

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1105 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The 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 that were present the previous sessions are present now.

Let the record also show that the same witness is still on the stand, and will the court please remind him that he is still under oath.

GEORGE KRAUSE, called as a witness by the defense, resumed the stand and being reminded that he was still under oath, testified further through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION (Cont'd)

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Possibly this is a repetition. I am not sure. Can you reprimand the accused Grill in any manner concerning his handling of the letter mail?

A No.

Q Was the only limitation the accused Grill ordered the one that the letters were to be limited to only a few lines due to the heavy burden of work?

A Yes, that was the only limitation, but I believe that it was so ordered in connection with SS Lieutenant Altfeldisch, because in Mauthausen itself the regulation existed that only short letters were to be written.

Q Can you give us an idea of what regulations existed in Gusen I concerning packages?

A Yes. By order of the camp administration a part of the

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contents of the packages had to be removed when the packages were censored and these contents were to be kept separately for special uses.

Q Approximately when was this order given?

A In the beginning of 1942.

Q Were you personally in a position to observe whether and how this regulation was carried out?

A Yes.

Q How was it?

A The inmates had to cut open the packages and, after they had been checked, had to put the contents back into the packages again, so we ourselves worked on it.

Q You mean, with that, the inmates who worked in the mail room?

A Yes.

Q Approximately how many packages arrived in a month, on the average?

A 600, 800, possibly more. Sometimes more than a thousand.

Q Per month?

A Yes, monthly.

Q Are you sure of your memory?

A I don't know the exact number, but per month there were 1800 and 2000. Months around Christmas time, of course, we had more.

Q Who was it who handled the packages from the very start the packages arrived in the camp?

A Usually two SS men--either SS Staff Sergeant Grill, SS Corporal Reitloff, or SS man Iffert--and two inmates.

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Q In which room did the censoring take place?

A For the censoring there was a special room within the camp. In the beginning, however, there was a room in the headquarters building.

Q What happened in this censorship room?

A The inmate opened the package, the SS man checked the contents of the package for forbidden articles, then the part to be removed was removed, the other contents of the package returned to the package, and the package sent to the mail room for distribution.

Q And who finally carried out the distribution?

A In the evening after roll call the packages were distributed from the censorship room to the inmates.

Q Who did that?

A Present were either Grill, Reitloff, or Iffert from the mail room, and from the headquarters staff, either the camp leader himself or the roll call leader, or some person detailed for this duty.

Q Did a regulation exist in the camp according to which food was to be sent only in certain quantities--certain limited quantities?

A There were certain regulations, but as far as the quantities were concerned, they were never obeyed.

Q Did a regulation exist that certain percentage of the contents of the packages was to be removed to be used in some other manner?

A Yes.

Q And in what manner was that to be used?

A Those articles removed from the packages were placed in boxes, and in the evening after the distribution of the packages to the persons to whom they were sent, these contents that had been removed

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were distributed among prisoners or details of such prisoners who had not received any packages.

Q Was this regulation commonly known in the camp?

A Yes.

Q In what manner was it made known?

A It was made known to the block clerks, who in turn informed the persons in the block.

Q As whose order was it made known?

A It was one of the orders of the Security Camp Leader.

Q At that time who was that?

A SS Captain Chmielewski.

Q Did you experience cases where the inmates were of the opinion that the removal of some of the contents of the packages was done on the order of Grill?

A Yes. Then these persons were informed of their error.

Q What happened to the contents which had been removed from the packages?

A As I stated, these articles removed from packages were placed in special boxes and then in the evening distributed among inmates who did not have any additional foods or given as a premium for work.

Q Was any difference made in the distribution of these articles according to the function these persons had?

A As a rule, it was given out without showing any preferences, but it may have happened that one or the other of the inmates, for having been especially industrious, received something special.

Q Could you observe thereby that the so-called prominent people in the camp who did not perform any heavy labor--that they were favored?

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A That, too, happened on special order of Seidler and Roll
Call Leader Killermann.

Q Were both of them superiors of Grill?

A Yes.

Q Could Grill influence these orders in any manner?

A He could have had influence, but it would have been without
weight within the SS. If the camp leader ordered something, then it
was just simply carried out.

Q Did you also experience that some of the articles removed
from these packages were taken to the Jourhaus for the sole use of the
SS?

A That, too, happened. These things were on some special
order kept separately, but why, we could not ascertain. However, I
have to remark to that that that had nothing to do with Grill.

Q Was that an order by someone else?

A No. As a rule, those were incidents that just happened
arbitrarily, that a block leader would just simply come in and, as
we used to call it, "organize" something.

Q Did they take recourse to some order or power given them
by Grill?

A No, such a directive did not exist.

Q Did you experience that the accused himself enriched
himself in that manner?

A No.

Q Did you experience that inmates complained to him about the
removal of articles from their packages?

A Yes, that happened on various occasions.

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Q Whom did these persons consider responsible for it?

A Generally it was so that the person who was most closely connected with it was considered responsible for it.

