

Landesarchiv Berlin
B Rep. 057-01

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LEITZ

Leitz-Ordner R 80

KL III e/1

Buchenwald

000 - 50 - 9

Vol. 46 - 60

Landesarchiv Berlin
B Rep. 057-01

Nr.: 383

17s 1.64 (RSHA)
SM

RVI/53

Buchenwald Case No 000 - 50 - 9

Urteil vom 14. August 1947

Josias Prinz zu Waldeck	lebenslänglich
Otto Barnewald	Erhaengung
August Bender	10 Jahre Haft
Anton Bergmeier	Erhaengung
Arthur Dietzsch	15 Jahre Haft
Hans Eisele	Erhaengung
Werner Greunuss	lebenslänglich
Philipp Grimm	Erhaengung
Hermann Grossmann	Erhaengung
Heinrich Hackmann	Erhaengung
Gustav Heigel	Erhaengung
Hermann Helbig	Erhaengung
Edwin Katsen-Ellenbogen	lebenslänglich
Josef Kestel	Erhaengung
Ilse Koch	lebenslänglich
Richard Koehler	Erhaengung
Hubert Krautwurst	Erhaengung
Hans Merbach	Erhaengung
Peter Merker	Erhaengung
Wolfgang Otto	20 Jahre Haft
Hermann Pister	Erhaengung
Emil Pleissner	Erhaengung
Guido Reimer	Erhaengung
Helmut Roscher	Erhaengung
Hans Schmidt	Erhaengung
Max Schobert	Erhaengung
Albert Schwartz	Erhaengung
Walter Wendt	15 Jahre Haft
Friedrich Wilhelm	Erhaengung
Hans Wolf	Erhaengung
Franz Zinecker	lebenslänglich

KL III e1A

Heft 1

000-50-9 (Bu)

Vol. 66 (Bu)

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der Exhibits

MILITARY GOVERNMENT COURT

CASE RECORD.

Case No. 000-50-9
BUCHENWALD Prosecutor WILLIAM DENSON
 *Summary Defence Counsel MAJ. CARL WHITNEY
 *Intermediate Military Court. Interpreter _____
 *General Reporter _____
 Place DACHAU, GERMANY
 Date 194 7
 Members of Court _____

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Accused JOSIAS PRINCE ZU WALDECK, ET AL.
 Address _____ Sex _____ Age _____

	First Charge	Second Charge
Pleas		
Findings		
Previous Convictions		

Sentence {
 Imprisonment { Term UOP 66 Exhibits
 Beginning NO PAPERS SHALL BE PLACED IN THIS 194
 Amount WASHINGTON, D.C.
 To be paid before 194
 or in case of default of payment to serve a further
 term of _____
 imprisonment.

NO PAPER SHALL BE PLACED IN THIS
DISPATCH TO THE AFFAIRS DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Charge Sheet and Record of Testimony are annexed hereto.

(Signature of member of court.)

REVIEW

Action of Reviewing Authority _____

(Signature of reviewing authority)

*Strike out words not applicable.

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BUCHENWALD CASE EXHIBITS

BOOK

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3	P-Ex 2 - 34 ✓
4	P-Ex 35 - 57 ✓
5	P-Ex 35A - 57A ✓
6	P-Ex 58 - 113 ✓
7	P-Ex 58A - 113A ✓
8	Court-Ex C-1 to C-6 ✓
9	D-Ex 1 - 48A ✓
10	P-Ex 13 - 13A - 13B - 13C Prepared human skin
11	P-Ex 14 Shrunken head

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The following prosecution exhibits in the Buchenwald case were "marked" but not "received in evidence":

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25.	Hans SCHMIDT		
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	P-52A Translation of P-52	1765	1766
	P-89 Statement of Hans Schmidt, 3 Mar 47	5436	5437
	P-89A Translation of P-39	5436	5437
	P-90 Statement of Hans Schmidt, 3 Mar 47	5439	5441
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	D-34 Statement of Hans Schmidt, 24 Feb 47	5442	5442
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26.	Max SCHOBERT		
	P-48 Statement of Max Schobert	1762	1763
	P-48A Translation of P-48	1762	1763
	P-74 Statement of Max Schobert, 24 Feb 47	4162	4181
	P-74A Translation of P-74	4162	4181
27.	Albert SCHWARTZ		
	None		
28.	Walter WENDT		
	None		
29.	Friedrich WILHELM		
	P-53 Deposition of Friedrich Wilhelm, 4 Mar	1766	1767
	P-53A Translation of P-53	1766	1767

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29.	Friedrich WILHELM (Cont'd)		
	P-54 Deposition of Friedrich Wilhelm, 21 Feb 47	1767	1767
	P-54A Translation of P-54	1767	1767
	P-78 Statement of Friedrich Wilhelm	-	5588
	P-78A Translation of P-78	-	5588
	P-79 Statement of Friedrich Wilhelm	-	5589
	P-79A Translation of P-79	-	5589
30.	Hans WOLF		
	None		
31.	Franz ZINECKER		
	P-49 Statement of Franz Zinecker	1763	1763
	P-49A Translation of P-49	1763	1763

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A T T E S T A T I O N

The foregoing, attached to this attestation, are true photostatic copies of the originals which are on file in the World War II Reference Branch, Washington National Records Center (NCWN), in the Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald vs. Friedrich Becker and others.

This is to verify that above photostatic copies conform to the original records as contained in the official file of documents pertaining to Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald.

Berlin, 18. Februar 1970



Joseph B. Conboy
JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Übersetzung

B E G L A U B I G U N G

Die vorstehenden Fotokopien, die mit dieser Urkunde verbunden sind, sind Originalablichtungen aus den bei der World War Reference Branch, Washington National Records Center (NCWN), aufbewahrten Akten - Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald - gegen Friedrich Becker u.a.

Die Übereinstimmung dieser Ablichtungen mit den in den Akten - Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald - befindlichen Schriftstücken wird hiermit beglaubigt.

Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e/1

Heft 2

Case No

000-50-9

Buchenwald

Vol. 16

Zeugenaussage

Dittrich

Kdo. 99

PROSECUTION: The prosecution calls as its next witness Horst Dittrich.

HORST DITTRICH, called as a witness by the prosecution, being first duly sworn, testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

- Q State your full name, please.
- A Dittrich, Horst.
- Q Where do you live, Mr. Dittrich?
- A I am born in Leipzig.
- Q Where are you residing at the present time?
- A In Dachau.
- Q Are you a prisoner in Dachau?
- A I am prisoner of war at Dachau.
- Q Did you ever serve at Buchenwald concentration camp?
- A I was in Buchenwald from June 1938 until December 1942.
- Q Were you ever a member of what was known as Detail No. 99?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: If the court please, I think that since this witness is incarcerated in Dachau he has the right to be advised by this court that he can refuse to answer any questions which tend to incriminate him.

PRESIDENT: As a witness before this court you do not have to answer any question that would tend to incriminate yourself.

PROSECUTION: Will you read the last question?

(Whereupon the last question was read by the reporter.)

(Dittrich - Direct)

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THE WITNESS: Yes.

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q What was Commando 99, Dittrich?

A Through the Commando 99 Russian prisoners of war were shot to death.

Q Where did this shooting take place there at Buchenwald?

A As far as I know, at the horse stable.

Q Would you step over here to Prosecution Exhibit 8 and indicate to the court, please, the approximate location on the exhibit where the horse stable appears?

A (Witness indicates)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show, may it please the court, that the witness has indicated the building which has been labeled "horse stable" on Prosecution Exhibit 8.

Q How many times did you serve on this Commando 99, Dittrich?

A Four times.

Q And during that time did you have occasion to become familiar with the interior of the horse stable?

A Yes, I knew the horse stable already from before.

PROSECUTION: Will the reporter mark this chart?

(The chart referred to was marked Prosecution Exhibit 29 for identification.)

Q Dittrich, I show you a chart which has been marked Prosecution Exhibit 29 for identification and ask you to examine that chart, please, and state whether or not it is a true and correct plan of the installation there used at Buchenwald where the Russian prisoners of war were shot.

(Dittrich - Direct)

1/2

A The reproduction of this map seems to be correct to me, but I have to mention only that the rooms which are shown here in the center (indicating) were not known to me.

Q In other words, with the exception of the rooms that appear as the "rest room of SS", "dining room of SS," and "dressing room of SS", which are not known to you, the rest of the chart which has been marked Prosecution Exhibit 29 for identification is a true and correct plan of the horse stable?

A As far as I remember, yes.

PROSECUTION: We offer in evidence, may it please the court, Prosecution Exhibit 29, the plan of the horse stable where Commando 99 operated.

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CAPTAIN LEWIS: If it please the court, the defense will object to the introduction of that plan in evidence because it contains material which has not been established in evidence as yet. It has certain characterizations. For instance it refers to death candidates and refers to SS murderers and I think that such characterizations on a plan make it objectionable until evidence has been introduced that that was the fact.

PROSECUTION: As an officer of this court, may it please the court, I state that we expect to establish everything that appears on that chart.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: If the court please, as an officer of this court we expect to prove that that did not happen there. It is a question of fact which is the ultimate decision of the court whether these people were murderers. It is unfair to label and exhibit with such remarks until it has been established.

PROSECUTION: If it is consistent with our theory of the evidence, may it please the court, it would be immaterial with respect to whether he takes issue with it or not. In other words before a document can be admitted in evidence it doesn't have to be accomplished in fact that "X" was guilty of murder or not. That may be the ultimate decision of the court, but if it is consistent with our theory of the evidence then it is admissible.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: We feel that any remarks on that paper describing what took place there is merely a conclusion of the person who drew it. We think it is prejudicial of the rights of these accused to have such characterizations made on a simple sketch plan which is all the prosecutor had to bring into evidence. The witness has testified to what has happened in each particular room without having it labeled on a chart before it has been testified about.

PRESIDENT: The court will receive the chart, prosecution exhibit 29 in evidence and give to it such probative value as it deems fit. Any prejudicial matter on the chart will be disregarded by the court.

Handwritten signature or mark, possibly reading "H" or "K".

Handwritten mark, possibly a diagonal line or the letter "L".

(The document heretofore marked Prosecution Exhibit Number 29 for identification, were received in evidence as Prosecution Exhibit Number 29, are attached hereto, and made a part of the record.)

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q Now Dittrich approximately when was it that these shootings of the Russian prisoners of war took place?

A As far as I remember in the evening hours.

Q During what year?

A I know only of the year 1942, but supposedly it was done already before that time.

Q I direct your attention to prosecutions exhibit number 29 and ask you to state or point out to the court at which end of the plan these prisoners of war came into the building?

A Here. (Indicating)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that the witness has indicated a door on the right hand side of prosecutions exhibit number 29 as you face it.

Q After they came into that door what was the nature of the room that they entered?

A This room here (indicating) was an ordinary horse stable.

Q Was it equipped with any instruments for making noise?

A There was a loud speaker in the frame in the wall.

Q What happened with respect to this loud speaker during the time during the time that the prisoners were in that room?

A As long as the prisoners were in the horse stables music came through the loud speaker.

Q Was it played softly or gently or loudly?

A Very loudly mostly.

Q What was the occasion for it being played loudly?

A I don't know.

(Dittrich-direct)

1/2

Q What did the prisoners do after they were first taken in the room that you have first indicated there on prosecutions exhibit number 29?

A I can't say that. I can say only that first they had to undress completely in this room.

Q They undressed completely and then after they were undressed in that room what happened to the prisoners next?

A Singly, one by one, they were led through two doors to the room further back.

Q Will you indicate the path that the prisoners took going to this bath.

A Here, through these signs here up to this room here. (indicating)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that the witness has indicated the dotted line which appears on prosecutions exhibit number 29 as the path taken by the prisoner.

Q Dittrich, what was in this room that the prisoner was taken to after he had been undressed which you have indicated to the court as appearing on the left hand side of the exhibit marked prosecutions exhibit number 29?

A In this room there was approximately one table on this spot, (indicating) and another one on this spot over there (indicating).

Q What was on these tables?

A On this table here (indicating) there was a list of names of the prisoners and this table over there was covered with a white napkin. There was nothing else on it with the exception of two or three medical instruments. I don't know their names.

Q How were the members of the detail 99 dressed?

A As far as they were in the room here each of them was wearing a white overcoat.

Q When you say a white overcoat do you mean a long white coat or do you mean a doctor's jacket?

(Dittrich-direct)

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A A long white coat which went down beyond the knees and it was buttoned in front all the way down.

Q Was that the type of coat that was usually worn by doctors?

A Yes.

Q What, if any, charts appeared along these walls of this room which appears on the left hand side of prosecutions exhibit number 29?

A As far as I can remember on this side of the wall there were two maps hanging.

Q What kind of maps were they?

A Maps as they are shown usually in a physician's office. One of them showed the muscles of the human body and on the second map there were figures and letters, the kind of a map which you use to check the eye strength.

Q When we are talking about this room on the left hand side of prosecutions exhibit number 29 do you refer to the room which is outlined in heavy black ink?

A Yes, I am talking about this room here. (Indicating)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that the witness has indicated on prosecutions exhibit number 29 the large room in heavy black lines.

Q When the prisoner was brought into this room you have just indicated to the court what sort of examination was made of this prisoner, if any?

A First the list of names was checked off and one of the present SS non commissioned officers made so-called faked examination of the prisoner by telling him to lift his arms or open his mouth.

Q After that examination was completed Dittrich what happened next?

A After this examination was finished then this prisoner of war was taken by an SS non commissioned officer to this room here (indicating) and was turned with his back towards the wall.

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that the witness has indicated a small room to the left of the large black room which has been indicated on prosecutions exhibit number 29 and has in the middle of it the word "gully".

(Dittrich-direct)

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Q After the prisoner was taken there to the point that you indicated on prosecutions exhibit number 29 as being next to the wall, what happened then?

A The non commissioned SS officer who had taken the prisoner of war to this spot gave a sign to the other SS non commissioned officer who was standing here (indicating), through knocking with his foot on the floor, and then this second SS non commissioned officer shot his pistol at the back of the head of this prisoner.

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that the witness has indicated the position of the man who did the shooting as being in another little room below the large room outlined in black which has two black dots in the room.

Q After the prisoner had been shot by the SS man in the small room that you have indicated on prosecutions exhibit number 29 what was next done with the prisoner of war?

A He was then dragged by two others. Mostly these men were inmates of the camp--into this room where there was a door between this room and the other room. (indicating)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that the witness has indicated that the place where the body of the prisoner of war was dragged is in the room indicated by the language "way of the corpses".

Q After the shot was delivered to the Russian prisoner of war was there any mess made in that room as a result of the shooting.

A Yes. That was then done in this manner. After the shot prisoner of war had been dragged into this next room here a man (indicating) with a water hose was standing and he cleaned the room.

Q Dittrich the first time you were down there at this horse stable who else was down there with you serving on commando 99?

A There were six or eight non commissioned officers of the headquarters staff..

(Dittrich-direct)

mt

Q If you recall their names state them to the court please.

A There was an SS master sergeant Talmann, SS Technical Sergeant Hupfer, SS Technical Sergeant Lehnert, SS Technical Sergeant Fischer, SS First Sergeant Helbig, and nearly toward the end when I was there for the first time came also the SS Master Sergeant Fleissner, but at that time the executions had already ended.

Q Of these men that you have named did they serve on more than one occasion for shooting prisoners of war there in the horse stable?

A What they have done before I don't know, but later on I saw them again twice or three times.

Q Approximately how many Russian prisoners of war were shot there in the horse stable the first time that you were there?

A Approximately 28 to 30.

Q Approximately how many were shot there the second time?

A The second there might have been more, but I do not remember that the transports were ever larger than 40 men.

Q How many were shot there during the total time you served on commando 99?

A I don't know. / I can't give you the number.

Q What is your best judgement?

A 150 to 180.

Q While you were there at Buchenwald did you know a man by the name of Pister?

A Yes.

Q What position did he hold there at the camp?

A Camp Commander.

Q Did you ever see him, do you know, at the horse stable?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

(Dittrich-direct)



A In June 1942.

Q At that time were prisoners of war being executed?

A Yes.

Q Where was Pister at the time you saw him there in the horse stable?

A In the room which is surrounded with the heavy black line there on the map?

Q How long did he remain there?

A Approximately a half hour.

Q Did you know a man by the name of Barnewald?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see Barnewald at the horse stable?

A The same day together with the camp commander.

Q Where did you see him?

A In the same room, yes.

Q You mentioned that you saw Helbig there. What if anything did you see Helbig do while he was there at the horse stable?

A As far as I can remember Helbig was standing there in the room and was taking care of the water hose.

Q Who was it that gave the signal to the man who did the shooting?

A That was the SS Technical Sergeant Hupfer.

Q Did you ever, at any time, see Helbig in the little room there that was occupied by the man who was to do the shooting?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: If it please the court we will object to that on the ground that it is leading and has already been answered as to what Helbig did there.

PROSECUTION: I didn't ask him as to what all he did, may it please the court.

PRESIDENT: Objection overruled.

(Dittrich-direct)



THE WITNESS: No.

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q How much schnaps did the members of commando 99 receive for their participation in these executions?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: If the court please, I will object to that question as leading.

PROSECUTION: I will withdraw it.

Q What if anything did you receive by way of bonus for participation in these executions.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: I object to that as leading and we object to the form of the question.

PRESIDENT: Objection sustained.

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q Was anything given to the men who participated in commando 99?

A Yes.

Q What was it Dittrich?

A Cigarettes, sandwiches and in the room where the executions took place on a table to the right there was one, sometimes two bottles of schnaps.

Q What was it Dittrich that would prevent the prisoners who were waiting in the first room that you described to the court from hearing the shots that took place in the last room?

A First of all the loud speaker which was going very loud and then further more the distance from this other room with the two doors in between.

PROSECUTION: No further questions.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: May we have a recess in place?

PRESIDENT: Recess in place.

(Whereupon the court recessed in place.)

X

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PRESIDENT: The Court will come to order.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: Cross examination on behalf of the accused Helbig.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q You testified that these executions were done at night. Do you know of any single instance where the Commando 99 was called for any daytime executions?

A No.

Q And isn't it a fact that this detail was called only for the evenings so that it would be a secret?

A I can't say that.

Q Well, do you know whether any measures were taken to keep this detail a secret?

A It isn't known to me.

Q Were there any guards stationed outside of the stable?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Were the inmates of the camp permitted to gather around the horse stable while the executions took place?

A Since it was in the evening hours most everybody was already in his barracks.

Q These Russian prisoners of war were brought in in uniform were they not?

A I wouldn't call it uniforms--they were more rags.

Q But they did not wear the uniform of the inmates of Camp Buchenwald, did they?

A No.

(Dittrich-Cross)

1/2

Q And isn't it a fact that these prisoners of war were brought in by the Gestapo?

A That isn't known to me.

Q Isn't it also a fact that when these prisoners of war were brought there, they came with a list and with orders for their execution?

A I know that, yes.

Q Who issued the orders for these executions?

A The order came together with this list, and the letter-head on the left side said, as I could find out once for myself, "Reich Security Main Office."

Q So that it's a matter of fact that these prisoners were executed on orders of the Main Security Office in Berlin, is that not so?

A That's what I assume.

Q Isn't it also a fact that you as a soldier and the other accused who participated as soldiers carried out the orders they received from Berlin?

A I only carried out the orders.

Q Isn't it also a fact that the members of Commando 99 were chosen only from those soldiers who were not married?

A That isn't known to me; I was married myself.

Q Were you married at the time you participated in "99"?

A I am married since 1938.

Q Was your wife living near Camp Buchenwald at that time?

A No.

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Q Isn't it a fact that those soldiers who were married and who had their families living near Camp Buchenwald never attended these executions?

A I can't say that that was really done.

Q Were the members of the detail chosen, or did they volunteer for this job?

A They were chosen.

Q What would have happened if you did not report for this detail?

A I would have been punished for refusal to obey orders.

Q Is the same true of the other members of the detail who worked with you?

A Of course.

Q Isn't it a fact that these prisoners of war who were executed were spies and saboteurs?

A I don't know that.

Q You testified that at no time while you were there were more than 40 prisoners executed.

A Yes.

Q And in general how long did this process take, from the time the prisoners arrived until the last one was dead and he was removed?

A Approximately three hours.

Q You have already admitted that you participated in this action, haven't you?

A Yes.

Q Did you admit this before you heard that the accused Helbig said you participated or after you had heard about it?

A I said so already before.

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Q You said so before, and you also named these people before you heard that you had been named by one of the others, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Have you been promised any reward or immunity to testify in this case?

A No.

Q Are you fully aware that by admitting that you participated in this execution that you are subjecting yourself to trial and possibly punishment by hanging?

A Yes.

Q Isn't it a fact that you have already discussed your testimony with people in the bunker and you said that if you are going to hang you are going to hang other people, too?

A I didn't talk to anybody about it.

Q Do you know a Master Sergeant Pank who is now in Cage 3 in Dachau?

A No.

Q So that you couldn't possibly have spoken to him, is that right?

A I don't know even his name.

Q Paak?

A Paak, I know him.

Q You are now referring to a Master Sergeant Paak?

A Yes.

Q Did you speak to him about this case?

A Not to my knowledge.

✓ 8

A I don't know that.

Q Did he do anything--did he give orders or anything like that when he was present there at that occasion?

A No.

Q How long did this take?

A Half an hour, approximately.

Q How do you know that the men who were executed were Russian prisoners of war?

A That was said on the list of names which was lying on the table to the left, and which had been brought in by the SS First Sergeant Dahlmann.

Q Mr. Dittrich, please tell the Court as exactly as possible what was said in this list and in this letter order.

A After this long period of time, I can't give you the exact words any more.

Q Mr. Dittrich, I do not expect the exact words, but the meaning at least of this letter.

A The list drew my attention only for this reason--that the letterhead on the left side said in heavy letters, "Reich Security Main Office", and only for this reason I got curious and saw the names which I could read but I couldn't pronounce, and from the preamble of this list one could draw the conclusion that the prisoners of war who were transferred with this list had to be executed on the same day when they came to camp.

Q Do you know who had signed this letter?

(Dittrich-Cross)



A No.

Q Do you know who had brought these prisoners to Camp Buchenwald?

A I can remember that it might have been the second or third time when I was present two trucks arrived from the motor pool at Buchenwald and there three or four uniformed policemen were present.

Q What kind of police were they? Were they Security Police, Regular, Order Police, SS Police or what kind of police?

A Regular Security Police.

Q Do you know whether or not this Security Police was part of the Gestapo?

A I don't know that.

Q Was anything said about the reason for the executions in these instructions for the executions?

A I can't say that.

Q What do you want to say by that--that it wasn't said in the letter, or you can't remember anymore?

A It might have been in the letter or not, but I can't remember that anymore.

Q Did you have any doubts about the executions?

A No.

Q Why not?

A Because, according to the letterhead it had been ordered by the Reich Security Main Office.

Q Did you assume that these men had been correctly

(Dittrich-Cross)

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sentenced to death?

A Definitely yes.

DR. WACKER: No more questions.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: No further cross examination.

PROSECUTION: May it please the Court, I have a couple of more questions.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q When you testified that at the first time you were there with Helbig he operated the water hose, what did Helbig do the second time that he was there at the horse stable?

A I can't remember exactly anymore.

Q Well, did you see Helbig do anything other than operate the water hose at any time after the first occasion that you were at the horse stable?

A He was present, but what he did in detail I can't remember anymore.

Q Isn't it a fact that Helbig participated in the shooting?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: We object to that on the ground that it is repetitious and is a leading question.

PROSECUTION: May it please the Court, I think this is a proper time to use a leading question. He has stated now that he doesn't recall at this time.

PRESIDENT: Objection sustained.

PROSECUTION: As to the second time, did you see or did you know whether or not Helbig participated in the shooting?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: We will object to the form of the question as being leading and repetitious. It has already been (Dittrich-Redirect)

1/2

asked and answered.

PRESIDENT: Objection overruled.

WITNESS: I didn't see that Helbig himself was standing in the small room there and did any shooting.

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q Can you recall making a statement on or about the 24th of February 1947 at Dachau before Mr. Kirschbaum as investigator?

A Yes.

PROSECUTION: No further questions, sir.

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

QUESTIONS BY THE LAW MEMBER:

Q You testified that you assume that these Russian soldiers were correctly sentenced to death, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Why, then, in your opinion was it necessary to have this so-called fake examination and all the other pantomime that went on?

A In my opinion it was necessary, but I don't know why it was done.

Q Why the bonus?

A I didn't receive any bonus.

Q I am referring to the cigarettes and schnapps that were given to the men on the detail.

A When I work day and night I have to eat something.

DR. WACKER: One more question.

RE CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Is it known to you that all over Germany that wherever

(Dittrich-Recross)

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executions take place in any prison the men who have to participate in such executions receive things like this to strengthen them?

A Otherwise I never participated in any executions or killings, and I can't tell you whether this is the case.

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: No further questions.

PRESIDENT: No further questions by the Court. The witness is excused. Court will recess until 1:30.

(Whereupon at 1200 hours the Court recessed.)

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A T T E S T A T I O N

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This is to verify that above photostatic copies conform to the original records as contained in the official file of documents pertaining to Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald.

Berlin, 18. Februar 1970



Joseph B. Conboy
JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Übersetzung

B E G L A U B I G U N G

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Die Übereinstimmung dieser Ablichtungen mit den in den Akten - Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald - befindlichen Schriftstücken wird hiermit beglaubigt.

Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e/1

Heft 3

Case No

000-50-9

Buchenwald

Vol. 16

Vernehmung

Berger

Kdo. 99

AFTERNOON SESSION

(Whereupon court reconvened at 1330 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, let the record show that all the personnel of the court are present, with the exception of Lieutenant Colonel Morris, who is all, all the personnel of the prosecution are present, with the exception of Mr. Surowitz, who is absent on business of the prosecution, all the personnel of the defense are present and all the accused are present.

If there are any spectators in the courtroom who expect to be called as witnesses in this case, they will please leave the courtroom.

Prosecution calls as its next witness Werner Berger.

WERNER BERGER¹ called as a witness by the prosecution, being first duly sworn, took the stand and testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q What is your name, please?

A Werner Berger.

Q Where do you reside at the present time, Mr. Berger?

A In Bittelbronn, Kreis Heilbronn.

Q Are you confined at Dachau at the present time as a prisoner?

A Yes.

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, at this time I think it would be proper for the court to instruct the witness concerning the rights of the witness.

PRESIDENT: You are advised that you do not have to answer any questions that will tend to incriminate you

THE WITNESS: Yes.



QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q Mr. Berger, were you ever on duty at the Concentration Camp
Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q During what period of time, please?

A 20th of January 1941 until the 11th of April 1945.

Q During that period of time what were your duties?

A I was employed in the prisoners' monetary administration.

Q Were you an SS man or a prisoner?

A I was an SS man.

Q What rank did you have?

A The final one, SS Sergeant.

Q While you were there at Buchenwald did you ever participate
in the detail known as "99"?

A Yes.

Q Approximately how many times did you participate in this
detail?

A Twice.

Q When was the first time, what year?

A About the end of the year '42, beginning of '43.

Q Where did this Detail "99" operate at Buchenwald?

A Detail "99" worked in the horse stables.

Q Was the detail that worked in the horse stable a fixed
detail or did it change from time to time?

A It must have varied from time to time.

Q How often were you present there in the horse stable?

A I was there twice.

Q During the first time you were there how many prisoners

(Berger-Direct)



were shot?

A There must have been about 40.

Q Were these prisoners Russian prisoners of war?

A I assume they were.

Q Were they in uniform?

A They had a coat and they had a hat on.

Q When you were there for the first time what position did you occupy there at the horse stable? What was your duty?

A I had to open and close the door.

Q Which door would you have to open and close? I call your attention to the chart which has been marked Prosecution Exhibit 29. Will you indicate on that chart, please, the door which you had to open and close?

A (Indicating)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show, may it please the court, that the witness has indicated the door which appears in the middle of the diagram and is above and to the right of the room which has been marked "lavatory."

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q The second time that you were there in the horse stable, were any prisoners shot?

A Yes.

Q What was your duty in the horse stable at that time?

A I had to be here. (Indicating)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show, may it please the court, that the witness has indicated the small room surrounded by a heavy black line on Prosecution Exhibit 29 which contains two black dots and an arrow going from one of those black dots and has the lettering on it, "Riflemen's Chamber."

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QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q While you were there in the horse stable the second time, will you tell the court approximately what time it was that the executions began?

A It must have been ten, ten-thirty P.M.

Q While you were at Buchenwald did you know a man there by the name of Helbig?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see Helbig down at the horse stable?

A Yes.

Q How many times did you see Helbig down there at the horse stable?

A Twice.

Q The second time that you were there with Helbig, what was it that Helbig was doing?

A He was standing behind me.

Q What were you doing?

A I was firing.

Q How many times did you shoot?

A About 12 to 14 times.

Q What sort of weapon were you using to fire with?

A A PPK 7.65.

Q How many rounds did that weapon hold?

A Seven rounds, I think.

Q Did you reload that weapon?

A No, a loaded one was lying there on the desk.

Q Who gave that loaded weapon to you?

A Sergeant Major Helbig.

(Berger-Direct)



Q What did Helbig tell you to do with that weapon?

A Fire.

Q Did you fire?

A Yes.

Q How many times did you fire with that weapon at Helbig's order?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: If the court please, we will object to the question as characterizing as to what Helbig said was an order. That is a conclusion for the court to draw.

PRESIDENT: Objection overruled.

THE WITNESS: Fourteen times.

PRESIDENT: Will you ask the witness to speak up?

(Whereupon the interpreter did as directed.)

THE WITNESS: Twelve to fourteen times.

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q Was there any music going on down there at the horse stable while you were there?

A A radio was playing.

Q In what manner was it playing?

A Well, marching tunes or whatever it was.

Q Was it playing softly or loudly?

A Loudly.

Q What was the purpose of this loud music?

A To my estimate, so you wouldn't be able to hear the shots.

Q Did you ever attend any shootings at any other place at Buchenwald other than at the horse stable?

A Yes.

Q Where did you attend these other shootings?

(Berger-Direct)

W

A Twice in the DAW area and about five times at the shooting range.

Q Step over to this chart which has been marked Prosecution Exhibit Number 8 and point out to the court, please, the approximate location of the shooting place and the DAW Works.

A Here (indicating), that is where it was.

PROSECUTION: Let the record show, may it please the court, that the witness has indicated the spot on Prosecution Exhibit Number 8 which is about a half inch to the right of the number 33 in a block which is outlined in red and has at the top of it, "DAW" General Equipment Works."

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q Mr. Berger, will you point out the place on Prosecution Exhibit Number 8 where you attended these other five shootings?

A That must be about here. (Indicating)

PROSECUTION: Let the record show, may it please the court, that the witness has pointed to a spot on Prosecution Exhibit 8 which has the number 31 above and to the left of it and number 33 to the right of it.

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q While you were in Buchenwald did you have occasion to know a man there by the name of Otto?

A Yes.

Q What position did Otto hold in Buchenwald?

A He was a first sergeant.

Q Did you ever see Otto at any of these two execution places that you have pointed out to the court on Prosecution Exhibit 8?

A On the map, yes.

Q What did Otto do at these shootings?

A Otto was a rifleman.



Q As a rifleman what did he do at these shootings?

A He had to fire. He was with the Execution Detail.

Q Approximately how many men were in this Execution Detail?

A About eight.

Q Describe to the court, please, the manner in which these shootings were carried out?

A Four men were standing and four men were kneeling.

Q Was Otto standing or kneeling?

A Otto, I think, was kneeling. He was a short fellow.

Q The short fellows kneeled and the tall ones stood, is that right?

A Yes.

Q How many of these seven executions that you have mentioned did Otto participate in as a member of the group who did the shooting?

A Never. I never saw him as a chief of the detail.

Q I did not ask you whether he was chief. My question to you was this: In how many of these shootings did you see Otto participate as a member of the firing detail?

A Well, I don't know that exactly. I can't tell exactly whether he was with them every time.

Q What is your best judgment, Mr. Berger?

A As an estimate I can say that he was there five times.

Q Approximately what were the years in which this took place?

A '43, -- '44, -- no, it might have been from '43 up to '45.

Q While you were at Buchenwald did you know a man by the name of Heigel?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see Heigel at any of these execution places?

(Berger-Direct)

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A Yes.

Q What did Heigel do at these execution places?

A I saw Heigel once firing the mercy shot.

Q Approximately what date was that, do you recall?

A I can't say exactly, I can't say exactly.

Q What position did Heigel hold there in Buchenwald?

A He had the bunker.

Q Was he an SS man or prisoner?

A He was an SS man.

Q Did you know a man at Buchenwald by the name of Schmidt?

A Yes.

Q What position did Schmidt hold at the Buchenwald Concentration
Camp?

A He was the commandant's adjutant.

Q Did you ever see Schmidt at any of these shooting places?

A Yes.

Q What did you see Schmidt do at these execution places?

A He was the legal officer. He was running the execution.

Q He had command of it, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Who gave the commands to fire?

A First Lieutenant Schmidt.

Q How often did you see Schmidt at these execution places?

A He was there every time that I was there.

Q You mentioned a moment ago that you did the shooting down
here in the horse stable. Describe to the court, please, how it was

(Berger-Direct)

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly reading "H. B." or similar, written in dark ink.

that you stood in one room and were able to shoot a prisoner standing in the adjoining room?

A How would you like me to explain that? I didn't quite understand you.

Q In what manner were you able to shoot from one room into another room?

A Through a slit.

Q What protection did you wear across your face at the time you did this shooting?

A A cellophane shield.

Q What was that cellophane shield used for?

A For protection so that I suppose nothing would hit you in the eye from the execution.

Q When you say "nothing would hit you in the eye", what was expected to hit you in the eye?

A Blood, I imagine.

Q How many shots were fired into each one of these prisoners in the horse stable?

A One.

Q At what was that shot aimed?

A At the back of the head.

Q How were you informed as to when the prisoner in the horse stable would be shot?

A Through a sign by knocking.

Q Who gave that signal?

A One Master Sergeant Thalmann.

Q During what period of time, if you know, did these shootings

(Berger-Direct)

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take place in the horse stable?

A That was a lapse of 14 days.

Q I mean, when did you first find out that prisoners were shot down in the horse stable?

A When I found it out? It must have been '42.

