

Romano Hänni

# Merciless Execution. Friendly Pardon.

2006

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Size open: 82×29,7 cm (8 pages) with  
additional blindfold and poem card

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Edition: 306, numbered

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Supplement: English translation, inkjet

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**Available, please order at: [typo@romano-haenni.ch](mailto:typo@romano-haenni.ch)**

# Merciless Execution. Friendly Pardon.

In August 2006, an article was published in a daily newspaper with the headline: “Shot at Dawn, Pardoned 90 Years On”. Three hundred and six British soldiers were court-martialed and shot during World War I by their comrades. The complete text from the German Press Agency is printed on the front of the altarfold.

“Merciless Execution. Friendly Pardon.” is composed of three parts. The blindfold around the altar fold with a French Military Cross, the gate fold or altar fold with eight pages and a card with a poem. This letterpress work is dedicated to showing that war is cardinally a criminal act.

Number 1 to 120 are part of a box named *Colorless–Colored. Merciless–Friendly*. The box was published during the 8th Book and Handprinting Fair in Frauenfeld/Switzerland, in 2006. Enclosed with the letterpress work numbers 121 to 306 is an eight-page pictorial supplement translated into American English (composed on computer, printed in inkjet).

**Gnadenlos  
hinrichten.**

*London (dpa).* - 60 Jahre nach ihrer Erschießung wöl-  
len 106 britische Soldaten, die im Ersten Weltkrieg  
wegen Feigheit vor dem Feind zum Tode verurteilt  
worden waren, posthum begnadigt werden. » Sie  
waren genau so Opfer des Krieges wie diejenigen,



in Nordfrankreich verloren die Briten allein am ers-  
ten Tag, dem 1. Juli 1916, mehr als 20.000 Mann.  
Unter den Opfern waren auf britischer Seite auch  
Südafrikaner, Kanadier und Australier.

18. August 2006

**Freundlich  
begnadigen.**



### Fusillés pour l'exemple

Auch in der französischen Armee wurden während des Ersten Weltkriegs eigene Soldaten hingerichtet.

*Ein Beispiel:* Nach mehreren Versuchen gelang es im März 1915 dem 336. Infanterie-Regiment nicht, eine deutsche Stellung einzunehmen. Trotz der aussichtslosen Lage, wurde der 3. Kompanie befohlen, am 10. März erneut anzugreifen. Das Niemandsland vor ihnen war bedeckt mit den Leichen ihrer Kameraden. Für die Soldaten war es jedoch unmöglich lebend aus den eigenen Schützengräben zu kommen. Das deutsche Sperrfeuer hätte alle niedergemäht.

Um die Soldaten aus den Gräben zu zwingen, befahl Divisionskommandant General Réveillac die eigenen Stellungen zu bombardieren. Der Artilleriekommandant weigerte sich, ohne schriftlichen Befehl auf die eigenen Leute zu feuern.

Wütend über den erneut fehlgeschlagenen Angriff ließ General Réveillac durch ein Kriegsgericht vier Männer der 3. Kompanie zum Tod verurteilen. Am 17. März 1915 wurden Théophile Maupas, Louis Lefoulon, Lucien Lechat und Louis Girard an Hinrichtungspfähle gebunden und von den eigenen Kameraden als «Beispiele» standrechtlich erschossen. Als Zeichen der «Ehrlosigkeit» wurden sie unter schwarzen Kreuzen beigesetzt.

Blanche Maupas, die Frau von Théophile, setzte sich während Jahren dafür ein, das Verbrechen aufzudecken und die Opfer zu rehabilitieren. Endlich, am 1. März 1914, wurden die vier Männer durch ein Sondergericht rehabilitiert. Die Witwen der Hingerichteten erhielten als Zeichen der Amnestie und als symbolischen Schadenersatz einen Franc.

