

A nation with many children can gain supremacy and mastery of the world. A pure race with few children already as one foot in the grave; in fifty or a hundred years it will be of no significance; in two hundred years it will be extinct. It is essential to realize that if we allow this infection to continue in Germany without being able to fight it, it will be the end of Germany, of the Germanic world. Unfortunately this is not the simple matter it was for our forefathers. For them, the few isolated cases were simply abnormalities; they drowned them in bogs. Those who found bodies in the mire did not know that in 90% of the cases they found themselves face to face with a homosexual who had been drowned with all his belongings. This was not punishment, more the simple elimination of this particular abnormality. It is vital we rid ourselves of them; like weed we must pull them up, throw them on the fire and burn them. This is not out of a spirit of vengeance, but of necessity; these creatures must be exterminated.

Heinrich Himmler, 18th Feb 1937

A man who engages as the active or passive partner in lewdness with another man is to be punished by imprisonment.
 II. With an involved party who at the time of the act had not yet reached the age of twenty-one years, the Court can refrain from punishment in mild cases.
 -Paragraph 175-

One morning I heard: "Open! It's the police". I asked myself what they wanted from me. I said that I had lots of things to do and I had to work. After 10 minutes they knocked again: "Open! It's the police". So I said: "I've already told you that I would come. "Yes, but it's urgent". So I went with them and they showed me a letter. "Read here!". It was of Political Bavarian Police. "But what did they want from me?". "You're suspected of being homosexual. For this reason I declare you under arrest". What could I do? In this way I was interned in Dachau without any trial.

Heinz F.'s testimony
 Documentary "Paragraph 175"

HOMOCAUST

In the 1920s, homosexual people in Germany, particularly in Berlin, enjoyed a higher level of freedom and acceptance than anywhere else in the world. However, with the rise of Adolf Hitler, gay men and, to a lesser extent, lesbians, were two of the numerous groups targeted by the Nazi Party and were ultimately among Holocaust victims. Beginning in 1933, gay organizations were banned, scholarly books about homosexuality, and sexuality in general, were burned, and homosexuals within the Nazi Party itself were murdered. The Gestapo compiled lists of homosexuals, who were compelled to sexually conform to the "German norm". Between 1933 and 1945, according to Nazi documents, 100000 persons were arrested for homosexuality. Half of them were imprisoned, while 10.000/15.000 were interned in concentration camps.

Official dates about homosexuals condemned according to Paragraph 175:

1933	835	1939	7.614
1934	948	1940	3.773
1935	3.700	1941	3.735
1936	5.321	1942	2.678
1937	8.721	1943	996
1938	8.115	1944-1945	dates not available

=46.436

One time a person took me to a bar for homosexual people. He wanted to show me the condition of Christian homosexuals. There was a tense atmosphere. They continued to watch the door in order to verify who entered. They explained to me that many years ago all was well, but now they were being persecuted. So I said: "It's impossible that you are being persecuted if this bar is open". They answered me: "The bar is open only in order to take all of us together."

Gad Beck's testimony - Documentary "Paragraph 175"



Homosexuals sent to concentration camps were at the beginning identified by a yellow band with an "A" in the middle that meant "arschficker" (= sodomite) or by the number "175" and then by uniforms characterized by pink triangles. The highest concentration of homosexuals were in the concentration camps of **Sachsenhausen**, nearby Berlin, and **Buchenwald**. However homosexuals were interned in many other camps, such as **Dachau**, **Mauthausen**, **Ravensbrück**, **Flossenbürg**, **Neuengamme**, and the extermination camp of **Auschwitz-Birkenau**.

As the Nazi hierarch Rudolf Hess witnessed, homosexuals were sent to purpose-built sheds or they were mixed with other internees. However the mixed sheds were, if possible, avoided in order to prevent sexual deviance from spreading to "healthy" prisoners. Work was really hard for homosexuals: they were usually sent to *kommandos* and in quarries. Moreover they were particularly ill-treated by the SS that enjoyed inflicting on them tortures and acts of violence. They were also oppressed and raped by the other prisoners. To the categories of torture experiments were added. Carl Vaernet, for example, tried to cure homosexuals by administering implants of testosterone. Moreover from 1942 the forced castration of homosexuals was legalized. Castration became the most diffuse treatment because doctors preferred it to detention, considering it more effective as therapy.

There was a hierarchy: from the stronger to the weaker. Homosexuals were the most weak. They were in the last step of the hierarchy. I wasn't eighteen yet. Arrested, tortured, beaten. Without any defense, without process, completely alone. To not talking then about rapes. Jo was killed in front of me and other 300 persons. He was a friend of mine. He was condemned to die eaten by dogs.

Pierre Seel's testimony - Documentary "Paragraph 175"



The death rate of homosexual prisoners in concentration camps is amounted to 60% (one of the biggest percentage of non-Jewish prisoners), therefore by 1945 only 4000 persons had survived.

East Germany's version of Paragraph 175 remained in effect until 1968. West Germany retained the Nazi law until 1969. After the war, all those persecuted by the Nazi under Paragraph 175 were classified as criminals. By the end of the century, not one has received legal recognition as a victim of the Nazi regime.

Sources: documentary "Paragraph 175", *Homocaust* by Massimo Consoli, www.giornata.org, www.olokaustos.com, www.wikipedia.com

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