

THE RACE TO BERLIN

PART ONE

OR PERHAPS

THE RAPE OF BERLIN

PART TWO

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THE REASONS THE SOVIETS WERE THE FIRST TO BERLIN.

STORIES OF THE DISTRUST, LIES, AND COVERUPS AMONG THE ALLIES AND THE VICIOUS ACTS OF RAPE AND VIOLENCE OF THE RUSSIAN TROOPS RELATED TO THE CAPTURE OF BERLIN IN 1945



RUSSIA VS RUSSIA



THE SOVIET RACE AGAINST THEMSELVES FOR STALIN'S REVENGE AGAINST GERMANY

**ON ORDERS FROM PREMIER JOSEF STALIN, RUSSIAN ARMY MARSHALLS
GEORGE ZHUKOV AND IVAN KONEV RACED TO CAPTURE THE NAZI CAPITAL OF BERLIN**

THE STORY IN VIDEO

COPY AND PASTE THE BELOW LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER TO VIEW

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=cQCuNkWts8k (48 min)

INTRODUCTION

The last months of World War Two were tragic for Germany. The story of the best of German manhood being slaughtered by the advancing vengeful Russians is distressing itself. Worse still is what the victorious Russian soldiers did to the helpless German women. Mass rape.....Methodical.With hatred..... With utter brutality. Even the other Allied countries' soldiers were guilty too. But to a much, much lesser extent).

This story is rarely told. Or has been rarely told. Because it stains the heroic image of the Allied soldiers of WW2.

THE STORY BEGINS.....

The Battle of Berlin was the final major offensive of the European Theatre of World War II and was designated the Berlin Strategic Offensive Operation by the Soviet Union.

The advance on Berlin in early 1945 didn't only mark the final stage of World War Two in Europe. It also saw the first open expression of the tensions between the Soviets and the Western allies, tensions which would soon evolve into the Cold War.

There had always been tensions in the alliance between the Western powers, in particular, Britain and America, and the Soviet Union. Conservative, Capitalist, and pro-democratic politicians in the West fervently disagreed with the Communist dictatorship in the East.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill had been a fervent anti-Communist since the early days of the USSR and had taken a leading role in the 1919 intervention that tried to suppress the nascent Communist nation. He even considered re-arming Germany once Hitler was gone, to oppose Russia. Hitler's dreams of bringing Britain into an alliance against the Russians were not as unrealistic as they now seem in retrospect.

Stalin, meanwhile, was ambitious to expand the influence of his state and its ideology. Capturing the German capital of Berlin would be of enormous symbolic and political importance. Stalin wanted his forces to do it, while Churchill wanted to stop them.

The Yalta Conference, between the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, had been organized to discuss Europe's postwar reorganization. During the conference, Stalin took every opportunity to divide the British and the Americans.

He knew that Churchill wanted to secure freedom for Poland while Franklin D Roosevelt's priorities were to establish the United Nations and persuade Stalin to attack Japanese forces in Manchuria and northern China.

The American president felt that he could win Stalin's trust and even admitted to the Soviet leader that the Western Allies did not agree on the strategy for the invasion of Nazi Germany. Roosevelt suggested that General Dwight Eisenhower should establish direct contact with the Stavka supreme command of the Red Army to discuss plans. Stalin encouraged the idea so that he would know what the Americans were doing while giving nothing away himself.



Churchill, Roosevelt & Stalin @ the Yalta Conference

Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, urged Eisenhower to continue the advance toward Berlin by the 21st Army Group, under the command of Field Marshal Montgomery to capture the city. Even General Patton agreed with Churchill that he should order the attack on the city since Montgomery's troops could reach Berlin within 3 days. However, by mid-April, Eisenhower ordered all armies to halt when they reached the Elbe and Mulde Rivers, thus immobilizing these spearheads while the war continued for three more weeks.

Among the Western allies, the British General Montgomery had the most momentum, but his proposal for a fast advance on Berlin was rejected by Eisenhower. Up until this point, much of the Allied resources had been poured into supporting the British. Now they were shifted to American troops.

