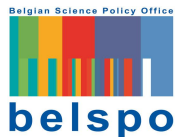


# JUSINBELGIUM

A century of pioneering case-law.  
A digital database of Belgian  
precedents of international justice (1914-2014)

## TUTORIAL



# Overview of collections

- ❖ Started in 2015, the collective project Jusinbellgium ([A century of pioneering case-law. A digital database of Belgian precedents of international justice, 1914-2014](#)) examines and documents the emergence of new forms of justice within Belgian courts after episodes of war and mass violence from 1914 to 2014.
- ❖ The Post-First World War in absentia War Crimes trials currently include 85 cases, out of 129 cases identified so far. The 85 cases involve 190 German defendants.
- ❖ The Post-Second World War War Crimes trials include 34 cases held from 1947 to 1951. They involve 103 German defendants.

# Note on repository and series

State Archives of Belgium / Archives générales du royaume / Rijksarchief in België

Repository: State Archives of Belgium 2, Joseph Cuvelier repository

For more information: [www.arch.be/agr2](http://www.arch.be/agr2)

- ❖ **WW1 Cases:** AAW = Aktensammelstelle West/Osoby Record. Also known as the "Moscow Archive". After the Belgian Government decided to put an end to the proceedings against German war criminals in 1925, the *in absentia* trial records were centralized by the appellate *Cour Militaire* in Brussels in 1927. From there, the Germans seized them in 1940. Taken from Berlin to Moscow by the Red Army, the record collections finally returned to Belgium in 2002.
- ❖ 87 cases have been digitized (138 defendants).
  
- ❖ **WWII Cases:**
  - Series: Cour Militaire de Bruxelles or Cour Militaire de Liège (in most cases, the record is filed with the appeal court).
  - 34 cases (War Crimes Trials).

# Note on conditional access to the records

For all indications of restricted access to part of the record (Closed sessions, medical records,...)

> Contact the State Archives of Belgium: [www.arch.be/agr2](http://www.arch.be/agr2)

Original records are held in Brussels.

In order to access documents, you need to accept the terms of use of the Legal Tools Database: <https://www.legal-tools.org/footer/terms-of-use/>

# 1. Access to the Collections through Browsing



- ▶ ICC main menu
- ▶ Search
- ▼ Browse
- ▶ PURL
- ▶ What are the ICC Legal Tools?
- ▶ Status of work on the Tools
- ▶ Training and contact
- ▶ Open access interview
- ▶ Book on the Legal Tools
- ▶ Lexsitus
- ▶ CLICC
- ▶ CJAD
- ▶ Login

Home » Browse



## Browse the Legal Tools Database

- ☐ Legal Tools Database
  - ⊕ ICC Documents
  - ⊕ ICC Preparatory Works and Statute Amendments
  - ⊕ International Legal Instruments
  - ⊕ Other International Law Decisions and Documents
  - ⊕ Human Rights Law Decisions and Documents
  - ⊕ International(ised) Criminal Jurisdictions (Basic Documents)
  - ⊕ International(ised) Criminal Decisions
  - ⊕ National Jurisdictions
  - ⊕ Publications
  - ⊕ United Nations War Crimes Commission
  - ⊕ International(ised) Fact-Finding Mandates

[Terms of use](#)

Legal Tools Database Browser Option [www.legal-tools.org](http://www.legal-tools.org)

### Browse the Legal Tools Database

- Legal Tools Database
  - ICC Documents
  - ICC Preparatory Works and Statute Amendments
  - International Legal Instruments
  - Other International Law Decisions and Documents
  - Human Rights Law Decisions and Documents
  - International(ised) Criminal Jurisdictions (Basic Documents)
  - International(ised) Criminal Decisions
  - National Jurisdictions
  - Publications
  - United Nations War Crimes Commission
  - International(ised) Fact-Finding Mandates

[Terms of use](#)

- ❖ Choose the National Jurisdictions Section
- ❖ Choose Belgium
- ❖ Choose Core International Crimes
- ❖ Choose Case Law
- ❖ Choose Period