Q Who was the commandant at that time?

A In '42 Major Pister was commandant.

Q Was the telephone number of the horse stable 99?

A I don't know.

PROSECUTION: No further questions.

DR. WACKER: Cross examination for the accused Otto.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Where did the prisoners who were executed come from?

A From Weimar.

Q Who brought them in from Weimar?

A The police.

Q What kind of police was it, the regular police, the security police, the field police?

A I don't know what kind of police it was. There was an officer along and some guards.

Q How do you know they were Russians?

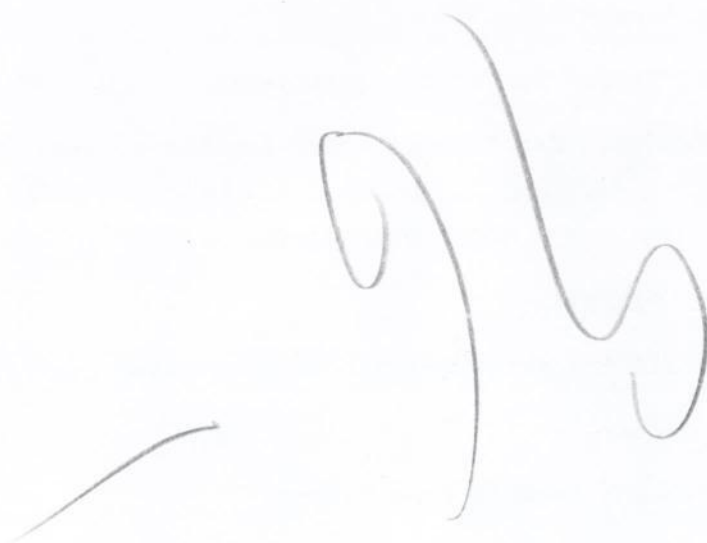
A From the way they were dressed, the gray coat they were wearing.

Q Did anybody tell you what kind of prisoners they were?

A I wasn't told.

Q Did you talk about it?

(Berger-Cross)



A What do you mean, talk about it?

Q With others who participated in those executions?

A Yes, there was talk about it that they were Russians.

Q Did you have any thoughts about it and did you talk about it, whether these executions were proper executions or perhaps murders or something?

A They were supposed to have been proper executions.

Q What makes you think they were?

A Because what was said, that they were saboteurs and looters.

Q Who said so?

A That was common talk. I don't know who said so.

Q In case of the executions at the shooting range which is marked 33 on this exhibit over at the wall, were the prisoners concerned the same sort?

A No.

Q Will you please explain to the court what kind of executions they were?

A Those were men who had been sentenced by court.

Q Did I understand you correctly on direct examination to have said that the only time you saw Otto at an execution was the executions at point 33?

A Yes.

Q So, as far as your testimony is concerned, Otto had nothing to do with the horse stables?

A No.

Q Were the prisoners who were shot at point 33 Russians as well?

A No, they were policemen, I think, and SS men, .

Q Germans?

A Germans, yes, and in one case one Russian, and he had cut

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out the eyes of 72 wounded German soldiers.

Q Was the conviction by the court read to him?

A That is what we were told.

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: Cross examination on behalf of Helbig.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q You testified that you fired the pistol on the order of Helbig.

A Yes.

Q Did Helbig give you the order to appear at the horse stable?

A No, Master Sergeant Thallman.

Q Did you go to the horse stable voluntarily or were you detailed to that job?

A I was ordered there.

Q You were detailed there as a member of the Execution Detail, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q When you went there the second time and you saw Helbig you knew for what purpose you went there, didn't you?

A Yes.

Q Was Helbig in charge of the Detail "99"?

A I assume he was. I don't know exactly.

Q Did he call you to appear that night?

A No, Master Sergeant Thallman did.

Q Who told you to go into the little shooting room?

A Master Sergeant Thallman did that too.

(Berger-Cross)



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Q What did he tell you to do there when you got in there?

A I was supposed to change clothes and walk in there.

Q Did he give you a pistol at that time?

A No.

Q The pistol was already in the shooting room when you got there, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q You knew for what purpose those pistols were there, did you not?

A Well, I was told when I got in there.

Q All you had to do was to wait for the signal from Sergeant Thallman before you fired the shot, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q If Helbig had told you not to fire would you have obeyed him?

A Certainly.

Q Because Helbig told you to fire, is that why you fired the shots?

A Well, he indicated to me where I was to shoot.

Q But you knew when you went in there that you were going to shoot, did you not?

A That I had to shoot, yes.

Q And if Helbig hadn't said anything you would have shot just the same, is that not so?

A I had to shoot. I was put in there.

Q What would have happened to you if you didn't appear at this detail?

A I don't know.

(Berger-Cross)

Handwritten signature or scribble.

Q You testified that you did not find out about this Detail "99" until 1942, is that correct?

A Until 1942, I found out the middle of 1942.

Q You had never heard about this detail before the middle of 1942, is that correct?

A No.

Q You were an SS man on duty in Buchenwald from January 1941 up until that time, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Was Detail "99" a secret in camp?

A That was a secret.

Q What precautions were taken to keep Detail "99" secret, if you know?

A I don't know how it was.

Q Were there guards stationed outside of the stable when executions took place?

A I didn't see any of that.

Q Is it not a fact that these executions only took place at night?

A I was present in the evening only.

Q Did you ever hear of any executions taking place at any other time except during nighttime?

A I did not hear about that.

Q Referring to the executions that took place at the shooting ranges, you testified that you saw the accused Schmidt there. Did you hear any officer read out a sentence of the court before the execution took place?

A Well, there were officers standing there.

Q If you know, was it not the duty of the legal officer to conduct



these legal executions?

A Once the court was along and then again 1st Lieutenant Schmidt was all by himself with a file that was read.

Q You say the court was along. Do you mean by that that the members of the court who had sentenced this prisoner to be shot were present at the execution?

A Yes, court officers were present.

Q At some of these executions in which you participated, you testified that SS men were shot, is that correct?

PROSECUTION: I object to that question, may it please the court, as repetitions. That has already been gone into by Dr. Wacker.

PRESIDENT: Objection overruled.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q Do you know for what that SS man had been sentenced to death?

A One I think was on account of paragraph 175, and I think one was for rape. I don't remember the others so well.

Q Is it not a fact that many executions of SS men were carried out in the DAW Works and in the other shooting stand which you have testified about?

A I can't say.

Q But you only know of these seven cases which you personally attended, is that correct?

A Yes.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: No further questions.

(Berger-Cross)

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CAPTAIN GROTH: Cross examination on behalf of the accused Heigel.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN GROTH.

Q You have testified, Mr. Berger, that you saw Heigel administer a mercy shot to one of these people who had been shot?

A Yes, I saw that once.

Q At whose command was that done?

A That must have been the order of the doctor that was along.

Q Was it upon the command of Master Sergeant Thallman?

A No.

Q You don't recall you gave the command?

A No, it must have been the doctor, and who it was I don't know.

CAPTAIN GROTH: No further questions.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: No further questions.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q Did you hear about every shooting that took place down at the horse stable, Mr. Berger?

A No.

Q What you found out concerning the sentences that were pronounced upon these people that were shot you found out from the SS men there, is that correct?

A With these SS men.

PROSECUTION: Will you read the question, please?

(Whereupon the question was read by the reporter.)

THE WITNESS: Yes, from the detail leader. It was told us, yes, SS men.

(Berger-Redirect)



Q You never saw any judgment of any court, did you, Berger?

A I never saw it. I didn't see it. I saw that they had some papers in their hands.

PROSECUTION: That is all.

RECROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Was the sentence read prior to the shooting?

A Yes, it was read. In two cases that I was present it was read; in the other cases they had some telegram form and I don't remember.

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q Berger, have you been promised any immunity or any reward for testifying in this case?

A No.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: Nothing else. We have direct examination for one accused here.

LAW MEMBER: Do you want to make him your witness?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: Yes, sir.

PROSECUTION: This witness is here in the camp. He can be called at any time.

LAW MEMBER: He is a prisoner of war here in Dachau and you can get him at any time.

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

QUESTIONS BY LAW MEMBER:

Q How many of the seven men executed at the DAW shooting range were Germans?

A About six.



Q Did you say that the executions in the Commando "99" in your opinion were legal?

A Yes, in my opinion they were legal.

Q Then, why in your opinion were they kept secret?

A I don't know.

PRESIDENT: No further questions by the court. The witness is excused.

(Whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew.)

PROSECUTION: Prosecution calls as its next witness Karl Rausch.

KARL RAUSCH, called as a witness by the prosecution, being first duly sworn, took the stand and testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY MR. KUNZIG:

Q Will you state your name, please?

A Karl Rausch.

Q Your age, Mr. Rausch?

A Born on the 30th of September 1903.

Q Where do you live?

A Dortmund.

Q What is your nationality?

A German.

Q Your occupation or profession?

A Miner.

Q Mr. Rausch, were you ever a prisoner in Concentration Camp Buchenwald?

(Rausch-Direct)

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DOCTOR WACKER: The defense calls as its next witness
Werner Berger on behalf of the accused Barnewald.

WERNER ALFRED BERGER, formerly a witness for the prosecution,
called as a witness by the defense, being first duly sworn, testified
through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DOCTOR WACKER:

Q What is your full name?

A Werner Alfred Berger.

Q How old are you?

A 47.

Q What is your profession?

A Employee of the Reichs Bank.

Q What is your place of residence?

A Biedelbronn, Kreis Heilbronn.

Q Have you been a witness in this case before?

A Yes.

Q What was your official position in Camp Buchenwald?

A The monetary administrator for the prisoners.

Q During what time were you in charge of this administration
for prisoners?

A I worked in the prisoner monetary administration from
January, 1941 until April 1945.

Q What was your rank?

A Sergeant.

Q Who were you under?

A Barnewald.

Q Would you recognize Barnewald if you saw him today?

A Yes.

(Berger - direct)



Q Please point him out and give us his number.

A Number 2.

DOCTOR WACKER: Let the record show that the witness properly identified Barnewald as Number 2.

QUESTIONS BY DOCTOR WACKER:

Q Where was your office in Buchenwald located?

A In the prisoners' camp.

Q Can you point that out to us on this chart, Prosecution Exhibit No. 8?

A Yes.

Q Please point it out to us.

A Here (indicating)

DOCTOR WACKER: Let the record show that the witness pointed to Number 6 on the Prosecution Exhibit Number 8.

QUESTIONS BY DOCTOR WACKER:

Q Mr. Berger do you know whether there was any three-year old child present in Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q During what time was that?

A That must have been in 1944.

Q Did Barnewald know that this child was present in camp?

A I don't think so. I think Major Barnewald found out about the presence of this child only when I told him about it.

Q Please describe to us what happened when you showed Major Barnewald this three year old child.

A All right. Well, the boy was running around in my office in the monetary administration. He was playing around there and he was pulling a little horse behind him. He was playing a mouth organ and he received a little whistle from me personally and after Major

(Berger - direct)

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came around on official business he heard the little boy whistling. He asked me who the little boy was, so I said "that is my youngest one in the office" and that is all there was. A while later I got a telephone call from the report leader. The little boy was to go to Auschwitz on the next transport. So, I told the prisoners who were taking care of the little boy "watch out this boy is supposed to go to Auschwitz on the next transport". A while later I found out from the prisoners that the little boy had not gone to Auschwitz; that he had been hidden. I didn't hear anymore about it. I don't know what happened in the end.

(Berger - direct)

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Q Q . What did Barnewald say to you when you showed him this little boy?

A He said, "Well, we can't have all this racket made by a little boy here, he ought to be back in the block."

Q Do you know whether Barnewald had anything to do with the transport of this little boy to Auschwitz?

A I don't think so. Barnewald had nothing to do with transports. I ought to add here that even I have been accused of being responsible for that at one of the stage shows somebody told me I was responsible for this little boy going to be sent to Auschwitz. I couldn't help that either, I didn't have anything to do with it.

Q What room was it that the little boy was playing in?

A He was tearing around even when he was downstairs and he would come up to our place and go down the hallway.

Q I mean what was the room Barnewald found him in?

A That was the corridor going out from my door.

Q Is the safe located there too?

A Yes.

Q How much money was being kept there?

A There wasn't any money kept there really. The only time there was any money there was when any paying was being done. It was picked up the same morning from the bank.

Q About how much money was involved?

A If everybody was paid then it was 40,000 to 50,000 marks.

Q Were there more people present who observed this incident with the child?

A I don't know whether they were present when this incident occurred. I am sure there are at least three men who do know the little

(Berger-direct)

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boy was running around there because we didn't care.

Q Who were these three men?

A Sergeant Hoch, sergeant Parseld and Sergeant Kloss.

LAW MEMBER: Unterscharfuhrer should be translated SS Sergeant.

INTERPRETER: Yes, sir.

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q How many times did you have occasion to observe Barnewald in camp Buchenwald?

A I was in no position to observe him in the camp. I merely saw him when he came to my office.

Q How many times did that happen?

A He would come down every week or so.

Q When he visited you did Barnewald have any objects with him which could be used for beatings?

A No.

Q Did you ever see Barnewald with any object that could be used for beatings?

A No.

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Berger, you were a witness here for the Prosecution, were you not?

A Yes.

Q At Buchenwald you were in charge of the administration of the money taken from the prisoners, is that right?

A Yes.

Q That covered a period from January 1941 until April 1945?

A Yes.



Q You were not only in charge solely of the money but you were also in charge of their personal effects like wrist watches, rings, bracelets and the like, is that not so?

A No. That was Tech. Sgt. Winkler.

Q You never touched that stuff, did you?

A No, I didn't get them.

Q And you worked in the barracks which you have indicated on Prosecution Exhibit 8 in evidence by the number 6, is that right?

A Yes.

Q Incoming prisoners were processed through that barracks, were they not?

A Yes.

Q And their money was handed over to you, is that correct?

A Yes. It was taken away from the prisoners and put down on an account card.

Q Did you give them a receipt for it?

A No. They had to sign a receipt on that same card and they could check whenever they withdrew any money whether it was right.

Q So --

PRESIDENT: I would like to remind the witness that he does not have to answer any question that tends to incriminate him.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q So you had in your possession the currencies of about twenty or thirty different countries during the period of time that you worked there, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q You even had American dollars, is that not right?

(Berger-cross)

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A Yes.

Q And you had English currency, of course?

A Very little. Five pounds at one time.

Q You got those five pounds sometime around August 1944 when the Englishmen came into Buchenwald, is that not right?

A I don't know about that.

Q How much American money did you have?

A A little. A very small quantity.

Q Do you remember the Americans that passed through your barracks in August 1944?

A I don't know whether any Americans were there or not.

Q You just said you had American money, did you not?

A Yes. That might have been from some Poles just as well. When a transport came in they had Zlotys and Tzcherwoniez and dollars too.

Q Barnewald was your boss, was he not?

A Yes.

Q Do you know a man by the name of Willi Bleichert?

A Yes.

Q Who was he?

A That was the capo in the effects chamber.

Q Were you his boss?

A No, that was Winkler.

Q Now, this little three year old boy playing around your office, how long had he been there before Barnewald saw him?

A I cannot tell you.

Q Approximately?

A He was running around there for quite some time.

Q Well, would you say a week?



A No. It was more than that.

Q Three weeks?

A It might have been three or four weeks. I cannot tell you exactly.

Q Certainly more than three weeks, was it not?

A It might have been more than three weeks. I don't know exactly. He wasn't up at my place all the time. He would be down where the prisoners stay.

Q Who brought him into the barracks?

A I don't know that.

Q Who brought him into Barracks #6 where you were working?

A I don't know that either.

Q Didn't you inquire when you saw a three year old child there?

A No. I had had some fun and the prisoners were playing around with the kid.

Q You were happy that the child was there, were you not?

A Yes.

Q You got the child a little whistle, did you not?

A Yes.

Q You played with him yourself, did you not?

A Well, I did not play with him but I talked to him. He didn't speak German, I don't think it was a German child.

Q At any rate it made the place a little more cheerful, did it not?

A Yes.

Q Then Barnewald came?

A Yes.

Q Barnewald said, "Get that kid out of here, he makes too much of a racket" is that right?

A Yes.

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Q He didn't like the kid, is that right?

A He said, "We cannot have this child playing around down here".

Q The child was not interfering with your business, was he?

A No.

Q At any rate he was not very happy to have the child in your work office, was he?

A I don't understand you.

Q Barnewald was not very happy to have the child playing in your office, was he?

A Well, Barnewald, I guess he said, "We can't have that."

Q What did you say?

A Well, I couldn't say anything if Barnewald said he was to go to the barracks or get back to the block I had to carry out the orders. It still took a while and he was still running around in my place.

Q How long after Barnewald told you that the child was making too much of a racket and to get the child out of there - how long after that did the child go back to its barracks?

A I cannot tell you exactly it must have taken at least two weeks.

Q Then you say that somebody called you up and said that the child was going to go on a transport to Auschwitz, is that correct?

A Yes. That was SS Sgt. Lewerle, the rapport leader.

Q Why should he call you up?

A I don't know that either. I can't explain it.

Q Was the child still playing around in your office?

A Yes.

Q Do you mean to say that after Barnewald gave you an order to get the child out of there because he was making too much of a racket that you still kept the child in your office?

(Berger-cross)



A Well, the kid was just playing and running around and going up and down in the quarters of the prisoners.

Q Now, this roll call leader called you up and said, "That child is scheduled to go on a transport to Auschwitz". What did you do?

A Yes. He was to go to Auschwitz, on the next transport. So, I informed the prisoners that the little kid was to go to Auschwitz on the next transport. Of course, that was prohibited to me. I had violated the regulations. I was not permitted to say that.

Q You did not want the child to go to Auschwitz, did you?

A No.

Q Why not?

A Well, because you heard about it in camp, that Auschwitz always had a bad reputation in the camp.

Q It was known as an extermination camp, was it not?

A Yes.

Q What happened after you told the prisoners that the child was scheduled to go on the next transport to Auschwitz?

A I guess they hid the kid.

Q You don't think that Barnewald hid the kid do you?

A I don't think so.

Q You said that you do not believe that Barnewald had anything to do with sending the child to Auschwitz on the transport, is that right?

A I don't think so.

Q Don't you know that Barnewald had a lot to do with transports in general?

A I did not know whether he was the man who would decide who would go on a transport.

Q You know that Barnewald had the responsibility for allocating the food rations for the transports, do you not?

(Berger-cross)

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A I did know that.

Q You knew that one word from Barnewald to anyone who had anything to do with sending people on transports would suffice, did you not?

A That I don't know. I don't know whether Barnewald would do that or the commanding officer.

Q The truth is that you cannot swear one way or the other as to whether or not Barnewald had anything to do with the sending of this child to Auschwitz with the transport, is that not right?

A I cannot swear to that.

MR. SUROWITZ: No further questions.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Did Barnewald tell you anything about the child being removed from camp or did he merely say that he should not be playing around in the room where the safe was?

A Barnewald said, "That little boy can't be running around here, he ought to go back to the block."

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

MR. SUROWITZ: No further questions.

PRESIDENT: No questions by the Court, the witness is excused.

(Whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew.)

PRESIDENT: The Court will recess at this time until 1:30 P.M.

(Whereupon at 1155 hours the court recessed.)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1330 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, let the record show that all the personnel of the court and all the personnel of the prosecution are present; all the personnel of the defense are present with the exception of Captain Groth, Captain Lewis, Dr. Kopf and Dr. Renner who are absent on business of the accused; the accused are present with the exception of Wolf, Wilhelm, Ilse Koch, Schmidt, who are absent.

If there are any spectators in the courtroom who expect to be called as witnesses they will please leave the courtroom.

DR. WACKER: The defense calls as its next witness, Fritz Hild, on behalf of the accused, Barnewald.

FRITZ HILD, called as a witness by the defense, being first duly sworn, testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q What is your full name?

A Fritz.

Q Last name?

A Hild.

Q How old are you?

A Thirty-six.

Q What is your profession?

A Butcher.

Q Where do you live?

A Freinditz.

(Hild-direct)

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A T T E S T A T I O N

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This is to verify that above photostatic copies conform to the original records as contained in the official file of documents pertaining to Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald.

Berlin, 18. Februar 1970



Joseph B. Conboy
JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Übersetzung

B E G L A U B I G U N G

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Die Übereinstimmung dieser Ablichtungen mit den in den Akten - Case No. 000-50-9 Buchenwald - befindlichen Schriftstücken wird hiermit beglaubigt.

Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e/1

Heft 4

Case №2

000-50-9 -

Buchenwald

Vol. 23
S. 1781-1787

Pister, Hermann

= Personalien und
Lebenslauf =

Vernehmung

Pister =

RSHA: Massgebl.

Dienststelle

(Abt D IV)-Lager -

Kdt. Buchenwald

keine eig. Befehls-
gewalt

Vernehmung

Pister

Aussagen Detail 99

S. 1913-1916 = Kdo 99-

Vernehmung

Pister

Aussagen Detail 99

= Kdo 99

S. 2125-2128

an opportunity to express his point of view to the Court and to show for what reasons he did not look upon those orders as criminal per se, but carried them out, believing in good faith in their legality. Furthermore, the defense will give him an opportunity to show whether during the war he had any possibility at all, as an officer, to refuse to carry out the orders that he received from superior headquarters.

Therefore, the defense will now furnish the Court with all the true facts necessary to decide the question whether the accused Pister is guilty or not.

The accused Pister wants to testify under oath.

PRESIDENT: You may make a sworn or unsworn statement on which you may be cross examined. You are advised that the Court may draw such inference as the circumstances justify from your refusal to answer or from your failure to take the stand in your own behalf. Are you now willing to testify?

ACCUSED PISTER: Yes.

PRESIDENT: You desire to be sworn?

ACCUSED PISTER: Yes.

HERMANN PISTER, an accused, having been duly sworn, voluntarily took the stand in his own behalf and testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Mr. Pister, what's your full name?

A Pister, Hermann.

Q Are you the accused number 21 in this trial?

A Yes.

Q How old are you?

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A 62 years.

Q Are you married?

A Yes.

Q Have you any children?

A Three children.

Q Which age?

A 22, 18 and 4.

Q Where is your family living at the present?

DR. WACKER: Just a moment, please. May I give the following explanation to the Court? Pister is in the hospital under medical treatment, and he just informed me this morning that he was running a fever.

ACCUSED PISTER: I have a chronic heart disease. Since 1946 my wife is arrested.

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Do you know why?

A No. She is in an internment camp in the French Zone in Landau. The youngest child is with my parents-in-law in the Saar region.

Q Mr. Pister, what was your profession that you learned?

A I was a professional soldier.

Q When did you become a professional soldier?

A When I was 16 years old in 1901.

Q Did you participate in the first World War?

A Yes.

(Pister-Direct)

Handwritten signature or initials.

Q Where did you serve during the first World War--with which unit?

A With the then Imperial Navy.

Q What was your rank at the end of the first World War?

A I was a signal master.

Q What did you do after the first World War? Did you stay with the navy?

A There was no possibility left to serve with the navy, and for this reason I was forced to go into a civilian occupation.

Q Which civilian occupation did you select?

A I went into the automobile business.

Q In which way did you work in this profession?

A I associated myself as an engineer, and then I worked myself for two or three years in this profession, and then I started with auto repairs and auto selling.

Q How long did you stay in this profession?

A I stayed in this profession until 1936, when I was ordered into the SS as my main duty.

Q When did you become a member of the Nazi Party?

A In 1931 I entered the Allgemeine SS as an SS man applicant, voluntarily and without duress.

Q Did you become a member of the Party at the same time?

A I became a member of the Party on the first of February, 1932.

Q What was your rank in 1936 when you were taken over into the Allgemeine SS as your main duty?

A Captain of the SS.

Q When you were with the Allgemeine SS as your main

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duty, what were your duties and assignments?

A First, I have to say that during all these years I had taken a great interest in automobile sports so that in the State of Baden I was known as the leading manager.

Q Do you mean by this motor races?

A Yes. Through this activity, although I had already a very good income, I was taken out of my civilian profession by the Reichs Leader in order to take care of the motor sports in the Allgemeine SS, and with that I became the Leader of the SS Regiment Standarte Number One in Munich, where I had at the most one-third of the income which I had before during my private life.

Q How long were you working as your main duty with the SS sports?

A After I had taken charge of the first motorized SS Regiment on the first of April, 1936, I was called into the Reichs Main Office of the SS in Berlin on the first of October, 1937, and there I was in charge of all motorized sports of the Allgemeine SS as well as of the Waffen SS; because at that time did not exist any private organizations or clubs which could take care of motor sports.

Q How long did this assignment last?

A During this time I became chief of the Main department, and after the beginning of the war in 1939 I became surplus. That means since beginning with that time there was no more motor sports. In 1938 I participated in my last large motor sports event with the SS crew in England.

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Q What were your duties now during the war?

A During this, my activities--I had been in close contact with the Reichs Leader Corps, as well as the Reichs Leader himself, since I represented him in the large international and national meetings, and since he said to make reports to him about the meetings as well as the activities of the SS Motor Corps. This way, in 1939, I was ordered to the personal staff, and the Chief Adjutant told me that the Reichsfuehrer had put me at the disposal of the German Road Construction Minister Todt.

Q What became your assignment?

A I have to explain this a little bit more in detail. At that time the construction of the West Wall was on its peak-- that means, at its full development. The labor forces working there had been assigned to this job through the Labor Employment Offices, and they were assigned to this duty as war service. I was ordered to report personally to Minister Todt.

Q Did you then receive your further assignment from Minister Todt?

A Yes, and Mr. Todt told me that since the labor forces at the West Wall had come under the jurisdiction of the military courts, the punishments handed out for disobedience of orders, for refusal to work, laziness on the job, etc., were very high; and these laborers now would be missing in the labor commitment. Efforts should be made that before these laborers were handed over to the courts that certain educational programs should take place, and I should make suggestions to him in this respect.

Q Did you follow this request?

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A Yes, in accordance with the following plans. These laborers who had been sentenced were put in jails, and I made the suggestion that these laborers before they ever were sentenced, before they ever were handed over to a Court, they should be concentrated for an educational training, but I would like to stress the point that at that time I hadn't seen a single concentration camp, and didn't know of the existence of such concentration camp.

Q What were the proposals you made?

DR. AHEIMER: I have to object to the translation. I think the interpreter made a mistake insofar as he translated that the accused Pister had never heard about the existence of a concentration camp.

INTERPRETER: I am sorry; I was correct.

ACCUSED PISTER: I never heard nor seen any concentration camp, nor knew anything about the existence of such concentration camps. I was interested, as I told the Minister, to have these men used in the work, to get them fed according with the instructions, to have them billeted correctly, and to keep them away from alcohol; and there the condition was that the inmates, who were not to be called prisoners, should be paid the full wage as any other workman. But, since it had been found out that these men, who had violated the rules and committed crimes, did not take care of their families either, I suggested that the wage should not be paid to, as we called it kind of pupil, student, but should be paid to the camp command. This money was transferred to the relatives, to the family of the man every two weeks so that these families had not to use relief any more.

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QUESTIONS BY D^r. WACKER:

Q Mr. Pister, the proposals you made--were they really carried out?

A These suggestions were accepted immediately, and they were carried through.

Q And what were your duties?

A I have to mention that I and my staff, which I worked up gradually, had no right to isolate these men, but the Security Staffs, which were attached to the West Wall Organization, had the right to put men in arrest for a period of 56 days.

PRESIDENT: Court will recess for twenty minutes.

(Whereupon at 1010 hours, the Court recessed.)



Seite 1799

prisoner was delivered to you?

A That is clear. The Gestapo Office had to make a report of facts, giving the exact reasons why the man had been arrested, together with the request that the man should be transferred to a concentration camp.

Q To whom did the Gestapo make this report?

A To the office in charge, Department 4 of the Reichs Security Main Office, which was the highest office of the secret police in Berlin.

Q Where was this?

A In Berlin.

Q What was decided, now, in Berlin?

A The transfer in the concentration camp which had been made. On each Protective Custody Camp Order the camp classification of the inmate was given. That means one, two, or three.

Q What do you mean by one, two, and three?

A Concentration camps class one were the camps where men were sent, only for a short stay; class two was the middle class of camps; among them, Buchenwald; and camp classification three originally was for the more dangerous concentration camp inmates.

Q Did the commander of a concentration camp or any member of his staff have any influence on the decision which was made in Berlin?

A No. I have just mentioned that the classification into the various groups and the transfer into the various camps were not always carried out through the Reichs Security Main Office, because when a camp from classification group 3 was filled, the Reichs Security Main Office could bring the men in one of the camps in class 1 or 2.

Q Mr. Pister, was that the way in which an inmate was transferred to a concentration camp until 1943?



Seiten

1913 - 1916

Q Is there anything else to be said about the question of executions? Perhaps one more question on behalf of the men who participated on these executions. Do you have any indications that the men who were in charge of such executions or who participated in those executions considered the executions to be illegal?

A If the men knew that the order and the executions of the order came through their camp commander they knew and they had to know that there was nothing illegal about it. I would like to mention, furthermore, certainly none of the accused or I should better say none of the men who participated on these executions, because many of them are not accused as yet, did it out of sadism or because after one or a few executions he received remunerations in the way of promotion, medals, premiums or leave, etc. Furthermore, he knew on every execution where he participated that in his eyes each execution had to be justified.

Q Mr. Pister I want to talk about the detail 99. Mr. Pister, what was detail 99?

A I ask my defense counsel to save me the answer to this question since six or eight witnesses of the prosecution have testified about this detail in all details. The same as the manner in which these executions were carried out already was mentioned here.

Q Who was executed through detail 99?

A In regard to detail 99 you have to make a distinction between executions and special treatment.

Q Please explain this difference to the court?

A Whereas in the case of an execution for each individual so-called sentence was handed over. In the case of 99 they were executions by lists.

Q Who was executed in this manner?

A It is always said here that they were Russian prisoners of war. That is not correct.

(Pister-direct)



Q What is correct then?

A These men were exclusively Russian political party organizers--party commissars and political commissars and all these men had been denounced as such to the officers of the Reich Security Main Office by their own comrades, other prisoners of war.

Q Were they members of the Russian Wehrmacht?

A No. When the new Russian Wehrmacht was organized the Russian Government announced that the political commissars attached to the newly organized army were not members of the Wehrmacht but party members. Furthermore, these were members of a nation which was no part either of the Hague Convention or the Geneva Convention.

Q How were these Russians brought to Buchenwald?

A They came from the PW camps, not in uniform but in rags and they were delivered by the Secret State Police or the Wehrmacht.

Q Who brought them? Did they come by foot or by vehicle?

A They came by train to Weimar and from there they were brought to Buchenwald with police trucks.

Q What kind of orders did you receive when they were handed over to you?

A They were not handed over to me personally at all. When I took over the camp this whole business was working already mechanically and it was already dying out and they were taken over by the protective custody camp leader who was on duty. What happened thereafter I can't say anything about because I wasn't present anyway, and enough testimony has been given about this question already.

Q Did you consider these executions of Russians to be legal?

A First of all I was a soldier. Secondly this was also a law and there was nobody there who could tell you what was legal or illegal.

(Fister-direct)



Q What are your indications that these executions were legal?

A The order came from the same office which had pronounced all other death sentences; that means the Reich Security Main Office and furthermore one has to consider that during the German Russian war such a terrifying news was published about the treatment of German soldiers through such political commissars, cruelties, etc., that this kind of death penalty was much milder than the cruelties which had happened there. One has to think only of this one order that that as a matter of principle no members of the Waffen SS should be made prisoners of war.

Q Do you have any indications what the reasons were for the German Reichs Government to give the orders for the execution of these men?

A No.

Q Did you receive these execution orders also with lists by names or did you receive a group of men?

A I mentioned before that there was a list of names with the exact first name, family name, place and date of birth without any rank.

Q Why weren't the executions carried out in the same manner as the executions about which you spoke before?

A First of all for me this was already a completed fact when I took over the camp. I mean the manner in which the executions should be carried out, but there were no instructions how special treatment should be carried out, but since the other executions had to deal with criminal elements and the men who had been delivered for special treatment who had in camp many inmates who had the same political opinion they had probably one was afraid that through inmates of the camp the people who were brought in for executions could be greeted and applauded, and that so disturbances could start.

Q Mr. Pister, when was the horse stable in which these executions took place eliminated?

A I can't give you an exact date, but anyway this establishment existed still for a few months without being used at all. Probably it was in 1943.

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Q When executions took place in the horse stable, was the horse stable especially guarded?

A No.

Q Do you remember the written statement of the co-accused Gustav Heigel which was read in court, that members of the guard battalion were lined up outside the horse stable?

A During my tenure of office, not; anyway, it wasn't necessary to put up special guard chains because we had already our regular guard chain.

Q Did the regular guard chain which was there at all times come by close to the horse stable?

A Yes, yes.

Q In what manner had the acting First Sergeant Otto to do with the horse stable?

A As far as is known to me, he had nothing to do with the execution on the place of the execution itself, but he was responsible for the fact that the report of the execution went back to the Reichs Security main office.

Q Do you know that the detail 99 received "Schnapps" and cigarettes?

A I heard it here.

Q Didn't you know anything about it in Buchenwald?

A I had 125,000 prisoners, 47 guard companies, 380 men in my Headquarters staff, and 800 female supervisors; furthermore, 80 out-details which were located all over central Germany; so that the matter that non-commissioned officers received five cigarettes was not of importance to me.

(Pister-Direct)



Sciten

2125 - 2128

DEFENSE COUNSEL: I did not get that answer. Was that "exclusively" or "exclusive of"?

THE INTERPRETER: He meant exclusive of crimes and violations of the law by the prisoners.

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q In other words, all crimes that were committed against prisoners were within the purview of investigation by the legal officer, is that correct?

A Yes, but not the crimes which the prisoners themselves had committed, with the exception of suicide and shot while trying to escape, whereas in which cases the crime had not been committed by the prisoner who was shot while trying to escape or who had committed suicide, but allegedly by the SS men.

Q Did you ever witness an execution at Commando 99?

A I was no witness.

Q Did you see the killings take place at Commando 99?

A Only once during the first month of my presence in Buchenwald I was in 99, and as even the witness for the prosecution has testified, I was only in the end room there after the executions had already taken place.

Q Is it not a fact that you saw those SS men dressed in those white coats simulating doctors' uniforms?

