

## There Was a Nazi Spy in Britain in WW2 After All

Until now, **it has been thought** that

All Nazi spies in Britain during the War were apprehended and turned, saving lives and shortening the War.

This was an astonishing tour de force, not only of counter-espionage but also of applied psychology, which is in our opinion far too little known and studied. Why is the same thing not being done to all the murderous bastards who are captured nowadays?

Anyway, now it turns out that **they missed one**:

Two amateur historians have uncovered the story of an audacious spy, who infiltrated the RAF in the middle of World War II and escaped back to Germany in a stolen RAF Hurricane.

Augustin Preucil came to Britain along with scores of other Czech pilots when mainland Europe fell under Nazi domination.

[...]

Preucil had taken off with another pilot, a young Pole, to practice dogfights over the sea.

The Pole returned to base reporting he had seen Preucil in a steep dive and assumed he had crashed. In fact Preucil had flown his machine across the North Sea to Belgium.

There he landed on a farm and was offered food and shelter by the farmer and his family .

But Preucil immediately betrayed them to the Gestapo and the family were imprisoned.

Preucil went on to work for the Gestapo mainly by infiltrating Czech political prisoner groups in concentration camps; it is known that some of those he betrayed were shot.

When Germany was finally defeated Preucil was captured

by the Czechs and put on trial for treason.

He was executed in 1947.

We are, as a rule, opposed to the death penalty but ... hurray!

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## why?

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Why?

by a reader on Fri, 06/06/2003 - 09:32 | [reply](#)

## Fallibility?

Fallibility?

Alice

by a reader on Fri, 06/06/2003 - 14:06 | [reply](#)

## Death Penalty

The death penalty is based on punishment instead of reparations, which many libertarians seem not to like. Maybe that's why. And, as Alice suggests, in the present, our courts make quite a number of mistakes.

I want to be clear that's not my position.

-- Elliot Temple

<http://curi.blogspot.com/>

by [Elliot Temple](#) on Fri, 06/06/2003 - 19:08 | [reply](#)

## Re: Death Penatly

One big problem with the death penalty is that it's based on revenge rather than self-defense. This harms good people as well as the bad people who are executed. It deprives good people of the opportunity to learn things about the bad people that can be used to prevent future crimes, for example.

~Woty

<http://woty.blogspot.com>

by [Woty](#) on Fri, 06/06/2003 - 20:03 | [reply](#)

## DP

Every person's situation contains some knowledge that could be extracted about morality adn the human condition etc. etc. Ideally, society could integrate all this knowledge into its institutions.

But we don't know how to take criminals seriously yet in an organized and secure fashion. Our best theories involve imprisonment and death. I see no tangible difference between these in terms of learning from criminals. In both cases, if the criminal was right, we would not know.

An argument FOR the death penalty would be that its cheaper, and therefore easier on the taxpayers. But I don't think this is actually the case, after all is said and done.

Then there is revenge. This seems harmless, since it harms good people (in the way Woty said above) no more than life imprisonment does. And morally, my intuition says that there is no substantial differenc between executing a serial rapist/murderer and locking him/her up for life in maximum security prisons.

by **Daniel Strimpel** on Fri, 06/06/2003 - 21:08 | [reply](#)

## **Get rid of the traitor.**

Get rid of the traitor

by a reader on Mon, 11/29/2004 - 21:23 | [reply](#)