

Ta 3 Schuettauf  
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invalided with the exception of the two Poles who had been caught with the map near the warehouse. The names of those Poles are Grzelak and Wozliak. The day after the gassing it was already toward evening. Hartung was the commander of the Fire Protection Force. I observed him in a motor car together with a chauffeur and that motor car was loaded to capacity with dead bodies. At that time I was working on the road which was leading to Mauthausen. Zeigler who was standing higher up could see that the dead bodies were partly bare, that the blankets which were supposed to cover the dead bodies had slipped off somewhat. Hartung beat me twice at that time because I had not covered up the dead bodies because the camp commander had been yelling at me. There were troops coming in the direction from Vienna. Those troops were in a very poor condition and they were the remainder of a part of a Wehrmacht unit. Two hours later another truck left. Hartung was on it. The truck was filled up with dead bodies which were covered with blankets.

Q Were these bodies the bodies of those people who had been gassed the previous day?

A Yes. Our crematory could not cremate all the dead bodies which had been killed at our camp, and for that reason there were frequent transports of dead bodies in the direction of Mauthausen or to Mauthausen, I do not know exactly which.

PRESIDENT: I wish you would have the witness give a definite date as to this particular incident to which he has testified.

Kowalski-Direct

PROSECUTION: Yes, sir. I was going to get to that.

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q What part of the year 1945 did this take place?

A That might have been six or eight weeks before the end of hostilities.

Q What part of the day or night did this gassing take place?

A That gassing started before nine or after nine, approximately nine o'clock in the evening.

Q How long did it take?

A I do not know exactly when the gassing took place, but I assume that the windows had been open before the roll call in order to let the gas out and in order to transport the dead bodies to some other place. I make that assumption for that reason that on the occasion when our clothing was deloused we had to discard our clothing for five or six hours and for that span of time we could not touch them. Hartung was block leader of the block No. 17 and people were killed at that block also by the block eldest and by the room eldest.

Q What block was the block in which the prisoners were gassed?

A Block 31 and that block was part of the dispensary.

Q Where were you at the time this gassing was taking place?

A At that time I was between the Blocks 24 and 25.

Q You have stated that the gassing started at nine o'clock in the evening. Do you know when the entire procedure was over?

A That is difficult to say for me because I did not know at what time of night the doors and windows were opened in order to get a draft. The reason for that was that there was a fire guard throughout the whole camp at that time and that fire guard did not permit a person to go from one block to the other, only to the toilet and back. It was part of the home guard there to help the fire guards to see to it that nobody would go around the camp. That home guard remained at the block 16.

Q What were Heisig's duties at the camp?

A Heisig very often was deputy block leader. He was also a detail leader at the stone quarry. At the end he was a detail leader at the Messerschmidt factory.

Q During what period of time did he hold these various duties?

A It was in the year of 1943 or 1944. I did not see him very frequently because he was also a detail leader at Gusen. In the winter of the year 1944 I observed Heisig order someone to get cold water in order to pour on people who had been already weakened. There were about 30-35 of them. The water would be poured over those people. Those people were loaded upon carts, upon wagons, by capes and auxilliary capes and they were transported to the guardhouse. There was a bunker there. The bunker was filled with coal and those people were thrown into that bunker. I saw those people personally with my own eyes.

Kowalski-Direct

Q At the time of this occurrence which you just mentioned, what was Helsing's duty?

A At that time he was deputy detail leader.

Q Of what detail?

A Stone quarry Gusen.

Q When did this take place?

A I think in the year of 1943 or January or February, 1944 because it was a very hard winter then.

Q Were these prisoners in his detail?

A Yes, because 1500 to 2000 men were part of that detail.

Q What time of the day or night did this occur?

A It was during the forenoon but most of the times it happened in the afternoon before the evening roll call.

Q How many times did this sort of thing happen?

A I might have observed three or more occasions. I wasn't always at the stone quarry.

Q How were the prisoners dressed when this happened?

A There were various types of clothing. We had the striped prison guard. Some of the people were wearing civilian clothes. There were two pieces cut out of the civilian clothes, one on the back, and one on the left thigh. These pieces were replaced by pieces of cloth from the striped prison guards so that these people would be recognized as prisoners.

Q Referring to those prisoners on whom water was poured, describe to the court how Helsing did this, what part he played in it.

Kowalski-Direct

A At that time he was a detail leader. He ordered the capos to bring water and to pour the water over the prisoners and he himself took part in this procedure.

Q How was the water poured over these prisoners?

A That was done in a very ordinary manner. The water was brought about in pails and whenever one had weakened so much that he would fall to the ground the water was poured over him from those pails.

Q When the water was poured over him would he get up again?

