

Q And the young Russian block?

A At the end of 1942 it was Block No. 24.

Q Who were the military people who were in charge of the Russian block?

A The camp commander was Tandler.

Q And what were the functions of Knockl and Becker, if you know these people?

A The Technical Sergeant of the SS, Knockl, was the second roll-call leader in the camp. And the Staff Sergeant of the SS, Becker, was a block leader, and for a time he was my work detail leader.

Q So, Mr. Kamienski, the SS Sergeant Tandler was the man in charge of the camp and the SS Tech Sergeant Knocki who was higher in rank was roll call leader?

A The Tech Sergeant of the SS Knocki was the second roll call leader of the whole camp and the little camp, the Russian camp was underneath the whole camp and there the SS Sergeant Tandler was in charge.

Q Did you ever hear reference to Tandler, the nickname Russian Vater?

A I did not hear that. I could not think of that.

Q Do you know, Mr. Kamienski, personally how the outer chain of guards counted their posts along the guard, whether from the outside of the camp along the road or whether through the inside of the camp?

A I cannot tell you now in the morning or in the evening the guards were posted after the work details had left. I can only tell you now the relief on the posts took place.

Q I do not mean relief on the post, I only mean how the mounting took place--when they went to their posts?

A On all post roads mainly over roads which were the shortest ones.

Q Also by climbing over the stone quarries?

A Yes, they were jumping from stone to stone because this road was the shortest one.

Q Do I remember correctly, Mr. Kamienski, that you said that Chatelewski and Seidler were in charge of these exterminations or were supervising these extermination bathings?

A Yes, those baths took place in the evening. They were also present enjoying watching how these people were bained.

Q You saw this, Mr. Kamienski?

A Yes.

DR. KLUGE: No further questions.

PRESIDENT: Any redirect examination?

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PROSECUTION: No redirect examination.

PRESIDENT: Questions by the court?

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

QUESTIONS BY PRESIDENT:

Q Did you hear at any time, or did you observe the Russians singing while they were going to their work or from their work?

A During my time I did not hear it. Only once I heard how the young Russians who worked on these stones came back from their work places singing.

Q Do you know what they were singing?

A This was a known German song.

INTERPRETER: The witness is thinking of the title of the song.

THE WITNESS: At this moment I cannot recall the title of the song.

QUESTIONS BY PRESIDENT:

Q Were they singing on their own volition, or were they told to sing?

A I know that they were forced to sing in their blocks. They had to learn German songs.

Q Was there any drilling among the Russians--were they turned out for drill purposes at any time?

A That I do not know.

Q Why did you leave Gisen?

A I came with a transport to Dachau. I reported as a skilled worker--as an electrician.

Q Why were you sent to Gisen originally?

→ A It was in May in 1942 the people with intelligence were picked out and were sent to Gisen.

PRESIDENT: Any other questions by the court? There appear to be none. The witness will be excused.

(Whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew.)

PROSECUTION: The prosecution calls as its next witness Stefan Samira.

STEFAN SAMIRA, 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.

A Stefan Samira.

PRESIDENT: Does this witness have to testify in Polish?

PROSECUTION: Do you understand and can you speak German?

THE WITNESS: I do understand German but I cannot express myself in German.

PRESIDENT: All right, you may proceed.

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q What is your address?

A In Lippstadt.

Q How old are you?

A 28 years of age.

Q What is your nationality?

A I am a Pole.

Q What is your occupation?

A I majored from high school.

Q Were you ever a prisoner in Gisen?

A Yes.

Q From when until when?

A From the 24th of January 1941 until the 4th of May 1945.

Q What details were you on?

A I worked in a stone quarry, Kastenhofen. I worked in the stone quarry, Gisen, and afterwards in a camp detail, and in the end at the work detail Holzplatz.

Q Do you know any of the accused?

A Number 2, Grill, I know; Number 3, Jung; Number 4, Tandler; Number 5, Hartung; Number 6, Heisig.

Q What were Grill's duties at the camp?

A Grill was working at the post office.

Q Do you know anything of his activities at the post office?

A Yes.

Q Describe them to the court.

A The first thing, the writing of letters, Grill allowed in these letters that five lines could be written. The contents of these letters was the following: "I am healthy; I am well off; I receive packages also money. Regards to the parents and so on, your son." When I was in Mauthausen we could write four pages every other week, and in Gisen we only could write once a month.

Q Did any prisoners try to write more than what Grill prescribed?

A Yes, they tried to write more but such a letter was sent back. Some of those even received reports for that.

Q What happened as a result of those reports?

A These people received 25 lashes across their buttocks.

Q Were there any packages sent to the camp for the prisoners?

A Yes.

Q Did Grill tamper with those packages in any way?

A Yes, he opened these packages for the camp and he checked these packages and some of the things he took away.

Q What did he take away?

A Baloney, cigarettes, chocolate. I received a package in 1943 and this package contained two loaves of bread and one baloney, and he took away one loaf of bread and half of the baloney.

Q What happened to the food that was taken away?

A The bread and the margarine were given to work details and the better things were given to the capos, the firemen, the block eldest, and so on. These were all Germans.

Q Do you know of the bathing of the invalids in Gusen?

A Yes.

Q Did Grill take part in that?

A Yes, he took part.

Q Were any invalids killed in those baths?

A Yes.

Q How do you know that?

