

where they arrived was a little higher, we could see these transports arriving and we found out that they were Polish Jews, and the fathers would come with the small children. Some would be in their arms and others, they would have by the hand. The women, they had sent on to Mauthausen.

PRESIDENT: Any other questions by the court?

RECROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Mr. Gomez, do you know the names Vaessen and Riemer?

A Yes, I recognize them.

Q Do you know anything about the activities of these people, if they were in Gusen?

A Yes.

Q What do you know?

A Vaessen was a guard leader---a company guard leader.

Q And Riemer?

A Riemer, I saw him very often with the arm brazzard, black and white, that signified--indicating chief of the guard, or leader of the guard.

Q Did you hear the names of these two men in connection with any unlawful actions within the camp?

A About Riemer, I have heard quite a bit.

Q Tell us what.

PROSECUTION: I object to that on the grounds it is incompetent, irrelevant, and immaterial.

LAW MEMBER: Objection sustained.

What are you trying to do--lay the groundwork for some other questions?

(GOMEZ-- Recross)

DR. KLUGE: These questions are intended to serve the foundation for one more question that I --- I would anticipate something what ---

PRESIDENT: You what?

DR. KLUGE: I would anticipate something which I think I am not entitled to do. May I reframe the question?

PRESIDENT: What are you trying to bring out?

DR. KLUGE: That according to the statements of the accused it was Vaessen and Riemer who performed all of the executions that took place in camp Gusen in all of these years.

PRESIDENT: Why don't you ask him that question--whether he knows whether or not they did?

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE: (Cont'd)

Q Mr. Gomez, do you know that in those years Riemer and Vaessen ordered or lead executions or did both?

A As to that, I can't say, because these executions were carried out all behind a wall and at times some would take part in them and at other times others would take part in it.

Q Do you know the name of the Austrian who carried out the gassings?

A As far as I can recall, it sounds like "Stupinski" or "Lupinski." That name, I was not able to retain.

Q Do you know of his present whereabouts?

A All I know is that he was brought here to be interned and I do not know whether he has been liberated or if he is still here.

Q Do you know a man by the name of Luterbach in connection with the Russian camp?

A By that name, I do not remember anyone.

(GOMEZ-Recross)

Q And do you remember the name of the Spaniard who worked in the crematory, according to your statement?

A We only knew him by the name of Marino.

Q You do not know where he lives in case he is still alive?

A I suppose he may be in France.

Q Did you not, as a countryman of his, inquire where he is at home in Spain?

A I know that he is from Galicia.

Q Is that a town in Spain?

A PROSECUTION: I object on the grounds it is incompetent, irrelevant, and immaterial.

LAW MEMBER: Objection sustained.

Q Has it ever been made known to you whether you were put in a concentration camp by the Germans because of your political activities?

A I don't know, but I should suppose it would be because I was in the war in Spain against France.

PRESIDENT: The court will recess until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon the court recessed at 1700 hours, 16 June 1947)

(GOMEZ-Recross)

17 June 1947

MORNING SESSION

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 0900 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May the record show that all the members of the court, the prosecution, the defense, the accused, the court interpreter, and the court reporter that were present at previous sessions are present now.

The witness Gomez is still on the stand. Will the court please remind him that he is still under oath?

LAW MEMBER: Let the record show that Lieutenant Colonel John Keeley has completed reading the proceedings of Friday, the 13th of June.

PRESIDENT: Any further redirect examination?

PROSECUTION: No, sir.

PRESIDENT: The witness will be excused.

(Whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew.)

PROSECUTION: The prosecution calls as its next witness Joseph Berdzinski.

JOSEPH BERDZINSKI, called as a witness by the prosecution, being first duly sworn, testified through a Polish interpreter as follows:

(Whereupon the proceedings were translated into the English and German languages.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q State your full name.

A Joseph Berdzinski.

Q What is your address?

A Linz, Austria.

(BERDZINSKI-Direct)

Q What is your nationality?

A I am Polish.

Q What is your age?

A 34 years of age.

Q What is your occupation?

A I am a civil servant.

Q Were you a prisoner in Cusen 1?

A Yes.

Q From when until when?

A From the year 1940 until the year 1945.

Q What details were you on?

A The first days I carried stones. Later on I worked to bring--to take the rocks out. Later on I was a stone cutter; and finally I worked in tunnels.

Q Do you know any one or ones of the accused?

A Yes.

Q Which one or ones do you know?

A Number 2, Grill; Number 3, Jung; and the others I all know from the camp.

Q What was Grill's job?

A Grill was in charge of the mail room.

Q Did you ever see him mistreat any prisoners?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

A That was in the year 1943 and 1944 when we went to get our packages.

Q Tell the court what happened.

(BERDZINSKI-Direct)

INTERPRETER SCHUBERT: The witness is requested by one of the accused to speak louder so he can be understood then.

PRESIDENT: Have the witness to speak so that if any of the defendants can understand Polish so that the defendants can hear it.

A We had to pick up our packages there, and if anyone complained that too much had been removed from the parcels, he was beaten by Grill.

Q What did Grill beat them with?

