

Q Can you give us an example perhaps how this was done usually?

A A Russian who had escaped had been brought back. Then in the evening he had to stand in the Jourhouse and then during the evening roll call the entire camp was told that this man would be executed because he had tried to escape.

Q Who were the members of this execution detail?

A It was really not an execution detail because a table was carried over by prisoners and a chair was placed on top of the table and then the man had to get on top of it. That was done in the presence of headquarters staff and other persons who had been ordered for this duty.

Q About how many such hangings do you know?

A Three or four.

Q What was the other type of execution?

A Shooting.

Q How many cases of this type did you see yourself?

A I saw as far as I can remember two incidents.

Q And about how many incidents did you hear?

A In Gusen a few additional executions through shooting took place but most of them were carried out up there in Camp Mauthausen.

Q How was an execution through shooting carried out?

A Between the two stone blocks, six and seven, was a large pile of bricks. In front of it there was a small pile of gravel and sand and the shooting took place in the direction of the brick pile which was used to catch the bullets.

Q Who were the members of this execution detail?

A Six SS men.

Q How had they been selected, were they volunteers?

A It was probably the duty of the company leader. This was an assignment of the guard company.

Q Also from the closer headquarters staff?

PROSECUTION: I object to that as leading.

DR. KLUGE: I can't consider this question as leading.

LAW MEMBER: Objection overruled.

WITNESS KRAUSEL: Schmitt once was present there, that I know.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Who was present there of the higher rank officers?

A Usually either the company leader, the camp leaders and the command, the physician and then perhaps one or two people from headquarters staff which were interested in this business.

Q Do you perhaps know other names of officers or enlisted men, non commissioned officers, who participated there?

A Yes, Vaessen was there once, that was on the 16th of December. Other names, I think Riemer was present there once. I don't know that exactly any more.

Q Was the name of Schuettauf ever mentioned in camp in connection with these executions?

A I don't know that, I never heard anything of that.

Q Did you never see it yourself?

A No.

Q Which steps were taken by the camp administration in case of such executions through shooting?

A Usually when execution through shooting took place the neighboring barracks evacuated and all the prisoners had to stay in their blocks. Nobody was allowed to walk around in camp.

Q Whenever such steps were taken in your opinion did everybody in camp there know what was going to happen?

A Yes.

Q Were such incidents then discussed among the prisoners on the same day or the next day?

A Yes.

Q Were there also mentioned the names of the SS men who participated?

A Yes, it is possible that they were mentioned but I don't remember them any more.

Q Who of the prisoners was able to see and to watch how such an execution took place in spite of all the security measures which had been taken?

A Yes, possibilities still existed, first through personnel which had stayed behind in the kitchen, then quite close to the execution place was a so-called delousing institute and furthermore one could look into the execution place from the stone quarry Gusen.

Q Did you ever hear from anybody the name Schuettauf in connection with this?

PROSECUTION: I object to that as repetitious. It has been asked twice before.

DR. KLUGE: I withdraw the question.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Was Schuettauf obvious through any other incidents which occurred inside the real camp?

A I don't know that. I don't know anything about it.

Q Outside the camp?

A I don't know that much about it.

Q Where did you come from Block 23?

A To Block 2.

Q What kind of a block was that?

A That was a block of the command details.

Q What kind of work did you do there?

A Again I was a block clerk and then as an additional detail I was assigned to the mail room.

Q Was this an official assignment to the mail room?

A No.

Q Why?

A The labor service leader and the roll call leader didn't make any objections to this work of mine but the camp commander wasn't permitted to know about it because no prisoner was allowed to work in the mail room.

Q In this manner did you get closer acquainted with the accused Grill in the mail room?

A Yes, he was in charge of the mail room.

Q Did you know him before?

A Only by name because he was in charge of the mail room.

Q Was he really a member of the closer circle around the camp leader?

A He was a member of the headquarters staff, but one can't really say that he was a member of the inner circle around the camp commander.

Q As far as you could observe did he have any additional duties beyond his duties as the man in charge of the mail room?

A Yes, he was working still in some party organization. He was working for the National Socialistic Welfare Organization.

Q And otherwise inside the camp itself I mean?

A No.

Q Wasn't this activity for the National Socialistic Welfare Organization an activity outside the camp?

A Yes, that had something to do with the party.

Q How was the mail room organized?

A The man in charge of the entire postal service for Mauthausen Gusen was second lieutenant of the SS Altfuldisch.

Q And then furthermore?

A Then the man who was in charge of the mail room Gusen was SS Staff Sergeant Grill, under his supervision were the so-called censors.

Q Where did they come from?

