

Q How did he behave as far as the prisoners were concerned?

A Generally speaking, I cannot say anything bad about him. It did happen that he slapped an inmate or that he hit him with a stick but really bad, I can't say anything about what he did in other details. Of course, I cannot say, but when he was with us, he was not too bad.

Q Well would you say that Heisig mistreated prisoners?

A I don't know; I can't say; I never saw it.

Q As a matter of fact, the prisoners on your detail were pretty well satisfied with him, weren't they?

PROSECUTION: I object to that.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: I will withdraw it, Sir.

QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Q What can you tell about Schuettauf?

A I know Schuettauf only from the times he stood in front of the jailhouse when all the inmates marched past to work. He assigned the guards there. We had a little fun about him standing there because we knew that he had been a parson at one time. He was known to us by the name of General Rauch.

Q Was he standing inside or outside of camp when you did see him?

A Outside.

Q Did you ever hear or see Schuettauf giving instructions to the guards?

A No.

Q Did you ever hear or ever see him mistreat prisoners?

A No.

Q Do you know whether or not Schuettauf had anything to do with the work detail?

A I don't know.

Q Will you tell the court of the incident of the three pictures which you received in camp?

A Those pictures were from the mail room from Grill.

Q Was it forbidden to receive pictures?

A It seems so.

Q Did you have to give them back?

A Yes.

Q Were you punished as a result?

A No.

Q What can you tell us about JungJohann?

A JungJohann was more or less known to like to carry a stick in his hand.

Q Did you ever see him mistreat prisoners?

A Yes, now and then I saw him beat someone.

Q Will you tell the court of the incident of the American fliers?

A I believe the first large scale attack on the Hermann Goering works took place on the 25th of July 1944.

Q How many fliers were shot down on that day?

A If I am not mistaken, there were 7.

Q Do you remember an American major among them?

A He came down and he had shrapnel wounds in his stomach.

Q By whom was he interrogated?

A If I am not mistaken, he was first taken to the Commander Seidler. He was not accepted in the troop dispensary, and then was sent to the inmate dispensary.

Q Who was the doctor there?

A Doctor Vetter.

Q Did he interrogate the American flier?

A Yes.

Q What happened to this American flier?

A A few days later he died of his injuries.

Q Do you know whether or not any of the fliers that came down that day were beaten?

A I don't know.

Q Did you hear us to whether they were beaten?

A We did not learn anything about that.

Q What can you tell us about Tandler?

A I only know of Tandler that he was known in the camp as the father of the Russians.

Q In comparison with the other guards in Gusen I, what would you say as to these six defendants--was their reputation good, or was it bad?

A In comparison to some of the other beasts, these six were tolerable. It may be that some of these did somewhere else something that I or we don't know about, but so far as is known to me, they were tolerable.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: You may examine.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q Grill had a very bad reputation in the camp, didn't he?

A Grill did not have an especially good reputation, that is correct.

Q He was among one of the worst beasts there, wasn't he?

A I couldn't say the worst, there were worse ones than Grill.

Q Do you know Hartung?

A I know Hartung but not closely.

PROSECUTION: No further cross examination.

PRESIDENT: Questions by the court?

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

QUESTIONS BY LAW MEMBER:

Q Were any of these accused nicknamed "Beast" or "The Beast"?

A No, that is not known to me.

PRESIDENT: Any other questions by the court?

COLONEL BURCH: I would like to ask a question.

QUESTIONS BY COLONEL BURCH:

Q Are you related by blood or marriage to any of the accused?

A No.

PRESIDENT: Any other questions by the court? There appear to be none.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: May I ask one question, please?

PRESIDENT: Yes, go ahead.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Q Why were you incarcerated in the camp?

A I was in the concentration camp because I am a Christian Scientist but the Nazi special court says, "for offenses against people and state".

PRESIDENT: The witness will be excused.

(whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew.)

DEFENSE COUNSEL: If the court please, that exhausts the number of witnesses which will be available today. I thought the prosecution would take longer. I would like to request a recess now so we can read the rest of the exhibits to the defendants.

PRESIDENT: The court will take a recess until 9 o'clock in the morning.

(whereupon at 1650 hours the court recessed until 0900 hours, 19 June 1947.)

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(Whereupon the court reconvened at 0900 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

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

DEFENSE COUNSEL: If the court please, I would like to announce that all the statements and exhibits have been read to the defendants.

PRESIDENT: Let the record so indicate.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: The defense calls as its next witness, George Krause.

PRESIDENT: Will the interpreter make the usual announcement?

(Whereupon the interpreter announced to the court room as follows: "If there are any spectators in the court room who expect to be called as a witness by either the prosecution or the defense, they are directed to leave the court room immediately.")

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Please give the court your name, your age, your residence, your profession?

A Gotthard Krause, born 4 November, 1898, profession--employee of the Landrat, Neustadt Hhardt.

Q Were you ever a prisoner in the camp Gusen 1?

A Yes.

Q Please give us the exact time, from when until when.

A From 1940 until 1943 I was in Camp Gusen.

Q Which month in 1940 until 1943?

A Until December, 1943.

Q Why were you sent to the concentration camp?

A For perpetration of high treason.