A I said so in my first report as well as in my last report. That means I saw it.

Q You were also wearing those glasses or protection, were you not, to keep the blood from splattering on you?

A Me?

Q Yes, you.

A No.



Q You never said you did that?

A No.

Q How long did Commando 99 continue after you became commandant?

A I think twice or three times.

Q Over what period of time were those two or three times?

A That must have been in a period of time of approximately nine months.

Q Is it not a fact that it went on as late as November, 1944?

A No, that is incorrect.

Q There were still killings of Russian Prisoners of War as late as November, 1944, in Buchenwald, were there not?

A Not in the horse stable.

Q Where were they killing them at that time?

A In the crematory.

MAJOR WHITNEY: On the translation of that question I do not believe the words "prisoners of war" were translated, but merely executions.

(Whereupon the question was repeated by the interpreter.)

ACCUSED HERMANN PISTER: In Buchenwald no execution of Russian prisoners of war did take place at all.

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q These Russians, regardless of what you call them, were killed in Buchenwald as late as November, 1944, is that not correct?

A It isn't known to me. I think that in November, 1944, the establishment of the horse stable did not exist any more.

Q You are sure that these people who were executed there were not Russian prisoners of war?

A No.

Q Well, you say you are not sure. Are you or are you not?

(Pister-cross)



A I am certain there were none.

Q Pister, do you recall making a sworn statement on the 20th of July, 1945, in Freising, Germany, before George P. Swanick, Captain of the Infantry?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall stating at that time that: "Upon taking over the Buchenwald camp, I was initiated to the duties of a camp commandant by the then first protective custody camp chief, acting for my predecessor, Koch, SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Florstedt, Hermann"?

A Yes.

Q "I was not familiar with this job and had never seen a concentration camp before"?

A Yes, that is possible. I don't know exactly, but it is correct.

Q That is the truth, though?

A That is the truth.

Q "During the first days, a transport of Russian prisoners of war arrived, whether from one or several camps, I don't know"?

A If I said prisoners of war, that means at that time they were prisoners of war for me.

Q All right. That was in July, 1945. They were prisoners of war for you at that time, is that correct?

A Yes, if I called them prisoners of war at that time, I used the wrong expression.

Q Well, certainly your memory was much fresher as to what took place during your tenure of being commandant of Buchenwald in July, 1945, than it is at the present time, is that not so?

A One could assume that. Furthermore, I was not interrogated. I made this statement on my own.

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Q Sure, that is correct. It was the truth, was it not?

A That I said prisoners of war is correct, but that they were prisoners of war is incorrect.

Q They changed their status, did they not, Pister, from July, 1945, to the second day of June, 1947?

A It is a fact that they were not prisoners of war. Furthermore, it doesn't matter, because the charge sheet doesn't speak only about prisoners of war, but mentions also civilian internees.

Q Let's see, Pister. Did you say anything else about prisoners of war there?

A I know what I said.

Q Tell the court, then, what else you said about Russian prisoners of war.

A I don't know what the prosecution wants me to do. Please ask your question.

Q All right, Pister, you tell the court whatever else you told this investigating officer at Freising on the 20th of July, 1945, concerning Russian prisoners of war.

A I didn't say anything to the investigating officer. I only made a written statement. I wasn't asked anything.

Q Did you say this: "The transport was under the command of an Unterfuehrer of the police"?

A I assume so.

Q "These Russian prisoners of war are selected from the PW camps by a special commission appointed by the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, according to standards which are not known to me"?

A Yes.

W

A T T E S T A T I O N

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Berlin, 18. Februar 1970



Joseph B. Conboy
JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Übersetzung

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Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KLIII e/11

Heft 5

Case No

000-50-9-

Buchenwald

Vol. 34

S. 2845-2851

Vernehmung

Konrad

Morgen

Aussagen

Detail 99 =

Kdo 99

Q And in that respect it is a fact, is it not, Doctor, that you were unable to get a true picture of the conditions that existed there at Buchenwald?

A That is not correct, and I believe I have convinced the court that I was able to obtain a rather exact picture of Buchenwald for myself.

Q Well, you interrogated the members of the gardening detail, did you not, and you found no mistreatment there, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And over what period of time did you investigate the gardening detail?

A My investigation was not run in such a manner that I would take the concentration camp up step by step and sector by sector; its purpose was rather more of a general one and it extended over an extended period of time.

Q Well, didn't you know or didn't you ascertain in the course of your investigation that the gardening detail was considered to be a punishment detail?

A No, I did not determine that.

Q And isn't it a fact that the extent of your investigation of the gardening detail was to interrogate Lt. Dumbeck and perhaps Krautwurst?

A No, I also heard other prisoners and other persons who made statements about conditions in the gardening detail, being only by hearsay or by rumor. I would like to ask permission to ask the defense counsel another question.

Q Well, I imagine you will have an opportunity to do that later, Doctor. During the course of your investigation of the conduct of the Concentration Camp Buchenwald, you did not even ascertain the existence of Commando 99, is that not correct?

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interests of saving time of the court sessions only a few specific acts with details known about each of them and dates known about each of them were picked out among the various number of cases against him.

Q Well, except for the matter of saving time of the court, they could have been used as a basis of a charge against Dr. Hoven, is that not correct?

A As this question is phrased, I cannot answer it by either "Yes" or "No" because I do not have a clear picture of the activities connected with detail 99.

Q Well, you had a clear enough picture of it, did you not, Doctor, to mention it in your particulars against Dr. Hoven?

A That was merely done in the description of his activities and in the presentation of his defense.

Q Well, was that set forth as a matter in defense or in a matter of accusation against Dr. Hoven?

A Neither the one nor the other, because the purpose of these particulars or of this dossier was to make clear to the court a picture as clear as possible of the activities of Dr. Hoven.

Q Well, if it served no useful purpose, why was it that you included it in this bill of particulars?

A I did not state that it did not serve any purpose; in fact, I just did state what purpose it did serve.

Q Well, then, from your original statement, then, in connection with the reason why it was used in the bill of particulars, you state now that it was there solely for the purpose of showing the court what activities took place at Buchenwald, is that correct?

A In connection with the case of Koch and Hoven, it did.

(Morgen-Cross)

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Q And you certainly would not have taken the time of the court to put it in there if it would not have given the court a picture as to the criminality of the conduct of Hoven and Koch, is that not correct?

A This statement in itself was a neutral one, just like I did mention in the charge sheet the date of birth or the education of the accused, which in itself is neither incriminating nor exonerating testimony.

Q You mean the killing of these Russian Commissars, then, was nothing more than a neutral statement, is that correct?

A So far it was merely a neutral statement not discussed by the prosecution authorities and it would have been up to the court to conduct further examinations concerning this point or else to refrain from doing so.

Q Well, isn't it a fact that the reason why it was not made a basis of one of the charges was because of its difficulty of proof?

A I confined myself to proving only so much against Koch and Hoven as was sufficient to cause a death sentence to be passed against the two with certainty.

Q Then your answer to my question is that the reason why you didn't do it was because of the difficulty of proof, is that correct?

A No; because the presentation of evidence had already been concluded, the purpose of the presentation of evidence had been fulfilled.

Q You mean you didn't ascertain the existence of Commando 99 and Hoven's connection with it until after you had discovered these other acts of misconduct on the part of Hoven?

A I first found out about these murders of Dr. Hoven and I put them on the charge sheet, and after they were completely cleared up, then only did this other matter come up in addition.

Q And if you had had more time you would have included the killing of the Russian Commissars as part of the charges, would you not?

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A Certainly not, because it wasn't my time that was at issue but the time of the court.

Q Well, the consideration of having to save the time of the court was the only reason why you did not put that in as a charge, is that not correct?

A There were more reasons.

Q Well, that was one of them, was it not?

A That was one of the reasons.

Q Then please tell the court why it was that you didn't prefer charges against Pister, in whose time this also took place?

A I never did find out that these shootings of the Commissars were continued during Pister's time.

Q Don't you know, as a matter of fact, that they took place as late as 1943?

A No, I do not know that.

Q Well, didn't you interrogate your legal officer there, Schmidt,) whose statement here before this court is that they did take place up until 1943?

DR. AHEIMER: Objection to the translation. The prosecutor said "your legal officer" whereas the translation was "the legal officer".

PRESIDENT: Which is correct?

THE INTERPRETER: It was a mistake in the translation.

PROSECUTION: Will you translate it properly, please?

A I did ask the legal officer Schmidt about it without, however, reducing it into the form of an interrogation from my part, and in the course of this I did find out that executions took place in Buchenwald. I have already described that I did convince myself of the existence of

(Morgen-Cross)

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Ta 323 Buch jbp
June 47 - 9

one of these executions. But Lieutenant Schmidt did not tell me that any other regular or any other type of mass shootings did take place, particularly not against any Russian Commissars.

(Morgen-Cross)

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Q You mean, then, he did not mention at any time that Russian commissars were killed there in Buchenwald as late as the fall of 1943?

DOCTOR WACKER: I must object to the translation of the prosecution's question. The word "commissars" was translated as "prisoners of war" and that might make a difference in the answer.

PROSECUTION: I suggest, may it please the court, that we get the answer before the interpreter forgets it.

THE INTERPRETER: I have already forgotten it.

DOCTOR WACKER: I wish to object further because this answer might be wrong.

PRESIDENT: Let's start all over.

PROSECUTION: Will the reporter read the question?

(Whereupon the question was read by the reporter.)

PRESIDENT: Do you object to that question?

DOCTOR WACKER: Not to the question. It was now translated correctly.

THE WITNESS: I can only repeat that Lieutenant Schmidt did not mention to me that as late as the fall of 1943 any commissars' shootings took place in Buchenwald.

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q You were there at that time, were you not?

A Yes, I was there at that time.

Q During that time did you ascertain whether or not any such shootings took place?

A I didn't find out about any such shootings taking place at that time. Buchenwald was a large camp, and it is entirely possible that executions took place without my knowing about it.

Q Did you ever talk to Otto about it?

A I don't remember.

Handwritten signature or mark, possibly reading "LH" or "LH" with a flourish.

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Wiederholung
von Film 8
Vol. 34

(Morgen-Cross)

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Berlin, 18. Februar 1970



Joseph B. Conboy
JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Übersetzung

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Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e11

Heft 6

Case No

000-50-9

Buchenwald

S. 4114

Vernehmung

Schobert,

Max

Personalien

S. 4144

Vernehmung

Schobert

Detail 99 - Kdo 99

(Zinecker)

S. 4149 - 4150

Vern.: Schobert

Kdo 99 (Grinrm)

S. 4166

Vern.: Schobert

Aussagen über

anwesende Doktoren

bei Exekutionen im

Kdo 99

CAPTAIN LEWIS: The defense calls as its next witness the accused Max Schobert who will testify in his own behalf.

PRESIDENT: You may make a sworn or an unsworn statement on which you may be cross examined. You are advised that the court may draw such inferences as the circumstances justify from your refusal to answer or from your failure to take the stand in your own behalf. Are you now willing to testify?

THE ACCUSED SCHOBERT: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Do you desire to testify under oath?

THE ACCUSED SCHOBERT: Yes.

MAX SCHOBERT, an accused, voluntarily assumed the stand in his own behalf, and being first duly sworn, testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q What is your full name?

A Max Schobert.

Q And are you one of the accused in this case?

A Yes.

Q Were you ever a member of the Nazi Party?

A Yes.

Q When did you first join the Party?

A In 1932.

Q Did you ever leave the Party?

A No.

Q Were you ever a member of the Allgemeine SS?

A Yes.

Q When did you join the Allgemeine SS?

A In 1932.

(Schobert - direct)

Handwritten signature or mark.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q Schobert, were you ever married?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever have any children?

A Yes.

Q Schobert, where are you wife and children today?

A They were killed during the air attack of the 24th of August 1944.

Q Where were they when they were killed?

A They were in an air raid shelter which had been constructed behind the houses of the SS settlement.

Q And that was in Buchenwald?

A Yes, it was in Buchenwald.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: No further questions.

DR. RENNER: A few questions on direct examination on behalf of the accused, Zinecker.

QUESTIONS BY DR. RENNER:

Q Did you know a man by the name of Zinecker in Camp Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q Is that the same Zinecker who is an accused now in this trial?

A Yes.

Q Was this Zinecker ever a member of the Detail 99?

A No.

Q Would you have know about it if Zinecker was a member of Detail No. 99?

A Yes, at least I would have seen him there once.

(Schobert-direct)



A The First Protective Custody Camp Leader at that time was SS Captain Florstedt, after Major Roedel.

Q Did you hear from the SS Captain Florstedt who was First Protective Custody Camp Leader at that time that he had observed this incident in question?

A I would have heard it, he certainly would have told me about it.

Q Didn't he tell you anything about it?

A No.

Q Mr. Schobert when did the labor allocation leader Grimm start his work in the morning in his office?

A The labor allocation leader as far as I can remember started at 7:00 o'clock, 7:00 or 7:30.

Q At that time was the marching out of the work details already completed?

A The marching out of the work details was completed at that time.

Q Mr. Schobert when you were standing over there at the wall map, Prosecution Exhibit No. 8, you said that in the morning when the work details marched out it was impossible for a prisoner to walk around at the spot to which you pointed.

A It was impossible because before the roll call no prisoner could leave the camp and during the marching out of the details it was also impossible because at that time the work details marched out.

Q Mr. Schobert you have testified under direct examination by Captain Lewis that as a witness you were present in Detail 99, is that correct?

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly reading "V. B." or similar, with a large loop and a checkmark-like stroke.

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly reading "S. B." or similar, with a large loop and a checkmark-like stroke.

A Yes.

Q Was Grimm ever a member of the Detail 99?

A No.

Q When for the first time did the Detail 99 come into appearance?

A The Detail 99 showed up for the first time in 1941. This might have been around August or September. It might have been even October.

Q I have a few more questions to ask you on behalf of Grimm about the prisoner transports. Mr. Schobert do you remember a transport which went from Camp Buchenwald to Camp Auschwitz and consisted of Jewish prisoners exclusively?

A I didn't understand that.

Q Do you remember a transport of prisoners from Buchenwald to Auschwitz consisting of Jewish prisoners exclusively?

A Yes, I think around 1942.

Q If such a transport went from Buchenwald to Auschwitz in 1942 and consisted of Jewish prisoners exclusively, who put together such a transport?

A If a transport of Jewish prisoners exclusively went to Auschwitz, it was put together only by the Political Department, because the Political Department had the records and files of every single prisoner. The Political Department had prescribed the group in which the prisoner had to be put when he was brought into the camp. This Department determined whether the prisoner was a political prisoner or one of Jehovah's Witnesses, whether he was a social or whether he was a political prisoner. The Political Department gave to the prisoners clerks office a list with the names of the

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A Yes.

Q Then you did beat prisoners with a leather whip across the face, didn't you?

A With the hand across the face.

Q Did you say that in 1947 in Dachau on the 24th of February or didn't you?

A I said exactly that. The interrogating officer asked me where I beat them and I told him with my hand across the face. In Bavaria that is called a slap in the face.

Q Do you remember who the interrogating officer was at this interrogation?

A I don't know his name.

Q Now you spoke about Commando 99 and executions and you said that doctors were present at executions. What doctors were present Schobert?

A The camp physician.

Q Just give me the name Schobert?

A Once it was Doctor Hoven, I think also Doctor Placza was present there once, then Doctor Blanck and there was another doctor there and he wasn't there for a long time and I don't remember his name.

Q Think a little further. Can't you think of any other doctors who were present?

A Doctor Schiedlowsky.

Q Is that all?

A Yes.

Q In your statement marked Prosecution Exhibit No. 73 for identification and the signature of which you have already identified,



A T T E S T A T I O N

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Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e11

Heft 7

Case No

000-50-9

Buchenwald

Vol. 50

S. 4474-4517

Vern.:

Wolfgang Otto

-Personalien,
Lebenslauf,
Aufgabenbereich
im KLBu,
Aussagen über
Kdo 99

Q But you don't know any names, either, of persons or units, is that correct?

A No, we were in the camp.

PROSECUTION: No further questions.

PRESIDENT: Take your place in the dock.

(Whereupon the accused resumed his place in the dock.)

DR. WACKER: The defense calls as its next witness the accused, Otto, in his own behalf.

PRESIDENT: You may make a sworn or unsworn statement on which you may be cross examined. You are advised the court may draw such inferences as the circumstances justify from your refusal to answer or from your failure to take the stand in your own behalf. Are you now willing to testify?

ACCUSED OTTO: I want to testify under oath.

WOLFGANG GUNTHER KLAUS OTTO, an accused, voluntarily assumed the stand in his own behalf and being first duly sworn, testified as follows through an interpreter:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q What is your full name?

A Wolfgang Gunther Klaus Otto.

Q Are you an accused in this trial?

A No. 20.

Q How old are you?

A Thirty-five years.

Q Are you married?

A Yes.

Q Do you have children?

A Three.

Q How old?

A Seven and a half, six, and one and three-quarters.

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Q Where is your residence?

A At the present time I am in Dachau, Bunker 2, before that I lived in Upper Silesia. My wife is quartered with two of the children with some relatives of ours and the third child is taken care of by other people.

Q What is your nationality?

A German.

Q What are you by profession?

A I am a teacher in a public school.

Q Please give the court a short description of your professional and educational background.

A In March 1933 I graduated from the Humanistic Gymnasium. I intended to start my studies at the University of Beuthen but I didn't get the permission. I was advised to join the labor service the same year and then later on to join the Nazi organization.

Q Did you join the Party?

A No, I didn't join the Party but after my labor service I joined the Allgemeine SS in November 1933. In this way I was in a position to start my studies in Beuthen at the University in 1934.

Q Did you finish your studies?

A In March 1936 I passed my final examination in Beuthen.

Q What did you do after this examination?

A I had, as an applicant for a job as public school teacher, to wait for one year and I got my job then in 1937.

Q Did you become a teacher afterwards anywhere?

A First I was employed in Bauschdorf in Upper Silesia. Later on in 1941, on account of the difficulties in obtaining the right housing, I moved to Neuensee, County of Grottkau.

(Otto-direct)

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Q Were you a public school teacher there at the end?

A I was appointed there only but I didn't work there because I had to serve during the war years in the army.

Q Mr. Otto, please let me take care of one question first. When were you taken prisoner?

A On the 11th of April 1945 I left Buchenwald and finally arrived in the Tyrol at the beginning of May. From there I returned to Bavaria with a Wehrmacht unit. On the 14th of June 1945 I was discharged by an American organization at Kirchsee near Munich and then, with a transport of prisoners of war I arrived in Weimar on the 17th of June 1945. Three days later on the 20th of June 1945 I reported myself to the CIC in Weimar.

Q Have you been imprisoned since that day?

A Yes.

Q Mr. Otto, how and when did you come to Buchenwald?

A At the beginning of the war I was drafted to Oppeln in Upper Silesia, was moved to the west. In Weimar we left the train and were brought to Buchenwald. Only there we heard that we were supposed to be committed there as guard troops.

Q Did you come to the guard battalion at Buchenwald in Weimar?

A Yes, I was assigned to the Second Company.

Q When was that?

A First of September 1939.

Q What were your duties after you arrived in Buchenwald?

A First I was assigned as a guard. Around the summer of 1940 I got the work of a Finance Officer and I stayed on this job until November 1941. Starting November 1941 I was transferred to Headquarters staff as a clerk in the clerk's office. In the summer of 1943 I got the
(Otto-direct)



job and assignment as an acting First Sergeant. I kept this job until the end.

Q Mr. Otto, when you say that you were transferred to this Headquarters staff, did this result in a change of locality for your work?

A First I was quartered in barracks which were located in the same spot where now the railroad station is shown. Later on when I was transferred to Headquarters staff I was in the building to the left of the Headquarters building. That was Department 1.

Q Mr. Otto, please describe to the court your duties as acting First Sergeant.

A In the beginning I stayed in my job as First Clerk.

Q Mr. Otto, please explain what you mean when you say "at the beginning I stayed with my job". Do you want to say by that that first you remained a clerk and only later on you became acting First Sergeant or what do you want to say?

A I didn't express myself clearly. I wanted to say, first, my first job, was the job of a clerk. That means I had to continue the work as a First Clerk. Secondly, I had to distribute the work in the Clerks Office. Thirdly, I had to distribute the mail. Fourth, I had to take care of the personal welfare of the members of Headquarters staff. Fifth, I had to make the usual monthly reports. Sixth, I was in charge of the funds of Headquarters staff. Seventh, I was in charge of the welfare of prominent prisoners.

Q Whom did you have to take care of among them?

A For instance, the Minister President Leon Blum, George Mandel, Maffalda from Hessen, then Breitscheid and his wife, the Norwegian students (Otto-direct)

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and Rumanian refugees.

Q Mr. Otto, in your work as acting First Sergeant, did you have anything to do with prisoners directly?

A No, only with the prisoners who were used in our Clerks Office to clean up the place. There were two of them.

Q Who was your direct superior?

A My direct superior was the Adjutant.

Q And under whose jurisdiction were you next to the Adjutant?

A Next was the Commander.

Q Please explain to the court, furthermore, what you had to do in regard to the mail.

A All the mail, the mail for the members of the Headquarters staff as well as the official mail, came to our office. This mail had to be passed on and taken care of as quickly as possible and as properly as possible. We had to take care of approximately two hundred to five hundred letters daily.

Q- Mr. Otto, in your capacity as acting First Sergeant, did you have anything to do with executions which took place in Camp Buchenwald?

A When I took the job as acting First Sergeant of the SS I had to do with executions that much that I had to be present at executions as a reporter, and furthermore, I was present as rifleman in several execution squads.

Q Who was really executed during these executions?

A These were people who had been brought from the outside, from civilian life to Buchenwald for criminal acts they had committed. That means, people who had been brought to Buchenwald as the execution place. These were not persons who had to be considered inmates of the concentration camp in accordance with the charge sheet.

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Q For what kind of crimes were these persons executed?

A Through the documents which were passed on together with these prisoners I could find out the following -- crimes like murder, homicide, rape of minor girls, pilferage of camps or food trains, and pilferage of open apartments during air raids. Furthermore, serious cases of sabotage of the armament industry.

Q Was the sentence read to the men who were sentenced before they were executed?

A Yes.

Q Were the reasons also given in these sentences for the execution?

A Yes, that's the reason why I know the crimes they had committed.

Q What was your activity as reporter?

A I had to take down everything what happened in the same manner as the reporter has to do it here in court.

Q What happened finally with the protocol?

A The record was sent to the Reichs Security Main Office.

Q Did you have any doubts about these executions, that in any way perhaps they would not be legal?

A I have read in these sentences why these men had been accused, of which crimes. I even read today in the papers that for the same crimes people are sentenced to death. I had no thoughts about it at that time at all.

Q Mr. Otto, did you know the name Detail 99 in Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q What were the duties of this detail?

A The assignment of this detail was the execution of Russian Commissars and political representatives in the army.

(Otto-direct)



Q How did you hear about this Detail 99?

A Through my activity in the Clerks Office, my predecessor, as Acting First Sergeant Thalmann, assigned to me clerical work in connection with this work.

Q Who was Thalmann?

A Thalmann was SS Master Sergeant and at that time I was transferred to Headquarters staff he was the Acting First Sergeant.

Q Was Thalmann your predecessor?

A Not my direct predecessor, there were some others in between.

Q Did Thalmann give you any information and explanation about the Detail 99?

A Not he himself but I found out about it through curious questions which I asked another clerk, SS Tech Sergeant Hupfer.

Q What did you hear from Hupfer?

A He told me that Russian Commissars would be killed in the horse stable through pistol shots in the head.

Q Did he tell you also why these executions were carried out just in the horse stable and in this, one might say, peculiar manner?

A I only know that Oranienburg had given the orders to Buchenwald to carry out these executions in exactly the same manner as Oranienburg did and the horse stable was picked out for this purpose.

Q How do you know that these men were Russian Commissars?

A In the execution order of the Reichs Security Main Office which was always present, it was mentioned.

PRESIDENT: Court will recess until 1:30.

(Whereupon at 1200 hours the court recessed until 1330 hours.)



AFTERNOON SESSION

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1330 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

MR. SUROWITZ: Let the record show, may it please the court, that all the personnel of the court are present; all the personnel of the prosecution are present with the exception of Mr. Denson, who is absent on business of the prosecution; all the personnel of the defense are present with the exception of Captain Groth, who is absent on business of the defense; and all the accused are present with the exception of Schmidt, who is absent.

If there are any spectators in the courtroom who expect to be called as witnesses in this case, they will please leave the courtroom.

The witness is reminded that he is still under oath.

WOLFGANG GUNTHER KLAUS OTTO, an accused, voluntarily resumed the stand in his own behalf, and being reminded that he was still under oath testified further through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION (continued)

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Mr. Otto, did you have in your hands an execution order in accordance with which the detail 99 had to do its work?

A Yes.

Q From whom did this execution order come?

A Directly from the Reich Main Security Office to the commanding officer of Camp Buchenwald.

(Otto - Direct)

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Q Will you please tell the court what, according to your recollection, was stated in such an execution order?

A On the top on the left-hand side there was the heading of the Reich Main Security Office, Berlin. On the right side the date and the address. Then there was the subject: Special Treatment. The authority quoted was the Reich Decree of the Reichsfuehrer A01-396-1041, dated 1 October 1941. And as far as the enclosures, one enclosure was stated.

Q Then what was said?

A The text said approximately the following: "The Russian commissars and political commissioners whose names are quoted below are to be executed in accordance with the regulations quoted above. A report of the carrying out of this order is to be sent directly to the Reich Main Security Office, including a list of the persons. Signed, Mueller."

Q Did the list contain all the names?

A Yes.

Q Where did the Russian commissars come from then?

A They were sent to Camp Buchenwald through police channels from the prisoner-of-war camps in which they happened to be located.

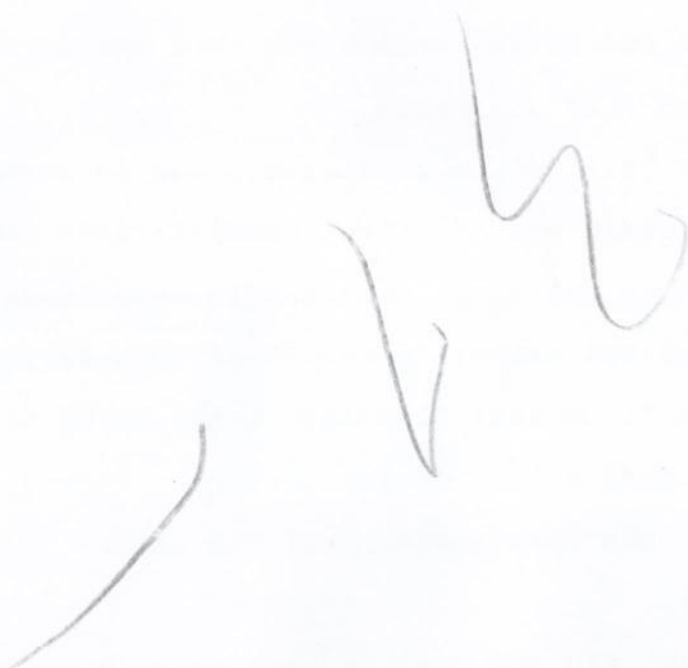
Q They were not prisoners of Buchenwald then, were they?

A No. They had never seen the camp.

Q Were you yourself in the horse stable during one of these executions?

A Yes. One time after I had taken over the tasks of the first sergeant I personally convinced myself of what was

(Otto - Direct)



going on. Previously I had only heard about it.

Q When was that?

A Towards the last month of the year of 1943.

Q Was that the only one time that you were in the horse stables?

A Yes.

Q Were you there in any capacity?

A No.

Q What were the formal prerequisites for detail 99 to go into action?

A An order of the type that I have described before had to be present in every case. I mean a written order by the Reich Main Security Office.

Q How would they then determine whether the Russians who were sent in were identical with the ones enumerated on the list?

A I don't know exactly. I suppose they were read out loud.

Q You had nothing to do with that?

A I didn't do that.

Q Do you know what the reasons were that the Reich Main Security Office had to order the execution of these persons?

A I don't know whether the Reich Main Security Office gave any reasons for this execution than the decree which I have mentioned before. At any rate, I personally did know that it had some connection with the Russian method of warfare.

(Otto - Direct)



I myself heard Russian broadcasts in which the SS was termed as free to be shot without any law in combat, and the reports about cruelties that came in from the Eastern Front strengthened this desire for reprisals, as I might call them.

Q What did you yourself have to do with detail 99?

A I had to carry out the paper work in the office concerning it.

Q Did you participate in the execution itself in any way?

A No.

Q Who was wearing the white coats which have been mentioned in this trial before?

A The ones who had to come into contact with the Russians in the horse stables.

Q What was the reason for those white coats?

A I know that in the beginning these white coats were not being worn and there were two severe typhus cases. One of them was Captain Blanck and the other one was Technical Sergeant Fischer.

Q What was the reason that these coats were being used?

A These coats were put to use as a protection against body lice, and as far as I know these coats were disinfected after every time that they were used.

Q Did you yourself ever wear such a white coat?

A No.

Q Mr. Otto, will you please tell the court what if anything at all you had to do with detail 99 as a first sergeant?

(Otto - Direct)



A I can only say that I wrote the papers that were necessary for it, including the report of the execution that had been carried out, directed to the Reich Main Security Office, in my office.

Q How in detail did it happen that detail 99 would go to work?

A Towards the beginning, as I observed, it was done in the way that the persons concerned were notified by Master Sergeant Thalmann. For a while one had attempted to notify these persons through a loudspeaker system in the headquarters area, not the camp area, mind you. That was a separate loudspeaker system. I myself heard this notice over the loudspeaker system once at nighttime, but a short time thereafter this was stopped on account of the fact that this detail had to be kept secret.

Q Did you have any doubts in your mind concerning whether this execution might not be justified or legal?

A I thought about it, but I always came to the conclusion that this had a direct connection with the Russian warfare, and the thought of reprisals, I am sure, was a justified one.

Q Mr. Otto, I have a few more questions on behalf of the accused Reimer. You said that you had been a member of the guard battalion; is that right?

A Yes.

Q Was the guard battalion stationed outside or inside of the camp?

(Otto - Direct)

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A Outside of camp. During my time I noted that the guard battalion was quartered in three different places.

Q Where was the guard battalion quartered?

A After 1939 after I was drafted the three barracks and the long line above the word "garage".

DR. WACKER: Let the record show the witness is referring to Prosecution Exhibit 8.

A (continuing) Later, after 1941, in the area of the railroad station. Later, after the air attacks, in the barracks denoted by the letter "C".

Q Were the members of the guard battalion permitted to set foot in the camp?

A No. The only persons permitted to set foot in the camp were the persons who had a pass from the headquarters to do so.

Q Did you know the guard regulations?

A Yes.

Q Were the guard regulations changed in any way as time went by?

A Not fundamentally.

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

DR. RENNER: A few questions on direct examination on behalf of the accused Zinecker.

QUESTIONS BY DR. RENNER:

Q Did you know a man named Zinecker while in Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q Is that the same Zinecker who is an accused in this case?

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A Yes.

Q Did you know who were the members of detail 99 in Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q Did detail 99 consist of members of the headquarters staff exclusively?

A Yes.

Q Were all members of the headquarters staff simultaneously and automatically members of detail 99?

A No.

Q Was Zinecker a member of the headquarters staff?

A Yes.

Q Was Zinecker at any time a member of detail 99?

A No.

Q Did you ever see Zinecker at any execution in the horse stables, in the crematory, or any other place?

A No.

DR. RENNER: I have no further questions.

DR. WACKER: I forgot a few questions and I request I be permitted to put them in.

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q Do you remember the statement of the co-accused Heigel in which he states that there were members of the guard battalion among the persons who were stationed in the vicinity of the horse stables?

A Yes.

(Otto - Direct)

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Q Did detail 99 have a special outfit of guards when the executions took place in the horse stables?

A Not guards of the guard battalion.

Q Who was it?

A Their own men.

Q If Heigel states in his statements that members of the guard battalion were standing near him in the vicinity of the horse stables, can you explain this to us by means of the chart, Prosecution Exhibit 8?

A Yes. West of the horse stables is where the chain of guards runs. The chain of guards was posted there not only during daytime but many times it also happened that it had to stand there all night. That was the case when prisoners had escaped and when it had not been determined yet whether those prisoners were outside or still inside the chain of guards. At nights the chain of guards was reinforced to its double strength. So it's quite possible that guards determined in some way or another what was going on in the horse stables. I don't know, however, whether they knew exactly what was going on.

Q Did the guard battalion have anything to do with the incidents in the horse stables directly, though?

A No.

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

DR. RENNER: A few more questions.

(Otto - Direct)

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QUESTIONS BY DR. RENNER:

Q Were the members of the detail 99 listed in one list?

A No.

Q Was the co-accused Wilhelm a member of detail 99?

A I could never tell.

DR. RENNER: No further questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q In civilian life you were a school teacher; is that correct?

A Elementary school teacher.

Q And in Buchenwald you acted as a recording clerk and as a sergeant major; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q So you have always been very careful to use those words in German which accurately represent what you intend to say; is that not correct?

A I don't understand the question.

Q When you use a word you are very careful to see that that word means what you actually intend to say; is that not correct?

A When they are simple words, yes.

Q Having been a school teacher, even if the words are difficult you can handle them well, can you not?

A Yes.

(Otto - Direct)

Handwritten signature or scribble.

Handwritten mark, possibly a slash or a short line.

Q By the way, Otto, in the German Army were there any political commissars and political representatives?

A No.

Q You say, Otto, that those Russian prisoners who were executed in Commando 99 were solely political representatives and political commissars of Russia; is that correct?

A That was what was stated in the written order.

Q And you are sure, are you, that that is what you want to say now?

A That's what I always said.

Q You mean to say that you always said that they were always political representatives and political commissars who were executed in Commando 99?

A I don't know.

Q You just said that you always said it.

A When was that?

Q You don't ever remember using the expression "Russian prisoners of war", do you?

A Those were prisoners who came from Russian prisoner-of-war camps.

Q Just answer my question. Do you remember using the phrase "Russian prisoners of war"?

A That's possible.

Q But you do not remember it?

A Not right now.

) Otto - Direct)

(LVS)

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Q Do you remember in any of your statements having used the words in connection with Commando 99 "Russian political commissars" and "Russian political representatives"?

