

Research Dossier:

INTRODUCTION:

Picture this - you are a brave, young soldier and have just been captured whilst fighting in the Second World War. You are led to a prisoner of war camp, sporting towering metal fences, barbed wire, grey, uniform buildings built of dark stone, and a pungent miasma, so strong that it is almost visible to the eye. After weeks of working hard in essentially slave labour, you are led aside by a peculiar little man with jet black spectacles, his dirty white lab coat billowing around his ankles in the fierce winds that whip the camp. You are led down spiralling flights of stairs, along endless corridors, until you finally enter a dimly lit, almost primitive operating theatre, and feel a needle slide painfully into your arm. Before you know it, you are lying on a grungy table, bound by the arms and ankles, weak and shivering from a sudden bout of fatigue. You feel beads of sweat trickle steadily across your forehead and onto the stiff plastic mat that lies beneath you as the inescapable, shadowed figure looms over you, the brimmed needle in his hand moving closer and closer towards your arm...

While seemingly the stuff of stories, lying solely amongst the pages of sci-fi and horror novels, human experimentation is scattered throughout history, especially during the Second World War.

This dossier will discuss two blood-curdling examples of medical experimentation that piqued my interest - the infamous Japanese Unit 731 and the deranged doctor, Joseph Mengele.

It will then delve deeper into the background of the Nazi doctor, Friedrich Meythaler, who conducted horrifying experiments on the five young members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs), as reported on in my documentary, *The Doctor will see you now*.

Finally, the dossier will conclude by analysing the values and limitations of some key sources used in my documentary.

THE LEGEND OF UNIT 731

Alias: Epidemic Prevention and Water Purification Department.

Active between: 1938 and 1945.

Lead by: Lieutenant Shiro Ishii.

General location: Main headquarters was in Japanese-occupied China, in the Pingfang district of Harbin (now Northeast China).

Intentions behind experiments: To develop biological weapons to further Japanese medical knowledge and chemical warfare capabilities, establishing them as a global superpower.



Notable experiments:

- Performing fatal vivisections (cutting open live subjects) on patients without anaesthetic. *Lieutenant Shiro Ishii¹, head of Unit 731.*
- Testing the limits of human bodies by exposing them to pathogens, bombs, and diseased insects.
- Freezing limbs to experiment with how to reverse the effects of frostbite.
- Testing how much pressure the human body could withstand before the eyeballs exploded.
- Testing various poisonous gasses to improve effectivity and lethality.

Interesting Fact: The human victims of the Unit were referred to as 'Maruta', translating to 'wooden logs' - dehumanising the prisoners to lessen any scientists' mental trauma.

Overview: Few organisations throughout history can be placed on the same level as the insalubrious Unit 731, an organisation founded and run by the Imperial Japanese Army during the period of the Second World War. Unit 731 was split into 8 divisions, with each section dedicated to a certain task, such as researching the effects of certain diseases on humans, production of bio-weapons,

¹ Photograph by Masao Takezawa - Bulletin of Unit 731 (an article not for sale), Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1635394>.

bacteria breeding, and more. This organisation experimented on thousands of people from across the Pacific, regardless of age or gender - killing over 3,000 people in their experiments, primarily from China, Mongolia, Russia and Korea.

Come the end of the war, when Unit 731's horrifying acts were exposed to the world, the remaining members of the unit began to frantically destroy any collected research. This destruction of this evidence, plus governments such as the United States protecting scientists in exchange for the remaining knowledge of Unit 731's experiments, has resulted in the usefulness of the experiments being shrouded in mystery. The US Government used this to further develop their own biological warfare program, regardless of the means the ruthless Japanese scientists took to obtain the results.



Members of Unit 731 testing for the presence of bacteria on a Chinese patient², November 1940.

² Xinhua via Getty Images.

THE PSYCHOTIC JOSEF MENGELE

Born: 16th of March 1911.

Died: 7th of February 1979.

Nationality: German.

Rank: An SS officer (SS standing for 'Schutzstaffel', meaning 'Protection Squadron') and physician.

