



PART THREE: RATIONALIZATIONS

Obergruppenführer Gebhart approached Himmler for permission to conduct similar experiments on political prisoners at Hohenlychen Hospital. Documents recovered by the German troops in the ruins of the Soviet Special Directive One facility in Minsk, along with reports of a parahuman of immense power sighted near the German lines in Russia, led *RuSHA SA* scientists to believe that the Soviets were pursuing research into the manufacture of parahumans through artificial means.

Himmler secretly granted Gebhart permission to pursue this avenue of research and Gebhart did so, drawing on the nearly limitless pool of political prisoners at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp as test-subjects. This project was conducted at a renovated bomb-shelter on the hospital grounds, called the *Gelb Haus* ("Yellow House"). Dozens of test subjects were killed every week as Gebhart carefully honed his methods down to an exacting process.

In late 1942, the project's first success was achieved. A Polish youth, simply called "Ludwig," demonstrated the amazing ability to consciously move his body out of phase with the physical world—a power made to manifest through systematic physical torture. Shortly after his manifestation, Ludwig escaped the compound... never to be seen again. More often than not, this was the outcome of such experiments—the impetus for the manifestation of the power was the drive to escape. Once such a power manifested, there was often no way to keep the subject in the facility.

Finally, as the end of the war approached, Gebhart sought to create a Type 4 parahuman, through the torture of already manifested German Talents.

○ 1942 Onward—(Secret) Research into Methods of Allied Talent Elimination or Neutralization

Stemming from the classification and testing of *Übermenschen* powers, this project hoped to devise a weapon capable of either permanently or temporarily removing enemy Talent powers. Kept a complete secret from Hitler, this project was based on early experiments conducted by *RuSHA SA* in 1936. It was discovered just a month into Konrad Rahn's manifestation that muscle relaxants caused his abilities to fail intermittently. Soon, a specialized team of scientists was studying the effects of various chemicals on the brains of political prisoners—hoping to come up with a chemical that affected Talents so adversely that their powers would be useless, while regular soldiers would be left unharmed...

No such chemical was ever found. *RuSHA SA* scientists later pursued other avenues of research, including nerve and blinding gasses. Their most successful design, the *Sonnenblume* ("Sunflower") magnesium flash grenade, was used in great numbers near the end of the war (mostly on the Eastern front) to permanently blind enemy Talents—often removing their ability to affect reality in the process

(see *Sonnenblume* in Part Nine: Equipment, Weapons and Tactics on page xx. for more details).

○ 1942-Onward—Research into Psychic Abilities

Interest in the psychic abilities of *Übermenschen* began after *Der Auge's* groundbreaking use of the precognition ability to detect and counteract an Allied Commando raid at the French port of St. Nazaire in March 1942 (see the *GOD-LIKE Rulebook* page 177).

Early projects to form "work-groups" of psychic *Übermenschen* to predict the outcome of future events were attempted, but failed. No one then fully understood the first law of precognition—that the more a foreseen event is spoken of, the less likely it is to happen exactly how it was foreseen. By 1944, the Germans had a clear understanding of precognition and its limited uses in warfare—but had gained little else from their huge outlay of personnel and capital into the project.

○ 1943-Onward—(Secret) The Torture and Vivisection of Allied Talents

Due to Hitler's willful blindness on the subject, Allied Talents captured by German forces were effectively non-existent within the Nazi intelligence machine. Their presence could not be made known to the German High Command without enraging Hitler and they could not be left in regular POW camps for fear they would escape and wreak havoc.

SS-Obergruppenführer Gebhart found this arrangement most satisfying. Captured Allied parahumans were remanded to *RuSHA SA* custody (few in the command structure knew what to do with them) and from there, disappeared from records altogether. Almost none of the Allied Talents captured by the Germans were ever found alive, though a few daring escapes made the Germans' policy on Talents public knowledge in the Allied nations by late 1944. The strange twist in policy led to the Allied misconception that the Germans didn't consider Talents covered under the terms of the Geneva Convention.

At first Gebhart attempted to cause Type 4 manifestations in Allied Talents through torture, but found the results discouraging. Later, *RuSHA SA* settled upon live vivisection to locate any clues to the "why" of parahuman abilities. In the end, after the murder of more than 1,000 Allied Talents, *RuSHA SA* was no wiser than when it began.

Out of the twenty-two *SS* doctors indicted at the Nuremberg trials for "Medical Crimes against Humanity" nine were sentenced to death because of these "experiments."

○ 1944-Onward—(Secret) Psychological Experiments on German *Übermenschen*

This project was begun after Himmler granted permission in early 1944. Successes in "manufacturing" super-men from