A I don't know exactly.

Q I will try to refresh your recollection, Otto. Do you recall having made a statement on the 4th day of March, 1947, here at Dachau?

A Yes. On the 7th of March? 6th of March.

Q On the 4th of March, Otto.

A 4th, yes.

Q That statement has been marked as Prosecution Exhibits P-45 and P-45A in evidence. I am going to read to you from a portion of that statement in order to refresh your recollection: "I came to know then that it was a question of shooting Russian prisoners of war to be executed in an empty horse stable." Do you recall saying that in connection with Commando 99?

A That's entirely possible.

Q You don't remember it, do you?

A Well, I don't know right at this moment whether I expressed it in that way.

Q All I am asking you is whether you remember. You can answer yes or no. Do you remember?

A Not the exact terminology.

Q All right, Otto, listen to this statement from the same deposition which you made on the 4th of March, 1947, and

(Otto - Direct)

(Class)

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which is Prosecution Exhibit 45 in evidence: "The Russian prisoners of war were shot in the neck through a crack in the wall." Do you remember that?

A It's possible that I said that when I was asked how that was done.

Q Do you remember this one, too, from the same statement which I just mentioned: "At one I was a witness when 12 to 15 Russian prisoners of war were shot"?

A I stated on direct examination already that I was present once, and that probably refers to this same incident.

Q But I am talking about the fact whether or not you used the term "political commissars" and "political representatives" or whether you always used the term "Russian prisoners of war." Now, Otto, is it not a fact that up until today when you testified here before the court, in all of the statements that you have made you have always used the term "Russian prisoners of war"?

A I don't know whether that was the only term I used.

Q And what I have just read to you from Prosecution Exhibit 45 in evidence does not help to refresh your recollection, does it?

A I know the following: that these Russian soldiers were quartered in Russian prisoner-of-war camps, so-called stalags, and as a consequence of that they were to be described as Russian prisoners of war, being inhabitants of such camps. But I do not remember ever not expressing the fact that they were not Russian commissars or political representatives.

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Q You just used the term "Russian soldiers"; is that correct?

A That's possible. Yes, just now I did.

Q Tell me this: Was the order which you referred to as coming from the Reich Main Administrative or Economic Office and which referred to the execution of Russian prisoners of war a secret order or was it an order which anyone could read?

A That was not just secret. It was more than secret. A so-called secret state matter.

Q Really one of the most secret or one of the top secret documents of the state, was it not?

A On paper, yes.

Q That was stamped on the envelope too, was it not?

A Yes.

Q And that envelope came to you as the sergeant major of the headquarters staff; is that not correct?

A For recording in the journal.

Q And you opened it up, you read the contents, and you recorded it in that daily entry book; is that right?

A Yes.

Q Is it not a fact that all secret or registered letters which were addressed to the commanding officer of Camp Buchenwald were taken by you unopened and delivered to either Pister or Schmidt?

A Not just by me alone, but they were sent to the adjutant or the commandant unopened.

(Otto - Direct)

(L.S.)



Q You didn't open it and no one else had the right to open is; is that correct?

A Yes. I had the right to open it only when the commandant told me "Open up that letter".

Q Just answer my questions. If a letter was secret or if it was registered, and it was sent to the commanding officer of Camp Buchenwald, you turned it over either to Pister or to Schmidt unopened; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And that also included any letters or any post which had valuables in it; is that not true?

A Yes. I don't remember any valuables being contained in any.

Q The first knowledge that you had about the activities of Commando 99 you learned through this secret letter that you opened when it came from Oranienburg; is that correct?

DR. WACKER: I have to object to this question, since it has just now been determined that he did not open these letters.

MR. SUROWITZ: Am I to believe that counsel concedes that the witness was not stating the truth when he said at first that he did open the secret letter? It has been established here (1) the fact that the witness states he opened the secret letter; (2) the general principle that secret letters are usually unopened and delivered to the commander or to the adjutant.

DR. WACKER: I do not think the witness stated he opened any secret letter.

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THE WITNESS: I didn't say that.

MR. SUROWITZ: At any rate, whatever the witness did say is certainly in the memory of the court, and if counsel believes that there is any misconception about it it can be cleared up on redirect examination, I respectfully submit.

PRESIDENT: The objection is overruled.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q All right, Otto, I will repeat the question. The first intimation that you had that Russians were being executed in Commando 99 came from a reading of the contents of this order from Oranienburg; is that correct?

A No. The first time I found out about it is when clerical work concerning it was entrusted to me.

Q When was that?

A The beginning of 1942.

Q Otto, would you say when the last execution in Commando 99 took place, to the best of your knowledge?

A The last month of 1943.

Q That would be approximately a year and a quarter to a year and a half after Pister assumed command of Buchenwald; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Are you prepared to swear that at the end of 1943 executions in Commando 99 stopped?

(Otto - Direct)

(L.S.)

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A As a matter of fact, I know for sure that this one that I was present at was the last one.

Q Tell me, Otto, you were in Section 1-A; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And Section 1 was the headquarters command section; is that correct?

A Command section is saying too much. It was the office that worked under the commanding officer and the adjutant.

Q And Section 1-A, your section, was one of the subsections of Department 1; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q The motor pool was another subsection under Department 1; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And the trip tickets for motor vehicles which issued forth from the motor pool were usually signed either by you or Schmidt; is that correct?

A Only by an officer. I was not authorized to do so.

Q That would mean Schmidt--correct?

A Yes.

Q And the trip ticket also stated the purpose for which the trip was intended, in substance, did it not?

A Whenever it included traveling outside the camp area.

Q The horse stables were outside the camp area--right?

A No.

(Otto - Direct)
CRS



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Q Is that included inside the camp area?

A You shouldn't misunderstand me. I don't mean the prison compound area; I mean the entire area of Camp Buchenwald, which includes all that is found on this map. That is the Camp Buchenwald area.

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Q And which was all under Pister, is that correct?

A The only authority that Pister had to issue orders in that area was as the senior officer in the area.

Q In other words, as the senior officer he was the commanding officer of the post as well as the commanding officer of Camp Buchenwald, is that correct?

A He was the commanding officer of Camp Buchenwald and simultaneously the senior officer of the entire post area.

Q Now was a trip ticket necessary for a motor vehicle to go from the motor pool to the horse stable and bring bodies to the crematory?

A No.

Q You are going to swear to that right here and now on the stand, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And you know that no trip ticket was necessary to your own personal knowledge?

A I know only that as soon as the barrier on the road to Weimar or any other road was passed, that was the time when a vehicle would need a trip ticket.

Q I am only asking you about a trip ticket required for a trip from the motor pool to the horse stable and from the horse stable with corpses to the crematory. Was any required or wasn't any required?

A No.

Q Now what did you say you had to do with commando 99?

A Paper work.

Q That's all?

A Yes.

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Q And that's as true as everything else you have said up to now, is that right?

A I didn't say anything untrue on this witness stand yet.

Q Just answer my question. That's as true as anything else you have said up to now, is that right?

A Yes.

Q What did you have to do with the distribution of whiskey, cigarettes and sausages to the members of commando 99?

A That happened perhaps once or twice, and then that was done for me by Major Barnewald, but that was not on account of the matters in the horse stables--that was the other executions.

Q Let me understand you. You used to distribute whiskey, cigarettes and sausages to all members of all execution details--that's what you meant to say, is that correct?

A Of course--I said once or twice--several times.

Q And then you want to say this job was taken away from you and Barnewald took it away from you?

A An order had been issued by Oranienburg for these items to be issued to any members of any execution detail who first did take part in it, not as a reward for their action, but in order to give them something to alleviate the nervous strain that they had been under. The authority for this is a general regulation existing and applicable throughout Germany.

Q Now, Otto, was this order from Oranienburg ever cancelled?

A Not that I remember.

Q That continued until the very end, didn't it?

A The order stood.

Q And you say that you just distributed it one or two times and then Barnewald took care of the distribution of whiskey, cigarettes and sausages to members of execution details, is that (Otto-Cross)

Handwritten signature or initials.

correct?

A He didn't do that work at all, rather Oranienburg issued an order for a fund to be created out of which Barnewald was permitted or supposed to issue such things to such persons. That was not done arbitrarily--there was an order of instructions existing.

Q I am not asking you about that, Otto. Just tell me this. Were the members of commando 99 included in that order for distribution of food and whiskey supplements?

A I don't know whether it was that way from the beginning--at any rate, it wasn't until 1942 that this regulation came out.

Q Just answer my question. Were the members of detail 99 included--

A Yes, they were included.

Q Let me finish my question. Were the members of detail 99 included in this supplement?

A After the regulations did come out.

Q As a matter of fact, before 1942, also included in this food supplement was bread and butter, wasn't it?

A I saw Master Sergeant Thalmann having bread and butter often, but I don't know where he was getting it from.

Q I am not asking you where he got it from and whether or not he had it, I am asking you whether it was a fact that bread and butter was included as a food supplement to members of execution details?

A Not according to regulations.

Q You are sure of that?

A Yes.

Q Do you remember swearing to the following statement on the 4th day of March, 1947, which has been marked Prosecution's

(Otto-Cross)



Exhibit 45 in evidence: "Permission had been given in a confidential circular from Opanienburg to the administration to distribute 5 cigarettes, one wine glass full of schnapps and about 90 grams of sausage to those SS people who participated at executions. I know that formerly there was also bread and butter, but these were cancelled at the time I was Stabsscharfuehrer (acting Sergeant). Since I was acting sergeant I had to order those extras at the administration and the SS members concerned could fetch their rations in the kitchen. I indicated to the kitchen sub-chief the names of those who were entitled." Just answer-- do you remember making that statement?

A That's exactly what I said.

Q Do you mean that's exactly what you said now in the court room, too?

A Yes.

Q So when you were asked on direct examination what you had to do with commando 99, you omitted this little business about distributing food to the members of the execution detail.

A Detail 99 was in charge of executing Russians, and part of that was not the issuance of liquor. You asked me, or else I was asked on direct examination what I had to do with detail 99. The only things we were referring to were the executions, and when you now asked me whether any liquor was issued subsequent thereto, all I can do is confirm it.

Q Who had the key to the horse stable?

A I can't say for sure.

Q Was your memory better on 4 March 1947?

A My memory never suffered much.

Q I will read you a statement you made in Prosecution's

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Exhibit 45 in evidence. "I knew from former times that Talmann occupied himself chiefly with the stable actions. He made the preparations jointly with Helbig, who had the key to the horse stable." Do you remember making that statement?

A It's possible.

Q Is it the truth?

A I don't know. I can't state under oath who actually did have the key. I saw the key with Talmann, but I also saw Talmann give the key to Helbig in his hand.

Q Did you make the statement on 4 March 1947 under oath?
Yes or no?

A Yes.

Q Did you swear at that time that Helbig had the key to the horse stable? Yes or no.

A It's possible. I did swear to it. I didn't worry about this particularly, because I was accused of several things by the interrogating officer myself; so I didn't particularly bother about the question of who had the key.

Q Now you were usually informed by Pister or Schmidt that an execution in commando 99 was about to take place, isn't that correct?

A I am certain. I remember this one time when I was present.

Q Now, Otto--

A And I can also add that during 1943 I only remember three executions--in the case of one of them I wasn't even present on the post of Buchenwald. I was informed about it later.

(Otto-Cross)

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Q I am not talking about your presence physically in the horse stable--I am just asking you whether or not you were informed by Pister or Schmidt that an execution was about to take place in commando 99.

A In this one case I was.

Q Only once?

A Only once. The second time they weren't executed in the horse stables. There were about 15 men being executed in the crematory.

Q And who called you, Pister or Schmidt?

A Well, I don't remember.

Q And when you got that telephone call, what did you do?

A I don't know whether it was a telephone call.

Q You still insist your memory is as good now as it was on 4 March 1947?

A If you want to bother with such details I surely can't tell you I stated that some two or five or six months ago.

Q I will try to refresh your recollection. Don't you remember calling up Helbig and telling him to make arrangements for the execution?

A That probably was that way. I couldn't tell you anything except for one of these details.

Q See if this refreshes your recollection. I read from Prosecution's Exhibit 45 in evidence, a statement made by you on the 4th of March, 1947. "It is correct, that I, after having been informed by the adjutant Schmidt or the Commander Pister of a proposed execution, telephoned to Sturmscharfuhrer (acting Sergeant) Helbig in the crematory and told him to make the necessary arrange-

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ments in the horse stable."

A I stated this in order to imply that this was the only possible channel--that was the regular channel.

Q And that's what you surely have, isn't that correct?

A So I assume.

Q Now you said that you had doubts about the legality of these executions in the horse stable, is that right?

DR. WACKER: I have to object to this question. I don't think he put it in that form.

MR. SUROWITZ: I asked him if that is right. If it is not right, he will tell us.

PRESIDENT: Objection overruled.

THE WITNESS: I never said that.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Well, when you were asked by counsel what you thought about the legality of these executions, what was your answer?

A I said that I had no way of knowing what the reasons had been for which the Reichs Security Main Office had ordered these executions, and then I expressed my own opinion. I said that the matter was probably one of reprisals and that the Russian warfare, cruel as it was, was the cause.

Q So that your own personal opinion was that these Russians who were executed in commando 99 were executed as a retaliation measure, is that correct?

A That was the very same thing that the Russians were doing to our soldiers on the Eastern front, with the one exception that the Russians managed to do it in a much more perfected manner.



Q Let me see. On the Russian front you claim that the Russians executed German political commissars and political representatives?

A I said that there were no German political commissars or political representatives. I did however say that German soldiers were executed by Russian commissars, and that was done in a terrible and horrifying sort of a way. I found that out from soldiers in combat in Germany.

Q So that the Russians on the Russian front executed German soldiers without a trial, is that what you claim?

A Yes, they were free to be shot at anywhere. That's what they said.

Q And in retaliation the Germans did the same thing to the Russian prisoners of war, is that correct?

A As a consequence thereof.

Q The crematory was also under Department 1, wasn't it?

A I can't say for sure--perhaps for personnel matters. Buildings and the crematorium--those were under the administration. Department 1 did not deliver any coal to the crematory.

Q You were the acting first sergeant of the headquarters command for how long?

A 22 months.

Q You can't tell the Court now whether or not the crematory was a subsection of Department 1, which was under Schmidt?

(Otto-Cross)

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A I said that the men in the crematory--the SS men, were under Department 1.

Q Well, all SS men all over the camp were ultimately under Department 1, weren't they?

A All the SS men were under the commandant, but there were Departments 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and the SS men in those departments were again under the chiefs of those departments.

Q Now Department 1 was the personnel department of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, was it not?

A The personnel department was quartered in Department 1 in the orderly room.

Q And that concerned itself with all SS personnel in Buchenwald, didn't it?

A Yes.

Q So that you are not saying anything really when you say the SS personnel in the crematory were under Department 1, are you? I am asking you whether the crematory, the running of the crematory itself, was a subsection and under the control of Department 1, in the same way as the motor pool was?

A That's possible, but I can't confirm that under oath today.

Q Let me try to refresh your recollection, Otto. I want to read to you from your statement of 4 March 1947, Prosecution's Exhibit 45 in evidence: "There belonged further to section I: motor pool, construction of cells (bunkers), crematory (except in economic matters)" and so on. Does that refresh your recollection that the crematory was a subsection of Department 1?

A I did give such a list or enumeration.

Q Did you swear to that?

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A I swore an oath.

Q Was it the truth?

A Why of course.

Q So it does refresh your recollection that the crematory was under Department 1, is that correct?

A That is an ambiguous question. The crematory itself was under the administration. I don't know how to say that the operation of the crematory was under the administration, but only the personnel of the crematory--the same way as the personnel of the motor pool was included in Department 1.

Q And the same way the bunker was included in Department 1?

A The Department 1 confined the SS men in the bunker.

Q And the Court section was under Department 1, too, wasn't it?

A Yes.

Q And the immediate higher authority of that particular Court section which was in Department 1 at Buchenwald was where?

A In the same building next to the commandant's house, which I pointed out before.

Q Well, what did the Superior SS and Police Court in Kassel have to do with the Court section which was under Department 1?

A The Higher SS and Police Court was a court which could pronounce sentence on any SS man--the highest authority to that purpose, and for that purpose every SS post, including Buchenwald, had a legal department constituted; and the troops located in Department C on the post had their own legal officer, too; and he, as well, was under the Police Court in Kassel.



Q And who was that?

A That was a member of the troops.

Q Now who was the Higher SS and Police officer in Kassel?

A The Prince zu Waldeck.

Q Now this Court section had to do with investigating, among other things, the shooting of prisoners while trying to escape, didn't it?

A Investigate? Yes.

Q Can you remember a single SS man during your entire career at Buchenwald who was ever punished for having shot a prisoner while trying to escape?

A I heard of this one case here in the Court room, and that refreshed my memory about this SS man for having allegedly shot these prisoners in Cologne.

Q And that is the only one you can remember, is that correct?

A I didn't have anything else to do in the legal department. I can't state anything about it.

Q It used to come to pass that Pister was absent from camp for more than 24 hours, didn't it?

A Several times, yes.

Q Who was commandant of the camp at that time?

A The first prison compound commander was supposed to take charge, but I know that several times the Commandant Pister failed to have such a transfer made, but normally such detailing for the first prison compound commander to take command from the camp commandant would take place.

Q And usually and normally it is a fact, isn't it, that
(Otto-Cross)

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Schobert took over command of the camp when Pister was away for more than 24 hours?

A Yes.

Q Now in your function as the sergeant major of the headquarters command, what did you have to do with executions in general?

A I said that only I was keeping the records.

Q That's all?

A And in individual cases, I took part in shootings as a rifleman.

Q We will come back to that in just a moment, but outside the individual shootings you claim all you had to do with executions was make a record, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Well, executions took place in the horse stable, is that correct? Yes or no.

A Yes.

Q They took place in the crematory, didn't they?

A Yes.

Q They took place in the German Equipment Works, didn't they?

A Yes.

Q And they took place on the shooting range, didn't they?

A Also.

Q Where is this shooting range? Just come up to Prosecution's Exhibit 8 in evidence and point it out to the Court.

A Here (Indicating).

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the Court, let the record show that the accused Otto has pointed to that number 33 on Prosecution's Exhibit 8 in evidence which is between the numbers (Otto-Cross)

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23 and 31.

Q How far away is that from the zoological park there?

A About 200 meters, but the way this map is drawn is entirely wrong.

Q Are there any other places included on this chart where executions took place to your knowledge?

A One.

Q Show it to the Court, please.

A Not as indicated here--this building didn't exist at all. (Indicating).

MR. SUROWITZ: Let the record show that the witness has pointed to a barracks outside the main prison compound and directly to the south of the number 12 on Prosecution's Exhibit 8 in evidence.

THE WITNESS: This is where the transformer house is located--too far east, though, it should be here. (Indicating).

MR. SUROWITZ: Let the record show that the witness has now pointed to a barracks on Prosecution's Exhibit 8 in evidence which is immediately southeast of the number 25.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Just a minute, Otto. Do you understand what I want? I want you to show me any other execution place.

A That's what I will be doing. This was what the Prosecution put in here--doesn't exist at all and should be over here (indicating). That should be about five meters away from this so-called transformer house at this dog kennels.

MR. SUROWITZ: Let the record show, may it please the Court, that the witness has pointed to another execution place on Prosecution's Exhibit 8 in evidence, which is directly to the south of the number 25 on said exhibit, and immediately to the west (Otto-Cross)



of the barracks or transformer station heretofore described for the record.

Q Now isn't it a fact, Otto, that usually when an execution was to take place anywhere, either within or outside the camp, you were advised of it and you made the telephone arrangements with the leader of the protective custody camp, the physician, the bunker, and the SS men required for the execution?

A I received instructions to notify the proper authorities.

Q And one of the proper authorities that you advised of an execution was the leader of the protective custody camp, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Another one was the physician, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And another one was the people in the bunker, was that correct?

A Yes.

Q And you also advised the SS men required to do the actual shooting, didn't you, or the hanging, as the case may be?

A We didn't have to notify anybody in particular for a hanging.

Q Or for the shooting--you mentioned to the SS men that the execution will take place, is that right?

A Yes.

Q In about how many executions did you take part, just as a recorder?

A That's what it says in my statement--I stated 50.

Q You remember that very well, don't you?

A No, I was asked how many times I had participated.

(Otto-Cross)

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What should I say? If I said 10, nobody will believe me; if I said 20 nobody will believe me either; so I decided to say 50. It might have been 42, just as well.

Q Now tell the Court just what is the truth as to the number of executions you took part in as the recorder during the time you were acting first sergeant of the headquarters command at Buchenwald.

A I can't say. It must have been somewhere between 35 and 50.

Q And that is the truth now, isn't that right?

A Of course.

Q And tell the Court, please, just about how many persons were executed in those 35 to 50 executions that you took part in as a recorder?

A I didn't make any list concerning the numbers--I don't know.

Q Well, don't you remember now what you put down in that statement?

A About my participation?

Q About your participation and about how many persons were executed in these 35 to 50 executions?

A No, I don't know whether I said anything about it.

Q Well, do you remember saying about 200 foreigners were executed?

A I don't know any more.

Q Do you remember participating in an execution where



Schmidt gave a mercy shot to one of the victims?

A I believe I do.

Q Tell it to the Court, please.

A I can't give any details; I can only say that I believe I remember him having fired a shot when the doctor required that.

Q You say the doctor told Schmidt to go over and deliver that mercy shot?

A Before that the doctor wasn't able to determine that death had completely occurred.

Q Just answer my question. Is it your contention now that the doctor told Schmidt to go over and deliver that mercy shot?

A I can't say.

Q Now you, yourself, were never present more than once you claim actually in the horse stable, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And at the same time you say that Zinecker was never a member of commando 99, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And at the same time you say that you never had a list of members of commando 99, is that right?

A These men were not found on a list, if you think of a list as it's usually thought of. They had to receipt for what they received, though I am talking about the liquor rations, and in this list of receipts or book of receipts Zinecker's name never appeared.

Q How long did you have this book?

A Those were several separate sheets of papers--a note book, you might say.

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Q And you only had them in your possession for the purpose of supplementing the food rations to the members of the execution detail, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And you have also already claimed on both direct and cross examination that you had it for only a very short period of time, is that correct?

A Yes, that was later receipted in the kitchen.

Q Did you examine it later in the kitchen when you had nothing to do with commando 99?

A I have already told you that detail 99 came into action only three times during my time; that I can remember only one case where I was present myself, and later on detail 99 didn't appear in the files anymore.

Q I know what you told me. I am speaking to you about Zinecker. I want to know whether or not you always had the list of commando 99 in your possession?

A This list of names?

Q Did you always have them in your possession?

A Yes.

Q And those lists or those receipts would tell you the name of every man who was on commando 99 during the time that you had them, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And you want to swear now that it was impossible for Zinecker to be a member of commando 99 during its entire existence without your knowing it, is that right?

A Well, I knew the members contained in detail 99, and
(Otto-Cross)

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Zinecker was sent to the headquarters in 1943; so Zinecker would have had to separate at least after 1943, and during that time I never noted any such thing.

Q Then you are prepared to swear right now that Zinecker never was a member of commando 99 during its entire existence, is that right?

A Not during any of the time that he was a member of the headquarters.

Q And all the members of the commando 99 were non-commissioned officers of the headquarters command, is that right?

A Non-commissioned officers, Sergeant or up--he had to be a Sergeant, at least.

Q And what was your rank?

A Technical sergeant.

Q And you were the chief non-commissioned officer of all the non-commissioned officers in the headquarters command, is that right?

A That job was given me, yes.

PRESIDENT: The Court will recess for 30 minutes.

(Whereupon at 1500 hours the Court recessed.)

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(Whereupon the Court reconvened at 1530 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The Court will come to order.

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the Court, let the record show that all the personnel of the Court are present, all the personnel of the Prosecution are present with the exception of Mr. Denson and Mr. Kunzig who are absent on business of the prosecution, all the personnel of the Defense are present with the exception of Captain Groth and Dr. Kopf who are absent on business of the Defense, all the accused are present with the exception of Schmidt who is absent. The witness is reminded that he is still under oath. If there are any spectators in the courtroom who expect to be called as witnesses in this case they will please leave the courtroom.

WOLFGANG GUNTHER KLAUS OTTO, an accused, voluntarily resumed the stand in his own behalf, being reminded that he was still under oath, testified further through an interpreter as follows:

CROSS EXAMINATION (Continued)

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q I have just a few more questions, Otto. I believe you stated on direct examination that from the lists or receipts in your possession you could determine who was a member of Commando "99"?

A Yes.

Q Name some of the members of Commando "99" that you can remember whose names appear on those food supplement lists?

A During the time I was the first sergeant?

Q Name any members of Commando "99" whose names appeared on those lists which we have spoken about?

A Of the co-accused, Helbig, of the officers, Schobert, of the non-commissioned officers Schultz, Bayer, Bresser --

Q Confine yourself to those among the co-accused, if possible.

A I have named them.

(Otto-cross)

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Q How about Schmidt?

A It is possible. Usually he would always be present at executions as long as he was present at Buchenwald.

Q Was his name on the list of those SS men who were to draw extra food rations in order to quiet their nerves?

A He was on the list but I don't know whether that was exclusively for detail "99".

Q How about Heigel?

A Heigel was present at executions.

Q Was he on the list that we are speaking about?

A As far as the executions in the crematory and shooting range were concerned.

Q Bresser, his first name was Josef, was it not?

A I do think so.

Q He was Pister's driver, was he not?

A Yes.

Q You say then that from these lists you could determine who was and who was not a member of Commando "99"?

A Not only from that.

Q In other words, these lists gave you the members of all the executions details, is that right?

A Yes.

Q So that you could determine merely from looking at this list, whether or not a man was a member of Commando "99", could you not?

A I was not tied down to a list. I knew it anyway.

Q But you could not determine it from the list?

A Also.

Q How about Pleissner?

A I don't know. During my time Pleissner was not there anymore.

(Otto-cross)

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Q The chief non-commissioned officer of Commando "99" was Helbig, was it not?

A He was the non-commissioned officer who was still present from the old ones.

Q He was the senior non-commissioned officer there, the one with the longest service in Commando "99", is that what you wanted to say?

A Non-commissioned officer, yes.

Q What did you have to do with the evacuation of prisoners from Buchenwald in April 1945?

A If Nothing.

Q Did you not attend a meeting where the evacuation was discussed?

A I was a clerk and I was to take down notes for any paper work that might come up.

Q Did you or did you not attend a meeting at Buchenwald in April 1945 when the evacuation was discussed?

A I don't know whether it was April or towards the end of March. I was there.

Q Who else was there?

A I stated it in the statement.

Q Who else was there to your knowledge?

A The ones I remember for sure were the commandant, the adjutant, Major Barnewald, and possibly but I am not quite sure the other officers were Dr. Schiedlawsky and the CO of the guard battalion, that was a Captain Siebert.

Q How about Reimer?

A I did mention Reimer in the statement but I made a mistake, I found out later that Reimer was not there in Buchenwald at that time. I must have confused him with Siebert.

Q What was discussed at that meeting?

A The question that was opened up was what was to be done when

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A T T E S T A T I O N

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Berlin, 18. Februar 1970



Joseph B. Conboy
JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

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gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e11

Heft 8

Case No

000-50-9

KL Buchenwald

Vol. 57

S. 5132

Vern.: Helmut

Rascher

Personalien

S. 5147,

5173-5175

Aussagen

Kdo 99

Q Are you one of the accused in this case?

A Yes.

Q Are you married or single?

A I am divorced.

Q Do you have any children?

A Yes.

Q Were you ever a member of the SS?

A Yes.

Q And when did you join the SS?

A The 15th of May, 1936.

Q Were you ever a member of the Waffen SS?

A Yes.

Q And when did you become a member of the Waffen SS?

A When the war started on the first of September, 1939.

Q Did you volunteer for the Waffen SS?

A Yes.

Q Were you a member of the Nazi Party?

A Yes.

Q When did you join the Party?

A In May 1943.

Q Were you ever at Camp Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q When did you get to Buchenwald?

A In March, 1940.

Q And in what capacity did you come to Buchenwald at that time?

A I had no position at all. At that time I was transferred from my front line unit since I was not fit for front line service.

Q What was the first position you held when you came to Buchenwald?

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Q Did every prisoner have his own bed?

A Yes. Every prisoner had a bed of his own, his own bed linen, and three blankets.

Q What was the condition of the clothing the prisoners had in October 1942 when you left?

A During the summer they had linen clothing, during the winter they had woolen stuff, they had an overcoat, jacket, pants, cap, ear muffs and gloves.

Q What about the shoes that the prisoners had in October 1942?

A Leather shoes.

Q Do you recall what was the nationality of the prisoners in Buchenwald when you left in October 1942?

A Yes, there were Germans, Poles, Czechs, some Dutchmen, and the Russian prisoners of war who were not part of the camp complement.

Q Were there any French prisoners at all in Buchenwald at any time before you left in October 1942?

A No. There were still a few refugees, five or six, there; there were three Spaniards, but I don't know the nationality of the other fellows.

Q There has been testimony about Commando 99. Were you ever a member of that commando?

A No.

Q Why were you not a member of Commando 99?

A First of all, I was married and I went home every night. Secondly, as a roll call leader, I had no time at all for that.

Q Was your home in the vicinity of Buchenwald at that time?

A Yes.

Q You were married at that time, is that right?

A Yes.



Q And the only Jews that were in Buchenwald prior to October 1942 are the ones you testified to, is that right, Germans and some stateless persons?

A Yes.

Q Don't you know, as a matter of fact, that during the time you were there as a roll call leader the Czech Jews were not permitted to participate in the same privileges that the other Czech prisoners enjoyed?

A I have no way of knowing that if there are no Czech Jews up there.

Q During that time the Jewish prisoners had to work on Sundays, did they not?

A In what time, as report leader or block leader?

Q Both.

A I don't remember, not during my time as report leader.

Q What about block leader then?

A It is possible they might have worked on Sunday but I don't remember.

Q Well, was there every such a thing as a Commando 99 there in Buchenwald?

A Not as Detail 99. It is true it was on this execution detail.

Q What was the telephone number in this horse stable?

A You are asking me too much, I never called up the horse stables. That belonged to the telephone switchboard of the troops and not to the headquarters.

(Roscher-cross)

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Q And it was impossible for you to call the horse stable from your telephone, is that right?

A Yes.

Q Did you know a man by the name of Dietrich who was an SS man?

A Yes.

Q Did you know another one by the name of Berger?

A Yes.

Q You heard them testify here, did you not?

A Yes.

Q You heard them testify about Commando 99, did you not?

A Yes.

Q And you knew about it, too, didn't you?

A Just about everybody must have known about it in 1942.

Q Why would everybody know about it in 1942?

A Because as time went by things like that get around.

Q Well, it did take place there then, is that right?

A In the horse stables, yes.

Q Approximately how many thousands of Russians did they shoot there?

A I am awfully sorry but I can't tell you. I was never there. Furthermore, they were never kept among the prisoners of the camp because they were never any members of the camp.

(Roscher-cross)

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Q Well; how many did you hear were killed there?

A Nobody ever said how many were killed. They only said that Russian political kommisars and political prisoners were shot there.

Q No Russians and prisoners of war were shot there?

A No. The Russians and prisoners of war were located in camp separately, fenced in, under the command of Schonemann.

Q From what personnel were the members of Commando 99 drawn?

A From all departments of the headquarters staff.

Q When was it that you got your divorce?

A November 1946, on the 12th of November.

PROSECUTION: Could I have just one moment, please sir?

PRESIDENT: Court will recess in place.

(Whereupon the court recessed in place.)

* * *

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q Roscher, were you in Buchenwald on the 29th of May 1940?

A I can't tell you today whether I was there.

Q Well, when did you go to Berlstedt?

A In March 1941.

Q And how long were you on that detail?

A Until the end of September 1941.

(Roscher-cross)

XC

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Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
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Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e/1

Heft 9

Case No

000-50-9

KL Buchenwald

Vol 65

S. 5718

Protokoll unter-
schriften

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICATION OF RECORD

The undersigned hereby certify the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings of a General Military Government Court sitting at Dachau, Germany, from 11 April 1947 to 14 August 1947 in the case of the United States versus Josias Prince zu Waldeck, et al; that the oaths administered by the Court complied with the proper forms as set forth in the Technical Manual for Legal and Prison Officers, Military Government, Germany; and that all of the foregoing proceedings were translated into the German language by the interpreters because the accused did not understand the English language.

Emuel Kiel

President of the Court

William Dowdell Benson

Chief Prosecutor

Carl E. Whitney

Defense Counsel

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the transcript of the testimony taken by me in the case of the United States versus Josias Prince zu Waldeck, et al.

COURT REPORTERS:

Paula L. Jones

Paula L. Jones

William F. Jones

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John G. McDonald

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Imogene D. Butler

Imogene D. Butler

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Beatrice O. Bushnell

Beatrice O. Bushnell

Joseph Papern

Joseph Papern

Eunice Hasdorff

Eunice Hasdorff

Handwritten signature or scribble.

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Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III eH

Heft 10

Case No

000-50-9(Bv)

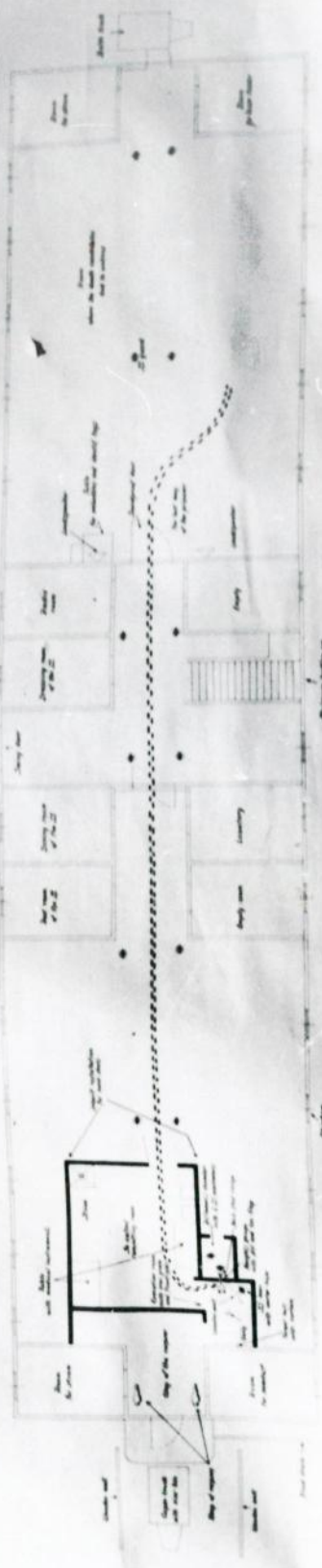
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P29

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(Pferdestall-
Kdo 99)

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gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e/1

Heft 11

Case No

000-50-9 (Bu)

Vol. 69

P 35

Verni: Pister

S. 8-10 Kdo 99

Second Deposition of Hermann PISTER

INTERROGATION of Hermann PISTER, Oberfuehrer, at WCE 29 Dachau, Germany, on 6 March 1947 by Mr. Joseph KIRSCHBAUM, US Civ., Investigator.