Actively experimented between: 1943 and 1945.

Experiment location(s): The German concentration camp, Auschwitz.

Intentions behind experiments: To further the Wehrmacht's knowledge on heredity and genetic abnormalities, with the aim of proving the 'superiority' of the German race and Hitler's Final Solution.

Notable experiments:

- Injected substances into the eyes of twins to attempt to change their eye colours.
- Experimented with twin-to-twin transfusions - a condition where twins share a placenta, leading to one twin receiving too much blood and one receiving too little.
- Further experimented on twins by castrating, sterilising, or stitching them together, along with removing organs without anaesthetic, blood to blood transfusions, and attempting substandard sex-changes.

Interesting Facts:

He was morbidly nicknamed the 'Angel of Death' for his murderous tendencies and complete lack of regard for the health and safety of his patients. For example, when one block of his concentration camp was infected with lice, Mengele 'resolved' the dilemma by gassing the 750 women working there.

He was known as 'Uncle Mengele' to the children of the camp, handing out clothes and treats before taking children away in his van, donning an ironic Red Cross.

Overview: Josef Mengele is one of the most notorious and well-known Nazi doctors of the Second World War. He was



Josef Mengele outside the Auschwitz concentration camp³, 1944.

³ Photograph by Karl-Friedrich Höcker - Yad Vashem, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=74059687>.

assigned to the concentration camp Auschwitz in 1943 and experimented on prisoners there. He had a keen interest in twins; performing numerous perturbing and unethical experiments on them. The results of his experiments were predominantly useless - Mengele being more concerned with efficient ways to slaughter people, alongside conducting experiments in secret and unprofessional conditions, producing flawed results. His only (indirect) benefit to the world was sending the prisoners' leftover organs to scientific institutions to be studied, possibly helping Julian Hallervorden discover the neurodegenerative disease NBIA.

After the end of the war, Mengele sailed to Argentina in 1949 to escape prosecution for his crimes and managed to hide in South America for around 30 years, despite multiple countries and intelligence agencies desperately searching for him. He died at 67 of a stroke and was buried under the false name of 'Wolfgang Gerhard', his identity and later life remaining a mystery for numerous years.



Jewish children liberated from Auschwitz Concentration Camp in 1945⁴, many of which the subject of Mengele's experiments.

⁴ Photograph by Alexander Voronzow and others in his group, ordered by Mikhael Oschurkow, head of the photography unit - USHMM/Belarusian State Archive of Documentary Film and Photography <http://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa14532>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17282223>.

THE ELUSIVE FRIEDRICH MEYTHALER

Born: 18th of March 1898.

Died: 17th of November 1967.

Nationality: German.

Rank(s): German Consulting Physician (1936 - 1945).

Professor of Internal Medicine (1942-1967).

Medical Director of the Nuremberg Municipal Hospitals (1947 - 1967).

Actively experimented between:

1936 - 1945.

Experiment location(s): Crete, Greece.

Intentions behind experiments:

To determine whether infectious hepatitis was transmitted via blood transfusion by injecting sick patients' blood into healthy individuals. By determining this, Meythaler could improve the lives of German troops and their resistance to infectious diseases during the war, as well as further his own career.

Notable experiments:

- Selecting five healthy young ANZACs, confining them to beds for around 18 days, and fervently injecting them with the blood of visibly sick Germans with jaundice and hepatitis.

Interesting Facts: Meythaler graduated incredibly quickly with a distinction from the top universities at Heidelberg and Munich, yet his experiments on ANZACs were described in *Genocide Perspective V* as, "...unscientific and inconclusive... surprisingly poor quality experiment[s] for an academic physician," as he failed to document his patients' different blood types, and their effects on his experiment.

Overview:

Nazi doctor Friedrich Meythaler performed unrestricted human experiments on ANZACs on Crete during 1941, as a result of the German Wehrmacht's relentless drive and



There are no known accessible photos of Friedrich Meythaler⁵.

⁵ Example photograph by USHMM - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Photograph #06231, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2027499>.

support for any furtherment in medical knowledge that could help them win the Second World War.