## Gnadenlos hinrichten.

*London (dpa) - 90 Jahre nach ihrer Erschießung sollen 106 britische Soldaten, die im Ersten Weltkrieg wegen Feigheit vor dem Feind zum Tode verurteilt worden waren, posthum begnadigt werden. « Sie waren genau so Opfer des Krieges wie diejenigen, die auf dem Schlachtfeld gestorben sind », sagte der britische Verteidigungsminister Desmond Browne am Mittwoch zur Begründung.*

Das Schicksal der Weltkriegssoldaten hat in Großbritannien seit vielen Jahren für kontroverse Debatten gesorgt. Die Männer, einige von ihnen erst 17 Jahre alt, hatten sich geweigert, in die Schützengräben in Nordfrankreich zurück zu kehren. Einen endgültigen Schlussbericht muss nun das Parlament sehen, das allein die Begnadigung aussprechen kann.

Besonderes Aufsehen hatte der Fall des Soldaten Harry Fry erregt, der 1916 standrechtlich erschossen worden war. Seine heute 93-jährige Tochter hat sein Jahrzehnte für seine Begnadigung gekämpft. « Er war kein Feigling, er war ein tapferer Soldat », sagte sie nach Bekanntwerden der Entschuldigung des Verteidigungsministers. Im Gegensatz zum Kriegesgericht 1916 spricht man den Opfern heute eine « Kriegsmüdigkeit » zu, die durch die traumatischen Erfahrungen in den Schützengräben entstanden war.

Insgesamt haben im Ersten Weltkrieg etwa eine Million Briten ihr Leben gelassen. In der entscheidenden Schlacht gegen die Deutschen an der Somme in Nordfrankreich verloren die Briten allein am ersten Tag, dem 1. Juli 1916, mehr als 25.000 Mann. Unter den Opfern waren auf britischer Seite auch Soldatinnen, Kanadier und Australier.

18. August 2006

## Freundlich begnadigen.







[illegible]



*Ihr liebt uns*  
*(Glory of Women)*

Ihr liebt uns, wenn wir Helden auf Urlaub sind,  
oder verletzt an einem erwähnbaren Ort.  
Ihr verehrt Orden; denn euer Credo beginnt:  
Kühnheit wischt die Schande des Krieges fort.

Granaten dreht ihr für uns, ihr lauscht entzückt  
gruselig Geschichten von Gefahr und Kot.  
Von euch wird unser ferner Kampf geschmückt,  
und euer Lorbeer feiert unsern Tod.

Ihr könnt nicht glauben, dass britische Truppen «weichen»:  
zerbrochen an höllischen Gräueln rennen sie davon  
und zertrampeln geblendet vom Blut die grässlichen Leichen.

O deutsche Mutter, du träumst im Feuerschein,  
während du Socken strickst für deinen Sohn,  
tritt man sein Gesicht noch tiefer in den Schlamm hinein.

*Siegfried Sassoon (1894–1967)*

[illegible][illegible]

Größen keine ausgerollt, sondern sie verrollen, und eine Plasmone bildet in der Stoffe eine Maser!

Die Taster liegt mit der Mund und dem zwei Arme mit der Hühner, die Plasmone ganz außen im Gehirn. Es soll die Kraft, die er erzeugt. Sein Gesicht steht aus Mensch und hat seine eigenen Gedanken, das zeigen ist es wenn sie ihre Augen schließt, und es schließt.

Schleimhaut bildet ein gelberes Gehirn.

Man hat auch andere Leiden, einige von ihnen haben sie nicht empfunden und erkennen auch Plasmone.

[illegible]

schlucken auch gerne, um sich die Lungen zu entspannen, so Zustand ist befriedigend, sie trinken sich mit Nektar und Entladungsfäden zu Tode

Wir haben Menschen erlebt, denen der Schicksal 1933, wir selbst Tschilgen (siehe, diese beiden Flüsse zusammen) zum, sie schufen auf den ersten, der Salzwasser bis zum nächsten Loch; ein Damm, der brach, und ich kam zurück und sah den Menschen und schlug die gesamte Kette des Berges.

[illegible]

It is an extremely important point to know how to use your presentation skills and to have a good understanding of the business.