Kurt PESCHEL, German Civilian, appeared before the investigator as reporter and was duly sworn in the following form:

Q: Do you, Kurt PESCHEL, solemnly swear that you will faithfully perform the duties as a reporter during this investigation now being conducted by me?

A: I do.

Hermann PISTER appeared before the investigator and testified as follows:

F: Sie heissen?

A: Hermann, Franz, Josef PISTER.

F: Wann und wo sind Sie geboren?

A: 21.2.1885 in Luebeck.

F: Sind Sie Reichsdeutscher?

A: Reichsdeutscher.

F: Sie sind derselbe Hermann, Franz, Josef PISTER, der bereits am 4. Maerz 1947 vor mir eidesstattliche Aussagen gemacht hat?

A: Jawohl.

F: Sind Sie weiterhin bereit, wahrheitsgetreue Angaben nach Ablegung eines Eides zu machen?

A: Jawohl.

F: Dann heben Sie die rechte Hand und schwören Sie:

"Sie schwören bei Gott, dem Allmaechtigen, dass Sie die Wahrheit, die ganze Wahrheit und nichts als die Wahrheit sagen werden, so wahr Ihnen Gott helfe."

A: Ich schwöre.

F: Seit wann sind Sie Mitglied der Allgemeinen SS?

A: 1932.

F: Seit wann sind Sie Mitglied der NSDAP?

A: Dasselbe Jahr.

F: Seit wann sind Sie Offizier bei der Allgemeinen SS?

A: Seit 1.4.1933.

F: Seit wann sind Sie bei der Waffen SS bzw. beim Totenkopfverband?

A: Ich war nicht im Totenkopfverband. Ich bin am 1. Juni 1940 im SS Hauptamt Reservefuehrer als Sturmbannfuehrer geworden und wurde am 21.12.1941 mit Dienstrangalter 1. Juni 1940 aktiviert. Mein letzter Dienstgrad bei der Waffen SS war SS Oberfuehrer.

F: Seit wann sind Sie SS Oberfuehrer?

A: Letzter Dienstgrad 30.1.1945.

F: Auf meine Frage: Wer hat die Transporte nach Auschwitz bzw. Mauthausen zusammengestellt? antworteten Sie: Der Schutzhaft-lagerfuehrer bzw. Arbeitseinsatzfuehrer, wenn es sich um Arbeitskommandos handelte. Wer hat nun die Invalidentransporte ausgesucht?

A: Der Lagerarzt.



F: Der jeweilige Lagerarzt?

A: Der jeweilige Lagerarzt.

F: Wann haben Invalidentransporte das KL Buchenwald verlassen?

A: Den Zeitpunkt kann ich nicht angeben, weil sie verschieden liefen, und zwar nach Bergen-Belzen, nach Dachau und, soweit mir bekannt ist, auch nach Auschwitz.

F: Waehrend Ihrer Dienstzeit sind Invalidentransporte nach Auschwitz wie nach Bergen-Belzen gegangen?

A: Nach Auschwitz kann ich nicht behaupten, nach Bergen-Belzen wohl.

F: Warum wurde gerade ein Arzt mit dem Aussuchen der Invalidentransporte betraut?

A: Weil es sich meines Erachtens um Haeftlinge handelte, die sich wieder erholen sollten. Mir war bekannt, dass Bergen-Belzen und Dachau nur Erholungslager sind.

F: Als was fuer ein Lager war Ihnen das KL Mauthausen bekannt?

A: Das war ein Lager der Stufe 3.

F: Und was fuer eine Stufe hatte KL Buchenwald?

A: Stufe 2. Aber dort war die Moeglichkeit gegeben, weil sie anders lagen, nicht so hoch wie Buchenwald, dass die Haeftlinge sich erholen konnten, insbesondere auch Auschwitz eine grosse Landwirtschaft hatte.

F: Wieviel Invalidentransporte sind nach Bergen-Belzen gegangen?

A: Soviel mir bekannt ist 2, und der letzte mit 3000 Haeftlingen ist von Obergruppenfuehrer POHL abgeblasen worden.

F: Wieviel Invalidentransporte sind vom KL Buchenwald nach Mauthausen abgegangen?

A: Ist mir nicht bekannt.

F: Wieviel Invalidentransporte sind vom KL Buchenwald nach Auschwitz gegangen?

A: Ist mir auch nicht bekannt.

F: Wie hat der jeweilige Lagerarzt die Invaliden ausgesucht?

A: Er hat sie ja in Buchenwald im Invalidenblock gehabt, hat sie aus diesem Invalidenblock herausgenommen.

F: Und in diesem Invalidenblock sind Angehoerige aller Nationen gewesen. Stimmt das?

A: Aller Nationen.

F: Seit wann besteht der Invalidenblock im KL Buchenwald?

A: Das muss mit dem Beginn des Arbeitseinsatzes 1943 begonnen haben. 1942 waren schon Invalide da, die in der Strumpfstofferei beschaeftigt waren.

F: Welche Nummer hatte der Invalidenblock?

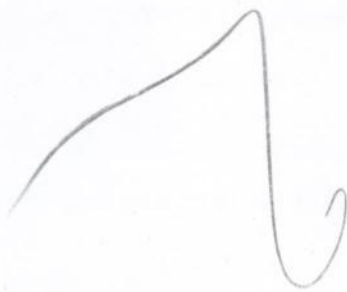
A: Ist mir nicht bekannt.

F: Das heisst, nichtarbeitseinsatzfaehige Lagerinsassen wurden in dem Invalidenblock gesammelt?

A: Gesammelt. In den spaeteren Jahren, wo die vielen nichteinsatzfaehigen bzw. halb toten Haeftlinge nach Buchenwald kamen, haben sie mit den anderen zusammen auf den Blocks gelegen.

F: Von wann an erhielt das KL Buchenwald halb tote Haeftlinge?

A: Mit der Raeruempung der Lager Lublin, Auschwitz, Gross-Rosen.



F: Und wann war das?

A: Das Jahr kann ich nicht sagen. Ich habe kein Gedächtnis fuer Jahreszahlen. Das laesst sich aber an Hand der Kriegsereignisse feststellen.

F: Die Invalidentransporte, die das KL Buchenwald verlassen haben, sind vor dem Datum, an dem die von Ihnen genannten grossen Lager im Osten geraeumt wurden, abgesandt worden, stimmt das?

A: Kann ich nicht behaupten. Ich kann das nicht sagen. Man muss meinen Dienstbereich bedenken. Ich bin ueber ganz Deutschland verteilt gewesen. Wo ich ueberall sein musste. Ich habe mich doch nicht um jeden Transport, der abgegangen ist, kummern koennen. Das war Sache der Abteilungen, meine Abteilung, Arbeitseinsatzfuhrer und vor allen Dingen der Arzt.

F: Damit wollen Sie behaupten, dass Sie ohne die tatkraeftigste Unterstuetzung seitens Ihrer Abteilungsleiter niemals einen so grossen Betrieb wie das KL Buchenwald so wirksam haetten leiten koennen, wie Sie es tatsaechlich getan haben?

A: Jawohl.

F: Und das bezieht sich auf saemtliche Abteilungen?

A: Auf saemtliche Abteilungen.

F: Nachdem man Ihnen mitgeteilt hat, dass nichtarbeitseinsatzfaehige Lagerinsassen aller Nationen Ihres Lagers in verschiedene Lager wie Bergen-Belzen, moeglicherweise auch Auschwitz, auf Erholung geschickt wurden, haben Sie natuerlich viele Lagerinsassen aller Nationen, die Ihnen als Nichtarzt nicht arbeitseinsatzfaehig erschienen, fuer diese Transporte zur Erholung empfohlen?

A: Ich persoenlich?

F: Ja.

A: Nein. Auf Anfrage des Arbeitseinsatzfuhrers bzw. des Lagerarztes in Oranienburg - zu 1 Arbeitseinsatzfuhrer beim Arbeitseinsatzfuhrer der Amtsgruppe D, zu 2, auf Anfrage durch den Lagerarzt bei dem leitenden Arzt der Amtsgruppe D - wurde von dort aus dementsprechend verfuegt mit Angabe, wohin diese nichteinsatzfaehigen Haeftlinge zu transportieren seien.

F: Und auch zu welchem Zweck?

A: Nicht zu welchem Zweck. Meiner Ansicht nach - ich berufe mich auf meinen Eid - nahm ich nur an, dass sie wieder aufgepaepelt werden sollten und vor allen Dingen um arbeitsfaehigen Haeftlingen in Buchenwald Platz zu machen. Genau so habe ich die arbeitseinsatzfaehigen Haeftlinge, die nicht in Buchenwald oder seinen Aussenlagern eingesetzt werden konnten, ebenfalls nach Berlin gemeldet, damit diese in andere Lager, wo Arbeitsmoeglichkeiten waren, abtransportiert werden.

F: Sie haben auch die nichtarbeitsfaehigen Lagerinsassen, die Invaliden nach Berlin gemeldet?

A: Jawohl, das habe ich schon angegeben.

F: Sie haben diese Leute namentlich nach Berlin gemeldet?

A: Es kann sein, dass der Arzt das gemacht hat.

F: Und Sie haben diese Liste unterschrieben?

A: Kann nicht sein.

F: Also das KL Auschwitz war Ihnen als eine grosse Gaertnerei bekannt?

A: Jawohl, genau so wie Dachau mit der grossen Plantage.



F: Aber Mauthausen war Ihnen in einem anderen Zusammenhang bekannt?
Stimmt das?

A: Ich wusste, dass Mauthausen ein Arbeitslager ist.

F: Stufe 3?

A: Stufe 3.

F: Und Sie waren auch schon in Mauthausen?

A: Einmal 4 oder 6 Stunden.

F: Wer ist der Lagerkommandant von Mauthausen gewesen?

A: Standartenfuehrer ZIEREIS.

F: Und Sie haben sich waehrend Ihres 6 stuendigen Aufenthaltes in Mauthausen mit Standartenfuehrer ZIEREIS unterhalten?

*habe

A: Ich dort das Bordell besichtigt, um dasselbe mit Verbesserungen in Buchenwald zu bauen.

F: Und nicht den Wienergraben in Mauthausen?

A: Nein, ist mir nicht bekannt. Den Namen hoere ich heute zum ersten Mal.

F: Und nicht die fahrenden Gaswagen?

A: Auch nicht. Ich glaube, dass die 1943 noch nicht existierten. Ich weiss es nicht.

F: In welcher Haelfte des Jahres 1943 sind Sie in Mauthausen gewesen?

A: Entweder April oder Mai, kurz nach dem Besuch des Reichsfuehrer, der im Februar 1943 erfolgt war.

F: Nach Rueckkehr von Fuehrerbesprechungen in hoeheren Dienststellen haben Sie sich mit Ihren saemtlichen Abteilungsleiters zusammengesetzt?

A: Jawohl.

F: Wie oft sind Sie bei Besprechungen bei hoeheren Dienststellen gewesen?

A: Durchschnittlich alle 4 bis 5 Monate im Jahre.

F: Und das bezieht sich auf das Jahr 1942 wie 1943 wie 1944?

A: Jawohl.

F: Das heisst, dass Sie alle 4 bis 5 Monate eine Fuehrerbesprechung Ihrer eigenen Kommandanturangehoerigen hatten?

A: Jawohl.

F: In diesen Fuehrerbesprechungen haben Sie saemtliche grundlegenden Fragen, die das ganze KL Buchenwald und dessen Aussenlager betrafen, besprochen?

A: Jawohl.

F: Durchdiskutiert?

A: Ich habe keine Diskussionen geduldet.

F: Aber jeder Abteilungsleiter wusste genau, welche Rolle er zu spielen hat?

A: Jawohl.

F: Die Abteilungsleiter von welchen Abteilungen waren bei diesen Besprechungen anwesend?

A: Adjutant, Verwaltungsfuehrer, Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer, Fuehrer des Wachsturnbannes, Lagerarzt und Standortarzt, politische Abteilung.

Walter Hermann



F: Nennen Sie mir die Namen dieser Abteilungsleiter.
A: Adjutant Hastuf. SCHMIDT, Verwaltung Stubaf. BARNEWALD, Schutz-
haftlagerfuehrer Stubaf. SCHOBERT, politische Abteilung Kriminal-
sekretär SERNOW, Lagerarzt und Standortarzt Hastuf. SCHIDLAUSKY,
Arbeitseinsatzfuehrer Hastuf. SCHWARZ, Sturmbann bis 1943 Stubaf.
FOERSCHNER, dann Stubaf. LANG, dann Hauptmann ZIEWERT.

F: War nicht Ostuf. Guido REINER voruebergehend Kommandeur des Wach-
sturmbannes?
A: Jawohl, voruebergehend.

F: Von wann bis wann?
A: Nach dem Fliegerangriff August 1943 bis zum Einsatz von Hauptmann
ZIEWERT.

F: Wann war das?
A: Im gleichen Jahr.

F: In seiner Taetigkeit als Kommandeur des Wachsturmbannes war auch
Ostuf. Guido REINER bei solchen Fuehrerbesprechungen anwesend?
A: Jawohl. Wenn ich mich nicht irre, war er sogar in seiner Eigen-
schaft als Adjutant des jeweiligen Kommandeurs des Wachsturm-
bannes anwesend.

F: Welche Zeit war er Adjutant?
A: Bis zu seiner Versetzung, bis 1944.

F: Also von wann bis wann?
A: Meiner Erinnerung nach von meinem Dienstantritt 1942 bis Mitte
1944.

F: War nicht Stabsscharfuehrer Wolfgang OTTO auch bei diesen Fuehrer-
besprechungen?
A: Es kann sein, dass er als Protokollfuehrer teilweise dabeigewesen
ist.

F: Und bei diesen Besprechungen war es allen Ihren Abteilungsleitern
bekannt und bewusst, wie die Abteilungen untereinander zusammen-
haengen?
A: Jawohl.

F: Wie die Ausfuehrung Ihrer Auftraege von einer Abteilung auf die
andere Abteilung sich auswirkt?
A: Jawohl.

F: Und allen Abteilungsleitern war es gleich bekannt, welche Auf-
gaben die andere Abteilung durchzufuehrer hatte?
A: Jawohl.

F: Seit wann im Jahre 1944 besteht der Befehl, dass im Ausnahmezu-
stand die KL's statt der Amtsgruppe D dem zustaeendigen hoeheren
SS und Polizeifuehrer unterstellt sind?
A: Ich glaube, ich habe bereits angegeben: Mitte 1944.

F: Wer war der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer des Bereichs, in dem
das KL Buchenwald und die meisten seiner Aussenlager geographisch,
man kann sagen, festgenagelt waren?
A: Erbprinz zu Waldeck-Pyrmont, SS Obergruppenfuehrer und General
der Waffen SS und Polizei.

P. H. Hermann

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- F: Wann wurde dieser Befehl tatsaechlich ausgeloeset?
A: Bei Annaeherung des Feindes an Buchenwald, meines Wissens Mitte Februar, Anfang Maerz 1945.
- F: Das hiess, das KL Buchenwald wurde Kampfgebiet?
A: Wurde Kampfgebiet. Ich darf hier erwaeennen, nach dem deutschen Gesetz war das ganze Deutsche Reich Kampfgebiet, selbst vor der Invasion.
- F: Ab w seit Mitte Februar 1945 wurde Buchenwald unmittelbares Kampfgebiet?
A: Jawohl.
- F: Wie weit war zu dieser Zeit der Feind von Buchenwald entfernt?
A: Der Feind stand ungefaehr vor Eisenach.
- F: Mitte Februar schon?
A: Ich glaube Mitte Februar, Maerz. Wir koennen sagen, Ausnahmezustand bestand schon mit der Besetzung von Kassel, weil der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer mit seinem Stab von Kassel nach Buchenwald evakuiert hat.
- F: Unmittelbar nach der Besetzung?
A: Waehrend der Besetzung.
- F: Wie kam es zum Ausdruck, dass gemass dem Befehl, von dem wir jetzt sprechen, dass das jeweilige KL auf Grund des Ausnahmezustandes unter den Befehl des hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrers kommt, tatsaechlich dieser Ausnahmezustand eingetreten ist?
A: Weder der Erbprinz zu Waldeck noch die Amtsgruppe D hat den genauen Zeitpunkt angeben koennen, wann der Kommandant dem Stab des hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrers zugeteilt ist, da sie ja nicht genauestens ueber die Feindlage orientiert waren. Fest steht, dass ich vom Erbprinz zu Waldeck den Befehl erhielt, Buchenwald militaerisch so lange zu halten, bis ich vom Kampfgruppenfuehrer mit Sitz in Weimar den Befehl zum Abruecken erhalte, waehrend er selbst sich bereits am Vormittag des Abrueckens am 11.4.1945 absetzte.
- F: In welcher Eigenschaft gab Ihnen der Erbprinz zu Waldeck diesen Befehl?
A: In seiner Eigenschaft als mein zustaendiger Vorgesetzter, laut Befehl des Reichsfuehrers SS, wonach der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer die Fuehrung der KL in Ausnahmezustand innerhalb seines Bereiches zu uebernehmen hat.
- F: Und wann hat er Ihnen diesen Befehl gegeben?
A: Welchen?
- F: Hat er sich abgesetzt?
A: Er hat morgen den Befehl gegeben, ich soll solange halten, hat sich aber abgesetzt, waehrend die restlichen Wachmannschaften erst Nachmittags 15,30 Uhr nach Anruf des Polizeipraesidenten von Weimar das Lager verliessen.
- F: Der Befehl zur Evakuierung der Insassen des KL Buchenwald bestand bereits seit wann?
A: Das habe ich bereits in meinem Protokoll angegeben. Anfang April erhielt ich den Befehl von der Amtsgruppe D: Der Reichsfuehrer hat befohlen, dass saemtliche Juden nach Teresienstadt abzutransportieren seien. Tags darauf wurde dieser Befehl aufgehoben und der Befehl als endgueltiger Befehl des Reichsfuehrers durchgegeben, wonach das Lager vollzaehlig dem Feind zu uebergeben ist.
- Am 6. 4. wurde vom Reichsfuehrer an den BdS, der von Kassel nach Weimar uebergesiedelt war und dem Erbprinzen zu Waldeck unterstand, der Befehl durchgegeben, dass das Lager Buchenwald auf

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das Mindestmass zu reduzieren sei und die Insassen nach Flossenbuerg bzw. Dachau abzutransportieren seien. Nach fernmuendlicher Anfrage bei beiden Kommandanten obengenannter Lager wurde mir mitgeteilt, dass jedes Lager 15000 Haeftlinge aufnehmen kann.

F: Mit anderen Worten, Sie sprechen jetzt von 3 verschiedenen Befehlen zu 3 verschiedenen Zeitpunkten?

A: Jawohl.

F: Wann erhielten Sie den ersten Befehl vom Reichsfuehrer SS durch die Amtsgruppe D, dass saemtliche Juden des KL Buchenwald nach Teresienstadt abzutransportieren seien?

A: Am 1. April 1945.

F: Informierten Sie den hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer ueber diesen Befehl?

A: Jawohl.

F: Wann erhielten Sie den 2. Befehl, ohne zu raeumen das Lager zu uebergeben, womit der 1. Befehl vom 1. April aufgehoben wurde?

A: Am 3. April 1945 .

F: Haben Sie von diesem Tag an persoenlich Anstalten getroffen, das Lager mit Ihrem Stab zu verlassen?

A: Jawohl.

F: Welche Vorbereitungen trafen Sie?

A: Laut Vereinbarung mit dem Kampfkommandanten Weimar sollten die Wachmannschaften der Kampfgruppe zur Verfuegung gestellt werden, waehrend das Lager durch den Haeftlingslageraeltesten zu uebergeben sei.

F: Mit diesem Befehl und von diesem Tage an haben Sie Ihre Dienste in Buchenwald als beendet angesehen?

A: Nein. Ich hatte die Absicht, solange in Buchenwald zu bleiben und fuer Ruhe und Ordnung des Lagers zu sorgen, bis ich durch Annaeherung des Feindes gezwungen war abzuruecken, da ich zum Abruecken bei Annaeherung des Feindes den Auftrag von Berlin hatte.

F: Das heisst, dass Sie sich persoenlich absetzten?

A: Nein, mit meinem Stab, und allem.

F: Das ist ein unabhaengiger Befehl. Dieser Befehl hat nichts mit den Befehlen zur Raeumung des KL zu tun?

A: Ja.

F: Sie waren ueber diesen 2. Befehl sehr gluecklich?

A: Jawohl.

F: Warum?

A: Weil im Lager selbst Ruhe und Ordnung herrschte.

F: Wann hat der 1. Transport Buchenwald verlassen?

A: Der 1. Transport ging am 7. Vormittags um 7 Uhr von Buchenwald weg.

F: Wer war der Transportleiter?

A: Da so viele Transporte weggegangen sind, kann ich mich an den Namen oder den Transportfuehrer selbst nicht mehr erinnern.

F: Welches war das Marschziel dieses 1. Transports?

A: Das Marschziel dieses 1. Transports war Flossenbuerg.

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F: Aus wieviel Haeftlingen setzte sich der erste Transport zusammen?

A: Ich glaube, es waren insgesamt 1400 in 3 Marschkolonnen.

F: Dieser Transport sollte sich zu Fuss nach Flossenbuerg begeben?

A: Weil ich nicht wusste, wann ich mit rollendem Material versorgt werde.

F: Wann ging der naechste Transport ab?

A: Die Transporte gingen vom 7. bis einschliesslich 10. ab, und zwar insgesamt 28 000 Insassen.

F: Wann verliess der erste Transport Buchenwald, der mit der Bahn von Weimar abfuhr?

A: Am 7. April Nachmittag.

F: Wann sind die anderen abgegangen?

A: Vom 7. bis 10. alle mit der Bahn, bloss ein einziger zu Fuss nach Flossenbuerg. Darf ich erwahnen, dass mir von der Eisenbahndirektion Erfurt der Fahrplan durchgegeben wurde, dass die Sonderzuege von Weimar bis Floessenbuerg 22 Stunden und nach Dachau 28 Stunden Fahrzeit benoetigten. Trotzdem ordnete ich an, dass jedem Transport fuer 3 Tage Verpflegung mitzugeben sei.

F: Warum ordneten Sie am 7. April 1945 den ersten Transport zur Evakuierung an, nachdem Sie doch froh und gluecklich waren, dass kein Transport vorgenommen werden sollte auf Grund des Befehls, den Sie am 3. April 1945 von Berlin erhalten haben?

A: Der letzte Befehl ist gueltig und verwirft den vorhergehenden Befehl.

F: Wer hat Ihnen den letzten Befehl uebermittelt?

A: Wie bereits angegeben, der Reichsfuehrer SS ueber den BdS in Weimar am 5.4. an mich und gleichzeitig an den hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer.

F: Wer war der BdS?

A: Der Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei.

F: Und der Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei unterstand?

A: Dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer.

F: Und der Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei hiess?

A: Das weiss ich nicht mehr, Oberregierungsrat und Sturmbannfuehrer.

F: Und der Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei hat vorher auch seinen Sitz in Kassel gehabt?

A: Jawohl.

F: Und unterstand dem hoeheren SS Und Polizeifuehrer SS Obergruppenfuehrer und General der Waffen SS Erbprinz zu Waldeck?

A: Jawohl.

F: Weiterhin sagen Sie, dass der BdS diesen Befehl auch dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer uebermittelt hat?

A: Der seinen Sitz in Buchenwald hatte.

F: Wer hat Ihnen den Befehl gegeben, das KL Buchenwald zu raeumen?

A: Der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer.

F: Und wann gab er Ihnen diesen Befehl?

A: In der Stunde, in der ich und er ihn vom BdS erhalten hat.

F: Und wo gab er Ihnen diesen Befehl?

A: Ob er ihn muendlich gegeben hat oder telephonisch durch Nebenapparat, weiss ich nicht.

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- F: Haben Sie dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer, Erbprinz zu Waldeck gegenueber keinen Einwand geaeussert?
- A: Dadurch, dass mir der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer den Befehl gab, ihm den Abgang jedes Transportes zu melden, war fuer mich der direkte Befehl zur Raerumung des Lagers gegeben. Einwendungen meinerseits dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer, Erbprinz zu Waldeck gegenueber waren zwecklos.
- F: In welcher Art und Weise haben Sie gegen die Ausfuehrung der Evakuierung beim Erbprinz zu Waldeck Einwendungen gemacht?
- A: Durch den zweiten Befehl des Reichsfuehrers, wonach das Lager nicht zu evakuieren sei, war ich persoenlich ueberaus zufrieden, um vor allen Dingen den Haeftlingen die Strapazen eines Transportes zu ersparen, was ich dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer, Erbprinz zu Waldeck gegenueber aeusserte und ihn fragte, ob er nicht die Evakuierung abstellen koennte.
- F: Was hat der Erbprinz zu Waldeck darauf geantwortet?
- A: Befehl ist Befehl, der durchzufuehren ist.
- F: Wann hat diese Unterredung mit dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer, Erbprinz zu Waldeck stattgefunden?
- A: Am Tage vor der Evakuierung des ersten Transportes, d.h. am 6.5. 1945.
- F: Warum mussten Sie dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer, General der Waffen SS, Erbprinz zu Waldeck, jeden Abgang von Transporten zahlenmaessig melden?
- A: Weil er ja nunmehr mein naechster Vorgesetzter war, der fuer die Durchfuehrung der Befehle dem Reichsfuehrer gegenueber verantwortlich war.
- F: Und seit wann war er Ihr naechster Vorgesetzter?
- A: Seit seinem Eintreffen in Buchenwald.
- F: Und seit wann war das?
- A: Wie bereits bemerkt, seit Mitte Februar oder Anfang Maerz 1945.
- F: Wo wurde die Musterung der Lagerinsassen, ob sie evakuierungsfae-
hig waren oder nicht, vorgenommen?
- A: Auf dem Antreteplatz des KL Buchenwald durch saemtliche Haeftlings-
aerzte, so dass der Insasse an mindestens 4 Aerzten vorbeiging.
Ich selbst befand mich vor dem Tor, das nur soweit geoeffnet war,
dass eine Person den Ausgang passieren konnte, und liess alle
Teilnehmer der Evakuierungstransporte an mir vorbeipassieren.
Vielfach stand der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer neben mir.
- F: Wie oft standen Sie am Tor?
- A: Bei saemtlichen Transporten, so dass kein Insasse von den 28 000,
ohne mich zu passieren, auf Transport ging. Bei dieser Gelegen-
heit schickte ich mehrere zurueck, die nach oberflaechlicher Mu-
sterung meinerseits von mir aus als schwach befunden wurden.
- F: Haben SS Aerzte keine Musterung vorgenommen?
- A: Die Haeftlingsaerzte standen unter Leitung der beiden Schutzhaft-
lageraerzte.
- F: Wie oft stand der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer neben Ihnen?
- A: Das war ja einige Tage. Ich kann nicht genau sagen wievielmals.
Jedenfalls hat er der Transportbesichtigung teilweise mit bei-
gewohnt.

✓

F: Ungefäehr wieviel Lagerinsassen sind zu den verschiedenen Zeitpunkten vorbeimarschiert, als der Erbprinz von Waldeck neben Ihnen stand?

A: Genau kann ich das nicht angeben.

F: Ungefäehr?

A: Ich kann mich an genaue Zahlen nicht binden.

F: 1000?

A: Zum mindesten doch an einigen Transporten, von denen jeder Transport zirca 15000 Haeftlinge betrug.

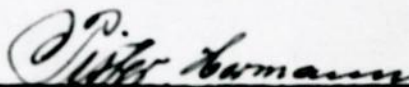
F: Und was verstehen Sie unter "einigen Transporten"?

A: 6 oder 8 Transporte, also bei 2 mindestens.

F: Wieviele schwache Lagerinsassen hat der Erbprinz von Waldeck persoenlich zurueckgestellt?

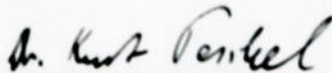
A: Keine, da ich das ja vorgenommen habe.

Ich, Hermann PISTER, habe die vorstehende Niederschrift auf 10 (zehn) Schreibmaschinenseiten gelesen. Sie ist eine getreue und korrekte Wiedergabe der Aussagen, die ich am 6. Maerz 1947 in Dachau, Deutschland, freiwillig und ohne Zwang gemacht habe. Ich schwore bei Gott, dem Allmaechtigen, dass ich die reine Wahrheit gesagt und nichts verschwiegen und nichts hinzugefuegt habe.



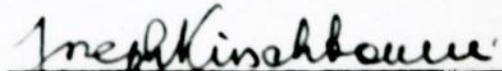
Hermann PISTER

I, Kurt PESCHEL, duly appointed reporter on the staff of War Crimes Group, Dachau Detachment, state: That I faithfully recorded the questions propounded to Hermann PISTER and his answers thereto and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of these proceedings.



Dr. Kurt PESCHEL, German Civ.
War Crimes Group, Dachau

Subscribed and sworn to before me, being authorized to administer oaths, at Dachau, Germany, this 14th day of March 1947.



Joseph KIRSCHBAUM, US Civ.
Investigator-Examiner
War Crimes Group, Dachau

02

4/3.47
6.

INTERROGATION of Hermann PISTER at WCE 29, Dachau, Germany, on
4th March 1947, by Mr. Joseph KIRSCHBAUM, US Civ., Investigator.

Kurt PESCHEL, German Civilian, appeared before the investigator
as reporter and was duly sworn in the following form:

Q: Do you, Kurt PESCHEL, solemnly swear that you will faithfully per-
form the duties as a reporter during this investigation now being
conducted by me?

A: I do.

Hermann PISTER, ~~Studentenführer~~ ^{44 Oberführer} appeared before the investiga-
tor and testified as follows:

F: Sie heissen?

A: Hermann, Franz, Josef PISTER.

F: Wann und wo sind Sie geboren?

A: Am 21.2.1895 in Luebeck.

F: Sind Sie Reichsdeutscher?

A: Reichsdeutscher.

F: Sind Sie bereit, wahrheitsgetreue Angaben nach Ablegung eines Ei-
des zu machen?

A: Jawohl.

F: Dann heben Sie Ihre Hand und schwören Sie:

"Sie schwören bei Gott, dem Allmächtigen, dass Sie die Wahr-
heit, die ganze Wahrheit und nichts als die Wahrheit sagen
werden, so wahr Ihnen Gott helfe."

A: Ich schwöre.

F: Von wann bis wann waren Sie der Kommandeur des KL Buchenwald bei
Weimar mit seinen sämtlichen Aussenlagern?

A: Ende Januar 1942 bis 11. April 1945.

F: Wer waren Ihre Adjutanten während dieser Zeit?

A: Im Jahre 1942 der damalige Ostuf. BUENGLER, späterer Hauptstuf. SCHMIDT
bis Ende. Ich glaube, Oktober 1942 ist Hans SCHMIDT Adjutant ge-
worden. Ich kann mich nicht genau entsinnen, das muss in meinen
Akten stehen.

F: Seit wann kennen Sie den Ostuf. Hans SCHMIDT?

A: Hans SCHMIDT war bei mir schon in Hinzert Adjutant 1940 oder 41,
1940 wohl.

F: War das Wiedertreffen von SCHMIDT in Buchenwald ein zufälliges?

A: SCHMIDT war in Buchenwald beim Sturmbann als Führer, und mein
Adjutant kam weg, wurde zu einem Lehrgang abkommandiert und ganz
versetzt. Darauf habe ich SCHMIDT eingesetzt, vorgeschlagen.

F: Das haben Sie getan, weil --

A: Weil ich ihn schon kannte.

F: Weil Sie SCHMIDT bereits vom Lager Hinzert kannten?

A: Ja.

F: Während der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant des Lagers Buchenwald
waren, wurden Transporte nach anderen Stammlagern gesandt. Stimmt
das?

A: Jawohl.

n

F: Wieviel Transporte gingen nach Auschwitz ab?

A: Das kann ich nicht sagen.

F: Ungefäher?

A: ---

F: Sind Transporte nach Auschwitz abgegangen ?

A: Ich glaube ja, beschwoeren kann ich es nicht. Man muss rechnen, ich hatte 82 Aussenkommandos, und in der Woche waren viele Transporte angeordnet und Leute wieder da. Es sind so viel Transporte weggegangen, dass ich nicht beedigen kann, ob nach Auschwitz Transporte gegangen sind. Ich nehme es aber an.

F: Warum nehmen Sie es an?

A: Weil ich es von anderen Fuehrern gehoert habe.

F: Diese Transporte wurden von Fuehrern bzw. Unterfuehrern des Kommandanturstabes Buchenwald geleitet?

A: Oder aber die Wachmannschaften sind von den anderen Lagerkommandanten gekommen und haben sie geholt. Es waren 2 Moeglichkeiten.

F: Ich weiss, dass der Sturmscharfuehrer HELBIG, Hermann, mehrere Transporte im Jahr 1943/44 nach Auschwitz gebracht hat.

A: Das kann sein.

F: Um Transporte nach Auschwitz zu bringen, benoetigte Sturmscharfuehrer HELBIG entsprechende Dienstaussweise bzw. Reisepapiere. Stimmt das?

A: Jawohl.

F: Wo wurden die fuer diese Transporte notwendigen Papiere ausgestellt?

A: Auf der Adjutantur.

F: Wer stellte sie aus?

A: SCHMIDT.

F: Wer unterschrieb sie?

A: SCHMIDT oder ich.

