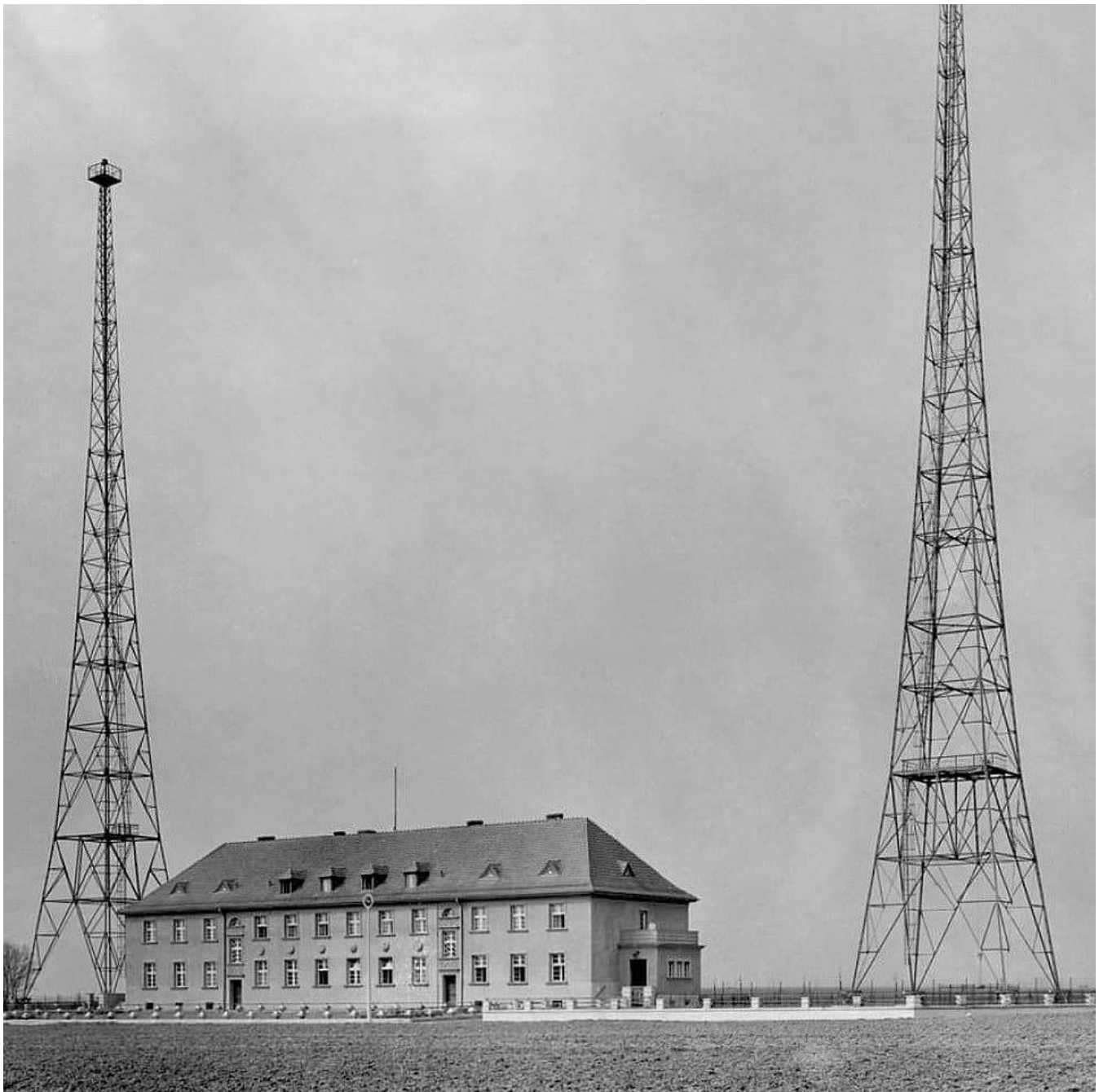


Nazi Germany used soldiers disguised as civilians, as well as undercover operatives and people wearing enemy uniforms, during several invasions and military operations before and during World War II. These tactics were used for reconnaissance, sabotage, deception, and in some cases to create confusion immediately before an attack.

An important distinction is that wearing civilian clothing to gather intelligence, pretending to be a civilian to carry out an attack, and wearing an enemy military uniform are different acts under the laws of war.

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gleiwitz_incident

Documented historical examples



1. Poland, August 31, 1939 — The Gleiwitz incident

Nazi SS operatives staged an attack on a German radio station, making it appear that Polish forces were responsible. The operation involved German personnel wearing Polish uniforms and a murdered prisoner presented as evidence of a supposed Polish attack. It was part of a series of staged incidents used to justify Germany's invasion of Poland the following day.