[illegible][illegible]

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1. *Staphylococcus aureus*  
 2. *Escherichia coli*  
 3. *Streptococcus pneumoniae*  
 4. *Salmonella enteritidis*  
 5. *Shigella flexneri*  
 6. *Yersinia enterocolitica*  
 7. *Legionella pneumophila*  
 8. *Campylobacter jejuni*  
 9. *Haemophilus influenzae*  
 10. *Neisseria meningitidis*  
 11. *Listeria monocytogenes*  
 12. *Brucella abortus*  
 13. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*  
 14. *Cryptosporidium parvum*  
 15. *Toxoplasma gondii*  
 16. *Giardia lamblia*  
 17. *Isospora belli*  
 18. *Cyclospora cayentensis*  
 19. *Microsporidium*  
 20. *Trichinella spiralis*  
 21. *Ascaris lumbricoides*  
 22. *Strongyloides stercoralis*  
 23. *Enterobius vermiciformis*  
 24. *Trichostrongylus axei*  
 25. *Ostertagia circumcincta*  
 26. *Haemonchus contortus*  
 27. *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*  
 28. *Moniezia benediti*  
 29. *Paramphistomum*  
 30. *Cylicostephanos*  
 31. *Dictyocaulus viviparus*  
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 190. *Cylicostephanos*  
 191. *Dictyocaulus viviparus*  
 192. *Haemonchus placei*  
 193. *Ostertagia circumcincta*  
 194. *Trichostrongylus*

Der Mann wurde durch eine unglückliche Liebe  
 verloren, wegen der Liebe verlor der Mann auch sein  
 Leben (unsterblich), durch den Tod und einen  
 anderen, verlor er auch seinen Geist. Der Mann  
 ist immer noch geistig (geistig) (geistig)  
 und (geistig) (geistig) (geistig) (geistig) (geistig)  
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[illegible][illegible]

Don Wiggins had his own career, the 1990s (which Wiggins, who profiles us here, calls "Don's Don" era).

Das Original befindet sich in der  
Bibliothek der Universität zu Köln  
in der Abteilung für die Geschichte  
der Naturwissenschaften  
und ist als Manuskript  
abgebunden.

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The front page of the altarfold



On August 18, 2006 there was a paragraph in a daily paper entitled *Die Zeit* in Darm, *Handelnd* in Bonn. The full text from the German Press Agency (dpa) is printed on the front page of the altarfold.

### Merciless Execution.

London (dpa) – Ninety years after their execution, 306 British soldiers who were condemned to death for cowardice in the face of the enemy have been posthumously pardoned. "They were just as much victims of war as those who died on the battlefield," explained the British Minister of Defense Desmond Browne.

The fate of these First World War soldiers has long been a controversial subject in the UK. The men, some of whom were as young as 17, had refused to return to the trenches in northern France. Parliament must now draw a line under the affair, which can only be done by announcing a pardon.

The case of the soldier Harry Farr, executed by firing squad in 1914, particularly caused a stir. His daughter, now 93 years old, has been campaigning for years to have him pardoned. "He was no coward, he was a courageous soldier," she said after hearing the decision of the Minister of Defense. In contrast to the 1916 military trial, the victims are now adjudged to have suffered from shell shock caused by the trauma of their experiences in the trenches.

Around a million Britons lost their lives in the First World War. On the first of July 1916, the first day of slaughter at the battle of the Somme, more than 20,000 men were killed. South Africans, Canadians and Austrians died alongside the British.

August 18, 2006

### Friendly Pardon.

Pictorial Supplement with Translation in American English.

Eight page booklet  
with translation in  
American English.



## State-ordered Murder, called War

By Konrad Hübner

Ninety years had to pass before a Minister of Defense (who at the time would have held the title Minister of War) officially announced that First World War soldiers shot under military law would be considered to be victims of war in the same way as their comrades who had died on the battlefield. These soldiers were executed by their own people for cowardice in the face of the enemy, desertion or refusal to obey orders.

Another ninety years will probably have to pass before the realization that these men were not simply not guilty but were deliberately murdered by their own homeland. How long will it be before the word "war" has the same meaning as "war crime"?

The execution of people who do not want to murder (and who do not have the right connections to appeal successfully for clemency) is, for the military, a useful deterrent to achieve discipline and to intimidate the troops. The blunders of the High Command, on the other hand, which cause the deaths of thousands, are classified as military secrets. Since there is no court

martial sitting in order to demand accountability from the leaders responsible, any of their colleagues who express criticism are unseated from their posts. This is done by the same gentlemen who have their soldiers mercilessly executed for not obeying their criminal orders.