Legal Tools Database Browser Option [www.legal-tools.org](http://www.legal-tools.org)

## 2. Access to the Collections through Search Engine



## Filters:

Collection: 

- ICC Documents (0)
- ICC Preparatory Works and Statute Amendments (0)
- International Legal Instruments (0)
- Other International Law Decisions and Documents (0)
- Human Rights Law Decisions and Documents (0)
- More

Content type: Source type: Organisation / State: Source: Phase of case: Judicial document: Language: Importance: 

title: "Belgian Military Tribunal"

File title: Case name: File number: From: To: 

Documents: 18

Show

20

results per page

Sorted by:

Date

 **Prosecutor v. Otto Siegburg Judgement Belgian Military Tribunal of Brussels 28/12/1949** 

28 December 1949

The Prosecutor v. Otto Siegburg

Belgium

Trial Chamber

 Metadata Download **Prosecutor v. Nicolas Mombach Judgement Belgian Military Tribunal of Brabant 25/05/1949** 

25 May 1949

The Prosecutor v. Nicolas Mombach

Belgium

Trial Chamber

 Metadata Download

- Filters:
- Collection: ICC Documents (0), ICC Preparatory Works and Statute Amendments (0), International Legal Instruments (0), Other International Law Decisions and Documents (0), Human Rights Law Decisions and Documents (0), More
  - Content type:
  - Source type:
  - Organisation / State:
  - Source:
  - Phase of case:
  - Judicial document:
  - Language:
  - Importance:

title: "Belgian Military Tribunal" Q C

File title:

Case name:

File number:

From:  To:

Documents: 18 Show 20 results per page Sorted by: Date

**Prosecutor v. Otto Siegburg Judgement Belgian Military Tribunal of Brussels 28/12/1949**

28 December 1949  
The Prosecutor v. Otto Siegburg  
Belgium  
Trial Chamber

Metadata Download

**Prosecutor v. Nicolas Mombach Judgement Belgian Military Tribunal of Brabant 25/05/1949**

25 May 1949  
The Prosecutor v. Nicolas Mombach  
Belgium  
Trial Chamber

Metadata Download

- ❖ Choose Advanced Search Options
- ❖ Select Search in Title
- ❖ Type, for example, "Belgian Military Tribunal"

Legal Tools Database Search Engine <http://www.legal-tools.org/en/search/>

# 3. Consultation and Download

## Cases before 1945:

Date:		Title:
23.12.1924	§	Prosecutor v. Holtz et al. Complete Trial Transcript Belgian Military Tribunal of West Flanders 23/12/1924
23.12.1924	§	Prosecutor v. Holtz et al. Judgment Belgian Military Tribunal of West Flanders 23/12/1924
05.01.1925	§	Prosecutor v. Edmond Jander Judgement Belgian Military Tribunal of West Flanders 06/01/1925
06.01.1925	§	Prosecutor v. Edmond Jander Complete Trial Transcript Belgian Military Tribunal of West Flanders 06/01/1925

The screenshot shows the Legal Tools Database interface. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home » Browse » Record. Below this, the text 'Metadata of the document in the LTD:' is visible. A 'Terms of use' dialog box is open, containing the text: 'By clicking on "Agree", you accept the Terms of use of the Legal Tools Database.' At the bottom of the dialog box are 'Cancel' and 'Agree' buttons. The 'Date created:' field at the bottom of the interface shows '23.12.1924'. A blue arrow points from the 'Record' breadcrumb to the 'Terms of use' dialog box, and another blue arrow points from the dialog box to the list of steps on the right.