Meythaler kidnapped and experimented on healthy Australian soldiers who had previously worked in a prisoner of war camp on Crete in 1941. After the ANZACs underwent countless injections over multiple weeks, they managed to weakly protest against this non-consensual medical experimentation. After being savagely beaten by the supervising German guards, they were taken back to the main section of the camp - their absence largely unnoticed.

Meythaler did not receive any punishment for his crimes whatsoever, publishing multiple papers on his 'findings' and being promoted to Professor of Internal Medicine in 1942. Additionally, after denazification (where Germans were judged based on their devotion to the Nazi Party after World War Two), he was classed a *Follower* and allowed to regain his position in society as a respected physician.

Despite not being as brutal as Josef Mengele, or as notorious as Unit 731, thousands of other Nazi doctors like Meythaler took advantage of the unrestricted medical opportunities presented to them during the Second World War to further their own careers as medical professionals, and occasionally medical knowledge as a whole.

As stated in *Genocide Perspectives V*, "...Meythaler typifies the 'ordinary' Nazi doctor. He was one of a vast army of physicians who used the circumstances prevailing in Nazi Germany to further their research and careers."



Captured Australian Prisoners of War on Crete⁶, 1941.

⁶ Captured Australian Prisoners of War on Crete 1941, Photograph, NeoKosmos, viewed 3 July 2019, <<https://neokosmos.com/en/41952/nazi-experiments-on-cretan-anzacs-revealed/>>.

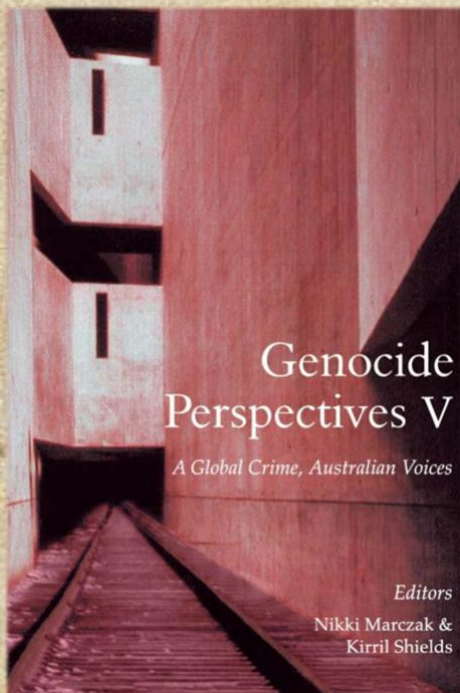
THE VALUES AND LIMITATIONS OF KEY SOURCES:

GENOCIDE PERSPECTIVES V

<u>Title of Article</u>	Genocide Perspectives V: First do harm! A medical experiment on Australian POW and the career of a military physician.	<u>Date of Publication</u>	2017
<u>Author</u>	Konrad Kwiet and George Weisz.	<u>Publishing Company</u>	University of Technology Sydney, ePress.

<u>Values & Limitations</u>	<p><u>VALUES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article written and researched by an acclaimed historian plus a doctor, their hindsights from their respective professions contributing to the accuracy and reliability of the paper. • Kwiet's position as historian of Sydney's Jewish Museum and Weisz's position as a surgeon may have allowed them access to a wide range of sources to help authenticate and develop their article. • 52 additional sources (of a wide variety) are linked in the article, suggesting a well-researched and cross-referenced paper. • Information on Nazi medical experimentation is detailed and specific, on topic - containing details on how Nazi doctors saw war as an opportunity to push boundaries of medical knowledge. 	<p><u>LIMITATIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors may only have a specific or narrow focus to their work, due to their personal views or methods or research. • Many sources come from German archives and publications, the meaning of some information may have been affected/alterred through the translation. • May be attempting to persuade readers to feel a certain way, given it is published in a magazine focused on the horrors of Genocide; viewpoint may be biased. • As articles includes extracts from interviews with George Savage in 1942, the credibility of his accounts must be considered, and checked against other accounts from the time, as certain events may be exaggerated or inaccurate due to his traumatised/diseased state. • Length of paper and level of detailed research included decreases overall clarity of paper, making it hard to find specific information.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a recent publication, suggesting that there might have been more existing sources to access and help develop article. • Published in a reputable historical journal, enhancing credibility. 	
<p><u>Notes from the source</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undocumented, illegal medical experimentation likely occurred on many other ANZAC prisoners of war. • Meythaler's forced injection of hepatitis-infected blood into Australian Prisoners of War (POWs) was a direct violation of the 1907 Hague Convention, and the 1927 Geneva Conventions on the treatment of POWs. • Once George Savage had been smuggled off Crete and back to Australia, spent a few weeks in good health, but then experienced frequent high fevers, muscle and back pain, was admitted to hospital. After this, he revealed his story. • The Nazi doctor Friedrich Meythaler published 75 documents on studies of hepatitis, diabetes, malaria and a number of other infectious diseases. 	