Holocaust Encyclopedia

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Source: [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum — Deceiving the Public](#)



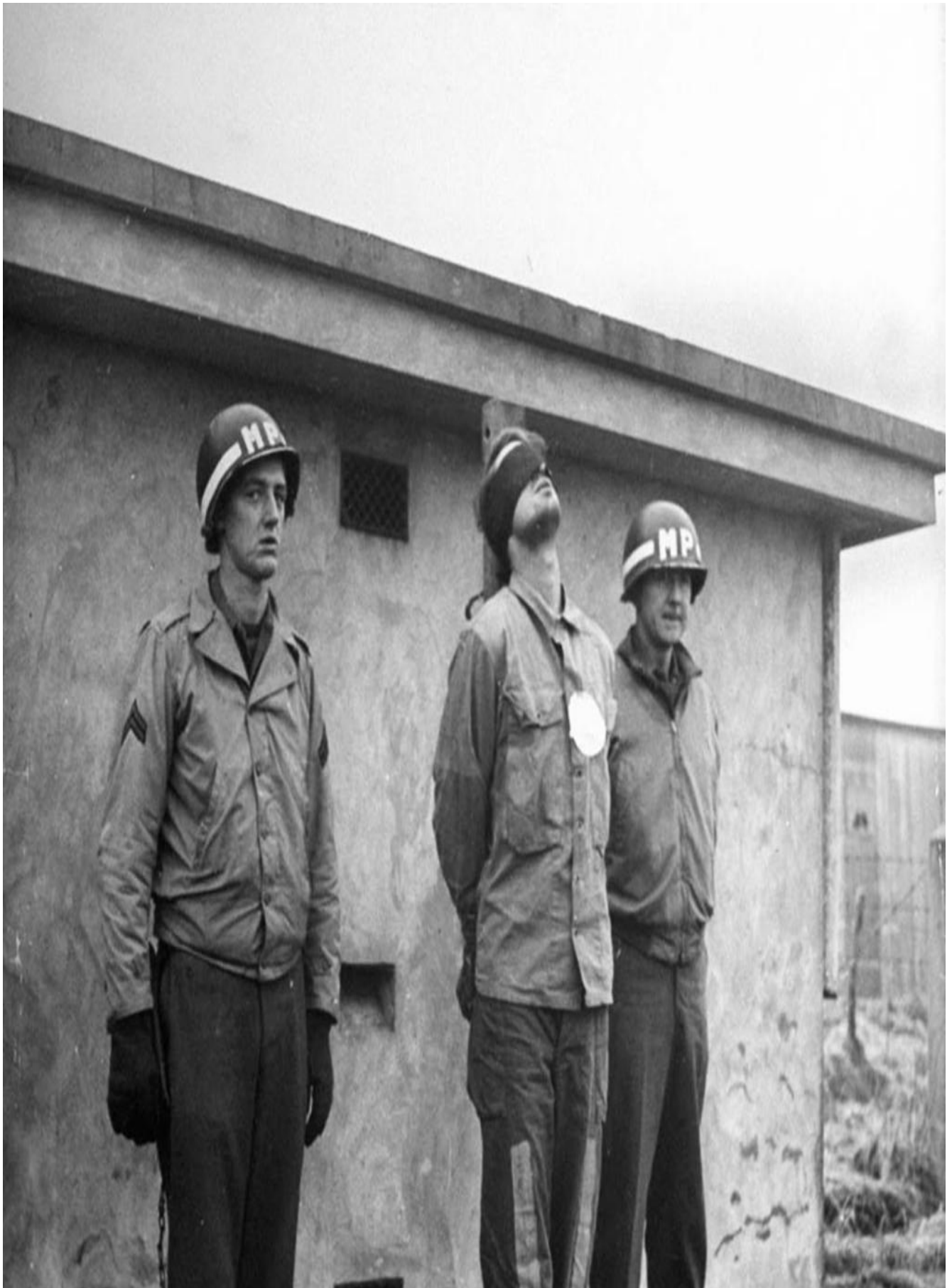
2. Norway, April 1940 — Disguises during military operations

A report prepared by the Norwegian government documented German troops appearing in Norwegian uniforms during fighting, including in the Bergen district, Valdres, and Narvik. The report also recorded an allegation that German personnel wore women's clothing to reach a more advantageous position. These are examples of disguises used during the invasion, although they are not all evidence of soldiers posing as ordinary civilians.

Document No. 1800-PS

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Source: [Yale Law School — Norwegian government report presented at Nuremberg](#)



3. Belgium and Luxembourg, December 1944 — Operation Greif

During the Battle of the Bulge, German commandos wore American uniforms and used English-language skills to infiltrate Allied rear areas. They gathered intelligence, disrupted communications, and misdirected Allied troops. This is one of the best-documented examples of German forces disguising themselves as the opposing side during an offensive.



New Orleans

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Source: [National WWII Museum — Operation Greif](#)

What about Germans posing as ordinary civilians?

Yes, German intelligence personnel and saboteurs also operated covertly, sometimes in civilian clothing. However, it is important to distinguish that from the documented cases above, which primarily involved enemy military uniforms or staged attacks.

The historical lesson: disguises and false-flag operations were real Nazi tactics, but evidence of a specific operation matters. A person wearing civilian clothes is not, by itself, proof that the person is a soldier or an infiltrator.