

Grave L

Grave L was an intact and unrobbed grave containing the bodies of 12 men. It was distinctive in that the men were tied together in pairs by ligatures around their wrists.

- The men were aged between 20 and 50 although one may have been younger
- They were all still wearing clothing, none of it military. Whether or not of any significance was the fact that in the six who were wearing lacing shoes, the laces were missing
- None of them had any personal possessions whatsoever

Ligatures (and blindfolds)

- The twelve men had been tied together in pairs by ligatures around their wrists. Essentially each man had his hands tied together behind his back by loops of thick white string around each wrist. This was then connected to the ligature of another man, either by the same string continuing or by a separate short length linking the two. The lengths of the string were such that the two men were probably back to back although it might also have been possible for them to have been positioned side to side with their arms drawn together. The same type of string had been used in every case.
- In three men pieces of wide parcel tape were found with the fragmented skulls, possibly representing blindfolds over the eyes or gags over the mouth.

Injuries

(1) Gunshot injuries

Each of the men had been killed in the same way, by a single gunshot injury to the back or the side of the head. The injury patterns were remarkably similar for each pair:

- in eight of the men i.e. four pairs, there was a single shot low down at the back of the head, either in the midline or just to the side, fragmenting the skull and exiting through the top or the front
- one pair had both been shot through the side of the head, both of them on the left side - one through the lower jaw and the other just in front of the ear; interestingly, these were two of the men with the parcel tape
- the last pair had again been shot through the back of the head but in one, the shot was higher up than usual and in the other, there may have been two shots; both men were also the only two to have shots anywhere else, each of them having been shot twice in the chest and one of the shots having clearly been fired from above, passing down through the right shoulder

The consistency of the shots to the head, when considered with the ligatures, very much suggested close-range targeted injuries. The weapons used appeared to have been high velocity rifles.

(2) Other injuries

None of the men showed any evidence of blast injury but most had additional fractures, variably involving the ribs, spine, shoulder blades, pelvis and upper arms. The benefit of the doubt was given to these being post mortem injuries, although the possibility that some represented injuries caused in life could not be entirely excluded.