100

entific symposium in Athens on October 26, 1942.³⁸ A newly established research centre was entrusted with the task of carrying out clinical examinations and medical experiments to combat the hepatitis epidemic. Research teams were sent from the Army Medical Inspectorate in Berlin, recruited by its consulting internist, Professor Gutzeit. Meythaler reiterated his findings:

There exists also a contagious infectious syndrome, a hepatitis *infectiosa sine iktero*. It can be assumed that it (hepatitis) is transmittable from human to human as well via experiments on animals. All hypotheses from clinical or experimental research point to a virus infection, whose agent has not been identified.

Meythaler's experiment can be evaluated as follows: he observed a febrile condition in a geographic region with numerous bacterial and parasitic infections. The illness appeared to result from a blood inoculation taken from sick German soldiers. Without documented blood group analyses in donors and recipients, the consequent illness could be either a transfusion reaction with blood group incompatibility or a rapid infection by a pathological agent. The rather short interval between blood transfer and the reactions of the recipients would imply an infectious illness with virtually no incubation period. This would be very unlikely with a viral infection like hepatitis A. The time interval would rather favour the interpretation of a transfusion reaction as indicated by hepatomegaly without jaundice. This led Meythaler to suggest blood-borne transmissibility of infectious hepatitis. That result had not yet been confirmed in laboratory tests. Other endemic infections ought to be taken into account:

a) The most likely alternative diagnosis was thought to be Malta Fever caused by the bacterium *Bruceella melitensis*, which causes undulant fever attacks, lasting 10-14 days, of decreasing frequency and with persistent low-grade lumbar and muscular pain, corresponding to spondylitis (osteo-chondritis of the lumbar spine).

b) Malaria was excluded a year later in the Heidelberg Military Hospital.

c) Jaundice from either a viral infection, leptospirosis or spirochaetosis was not observed.

The five Australian POWs were seemingly used in a non-consensual, enforced experiment, probably in an ad hoc, ill-prepared attempt to diagnose the Ger-

³⁸ Friedrich Meythaler, "Zur Pathogenese und Klinik der Hepatitis infectiosa (epidémica contagiosa)"

The cover and an extract⁷ analysing the results of Meythaler's experiments from Genocide Perspectives V.