- ❖ Choose a case
- ❖ Consult the Metadata
- ❖ Preview or Download the file
- ❖ Accept the terms of use

## Legal Tools Database Consultation



## JUSINBELGIUM

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of international justice, 1914-2014

### COMPLETE TRIAL FILE

#### FACTS

20 October 1914  
Coolscamp (Belgium)

The three defendants are accused of having detained several persons  
subjected to physical torture (Depoorter, Camille ; Schotte, Palmer ;  
Devriese, Maurice ; Damman, Aloïs)

#### TRIAL

Conseil de Guerre de la province de Flandre Occidentale (Bruges)

First instance - 23.12.1924

Acquittal *in absentia* on all charges and of all 3 defendants

Appeal - Filed on 05.01.1925 by the Prosecutor

Cour Militaire

Appeal - Decision not known

#### CRIMINAL CHARGES

Arbitrary arrest and detention of persons subjected to physical torture

#### ARCHIVAL IDENTIFICATION

Case number: N/A. See date  
of judgement

Extent: 1 folder

Digital extent: 1 file

Repository: State Archives of  
Belgium

Series: AAW

Access Status: Open

#### Favoris

- > Cover Case n° 591 of 1924 (Holtz et al...)
- > Holtz et al. Folder: Pièces d'instruction
- > Holtz et al. Folder: Dépôts
- > Holtz et al. Folder: Pièces d'audience
- Cover Case 7817 Cour Militaire Holtz e...
- > Holtz et al: Loose sheets

Google Chrome

- ❖ When opening PDF in browser,  
make sure to activate the Table  
of Contents icon

Legal Tools Database PDF Consultation through web browser (Google Chrome)

76 Zoom automatique

AGR\_Cdg\_FlandreOccidentale\_Holtz\_et\_al\_Dossier\_19241223\_1of1

Cover Case n° 591 of 1924 (Holtz et al.) Auditorat militaire de la province de la Flandre Occidentale

Inventory

Holtz et al. Folder: Pièces d'instruction

- Correspondence - letter of the burgomaster of Coolscamp 06.09.1919
- Correspondence Auditorat 23.10.1924
- Minutes of hearing of witnesses 26.10.1924 (De Witte Hector, Latruwe Jan, Glas Richard, Schotte Palmer, Devriese Maurice, De Poorter Cornelle, Gyguere Jules, David Binamé)
- Translation of minutes

Holtz et al. Folder: Dépôts

- Minutes of hearing of witness Depoorter Camille 12.11.1924
- Translation
- Minutes of hearing of witness Schotte Palmer 12.11.1924
- Translation
- Minutes of hearing of witness De Vriese Maurice 12.11.1924
- Translation
- Decision of the Judicial commission 06.12.1924

Holtz et al. Folder: Pièces d'audience

- Notice of appearance
- Newspaper La Patrie

1924. Auditorat militaire de la province de la Flandre Occidentale

Notices N° 591.

Par défaut.

Date { de la plainte : 6 septembre 1919.  
du procès-verbal :  
Date de la réception :