Ever since the breakout from Normandy led by Patton's 3rd Army in August 1944, British influence had been fading rapidly. Field Marshal Montgomery's repeated attempts to be appointed ground forces commander had only made things worse.

They had culminated in his boasting that he had saved the situation in the Ardennes. General George C Marshall, the American chief of staff, was furious, and **Eisenhower told Churchill that none of his generals were willing to serve under Montgomery again.** "His relations with Monty are quite insoluble," Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke wrote after a meeting with Eisenhower on 6 March. "He only sees the worst side of Monty."

On the 15th of April, American forces under Lieutenant-General Simpson crossed the Elbe. Only the German 12th Army under General Wenck stood between them and Berlin, but Eisenhower ordered Simpson to hold back until they had linked up with the Soviets at Dresden

Stalin, wanting to have control over Berlin, decided that he would have to convince his allies that Berlin was of no importance to him. During the Yalta Conference, Stalin approached Eisenhower saying that Berlin was unimportant to him. Surprisingly two major things happened, Stalin not only convinced Eisenhower that he (Stalin) did not want Berlin, but also convinced Eisenhower himself that Berlin was of no importance to him (Eisenhower).

The Soviet advance and ultimate capture of the German capital was virtually unopposed by their allies. To avoid a diplomatic issue, United States Army General of the Army Dwight Eisenhower ordered his forces into the south of Germany to cut off and wipe out other pieces of the Wehrmacht and to avoid the possibility that the Nazi government would attempt to hold out in a National Redoubt in the Alps. However, the failure of Operation Market Garden in late 1944 may have played a key role in this decision.

On the evening of 31 March, Stalin approved Eisenhower's plan to attack well to the south of Berlin and encouraged his fears of a German last-ditch resistance in the Alps.



Soviet Troops gather in the shadow of the once great Brandenburg gate

Believing that the Allied agreement was a trick, Stalin immediately ordered two rival field marshals, Koniev and Zhukov, to advance on Berlin. Both developed plans of attack, but Zhukov was closer, and so was given the order to make the main assault. Maintaining the competition between the two for political reasons, Stalin permitted Koniev to also launch an attack.

Later that day, which happened to be 1 April, Stalin sent his reply to Eisenhower. He assured his trusting ally that "Berlin has lost its former strategic importance" and that the Soviet command would send only "second-rate forces against it". The bulk of the Red Army would join up with Eisenhower's armies further to the south. They would not start their advance until the second half of May. "However, this plan may undergo certain alterations, depending on circumstances." **It was the greatest April fool in modern history.**

The Western Allies' decision to leave eastern Germany and the city of Berlin to the Red Army - honoring the agreement they made with the Soviet Union at Yalta - eventually had serious repercussions as the Cold War emerged and expanded in the post-war era.

With the knowledge that Eisenhower would not interfere, Stalin started the Race to Berlin. In early 1945 Soviet leader Joseph Stalin set his two Marshals Georgy Zhukov and Ivan Konev in a race to capture Berlin. Although it was mostly their race, both Marshals were supported by another Front. Marshal Zhukov was protected by Rokossovsky's Second Belorussian Front, while Marshal Konev was supported by Yeremenko's Fourth Ukrainian Front. The two men and their separately commanded armies were pitted against one another, ensuring that they would drive their men as fast and as far as possible to a quick victory. This led to a climax in the bloody Battle of Berlin.



Column of German Prisoners captured during the battle

The offensive that resulted in the capture of the Nazi capital of Berlin in April 1945 developed into a race between the army groups of two Soviet commanders, Marshal Georgy Zhukov and Marshal Ivan Konev. The race was heated, **and often the lives of soldiers were sacrificed in the interest of time.**

Stalin remembered the ruthless German invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, that broke the nonaggression pact between the two countries that had been signed in 1939. He also sought harsh retribution for the deaths of millions of Soviet citizens and the tremendous destruction of property that had occurred.