F: Mit anderen Worten, bezueglich der Unterschriftsetzung hat Ihr Adjutant, dessen letzter Dienstgrad Hastuf. war, dieselben Vollmachten gehabt wie Sie in Ihrer Abwesenheit?

A: In den meisten Faellen, in meiner Abwesenheit sowieso, bzw. mein Stellvertreter SCHOBERT. Aber SCHMIDT hat sehr viel Unterschriften geleistet, und zwar so, dass ich ihn zum Kurztreten auffordern musste, dass er nicht zu viel unterschrieben hat,

selbst bei meiner Anwesenheit. S.D.
F: Wer hat die Transporte nach Auschwitz bzw. Mauthausen zusammengestellt?

A: Der Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer bzw. Arbeitseinsatzfuehrer, wenn es sich um Arbeitskommandos handelte.

F: In welcher Form erhielten Sie die Aufforderung, Transporte in die von mir genannten Lager abzusenden?

A: Von Amtsgruppe D nur.

F: Wie lautete der Auftrag?

A: Er lautete folgendermassen: Das KL Buchenwald stellt so und so viel Haeftlinge, darunter so und so viel Schreiner, so und so viel Fachleute auf das und das Lager ab.



F: Und Buchenwald hat im Jahre 1943 wie 1944 solche Aufträge erhalten?

A: Jawohl.

F: Und diese Transporte gingen nach Auschwitz wie nach Mauthausen?

A: Auschwitz, Mauthausen, Nordhausen usw.

F: Wieviel Transporte gingen nach Auschwitz?

A: Kann ich nicht sagen.

F: Ungefähr?

A: Kann ich bestimmt nicht sagen.

F: Wieviel gingen nach Mauthausen?

A: Kann ich nicht sagen.

F: In dem Auftrag, den Sie von Ihrer Vorgesetzten Dienststelle Amtsgruppe D erhielten, ist bloss die Anzahl der Häftlinge angefordert worden?

A: Anzahl und auch die Berufsart.

F: Aber unter keinen Umständen erhielten Sie eine namentliche Liste von Häftlingen, die Sie an die Lager wie Auschwitz oder Mauthausen zu überstellen hatten?

A: Nein.

F: Das heisst, dass eine Ihnen untergeordnete Dienststelle diese Häftlinge für Auschwitz und Mauthausen zusammengestellt hat?

A: Jawohl.

F: Welche besonderen Berufsarten haben Juden aufgewiesen, die im Jahre 1943 wie 44 von Buchenwald nach Auschwitz gesandt wurden?

A: Das kann ich nicht sagen.

F: Grundsätzlich hat Ihr Adjutant genauesten Einblick in die Geschäftsführung des Lagers Buchenwald, die von Ihnen geleitet wurde, gehabt?

A: Jawohl, muss er. Ich kann Ihnen zur Erläuterung erklären. Der Befehl lautete: Bei Abwesenheit des Kommandanten übergibt er das Lager, wenn er mehr als 24 Stunden weg ist, durch schriftliche Übergabe. Es soll der Schutzhaftlagerführer die Geschäfte übernehmen. Die hat er auch immer übernommen. Aber den inneren Dienst hat der Adjutant vom Büro aus geleitet. Ich habe mich auch nie, wenn ich auf Dienstreise war, von auswärts mit jemand anderem als mit meinem Adjutanten unterhalten.

F: Das bezieht sich auf den Adjutanten Hastuf. SCHMIDT?

A: Jawohl.

F: Er war also fortlaufend sozusagen in Ihrer Abwesenheit tatsächlich der Mann, der sämtliche Arbeiten im Kommandanturstab für das KL Buchenwald erledigte?

A: Jawohl. Es war mit den Transporten prinzipiell so, dass ein Transportbefehl ausgeschrieben worden ist. Dieser Transportbefehl enthielt genau den Transportführer, Anzahl der Wachmannschaften und Anzahl der Häftlinge, Bestimmungsort und wann der Transport abging.

F: Wer hat diesen Befehl unterschrieben?

A: Die Befehle sind gegeben worden. Der Adjutant hat an den Verwaltungsführer telefoniert, der Transport geht ab, und hat dann Namen genannt wegen Mannschaften und Fahrkarten. Der Verwaltungsführer hat dann den Befehl unterschrieben. *Es kann sein, dass*

der Transportbefehl vom Adjutanten unterschrieben wurde.

W

F: Und nicht der Adjutant?

A: Nein. Das war der Marschbefehl. Die Zusammenstellung und der Marschbefehl wurden von der Verwaltung aus heruntergegeben.

F: Wer unterschrieb den Marschbefehl?

A: Das war sozusagen vielleicht nicht der Marschbefehl, sondern betreffs Bezahlung des Transports hat der Verwaltungsfuehrer unterschrieben.

F: Unter Marschbefehl spreche ich jetzt nicht vom Bezahlen, sondern ich spreche von der Art der Befoerderung, Bestimmungsort und Zeitpunkt der Rueckkehr.

A: Zeitpunkt der Rueckkehr war ja nicht notwendig.

F: Wer hat diesen Marschbefehl unterschrieben?

A: Der Verwaltungsfuehrer, weil an Hand dieses Marschbefehls die Transporte bestellt hat.

F: Wer war der Verwaltungsfuehrer?

A: Sturmbannfuehrer BARNEWALD. Angegeben, dass dieser Transport abzugehen hat, wurde von der Kommandantur aus.

F: Von wem?

A: Vom Adjutanten.

F: Wie hiess dieser Adjutant?

A: Hastuf. SCHMIDT. Denn die Fahrscheine sowohl fuer die Bewachungsmannschaft und auch fuer die Haeftlinge, die an die Reichsbahn bezahlt werden mussten, hat die Verwaltung ausgestellt.

F: Aber die Verwaltung hat das niemals ausgestellt, bzw. unterschrieben, wenn nicht Ihr Adjutant der Verwaltung dazu den Auftrag gegeben hat?

A: Jawohl, das sage ich ja. Er konnte es ja nicht wissen.

F: Wie oft war der Erbprinz von Waldeck in Buchenwald?

A: Mehrfach, nicht zu zaehlen.

F: In welchen Jahren?

A: 1942 bis 1945, 1945 am Ende einige Wochen sogar, nachdem er von Kassel evakuiert hatte.

F: Und wo hat er dann sein Hauptquartier aufgeschlagen?

A: Im Verwaltungsgebäude in Buchenwald.

F: Wo hat der Erbprinz von Waldeck zuvor sein Hauptquartier gehabt?

A: In Kassel.

F: Als Leiter welcher Dienststelle?

A: Als hoeherer SS und Polizeifuehrer des Wehrkreises und Oberabschnitt Fulda/Werra.

F: Und wo lag Buchenwald?

A: Buchenwald lag in seinem Bereich.

F: Welchen Dienstgrad hatte der Erbprinz?

A: SS Obergruppenfuehrer und General der Waffen SS und Polizei.

F: Welches war der Zweck seiner fortlaufenden Besuche im Jahre 1943 und 1944 bei Ihnen?

A: Da kam er in seiner Eigenschaft als zustaeendiger Gerichtsherr des KL Buchenwald sowohl fuer Wachmannschaft als auch fuer Haeftlingsangelegenheiten.



F: Und inwiefern bezog sich seine Gerichtsbarkeit auf die Lagerinsassen des KL Buchenwald?

A: Nur bei Flucht und bei Selbstmorden musste der Tatbericht an den hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer gehen, der die Leiche in beiden Faellen freigeben musste genau wie ein Staatsanwalt. Dann bestand ein Befehl seit 1944, dass im Ausnahmezustand die Konzentrationslager statt der Amtsgruppe D dem zustaeendigen hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer unterstellt sind.

F: Wann erhielten Sie diesen Befehl?

A: 1944.

F: Wann?

A: Anfang oder bis Mitte 1944.

F: Und von wem erhielten Sie diesen Befehl?

A: Das war ein Befehl durch den Chef des Hauptamts Wirtschaftsverwaltung Hauptamt SS-Obergruppenfuehrer POHL mit der Begrueendung, dass dies eine Anordnung des Reichsfuehrers ist.

F: In welcher Form erhielten Sie diesen Befehl?

A: Als Geheime Reichssache oder Geheimbefehl ueber die Amtsgruppe D.

F: Wer hat ausser Ihnen in Buchenwald noch Kenntnis von diesem Befehl gehabt?

A: Mein Adjutant Hauptsturmfuehrer SCHMIDT, dann mein Stabsscharfuehrer Oberscharfuehrer OTTO. Ich nehme auch an, dass der Verwaltungsfuehrer Sturmbannfuehrer BARNEWALD Kenntnis davon gehabt hat.

F: Wann ist dieser Ausnahmezustand, der im Befehl im Jahre 1944 angenommen wurde, tatsaechlich eingetreten?

A: Das wird Maerz 1945 gewesen sein.

F: Wie wurden Sie Maerz 1945 verstaendigt, dass Sie von diesem Datum an dem Erbprinzen von Waldeck unterstehen?

A: Ich bin nicht verstaendigt worden. Ich sah das als Selbstverstaendlichkeit an, indem er ja anwesend war und sich in die Belange des KL eingemischt hat.

F: Inwiefern hat er sich in die Belange des KL im Maerz/April 1945 eingenischt?

A: Er hat mir z.B. den Befehl, der vom Reichsfuehrer gekommen ist, wonach Buchenwald zu evakuieren ist, weitergegeben, das war Anfang April. Ich musste ihm jeden Transport, der abgegangen ist, melden. Dann bestand ein Befehl vom Reichsfuehrer SS, wonach diejenigen Haeftlinge, die einen Abtransport der Haeftlinge stoerken koennten, zu beseitigen sind.

F: Wann haben Sie diesen Befehl erhalten?

A: Auch Maerz 1945.

F: Von wem?

A: Von der Amtsgruppe D als Anordnung des Reichsfuehrers.

F: Wieso konnten Sie im Maerz 1945 noch Befehle von der Amtsgruppe D erhalten, wenn bereits der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer da war?

A: Ich habe gesagt: Vor seiner Anwesenheit, also einige Tage vor seiner Anwesenheit.

F: Und wieviel Tage vor seiner Anwesenheit?

A: Vielleicht 8 Tage. Ich habe aber von diesem Befehl keinen Gebrauch gemacht und habe dem Erbprinzen gemeldet: Wir haben niemand, der den Abtransport stoerken koennte.

F: Wann meldeten Sie dem Erbprinzen von Waldeck, Ihrer Vorgesetzten

H. Hermann



Stelle, dass Sie keine Haeftlinge im Lager haben, die den Abtransport stoeren koennten?

A: Anfang April.

F: In welcher Form?

A: Ich habe ihm gemeldet, dass diese Anordnung da sei und ich habe keine Haeftlinge. Ich weiss nicht, ob er im Besitz dieses Befehls war, und das wusste. Ich habe das gemeldet, und anlaesslich eines Telefongespraechs zwischen ihm und dem Reichsfuehrer, sagte er mir, hat er dasselbe dem Reichsfuehrer weitergegeben, dass also keine Stoerungen bei Evakuierung in Buchenwald zu erwarten seien.

F: In welcher Form, sollten Sie Haeftlinge ohne Unterschied der Nationalitaet, die die Evakuierung Ihres Lagers stoeren koennten, beseitigen?

A: Durch Liquidierung.

F: Was verstehen Sie unter Liquidierung?

A: Durch Toetung.

F: In welcher Form sollten diese Haeftlinge aller Nationalitaeten liquidiert werden?

A: Es war keine Anordnung gegeben wie.

F: Welche Vorbereitungen trafen Sie, um diesen Befehl durchzufuehren?

A: Gar keine Vorbereitungen.

F: Entspricht es nicht den Tatsachen, dass am 9., 10., 11. April 1945 zu der Zeit, als die tatsaechliche Evakuierung des Lagers Buchenwald begonnen wurde, Haeftlinge sich gegen die glatte Abwicklung der Evakuierung gewehrt haben?

A: Gewiss.

F: Und in welcher Form sind Sie gegen diese Haeftlinge, Ihre Lagerinsassen vorgegangen?

A: Indem ich mein Wachbataillon aufmarschieren liess, saemtliche Blockaeltesten zusammenrief und gesagt habe: Ich moechte wissen, warum die Leute nicht zur Evakuierung herausgehen. Da ist mir gesagt worden, sie haben noch kein Mittagessen bekommen. Darauf habe ich angeordnet, sofort Mittagessen zu geben und habe zur Abschreckung die Wachmannschaft aufmarschieren lassen. Als die Haeftlinge die Wachmannschaft sahen, sind sie freiwillig zum Antrittsplatz marschiert. Das Bataillon ist wieder abgerueckt.

P. und P. sind aus Furcht vor Selbstmordangriffen

F: Sind die Haeftlinge abmarschiert, nachdem die Wachmannschaften aufmarschiert sind und nachdem Sie den Haeftlingen das Mittagessen haben geben lassen?

A: Waehrend sie Mittag gegeben haben, habe ich mit dem Aufmarschierenlassen des Wachbataillons begonnen.

F: Wann ist das gewesen?

A: Mittag. Antreten sollten sie um 12.00 Uhr. Das habe ich auf 2.00 h verschoben.

F: Am wievielten?

A: Das wird wohl am 9. so etwa gewesen sein.

F: Das war der 1. Transport?

A: Die ~~erst~~ 2. oder 3. Transporte gingen bereits am 7. ab.

F: Am 3. April verliessen --

A: Jawohl, am 7., 8. und 9. Ich glaube, es war am 1. April, an einem Sonntag.

2

F: Und am 9. April haben Sie dann das ganze Wachbataillon aufmarschieren lassen?

A: Jawohl.

F: Warum haben Sie dann Ihre Blockfuehrer mit Stoecken ausgestattet?

A: Nachdem Befehl hatte ich ja schaeferere Massnahmen ergreifen koennen. Ich habe die Blockfuehrer nicht mit Stoecken ausgeruestet. Wenn sie sich selbst ausgeruestet haben -- . Ich kann erklaren, wenn das das Lager ist und die einzelnen Baracken so liegen, sollten die Haeftlinge nach vorn zum Antrittsplatz gehen. Statt dass sie nach vorn auf den Antreteplatz gegangen sind, sind sie nach rueckwaerts ins andere Lager hinein. Da habe ich eine Postenkette von Blockfuehrern hinten aufstellen lassen, damit sie nicht fluechten konnten, sondern auf den Platz gingen.

F: Sie durften ja die Haeftlinge nicht liquidieren, ohne die Einwilligung Ihres unmittelbaren Vorgesetzten, des Erbprinzen von Waldeck zu haben?

A: Auch darueber habe ich niedergeschrieben, dass im Jahr 1944 mir der muendliche Befehl durch Hastuf. Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY ueberbracht worden ist, dass der Lagerkommandant berechtigt ist, unter Hinzuziehung des Lagerarztes und eines 2. Fuehrers Todesurteile auszusprechen. Ich habe davon keinen Gebrauch gemacht.

F: Von wem erhielten Sie den Befehl?

A: Der Befehl ist mir von Hastuf. Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY muendlich anlaesslich einer Besprechung, die er in Berlin gehabt hat, von der Antsgruppe D ueberbracht worden.

F: Wieso wussten Sie, dass Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY Ihnen die Wahrheit erzaehlt?

A: Ich habe sowieso keinen Gebrauch davon gemacht.

F: Hat Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY Ihnen keinerlei Papiere ueberbracht?

A: Nein. Das werden Sie auch in den Aussagen von Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY finden, dass das drin steht.

F: Und wer hat dann angeordnet, dass die Haeftlinge, die bis Weimar zum Bahnhof zu Fuss zu marschieren hatten, durch Genickschuesse umgelegt werden sollten?

A: Niemand; saemtliche Transportfuehrer bitte ich zu vernehmen, dass jeder einzelne Transportfuehrer von mir den persoentlichen Befehl gehabt hat, die Haeftlinge wie Kriegsgefangene zu behandeln und unterwegs Kranke an die Ortspolizeibehoerde bzw. Ortsgruppenleiter abzugeben.

F: Was verstehen Sie unter Behandlung von Kriegsgefangenen?

A: Ein Kriegsgefangener darf nicht misshandelt werden. Ich habe auch nicht geduldet, dass Haeftlinge misshandelt wurden.

F: In welcher Art und Form duerfen Kriegsgefangene exekutiert werden?

A: Auf der Flucht.

F: Nach Wiederergreifung?

A: Nicht nach Wiederergreifung. Wenn er auf dreimaligen Anruf nicht haeilt, darf wohl von der Waffe Gebrauch gemacht werden wie hier auch.

F: Aber sobald Kriegsgefangene sich wieder im Lager befinden?

A: Das ist selbstverstaendlich, dann nicht, das ist ganz klar.

2

F: Wieso wurden dann 50 polnische Offiziere im Lager Buchenwald aufgehängt?

A: Das ist mir nicht bekannt.

F: Waren Sie nicht bei der Exekution von 4 polnischen Offizieren?

A: Jawohl, aber nicht von 50.

F: Wann fand die Exekution von 4 polnischen Offizieren statt?

A: Das wird 1943 gewesen sein.

F: In welchem Monat?

A: Das weiss ich nicht, kann ich nicht genau sagen.

F: Diese polnischen Offiziere haben sich nichts anderes zu schulden kommen lassen, als dass sie mehr als einmal geflüchtet sind. Stimmt das nicht?

A: Das weiss ich nicht. Ich weiss nur, dass sie von dem Kriegsgericht zum Tode verurteilt waren.

F: Von welchem Kriegsgericht?

A: Vom Kriegsgericht der Wehrmacht und zwar wegen Meuterei und nicht wegen Flucht.

F: Und was geschah mit den russischen Kriegsgefangenen im Pferdestall?

A: Das habe ich ganz genau in meinem wahrheitsgemässen Bericht niedergelegt.

F: Warum wurden sie erschossen?

A: Weil es Frantireure und Kommissare waren, die keine Soldaten waren, wie heute keine Soldaten in der Roten Armee. Es ist extra betont, dass die nicht als Soldaten gelten, als Kriegsgefangene.

F: Wieviel russische Kriegsgefangene wurden im Pferdestall seit ihrem Amtsantritt als Lagerkommandant erschossen?

A: Ich habe nur einmal teilgenommen, da waren es vielleicht 15 oder 18. Ich habe auch in meinem Bericht gesagt, nach meiner Schätzung vielleicht 80 bis 100.

F: Also wieviele solcher Exekutionen wurden im Pferdestall vorgenommen?

A: Ich habe nicht mehr beigewohnt; Wir hatten ja ausdruecklich Befehl, dass Kommandanten an Exekutionen nicht teilzunehmen hatten.

F: Wer hat/die Stelle des Kommandanten bei Exekutionen eingenommen?

A: Ich habe meinen Adjutanten beauftragt, Exekutionen an meiner Stelle beizuwohnen.

F: Bezeichnen Sie das hinteruecks Erschiessen von russischen Kriegsgefangenen als eine Exekution?

A: Diese Exekution hat der Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer durchgefuehrt und nicht der Adjutant.

F: Wessen Idee war der Pferdestall?

A: Das war schon eingerichtet, als ich das Lager uebernommen habe. 1941 ist das schon eingerichtet worden.

F: Und diese Einrichtung wurde in der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant waren, fortgesetzt?

A: 2mal, dann habe ich es abreiessen lassen.

F: Wann haben Sie es abreiessen lassen?

A: Ende 1942.

F: Deswegen hat Ihr Hastuf. SCH IDT gegen Ende des Jahres 1943 noch an einer Exekution im Pferdestall teilgenommen?

A: SCH IDT behauptet, er haette ueberhaupt nie an dem sogenannten 99 teilgenommen, waehrend er alle anderen Exekutionen geleitet hat.

Ed. Lamm



F: Sie behaupten, dass insgesamt 2 Gruppen von russischen Kriegsgefangenen im Pferdestall liquidiert wurden?
A: Jawohl.

F: Bei der einen, bei der Sie anwesend waren, sind 18 liquidiert worden?
A: Das ist von dem, der mir das Lager uebergeben hat, gezeigt worden. Da habe ich daran teilgenommen, wie mir das gezeigt worden ist. Ich kannte es vorher nicht.

F: In der 1. Gruppe wurden 18 russische Kriegsgefangene erschossen?
A: Ja, es waren keine Kriegsgefangenen, es waren Kommissare.

F: Das heisst, dass in der 2. Gruppe 82 Kriegsgefangene erschossen wurden, stimmt das?
A: Ich habe ausdruecklich in meinem Bericht angegeben -- ich habe nichts verschoenert und nichts verleugnet -- der Auftrag hiess: Sonderbehandlung. Es war vollkommen freigestellt, ob die nun erschossen oder erhaengt wurden. Einzelne, kleinere Dinge habe ich gehoert. Sie sind mit den uebrigen, die zum Tode verurteilt waren, mit erhaengt worden. Daher kommt diese meine Zahl zusammen.

F: Wer hat bei dem jeweiligen Eintreffen von russischen Kriegsgefangenen zur Sonderbehandlung das Ganze in der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant waren, geleitet?
A: Der jeweilige Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer. Entweder war das Stubaf. SCHOBERT oder Ostuf. GUST.

F: Und wann wurde die letzte Aktion im Pferdestall vorgenommen?
A: Ich glaube, Ende 1942 oder Anfang 1943.

F: Auf keinen Fall spaeter?
A: Ich glaube nicht.

F: Wann haben Sie den Pferdestall abreiissen lassen?
A: Wie ich bereits gesagt habe, Ende 1942 oder Anfang 1943.

F: Der Pferdestall wurde von Ihnen nicht Mitte 1944 abgetragen?
A: Kann auch sein.

F: Das heisst, dass er bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt stets in gebrauchsfahigen Zustand war?
A: Das wohl.

F: In der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant waren, sind neue Unterfuehrer, alles Mitglieder des Kommandanturstabes, zum Kommando 99 zugefuehrt worden, weil die aelteren Mitglieder des Kommandos 99 zur Front versetzt wurden. Stimmt das?
A: Stimmt.

F: Wie haben Sie die einzelnen Unterfuehrer von ihrem neuen Arbeitsgebiet im Pferdestall, kurz Exekutions-kommando 99, benachrichtigt?
A: Sie sind vom Stabschefuehrer benachrichtigt und von dem eingesetzt worden, nicht von mir.

F: Also das heisst, dass Ihre Unterfuehrer von Ihnen wegen Nichtbeteiligung an diesem Kommando nicht bestraft worden waeren?
A: Nein.

F: Unter keinen Umstaenden?
A: Unter keinen Umstaenden.

Ritter

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F: Mit anderen Worten, die Beteiligung dieser Unterfuehrer im Kommando 99 war eine rein freiwillige?
A: Nehme ich an, jedenfalls ohne Widersprueche oder Weigerung, soviel mir bekannt ist.

F: Genau seit wann hatte der Erbprinz von Waldeck sein Hauptquartier im Bereich des KL. Buchenwald?

A: Ich glaube, von Mitte Maerz 1945 ab, *ab 1. Februar* P.

F: Und seit diesem Tage unterstanden Sie ihm?

A: Jawohl. Der Befehl lautete ausdruecklich: Der Kommandant tritt in den Stab des hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrers.

F: Also fuer die Durchfuehrung der Evakuierung des Lagers Buchenwald war der hoehere SS- und Polizeifuehrer verantwortlich?

A: Jawohl.

F: Inwiefern hat er sich dann um diese Verantwortung gekuemmert?

A: Er war mehrfach zugegen. Der erste Befehl von der Amtsgruppe D, als der hoehere SS- und Polizeifuehrer noch nicht anwesend war, lautete: Saemtliche Juden des Konzentrationslagers Buchenwald sind nach Theresienstadt abzutransportieren. Daraufhin beauftragte ich saemtliche Aerzte, eine aerztliche Untersuchung durchzufuehren, weil ich noch nicht wusste, ob ich das rollende Eisenbahnmateriel bekam. Saemtliche Aerzte haben die Nacht ueber die anwesenden Juden barackenweise gemustert. 24 oder 48 Stunden spaeter kam der Befehl von Berlin: *endgueltigen Befehl des Reichsfuehrers: Die Lager bleiben vollbesetzt und werden dem Feind vollzaehlig uebergeben. Also ungeworfen. 24 Stunden spaeter -

*Nach

da war der Erbprinz schon anwesend - wurde ich vom BdS, das heisst Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei, angerufen, der ebenfalls von Kassel nach Weimar verzogen war. Befehl des Reichsfuehrers SS: Das Lager Buchenwald ist auf das Mindestmass zu reduzieren und die Haeftlinge sind nach Flossenburg und Dachau zu ueberfuehren. Diesen Befehl hat mir der Erbprinz zu Waldeck muendlich wiederholt, da der BdS auch ihm den Befehl fernmuendlich weitergegeben hat. Und nun bekam ich den Auftrag vom Erbprinzen, sofort fuer rollendes Material zu sorgen, was ich auch getan habe, und ich habe die Haeftlinge einzeln an mir persoendlich, nachdem sie beim Arzt vorbeigegangen sind, wieder vorbeigehen lassen. Bei diesem Vorbeidefilieren dieser Haeftlinge war der Erbprinz mehrfach zugegen bei mir am Tor, und ich musste ihm befehlsge.maess jeden Transport zahlen.maessig in seine Wohnung telefonisch durchgeben, also Vollzugsmeldung machen.

F: Also seit Mitte Maerz unterstanden Sie ganz dem hoeheren SS- und Polizeifuehrer?

A: Dem Erbprinzen zu Waldeck, jawohl.

F: Zurueckkommend auf die Jahre 1942/43/44: Inwiefern unterstanden Sie dem hoeheren SS- und Polizeifuehrer, dem Erbprinzen von Waldeck?

A: Saemtliche SS-Angehoeerige unterstanden gerichtsdisciplinar dem hoeheren SS- und Polizeifuehrer, der bei sich ein SS und Polizeigericht hatte. Ausserdem mussten dem hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer saemtliche Selbstmorde der Haeftlinge gemeldet werden und saemtliche Erschiessungen von Haeftlingen auf der Flucht unter Beifuegung einer genauen Skizze, unter Beifuegung eines aerztlichen Attests ueber Ein- und Ausmuendung des Schusses.

P. W. Hermann

9/3

Oh

einer fotografischen Aufnahme ueber die Lage des erschossenen Haeftlings und eines Tatberichts ueber den Schuetzen, der den Haeftling auf der Flucht erschossen hat. Bis zur Freigabe der Leiche stand dieser Posten unter dem Verdacht des Mordes. Nachdem die Leiche freigegeben worden war, wurde auch das Verfahren gegen den Posten eingestellt.

Bei Selbstmord von Haeftlingen musste ebenfalls eine fotografische Aufnahme eingereicht werden, ein aerztliches Attest und eine eidesstattliche Erklaerung des Kriminalbeamten, dass tatsaechlich ein Selbstmord vorgelegen hat. Das war die Funktion des hoeheren SS- und Polizeifuehrers.

Nun war Buchenwald natuerlich zentral gelegen. Saemtliche umliegenden Garnisonen, Bahnhofskommandanturen usw. haben Buchenwald die fahnenfluechtigen Wehrmachtsangehoerigen und SS-Angehoeerigen zugewiesen, die dann durch das zustaeendige SS- und Polizeigericht, das unmittelbar dem Erbprinzen zu Waldeck unterstand, verhandelt wurden.

Dann wurden natuerlich saemtliche Korruptionsfaelle, die im Jahre 1943 und 1944 von einem Sondergericht untersucht worden sind, in Buchenwald verhandelt. Daher auch die mehrfache Anwesenheit des Erbprinzen in seiner Eigenschaft als hoeherer SS- und Polizeifuehrer.

F: Waehrend der mehrfachen Anwesenheit des Erbprinzen von Waldeck in seiner Eigenschaft als hoeherer SS- und Polizeifuehrer in den Jahren 1943 und 44 hatte er vollkommene Einsicht in das Konzentrationslager Buchenwald?

A: So ziemlich.

F: Hat auch Inspektionen durchgefuehrt?

A: Er hat mehrfach die Fabrikation des Fleckfieberserums in der sogen. Baracke 50 besichtigt.

F: Und nicht die Baracke 46?

A: Nein, da durfte keiner rein.

F: Also er wusste von den medizinischen Versuchen, die an Haeftlingen im Lager vorgenommen wurden?

A: Konnte er vielleicht wissen durch Sturmbannfuehrer DING, der Vorsteher war und gleichzeitig als Hygieniker bei ihm als hoeherem SS- und Polizeifuehrer war. Das entzieht sich meinen Kenntnissen.

F: Wie lange dauerte es, bis eine Leiche freigegeben wurde, wenn der Mann auf der Flucht erschossen worden war?

A: Das ging folgendermassen. Nachdem der Haeftling verstorben war - das wurde alles fernschriftlich gemacht - , manchmal 36- 48 Stunden.

F: Und waehrend dieser Zeit durfte der betreffende Posten, der unter dem Verdacht des Mordes stand, keinen Dienst machen?

A: Das stimmt.

F: Und waehrend der Zeit wurde der Posten in Haft gesetzt?

A: Nein.

F: Waehrend der Zeit erhielt der Posten Freizeit? Stimmt das?

A: Ich glaube nicht. Das war im Sturmbanndienst bestimmt, dass er am allgemeinen Ausbildungsdienst teilgenommen hat, nehme ich an.



F: Wurde waehrend dieser Zeit nicht auf Urlaub geschickt?

A: Nein. Ich habe gehoert, dass in anderen Lagern solche Leute, die Haeftlinge auf der Flucht erschossen haben, dadurch bedankt wurden, in dem man ihnen Sonderurlaub gegeben hat. Das gab es bei mir nicht, ganz ausgeschlossen.

F: Vielfach sind ja die Haeftlinge auf der Flucht beim Steinbruch erschossen worden, stimmt das?

A: Das stimmt. Daraufhin habe ich untersuchen lassen, woher das kam. Es konnte durch die Kriminalbeamten nicht festgestellt werden. Es waren Kriminalbeamte da oben. Ich habe die Aufgabe gestellt festzustellen: War der Haeftling lebensmuede, ist er von sich aus gefluchtet oder wurde er womoeglich in die Postenkette hineingetrieben. Es konnte nicht festgestellt werden, die Untersuchung war negativ verlaufen. Daraufhin habe ich vor die Postenkette der SS eine Postenkette von Haeftlingen aufgestellt, die die Haeftlinge, die nach der Postenkette kamen, zurueckwiesen. Damit hoerten auch diese Erschiessungen am Steinbruch auf.

F: Wem unterstand das Krematorium?

A: Der Kommandantur.

F: Welcher Abteilung der Kommandantur?

A: Verwaltungsmaessig unterstand es der Verwaltungsfuehrung zur Beschaffung von Materialien usw., Oel, Kohlen. Der Leiter des Krematoriums, ein Unterfuehrer, unterstand dem Kommandanturstab. Die Verbrennungsbefehle gab ich persoendlich, und zwar auf einem Formular, auf dem auf der einen Seite als Kopf die Nationale des Verstorbenen war, darunter der Bericht des Arztes, an welcher Krankheit er verstorben ist, darunter die Bestaetigung des Standesamtes und als letztes die Bestaetigung des Kriminalbeamten, dass der Haeftling an der vom Arzt angegebenen Krankheit verstorben ist.

F: Was ist die Bestaetigung des Standesbeamten?

A: Dass er in das Todesregister eingetragen ist.

F: Das heisst die Todesurkunde.

A: Damit er die Todesurkunde ausstellt. Das schreibt er mit auf der Bescheinigung. Dann gab ich die Leiche zur Verbrennung frei, nachdem es von vier Seiten vorher bestaetigt war, dass er an der und der Krankheit vorher gestorben ist, und diese Bescheinigung bekam das Krematorium und hat an Hand dieser Bescheinigung die Verbrennung durchgefuehrt.

F: Also Sie haben grundsaeztlich Einaescherungsbefehle nur dann unterschrieben, wenn - -

A: Wenn ich das Formular hatte.

F: Wenn diese vier genannten Personen unterschrieben haben?

A: Jawohl.

F: Das heisst, eingeschlossen eine Todesurkunde des Standesbeamten?

A: Jawohl.

F: Und das bezieht sich auf saemtliche Todesfaelle, die im KL Buchenwald in der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant waren, eingetreten sind?

A: Wenn andere verbrannt worden sind, ist das hinter meinem Ruecken geschehen.

F: Und das bezieht sich auch auf Leute, die durch Exekution getoetet wurden?

A: Gensu so. Da kann ich z.B. erwaechnen: Todesursache durch Erschiessen oder durch Erstickungstod bei Erhaengung.

F: Also Sie haben jedesmal, wenn Sie einen Einaescherungsbefehl unterschrieben haben, die Todesurkunde des Standesbeamten vorzuliegen gehabt?

A: Jawohl.