Nom :  
condamn

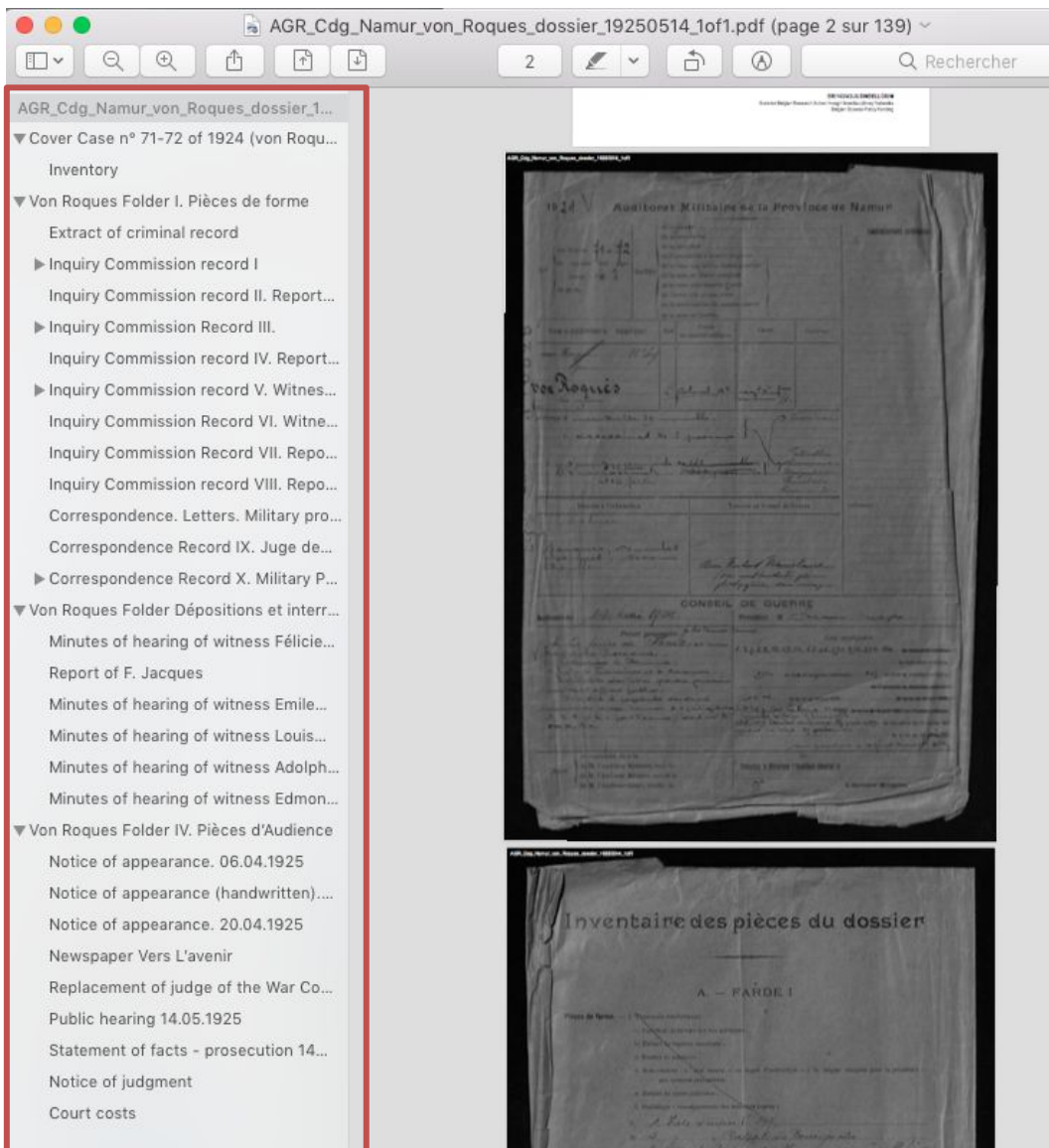
Nom et prénoms du prévenu	NÉ le à	GRADE et qualité militaire	Corps	Garnison	DATE à laquelle a commencé la détention préventive		
					Arrêts	Salle de police	Prison civile
1: Holtz		Colonel Commandant une Colonne d'Inf. <sup>rie</sup> allemande, sans domicile connu.					
2: van Scherich, et.		Rittmeister, sans domicile connu.					
3: Zimmerman, et.		sous-officier signalé comme demeurant à Ex Hays (Hollande), sans domicile connu.					

DATE de la mise en liberté

Firefox

- ❖ When opening PDF in browser, make sure to activate the Table of Contents icon

Legal Tools Database PDF Consultation through web browser (Firefox)



❖ When opening PDF in Adobe reader, make sure to activate the table of contents in order to access full features of the digital material