Q So, to put it in more specific terms, was the name of the accused Grill mentioned in that connection?

A Yes, but in most cases it could be shown on hand of the damage book that was kept that showed packages which had arrived damaged and pilfered, on hand of this book it could very often be shown what actually happened.

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Q What accusations against Grill did you hear in connection with such cases?

A Mainly that cigarettes were removed from the packages and that food was supposedly used for the SS, but in a case like that there was no chance for us to check up on it.

Q Were you under the impression that you convinced the complainants by giving them the objective reasons that Grill was not responsible for the removal of part of the contents of the package?

A Generally it was possible, but to convince a person who has lost part of what he thinks is coming to him is almost impossible.

Q Did the accused Grill live in the camp?

A No.

Q Where did he live?

A Grill lived in the SS settlement, St. Georgen, about 6 kilometers from the camp.

Q Was he during those years regularly on night duty, or was he on night duty at all?

A Grill being in charge of the mail room had a special position within the headquarters staff. It may be that he would like to be at one or another time--I don't know about that, but in any case he would have to be the next morning again in the mail room.

Q What kind of night duty could it have been?

A It may have been journey duty or some special control duty.

Q Would that have been in the sense of a charge of quarters?

A Yes, possibly as a charge of quarters or journey duty.

Q Did you learn possibly through hearsay that it happened that Grill together with the camp leader Chmielewski went through the prisoner billets at night approximately between 1 and 2 o'clock?

A No.

Q Did you ever hear of such an incident in connection with Chmielewski?

A Something of that sort was told at one time but I don't know any facts or any details about it. Somebody said he was present. Another one said he was not present. The rumors differed widely there.

Q Was the name Grill mentioned in that connection?

A Yes, the name Grill was once mentioned.

Q By whom, do you remember?

A One of the block clerks mentioned that but I don't know who it was. There were 25 or 27 block clerks--I don't remember who it was.

Q Did you ever hear anything about bathing of inmates in Gasen I whereby inmates lost their lives?

A Yes.

Q Will you please give us some details about it and name the persons who were mentioned in connection with that bathing?

A One evening in 1942 at a time I was in the dispensary at about 9 or 10 o'clock quite a bit of hollering started on the outside. To my question, what was going on there, I was told that the SS were bathing inmates again. The bathing took place in about the following manner: The afore-described bathroom was constructed in such manner that a sort of a basin was formed of a depth of about 40 to 50 centimeters in the shower room. The drainage could not drain water as fast as the showers got the water into the room, and if a person fell down and fell on one of these drainage openings and stopped the drain, the water would rise quite high and persons who were weak fell down which simply drowned in that water.

Q When did you learn about such incidents, Mr. Krause?

A I learned about that only a few hours later because one knew of it when the inmates had to go there to carry away the bodies and the block clerks had to go there to make the identification of the bodies.

Q Then you yourself as block clerk had to do with the registration of such bodies?

A No, at that time I was not a block clerk. At the time I myself was sick in the dispensary.

Q But all of the block clerks had to do with the registration?

A Yes, of course.

Q In respect of those bodies who had belonged to a particular block?

A Yes, who were in the block under the charge of the particular block clerk.

Q Were these bathing incidents generally talked about among the inmates?

A Yes.

Q Do you remember whether in connection with these talks the names of SS men who participated in the bathing were mentioned?

A Yes.

Q What names were mentioned?

A Kluge was there; Schmitt was there. I personally know that Killermann was once there.

Q Was Jung there, too?

A Jungblut was mentioned there.

Q Was this Jung here, Number 5, there?

A No, that was a very young man who later was sent to the front on probation because of some offenses he committed.

Q Was Jungblut mentioned?

A Yes, the name Jungblut was mentioned.

Q Was Kluge mentioned?

A I don't know at the moment.

Q Was Jentsch mentioned?

A Yes, he was mentioned.

Q You seem to remember this particularly well, why?

A Jentsch was one of the persons in the camp who was a beater and liked to handle his ox tail whip.

Q Was Brust there?

A I do not know whether Brust at that time was still at the camp.

Q Do you remember Damaschke?

A I do not know whether Brust was there, however, I know Brust, but Damaschke was present. At the time Damaschke was roll call leader.

Q Were you at one time interrogated before a War Crimes court in a trial against Brust about the same incidents?

A No.

Q Were you interrogated about the same incidents in a trial against Damaschke?

A No, not in those cases. We were solely interrogated in those cases where we could identify the persons connected with the incidents.

Q How quickly was it known in the camp among the inmates that such a death bath had taken place?

A It was known the same moment the bathing started because then some SS personnel appeared to supervise the bathing while normally we just took the bath alone.

Q Did you have occasion at any time to observe how such death candidates were led to the bath?

A Yes.

Q Who led the people?

A They weren't led, it was just simply said such and such block "Fall out for bathing". Everybody took his clothes off in the block and hurried as quickly as they could to the bath house. The healthy ones, of course, arrived there first, the sick and weak ones stumbled behind and they were generally the ones who remained there.