A The next day I saw in the crematory the bodies which resulted from the bathing which had signs of beatings.

Q What was the nationality of these victims?

A Mostly they were Poles. I saw one or two Germans among them and the rest of them were Spaniards. There could have also been others-- I do not know any more of them. I know that they were Poles because they were yelling and crying in Polish and they were folding their hands and they were hollering, "Jesus, Maria", and the Spaniards were yelling in Spanish.

Q What part did Grill play in the bathing of the invalids?

A I saw Grill how he had an ox tail in his hands and he gave the order to fall down into the water and to get up and then to fall down, and the prisoner indicated how much water there was there.

Q What happened if the prisoner tried to get out of the water?

A If the people wanted to go out, they were stopped and they were beaten, and they were forced to stand underneath the shower heads, and they had to stand underneath the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th shower heads and nobody was allowed to stand between the shower heads. There were present Chmielewski, at that time Gross, the roll call leader, and then Seidler, also the block eldest from Block Number 32 from the invalid block.

Q What was the cause of death of those who died in the bath?

A These were invalids. They were exhausted people. They were skeletons, and they were forced to bathe for one hour in the cold water and they were beaten, and they fell into the water, and I do have to add that it was in the winter of 1942.

Q What were Tandler's duties in the camp?

A Tandler was in charge of the young Russians.

Q Did you have an occasion to observe his treatment of them?

A He took them to work and he brought them from work, and at that time I was working in the hall. I worked in the hall as a stone sculpturer. The young Russians were working in Hall Number 3 and afterwards they worked in Hall Number 2. It was in May or June 1944 on a Sunday at roll call, and it was in Block Number 3 when he took the Russians out, and there came Zierois in with a Russian who wanted to escape. Tandler was present. He was an interpreter, and Zierois asked him whether he knew the camp and how he escaped. Tandler hit him once or twice in the face but the Russian wouldn't admit, and he said that he did not know the camp. Then Zierois ordered that a wooden horse be brought and his hands and feet were tied, and he was laid across the horse and he received a beating across his bare buttocks, and the ones that conducted the beating were Zierois, Seidler, and Tandler.

Q And what happened after that?

A And then Seidler said that "This dog doesn't even let anything hear from him", and the reason for this was because he was there motionless-- he lay there motionless. And then Zierois took the ox tail from Tandler and beat him again, and then he threw the ox tail aside and he ordered that this Russian be brought to the crematory and be shot. On account of these words Seidler and Tandler took the Russian and went away with him. He went after that into the camp street, and then Zierois got into

(Sawara-Direct)

the car and I would like to say that Zioreis at that time was together with his son, and Zioreis drove out of camp and we went to the roll call place. That was at noon on a Sunday in May or June 1944. In the evening in our block when the five Russians came over who worked at the crematory they said afterwards that this man had been killed.

Q Who took this Russian away after the beating?

A Tendler and Seidler.

Q What were Hartung's duties at the camp?

A He was the work detail leader of Kasten-hofen and in the end in '44 or '46 was with the fire fighters, and he drove a vehicle in the camp--that was a truck.

Q Did he ever cause the death of an American?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

A That was in the winter, 1943 or 1944. I do not know any more exactly which winter it was. I worked in Hall Number 1 and between the hall and the blacksmith shop there was a machine standing, and that was a machine that was digging up sand, and there was a rubber belt around this machine.

INTERPRETER: The witness indicates how thick the rubber belt was.

PROSECUTOR: The witness indicated an inch thick. Let the record show that the witness indicated an inch thick.

THE WITNESS: It would have been approximately three-quarters of a centimeter or one centimeter thick, and on one occasion our capo Schimmel--

PROSECUTOR: what capo?

THE WITNESS: schimmel. Once the capo Schimmel and the engineer Wolfraw came and made lots of noise and complained that a part of this rubber had been cut out.

FRASIDENT: A part of the belt?

THE WITNESS: Yes, a part of this rubber belt had been cut out. And Wolfrae said to Schimmel, "If you don't find the perpetrator, we will take up the whole spare time, noon and evening, and have you exercise. I would like to say that the name "Schimmel" was only a nick name. I do not know whether his name was actually Schimmel. In the afternoon Seidler, Hartung, and Schimmel came over to the American, took him at his arm and said that he was the perpetrator.

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTOR:

Q Was this American a prisoner there?

A Yes, he was a prisoner.

Q Do you know his name?

A Yes, Will Turtas.

Q What were Willi Tuttas' duties there?

A He was a worker just like we were in the stone quarry.

Q What happened after they accused him of cutting the rubber belt?

A Hartung led him away over the road that leads to the camp and on the way he kicked him with his feet. He was brought to the bunker. The American lost his life, he died of starvation.

Q How long did it take to kill him of starvation?

A As the stone cutter in camp told me it took 8 to 9 to 10 days. Kalemba, a Pole, who was also a stone cutter, went over to the cressatory I believe to pick up some food and he told me that he had seen the American and on his hands he had marks as if he had eaten it himself (indicating). He had bitten off parts of his flesh.

PROSECUTION: Your witness.

PRESIDENT: Court will take a recess for 15 minutes.

(Whereupon the court recessed at 1605 hours.)

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(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1615 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

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

STEFFAN SZMURA, recalled as a witness by the prosecution, resumed the stand and being reminded that he was still under oath, testified further through an interpreter as follows:

(Szmura - direct)