A With a stick or with a whip, just what he had at hand.

Q Was anything removed from the packages?

A Yes.

Q Tell the court what you know about substances being removed from the packages.

A The better food was removed from the packages. If, for example, a sausage was in the package, three-fourth of it was taken away and just one-fourth of it left in the package. Everything that was fat was removed and just one-fourth of it left in the package. But in the summer-time when the contents of the parcels was spoiled from the heat, then everything was given to the inmates, because it wasn't worth anything anyway.

Q What happened to the food that was removed?

A The food that was removed was taken to the Jourhaus.

Q How do you know it was taken to the Jourhaus?

A I know it because at one time I had to carry a bag full of food there.

Q What happened to it at the Jourhaus?

A We had to carry the food to the Jourhaus and then go away. Who took it away from there, I don't know.

Q Who was in the Jourhaus?

(BERDZINSKI-Direct)

PRESIDENT: Speak out so that the defendants can hear you.
You are not talking loud enough.

A The food was taken to the Jourhaus by Grill, an SS Sergeant,
and other helpers.

Q Did you ever see the food packages being opened?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

A That was in April 1944.

Q Where was it?

A I saw that packages were opened, but in the mail room, within
the camp, but in the mail room. That was located behind the camp.
There the packages were stacked when they arrived.

Q Who was opening them?

A The packages were opened by Grill, an SS Sergeant, an SS
Corporal, and inmates who worked there. The names of the inmates who
worked there were Cunajek and Krause.

Q Is there anything more you know of Grill by hearsay or by
direct knowledge?

A I have heard in the camp that Grill participated in the bath-
ing of the invalids. Grill had a very bad reputation in the camp.
He was the horror of the camp. He was the right hand of the security
compound leader.

Q What was Jung's job in the camp?

A Jung at first was a guard. Later then he was block leader
and detail leader.

Q When was he a block leader and a detail leader?

A He was a block leader in the year 1943 and in the same year
he was a detail leader, too. He was a detail leader of the detail I

(BERDZINSKI-Direct)

worked in.

Q What detail did you work in at that time?

A That was the detail Oberbruch Kastenhof.

Q What did you observe of his treatment of the prisoners?

A Jung walked around all day long and chased the people to work. He always carried a stick in his hand and for the smallest offenses he beat people. If one of us came to Jung to complain about a capo who had beaten or in other ways mistreated us, he was beaten still more by Jung. Jung beat us and didn't care where he hit us. He hit us on the head, he caused injuries and so on.

Q Did he ever cause death?

A Yes. I did not see it, but I heard that after such a beating a Spaniard died.

Q Did you see the beating?

A Yes, I saw it, because it happened in front of us at a distance of about 20 meters.

Q When did it happen?

A That was in the Fall of 1943 at the time the Spaniards worked on the narrow gauge railroad which they had to push, and the cart was derailed. The Spaniards were exhausted when the car was derailed, and Jung came running with a stick and beat upon them. One of the Spaniards who had been very weak he beat so that he fell to the ground, and I saw that after working hours this Spaniard was led away.

(BERDZINSKI-Direct)

Q Did you see that Spaniard again?

A No, I did not see him again and his friend told me that the Spaniard had died later.

Q Did Jung ever beat you?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

A Yes, in the year 1943 at one time we boiled potatoes because the food was very bad in the camp. We were boiling these potatoes in the stone cutter's hall and he found the potatoes at the stone where I was working. He beat me and took the potatoes away to the capos.

PROSECUTION: Your witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Q Were you familiar with the rules and regulations in Camp Gusen I?

A The rules in Gusen I were as follows: Work, work, and work again, the entire time work. There were no other rules and regulations and the SS men beat us in a sadistic manner until they saw bodies.

PRESIDENT: Saw what?

INTERPRETER: Bodies. Dead bodies.

Q Were you familiar with an order--

PROSECUTION: Just a minute. He hasn't finished.

THE WITNESS: A man who couldn't work any more, his end was sure to come from over work, sicknesses like tuberculosis, phlegmons, mal-nutrition, gassings and by beatings. The various detail leaders would go with the camp leader to drink and after they were drunk they would come into the camp; sick dogs on inmates, throw them out of their beds;

beat upon them so that they beat their eyes out during the night.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: If the court please---

PRESIDENT: Drinking and what?

(Whereupon the reporter repeated the last answer.)

THE WITNESS: The people ruled that when Himmler came into the camp he ordered that a stone of 110 pounds of weight was given to a Muselmann. The Muselmann was a man who was too weak even to walk.

PRESIDENT: Is that a Polish expression, Muselmann?

THE WITNESS: That was a term, an expression in the camp. In Polish it means a very weak man.

QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Q Were you familiar with the order of the camp commander that any packages delivered to the camp, the contents thereof would be given to the inmates in the amount that would serve them for two days only?

A I do not remember.

Q Do you know whether or not food stuffs that were taken from the packages were given to the heavy labor details?

A Yes, I want to explain that. The better things were given to the capos, to the fire brigade and to the prominent people in the camp. The other workers got a piece of bread and a piece of margarine.

Q Did you know a man named Iffert?

A No.