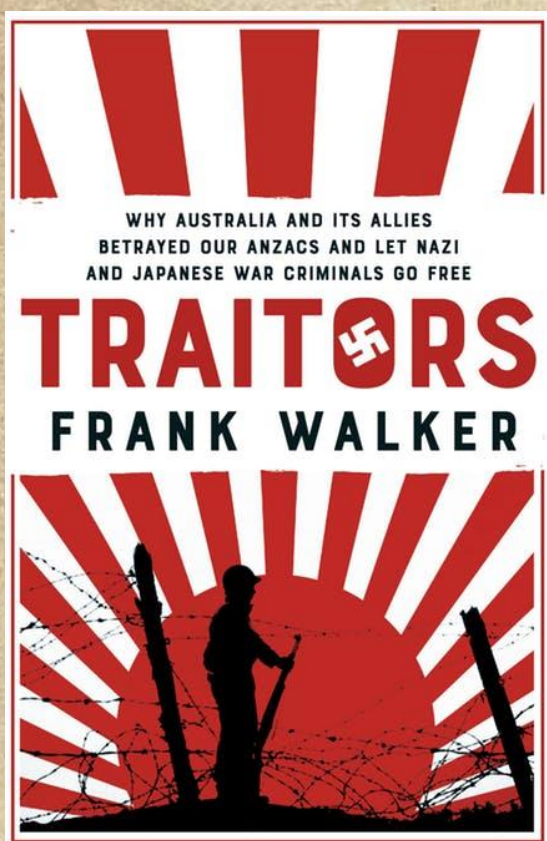
⁷ Kwiet, K & Weisz, G 2017, 'First do harm! A medical experiment on Australian POW and the career of a military physician.', *Genocide Perspectives*, no. 5, pp. 90-104.

TRAITORS

<u>Title of Article</u>	Traitors: How Australian and its allies betrayed our ANZACs and let Nazi and Japanese war criminals go free.	<u>Date of Publication</u>	2018
<u>Author</u>	Frank Walker.	<u>Publishing Company</u>	Hachette Australia.
<u>Values & Limitations</u>	<p><u>VALUES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author has been Australian journalist and war correspondent for 40 years, so it is likely that he has some prior experience on the topic and useful background knowledge of the wars and how it affects people. • Author has written multiple non-fiction bestsellers centred on ANZACs and Australian history, and his 6th instalment, Traitors, is likely to benefit from his hindsight. • Information on Savage's case is detailed, specific and includes references to the original, primary sources, increasing reliability by allowing cross-referencing. • His position as a war correspondent could have allowed him access to a wider range of primary and secondary sources to help develop his novel, such as George Savage's interview from the National Archives of Australia. 	<p><u>LIMITATIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain details in his account of George Savage's story may have been exaggerated or altered to add excitement and 'sell' aspects of his novel. • As there is only one reported account of Nazi human experimentation on ANZACs, it may not provide enough evidence to accurately represent the extent of Nazi medical experimentation as a whole. • As the author is writing about crimes against his own country, patriotism or bias may have affected the selection and/or presentation of information. • The tone, literary techniques used and writing style of this author may affect the clarity of the information that is being presented. 	
<u>Notes from the source</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military disaster in Greece led to the evacuation of many ANZACs to Crete, including 21-year-old George Savage. • They were bombed by the Germans, who took a key airfield and soon gained control of the island, despite fierce resistance from ANZAC troops and the Cretian resistance. • Many ANZACs were rescued or escaped as the Germans took over, but Savage was captured and forced to repair damaged airfields and roads. 		

- While working, Savage and four other ANZACs were taken aside, briefly examined, declared 'sick', and taken to beds in a ward of sick German soldiers.
- From there, they were subject to vile human experimentation - injected with blood from the diseased Germans around them, becoming violently sick, then injected again, over and over.
- Savage eventually escaped the lab, and later, thanks to the help of the British SAS and Cretian resistance, escaped Crete.
- Savage suffered health problems for the rest of his life, while Meythaler, the doctor that experimented on him, enjoyed a successful medical career during and after the war.

After reading Traitors, I contacted the author, Frank Walker, for an interview to be used in my documentary. It also allowed me to discuss, further clarify my understanding and learn from his personal perspective and experience of the topic.



A picture of Frank Walker⁸, Australian war correspondent of 40 years, and author.

The cover of Traitors⁹, by Frank Walker, 2018.

⁸ Photograph of Frank Walker n.d., Photograph, viewed 4 July 2019, <<https://www.frankwalker.com.au/about-me>>.

⁹ Walker, F 2018, Traitors, Book Cover, Hachette Australia, viewed 4 July 2019, <<https://www.hachette.com.au/frank-walker/traitors-how-australia-and-its-allies-betrayed-our-anzacs-and-let-nazi-and-japanese-war-criminals-go-free>>.