The Germans prepared to defend Berlin. Hitler removed Himmler as head of the Vistula army group, replacing him with Colonel-General Heinrici, an expert in defensive warfare.

Starting on January 16th, 1945, the Red Army breached the German front as a result of the Vistula-Oder Offensive and rapidly advanced westward as fast as 30-40 kilometers a day, through East Prussia, Lower Silesia, East Pomerania, and Upper Silesia, temporarily halting on a line 60 kilometers east of Berlin along the Oder River. During the offensive, two Soviet fronts (army groups) attacked Berlin from the east and south, while a third overran German forces positioned north of Berlin. The Battle in Berlin lasted from late April 20th, 1945 until the morning of May 2nd and was one of the bloodiest battles in history.

The first defensive preparations at the outskirts of Berlin were on March 20th, when the newly appointed commander of the Army Group Vistula, General Gotthard Heinrici, correctly anticipated that the main Soviet thrust would be made over the Oder River.

Before the main battle in Berlin commenced, the Soviets managed to encircle the city as a result of the smaller Battles of the Seelow Heights and Halbe. On April 20th, 1945, the 1st Belorussian Front led by Marshal Georgy Zhukov started shelling Berlin's city center, while Marshal Ivan Konev's 1st Ukrainian Front had pushed in the north through the last formations of Army Group Centre. The German defenses were mainly led by Helmuth Weidling and consisted of several depleted, badly equipped, and disorganized Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS divisions, as well as many Volkssturm and Hitler Youth members. Within the next days, the Soviets were rapidly advancing through the city and reaching the city center, conquering the Reichstag on April 30th after fierce fighting.



As always ... the innocent victims of War...

Outside Berlin, Heinrici pulled his men back so that Zhukov's bombardment missed them, and then dug them in on Seelow Heights, blocking the main road. The Germans were halted, and a furious Stalin ordered Koniev to advance on Berlin.

The capital was caught in a pincer movement between Zhukov and Koniev.

By the time the Red Army reached Berlin, these forces had markedly increased on both sides. The fear of the Russians in Berlin was such that both young and old were put on the front line. Nazi propaganda had demonized the Russians and many Berliners saw the forthcoming battle as simply a fight to the death. **45,000 of Berlin's defenders were either children or old-age pensioners.**



Walking to their deaths: The young boys are part of the Volkssturm - the 'People's Army' - where teenagers were made to fight on the front line at the end of World War II

Over two million artillery shells were fired into Berlin and the surrounding area in three weeks and **1 million Russian infantry troops took part in the assault on the city.**

Russia's vast tank superiority counted for little in the debris-ridden streets of Berlin. The Germans who fought there were issued with portable anti-tank weaponry and could use hit-and-run tactics against Russian tanks. Areas had to be taken street by street and building by building. Casualty figures on both sides were high. The Russians simply destroyed a complete building if they had been fired on from somewhere within that building. However, the city could not last for long, and on **May 2nd, 1945, Berlin surrendered to the Russians** and the war in Europe all but ended. Germany unconditionally surrendered on May 7th.

The Russians lost 80,000 men killed and 275,000 wounded or missing in the lead-up to the battle and in the battle itself. Two thousand Russian tanks were destroyed. 150,000 Germans were killed during the battle.

It has been reported that in the process of subduing Berlin, the two Soviet Fronts intentionally fired on one another. Why? Perhaps these two marshals were keenly aware that failure would not be tolerated. The commander who lagged behind his rival might well face Stalin's wrath.

So what are the reasons for Stalin's hurry to reach Berlin? After all, he was happy to share the city with his Western allies after the city's surrender.

The traditional explanation is that it was a question of Soviet prestige and mistrust of the West. However, during his research, Beevor, an Author and WW2 researcher, discovered a startling new document: 'It struck me so powerfully that the moment I started to read it I knew I had to look at a different aspect of Stalin's interest in Berlin.'