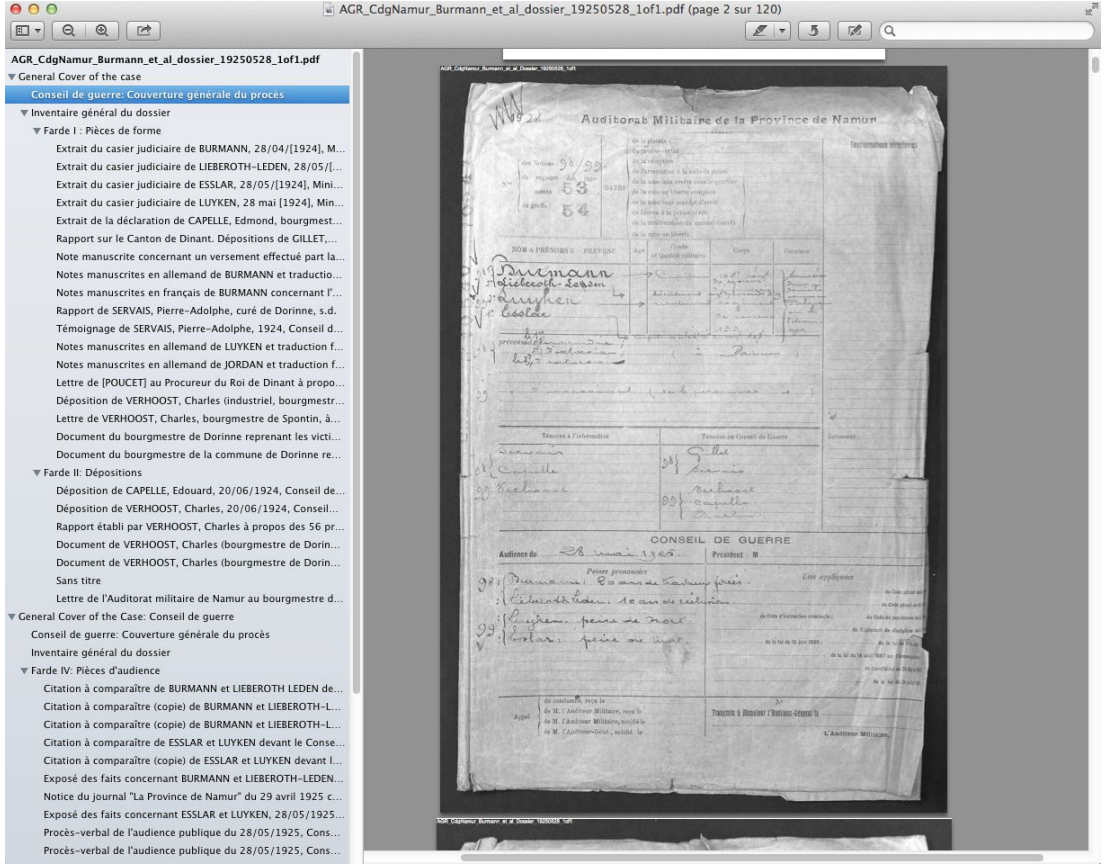
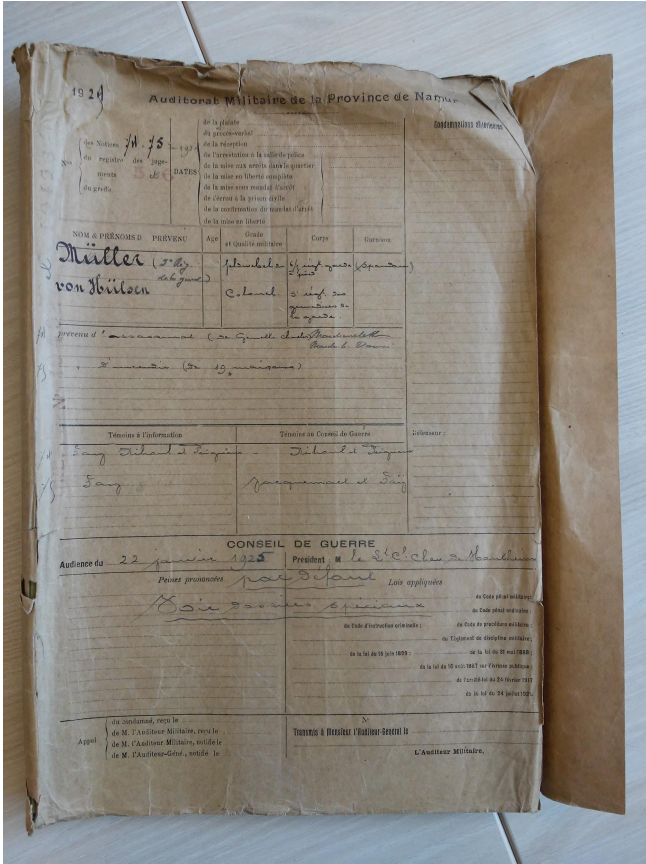
Adobe PDF Reader