GEORGE SAVAGE'S FILES

<u>Title of Article</u>	Alleged Experimentation on Australian Prisoners of War - Rethynne Hospital, Crete.	<u>Date of Publication</u>	1943
<u>Author</u>	Various officials and George Savage.	<u>Publishing Company</u>	The National Archives of Australia, Australian Government.
<u>Values & Limitations</u>	<u>VALUES</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains the original account from George Savage of the experimentation he went through, providing a raw and unedited insight into his experiences. • Includes dated and signed documents sent between Australian military officials, further verifying the situation. • Savage's unedited account offers insight into his personal views and emotions during the experimentation on him, allowing us to better understand the horror that he was going through. • The included monthly timeline of George's movements between 1941 and 1942 corroborates the dates mentioned in accounts from other sources. • The official, signed medical records verify Savage's accounts, and that the symptoms of the diseases he suffered were genuine. 	<u>LIMITATIONS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reliability of Savage's accounts may be affected by his mental and physical health at the time of giving the statements, as a result of the trauma from the experiments done to him. • As the documents were stored and constructed by the Australian government at the time, there may be bias as a result of this, particular parts potentially censored/withheld. • The official nature of the documents may result in limitations in clarity due to the tone, expression and use of formal/complicated language. • Offers a one-sided view of the events: no viewpoint from Meythaler's perspective - his true intentions unknown and left to speculation. 	
<u>Notes from the source</u>	<u>CONTAINS:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official letters accompanying Savage's statement that were sent to London to be analysed, including a mentioned report of an additional patient who also believed he was involved in experiments by unidentified doctors during the war. 		

- Minute papers of the Department of Defence, responding to and receiving Savage's statement.
- A timeline of George's movements between 1941 and 1942, regarding the experimentation on him.
- A three-page report, signed by Savage, of his story.
- A medical report on Savage documenting his movements, symptoms and his proposed condition.
- Other handwritten files of communication between officials.

STATEMENT
by
VX 18824 Pte. George Allan SAVAGE
2/5 BN. A.I.F. (NO. 3RD SALVAGE & RECOVERY, FISHERMEN'S BOND
Present address: Salvage Detachment, Camp Hdqrs, Watsonia.

I was captured in Crete on 1 Jun.41 and was held in a P.O. camp there until 3 Jul.41. At that time I was a Corporal, but I and other N.C.O.s were compelled to work. We were promised 18 drachma a day, but actually I never received any pay, although the reason for non-payment may possibly have been connected with my subsequent escapes.

On 3 Jul.41 I escaped with 2 others and dressed as civilians we lived in the hills with the Greeks. On being recaptured we were court-martialled and sentenced to a term of hard labour. At the court-martial we were not provided with counsel, but we were given the services of an interpreter. The hard labour consisted of 10 hours work a day erecting defence works around an aerodrome, and wire entanglements along the beaches. One meal only a day was provided, consisting of a handful of cooked beans and one slice of Greek bread at mid-day. About 1/2 pint of drinking water was provided in the morning and in the evening, but nothing to drink was allowed with the mid-day meal. In consequence of this treatment I lost nearly 3 stone in weight. Later we were set to work mixing concrete at the BATHYRNO HOSPITAL.

Shortly after arrival at the place of work outside the hospital, a doctor came along and after casually watching us, he approached me and turned up my upper eyelid. The following day he came again and ordered me inside the hospital, and gave me a thorough general examination, x-rayed my chest, tested my urine and also my blood. (My blood grouping is B3). He then stated that I was sick, conducted me to a ward in which there were a number of German patients, and ordered me into one of 8 beds that had been set apart in the ward. During the course of the same day, 4 other Australians, names and numbers as follows, who had been working with me were also brought in and made to occupy the other 4 beds:

VX17914	Pte. D. CHURCHMAN	2/5 Bn. A.I.F.
VX4267	" S. WILLIAMS	" "
VX8873	" J. DEVLIN	2/3 Bn. A.I.F.
VX5008	" W. LINDSEY	" "

On the following day we were again examined, temperature, pulse, and blood and urine tests. Later that day the doctor returned and withdrew half a syringe of blood (size of syringe about 6" long x 1/4" diameter) from the arm of a German patient in the room and immediately injected it into a vein in my arm, after first applying a tourniquet to my upper arm. The blood went into my arm without clotting.