The Remains of Gestapo Headquarters

The document shows that Stalin was desperate to get his hands on the German nuclear research center, the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in the southwest of Berlin - before the Americans got there.

The Soviets knew through their spies of the American atomic bomb program that Stalin's nuclear program, Operation Borodino, was lagging, and Soviet scientists wanted to find out exactly what the Germans had come up with during the war.



The last picture of Adolph Hitler as he returns to his bunker

As it turned out, the special NKVD troops dispatched to secure the German institute discovered three tons of uranium oxide, a material they were short of at the time. 'So the Soviets achieved their objective,' says Beevor, 'the uranium oxide they found in Berlin was enough to kick start Operation Borodino and allow them to start working on their first nuclear weapon.'

One definition of the battle was a statement that defined Berlin: "Berlin. April 1945. Apocalypse. Hell on Earth. This savage battle in this ancient cultured city is perhaps one of the most brutal battles in history. No quarters were given. An aggressive hatred filled the Russian army, large in number with lots of tanks and guns. Facing it were shattered remains of a once proud army. The Battle of Berlin is as important for its fierce fighting as for the great suffering of the German people. Hell on Earth. That was Berlin. In April-May 1945."

After the battle, more than a hundred thousand German prisoners of war were marched to labor camps in the Soviet Union. Only now did the totality of their defeat sink in on the German people. The country lay in ruins and the population was close to starvation. In addition, confirmation of the Nazis' mass extermination of the European Jews meant that Germany faced a complete moral catastrophe.



The battle for Berlin had brought to an end the bloodiest conflict in European history. 'There's no family in the Soviet Union, Poland, or Germany where they didn't lose at least one close relative,' said Beevor in our final interview. 'In Britain, the suffering was real, but it simply cannot be compared to the scale of suffering in Central Europe **'Nearly a quarter of a million people died during the last three weeks of World War Two,** almost as many as the United States lost during the entire war.

Two and a half million Red Army troops, 6000 tanks, and over 40,000 artillery pieces were deployed for the final onslaught against the German capital.

Already, the civilian population was bearing the brunt of the Red Army's revenge. Though the first wave of Soviet troops was generally considered to be disciplined, it was the second that indulged in orgies of rape and violence, fueled by large stocks of alcohol found in the city.

Based on contemporary hospital reports and on surging abortion rates in the following months, it is estimated that up to **two million German women were raped during the last six months of World War Two, around 100,000 of them in Berlin.** One woman remembered hiding in the loft of her apartment block, ready to jump out of the window if she was detected, whilst her best friend was being gang raped by Soviet soldiers in the apartment below.



The Brandenburg Gate after the battle

The authorities in Moscow traditionally deny German allegations of mass rape at the end of the war. However, during his research, Beevor discovered internal Red Army documents that prove that the Soviet High Command was well aware that some of their soldiers were running out of control. Even more shocking is Beevor's discovery in the Red Army files that Red Army troops also raped Russian women after their release from Nazi slave labor camps in Germany.

The subject of the Red Army's mass rapes in Germany has been so repressed in Russia that even today veterans refuse to acknowledge what happened. The handful prepared to speak openly, however, are unrepentant. "They all lifted their skirts for us and lay on the bed," said the leader of one tank company. He even went on to boast that "two million of our children were born" in Germany.

To fully understand the depth of the rapes, killings, and vicious acts of the Russian soldiers see the BBC article titled "**The Rape of Berlin** @ <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32529679>. *These links tell it like it is, so be prepared!*

Also, read some stories of the happenings to the German women at the very end of this article. The brutality is a very hard read, but true.

GERMAN REICHSTAG



Before The Bombing



After The Bombing



Raising The Soviet Flag

By now, the Soviets had won the race, but the competition between Koniev and Zhukov was still on. With victory theirs to take, Koniev was ordered to halt so Zhukov's men would have the honor of taking the Reichstag and raising the Red Flag over it.