Legal Tools Database PDF Consultation through PDF reader

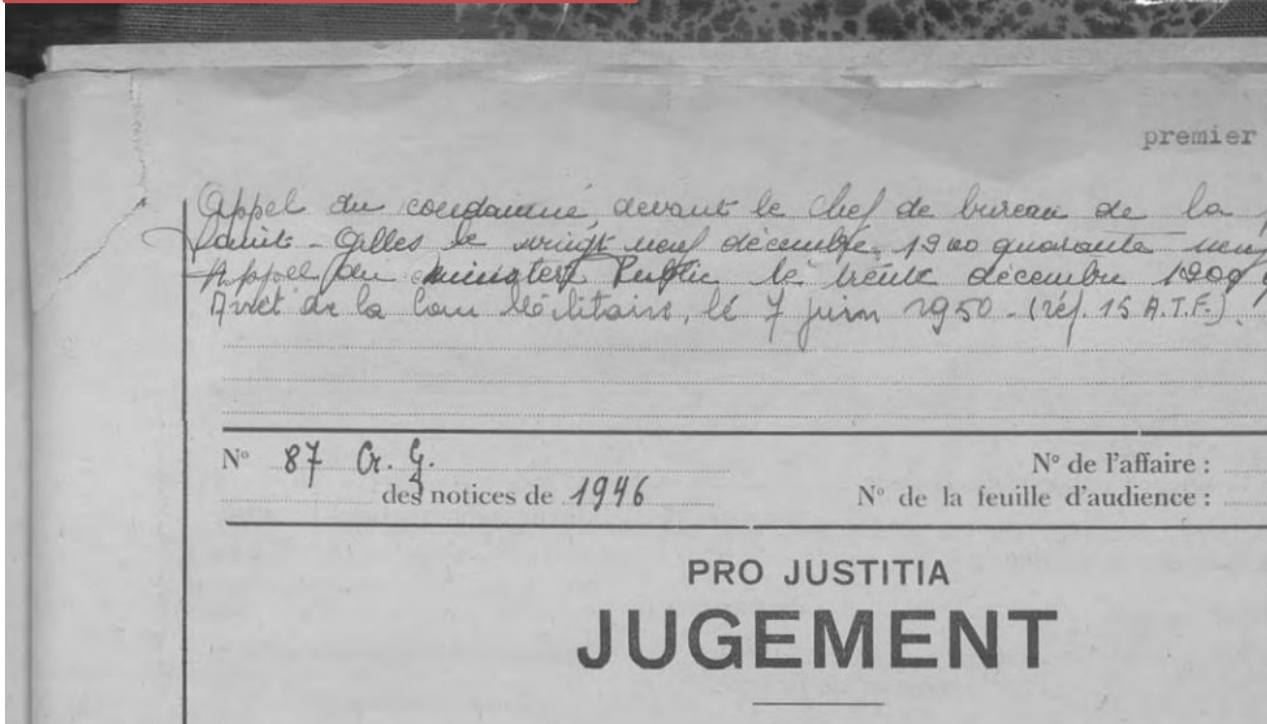


# 4. Document Identification





From Paper Document to Digital Document



- ❖ The watermark contains all crucial information for further identification and retrieval of original documents in the archive

Watermark: **AGR\_CdGBruxelles\_Siegburg\_Jugement\_19500607\_1of1**

- ❖ AGR = Archives générales du Royaume - State Archives of Belgium (Repository)
- ❖ CdGBruxelles: Conseil de Guerre of Brussels or CMBruuxelles: Cour Militaire of Brussels (Series)
- ❖ Name of defendant and type of document
- ❖ Date of decision
- ❖ 1of1: PDF n° 1 out of 1 PDF (total number of PDFs)

## Document Identification

For full information on digitized files, consult the Identification Sheet on p. 1 of each PDF including:

- ❖ Name of the case
- ❖ Type of document
- ❖ Archival identification (case number, repository, series, additional resources)
- ❖ Proposed Source citation
- ❖ Basic trial information
- ❖ Legal information
- ❖ Information on facts, defendants, victims and witnesses in the case



## JUSINBELGIUM

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## JUDGEMENT (REGISTER)

<p><b>FACTS</b> 01.06.1943 - 28.02.1944 Brussels (Belgium) Accused of the homicide of Emer Hillel (between 01.06.1943 and 30.06.1943). Accused of assault and battery on Hellman Sacher (between 16.02.1944 and 28.02.1944) and Brunner Menashe between (01.06.1943 and 30.06.1943), the injuries having caused an incurable illness or a permanent work-related disability. The murder of Emer Hillel was qualified as a crime against humanity (based on the definition of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference for the unification of criminal law (10-11.07.1947, Brussels))</p>	<p><b>ARCHIVAL IDENTIFICATION</b></p> <p>Case number: 131B/1950 (87 of 1946 (T) - 13 of 1950 (A) - 5471 of 1950 (C))</p> <p>Extent: 8 pages (register)</p> <p>Digital extent: 1 file</p> <p>Repository: State Archives of Belgium</p> <p>Series: Conseil de guerre de Bruxelles, registre de jugements</p> <p>Access Status: Open</p> <p>Additional documents: <a href="http://www.arch.be/agr2">www.arch.be/agr2</a></p>
<p><b>TRIAL</b> Conseil de Guerre de Bruxelles (Brussels) First instance - 28.12.1949 Partial conviction Sentence - death penalty Cour Militaire de Bruxelles (Brussels) Appeal filed by: Otto Siegburg on 29.12.1949 and by the substitute military prosecutor Vlain on 30.12.1949 Appeal - 07.06.1950 Partial conviction Sentence - 15 years forced labour Cour de Cassation Appeal filed by Otto Siegburg on 08.06.1950 Appeal dismissed on 16.10.1950</p>	<p><a href="http://www.belspo.be">www.belspo.be</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ulb.ac.be">www.ulb.ac.be</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.arch.be">www.arch.be</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.acggs.be">www.acggs.be</a></p>
<p><b>CRIMINAL CHARGES</b> Murder, assault &amp; battery</p> <p><b>LEGAL SOURCES</b> Prosecutor - Belgian criminal code (art. 3, 7, 19, 21, 22, 65, 66, 392, 393, 394, 398, 399, 400); Law of 20 June 1947; See documents in the file for complete legal sources cited in the decision Court - The 1907 Hague Convention (art. 43, 46); Belgian criminal code (art. 7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 20, 31, 61, 66, 123sexies, 392, 393, 394, 398); Law of 20 June 1947; See documents in the file for complete legal sources cited in the decision Appeal Court - The 1907 Hague Convention (art. 43, 46); Belgian criminal code (art. 7, 19, 31, 61, 66, 392, 399, 401); Law of 20 June 1947; See documents in the file for complete legal sources cited in the decision</p> <p><b>REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMARY LAW</b> Definition of crime against humanity of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference for the unification of criminal law (10-11.07.1947, Brussels)</p>	<p><b>SOURCE CITATION</b></p> <p>Copies provided for research and study purposes.</p> <p>State Archives of Belgium, Conseil de guerre de Bruxelles, registre de jugements, Prosecutor v. Otto Siegburg, 28.12.1948.</p>
<p><b>DEFENDANT(S)</b> 1 German defendant Otto Georg F. Siegburg, Kriminal Sekretar of the Sipo-SD, section IV B 3</p>	<p><b>BR/143/A3/JUSINBELGIUM</b> Brain-be Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks Belgian Science Policy Funding</p>
<p><b>VICTIMS &amp; WITNESSES</b> 18 witnesses during the trial 56 witnesses during the investigation 3 victims listed in the decision (Emer Hillel, Hellman Sacher, Brunner Menashe)</p>	