Stdt. Kommandant

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- F: Wieso geschah es, dass vom 1. Januar 1942 bis zur Mitte des Jahres 1943 fuer ungefaehr 200 in Buchenwald getoetete Personen kei~~n~~erlei Todesurkunden ausgestellt waren?
- A: Die rechnen zunaechst einen Teil von denen mit, die durch Sonderbehandlung gestorben sind. Das habe ich auch in meinem Bericht angegeben. Wegen der Sonderbehandlung der Kommissare ist eine Liste eingereicht worden, und diese Liste musste so, wie sie war, wiederum nach Vollzug an das Reichs-Sicherheitshauptamt gegeben werden.
- F: Abgesehen von diesen russischen Gefangenen, die im Pferdestall erschossen wurden. Ich spreche jetzt von anderen Auslaendern, die im Lager Buchenwald exekutiert wurden.
- A: Jeder Exekutierte ist auf Befehl von mir verbrannt worden.
- F: Und jeden Verbrennungsbefehl, den Sie unterschrieben, unterschrieben Sie auf Grund einer Todesurkunde?
- A: Jawohl.
- F: Wieso geschah es, dass mit dem Antritt von Oberscharfuehrer Wolfgang OTTO als Stabscharfuehrer er gezwungen war, Todesurkunden von ungefaehr 200 Auslaendern zu rekonstruieren, die in der Zeit des Stabscharfuehrers THALMANN exekutiert wurden?
- A: Das weiss ich nicht. Das muss in der Zeit gewesen sein, wo ich noch kein Kommandant war.
- F: Waren Sie Kommandant zwischen dem 1. Januar 1942 und dem 1. Maerz 1943?
- A: Ich bin erst 1. Februar 1942 eingesetzt worden und habe das Lager ungefaehr Mitte April 1942 uebernommen. Von diesem Verbrennungsbefehl ist mir nichts bekannt. Wo hat er den Befehl denn her?
- F: Mit anderen Worten, es ist moeglich, dass der Leiter des Krematoriums Auslaender eingesaeschert hat, die nicht den richtigen, von Ihnen unterschriebenen Einaeschreibungsbefehl hatten?
- A: Jawohl, das kann sein. Das war ja von mir aus nicht zu kontrollieren.
- F: In Ihrer Eigenschaft als Kommandeur des KL Buchenwald haben Sie auch regelmessig Fuehrerbesprechungen abgehalten, stimmt das?
- A: Stimmt.
- F: Wie oft in der Woche?
- A: Vielleicht alle halben Jahre einmal.
- F: Wer war bei diesen Fuehrerbesprechungen anwesend?
- A: Saemtliche Fuehrer, die eine Funktion hatten: Adjutant, Verwaltungsfuehrer, Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer, Lagerarzt.
- F: Also saemtliche Abteilungsleiter, die Ihnen unterstanden?
- A: Ja. Selbst der Kommandeur der Wachtruppe.
- F: Haben Sie nicht grundlegende Fragen auf diesen Fuehrersitzungen besprochen?
- A: Ja. Ich habe gewoehnlich eine Fuehrersitzung anberaumt, nachdem ich von einer Kommandantenbesprechung von Berlin zurueckkam, um zu berichten, was dort besprochen worden ist.
- F: Also damit die Fuehrer, die Ihnen unterstanden, jeweils ueber das Gesamtbild der Fuehrung der Probleme, die Sie hatten, informiert sind?
- A: Jawohl.
- F: Das heisst, dass Ihre Abteilungsleiter fortlaufend ueber die gesamte Entwicklung wie Aufgaben des Konzentrationslagers Buchenwald, Neuerrichtung von Aussenlagern und Dinge aehnlicher Art von Ihnen auf dem Laufenden gehalten wurden?
- A: Jawohl.
- F: Der Adjutant, Hauptsturmfaehrer SCHMIDT, war natuerlich bis aufs kleinste informiert?
- A: Musste er ja. Er hat saemtliche Befehle selbst gelesen, teilweise Geheimbefehle, die wir anderen gar nicht zu Gesicht bekamen, weil er ja die

WV

Geheimakten selbst fuehrte.

F: Ist je in der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant des Lagers Buchenwald waren, ein Posten auch tatsaechlich wegen Mordes bestraft bzw. angeklagt worden?

A: Jawohl, mehrfach. Ich kann einen Fall sagen. Ein Oberscharfuehrer - der Name ist mir momentan nicht bekannt - war beim Kommando in Koeln als Blockfuehrer. Der hat zwei Haeftlinge auf der Flucht erschossen. Er wurde angeklagt. Es war ein Termin in Buchenwald. Es war ein Termin in Erfurt, wo das Gericht tagte. Erfurt gehoerte auch zum zustaendigen hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer. Dann war ein Lokaltermin in Koeln selbst, wo das Gericht extra hingefahren ist, um die Tat zu untersuchen. Die Bewachung der Haeftlinge in Koeln war nicht SS sondern Polizei. Es mussten extra 2 Hauptwachtmeister oder Unterfuehrer der Polizei von der Front als Zeugen zurueckgehen, um an Ort und Stelle die Sache zu demonstrieren.

F: Seit wann sind Sie Direktor der DAW geworden?

A: Ende 1943.

F: Ich spreche jetzt von der DAW, die unmittelbar dem Lager Buchenwald angeschlossen war. Welches Gehalt bezogen Sie als Direktor der DAW?

A: Ein Repraesentationsgeld von 300 RM im Monat.

F: Wieviel Haeftlinge, Lagerinsassen des KL Buchenwald haben in der DAW im Jahre 1944/45 gearbeitet?

A: Durchschnittlich 1500.

F: Angehoerige welcher Nationen waren die Haeftlinge?

A: Alle Nationen.

F: Angehoerige welcher Nationen waren die Haeftlinge, die im Lager Buchenwald festgehalten waren?

A: Festgehalten? Ich schaeetze ungefaehr 22 Nationen.

F: Auch Amerikaner darunter?

A: Nein.

F: Bestimmt nicht?

A: Es sind mit einem Transport von Frankreich amerikanische Flieger gekommen, die abtransportiert wurden, ohne in Arbeit eingesetzt zu werden.

F: Kanadier?

A: Kanadier habe ich bekommen - -

F: Wieviel Amerikaner hatten Sie?

A: Ich glaube, das war gemischt, das weiss ich nicht, Amerikaner, Englaender. Es waren 80 so etwas, die mit einem Transport von Frankreich gekommen sind, ohne Schutzhaftbefehl, ohne alles. Wo mir gemeldet wurde, dass die im Lager sind, habe ich sofort das Reichssicherheitshauptamt benachrichtigt. Da kam eine Kommission, und die wurden abtransportiert.

F: Wie lange verblieben diese Amerikaner dort?

A: Es wird wohl bis zur Durchschleusung 3 Wochen gedauert haben.

F: Wann wurden Amerikaner bzw. Kanadier oder Englaender in den Bunker, d.h. Zellenbau des Lagers Buchenwald eingeliefert?

A: Gar keine.

F: Zu keiner Zeit wurden 10-15 Kanadier oder Englaender oder Angehoerige der Ver. Staaten in den Bunker des KL Buchenwald eingeliefert?

A: Nein, Nein. Auch nicht einmal zur Arbeit eingesetzt.

WV

F: Wurde zu keiner Zeit diese Anzahl - 10-12 - Amerikaner, Kanadier exekutiert?
A: Nein.

F: Seit wann besteht das kleine Lager?
A: Auch seit 1943.

F: Seit wann im Jahre 1943?
A: Mitte 1943.

F: Das kleine Lager hat einen Krankenbau gehabt?
A: Nein, mir nicht bekannt.

F: ~~Nutzen~~ Block, der als Revier eingerichtet wurde?
A: Nein, sondern jeder einzelne Block hatte selbst eine kleine Revierstube.

F: Also der Block 61 - -
A: Der Block 61 als Lazarett ist mir erst hier in der Gefangenschaft bekannt geworden.

F: Also es war Ihnen zu keiner Zeit bekannt, dass im Block 61 Haeftlinge auslaendischer Nationalitaet zum Zwecke beschleunigten Eintretens des Todes der Betreffenden eingespritzt wurden?

A: Mir war von dem Vorhandensein des Block 61, in dem kranke Haeftlinge aller Nationalitaeten gesammelt wurden, um durch Spritzen ein schnelleres Ende zu finden, nichts bekannt. Von seinem Vorhandensein habe ich erst in der Gefangenschaft erfahren.

F: Wann wurden die gefaehrdeten Aussenlager, die Buchenwald unterstanden, nach Buchenwald zurueckgezogen?

A: Die Lager wurden ueberhaupt von mir nicht zurueckgezogen, sondern sind von den oertlichen Polizeibehoerden oder hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrern zum Ruecktransport aufgefordert worden. Vom Kommando, von mir aus ist kein Befehl zum Ruecktransport nach Buchenwald ergangen.

F: Bestand nicht ein grundsatzlicher Befehl, den Sie an die Fuehrer der Aussenlager gegeben haben?

A: Der Befehl bestand nur darin, dass sie sich mit dem hoeheren SS und Polizei-Fuehrer betreffs eines Abtransports in Verbindung zu setzen haben.

F: Und wem unterstanden diese hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer?

A: Das war wiederum wie hier, dass die Rheinlaender dem hoeheren SS und Polizei-Fuehrer in Duesseldorf unterstanden, so wie Buchenwald - -

F: Die unterstanden alle dem Erbprinzen?

A: Nein, Duesseldorf hatte einen anderen Polizeifuehrer.

F: Welche Aussenlager unterstanden dem Erbprinzen zu Waldeck?

A: Das sind sovieler, Nordhausen, Bauthof, ~~Herrnstaedt~~, die ganzen Lager in Thueringen.
Ordnung Borkstedt

F: Die meisten Aussenlager von Buchenwald lagen innerhalb des Bereichs des hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrers Erbprinz zu Waldeck?

A: Ja, die meisten.

F: Also die Evakuierung Ohrdrufs - -

A: Ohrdruf ist selbstaendig ohne Befehl zurueckgegangen.

F: Ohne Befehl von Waldeck?

A: Jawohl, ohne Befehl. Noch viele andere sind ohne Befehl einfach abgerueckt.

F: Ohne Befehl des hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrers?

A: Ohne Befehl des hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrers. Ich habe in Buchenwald sogar von verschiedenen Ortschaften Telefonsprueche bekommen. Da waren 30 oder 40 Haeftlinge ohne Bewachung, die haben um Abholung gebeten.

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F: Wieso kam es, dass die Fuehrer Ihrer Aussenkommandos so verwirrt waren?

A: Durch die Annäherung des Feindes.

F: Haben Sie nicht in entsprechender Zeit die notwendigen Vorbereitungen getroffen, d.h. Befehle gegeben, dass, falls solche Situationen eintreten, wie sie auch tatsaechlich eingetreten sind, die Leiter Ihrer Aussenkommandos wissen, an wen Sie sich zu wenden haben?

A: Jawohl. Es war ja keine Telefonverbindung mehr da.

F: Haben Sie das nicht Monate vorher vorbereitet?

A: Monate vorher sagte ich den einzelnen Kommandos, die ich auch zu einer Besprechung befohlen hatte: Erst wenn der zustaeendige SS und Polizeifuehrer oder Landrat es fuer richtig haelt, sie zu transportieren, sollen sie zurueckkehren.

F: Wie war der Lagerstand des KL Buchenwald am 10. April 1945?

A: 49 000 mit einer Belegungsmoeglichkeit von 21 000.

F: Sprechen wir vom Stammlager Buchenwald selbst.

A: Jawohl.

F: Wann ist der Leiter der Amtsgruppe D in Buchenwald gewesen?

A: Dezember 1944.

F: Wer war der Leiter der Amtsgruppe D?

A: Der Chef GLUECKS, SS Gruppenfuehrer und General der Waffen SS.

F: Wann hat POHL zum letzten Mal das Lager besucht?

A: Am 20. Maerz 1945.

F: Was fuer einen Dienstgrad hatte er?

A: SS Obergruppenfuehrer und General der Waffen SS.

F: Welchen Zweck hat der Besuch des Lagers seitens POHL gehabt?

A: POHL versammelte ausser mir den Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer, den Adjutanten, den Lagerarzt, Arbeitseinsatzfuehrer und gab folgendes bekannt. Der Reichsfuehrer hat ihn beauftragt, Lager auszusuchen, in denen Krankenhauser zur Unterbringung von erkrankten Juden zu erstellen sind. Die Juden sind mit allen erdenklichen aertzlichen Hilfsmitteln am Leben zu erhalten und nur, wenn die aertzliche Kunst nicht mehr ausreicht, haben sie einen friedlichen Tod zu sterben. Ich stellte sofort groessere Bauflaechen zur Verfuegung, und zwar durch Fliegerangriff beschaedigte Hallen, bei denen noch der Zementboden da war, teils die Aussenmauer, Waschräume und auch die sanitaeeren Anlagen. Ich habe sofort mit der Raeräumung, der Arbeit begonnen und auf Befragen von POHL, was diese Wendung bedeutet, erklarte er mir, der Reichsfuehrer wuerde diese Juden gegen deutsche Internierte zum Austausch bringen. Das war sein letzter Besuch.

F: Wer war der Adjutant?

A: Hans SCHMIDT.

F: Wer war der Lagerarzt, der anwesend war?

A: Hauptsturmfuehrer Dr. SCHIDLANSKY, dem er allerdings nicht den Grund gesagt hat.

F: Wer war noch anwesend?

A: Auch Sturmbannfuehrer SCHUBERT.

F: Welcher andere Lagerarzt war anwesend?

A: Wir hatten ja nur zwei. Ich weiss nicht, ob BENDER dabei war, Ich glaube nicht.

Walter Kamm

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F: Wer war der erste Lagerarzt?

A: Hauptsturmfuehrer SCHIDLAUSKY.

F: Und wer war der zweite Lagerarzt?

A: Der Zweite war Sturmbarnfuehrer BENDER.

F: Unter Lagerarzt verstehe ich den Arzt, der fuer die Betreuung der Insassen verantwortlich ist.

A: Das war SCHIDLAUSKY und nicht BENDER, trotzdem BENDER einen hoeheren Dienstgrad hatte.

F: Wieso?

A: Jedenfalls war der Inspektion gegenueber bzw. dem leitenden Arzt gegenueber SCHIDLAUSKY im Lagerwesen firmer als BENDER, der von der Truppe kam. Die Zeit spielt keine Rolle. Es war ausdruecklich befohlen: BENDER ist zweiter Schutzhaftlagerarzt.

Ausserdem stand an diesem Datum auf Befehl der Amtsgruppe D ein Transport von 3000 Haeftlingen bereit, die nach Bergen-Belzen sollten, und das hat POHL mit der Begrueendung abgelehnt, das Lager Bergen-Belzen sei in schlechtem Zustande und ueberfuellt.

F: War der Erbprinz von Waldeck auch bei dieser Besprechung anwesend?

A: Nein.

F: Hat zu dieser Zeit der Erbprinz von Waldeck noch nicht sein Hauptquartier nach Buchenwald verlegt gehabt?

A: Er war wohl da, war aber nicht bei der Besprechung dabei.

F: Haben Sie Erbprinz von Waldeck ueber diese Besprechung informiert?

A: Jawohl.

F: Aber er wusste es bereits vorher?

A: Nein, vorher wusste er es nicht. Das hat POHL mitgebracht.

F: Wer stellte den Antrag auf Pruegelstrafe?

A: Der Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer schriftlich.

F: Dieses Schriftstueck ging durch Ihre Hand?

A: Jawohl.

F: Sowie durch die Hand des Adjutanten?

A: Jawohl, auch. Aber der Adjutant hat in diesem Fall nichts damit zu tun gehabt.

F: Wer legte die Anzahl der Pruegelstrafen fest?

A: Der Kommandant schlug sie vor, setzte sie ein, und dieser Antrag ging nach Berlin. Der Kommandant konnte selbst nicht entscheiden.

F: Welches war der Grund zur Erhaengung von 5 russischen Haeftlingen, Lagerinsassen des KL. Buchenwald?

A: Entweder haben sie irgendein Verbrechen begangen, wo jeder deutsche Volksgenosse, jeder andere Auslaender durch oeffentliches Gericht zum Tode verurteilt worden waere. Sonst kann kein Grund vorhanden sein. Im uebrigen ist meines Wissens von Buchenwald aus ueberhaupt kein Antrag auf Todesstrafe gestellt worden, sondern saemtliche Exekutionen, die in Buchenwald ~~xxx~~ durchgefuehrt worden sind, betrafen Haeftlinge von ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ Aussenstellen, Stapo-Aussenstellen, die von sich aus den Antrag auf Erhaengen beim Reichssicherheitshauptamt gestellt haben und Buchenwald zum Vollzug des Urteils beauftragt wurde.

F: Aber diese auslaendischen Haeftlinge, die von Aussenstellen ~~dear~~ Stapo nach Buchenwald zur Exekution gebracht wurden, wurden vor keinem Gericht verurteilt?

P. Lister

nr

A: Das ist ganz unmöglich. OTTO hat fuer jeden Haeftling, der zu exekutieren war, einen schriftlichen Auftrag gehabt. Es war ganz unmöglich, dass jemand anders exekutiert werden konnte. Sie sagen, es sei kein Urteil da gewesen. Ohne Urteil koennen die doch nicht erhaengt werden.

F: Ich meine damit: Haben diese Leute, die von der Stapostelle zur Exekution eingeliefert wurden, Gelegenheit gehabt, sich vor irgendeinem Gericht zu verteidigen?

A: Nein. Kein Haeftling hatte die Moeglichkeit, sich vor einem Gericht zu verteidigen, weil der Staatsanwalt mit einem Haeftling nichts mehr zu tun gehabt hat. In dem Moment, wo er in das Konzentrationslager kam, war der Staatsanwalt und das oeffentliche Gericht machtlos.

F: Also Lagerinsassen eines Konzentrationslagers wie des KL Buchenwald wurden auf Grund eines Antrages zum Tode bestimmt?

A: Jawohl.

F: Auf Grund eines Antrages eines SS - -

A: Nur einer Stapostelle, sonst nicht.

F: Und das war Ihnen bekannt?

A: Der Haeftling ist von der Stapostelle Duesseldorf oder Koeln nach Buchenwald eingeliefert worden mit dem Vermerk: Exekutionsantrag ist beim Reichssicherheitshauptamt gestellt. Solange blieb er in Haft. Es kam auch vor, dass welche eingeliefert wurden, ohne dass man wusste, dass sie zum Tode verurteilt worden waren - das habe ich in meiner Niederschrift niedergelegt -, die im Arbeitsprozess waren. Da kam vom Reichssicherheitshauptamt der Befehl: Der Russe oder Jugoslawe oder Pole sowieso ist zu erhaengen. Auf meine Anfrage bei Gruppenfuehrer MUELLER meinerseits anlaesslich eines Besuches 1942 in Buchenwald, ob diese Leute durch ein Gericht verurteilt wurden, antwortete er: Ja, im Reichssicherheitshauptamt ist eine Gerichtskommission, die diese Leute in Abwesenheit verurteilt.

F: Das heisst, diese Verurteilung vollzog sich auf schriftlichem Gebiet, ohne dass der Angeklagte, wie Sie es nennen, Gelegenheit hatte sich zu verteidigen?

A: Es wurde fuer jeden einzelnen der gesamte Tatbestand eingereicht, dann Zeugenaussagen, und auch ich habe die Erfahrung gemacht, dass diese Leute selbst immer ein Gestaendnis abgelegt hatten, dass sie ein Verbrechen begangen haben.

F: Aber diese Zeugenaussagen und diese Gestaendnisse wurden von den verschiedenen Stapostellen aufgenommen?

A: Jawohl. Fuer uns war das kein Befehl, sondern das war Gesetz. An jeder Mauer stand: Wer pluendert, wird erschossen. Oder: Wer in Dunkelheit Einbrueche begeht, wird mit dem Tode bestraft.

F: Diese Auslaender, bei denen ein Antrag einer Stapostelle zur Exekution beim Reichssicherheitshauptamt lief, wurden sofort in das KL Buchenwald eingeliefert?

A: Nicht immer, aber es kam vor.

F: Aber es kam vor, dass solche Leute eingeliefert wurden?

A: Habe ich erwaeht.

F: Ohne dass Sie einen Auftrag fuer eine Exekution hatten?

A: Er wurde eingeliefert mit dem Bemerken der Stapostelle: Fuer diesen ueberfuehrten Mann sowieso ist Todesstrafe beantragt.

W. Hermann

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- F: Und wieviel Wochen mussten Sie warten, bis so einem Antrag vom Reichssicherheitshauptamt stattgegeben wurde?
- A: Es kam vor, dass der Exekutivbefehl schon da war, der Haeftling war ueberhaupt noch nicht da. Dann kam es umgekehrt vor, dass es vielleicht 8 - 14 Tage gedauert hat und das der Stabschef gemeldet hat, dass ich sagte: Fragen Sie beim Reichssicherheitshauptamt an, wie die Sachlage ist, um ihn freizugeben oder sonst etwas.
- F: Waehrend der Wartezeit sind die zu Exekutierenden in den Arbeitsprozess von Buchenwald eingegliedert worden?
- A: Nein, sie waren im Bunker in Haft und hatten ihre volle Verpflegung. Und es kam vor, dass Haeftlinge mit einem Schub eingeliefert wurden, die noch im Arbeitsprozess waren, und da kam nachtraeglich der Exekutionsauftrag.
- F: Das heisst, dass diese Haeftlinge, die bereits im Arbeitsprozess waren, auch weiterhin im Lager Buchenwald zu Arbeiten herangezogen wurden?
- A: Jawohl, ohne dass wir bei der Einlieferung wussten, dass ein Verfahren fuer ihn laeuft.
- F: Sie erhielten den Auftrag, Leute zu exekutieren, stimmt das?
- A: Jawohl, schriftlich.
- F: Und manchmal auch durch Fernschreiben?
- A: Durch Fernschreiben ist auch schriftlich.
- F: Aber Sie erhielten nicht den Auftrag ueber die Art und Weise, in der Sie die Exekution vornahmen?
- A: Jawohl, er ist ausschliesslich zu erhaengen oder zu erschiessen.
- F: Warum sagte Ihr Adjutant, Hauptsturmchef SCHMIDT, dass, wo keine Vorschrift ueber die Art der Exekution gemacht wurde, die Leute automatisch erhaengt wurden?
- A: Das kann auch moeglich sein.
- F: Und zwar wurde die Art der Exekution des Erhaengens im Lager Buchenwald bevorzugt, weil er weniger Maenner und weniger Zeit beanspruchte als die Exekution durch Erschiessen.
- A: Das ist moeglich.
- F: Stimmt das?
- A: Das stimmt, das ist moeglich. Denn die Exekutionsdurchfuehrung lag lediglich in den Haenden des Adjutanten und Stabschefs.
- F: Saemtlicher Exekutionen?
- A: Saemtlicher Exekutionen.
- F: Einschliesslich die im Pferdestall?
- A: Nein, mit dem Pferdestall hat der Adjutant nichts zu tun gehabt.
- F: Wem oblag diese Art?
- A: Dem diensttuenden Schutzhaftlagerchef.
- F: Wer hat den Schluessel zum Pferdestall besessen?
- A: Weiss ich nicht, muss wohl der Schutzhaftlagerchef gehabt haben.
- F: Und wer war der Schutzhaftlagerchef?
- A: In meiner Hauptzeit war es SCHUBERT und Obersturmchef RUST.

Ich, Hermann PISTER, habe die vorstehende Niederschrift auf 19 (neunzehn) Schreibmaschinenseiten gelesen. Sie ist eine getreue und korrekte Wiedergabe der Aussagen, die ich am 4. Maerz 1947 in Dachau, Deutschland, freiwillig und ohne Zwang gemacht habe. Ich schwore bei Gott, dem Allmaechtigen, dass ich die reine Wahrheit gesagt, nichts verschwiegen und nichts hinzugefuegt habe.

Hermann Pister
Hermann PISTER

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WV

I, Kurt PESCHEL, duly appointed reporter on the staff of War Crimes Group, Dachau Detachment, state: That I faithfully recorded the questions propounded to Hermann PISTER and his answers thereto and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of these proceedings.

Kurt Peschel

Kurt PESCHEL, German Civ.
War Crimes Group, Dachau

Subscribed and sworn to before me, being authorized to administer oaths, at Dachau, Germany, this 6th day of March, 1947.

Joseph Kirschbaum

Joseph KIRSCHBAUM, US. Civ.
Investigator-Examiner
War Crimes Group, Dachau



Kurt PESCHEL, German Civilian, appeared before the investigator as reporter and was duly sworn in the following form:

Q: Do you, Kurt PESCHEL, solemnly swear that you will faithfully perform the duties as a reporter during this investigation now being conducted by me?

A: I do.

440 Oberführer

Hermann PISTER, ~~Standartenführer~~ appeared before the investigator and testified as follows:

F: Sie heissen?

A: Hermann, Franz, Josef PISTER.

F: Wann und wo sind Sie geboren?

A: Am 21.2.1885 in Luebeck.

F: Sind Sie Reichsdeutscher?

A: Reichsdeutscher.

F: Sind Sie bereit, wahrheitsgetreue Angaben nach Ablegung eines Eides zu machen?

A: Jawohl.

F: Dann heben Sie Ihre Hand und schwören Sie:

"Sie schwören bei Gott, dem Allmächtigen, dass Sie die Wahrheit, die ganze Wahrheit und nichts als die Wahrheit sagen werden, so wahr Ihnen Gott helfe."

A: Ich schwöre.

F: Von wann bis wann waren Sie der Kommandeur des KL Buchenwald bei Weimar mit seinen sämtlichen Aussenlagern?

A: Ende Januar 1942 bis 11. April 1945.

F: Wer waren Ihre Adjutanten während dieser Zeit?

A: Im Jahre 1942 der damalige Ostuf. BUENGLER, späterer Hauptstuf. SCHMIDT bis Ende. Ich glaube, Oktober 1942 ist Hans SCHMIDT Adjutant geworden. Ich kann mich nicht genau entsinnen, das muss in meinen Akten stehen.

F: Seit wann kennen Sie den Ostuf. Hans SCHMIDT?

A: Hans SCHMIDT war bei mir schon in Hinzert Adjutant 1940 oder 41, 1940 wohl.

F: War das Wiedertreffen von SCHMIDT in Buchenwald ein zufälliges?

A: SCHMIDT war in Buchenwald beim Sturmbann als Führer, und mein Adjutant kam weg, wurde zu einem Lehrgang abkommandiert und ganz versetzt. Darauf habe ich SCHMIDT eingesetzt, vorgeschlagen.

F: Das haben Sie getan, weil --

A: Weil ich ihn schon kannte.

F: Weil Sie SCHMIDT bereits vom Lager Hinzert kannten?

A: Ja.

F: Während der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant des Lagers Buchenwald waren, wurden Transporte nach anderen Stammlagern gesandt. Stimmt das?

A: Jawohl.

Pister, Hermann

HN

F: Wieviel Transporte gingen nach Auschwitz ab?

A: Das kann ich nicht sagen.

F: Ungefäher?

A: ---

F: Sind Transporte nach Auschwitz abgegangen?

A: Ich glaube ja, beschwoeren kann ich es nicht. Man muss rechnen, ich hatte 82 Aussenkommandos, und in der Woche waren viele Transporte angeordnet und Leute wieder da. Es sind so viel Transporte weggegangen, dass ich nicht beeiden kann, ob nach Auschwitz Transporte gegangen sind. Ich nehme es aber an.

F: Warum nehmen Sie es an?

A: Weil ich es von anderen Fuehrern gehoert habe.

F: Diese Transporte wurden von Fuehrern bzw. Unterfuehrern des Kommandanturstabes Buchenwald geleitet?

A: Oder aber die Wachmannschaften sind von den anderen Lagerkommandanten gekommen und haben sie geholt. Es waren 2 Moeglichkeiten.

F: Ich weiss, dass der Sturmscharfuehrer HELBIG, Hermann, mehrere Transporte im Jahr 1943/44 nach Auschwitz gebracht hat.

A: Das kann sein.

F: Um Transporte nach Auschwitz zu bringen, benoetigte Sturmscharf. HELBIG entsprechende Dienstaussweise bzw. Reisepapiere. Stimmt das?

A: Jawohl.

F: Wo wurden die fuer diese Transporte notwendigen Papiere ausgestellt?

A: Auf der Adjutantur.

F: Wer stellte sie aus?

A: SCHMIDT.

F: Wer unterschrieb sie?

A: SCHMIDT oder ich.

F: Mit anderen Worten, bezueglich der Unterschriftsetzung hat Ihr Adjutant, dessen letzter Dienstgrad Hastuf. war, dieselben Vollmachten gehabt wie Sie in Ihrer Abwesenheit?

A: In den meisten Faellen, in meiner Abwesenheit sowieso, bzw. mein Stellvertreter SCHOBERT. Aber SCHMIDT hat sehr viel Unterschriften geleistet, und zwar so, dass ich ihn zum Kurztreten auffordern musste, dass er nicht zu viel unterschrieben hat,

selbst bei meiner Anwesenheit. S.P.
F: Wer hat die Transporte nach Auschwitz bzw. Mauthausen zusammengestellt?

A: Der Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer bzw. Arbeitseinsatzfuehrer, wenn es sich um Arbeitskommandos handelte.

F: In welcher Form erhielten Sie die Aufforderung, Transporte in die von mir genannten Lager abzusenden?

A: Von Amtsgruppe D nur.

F: Wie lautete der Auftrag?

A: Er lautete folgendermassen: Das KL Buchenwald stellt so und so viel Haeflinge, darunter so und so viel Schreiner, so und so viel Fachleute auf das und das Lager ab.

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F: Und Buchenwald hat im Jahre 1943 wie 1944 solche Auftrage erhalten?

A: Jawohl.

F: Und diese Transporte gingen nach Auschwitz wie nach Mauthausen?

A: Auschwitz, Mauthausen, Nordhausen usw.

F: Wieviel Transporte gingen nach Auschwitz?

A: Kann ich nicht sagen.

F: Ungefuehr?

A: Kann ich bestimmt nicht sagen.

F: Wieviel gingen nach Mauthausen?

A: Kann ich nicht sagen.

F: In dem Auftrag, den Sie von Ihrer Vorgesetzten Dienststelle Amtsgruppe D erhielten, ist bloss die Anzahl der Haeftlinge angefordert worden?

A: Anzahl und auch die Berufsart.

F: Aber unter keinen Umstaenden erhielten Sie eine namentliche Liste von Haeftlingen, die Sie an die Lager wie Auschwitz oder Mauthausen zu ueberstellen hatten?

A: Nein.

F: Das heisst, dass eine Ihnen untergeordnete Dienststelle diese Haeftlinge fuer Auschwitz und Mauthausen zusammengestellt hat?

A: Jawohl.

F: Welche besonderen Berufsarten haben Juden aufgewiesen, die im Jahre 1943 wie 44 von Buchenwald nach Auschwitz gesandt wurden?

A: Das kann ich nicht sagen.

F: Grundsaeztlich hat Ihr Adjutant genauesten Einblick in die Geschaeftsfuehrung des Lagers Buchenwald, die von Ihnen geleitet wurde, gehabt?

A: Jawohl, muss er. Ich kann Ihnen zur Erlaeuterung erklaren. Der Befehl lautete: Bei Abwesenheit des Kommandanten uebergibt er das Lager, wenn er mehr als 24 Stunden weg ist, durch schriftliche Uebergabe. Es soll der Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer die Geschaeft uebernehmen. Die hat^{er} auch immer uebernommen. Aber den inneren Dienst hat der Adjutant vom Buero aus geleitet. Ich habe mich auch nie, wenn ich auf Dienstreise war, von auswaerts mit jemand anderem als mit meinem Adjutanten unterhalten.

F: Das bezieht sich auf den Adjutanten Hastuf. SCHMIDT?

A: Jawohl.

F: Er war also fortlaufend sozusagen in Ihrer Abwesenheit tatsaechlich der Mann, der saemtliche Arbeiten im Kommandanturstab fuer das KL Buchenwald erledigte?

A: Jawohl. Es war mit den Transporten prinzipiell so, dass ein Transportbefehl ausgeschrieben worden ist. Dieser Transportbefehl enthielt genau den Transportfuehrer, Anzahl der Wachmannschaften und Anzahl der Haeftlinge, Bestimmungsort und wann der Transport abging.

F: Wer hat diesen Befehl unterschrieben?

A: Die Befehle sind gegeben worden. Der Adjutant hat an den Verwaltungsfuehrer telephonierte, der Transport geht ab, und hat dann Namen genannt wegen Mannschaften und Fahrkarten. Der Verwaltungsfuehrer hat dann den Befehl unterschrieben. Es kann sein, dass

die Transportbefehle vom Adjutanten unterschrieben wurden. P.

Handwritten signature or scribble, possibly reading "H" or "H2", followed by a large, stylized flourish or loop.

F: Und nicht der Adjutant?

A: Nein. Das war der Marschbefehl. Die Zusammenstellung und der Marschbefehl wurden von der Verwaltung aus heruntergegeben.

F: Wer unterschrieb den Marschbefehl?

A: Das war sozusagen vielleicht nicht der Marschbefehl, sondern betreffs Bezahlung des Transports hat der Verwaltungsfuehrer unterschrieben.

F: Unter Marschbefehl spreche ich jetzt nicht vom Bezahlen, sondern ich spreche von der Art der Befoerderung, Bestimmungsort und Zeitpunkt der Rueckkehr.

A: Zeitpunkt der Rueckkehr war ja nicht notwendig.

F: Wer hat diesen Marschbefehl unterschrieben?

A: Der Verwaltungsfuehrer, weil an Hand dieses Marschbefehls die Transporte bestellt hat.

F: Wer war der Verwaltungsfuehrer?

A: Sturmbannfuehrer BARNEWALD. Angegeben, dass dieser Transport abzugehen hat, wurde von der Kommandantur aus.

F: Von wem?

A: Vom Adjutanten.

F: Wie hiess dieser Adjutant?

A: Hastuf. SCHMIDT. Denn die Fahrscheine sowohl fuer die Bewachungsmannschaft und auch fuer die Haeftlinge, die an die Reichsbahn bezahlt werden mussten, hat die Verwaltung ausgestellt.

F: Aber die Verwaltung hat das niemals ausgestellt, bzw. unterschrieben, wenn nicht Ihr Adjutant der Verwaltung dazu den Auftrag gegeben hat?

A: Jawohl, das sage ich ja. Er konnte es ja nicht wissen.

F: Wie oft war der Erbprinz von Waldeck in Buchenwald?

A: Mehrfach, nicht zu zaehlen.

F: In welchen Jahren?

A: 1942 bis 1945, 1945 am Ende einige Wochen sogar, nachdem er von Kassel evakuiert hatte.

F: Und wo hat er dann sein Hauptquartier aufgeschlagen?

A: Im Verwaltungsgebäude in Buchenwald.

F: Wo hat der Erbprinz von Waldeck zuvor sein Hauptquartier gehabt?

A: In Kassel.

F: Als Leiter welcher Dienststelle?

A: Als hoeherer SS und Polizeifuehrer des Wehrkreises und Oberabschnitt Fulda/Werra.

F: Und wo lag Buchenwald?

A: Buchenwald lag in seinem Bereich.

F: Welchen Dienstgrad hatte der Erbprinz?

A: SS Obergruppenfuehrer und General der Waffen SS und Polizei.

F: Welches war der Zweck seiner fortlaufenden Besuche im Jahre 1943 und 1944 bei Ihnen?

A: Da kam er in seiner Eigenschaft als zustaeendiger Gerichtsherr des KL Buchenwald sowohl fuer Wachmannschaft, als auch fuer Haeftlingsangelegenheiten.

Handwritten signature or scribble consisting of a vertical line with a diagonal slash and a large, looping flourish.

