 and beginning of 1943 by Dr. STUMFEGGERT of Hohenlychen. I helped and assisted Dr. STUMFEGGERT in the same way, as I helped Dr. FISCHER with the sulfonamide experiments, and as I have described already in paragraph 4 of this affidavit. Before the operation I had to examine, as in the other case, the condition of the health of the selected persons. The operations consisted in the removal and transplantation of a piece of the bone from the tibia. 15 to 20 persons were used for these experiments.

The persons necessary for these experiments were requisitioned by Dr. SCHIDLANSKY from the camp commander.

8. Dr. Karl GEBHARDT was in charge of the sulfonamide experiments and bone transplantations. It is not known to me, that he himself has performed operations of this type. But I know, that all these

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experiments were performed under his direction and supervision and upon his instructions. He was assisted by the already mentioned Dr. FISCHER and

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Dr. STUMPFEGGART and also by Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY and ROSENTHAL. Also for these experiments, only healthy Polish prisoners were used.

I can't remember, that a single one of the used experimental subjects was pardoned after the completion of the experiments.

Conditions in the Concentration Camp Ravensbrueck

9. During my service at the concentration camp Ravensbrueck I observed, that one of the physicians serving there, Dr. SONNTAG, severely mistreated prisoners who reported sick, by beating and kicking them.

10. It was no rarity at Ravensbrueck, that persons who were already approaching death, were killed by injections. I myself have given 5 or 6 such injections.

I have read the above affidavit in the German language consisting of 4 (four) pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I was given the opportunity to make changes and corrections in above affidavit. This affidavit was given by me freely and voluntarily without promise or reward, and I was subjected to no duress or threat of any kind.

Muernberg, 1 November 1946 Signature: Herta Oberheuser
 typed: Herta Oberheuser

Before me, Fred Rodell, AGO D 432576, a U.S. Civilian, appeared Herta OBERHEUSER, to me known, who in my presence signed the foregoing "Affidavit" (statement) consisting of 4 (four) pages in the German language and swore that the same was true. On the 2nd day of November 1946.

Signature: Fred Rodell
typed: Fred Rodell

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

26. November 1946

I, Siegfried TAUBER, Civ., A.-443 415, hereby
certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the
English and German languages and that the above is a
true and correct translation of the original document
No. NO-487.

Siegfried TAUBER
Civ., A.-443 415

Source: Trials of War Criminals before Nuernberg Military Tribunals, 2 November 1946, HLSL Item No.: 1798,
Evidence Code No.: NO-487, Harvard Law School Library.