A From the SS. These were usually SS men who on account of illness or some physical disability were unable to go on duty in the companies.

Q Prisoners too?

A Prisoners were employed there only when I was working there also.

Q How many?

A At times there were three or four men, and they were members of the various nationalities. I was a German, a Spaniard, Amadea Zinkervrell, a Pole, Marian Schiffczyk, then the Pole, Edward Cynajek, then Stanislaw Hogaj, and then there was an Austrian employed, I don't remember his name any more.

Q By the way, Mr. Krausel, which nationality was represented among the so-called permanent men in camp?

A All nationalities were represented there. The Spaniards had their own men who were good and the Poles had theirs, and the Germans too.

Q What was the percentage of Germans in camp?

A We were approximately 600 to 800 men among a total strength of approximately 9000.

PRESIDENT: What was the date of that he is talking about?

WITNESS KRAUSEL: 1942.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q What were the postal instructions in camp as far as letters were concerned?

A The general instructions, a letter was allowed every two weeks, a letter could be written and received.

Q And where did these postal instructions come from?

A They came from the Camp Mauthausen through Altfuldisch.

Q That means for these postal instructions the responsibility was given of the Camp Mauthausen and not of the accused Grill?

A Yes.

Q Were these postal instructions brought to the knowledge of the prisoners?

A Yes.

Q In what form?

A They were printed on each letterhead.

Q Were they published in camp in any other way through postings or something?

A That was one of the duties of the block clerks to bring these postal instructions to the attention of the prisoners.

Q Were instructions given about these postal instructions also?

A Yes, through the block clerks and the other block personnel for new arrivals.

Q How many lines were the prisoners allowed to write in a letter?

A I think there were 12 lines on each page.

Q Was this during all the time or did it change once?

A It was supposed to be the general rule but when the work load had increased too much then a change took place and a so-called short letter was ordered?

Q By whom?

A That was ordered then through the man in charge of the mail room.

Q In this case Grill?

A Yes.

Q In accordance with the calculations you were able to make were technical reasons responsible for this order?

A Yes.

Q Namely?

A It happened that at times too many letters were received and in order to take care of these letters time was required, was necessary.

Q How would you estimate the number of letters which were received?

A 400 to 500 letters.

Q Which had to be taken care of by how many censors?

A One to two.

Q Did Grill himself participate in the censoring?

A Whenever he had time, yes.

Q Did you ever see that the prisoners tried to give hidden messages in their letters?

A That will happen all the time as long as you are a prisoner.

Q How many letters were the prisoners allowed to write?

A Two a month.

Q What was the normal procedure when a prisoner had violated the general postal rules, for instance through messages which were forbidden?

A The man had to be reported through presentation of the letter to the camp commander, but this was done only very seldom and in order to facilitate this difficult procedure, then the man was punished directly with 5 to 10 blows with a stick or received a few slaps in the face.

Q Did incidents of this type happen often?

A No.

Q How were these incidents taken care of in the mail room?

A I think of one case where the individual involved received 5 blows with a stick.

Q And what would have happened if an official report would have been made?

A This individual involved either would have received 25 blows or would have been sent to the punishment company.

Q What were your personal relations to the accused Grill?

A They needed me in the mail room and that is the way they evaluated my work there.

Q If I understand you right, you didn't get any closer more personal contact with the accused Grill?

A He was always the SS man and I the prisoner and one cannot talk about friendly relations. Through the methods of

working together it might happen that the superior is a little bit closer to the prisoner than usual, but that is all.

Q During your service in the mail room were you ever punished by the accused Grill?

A Yes.

Q In which form, which manner, and why?

A I received once 10 blows with a stick because I handed a letter out to a prisoner uncensored, a letter which I didn't know that Grill had seen already. The name of the prisoner was Hudi Weixner.

Q What you did, wasn't that a severe violation of the superior rules as they existed at that time?

A Yes.

Q What would have been the normal result?

A At least I would have ended up in the punishment company if the camp commander wouldn't have even ordered a more severe punishment because in this manner messages could have been transmitted which endangered the security of the camp.

Q But did in this case the camp leader hear at all about this incident?

A No.

Q What did Grill tell you in admonishment for this violation of the rules?

A Grill told about this only to the roll call leader Brust and then together with Brust and Kreittloff he decided that I should receive 10 blows with the stick as final punishment.

Q Were you afterwards transferred from the mail room?

A No, he kept me in the mail room.

Q In accordance with the observations you were able to make at the mail room during your stay there can you accuse the accused Grill of any misdemeanor in regard to the mail and the censoring in the mail room?

A No.

PRESIDENT: Court will take a recess.

(Whereupon at 1030 hours court recessed.)