

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED  
~~NOT RELEASABLE~~  
~~TO FOREIGN NATIONALS~~

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Security Information

SUSPENSE DATE FOR RETURN TO  
CHIEF, REQUIREMENTS BRANCH

72810

# S - SERIES DISPATCH

FROM: CHIEF, REQUIREMENTS BRANCH  
COLLECTION & DISSEMINATION DIVISION

19 MAY 1952  
(Date Routed)

S-SERIES DISPATCHES WILL BE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH G2 MEMORANDUM  
NO. 21, "CONTROL PROCEDURE FOR S-SERIES MATERIAL," DATED 28 AUG 51.

TO :	S-SERIES CONTROL OFFICERS	SIGNATURE	DATE	FOR
1.	CHIEF, COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION DIVISION	<i>Edward S. Brown</i>	<i>22 May</i>	
2.	G2 DOCUMENT LIBRARY Attn: Major Brown			FOR RETENTION

FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING S-SERIES DISPATCHES: EXT: 73048 (G2 S-SERIES CONTROL)

S-2-52 (USFA)

~~SECRET~~  
Security Information

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED  
~~NOT RELEASABLE~~  
~~TO FOREIGN NATIONALS~~

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

Headquarters United States Forces in Austria

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2

A. P. O. No. 3774, U.S. ARMY

168



2 Cys

S-2-52

22 April 1952

SUBJECT: Information on KATYN Forest Incident

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff  
General Staff, U.S. Army  
Washington 25, D.C.

1. References: Item DA 19 of DA TT 5755, 14 April 1952, concerning forwarding of information on the KATYN Forest incident, and Department of Army cable, Ref. No. DA-906414, dated 15 April 1952.

2. Forwarded herewith are three (3) reports received from USFA Field agencies concerning the KATYN Forest massacre.

3. This office interposes no objection to release of information contained in Inclosures 1, 2 and 3 to the Congressional Committee investigating the KATYN incident providing that:

a. Identity of source in Inclosure No. 1 (L-25879, 4 April 1952) is properly safeguarded.

b. Identity of SIMOVIC, Rudolf in Inclosure No. 2 (LR-1,065-X-52, 2 April 1952) is properly safeguarded.

c. Identity of source in Inclosure No. 3 (L-25917, 10 April 1952) is properly safeguarded, as well as the identity of source's friend, CHESROV, Leo.

4. Copy of this report, to include Inclosures, has been forwarded to the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters,

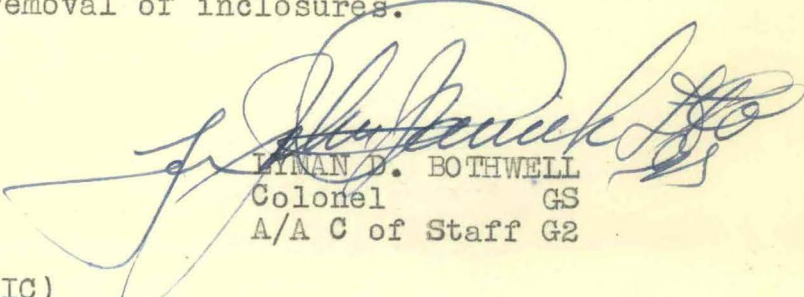
SECURITY INFORMATION

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SECURITY INFORMATION  
~~SECRET~~

European Command, for information only, with instructions that contents are not to be released to Congressional Subcommittee currently in Europe.

5. Classification of this letter may be downgraded to "Confidential" upon removal of inclosures.



LYMAN D. BOTHWELL  
Colonel GS  
A/A C of Staff G2

3 Incls:

- 1) L-25879, 4 Apr 52 (CIC)
- 2) LR-1,065-X-52, 2 Apr 52 (MIS)
- 3) L-25917, 10 Apr 52

SECURITY INFORMATION  
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SECURITY INFORMATION  
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Headquarters United States Forces in Austria  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2  
A. P. O. No. 77A U. S. ARMY

168



S-2-52

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Colonel GS  
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- 1) L-25879, 4 Apr 52 (CIC)
- 2) LR-1,065-X-52, 2 Apr 52 (MIS)
- 3) L-25917, 10 Apr 52

SECURITY INFORMATION  
~~SECRET~~

AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

KATYN FOREST INCIDENT

ACTION: IB CIB IC OPNS  
IN: IB CIB IC OPNS  
RECORDS FILE

2. DATE SUBMITTED

4 April 1952

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

L/25879

CIB 4  
NO 154  
REC'D  
ACTION

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

The following information was obtained after this office received an anonymous letter stating that the writer was in possession of information concerning the alleged massacre of Polish persons in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk, USSR, and that if this office was interested it was possible to contact the writer by meeting him at [redacted]. The undersigned made the initial contact and obtained the following information: Evaluation: Source: "F" (reliability unknown); Information: "3" (possibly true).

Source stated that his motives involved in disclosing information concerning the Katyn Forest incident evolved from the fact that the honor of the German Army was involved and that he desired that the true facts be presented to the American authorities. Source stated that during World War II, he was a member of the Abwehr Kommando III bei Heeresgruppe Mitte (Military Intelligence Command III, Central Group of Armies), and that his military rank was that of Feldwebel (Sergeant). On 12 September 1941, Source's unit was ordered to hold strategic points and prevent the destruction of all documents and records during the drive on Smolensk, USSR. The Central H Q of the NKVD was captured and Source was part of the detail that secured the building. After the capture of Smolensk, Command HQ was set up in the forest of "Krasni Bor". Adjoining "Krasni Bor" and connected to it by numerous paths was "Katyn Forest". The bahnhof of Katyn was located where the railroad and the road to Smolensk cross. According to the local populace, the forest of Katyn was used by the NKVD as a train-ground for the NKVD and was "off limits" to the local population. In the forest the NKVD had established rifle and pistol ranges and it was not uncommon to hear firing during all hours of the day or night. Allegedly many trains consisting of box cars or cattle cars loaded with prisoners would arrive at the bahnhof at Katyn. These prisoners would be marched into Katyn forest and many of the prisoners would be chained. According to the local populace, many prisoners entered into the forest and none ever returned. It was also significant that after the arrival of prisoners, gunfire could be heard emanating from the forest. The majority of the prisoners entering the forest were in uniform. While checking documents in the NKVD HQ in Smolensk, a typewritten list was discovered. The list allegedly contained approximately twelve thousand (12,000) names, most of which seemed to be Polish and there were dates (allegedly birthdates) and professions alongside many of the names. The list and an attached note of the possible extermination was forwarded to Berlin, together with all the other documents taken from Smolensk, USSR. According to Source, nothing further was heard concerning the allegation until 1943, when a directive was forwarded that an investigation be conducted concerning the alleged extermination of Poles in the Katyn forest. According to Source, the investigation was ordered to counteract the Russian propaganda concerning the extermination of Russian civilians by the German Army in Rostov, USSR. The local populace was hired to locate and exhume the graves of the

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

SAMUEL P. YARMOLINSKY, 430th CIC Det.,  
Sub-Det. "BF" (Linz)

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

*Samuel P. Yarmolinsky*

WD-AGO FORM 1 JUN 47 341

[REDACTED]

AGENT REPORT

KATYN FOREST INCIDENT

4 April 1952  
L/25879

persons interred in the Katyn forest. According to Source, many graves were located, but only three (3) were opened and Source claims to have been present when the three (3) graves were exhumed. The graves were approximately 10-12 feet deep; 9 feet wide and 30 feet long. The bodies found in the graves were neatly stacked and there was evidence that some of the bodies still had chains. According to Source, it was then believed by the German High Command, that the typewritten list found in the NKVD Central HQ in Smolensk, USSR, was a partial list of persons interred in Katyn forest. Source further stated that the German High Command had formed an international Commission to examine the exhumed bodies. Allegedly this international commission consisted of approximately ten (10) persons and a report by this commission had been forwarded to Berlin during the end of March 1943. Source believes that the report submitted by this international commission is still available, if only it could be found.

AGENT'S NOTES:

Source refused to divulge his name and only after persuasion would admit that his name was [REDACTED]. He stated that he was an employee of the Austrian government and that he resided in [REDACTED] and would not like the Russian authorities to become aware of the fact that he had reported the "Katyn Forest" incident to the American authorities, especially when it seems obvious that the Russians were responsible for the extermination of Poles at Katyn.

[REDACTED]

FILE CHECK:

Check of the files of this Sub-Detachment revealed no record of Source.

CASE CLOSED.

SAMUEL P. YARMOLINSKY, 430th CIC Det.,  
Sub-Det. "E" (Linz)

Samuel P. Yarmolinsky

Incl 1



AGENT REPORT

KATYN FOREST INCIDENT

4 April 1952  
L/25879

APPROVED:

RAY A. NICHOLS  
MAJOR Arty  
CO Sub-Det. "B" (Linz)

Distribution  
8 - Hq. 430th CIC Det.  
1 - Sub-Det. "A" (Salzburg)  
1 - Sub-Det. "C" (Vienna)  
1 - File

SAMUEL P. YARMOLINSKY, 430th CIC Det.,  
Sub-Det. "E" (Linz)

*Samuel P. Yarmolinsky*  
DU





[REDACTED]

COMPANY "B"  
533rd MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE BATTALION  
APO 174 US ARMY

Report No: LR-1,065-X-52  
Page 1 of 2 pages  
2 April 1952

SUBJECT: KATYN Massacre  
[REDACTED]

TO : Commanding Officer  
Co B, 533 MIS Bn  
APO 174, US ARMY

1. In the course of the interrogations of Source LR-1,065-52 it was revealed that one of his friends, [REDACTED] had been a witness to the disinterment in the KATYN forest.

2. [REDACTED] had served as a captain in the Slovak Army during WW II, and was [REDACTED] stationed in a village near KATYN, at the time when the mass graves of massacred Polish officers were opened. [REDACTED] told Source that he had repeatedly visited the KATYN forest (date unknown), and personally had witnessed the disinterment. He claimed to have seen the opened graves, the corpses with their documents, letters, family photographs, etc. still on them, and that at the time he had taken several hundred snapshots there with his LEICA camera. [REDACTED] also told Source that it was his considered opinion that the massacre had been perpetrated by the Russians. In addition he had also talked to many inhabitants of KATYN and other villages of the district, mentioning to Source the names of some of them, which Source, however, was unable to recall. Those villagers confirmed [REDACTED] that the mass executions were carried out during the Russian occupation of that area. This conviction was allegedly [REDACTED] a well known Slovak pathologist, lecturer at the University of BRATISLAVA, and famous Slovak poet [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was then a member of an international commission invited by the Germans to investigate the mass graves. During [REDACTED] repeated conversations with [REDACTED] in the KATYN forest, the latter left no doubt in [REDACTED] mind that he considered the Russians responsible for the massacre.

3. [REDACTED] resided in BRATISLAVA (4809N-1707E) (exact address unknown).  
Age: 42; height: 180 cm; build: athletic; face: handsome, round; hair: blond; eyes: dark brown; married, no children.

[REDACTED]

INCL: #2

[redacted] an engineer by profession, was as an office employee [redacted] in BRATISLAVA, when Source met him last (19 Feb 52).

He had served in the CSR Army as a Lt with an Engineer Company prior to WW II and had been Source's CO in 38/39, which was the beginning of their friendship. During the war he was a Captain in the Slovak Army and CO of an Engineer Company. When the German East Front broke down he joined the Slovak Nationalist DOMOBRANA (Home Guards).

He was an anti-Communist and after the Communist coup in Feb 48 he was arrested (date unknown) to stand trial before a People's Court for various crimes, one of them being that he had continued to fight (with the DOMOBRANA) against the "free people," etc. Source stated that [redacted] would have been given death sentences on each of 4 counts, and prison terms for others.

Bribes collected among a wide circle of friends, and the influence [redacted] a mutual friend of his and Source's prevented his case from being tried, since [redacted] possessed incriminating information on the judges. [redacted] held a leading position with the [redacted] and then found employment for [redacted] in that office.

4. Source met [redacted] accidentally on 19 Feb 52. During the course of their conversation, the KATYN massacre was also mentioned since it had received such wide publicity recently. [redacted] stated that in the event the Russians should consent to a new investigation of the massacre, as suggested by US Senators, they might interrogate former personnel of his company. Some of the officers, e.g. [redacted], a friend of Source's an anti-Communist [redacted] Engineer Depot in BRATISLAVA, at the intersection of Guttenbergova ulica [redacted] or some of the former EM might inadvertently mention, or be tricked into mentioning, that he had taken photographs of the disinterment. [redacted] expected that the Soviets might then force him to testify in their favor, against his own conviction. He appeared afraid for his personal safety, and stated that he was preparing to escape from the CSR.

5. Source believed that [redacted] is not only willing, but anxious to put his own observations and photographic evidence at the disposal of the US, and that he would cooperate fully if contacted and guided to the US area of control.

APPROVED:

ERNEST LOWE (2009)  
Chief, FS I  
Co B, 533 MIS Bn

AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

Katyn Massacre Source

2. DATE SUBMITTED

10 April 1952

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

W/25917

ACTION:	IB	CIB	IC	OPNS
INFO:	IB	CIB	IC	OPNS
RECORDS FILE				

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION:

To determine details of SUBJECT's knowledge of the Katyn massacre, the existence of photographic evidence relating to the Katyn massacre and leads to other sources of information on the Katyn massacre.

REFERENCES:

Disposition Form from Headquarters Operations, 430th CIC Detachment, dated 29 February 1952, Hq Opns. Case No. 4084, requesting interview of SUBJECT.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION:

1. SUBJECT was initially contacted by this Agent 7 March 1952, at his place of work, [redacted] and invited to an interview of this Agent's room in the Hotel Erzherzog Johann in Graz at 1800 hours.

During the interview SUBJECT stated in substance that during the early days of World War II he had been assigned to the headquarters of the German Army Railroad system in Russia in the capacity of a supply NCO. This headquarters was located near the town of Gnezdova (5447N-3150E), (British Grid) Smolensk Oblast, which was situated between Smolensk and Briansk, Byelorussia and approximately one-half kilometer from the Katyn forest. SUBJECT claimed that he had discovered the mass grave of the Katyn massacre victims while helping in the construction of a temporary gasoline shed. While digging a post hole SUBJECT's shovel became entangled in what appeared to be a uniform coat. When SUBJECT removed the loose dirt from around the coat he discovered the half-decomposed body of a Polish officer. When the body was removed from the trench a second body was discovered under the first and a third under the second. SUBJECT claims that he immediately reported the discovery to his Commanding Officer and that German Army Headquarters ordered a general exhumation on the same day.

2. SUBJECT stated that his duties as a supply NCO necessitated constant movement within the vicinity of Katyn and brought him into contact with a large segment of the Russian population toward whom he was well disposed. SUBJECT claims that, although fraternization was strictly prohibited by German military authorities, he had cultivated a friendship with a young Russian resident of Gnezdova, [redacted] who allegedly confided that the massacre had been perpetrated by the Russian troops.

3. SUBJECT claims to have taken a number of photographs of the Katyn forest while the exhumations were in progress, although this had been strictly prohibited by Army Headquarters. SUBJECT believed that the photographs were

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

GEORGE J. BREEN, 430th CID Det.,  
Sub-Detachment #88 (Lang)

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

*George J. Breen* Incl 3

[REDACTED]

AGENT REPORT

[REDACTED]

10 April 1952  
L/25917

Katyn Massacre

still extant among his belongings in Bad Reichenhall, Germany. SUBJECT expressed willingness to appear in person before a United States Commission to give oral testimony concerning his knowledge of the Katyn massacre and to furnish USFA Headquarters with names and addresses of other Austrian sources who may be prevailed upon to give testimony. SUBJECT confided that although he is known to many acquaintances in Graz under the name of [REDACTED] - the name used in corresponding with USFA Headquarters - his actual name is [REDACTED] and that he prefers that his actual identity be treated with discretion.

4. SUBJECT was requested to initiate a thorough search of his belongings, both in Graz and Bad Reichenhall, Germany, in an attempt to locate the missing photographs and to prepare within limitations a detailed statement of his knowledge of the Katyn massacre.

AGENT'S NOTES:

On a subsequent visit to this Agent at the Steyr Field Office, Steyr, Upper Austria, SUBJECT claimed to have conducted a search with negative results. On the occasion of SUBJECT's visit to the Steyr Field Office, SUBJECT prepared and signed a sworn statement, original of which is appended hereto as Exhibit "A" and translations thereof as Exhibit "B". Photographs furnished by SUBJECT including pictures taken by him in the vicinity of Katyn and one of [REDACTED], alleged White Russian source, are appended hereto as Exhibit "C". While SUBJECT made the impression that he was within limitations telling the background story of Katyn exactly as he knew it from "hearsay" evidence, he is not in a position to furnish positive and categorical testimony as to the identity of the actual perpetrators. While SUBJECT's testimony is to a certain degree subjective, since SUBJECT was admittedly temporarily captivated by the tenets of National Socialism and bitter because he thought the Katyn massacre had been unjustly attributed to the German Army, his statement seems to conform sufficiently to the general pattern of information being established to contribute to the overall evaluation of other sources under exploitation. In his statement, SUBJECT chronicles in an informal fashion the facts as he knows them.

Additional clarifying details are being prepared by SUBJECT and will be incorporated into SUBJECT's testimony upon receipt.

Physical location of SUBJECT in the British Zone of Austria, and the difficulty of establishing further contact except through postal channels, have militated against optimum debriefing of SUBJECT within time limits desired.

GEORGE J. BREEN, 430th CIC Det.,  
Sub-Detachment "B" (Linz)

-2-

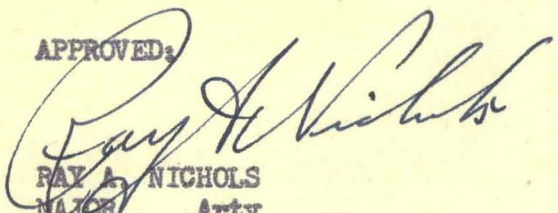
*George J. Breen*

10 April 1952  
L/25917

Katyn Massacre

The original statement in German (Exhibit A) is attached to four copies only of this report, and photographs (Exhibit C) are attached to the original only of this report.

APPROVED:

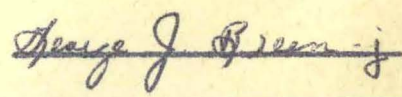


RAY A. NICHOLS  
MAJOR Arty  
CO Sub-Det. "B" (Linz)

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GEORGE J. BREEN, 430th CIC Det.,  
Sub-Detachment "B" (Linz)



## S T A T E M E N T

To the best of my knowledge and belief the following account of the mass murder of twelve thousand (12,000) Polish Officers at Katyn, and the discovery of their graves is the truth. This statement is made voluntarily, without threat or duress or promise of reward.

In the year 1940 I was drafted into the mountain troops. After receiving my basic training I was sent first to Crete, then to France and Netherlands and subsequently to Russia, where I received a bullet wound in the head during my first engagement. That incapacitated me for quite some time. After I recovered, in a hospital in Munich, I was assigned to the F E Kdo (Headquarters of the Army Railroad system). This Headquarters was situated between Smolensk and Briansk, near the town of Gnezdova. The camouflaged railroad cars in which the Headquarters was located lie on a siding in a heavily wooded area. In soldiers' slang they were known as "Schnackendorfer" (gnat villages) or "Rabenhorst" (crows' nests) because of the millions of gnats and the thousands of crows and ravens that screeched day and night and played considerable havoc with our nerves. Incidentally, I must mention that the director of the Graz Police, Mr. [REDACTED] had denounced me to my parent unit because of my political leanings and that the case followed me to Russia. In spite of my military qualifications I had no hopes for promotion. The highest rank I was able to attain in combat was that of a corporal (Obergefreiter). However, that story does not belong to this statement.

While serving with the F E Kdo, I was in charge of supply, and it was my responsibility to provide food for my unit. I thus had a chance to move around the vicinity of the Headquarters looking for it. Because of this fact, I became better acquainted with the area than most of the native Russian inhabitants who seldom left their homes and immediate surroundings. I knew the roads to Minsk, Orscha, Vitebsk, Briansk and Krassnibor like I knew the inside of my own pocket since I had to ride long distances on a motorcycle or in our automobile. Later I was attached to the Headquarters Staff and my function was to supervise the loading of the troops being sent to the front via rail - a very interesting assignment. The Commanding Officer of the unit was [REDACTED] who is now a lawyer in [REDACTED], near Graz. He would be able to verify my statement. The first actual Commanding Officer of this small and secret unit was a [REDACTED] (the same name, but not the same person as [REDACTED]) who was subsequently promoted to Major, but then transferred because of some irregularities he had engaged in. The next Commanding Officer was [REDACTED] a Swabian from the vicinity of Nurnberg. After him, a high ranking staff officer from Vienna, [REDACTED] was assigned to command. I mention this only to show the importance of the unit. Next to our Headquarters was a small motor pool which was charged with the maintenance of the staff vehicles. I maintained good contacts with the motor pool since I was very active and the vehicles afforded me an opportunity to move around the area when I had time off.

It was a mild day toward the end of 1942 as I was helping a number of comrades in the motor pool to construct a gasoline shed. I had been on duty during the previous night and so I was able to do what I wanted during my free time. When I dug into the ground for the second time something caught on my

spade and as I pulled out the spade - the earth or sand was very loose - I saw a uniform coat, or rather part of a coat. It took quite a feat of strength to pull the whole coat from the soil and then I noted to my horror that I had exhumed a corpse. I hesitated to examine the body because I was trembling so. During combat I had seen death often - friend and foe alike - but never before had I experienced such a shock. This time it was different because it was disconcerting and not a pleasant surprise to have exhumed a half-decomposed corpse. My two comrades assisted in dragging the body from the grave as fresh sand slithered back into the opening. We saw in amazement that a second body lay under the first. At first we had not looked at the first body and now we began to examine it carefully.

The corpse was fully clothed, wore a coat over a uniform of excellent quality and even the shield cap with its typical Polish corners had remained on its head. The patent leather boots - I was really envious of them - were still in good condition, as were the other parts of the uniform. They were wrinkled but it would have been possible to use them immediately as everything was well preserved and dry. The dead man wore a pistol belt with a loaded pistol still in it. It was remarkable that in the pockets of the uniform were many of the small items a man usually carries, such as a wallet with his documents, a coin purse, a fountain pen ready for use. On the man's fingers I noticed three beautiful rings. The man was short in stature - I estimate 1.60 meter - and his limbs were slender, but I believe it is easy to err in estimating the size of a mummified body lying there like a still doll. The face of the corpse was dark, almost black grey. The hands also. A leather glove was still on one of the hands. Naturally, we had no camera with us as we had been engaged in manual work - a fact I regret since I will never be able to forget this experience as long as I live. We left the mummified body lying on the ground, and I ran to report the discovery to my Commanding Officer. Several officers accompanied me to view the body since our Headquarters was located less than a kilometer from the scene of the discovery. I was given another assignment and was thus unable to witness the exhumations which were initiated the same day.

At 0600 hours the next morning I returned to the area and noted that a number of Ukrainian PWs, who had been working for our unit, together with some of the male White Russian natives were engaged in exhuming the bodies and probing for other graves in a circuit of first fifty meters and later one hundred meters from the first graves. It was thus determined that the entire area for some one hundred meters in radius was a mass grave with bodies lying less than one-half meter from the surface. On the following day I noticed four or five open graves with bodies lying in them and when I returned after three days they had already excavated a main trench approximately twenty meters long and four meters wide in which I saw so many corpses that chills ran down my spine. I was naturally very interested and noted every detail, and once when I was alone I photographed the main trench although this had been expressly prohibited. I later had a very clear copy made, but somehow or other I misplaced it or lost it. In spite of a detailed search I have not been able to find it, although my relatives all remember it. I remember the details of the picture so well that I am able to reconstruct it at any time or to make a sketch. I will try to describe that picture.

In the main trench that had been excavated the earth covering the upper stratum of bodies had been cleared. The bodies were stacked in a neat and orderly fashion - head upon head and feet upon feet, - but the way the legs of the victims were lying one could see that they had been dragged to the grave in a violent manner. Each body had a bullet hole in the back of the neck, just as on the corpse of the first victim I had discovered. The trench was very long and the earth had been removed at an angle in such a way that one could see that the bodies lay not only side by side but layer upon layer, eighteen to twenty layers deep. I heard later that the number of women in evening clothes buried there almost equalled that of the men, but I myself saw only six or eight women, all dressed in evening clothes and wearing their jewelry. I also saw a priest, easily recognizable in his black cassock and white collar. Further excavations revealed that the bodies had been buried in a slight depression between two mounds and that a layer of sand, forty to sixty centimeters deep, had been strewn over the mass grave, and dwarf trees had then been planted on the graves as you can see on the attached picture (see Exhibit "C"). Approximately 4,000 bodies had been exhumed while I was stationed in that area, although officers estimated that approximately 12,000 bodies were buried in the area, and based this figure on the test borings that had been made. Later this area was subjected to a terrific bombardment by the Russians and after considerable losses our unit was forced to withdraw. I am not in a position to say whether or not more than 4,000 bodies were actually exhumed.

All of us were highly impressed by the discovery of this mass murder and since I had made the initial report we awaited with anticipation for our radio to make the broadcast in which the position of our unit would be mentioned and we would be given the opportunity to boast a little ourselves. We waited in vain for five days and then we heard a discouraging report since it was the Russian radio that announced that the Germans had murdered thousands of Polish Officers in the Katyn forest, etc. By the end of the sixth day the Germans finally released the report and this delay was, I believe, an egregious error on the part of the Germans since people are more apt to believe the evil they hear of their own country than the good. There were many people at home who believed what the Russians said and that was the reason why I obtained special leave to describe my experiences and impressions of Katyn to high-ranking Staff Officers and party functionaries in Dresden, Berlin, Munich and Vienna. It happened in this way:

A lieutenant of our unit visited Munich on leave. In one of the local taverns he described the mass grave which he himself had seen and charged the Russians with full responsibility for the massacre. The people in the inn did not believe him and when the lieutenant attempted to enlarge upon the story, a fracas ensued and the lieutenant was injured. After the lieutenant's return to duty, the incident was brought to the attention of the Commanding Officer who ordered me to give lectures on the subject. Those lectures were very interesting to me, especially in Vienna where the lecture was received with mixed feelings although I spoke only before officers and party functionaries who were invariably accompanied by their ladies.

I usually had to report to the City Commander who gave me orders to report back at a specified time to give my lecture in a large hall which was packed with



spectators. Standing on the stage in my shabby corporal's uniform with a few medals on my breast, I had a black board behind me on which I had to make sketches explaining my lecture. I was surprised how the audience responded to the lecture. The men showed their anger with catcalls and the women turned as pale as sheets. I described exactly what I had seen and how I had felt. I did not adorn the story but neither did I fail to describe what I had smelled there, sometimes succeeding in nauseating my audience. I took fiendish pleasure in that, because I was convinced that it did no harm if the people at home got a chance to breathe another atmosphere, to breathe the air of the front lines laden with a murderous stench. They saw only parties and festivities, elegance and women but they did not realize that thousands had to die in internment camps, that thousands were being killed in action and that people of their own race were mowing down hundreds of other people with murderous machine gun fire because they did not belong to the pure German race. I, therefore, had a certain sense of satisfaction in forcing an unpalatable truth down their throats, even if it was on this solitary occasion. It was remarkable that I was never interrupted during the course of a lecture which usually lasted for approximately one hour. After I had finished, they seem to have regreted that it had not lasted longer since it had been interesting to them. To keep my lecture from being too crass, I attempted to interject a little humor, e.g., an incident that happened to me at Katyn and to which the audience responded with interest and understanding.

On approximately the seventh day of the exhumations I drove to the site of the graves on my motorcycle in order to satisfy my curiosity, parked my motorcycle against a tree and approached the graves. Silence reigned. Not a soul was to be seen. Not even a chirp from the birds as is their wont in the woods at home. In this entire section I had never seen nor heard a bird, only the crows I mentioned before. I went to the main grave and contemplated the bodies piled row upon row. I noticed the other excavations on all sides and knew that corpses were to be seen in all of them, but momentarily the main grave fascinated me because there I could recognize the smallest detail. As I was standing there a gust of wind arose and with it a penetrating stench from the corpses which had been lying in the open air for as long as seven days. It nauseated me and I lighted a cigarette since the stench was unbearable. As I began puffing my cigarette my body became paralyzed with fright and my heart ceased to beat for the moment as the graves nearby came to life. Forms dressed in wrinkled Polish uniform coats, cornered uniform caps on their heads, crept out of the graves and reeled toward me. I can truthfully say that in this moment my life flashed before me and I commended my soul to the Creator because I could think of nothing but that the Polish Officers had come to drag me into their graves because I had disturbed their rest. But then I espied the embarrassed grins of some of the Russian inhabitants of the area whom I recognized as having been working on the exhumations. They had smelled the aroma of my cigarette and they had remained in the graves until they could stand it no longer. They had crept out of the graves to beg cigarettes from me. Relieved, I emptied my cigarette case and distributed all my cigarettes.

The young Russians had heard the sound of the motor and, because they had often been worked over by the German soldiers because of their laziness, they had hidden among the corpses and remained motionless in the belief that I would leave in a few minutes. But when they recognized me and smelled the aroma of the

cigarette they could not contain themselves any longer and crawled out to beg a cigarette from me. I, myself, had many acquaintances among the inhabitants and, although fraternization was strictly prohibited, the lives of these people were of great interest to me and I had been in their homes on many occasions as a guest. I had never spoken of Hitler and they had never mentioned Stalin in my presence so it was seldom that our conversations were anything but of a private nature.

Now these young Russians were dressed in the clothes of the dead Poles and when I asked how they had managed that, they demonstrated how easily it was done. They did not have to bother undressing the corpses. They simply had to tug at one corner of the coat, and as the corpse rolled out the coat remained in the hands of the Russian. Since it was very cold I didn't see any harm in what they had done and it was with a sense of deep relief that I left this sinister spot. My heart beat faster for a number of days due to the shock I had suffered and I was unable to eat because the stench of the corpses seemed to fill my nostrils.

Among my Russian acquaintances was a young man named [redacted]. His mother worked for our unit as a charwoman, and both of them lived on the outskirts of Gnezdova in a small thatch cottage which did not look prepossessing from the outside but it made a favorable impression. Although it was strictly prohibited I became friendly with these people and I was secretly invited to their home. (A picture of this young Russian, [redacted] is appended hereto as Exhibit "C".) The father of this young friend had been a school teacher in [redacted] and at that time he and his older sons were active in combat, he as a Commissar, on the side of the Russians. The young man showed me papers which indicated that before the war he had attended a school of dramatics in Moscow. He made the impression of being extremely intelligent, and spoke and wrote German with comparative fluency as may be seen on the reverse side of the picture. He had volumes written by French, German and English authors neatly arranged on a beautiful bookcase which he had made himself. I did not have the impression that the books had been plundered from someone else because he was able to read from these books with fluency. From this Russian I discovered the history of the mass murder of Katyn.

It was mid-1941 (I was not able to ascertain the exact date). The town of Katyn is located on the Smolensk-Vitebsk road where the Dnieper River forms a major bend. On the shores of the river is a large park with beautiful buildings belonging to the Russian General TIMOSHENKO. One day there arrived from the direction of Smolensk several hundred, rather approximately one thousand Polish Officers, who were accompanied by resonant bands and Russian officers in dress uniform, marching joyously through the streets which led to the park of Katyn. From there the inhabitants heard cries, shouts, howls, snatches of song and shots -- shots of fun thought the local population. Other members of the population claim that for three or four days one special train after another arrived from the direction of Warsaw-Minsk and that every four to five hours Polish Officers and their ladies passed through the town of Gezdova. After four days the noise of the festivities ceased and the Polish Officers had been murdered and my friend [redacted] told me that it was beyond doubt, although the reason for it is shrouded in mystery. That was the story of my friend regarding Katyn.

I came to the conclusion that the inhabitants of Gnezdova had revealed to our Officers minor details concerning the massacre since our unit did not seem too surprised when the mass grave was discovered, but somehow seemed to anticipate its discovery. My opinion was confirmed when I noted the boring survey of the entire area which was immediately initiated.

Later, in an attempt to analyze the situation, I came to the conclusion that these thousands of Poles could not have been murdered simultaneously since several thousand executioners would have been required to overcome the resistance of the intended victims. I believe that it happened this way:

According to what I had heard from the inhabitants, these Polish Officers had been invited by Russia to visit the country as it was allegedly planned that Russia would assign large tracts of land in the Ukraine to the Poles, perhaps also areas in the vicinity of Katyn. Who knows? Almost all the Polish intellectuals were invited to attend the inspection tour and all of them accepted the invitation.

Weeks after the discovery of the scene of the murders, Commissions arrived from various countries to make an on-the-spot investigation. We soldiers were now denied access to the area because it was sealed off, but comrades who were on guard duty informed us that the Commissions which I myself had seen, viz The Swiss Red Cross, The Dutch, English, American and Polish Commissions, had discovered important evidence. The Polish discovered the original identity documents on nearly every corpse and it was ascertained that almost every victim was either a member of the nobility or of the Officers Corps whose name was well known to the Investigating Commission. There was a number of Polish enlisted men among the corpses; so few, however, that it may be assumed that they were orderlies of high-ranking officers. Each of the victims had been shot through the neck. No other injuries were noticed except that a few skulls had apparently been bashed in with rifle butts. Since the Poles had been escorted to the scene of the murder in groups, I believe that they were also murdered in groups in such a manner that the following group had no premonition of what had happened to the previous group. That would seem to be the only explanation why the corpses had all their personal belongings, jewelry, money and weapons on their persons and lay fully clothed in their graves. If a party had been going on for days, they certainly would have discarded their weapons and overcoats. Since the time interval between the arrival of one group and the arrival of the next was limited and all traces of the previous group had to be destroyed and the corpses buried it was logical to make this one exception of not despoiling the corpses before burial since this would have been too time-consuming. I believe it is evident that even the minutest details of this murder were planned in advance. The din of festivities which was heard by the inhabitants, as well as the intended victims, was very likely employed by the Russians to lull the Poles into a false sense of security. Many of our soldiers in forward areas on the Russian front have experienced that the Russians attempt to camouflage a liquidation by making enough noise to draw attention away from the executioners' shots. Only in this way would it have been possible to murder 12,000 Poles in such a short time.

This statement indicates that the Russians and the Russians alone bear the guilt of having murdered the Polish Intelligentsia, and this should be obvious to

all who have seen what I have seen, especially when it is taken into consideration that the Germans moved into this area long afterwards. We estimated that the bodies had been buried three-fourths of a year when we found them, perhaps even longer than that, and it was only because of the sandy soil in the area that the bodies were still so well preserved. It was even easy to recognize the features. Most of the faces registered expressions of fright or terror.

I was all the more disillusioned after release from the PW cage when I read the placards in Munich and Bad Reichenhall printed with banner type: "Another crime of the Germans discovered. 12,000 concentration camp inmates dressed in Polish uniforms and buried in mass graves in Katyn after being shot". I decided to remain silent about my experiences because, as a former soldier, I didn't want to have anything to do with that sort of politics. Later I might have had an opportunity to sell my documents for a high price, however, I had never considered it seriously and today is the first time that I have committed a statement to paper. Only seldom have I mentioned my experiences since it was, and is, too dangerous for me to know much about this subject. I am convinced that the East considers the existence of such proof detrimental. I have been married for twenty-three years, have three children, and do not want to endanger my family in any way. Today, however, I understand that America is interested in ascertaining the truth about Katyn and I willingly place my knowledge of the subject at your disposal in an attempt to establish the truth. Austria is hardly in a position to be interested in bringing this story to light; perhaps I may even be prosecuted by the East, and that is what I want to avoid.

After I was wounded in Russia I was sent back to [redacted] where I was charged with the supervision of a section of a large PW cage [redacted]

[redacted] gasoline producing plant in Germany

[redacted] Many lost their lives during the relentless English and American bombardments and thousands of new prisoners took their places. There were always enough soldiers and prisoners. Because I was on good terms with the prisoners in my section of the camp, I was transferred to the Office of the Paymaster. In the vicinity of our camp there were also Russian and Italian PW cages. The prisoners did not fare too well in these camps. Among the South Africans was a [redacted] with whom I was on intimate terms. Attached photographs (See Exhibit "C") show both of us on a walk. [redacted] who owned a plantation and a silver mine near Johannesburg, gave me the pictures and his address. Unfortunately, I lost the address when I was a PW and, in spite of repeated inquiries and letters to Johannesburg, I have been unable to reestablish contact with him. He himself wanted to remain in contact with me after the war because I had helped him, even during the course of the war, to raise the British flag over the PW cage. I saw him last as he was leaving for South Africa and I have no reason to believe that he is not alive today. I informed [redacted] of the details of the mass graves at Katyn and, at his request, gave him a number of photographs. I did not realize at the time that the photographs were of extreme importance and that confirmation of my story might depend upon them.

This is my statement concerning Katyn. I am also in the position to reconstruct many details with sketches.

[redacted]

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 20th day of March 1952 at Steyr, Upper Austria.

/s/ George J. Breen  
/t/ GEORGE J. BREEN  
Special Agent, CIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit IV)

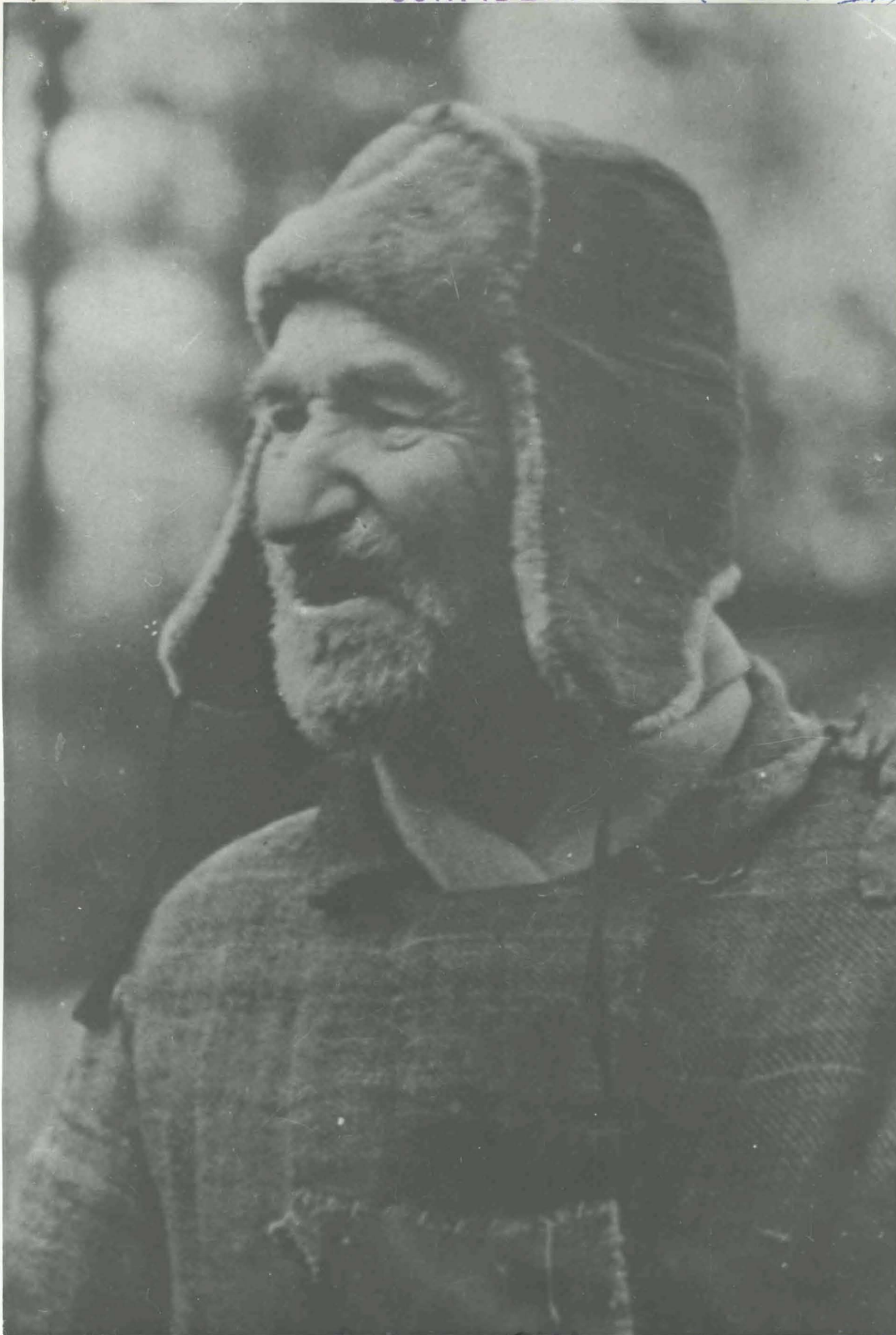


V

①

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit IV)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit VI)

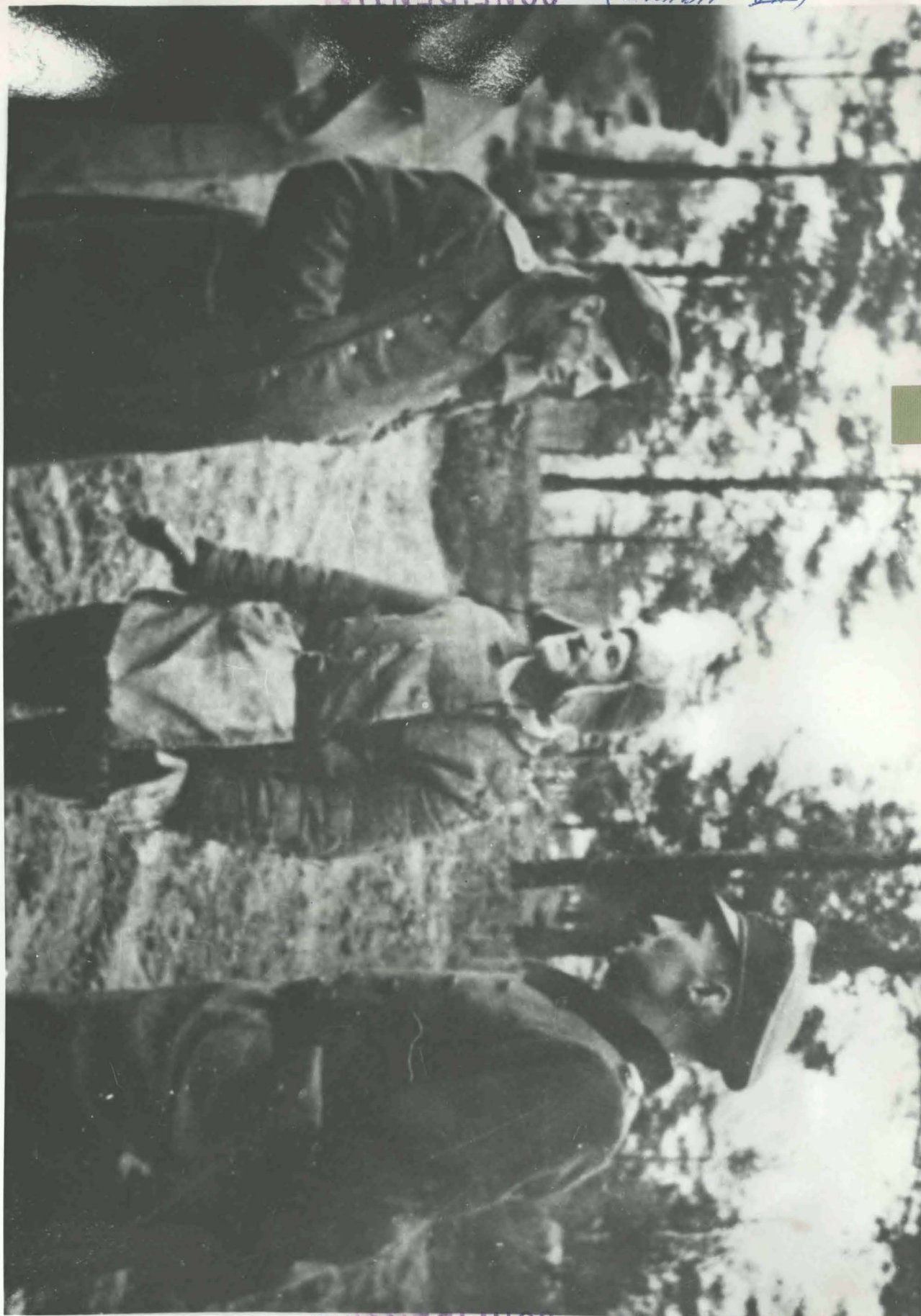


VI

3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit VI)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit VII)

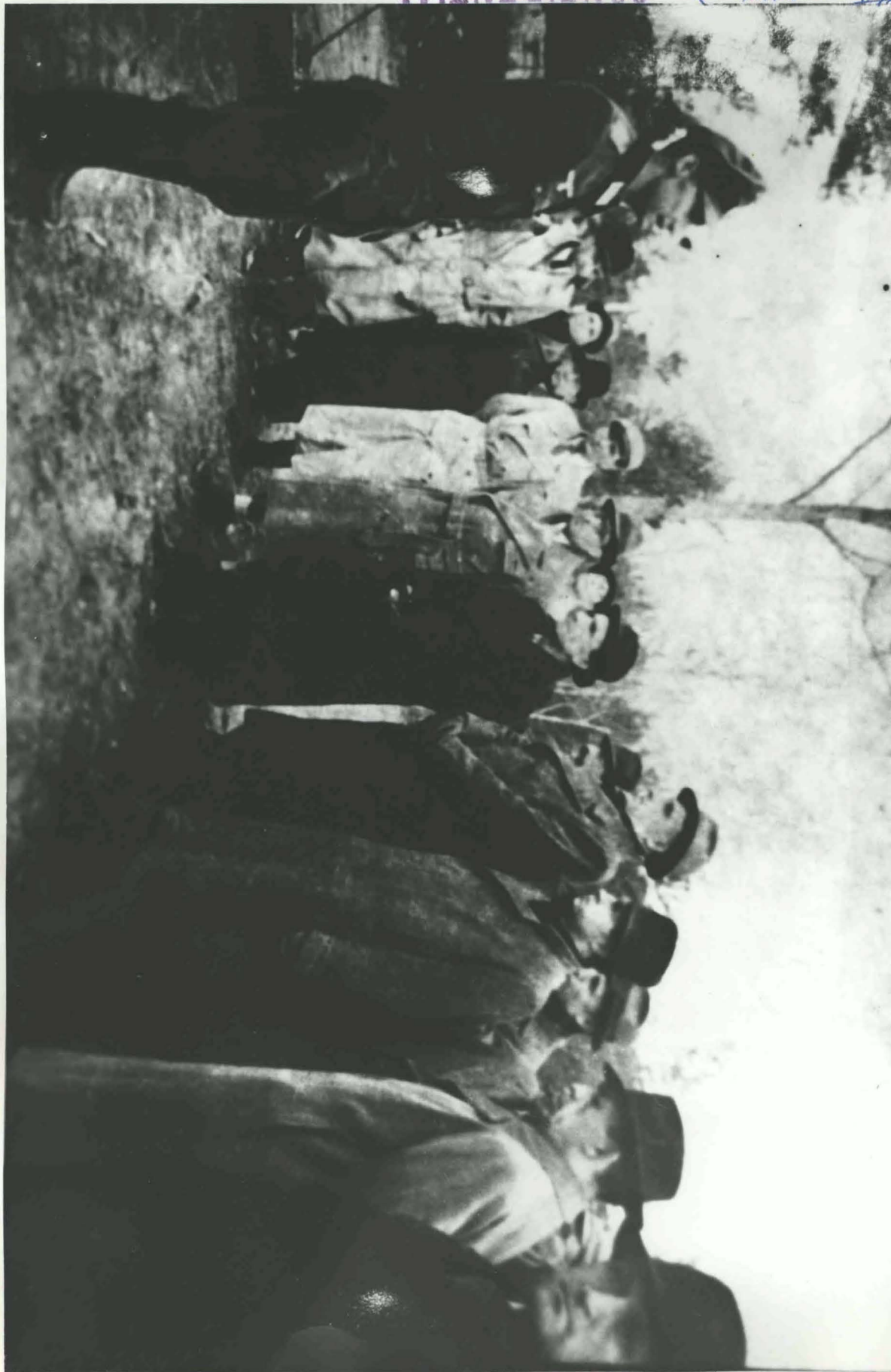


VII

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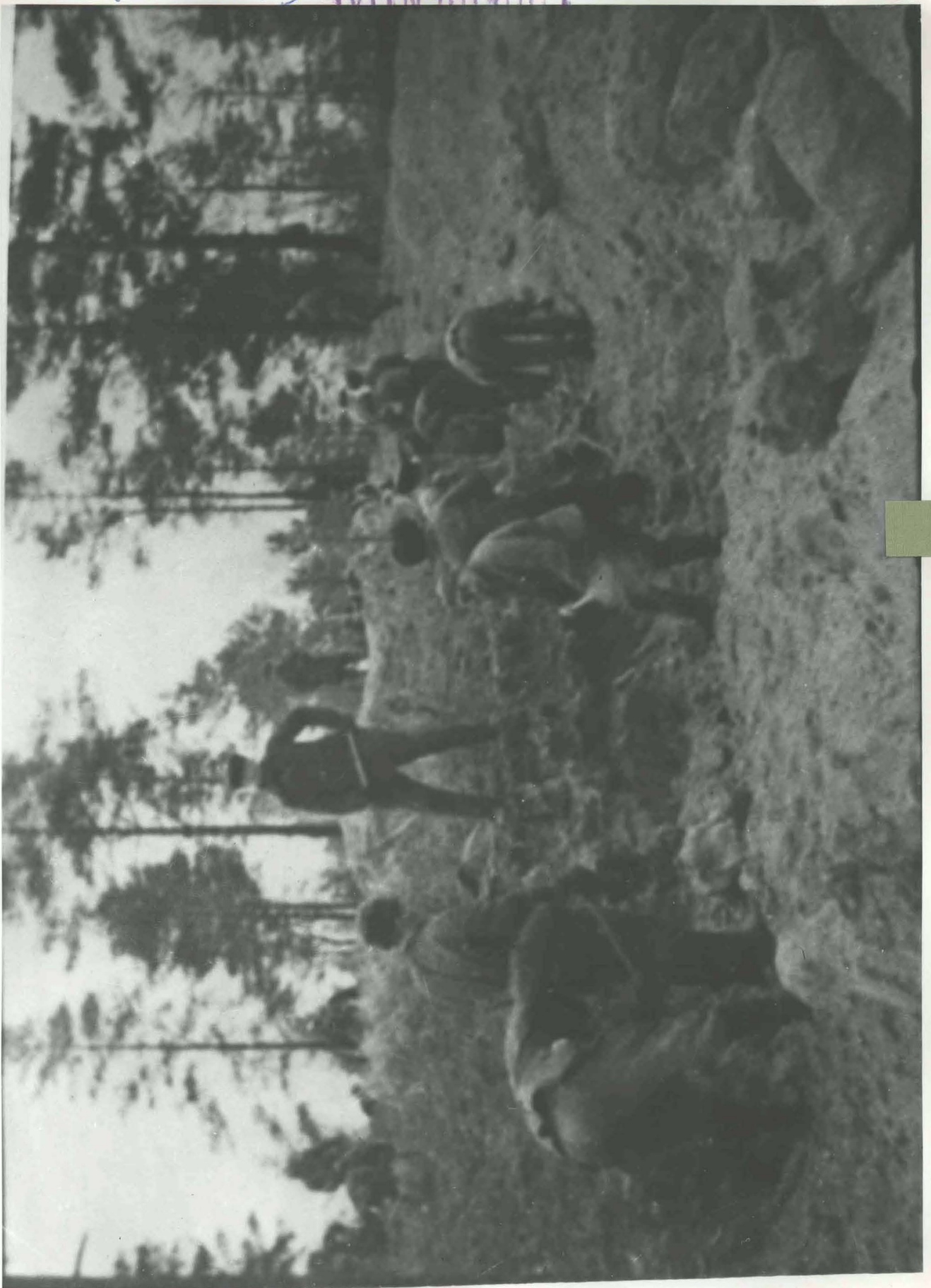


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit VIII)



VIII

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit VIII)

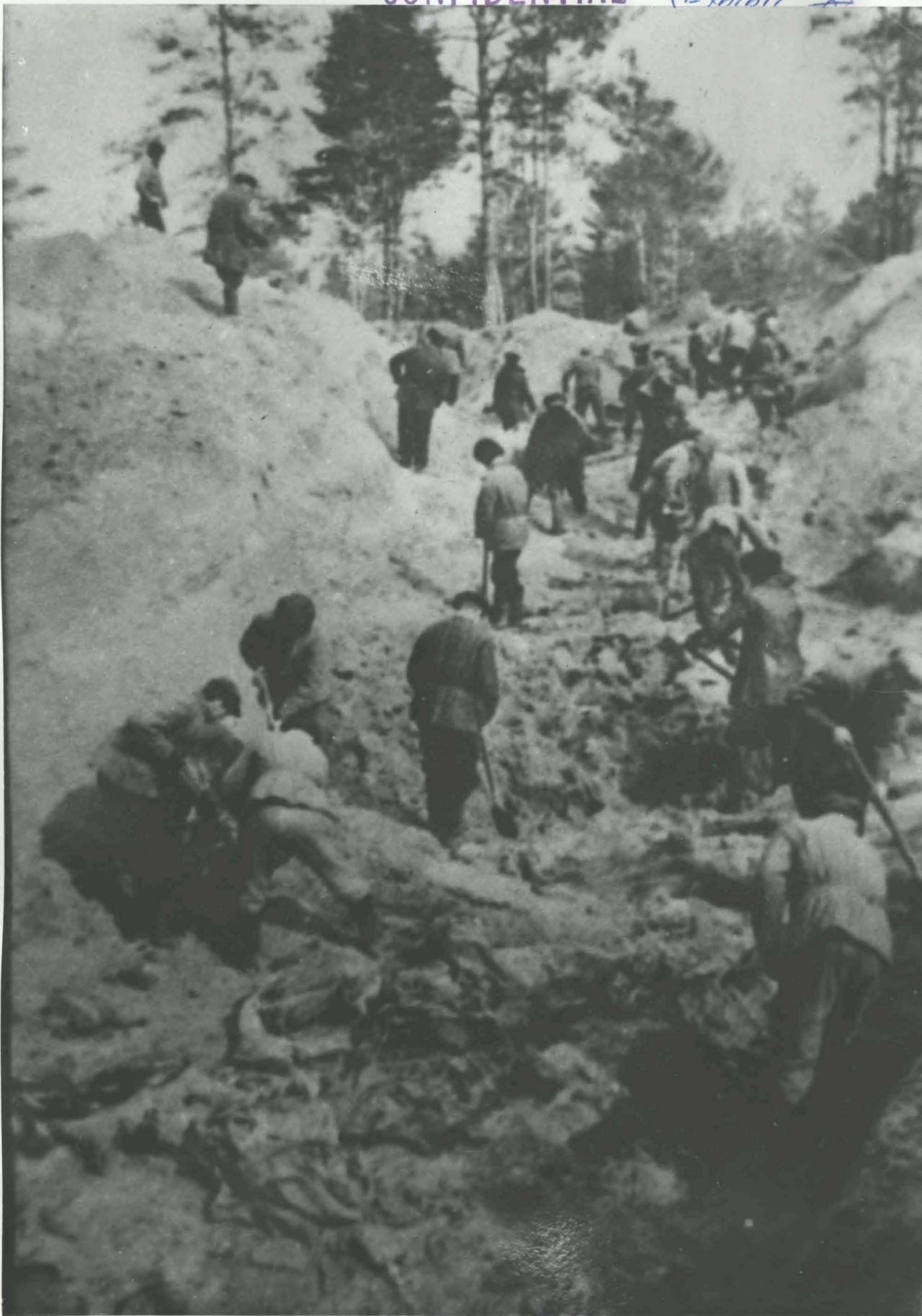


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit IX)

IX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit IX)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit X)



X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit X)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit VII)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit VI)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit XII)



XII

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exhibit XII)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Exhibit XIII)



XIII

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Exhibit XIII)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Exhibit XIV)

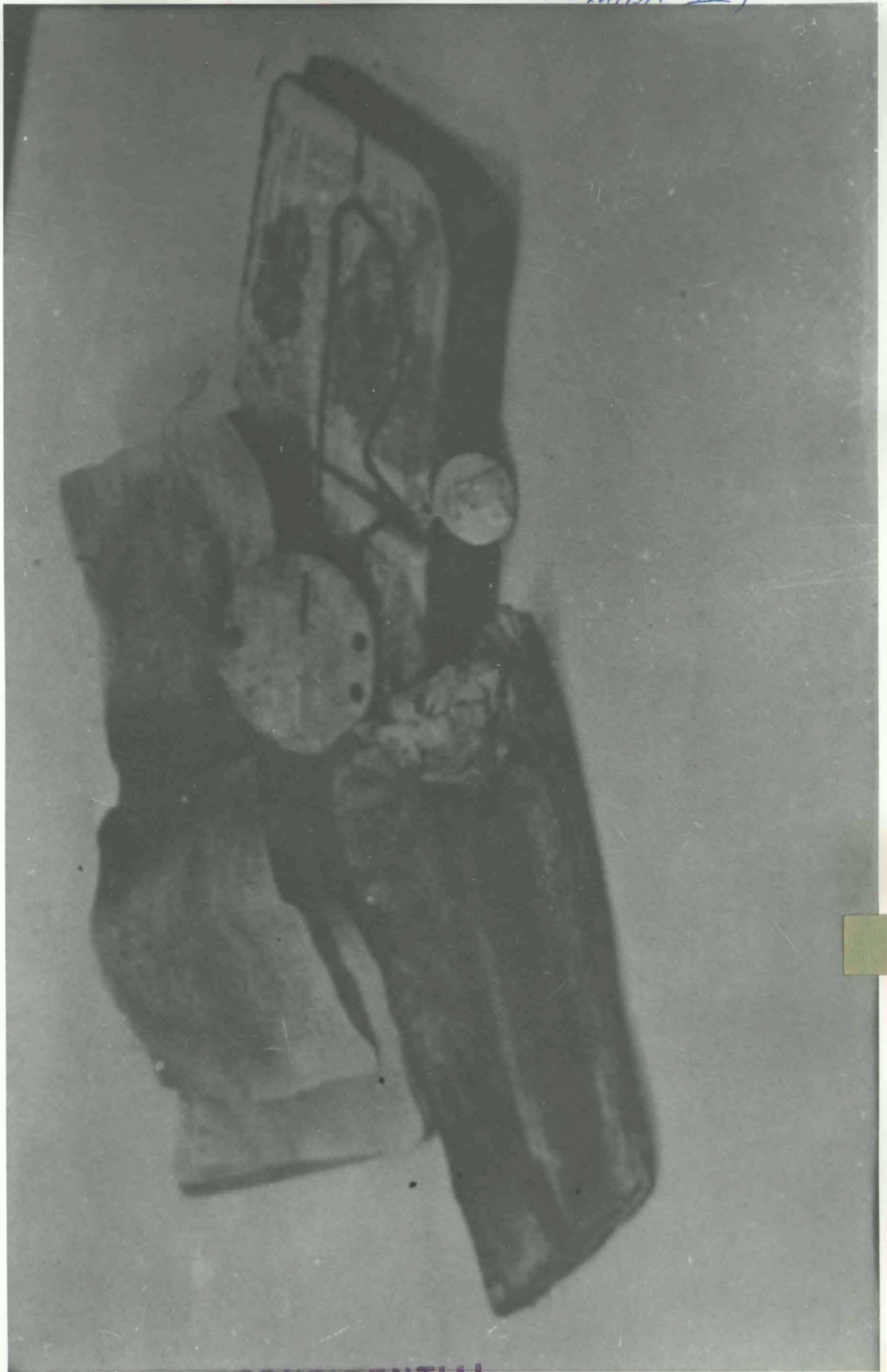


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(Exhibit XIV)

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(Exhibit IX)



XV

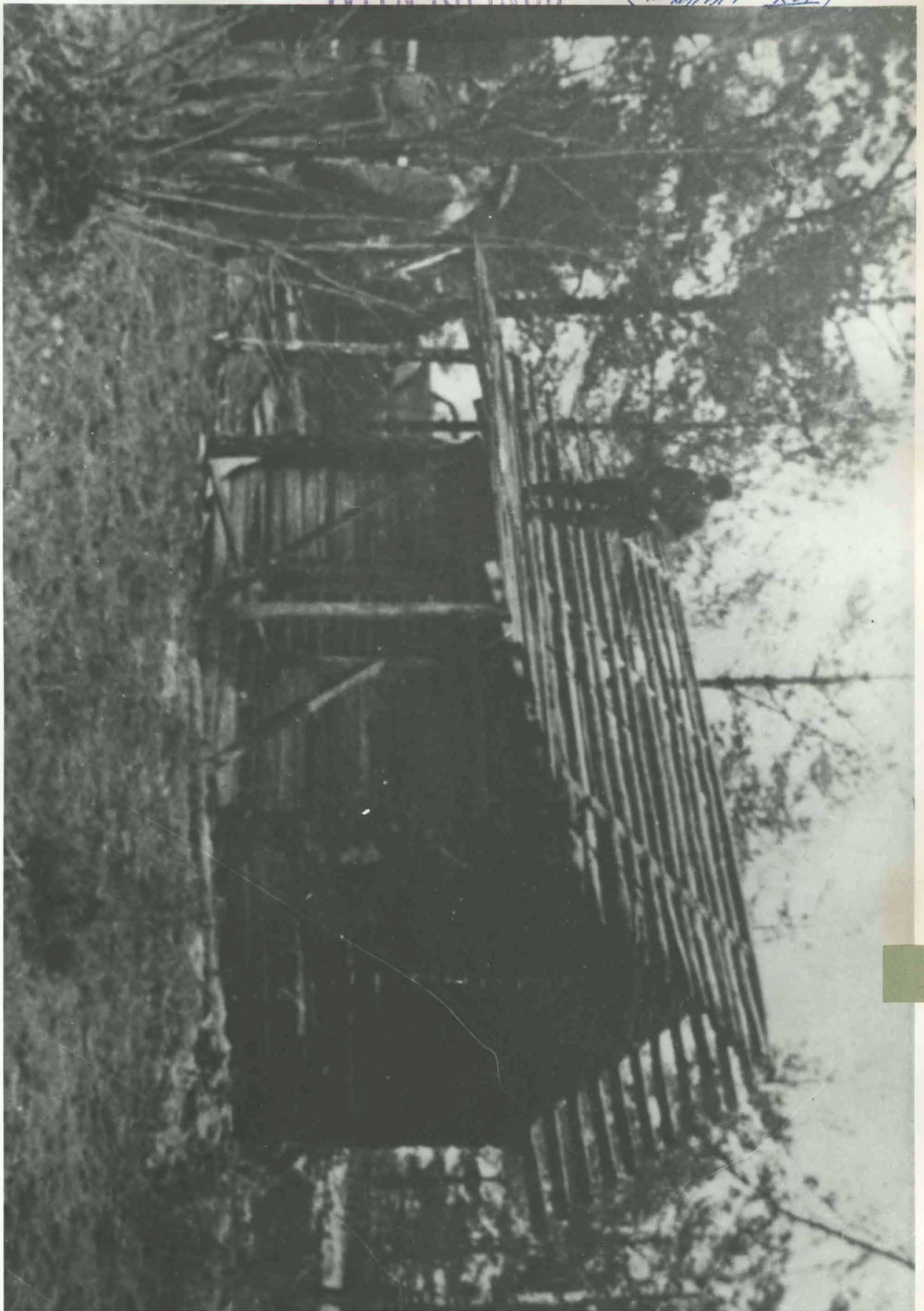
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(Exhibit IX)



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(Exhibit XVI)



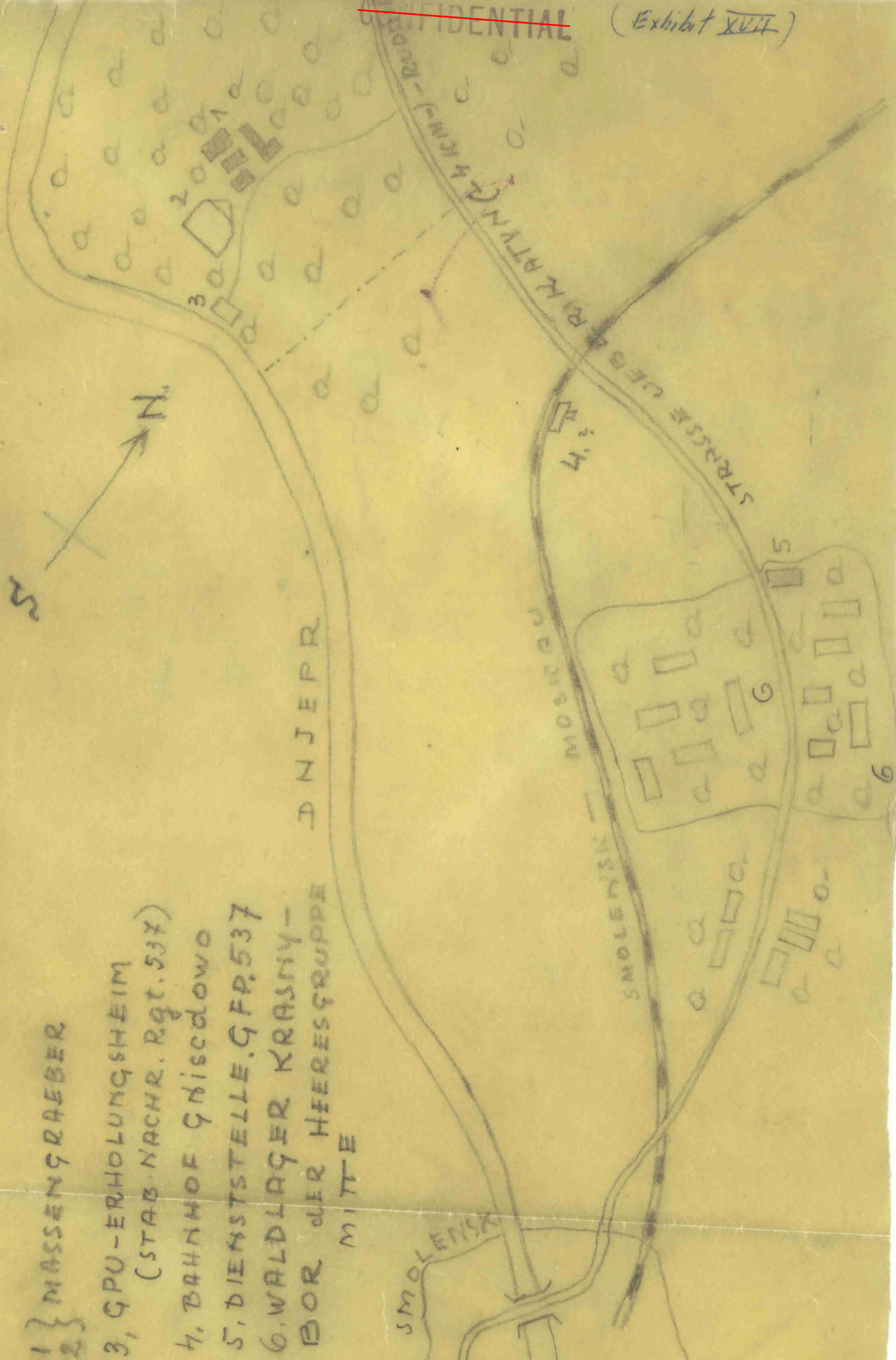
XVI

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(Exhibit XVI)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Exhibit XVII)



- 1 } MASSENGRABER
- 2 }
- 3, GPU-ERHOLUNGSHAIM  
(STAB NACHR. Rgt. 537)
- 4. BAHNHOF GNISCDOWO
- 5. DIENSTSTELLE, GFR. 537
- 6. WALDLAGER KRASNIV-
- BOR DER HEERESGRUPPE  
MITTE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Exhibit XVII)

C

11  
G. H. ...

2nd

S-2-52

4/25917



Do not forget  
me .

I have not been  
too bad  
I think of you  
always.

Les Tenekof

Griesdorf

39593

Vergiss mein  
nicht,  
bin ich nicht  
so schrecklich  
Ich denke an  
Dir immer!

Leo Tenukof  
Griesdorf  
39573



My friends captured in the  
South African War, when I  
was commander of Siids <sup>eng</sup>  
(Stalag IV e) of a very large  
camp.

Sam Marks, an officer of  
the Union of South Africa





Meine Freundschaft mit  
süd-Afrikanischen Kriegs-  
gefangenen, als ich im  
Südosten (Stalag IV e)  
Kommandoführer eines sehr  
grossen Lagers war.  
Sam Marko, ein Offizier  
aus Südafrika.



Am Dwyer,  
Ici Amador



At the Dnieper  
near Lvivskaya



DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 52848 by AMW/MP on 16 March 2012

Kathryn Forest in which  
12,000 Polish officers were  
allegedly buried.



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 52848 by AMW/MP on 16 March 2012



Der Wald von Kathyn  
in dem die angeblich  
12,000 poln. Offiziere  
begraben waren.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 52848 by AMW/MP on 16 March 2012

Blick gegen Kathryn.





View towards Kathryn