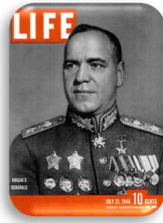


Field Marshall Keitel signs the surrender terms at Russian headquarters, Berlin May 9, 1945

General Wilding, the commander of the German troops in Berlin, finally surrendered the entire city to the Soviet army. There was no radio or newspaper, so vans with loudspeakers drove through the streets ordering us to cease all resistance. Suddenly, the shooting and bombing stopped and the unreal silence meant that one ordeal was over for us and another was about to begin. Our nightmare had become a reality.

The entire three hundred square miles of what was left of Berlin were now completely under the control of the Red Army. The last days of savage house-to-house fighting and street battles had been a human slaughter, with no prisoners being taken on either side. These final days were hell. Our last remaining and exhausted troops, primarily children and old men, stumbled into imprisonment. We were a city in ruins; almost no houses were left standing.

ALLIES ???



*Zhukov on cover of Life - Before the Berlin seige Josef' Stalin
July 31, 1944*



Konev

Zhukov is generally credited with the final capture of the Nazi capital, while Konev was diverted southwestward and linked up with American forces near the city of Torgau on the Elbe River. Both men were praised for their leadership. However, within months Stalin began to perceive Zhukov's popularity as a threat, and he was dismissed from his post as commander of the Soviet Zone of Occupation in Germany.

After Stalin's death, Zhukov returned to the government as Defense Minister under Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Disagreements over policy led to his retirement. He died in 1974 at the age of 77.

After World War II, Konev commanded Soviet forces in East Germany, led the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact, and suppressed the Hungarian uprising of 1956. He retired from active duty in 1962 and died in 1973 at the age of 75.

Both commanders were bold, resourceful, and ruthless during the Great Patriotic War, no doubt spurred on by awareness that failure would likely mean their demise.

WAR CRIMES ???

Since, sad to say, this treatment of women throughout history seems to be a terrible, but accepted, way of expressing the "spoils of war. The word "War Crimes" was never mentioned. Some thoughts were that since the Germans did the same thing in their attack on Russia in "Operation Barbarossa" it all seemed justified and fit the statement of "an eye for an eye.

However, most documentaries do not speak of the viciousness and brutality that is portrayed in this article. This could easily be known as "Operation Payback".

THE WORST STORY OF ALL

AND THE MOST DIFFICULT TO READ

In one notorious instance, Red Army soldiers entered the maternity hospital at Haus Dehlem and raped pregnant women, women who had just given birth, and women in the process of giving birth.

The future Pope Paul VI. lamented that in Berlin even nuns in habit were raped. Some women lived for weeks on rooftops trying to escape violence.

Thousands committed suicide as a result of sexual abuse, thousands of underage girls died as a result of violent injury and thousands of girls left pregnant would be left to virtually starve as the Allies blocked shipments of food from Berlin. Scenes of sexual depravity and horror spread throughout the Eastern regions as rampantly as the diseases the criminals left behind. In Silesia, Red Army soldiers embarked upon another horrendous spree of rape so brutal that in one instance in Neisse, 182 Catholic nuns were raped by Red Army soldiers, and in the diocese of Kattowitz, the soldiers left behind 66 pregnant nuns. In all German areas taken by the communists, civilians who were not exiled were subjected to brutality.

WHY WERE THESE NOT CLASSIFIED AS "WAR CRIMES"

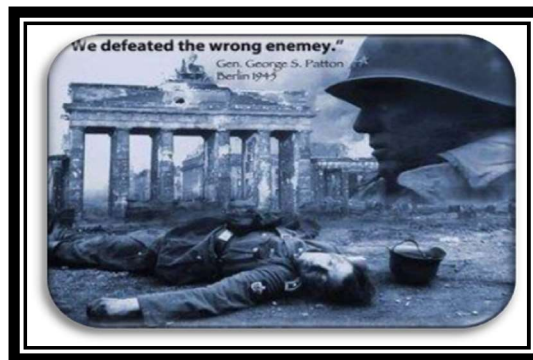
FIRST EXPLANATION

When the Allied Powers of World War II founded the post-war International Military Tribunal to examine war crimes committed during the conflict by Nazi Germany, with officials from the Soviet Union taking an active part in the judicial processes, there was no examination of Soviet Forces' actions and no charges were ever brought against its troops, because they were also an undefeated power which then held Eastern Europe under military occupation, marring the historical authority of the Tribunal's activity as being, in part, victor's justice!

