

2. THE GESTAPO'S METHODS OF EXAMINATION

(a) From a directive by the *Gestapo* chief, MÜLLER.

The written instructions for the "sharpened interrogations" by the *Gestapo*, as they were applied against, among others, the men of July 20, have been preserved in the original, because a large part of the *Gestapo* files could be obtained after the collapse of the National Socialist regime. The instructions came from the notorious chief of the security police and the security service, MÜLLER. Under the date of June 12, 1942, a "new regulation" regarding the interrogation methods of the *Gestapo* was issued as "secret *Reich* matter," as follows:

- "1. The sharpened interrogation may only be applied if, on the strength of the preliminary interrogation, it has been ascertained that the prisoner can give information about important facts, connections or plans hostile to the state or the legal system, but does not want to reveal his knowledge, and the latter cannot be obtained by way of inquiries.
2. Under this circumstance, the sharpened interrogation may be applied only against Communists, Marxists, members of the Bible-researcher sect, saboteurs, terrorists, members of the resistance movement, parachute agents, asocial persons, Polish or Soviet persons who refuse to work, or idlers.
In all other cases my previous permission is required as a matter of principle.
3. The sharpened interrogation may not be applied in order to induce confessions about a prisoner's own criminal acts. Nor may this means be applied toward persons who have been temporarily delivered by justice for the purpose of further investigation.
Once more, exceptions require my previous permission.
4. The sharpening can consist of the following, among other things, according to circumstances:
simplest rations (bread and water)
hard bed
dark cell
deprivation of sleep
exhaustion exercises,
but also the resort to blows with a stick (in case of more than 20 blows, a doctor must be present)."