

The task of the group was to achieve a sense of separate identity. Members had to work through the confusion of feelings bound to their parents experience.

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About 1000 volunteer Norwegian Soldiers fell on each side during World War II. About 5000 Norwegians fought on the Eastern Front. About 2/3 of the survivors were wounded once to several times. Almost all of them had lice, many had several illnesses mostly due to bad hygienic conditions. After the war, all the surviving soldiers were in captivity in Norway, some also in Russian and/or Allied camps. The society they meant to have risked their lives for, disavowed them. They served 3-4 years of labour in Norway. Additionally, they were deprived of their suffrage for 10 Years, of their right to study and to serve in the Norwegian army. Their mortality rate was high during the first postwar years. In spite of the hostility of the surrounding society, most have done comparatively well since. This may be due partly to the forced companionship among them during the years of service and captivity, partly to their intellectual resources. The study is mainly based on questionnaires answered by 181 veterans, and on a study of all Norwegians in 1. st Company, Regiment Norge according to a company list from the 15.1.1944.0

#### RIGID OPERATIONAL PHILOSOPHIES IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS NEGATIVELY IMPACT TRAUMATISED CHILDREN

STUBBS C. - Hamilton - Bermuda

#### SEQUELAE OF VIOLENCE AND TORTURE : THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEDICAL TESTIMONY

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Due to the growing inflow of refugees and migrants coming to Europe, physicians see more frequently victims of violence or torture. Some may present various specific or aspecific complaints, others may seek professional help to establish a medical testimony for legal or medical reasons. In response to this new demand, a standardized procedure (semi-structured questionnaire) in establishing an adequate testimony was designed at the Community Medicine Unit in Geneva.

Between June 1991 and December 1993, 82 refugees and asylum seekers have asked for a medical testimony to report on previous exposure to trauma, torture or any form of violence and their long term consequences. There were 71 men (86 %, mean age 29 years) and 11 women (14 %, mean age 26 years). The majority were from Africa (52 %), the Middle-East (26 %), Asia (12 %) and Europe (8 %). Beating (89 %), electric shocks (28 %) and drowning (20 %) were the most frequent trauma reported. Sexual abuse (9 %) and various psychological trauma were also frequently reported. Symptoms were both somatic and psychological : musculoskeletal (60 %), abdominal pain (28 %), urogenital disorders (16 %), insomnia (74 %), nightmares (60 %), headache (56 %), memory loss (45 %), flashbacks (30 %). Other psychological symptoms were frequently observed : emotional lability (52 %), anxiety (44 %), depression (25 %), behaviour problems (18 %). The medical testimony can help political asylum applicants to prove that they have well founded fear of persecution in their country. It is also a critical component of therapy of survivors of violence and torture. Physicians need to recognize its clinical importance and should be trained to perform this important work.

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

LIVRE DES RESUMES

(Authors presented in alphabetical order)

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