SECOND EXPLANATION

Rape was already outlawed as a war crime long before the Nuremberg Tribunal, and there is evidence that in previous war crimes trials perpetrators were punished for sex crimes. Violent sexual assault, including rape, forced nudity, forced pregnancies, forced abortions, forced prostitution, and forced sterilization - some of which were carried out within the context of forced medical experimentation that mutilated their bodies, were all committed on a massive scale against women in Europe and Asia, by both the Nazis and Japanese Imperial Army during WW II. Though ample evidence was submitted during the Nuremberg Trials, the Nuremberg Tribunal chose not to prosecute sexual violence.

Anne-Marie de Brouwer argues that "sexual assault could have been prosecuted as a war crime" under several provisions of the International Military Tribunals' Charter. She notes that since sexual assault crimes were included within the body of evidence submitted to the Nuremberg Tribunal, they could have been prosecuted. However, the prosecutors did not have the will to prosecute sexual assault crimes. Surely, the lack of any women participants in the organization and prosecution of the Nuremberg Tribunal may have contributed



The much-maligned **GEN GEORGE PATTON** always said that the Russians were our real enemy.....turned out he knew what he was talking about even though he was ignored.....and then his accident?????....

The Cold War began and the Berlin Wall was built, and the Cold War was on. It started in 1947 after the end of WW2 and continued until 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

PLEASE NOTE

Part 2 of this article contains sensitive and perhaps upsetting reading material and one graphic picture.

PART TWO

THE REST OF THE STORY - "RAPE OF BERLIN"

It must be remembered that these actions did not only during 1945, but continued several years after the war ended, but then, mostly in the Russian zone after the city had been divided.

THE RAPE AND KILLING IN BERLIN

The Russians raped wherever they went, so it wasn't just German women who were raped, but also women of Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia even though it was on the same side. There was an official policy against rape, but it was so commonly ignored that "it was only in 1949 that Russian soldiers were presented with any real deterrent."

The pictures showing the brutality of the rape of women by the Red Army are far too graphic to be included. They are vicious and inhumane! At the end of this article, I have shown one from the hundreds available. Many were killed or committed suicide. This is being included in the article only as an example of the brutality involved.

As Allied troops entered and occupied German territory during the later stages of World War II, mass rapes took place both in connection with combat operations and during the subsequent occupation. Most Western scholars agree that the majority of the rapes were committed by Soviet servicemen, while some Russian historians maintain that these crimes were not widespread. The wartime rapes had been surrounded by decades of silence.

According to Antony Beevor, whose books were banned in 2015 from some Russian schools and colleges, NKVD (Soviet secret police) files have revealed that the leadership knew what was happening, including the rape of Soviet women liberated from labor camps, but did nothing to stop it. Some Russian historians disagree, claiming that the Soviet leadership took swift action.

Estimates of the number of German women raped by Soviet soldiers have ranged up to 2 million. According to historian William Hitchcock, in many cases, women were the victims of repeated rapes, some as many as 60 to 70 times. At least 100,000 women are believed to have been raped in Berlin, based on surging abortion rates in the following months and contemporary hospital reports with an estimated 10,000 women dying in the aftermath. Female deaths in connection with the rapes in Germany, overall, are estimated at 240,000. Antony Beevor describes it as the "greatest phenomenon of mass rape in history", and has concluded that at least 1.4 million women were raped in East Prussia, Pomerania, and Silesia alone. According to Natalya Gesse, Soviet soldiers raped German females from eight to eighty years old. Soviet women were not spared either Hannelore Kohl, the wife of former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, had been gang-raped at age 12 by Soviet soldiers in May 1945, according to her biographer. As a consequence, she sustained a serious lifelong back injury after being thrown out of a first-floor window. She had been suffering long and serious illnesses that experts thought of as the consequence of childhood trauma. Hannelore committed suicide in 2001.

