

I had been fighting in the war **for about** two years and my platoon **had been ordered** to clear out the area **so that** a general's car could **pass** through.

a number of german soldiers **were reported to be hiding** in the village

it turned out the **information** was **false** but we couldn't know **for sure until** we **got** there

we **had to be** pretty careful, **in case** there were some germans there

when we **entered** the village we **were greeted by** the mayor who **explained** that all of the germans **had left** a few days **before**. so **there were none left** for us to **drive out**

he had been **friends** with the germans and he decided **not to** leave when **they did. instead**, he made his home in a **rundown** house on a **nearby** hill

he was **suspected of carrying out**
experiments on live prisoners

he **was known to be helping the** germans
round up you men who **were thought to**
be a threat to the german forces

justice **needs to be done, I guess.**
letting people **get away with** crimes
doesn't **set a good example**

a **person** who collaborates with
the **enemy** has to **be punished**
in some way or another so that
the others learn a lesson

actually, he didn't **resist** at all. it looked
like he **expected to be** arrested any day,
though maybe not **by** americans

despite our expectations he
didn't **put up a fight**

we **have seen** people **commit** suicide
rather than be taken prisoner

I guess he was **too much of**
a coward to kill himself

trust me, we **had nothing to do with**
what happened next, **whatever it was**

they **may have executed** him and
the body **may have been buried**

the villagers knew that **if there**
was a trial, it **would take ages**

if he got a good lawyer he **might**
have to be released

so I suppose they **took the matter**
into their own hands by killing
him, **getting rid of** the body and
pretending **not to** know anything