- F: Und inwiefern bezog sich seine Gerichtsbarkeit auf die Lagerinsassen des KL Buchenwald?
- A: Nur bei Flucht und bei Selbstmorden musste der Tatbericht an den hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer gehen, der die Leiche in beiden Faellen freigeben musste genau wie ein Staatsanwalt. Dann bestand ein Befehl seit 1944, dass im Ausnahmezustand die Konzentrationslager statt der Amtsgruppe D dem zustaendigen hoeheren SS und Polizeifuehrer unterstellt sind.
- F: Wann erhielten Sie diesen Befehl?
- A: 1944.
- F: Wann?
- A: Anfang oder bis Mitte 1944.
- F: Und von wem erhielten Sie diesen Befehl?
- A: Das war ein Befehl durch den Chef des Hauptamts Wirtschaftsverwaltung Hauptamt SS-Obergruppenfuehrer POHL mit der Begruendung, dass dies eine Anordnung des Reichsfuehrers ist.
- F: In welcher Form erhielten Sie diesen Befehl?
- A: Als Geheime Reichssache oder Geheimbefehl ueber die Amtsgruppe D.
- F: Wer hat ausser Ihnen in Buchenwald noch Kenntnis von diesem Befehl gehabt?
- A: Mein Adjutant Hauptsturmfuehrer SCHMIDT, dann mein Stabsscharfuehrer Oberscharfuehrer OTTO. Ich nehme auch an, dass der Verwaltungsfuehrer Sturmbannfuehrer BARNEWALD Kenntnis davon gehabt hat.
- F: Wann ist dieser Ausnahmezustand, der im Befehl im Jahre 1944 angenommen wurde, tatsaechlich eingetreten?
- A: Das wird Maerz 1945 gewesen sein.
- F: Wie wurden Sie Maerz 1945 verstaendigt, dass Sie von diesem Datum an dem Erbprinzen von Waldeck unterstehen?
- A: Ich bin nicht verstaendigt worden. Ich sah das als Selbstverstaendlichkeit an, indem er ja anwesend war und sich in die Belange des KL eingemischt hat.
- F: Inwiefern hat er sich in die Belange des KL im Maerz/April 1945 eingemischt?
- A: Er hat mir z.B. den Befehl, der vom Reichsfuehrer gekommen ist, wonach Buchenwald zu evakuieren ist, weitergegeben, das war Anfang April. Ich musste ihm jeden Transport, der abgegangen ist, melden. Dann bestand ein Befehl vom Reichsfuehrer SS, wonach diejenigen Haeftlinge, die einen Abtransport der Haeftlinge stoerken koennten, zu beseitigen sind.
- F: Wann haben Sie diesen Befehl erhalten?
- A: Auch Maerz 1945.
- F: Von wem?
- A: Von der Amtsgruppe D als Anordnung des Reichsfuehrers.
- F: Wieso konnten Sie im Maerz 1945 noch Befehle von der Amtsgruppe D erhalten, wenn bereits der hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer da war?
- A: Ich habe gesagt: Vor seiner Anwesenheit, also einige Tage vor seiner Anwesenheit.
- F: Und wieviel Tage vor seiner Anwesenheit?
- A: Vielleicht 8 Tage. Ich habe aber von diesem Befehl keinen Gebrauch gemacht und habe dem Erbprinzen gemeldet: Wir haben niemand, der den Abtransport stoerken koennte.
- F: Wann meldeten Sie dem Erbprinzen von Waldeck, Ihrer Vorgesetzten

Handwritten signature or initials.

Stelle, dass Sie keine Haeftlinge im Lager haben, die den Abtransport stoeren koennten?

A: Anfang April.

F: In welcher Form?

A: Ich habe ihm gemeldet, dass diese Anordnung da sei und ich habe keine Haeftlinge. Ich weiss nicht, ob er im Besitz dieses Befehls war, und das wusste. Ich habe das gemeldet, und anlaesslich eines Telephongespraechs zwischen ihm und dem Reichsfuehrer, sagte er mir, hat er dasselbe dem Reichsfuehrer weitergegeben, dass also keine Stoerungen bei Evakuierung in Buchenwald zu erwarten seien.

F: In welcher Form, sollten Sie Haeftlinge ohne Unterschied der Nationalitaet, die die Evakuierung Ihres Lagers stoeren koennten, beseitigen?

A: Durch Liquidierung.

F: Was verstehen Sie unter Liquidierung?

A: Durch Toetung.

F: In welcher Form sollten diese Haeftlinge aller Nationalitaeten liquidiert werden?

A: Es war keine Anordnung gegeben wie.

F: Welche Vorbereitungen trafen Sie, um diesen Befehl durchzufuehren?

A: Gar keine Vorbereitungen.

F: Entspricht es nicht den Tatsachen, dass am 9., 10., 11. April 1945 zu der Zeit, als die tatsaechliche Evakuierung des Lagers Buchenwald begonnen wurde, Haeftlinge sich gegen die glatte Abwicklung der Evakuierung gewehrt haben?

A: Gewiss.

F: Und in welcher Form sind Sie gegen diese Haeftlinge, Ihre Lagerinsassen vorgegangen?

A: Indem ich mein Wachbataillon aufmarschieren liess, saemtliche Blockaeltesten zusammenrief und gesagt habe: Ich moechte wissen, warum die Leute nicht zur Evakuierung herausgehen. Da ist mir gesagt worden, sie haben noch kein Mittagessen bekommen. Darauf habe ich angeordnet, sofort Mittagessen zu geben und habe zur Abschreckung die Wachmannschaft aufmarschieren lassen. Als die Haeftlinge die Wachmannschaft sahen, sind sie freiwillig zum Antrittsplatz marschiert. Das Bataillon ist wieder abgerueckt.

P. und J. sind aus Furcht vor Selbstmordangriffen.
F: Sind die Haeftlinge abmarschiert, nachdem die Wachmannschaften aufmarschiert sind und nachdem Sie den Haeftlingen das Mittagessen haben geben lassen?

A: Waehrend sie Mittag gegeben haben, habe ich mit dem Aufmarschierenlassen des Wachbataillons begonnen.

F: Wann ist das gewesen?

A: Mittag. Antreten sollten sie um 12.00 Uhr. Das habe ich auf 2.00 h verschoben.

F: Am wievielten?

A: Das wird wohl am 9. so etwa gewesen sein.

F: Das war der 1. Transport?

A: Die erst. 2. oder 3. Transporte gingen bereits am 7. ab.

F: Am 8. April verliessen --

A: Jawohl, am 7., 8. und 9. Ich glaube, es war am 9. April, an einem Sonntag.



F: Und am 9. April haben Sie dann das ganze Wachbataillon aufmarschieren lassen?

A: Jawohl.

F: Warum haben Sie dann Ihre Blockfuehrer mit Stoecken ausgestattet?

A: Nachdem Befehl hatte ich ja schaeferere Massnahmen ergreifen koennen. Ich habe die Blockfuehrer nicht mit Stoecken ausgeruestet. Wenn sie sich selbst ausgeruestet haben -- . Ich kann erklaren, wenn das das Lager ist und die einzelnen Baracken so liegen, sollten die Haeftlinge nach vorn zum Antrittsplatz gehen. Statt dass sie nach vorn auf den Antreteplatz gegangen sind, sind sie nach rueckwaerts ins andere Lager hinein. Da habe ich eine Postenkette von Blockfuehrern hinten aufstellen lassen, damit sie nicht fluechten konnten, sondern auf den Platz gingen.

F: Sie durften ja die Haeftlinge nicht liquidieren, ohne die Einwilligung Ihres unmittelbaren Vorgesetzten, des Erbprinzen von Waldeck zu haben?

A: Auch darueber habe ich niedergeschrieben, dass im Jahr 1944 mir der muendliche Befehl durch Hastuf. Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY ueberbracht worden ist, dass der Lagerkommandant berechtigt ist, unter Minuziehung des Lagerarztes und eines 2. Fuehrers Todesurteile auszusprechen. Ich habe davon keinen Gebrauch gemacht.

F: Von wem erhielten Sie den Befehl?

A: Der Befehl ist mir von Hastuf. Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY muendlich anlaesslich einer Besprechung, die er in Berlin gehabt hat, von der Amtsgruppe D ueberbracht worden.

F: Wieso wussten Sie, dass Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY Ihnen die Wahrheit erzaehlt?

A: Ich habe sowieso keinen Gebrauch davon gemacht.

F: Hat Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY Ihnen keinerlei Papiere ueberbracht?

A: Nein. Das werden Sie auch in den Aussagen von Dr. SCHIDLAUSKY finden, dass das drin steht.

F: Und wer hat dann angeordnet, dass die Haeftlinge, die bis Weimar zum Bahnhof zu Fuss zu marschieren hatten, durch Genickschuesse umgelegt werden sollten?

A: Niemand; saemtliche Transportfuehrer bitte ich zu vernehmen, dass jeder einzelne Transportfuehrer von mir den persoentlichen Befehl gehabt hat, die Haeftlinge wie Kriegsgefangene zu behandeln und unterwegs Kranke an die Ortspolizeibehoerde bzw. Ortsgruppenleiter abzugeben.

F: Was verstehen Sie unter Behandlung von Kriegsgefangenen?

A: Ein Kriegsgefangener darf nicht misshandelt werden. Ich habe auch nicht geduldet, dass Haeftlinge misshandelt wurden.

F: In welcher Art und Form, duerfen Kriegsgefangene exekutiert werden?

A: Auf der Flucht.

F: Nach Wiederergreifung?

A: Nicht nach Wiederergreifung. Wenn er auf dreimaligen Anruf nicht haelt, darf wohl von der Waffe Gebrauch gemacht werden wie hier auch.

F: Aber so bald Kriegsgefangene sich wieder im Lager befinden?

A: Das ist selbstverstaendlich, dann nicht, das ist ganz klar.



- F: Wieso wurden dann 50 polnische Offiziere im Lager Buchenwald aufgehängt?
- A: Das ist mir nicht bekannt.
- F: Waren Sie nicht bei der Exekution von 4 polnischen Offizieren?
- A: Jawohl, aber nicht von 50.
- F: Wann fand die Exekution von 4 polnischen Offizieren statt?
- A: Das wird 1943 gewesen sein.
- F: In welchem Monat?
- A: Das weiss ich nicht, kann ich nicht genau sagen.
- F: Diese polnischen Offiziere haben sich nichts anderes zu schulden kommen lassen, als dass sie mehr als einmal geflüchtet sind. Stimmt das nicht?
- A: Das weiss ich nicht. Ich weiss nur, dass sie von dem Kriegsgericht zum Tode verurteilt waren.
- F: Von welchem Kriegsgericht?
- A: Vom Kriegsgericht der Wehrmacht und zwar wegen Meuterei und nicht wegen Flucht.
- F: Und was geschah mit den russischen Kriegsgefangenen im Pferdestall?
- A: Das habe ich ganz genau in meinem wahrheitsgemässen Bericht niedergelegt.
- F: Warum wurden sie erschossen?
- A: Weil es Franktireure und Kommissare waren, die keine Soldaten waren, wie heute keine Soldaten in der Roten Armee. Es ist extra betont, dass die nicht als Soldaten gelten, als Kriegsgefangene.
- F: Wieviel russische Kriegsgefangene wurden im Pferdestall seit ihrem Amtsantritt als Lagerkommandant erschossen?
- A: Ich habe nur einmal teilgenommen, da waren es vielleicht 15 oder 18. Ich habe auch in meinem Bericht gesagt, nach meiner Schätzung vielleicht 80 bis 100.
- F: Also wieviele solcher Exekutionen wurden im Pferdestall vorgenommen?
- A: Ich habe nicht mehr beigewohnt; Wir hatten ja ausdruecklich Befehl, dass Kommandanten an Exekutionen nicht teilzunehmen hatten.
- F: Wer hat/die Stelle des Kommandanten bei Exekutionen eingenommen?
- A: Ich habe meinen Adjutanten beauftragt, Exekutionen an meiner Stelle beizuwohnen.
- F: Bezeichnen Sie das hinteruecks Erschiessen von russischen Kriegsgefangenen als eine Exekution?
- A: Diese Exekution hat der Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer durchgefuehrt und nicht der Adjutant.
- F: Wessen Idee war der Pferdestall?
- A: Das war schon eingerichtet, als ich das Lager uebernommen habe. 1941 ist das schon eingerichtet worden.
- F: Und diese Einrichtung wurde in der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant waren, fortgesetzt?
- A: 2mal, dann habe ich es abreissen lassen.
- F: Wann haben Sie es abreissen lassen?
- A: Ende 1942.
- F: Deswegen hat Ihr Hastuf. SCHMIDT gegen Ende des Jahres 1943 noch an einer Exkution im Pferdestall teilgenommen?
- A: SCHMIDT behauptet, er haette ueberhaupt nie an dem sogenannten 99 teilgenommen, waehrend er alle anderen Exekutionen geleitet hat.

Cliff Semann



F: Sie behaupten, dass insgesamt 2 Gruppen von russischen Kriegsgefangenen im Pferdestall liquidiert wurden?

A: Jawohl.

F: Bei der einen, bei der Sie anwesend waren, sind 18 liquidiert worden?

A: Das ist von dem, der mir das Lager uebergeben hat, gezeigt worden. Da habe ich daran teilgenommen, wie mir das gezeigt worden ist. Ich kannte es vorher nicht.

F: In der 1. Gruppe wurden 18 russische Kriegsgefangene erschossen?

A: Ja, es waren keine Kriegsgefangenen, es waren Kommissare.

F: Das heisst, dass in der 2. Gruppe 82 Kriegsgefangene erschossen wurden, stimmt das?

A: Ich habe ausdruecklich in meinem Bericht angegeben -- ich habe nichts verschoenert und nichts verleugnet - , der Auftrag hiess: Sonderbehandlung. Es war vollkommen freigestellt, ob die nun erschossen oder erhaengt wurden. Einzelne, kleinere Dinge habe ich gehoert. Sie sind mit den uebrigen, die zum Tode verurteilt waren, mit erhaengt worden. Daher kommt diese meine Zahl zusammen.

F: Wer hat bei dem jeweiligen Eintreffen von russischen Kriegsgefangenen zur Sonderbehandlung das Ganze in der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant waren, geleitet?

A: Der jeweilige Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer. Entweder war das Stubaf. SCHOBERT oder Ostuf. GUST.

F: Und wann wurde die letzte Aktion im Pferdestall vorgenommen?

A: Ich glaube, Ende 1942 oder Anfang 1943.

F: Auf keinen Fall spaeter?

A: Ich glaube nicht.

F: Wann haben Sie den Pferdestall abreißen lassen?

A: Wie ich bereits gesagt habe, Ende 1942 oder Anfang 1943.

F: Der Pferdestall wurde von Ihnen nicht Mitte 1944 abgetragen?

A: Kann auch sein.

F: Das heisst, dass er bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt stets in gebrauchsfahigem Zustand war?

A: Das wohl.

F: In der Zeit, in der Sie Lagerkommandant waren, sind neue Unterfuehrer, alles Mitglieder des Kommandanturstabes, zum Kommando 99 zugefuehrt worden, weil die aelteren Mitglieder des Kommandos 99 zur Front versetzt wurden. Stimmt das?

A: Stimmt.

F: Wie haben Sie die einzelnen Unterfuehrer von ihrem neuen Arbeitsgebiet im Pferdestall, kurz Exekutions-kommando 99, benachrichtigt?

A: Sie sind vom Stabsscharfuehrer benachrichtigt und von dem eingesetzt worden, nicht von mir.

F: Also das heisst, dass Ihre Unterfuehrer von Ihnen wegen Nichtbeteiligung an diesem Kommando nicht bestraft worden waeren?

A: Nein.

F: Unter keinen Umstaenden?

A: Unter keinen Umstaenden.

HS

A T T E S T A T I O N

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Berlin, 18. Februar 1970



Joseph B. Conboy
JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Übersetzung

B E G L A U B I G U N G

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Berlin, den 18. Februar 1970

gez.: JOSEPH B. CONBOY
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

KL III e14

Heft 12

Case No

000-50-9 (BV)

Vol. 69

P 37

Vern.: Dietsch,
Arthur

S. 1-5

Häftling Fleckfieber
block 46

Before me, Stanislaw S. FELDMAN, CWS 7, Investigator-Examiner, being authorized to administer oath, appeared personally Arthur DIETZSCH who being first duly sworn in German, made and subscribed the following statement:

Ich heisse Arthur DIETZSCH, bin geboren am 2. Oktober 1901 in Pausa, Vogtland, Deutschland, Deutsch, von Beruf war ich bei der Post zur Ausbildung gewesen, habe aber keinen eigentlichen Beruf, mein ständiger Wohnsitz ist Detmold, Deutschland.

Ich wurde 1923 wegen Hoch- und Landesverrat zu 14 Jahren Zuchthaus verurteilt, später wurde diese im Wege der Gnade auf 10 Jahre herabgesetzt. Nach Ablauf dieser Zeit wurde ich jedoch nicht entlassen, sondern in ein KL geschickt. (1933).

Nach Buchenwald kam ich im Sommer 1937 und blieb im dortigen KL bis zur Befreiung am 11. April 1945. Ich verliess Buchenwald nachdem ich die Entlassungspapiere erhalten hatte am 15. Mai 1945.

Das Jahr 1937 durch arbeitete ich als Arbeiter bei der Waldrodung, Ausschachtung, im Steinbruch und beim Strassenbau.

Im Sommer 1938 kam ich in das Krankenrevier als Scheiber. Dort blieb ich ca. 2 Jahre bis 1940. Ich wurde dann Kantineneinkäufer fuer Haeftlinge bis Oktober 1941. Darauf wurde ich fuer 6 Wochen in den Bunker gesteckt.

Nach meiner Entlassung aus dem Bunker kam ich fuer eine kurze Zeit ins Revier. Von dort wurde ich Anfang Januar 1942 wieder der Isolierabteilung unter Dr. DING zugeteilt. Ich blieb dort bis ans Ende.

F.: Haben Sie militaerischen Dienst getan?

A.: Ich war berufsmaessig in der Reichswehr vom 1. April 1920 bis Anfang November 1923.

F.: Bis zu Ihrer Verhaftung?

A.: Nein, ich habe ca. 3 Wochen vorher desertiert.

F.: Warum ~~at~~ haben Sie desertiert?

A.: weil ich Informationen ueber die Schwarze Reichswehr und ueber geheime Waffenlager Arbeiterkreisen mitgeteilt habe.

F.: Sind Sie verheiratet?

A.: Ja.

F.: Wann haben Sie geheiratet?

A.: Am 2. Juni 1945 in Weimar.

F.: Wo haben Sie Ihre Frau kennen gelernt?

A.: IM KL Buchenwald.

F.: War Sie auch ein Haeftling?

A.: Ja.

F.: worin bestand Ihr Dienst als Schreiber im Revier?

A.: ich hatte die erhaltung der Krankenkartei.

F.: hatten Sie auch Todesfaelle in der Kartei zu vermerken?

A.: ~~Nein~~ Nein, das erledigte der Arztschreiber, auch ein Haeftling.

F.: Hatten Sie Kenntnis von den im Revier vorkommenden Todesfaellen?

A.: Ja.

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W

F.: Wieviel Haeftlinge starben durchschnittlich im Revier in Ihrer Zeit, 1938, 39 und 1940?

A.: Ich kann mich daran nicht mehr erinnern.

F.: Erinnern Sie sich, was die oefftesten Todesursachen waren?

betragt
A.: Meistens Entkraeftung, Koerperschwaeche hervorgerufen durch ~~xxx~~ ungenuegende Ernaehrung. Es ist oft vorgekommen, dass Haeftlinge das Ihnen zustehende Essen nicht verzehren konnten, weil ihnen keine Zeit dazu gegeben wurde, ausserdem wurde oeffters mit Essenentzug das ganze Lager oder Teile des Lagers (Blocks, Kommandos und viel Einzelhaeftlinge). Die von den Haeftlingen verlangte Arbeit war sehr schwer und dauerte sehr lange, bis zu 16 Stunden taeglich.

F.: Wissen Sie von Faellen, dass Haeftlinge ins Revier gebracht wurden weil sie infolge von Misshandlungen aerztlich behandelt werden mussten?

A.: Ja.

F.: Koennen Sie sich erinnern, in welchem Zustande sich diese Haeftlinge befanden?

A.: Sie waren meistens blutig geschlagen.

F.: Sind Faelle vorgekommen, dass Haeftlinge infolge solcher Misshandlungen gestorben sind?

A.: Ich kann mich nicht daran entsinnen.

F.: Wer war zu dieser Zeit Lagerarzt?

A.: Dr. KIRCHER, Dr. DING, Dr. WAGNER, HOVEN.

F.: Seit wann wurde in Buchenwald mit Hilfe von Giftinjektionen getoetet?

A.: Ich glaube, dass Dr. ~~Risals~~ damit begonnen hat. Jedenfalls hat man frueher nichts von solchen Giftspritzen gehoert.

F.: Was koennen Sie mir ueber Ihre Erfahrungen als Kantineneinkaeufer sagen?

A.: Die von den Haeftlingen verlangten Preise betrugen das Mehrfache des wirklichen Wertes. Ich fand diese Preise unverschaemt. Z.B. Marmelade, deren Kleinverkaufspreis 32 Pfennige betrug, wurde fuer 1.- Mark verkauft.

F.: Waehrend Ihres Aufenthalts im Bunker, sind Sie misshandelt worden und wenn ja, von wem?

A.: SOMMER hat mich misshandelt. In den ersten 3 Wochen bekam ich ueberhaupt nichts zu essen. Dann wurde ich von SOMMER verhoert. Da ich nichts zu sagen hatte, schlug er mich ohnmaechtig mit einer Lederpeitsche, dann liess er mich an den Haenden aufhaengen, d.h. er hat mich selbst aufgehaengt. Wie lange ich gehangen habe, weiss ich nicht, weil ich ohnmaechtig geworden bin. Ich wurde nach weiteren 3 Wochen entlassen.

F.: Wie hiess genau die Isolierstation?

A.: Anfangs wurde sie nur als Isolierstation bezeichnet, dann wurde sie eine Abteilung des SS Hygieneinstituts fuer Abteilung fuer Fleckfieber und Virusforschung.

F.: Wer war der Chef dieses Instituts?

A.: Dr. DING

F.: Wer waren seine aerztliche Mitarbeiter?

A.: HOVEN und spaeter SCHIEDLAUSKY.

F.: Beschreiben Sie mir, was fuer Experimente Sie dort gesehen haben?

A.: Experimente mit Bauch typhus und Fleckfieber, mit dem Inhalt von

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Dietsch



L. feindlichen Phosphorbrandbomben, Probeimpfungen mit Gelbfieberserum. Hier moechte ich ~~hinzufuegen~~ ^{hinzufuegen}, dass SCHIEDIAUSKY ein Stellvertreter von DING war, nicht aber sein Mitarbeiter.

F.: Auf welche Weise wurden Haeftlinge fuer diese Experimente ausgewählt?

gewesen sein.
A.: Die Liste wurde vom Lagerarzt (HOVEN) gemacht, diese wurde dem Lagerfuehrer unterbreitet (SCHOBERT) welcher manchmal Namen ausstrich und andere hinzusetzen lies. Diese Listen waren von HOVEN und SCHOBERT unterschrieben. Ich habe gehoert, dass Vorstrafen bei dieser Auswahl massgebend waren. Es haben sich spaeter auch Freiwillige dazu gemeldet, es konnten ca. 100 von einer Gesamtzahl von ca. 1000. Diese Freiwilligen rekrutierten sich meiner Ansicht nach aus Haeftlingen, die ihr Los wenigstens fuer eine gewisse Zeit verbessern wollten, also sozusagen aus Verzweiflung.

F.: Beschreiben Sie mir die Experimente mit den Brandbomben.

L.
A.: Diese Experimente wurden auf Anregung der Firma MADAUS-Dresden gemacht, um eine Salbe auf ihre Heilwirkung zu erproben. Einem Haeftling, der sich unter Narkose befand, wurde auf eine mit nassem Lappen begrenzte Flaechе seines Arms 10 mal 4 cm die der Bombe entnommene Phosphormasse aufgetragen, angezündet. ~~max~~ Nach dem diese Masse verbrannt war wurde dann die Salbe aufgetragen und die Heilwirkung beobachtet. Insgesamt wurde dieses Experiment an 4 Personen vorgenommen, wobei in zwei Faellen die uebliche Wundbehandlung erfolgte, in den zwei anderen dagegen MADAUS'S Salbe verwendet wurde. Die zu diesem Experiment verwendeten Haeftlinge wurden auf dem Ueblichen Wege ausgesucht, d.h. sie hatten sich nicht freiwillig gemeldet. Ich kann mich nicht entsinnen, wann dieses Experiment ausgefuehrt wurde, ich denke, es war im Jahre 1943 oder 44.

F.: Beschreiben Sie mir die Probeimpfungen mit Gelbfieberserum.

A.: Das Serum wurde von den IG-Werken geschickt. Von jeder Fabrikationsnummer wurden 5 Probeimpfungen gemacht; erst dann durfte das Serum in der Truppe verwendet werden. Die Impfung wurde mit einer Lanzette in den Oberarm gemacht, aehnlich, wie bei Pocken. Weder Erkrankungen noch Todesfaelle sind dabei vorgekommen. Wievielmals solche Probeimpfungen gemacht wurden, kann ich heute nicht mehr sagen. Die Haeftlinge, die geimpft wurden, waren, soviel ich mich erinnere, keine Freiwillige.

F.: Beschreiben Sie mir die Experimente mit Bauchtyphus.

A.: Die betreffenden Haeftlinge wurden mit Typhuserregern, die dem Essen beigemischt waren, infiziert. Nachdem Krankheitsercheinungen eingetreten waren, wurden an ihnen verschiedene neue Praeparate der IG ausprobiert und auf ihre ~~Kim~~ ^{Kim} Wirkung hin beobachtet. Es koennen ungefaehr 100 solche Versuche gemacht worden sein. Es ist blos ein Haeftling infolge dieser Versuche gestorben, soweit ich mich erinnere.

F.: Beschreiben Sie mir die Experimente mit Fleckfieber.

A.: Die betreffenden Haeftlinge wurden mit Fleckfieber infiziert durch Ansetzen von Laeusen, Subcutane, intramuskulaere und intravenoese Injektionen, ferner durch Scarification mit Lanzetten. Die Krankheitserreger waren: Infiziertes Blut, das Fleckfieberkranken entnommen wurde, Laeuse aus einem Institut in Polen und Krankheitserregerkulturen aus dem Robert KOCH Institut in Berlin.

Das Ansetzen von Laeusen fand auf folgende Weise statt: Die Laeuse wurden in einem ~~kamst~~ ^{kamst} Schachtelfoermigen Kaefig auf den nackten Oberschenkel des betreffenden Haeftlings angesetzt. Der Boden des Kaefigs bestand aus einem feinmaschigen Drahtnetz oder Gaze so, dass dadurch die Laeuse stechen konnten. Die Haeftlinge sassen in zwei Reihen mit den Gesichtern zugewandt, sich gegenueber, auf Stuehlen, mit hinter der Lehne gefesselten Haenden. Sie mussten so 15 Minuten verbleiben.



Es wurde jedesmal 15-20 Haeftlinge auf einmal mit Laeusen infiziert. Zusammen wurden 50-60 Personen auf diese Weise infiziert. Die Infizierten sind mit Ausnahme von ca. 15-20 alle an Flecktyphus erkrankt. Vor der Infizierung waren diese Haeftlinge gegen Fleckfieber geimpft.

Bei den anderen Infizierungsmethoden war die Zahl derer, die nicht erkrankten, geringer. Auch hier waren die Haeftlinge geimpft worden gegen Fleckfieber, doch wurden in jeder sogenannten Versuchsreihe eine Gruppe von gleichzeitig geimpften - anfangs 10, spaeter 5 Haeftlinge der Kontrolle wegen nicht geimpft.

Nach Eintreten der Krankheitserscheinungen wurden dann die Kranken auf die uebliche Weise behandelt, neue Praeparate wurden nicht verwandt. Waehrend der Krankheit wurden verschiedene Beobachtungen des Krankheitsverlaufes gemacht, u.a. um die Wirkung der einzelnen Impfstoffarten festzustellen.

F.: Wieviel solche Versuche mit Fleckfieber wurden zusammen gemacht?

A.: Es koennen 400-500, vielleicht sogar 600 Versuche gemacht worden sein.

F.: Was fuer ein Prozentsatz ist an diesen Versuchen, d.h. infolge dieser Versuche, gestorben?

A.: Bei diesen Versuchen mit Fleckfieber waren die Todesfaelle sehr verschiedenlich; in manchen Versuchsreihen starben z.B. 58 von 60 Angesteckten, in anderen Versuchsreihen waren es weniger. Meiner Schaetzung nach duerften ca. 100 Personen an diesen Versuchen gestorben sein.

F.: Was geschah mit den Haeftlingen, die die Versuche ueberstanden hatten?

A.: Meistenteils sind sie in das Lager entlassen worden, was mit ihnen dann geschah, weiss ich nicht. Im Jahre 1942 oder anfangs 43 wurden schaetzungsweise 35 Haeftlinge, die die Flecktyphusversuche ueberstanden hatten, nacheinander ins Revier auf Veranlassung des damaligen Lagerearztes HOVEN ~~im~~ verlegt. ~~xxxxxx~~ Obwohl diese Haeftlinge gesund waren, hoerte ich nach jeweils ein paar Tagen, dass sie gestorben sind. Ich habe mir das nur auf diese Weise erklaren koennen, dass sie im Revier "umgelegt" worden sind.

F.: Wo fanden alle oben von Ihnen erwahnten Versuche und Experimente statt?

A.: Das erste halbe Jahr (1942) im Block 44 und 49, spaeter ausschliesslich im Block 46.

F.: In wessen Gegenwart fanden die Infektionen statt?

A.: Prof. GILDEMEISTER, President des Robert Koch Instituts in Berlin, Dr. DING und ein oder zweimal HOVEN, waren anwesend.

F.: Wurden ausser den von Ihnen erwahnten Einspritzungen noch andere Injektionen im Block 46 gemacht?

A.: Ja.

F.: Was waren das fuer Injektionen?

A.: Atropin und Luminal.

F.: Auf wessen Anordnungen wurden diese Injektionen gegeben?

A.: Dr. DING

F.: Wer hat bei den Versuchen mit den verschiedenen Krankheiten die Infizierung vorgezogen?

A.: Dr. GILDEMEISTER, Dr. DING, HOVEN

F.: Haben Sie keine Infizierungen gemacht?

A.: Ich habe die Kaefige mit Laeusen an den Oberschenkeln befestigt, ferner habe ich Injektionen mit kranken Blut (alle Arten) und Inkulationen, diese aber bei Gelbfieber.

F.: Wer hat die Injektionen mit Atropin und Luminal gemacht?

A.: Dr. DING.

F.: Sie haben es niemals gemacht?

A.: Nein.

F.: Haben Sie an den Experimenten mit Phosphorbomben teilgenommen?

A.: Ja.

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "H" or "M", in the center of the page.

F.: Was haben Sie da gemacht?

A.: Mit feuchten Lappen die mit der Phosphormasse zu bestreichende Flasche abgegerzt,

F.: Wer war Ihr direkter Vorgesetzter im Block 46?

A.: Dr.DING.Ausserdem der Kapo des "eviers bis 1943.

F.: Waren Sie Blockaeltester dieses Blocks?

A.: Nein,ich war Oberpfleger und hatte die Befugnisse eines Kapos fuer diesen Block.

F.: Wissen Sie wer Dr.RAJCHMAN und NOWACKI liquidiert hat?

A.: Das weiss ich nicht.Ich weiss blos,dass Verhoere in dieser Sache von DING und HOVEN gefuehrt wurden,und zwar im Zimmer des Lagerarztes.

F.: Woher wissen Sie das?

A.: Ich wurde selber in dieser Sache von den Gennaten in diesem Zimmer verhoert,Konnte aber nichts aussagen,da ich ausser Dr.CIEPIELOWSKI keinen von den Betreffenden gekannt habe.

F.: Wer hatte Zutritt zum Block 46?

A.: Nur Dr.DING,HOVEN, andere nur in Begleitung von einem von diesen beiden.Von der Lagerbesatzung kam niemand in diesen Block; sie durften wegen Infektionsgefahr nicht rein.

F.: Was war Ihr Rank in der Wehrmacht,d.h.Reichswehr?

A.: Ich wurde am 1.Oktober 1923 zum Leutnant befördert.

F.: Waren Sie jemals im Block 61 gewesen?

A.: Das erste mal kam ich in diesen Block anfangs April 1945; ich habe mich dort 2 Tage lang bis zur Ankunft der Amerikanischen Truppen versteckt gehalten,weil ich erfahren habe,dass ich liquidiert werden soll zusammen mit 45 anderen Haeftlingen.

F.: Wie hat dieser Block ausgesehen,was ging dort vor?

A.: Dieser Block war in Wehrmachtsstall untergebracht.Der Block war von Kranken und Kindern belegt.Er war auf eine unbeschreibliche Weise ueberfullt,es herrschte dort ein fuerchterlicher Gestank,da die Kranken im Block selbst ihre Notdurft verrichteten,weil sie teilweise zu schwach waren,um auf den Abort zu gehen.Es wimmelte von Floehen und der ganze Zustand dieses Blocks war entsetzlich.Ich habe nicht viel waehrend der zwei Tage die ich mich dort versteckt habe gesehen,da ich tagsueber in einem Loch befand.Nach Ankunft der Amerikanischen Truppen sah ich dann einen ganzen Haufen von Leichen,die aus diesem Block herausgebracht worden waren.

F.: Wem war dieser Block unterstellt?

A.: Dem Lagerarzt SCHIEDLAUSKY.

F.: Haben Sie einen Haeftling GABRYSEWSKI,Roman,gekannt?

A.: Nein,ich kann mich nicht erinnern.

F.: Was hat Ihre spaetere Frau im Lager gemacht?

A.: das will ich Ihnen nicht sagen.

Obige Aussage ist von mir freiwillig und ohne Zwang gemacht,gelesen und unterschrieben worden auf 5.Seiten Maschinenschrift,in Dachau,am 5.Maerz 1947.

Albert Dietzsch

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Dachau, Germany,
this 5 day of March 1947.

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