The fact that the Germans had a much higher standard of living visible even when in ruins "may well have contributed allegedly to a national inferiority complex among Russians". Combining "Russian feelings of inferiority", the resulting need to restore honor and their desire for revenge may be the reason many women were raped in public as well as in front of husbands before both were killed

When General Tsygankov, head of the political department of the First Ukrainian Front, reported to Moscow the mass rape of Soviet women deported to East Germany for forced labor, he recommended that the Soviet women be prevented from describing their ordeal on their return to Russia.

Although most of the unwanted Russian children were aborted it is estimated that between 150,000 and 200,000 'Russian babies' survived.

The lives of these" unwanted children is a story all its own".

To be fair, the crime of rape is an all-too-familiar instrument of war that has accompanied conquest through the ages. The Red Army soldiers who conquered parts of Germany in 1945 did not invent this wretched form of misconduct—they just took it to an unprecedented level, a vastness unmatched elsewhere in World War II.

Beria and Stalin, back in Moscow, knew perfectly well what was going on from several detailed reports. One stated that "many Germans declare that all German women in East Prussia who stayed behind were raped by Red Army soldiers". Numerous examples of gang rape were given - "girls under 18 and old women included".

Marshal Rokossovsky issued order No. 006 in an attempt to direct "the feelings of hatred at fighting the enemy on the battlefield." It appears to have had little effect. There were also a few arbitrary attempts to exert authority. The commander of one rifle division is said to have "personally shot a lieutenant who was lining up a group of his men before a German woman spread-eagled on the ground". But either the officers were involved themselves, or the lack of discipline made it too dangerous to restore order over drunken soldiers armed with submachine guns.

If anyone attempted to defend a woman against a Soviet attacker it was either a father trying to defend a daughter or a young son trying to protect his mother. "The 13-year old Dieter Sahl," neighbors wrote in a letter shortly after the event, "threw himself with flailing fists at a Russian who was raping his mother in front of him. He did not succeed in anything except getting himself shot."

it was not until the winter of 1946-47 that the Soviet authorities, concerned by the spread of disease, imposed serious penalties on their forces in East Germany for fraternizing with the enemy.



An Innocent victim of the Soviet Army

AMERICANS WERE ALSO GUILTY – SOME WERE PUNISHED

There was a "widespread incidence of rape by American soldiers," and there was an enforced military policy against it, **with some American servicemen executed" for it.** *(the subject for another article)* Criminal charges brought for rape "rose steadily" during the final months of the war, but declined sharply thereafter.

What did continue was arguably almost as bad: the sexual exploitation of starving women who "voluntarily" sold sexual services for food. In *Gruesome Harvest*, Keeling quotes from an article in the *Christian Century* for December 5, 1945: "The American provost marshals said that rape represents no problem for the military police because a bit of food, a bar of chocolate, or a bar of soap seems to make rape unnecessary.

Yes, there are documented cases where our (US) troops behaved badly but not to the degree of the brutality, visionless, and disregard for human life by an entire Army during an invasion and occupancy of a town or country and condoned by their leaders.

Vengeance is a terrible thing especially when taken against the women of the captured Town, Country, etc. who were not the perpetrators of the action that created the urge for vengeance.

War creates monsters but Historians, War Correspondents, and researchers agree that this was the worst of WW2. **Was it preventable???**



DISCLAIMER

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN THOUGH THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM WEBSITES & OTHER SOURCES THAT APPEAR TO BE AUTHENTIC, I CAN NOT ENSURE THAT ALL THE DATA IN THIS ARTICLE IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT.