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DOCTOR ALBERTO NEUMANN

"... the order to fire. Silence. He gave the order with a motion of his hand and at once all three of them tumbled down. I was ordered to step to the front and ascertain that they were dead. Subsequently another two comrades were brought in a jeep..."

"On 18 September we were taken to Pisagua. We had to line up on the quay with our hands clasped around the back of our necks. We were handed over to the army. Walking in single file we covered the short distance between the old quay and Pisagua prison.

The prison of Pisagua is a wood and brick building, two storeys high at the front, where the offices are. The rear wing has three storeys and houses the prisoner's cells. They enclose a rectangular court.

The body of military forces was extremely large: there were soldiers with sub-machine guns, machine guns with their muzzles permanently directed at the spot which we passed, there were cannons mounted on jeeps. The soldiers took us to the prison and separated us into the various cells. The treatment was of a military kind, with commanding voices, but no use of force. Each cell measured about 2.5 by 3 metres and was crammed with about 15 prisoners.

After all of us had been put into cells Captain Benavides made a speech in the courtyard and we listened from our cells. He began his speech with the following words: "You are prisoners of war and that's why you are also treated as such in accordance with legislation applicable to court martials in times of war and in keeping with the Geneva Conventions. Any insubordination, any attempt at resistance or expression of undisciplined behaviour will be punished on the spot by execution."

In my cell there were also some foreigners, including two from Bolivia and one from Argentine. The three of them were students and had been arrested in Valparaiso. Another foreigner was the German Catholic parson Willi Kelling who had served in a district of Valparaiso, in Cerro los Placeres, under the authority of the bishop there, although he was directly subordinated to the diocese of Cologne in the Federal Republic of Germany, to which he belonged. At present this priest is on the way back to his own country, and if need be he can verify my statement.

When we arrived at Pisagua there were already some 70 prisoners. They had been brought from Iquique, a town in the north, not far from Pisagua. Almost the whole town administration of Iquique was imprisoned, nearly the whole staff of the Esmeralda broadcasting station of Iquique, political and trade union officers from the north of the country, and the mayor of Iquique, Jorge Soria. Among them was a Veteran Communist leader, Eloy Ramírez, town councillor of Iquique and head of the "Victoria" salpetre mine. It was his second stay in Pisagua^a, since he had been in this concentration camp once before under González Videla.

They kept us imprisoned for the major part of the day. Our door was opened in the morning and we were allowed to leave our cells for fifteen minutes to have breakfast. Then at 5.00 p.m. another fifteen minutes to have our supper. Hunger woke us early in the morning. These fifteen minutes they granted us had to do for washing, going to the toilet and having breakfast. It was very hard to manage all this.

In our cell we tried to organize our time and employ it effectively. We gave lectures. The Bolivian student described the geography of his country. A fitter from the United Transport Organization spoke about his trade, about engines. I reported on items of interest from the sphere of medicine, on unusual medical cases. The priest gave lessons in German. A definite time was stipulated for physical exercises to keep us fit. We marched in a circle within our narrow cell.

We succeeded in maintaining a rather good morale. On the fifth day I was taken to the commander of the prisoner's camp, to lieutenant colonel Ramón Larraín. Two harbour medical officers, doctor Ramírez and doctor de la Rosa, were also taken there. The commander let us know in harsh words that we were to work in our profession and that there was, I quote, "a ward" with military medical staff. He cursed the prisoners and said that we were responsible for their health, for "those wretched swine". He added that we also should look like doctors and ordered the soldiers to wash our white coats which

after our imprisonment on the "Esmeralda", the "Maipo" and in the Pisagua prison had become black.

In addition the three of us were locked into a room with beds. Every day we were released from 9 to 12 to treat the prisoners. The same happened between 6 and 8 in the afternoon. The orderlies - two corporals, one sergeant and a recruit, went through the cells every day asking for sick persons, whom they then brought to us for treatment.

The orderlies did a good job and tried to ease the prisoners' situation, although they and all the other soldiers and non-commissioned officers firmly believed in what their superiors had told them about a "plan Z". We talked to them, telling them it was pure fabrication, a lie, but they did not believe us. As doctors we had the advantage of sleeping in beds, but we had the disadvantage of being separated from the rest of our comrades.

About two weeks passed in this way. Let me repeat once again that the treatment was strict, there was very little to eat, but there was no particular use of force. Most of the time we were locked in. But after these two weeks the situation changed quite suddenly.

Some groups of prisoners were taken outside to work. We doctors worked in the ward. Other comrades had the job of repair work in the prison itself. The prison was given a new coat of paint, both inside and outside. All the work was done on a voluntary basis. It goes without saying that all the prisoners volunteered for these jobs in order to have some exercise, to get out of the cells.

Then a group was sent to the town to do some repair work there. The military told us that new rooms had to be provided for new prisoners to come.

One afternoon commander Larrain himself asked for volunteers. He had just returned from a trip to Iquique where he

must have received instructions from his immediate superior, division general Carlos Forestier, chief of the Tarapacá province.

All prisoners applied for the job. He selected six of our comrades for voluntary work. That night we were told to keep silent and listen attentively because the commander wanted to give us some information.

In harsh words, full of anger, the commander told us that we were a bunch of wretches and that he, who did so much for us, had a poor return for his efforts. He said that the "six dogs" who went out for work in the morning had tried to escape and were killed while doing so. And he told how the soldiers had chased them with guns while they zig-zagged trying to avoid the bullets.

These six comrades included Marcelo Guzmán, Jesús Nolberto Cañas, Juan Jiménez Vidal and Miguel Selim Noj who was still very young. Miguel was serving in the armed forces. I had an opportunity to speak with him during the first days in Pisagua. He told me why he had been detained. One day all recruits were summoned to the court of their regiment where they were told that the legal constitutional government would be overthrown and what their task would be. Then they were asked whether there was anybody among them who objected to this patriotic campaign, who did not want to participate in the plan. He stepped one pace forward. Immediately the order was given to arrest him and take him to Pisagua. He met his death in this group of six comrades who were shot under the pretext of attempting to escape.

Pisagua is situated in the middle of the desert, surrounded by very high and steep slopes. You have no chance of escaping, even if you were alone, with ~~no~~ military patrol. It is out of the question that anybody could get away from Pisagua on his own resources.

Later on it became even worse. The reason was the arrival

of a delegation from Valparaíso comprising a marine prosecutor and a group of experts, interrogation specialists who brought their instruments of torture with them.

This group took up quarters in a building near the prison. The prisoners were taken there in groups of six to ten, blindfolded, and interrogated. There were about 50 or 60 interrogations per day. In one week some 360 persons were taken there for interrogation. We three doctors saw immediately the form of these interrogations, as all those returning from that building were sent straight away to the ward. They were completely battered, covered in dust, had dozens of bruises, hematoma, broken ribs and nervous shocks.

We had to give them sedative injections so that they could sleep. We had to apply pressure bandages, immobilize the chest because of broken ribs, we had to mend the wounds.

Upon their return from interrogation the prisoners were divided into two groups. One group comprised those to be released some time after the interrogations, while those who were to be detained and put on trial at a later date remained in the other group. The only objective of these interrogations was to find out whom to let free and whom to try.

To us doctors this was really a moral torture since we had to listen to their descriptions of the tortures throughout the whole week, knowing that our moment would also come at the end of the week. The officers, too, described the tortures they had seen being applied to our comrades.

I was tortured in the same way, but fortunately I was attached to the group conditionally released at a later date.

One day while we were waiting for a car to take us to Valparaíso the commander called me, telling me that he needed me for a special task. I was to keep ready.

At a certain hour some officers fetched me; I had to climb

into a jeep in which the military chaplain also sat. We went to the outskirts of Pisagua, to the north, where the cemetery of Pisagua is located. We stopped about 2 km outside the town, quite near the sea. In an open space. There was a company of infantry, 12 recruits with sub-machine guns and some officers. About three metres away from them was a large open pit, in which I could distinguish the contours of six dead bodies which were hardly covered by a thin layer of soil.

They told me that it was the remains of six persons shot dead. After some time of tense waiting a jeep arrived, and three persons were kicked out of it. They were blindfolded with their hands tied behind their backs. They came directly from interrogation. It was obvious that they had not been put on trial. They were ordered to line up in front of the recruits with their faces turned to them, and an officer gave the order to fire. He just made a move, he lowered his arm. The three men tumbled down immediately, and I had to step forward to ascertain that they were dead. If one of them had still been alive they would have fired at him again.

Subsequently the three dead bodies were slipped into bags and thrown into the nearby pit.

After some further minutes of waiting the jeep returned with another two comrades. The macabre ceremony was repeated with these two.

Here are the names of those comrades: Sergio Morris, customs officer, Juan Valencia, manager of the company for agricultural trade in Iquique, an independent lawyer named Cabezas and Humberto Lizardi, a teacher from Iquique. I do not know the name of the fifth person.

When I returned to Valparaíso the hospital had a new director. He informed me that I could no longer work there, that they had sacked me. They recommended that I should open up a private practice. But the Colegio Médico had instituted proceedings against all those who had not obeyed the call

to strike. The punishment for their disobedience was that they were robbed of their work permit, i.e. deprived of any opportunity to go on practising their profession.

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H.G. Franck

The duty of mankind

Members of the commission, this is the end of my report. You have listened to and seen reports and statements on the most atrocious crimes

... Need I remind you of the fact that the Penal Code of Chile, like that of any other country, provides most severe punishment for; [assassination, premeditated murder of defenceless victims;] the use of torture to cause death?

The Chilean Penal Code is as clear and unequivocal on this point as the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Bill of Rights and other declarations signed by Chile. They were signed by Chile with the unqualified pledge to fulfil them.

But we should refer here more to the cultural and moral experience of mankind rather than to agreements. The values and civil rights of every human being are the painful achievement of many centuries.

And when these barbaric crimes of which evidence was given here, appear before the eyes of mankind, the universal conscience would be dishonoured if our first duty of punishment were not fulfilled; to condemn legally and morally, on an international scale, the perpetrators of these crimes, who split off from the entire civilised world and committed the most atrocious crimes; which, of ~~from its duty to sit in judgement upon these crimes.~~

Course, is not to remove the duty of the Chilean people - as soon as they have regained their freedom and restored their constitutional state - ~~from~~ ^{to} implementing their own punishment.