The poor (and not just in Great Britain) were driven by the lies of the upper class (the government) to the slaughter grounds and the mass graves of the First World War (1914-1918). When the miners' leader Robert Smillie was elected to the British parliament in 1923, he gave a memorable speech about the soldiers betrayed by the government.

Even today war is humanized by officialdom, death in a war being either ignored or glorified. War is recast as a civilizing act. It is given an ordered structure which it has never had and will never have. Thus the deceptively attractive illusion that war can be planned and calculated is spread further.

"secret": "We were aware of the fact that the Germans were making preparations for the discharge of gas for several days previously. Nobody seems to have realized the great danger that was threatening, it being considered that the enemy's attempt would certainly fail and that whatever gas reached our line could be easily fanned away. No one felt in the slightest degree uneasy."

The warning from General Ferry, who was more than "the slightest degree uneasy", was consciously disregarded. As a consequence of this misjudgment, the High Command was guilty of the agonizing deaths of five thousand allied soldiers in the gas attack at Ypres on the 22nd of April 1915. Tens of thousands more were poisoned, three thousand of whom were still disabled at the end of the war.

Ferry was dismissed from his post by the French High Command, furious at having their ignorance and incompetence revealed.

Among the victims were soldiers suffering from serious psychological injuries, as well as soldiers who, thanks to their refusal to obey orders, had saved the lives of many of their comrades. An example: on the 23rd of



The two flags of the altarfold with the capitals **E** and **S** from the word **SCHANDLOS** (dishonorable). In the top left corner the lower pages with parts of the red flag.

Altarfold (see page 10) because you open the two flags like a book open the two wings of an altar.

The text on the flag gives the consequences of the High Command, their lies to the men in the trenches and the families at home.

September 1915, a steadfast refusal to obey orders could have saved countless soldiers from death and injury. At the battle of Loos, a British officer refused to release poison gas because the wind conditions were wrong. Headquarters commanded him to do as he had been ordered. He obediently opened the cylinders and minutes later watched in horror as the gas cloud drifted back to his own positions and poisoned hundreds of British soldiers.

Those who denounced the British military command, such as the highly-decorated English officer Siegfried Sassoon, also ran the risk of being taken before a court-martial. But friends of Sassoon had him declared psychologically ill and committed him to a clinic.

Robert Smillie (1857-1940) threw his superiors' hypocrisy in their face: "You have made promises to the poor in order to lead them to slaughter. You have told them that after the war they will no longer have to suffer poverty and squalor. You have decreed, not merely given deniable promises, that everyone who loves their country will receive a piece of land for themselves and their family as an inalienable right. You have said this. And now?"

Now millions are degenerating into misery, now millions are wandering from one town to another, not knowing where to lay their head. You on the other hand are building new submarines, you are arming the country, knowingly preparing for a new war.

During the war there were land owners who were prepared to divide their estates up among returning soldiers. They refused to hand over their hunting land and sheep pastures for housing and follow their own appetites again. The homeland and its people have been saved. The Moor has done his duty. The Moor can go."

ROBERT SMILLIE: JOSEPH FRANKS  
A Higher Form of Killing: The Secret History of Chemical and Biological Warfare, Chats & Windus Ltd., London 1982.

Robert Smillie's speech (based on newspaper text, see page 10).  
Monday, July 9, 1915.

Those who refer to violent death on the battlefield as dying, as if it were the same as dying of old age, thereby define death in war as a natural occurrence and by extension also consider war to be something that is part of everyday life.

An example: evidence of High Command's failure was classified at the time. Today, however, it is known that on the 18th of April 1915, i.e. more than a week before the first gas attack at Ypres, a French pilot captured a German soldier who was carrying a register. The soldier betrayed the German plan to use poison gas and described the exact position of the gas cylinders (the existence of which had already been confirmed by aerial reconnaissance).

This information was passed to General Ferry, the French Divisional Commander. He sent it in both the British and French Commands with the advice either that the men threatened be withdrawn or the gas emplacements bombarded. Both his warning and his advice were ignored by the military High Command.

The following is taken from an official British report which, even 60 years after the attack, is still classified as