The other four Australians received similar injections, but I do not know from when the blood was taken, as I was not paying attention to them at the time.

The following day the doctor returned and after the customary examination, temperature, pulse, blood and urine he injected into the vein at the same place in my arm a clear fluid. The others were similarly treated. Following this injection we all became, within the space of 24 hours, feverish with high pulses, and felt very sick.

(RIGHT) A copy of communications between Army officials regarding Savage's account and medical condition¹¹, 1943.

(LEFT) Page 1 of George Savage's statement outlining the experimentation he experienced¹⁰, recorded in 1943.

ARMY	
TELEPHONE P 4646 DDMS/ /S; 2/4p.m	G255 1 79
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.—SOUTHERN COMMAND	
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE NO.	50241
Checked for Indexing	2 APR 1943
DDMS LHQ	2 APR 1943
Alleged Experimentation on Australian POW in German Hospital <u>VX 18824 Pte SAVAGE G. A. - 2/5 Bn</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The case of the above soldier was brought to notice by DFW LHQ who requested that particulars be forwarded to you, for consideration and service. Copy of Clinical Notes from 107 Aust GH of 16.9.42 and 115 (Hberg) Military Hosp of 9.10.42, forwarded herewith, are self explanatory, and the story, if true, and there seems no reason to doubt the veracity, is one which merits any protest which can be lodged by DFW. DFW has suggested that, after perusal of these enclosures, the soldier should be interviewed after which any necessary action could be considered. This soldier appeared before a Referee (Psych) Medical Board, Melbourne, 11.11.42, and was classified Class A3. Apart from the fact he was rather underweight and mildly anxious about himself, he did not appear to be permanently invalidated by his alleged experiences. 	
Encl. (2)	
5 APR 1943	P. R. Anderson Colonel DDMS VICTORIA L OF C AREA <i>Officer of DFW informed the above and brought him along to this office on 2/4/43. He is to forward a copy of the report to this Directorate.</i>
5 APR 1943	Passed by A.M.D. 2 6-4-43 Held 19/4
G.M.S. 5507/4	

^{10, 11} Alleged Experimentation on Australian Prisoners of War - Rethynne Hospital, Crete. 1943, page 11 and page 15, Allied Land Forces Headquarters, Victoria, National Archives of Australia.

THE CONCEALMENT OF HUMAN EXPERIMENTS:

Medical experimentation was obviously overwhelmingly prevalent during the Second World War - the cases previously mentioned representing only the tip of the iceberg of horror. Conversely, the lack of documented experiments upon ANZAC prisoners of war was most likely due to multiple factors:

The staggering amounts of *documented* medical experimentation cases across the Pacific as a whole suggest that there were possibly many more ANZACs that underwent human experimentation that we do not know about, due to the nature of the secretive experiments. The traumatic nature of the experiments leading to victims often wishing to just 'move on and forget' (such as seen with the four other ANZACs experimented on alongside George Savage) alongside the high mortality rate could explain the absence of documented Australian cases.

To conclude, human experimentation remains an undeniable and mortifying aspect of wars across the Pacific. While there is a strong focus on the German and Japanese efforts to use human experimentation to their advantage, they are by no means sole offenders - many other countries, such as the U.S and Australia, participated in or gained to seek knowledge from these human experiments themselves.



However, merely looking at the past is only one step towards peace across the Pacific. Learning from our mistakes, through portfolios, public speeches and coming together, will allow us to utilise the past for a peaceful future.

(LEFT TO RIGHT) When world peace was achieved against the odds: UK prime minister Winston Churchill, US president Harry Truman and Russian leader General Stalin shaking hands¹².

¹² *Keystone-France/Gamma-Keystone via Getty Images*

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