Q Were you sentenced already by court for this crime, and when?

A I had served four years at the penitentiary from 1933 until 1937.

Q And how did it happen that in 1940 you were arrested again and brought to the concentration camp?

A After I had served my term, I was brought to the camp Buchenwald in 1938. In 1940 I was transferred to Gusen, really Mauthausen, and then at the end of 1940 I came to Gusen. Then in 1943, I was transferred from Gusen to Auschwitz. And in January, 1945, when the Russians came, we were evacuated again to Gusen No. 2.

Q That means after 1933 you spent from ten to eleven years in penitentiaries and concentration camps on account of your political convictions?

A Eleven and a half years.

Q Please, will you tell the court now your duties, your work assignments in camp Gusen No. 1?

A First I worked with the so-called snow detail. That means a column which had to take care of the transport of snow.

Q How long did this last?

A That was November, December, and the beginning of January.

PRESIDENT: Beginning of January of 1941?

A Yes, 1941, Sir.

Q Were you transferred then?

A Then I became the clerk of Block 23.

Q What was the name of this block generally in camp?

A A block of Spaniards.

Q Why?

A At that time approximately four thousand Spaniards came down there, and they were distributed over some of the blocks.

Q How large was the compliment, the strength of the camp at the time when you arrived there?

A Six to seven thousand.

Q What were your duties as block clerk, will you describe to the court in general the duties of a block clerk?

A As a block clerk I had the duty to have the lists up to date of the names of all prisoners, with their religion, their work details, and so on. I had to make the various reports about cases of deaths which had occurred. I had to pass on slips about the food--rations. That means I had to take care of all clerical work which had to do with with these prisoners in this one block in their relations to the camp commander.

Q That means, if I understand you right, you had contact with practically every single prisoner in your block?

A PROSECUTION: I object to that question as leading. It is not supported by anything that the witness has testified to.

DR. KLUGE: In order to simplify the case, I withdraw the question and reframe it.

LAW MEMBER: Will the reporter read the last question please?

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

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q In your activity, did you have contact with every single prisoner in your block?

PROSECUTION: I object to that as leading.

LAW MEMBER: Can you rephrase that?

DR. KLUGE: I withdraw the question once again, and rephrase it.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Did you have contact with the prisoners in your block, and what kind of contact did you have?

A Yes. Each prisoner had to keep in touch with me because he had to come to me with all his requests and his wishes, as far as his work detail, that concerned his food rations, his hospitalization, and so on, since a block clerk was the one who took care of all these matters.

Q Mr. Krause, during this time did you have any arguments with the prisoners in your block, any misunderstandings?

A This too, yes.

Q Misunderstandings which were referring to what?

A If a prisoner violated the camp rules, we were a close community and if any stole bread or did something else, then of course there were arguments and even slaps in the face were handed out.

Q From the discussions which you had with the individual prisoners, did you have the impression that the prisoners told you everything which they had in their mind and on their hearts?

A Yes.

Q Mr. Krause, what was your connection as block clerk with the offices of the camp administration, the SS, etcetera?

A I was in contact exclusively with the clerk's office of the camp.

Q Who was sitting in this clerk's office?

A A camp clerk and several assistants.

Q Prisoners or SS men?

A Prisoners.

Q Did you go frequently to this clerk's office yourself?

A Yes, every day three times.

Q Who was in charge of this clerk's office? Which SS man?

A The roll call leader.

Q Who was this at that time, if you still remember?

A SS Technical Sergeant Killermann, Damaschke, Kluge, Brust, and then I don't remember exactly any more, I think Gross was the roll call leader too for sometime.

Q And who was the superior of all these men?

A The first and second camp leader.

Q Whom did the camp leader use as adjutant?

A The adjutants, or you might say the right hands of the camp leaders in the camp were the roll call leaders, the labor service leaders, the labor commitment leaders. And furthermore, of course, the second camp leader.

Q Did you give all the names of these SS men which belonged to this circle, to this group?

A Really the entire headquarters staff belonged to it.

Q All right, Mr. Krause, but like the colonel of a regiment, his his adjutant for his daily contacts whom you would call the regiments' adjutant for Camp Guson?

A That is also the roll-call leader.

Q Who was the roll-call leader at that time?

A Killermann.

Q And camp leader?

A At that time it was Chmielewski, and later on Seidler. Then as Second Camp leader was Lowicz, Beck, and I think that was all of them.

Q Do you still remember for how long Chmielewski was on duty in the camp?

A That was around the change from 1941 to 1942. At that time he came to Herzogen-Busch.

Q Who replaced him?

A He was replaced by Seidler.

Q Do you still remember how long Seidler was in office?

A Seidler was there still when I returned in 1945. He was there until the end.

Q That means during the time you were a prisoner in this camp, that the camp leader changed only once, 1942-1943?

A Yes, that means during the time, the change of the year 1941-1942, not 1942-1943.

Q Did Chmielewski later on return?

A Yes.

Q For some length of time or only temporarily, and when?

A I can't say that exactly. When I returned in January, then Chmielewski was there already, but not any more as camp leader.

Q You mean January, 1945?

A January, 1945.

Q Do you know any of the accused, and which ones? In case you know them, please point them out for the benefit of the court and give their names and numbers?