

# Nurse who killed 85 patients will die in jail

By Justin Hugler in Berlin

A MALE nurse believed to be post-war Germany's most prolific serial killer was yesterday sentenced to life in prison for the murders of 85 patients.

Niels Högel admitted giving lethal injections to his victims in order to show off his resuscitation skills, then failing to revive them. Judge Sebastian Bührmann told him that his crimes were "beyond comprehension".

Between 2000 and 2005, at two clinics in northern Germany, Högel, 42, experimented with different drugs to stimulate cardiac arrest so that he could save patients. Colleagues called

him "resuscitation Rambo" because he pushed others aside to get to victims.

In 2005, he was caught injecting a patient with a drug that alters the rhythm of the heart. He was sentenced to seven years for attempted murder and questions began to be asked about other patient deaths.

In 2015, Högel was found guilty of killing two patients and the attempted murder of two others. He admitted injecting many more patients, and an investigation involving the exhumation of more than 130 bodies began.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole - a rare punishment in Germany. Police

believe he may have killed more than 200 people but in many cases cremations destroyed all evidence.

On the final day of hearings, Högel told relatives of his victims: "I would like to sincerely apologise for all that I have done to you over the years."

◆ An Ohio doctor has been charged with murdering 25 hospital patients between 2015 and 2018, using lethal overdoses of painkillers.

Many of the doses of fentanyl were given by other staff on the orders of the accused, William Husel, it is alleged. Many of the patients were on ventilators and receiving palliative care. Husel has pleaded not guilty.

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