A It happened occasionally that people would get up again but generally they were too weak already to work and they couldn't work any further.

Q How much water was poured on them?

A I cannot tell you exactly how much water was poured over them because I could not approach matters very closely. I had to observe matters from a distance. Those people were collected at one spot. Those people were at a distance of 25 to 30 meters from me and there they were collected at one spot. The reason for that was that every capo was responsible for the people whose work he had to observe. In case one man was missing at the camp we had to stand on our feet for two days until that man could be found.

Q What happened to the people who collapsed and on whom water had been poured?

A The people stayed on the ground there until the roll call. After the roll call they were loaded on carts and taken to the stone bunker, and then there arrived a larger cart and from that spot they were brought on to the camp.

Q Did they ever recover and return to work?

A There was only one case like that among two or three hundred because the camp was very small and there were new people arriving every few months.

Q When you say there was only one case like that in two hundred, do you mean there was only one case where they came back?

A Yes, the most that might have returned to work were one or two. People at Gusen who were too weak to work or to run were brought into a block of invalids where they later on were gassed or killed or bathed to death.

Q Is there anything more you have to say about Heisig?

A Heisig had also been present on the occasion in the year 1945 when the whole block was gassed.

Q What part did he play in that gassing?

A He also walked about around the block and saw to it that nobody would escape and that none of the stronger ones would escape through the window.

Q Is there anything further you have to say about Heisig?

A I can not say anything further because I had not been at the Messerschmitt and I don't know how he behaved there and what he did there.

PROSECUTION: Your witness.

#### CROSS EXAMINATION

#### QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Q Kowalski, how long were you in a concentration camp?

A You mean Gusen?

Q In all the concentration camps?

A I was at Dachau from the 10th of May 1940 to the 2nd of

(KOWALSKI-Cross)

August 1940. I came to Gusen on the 2nd of August 1940 and I stayed there until the liberation by the Americans.

Q Now, all the time that you were in concentration camps, which was five years, your life was pretty miserable, wasn't it?

A Yes, life was pretty miserable, but I tried to do additional work after my working hours whenever I could do so, and beginning in the year of 1942 I was saved by packages which I received from home.

Q But your living conditions, the beatings that you have testified to made life pretty miserable even though you did receive packages, isn't that so?

A Life at camp was miserable, and I have to say that of the initial strength of the camp in the year of 1940 of 4,500 at the end there were only 243 left and even those were to be shot.

Q Well, as a consequence of this miserable condition under which you lived for five years, you are definitely prejudiced against anybody that had anything to do with a concentration camp, aren't you?

A I do not understand the question. I would like to ask you to state your question in a more definite form.

Q From these miserable conditions under which you lived for five years you had definitely formed a prejudiced opinion against anybody that had anything to do with concentration camps, isn't that so? Answer yes or no.

PROSECUTION: I object to the direction to these witnesses to answer yes or no, and most of these questions they can't answer yes or no.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: The reason I asked him to answer yes or no is that I think it calls for a yes or no answer, and the point is this has been going on all day and we will be here three or four weeks

letting a witness ramble on. I am just asking for a concise answer.

LAW MEMBER: The witness may answer if he can.

WITNESS KOWALSKI: No.

(Whereupon the witness continued with the answer in Polish.)

DEFENSE COUNSEL: I ask that this be stricken ---

PROSECUTION: If it please the court, I would like to hear the answer of this witness and I am sure it must be relevant.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: I think it is up to the court.

PRESIDENT: Let the interpreter interpret what he said.

WITNESS KOWALSKI: I must say that there was one man at the camp who had the name of Beck who saved all of us and who did not permit us to be shot.

QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE COUNSEL: (Cont'd)

Q Why were you incarcerated in a concentration camp, Kowalski?

A I first was a prisoner of war, then I was discharged at Lowicz, then I worked at the Magistrate, and later on I was incarcerated for the reason that I had been working at a Polish Magistrate and because I was a Pole.

Q What kind of a triangle did you wear?

A A red triangle.

Q Now, at Gusen I you had what was called a protective custody compound, isn't that true?

A What is the matter with the protective custody compound?

Q There is nothing the matter with it. I just asked you isn't that true that you had a protective custody compound there which was a main compound?

PRESIDENT: Tell the witness to answer the question propounded to him.

(KOWALSKI-Cross)

A Mauthausen was the protective custody compound and we were the second or the third camp behind Mauthausen.

Q But you did have a compound at Gusen I in which your prisoners were incarcerated, isn't that true?

A Only political prisoners, and our guards and our block eldest and the ones who were in charge of us were Germans, and they were wearing a green triangle--a green and a black triangle.

Q And in that camp you had what was known as a camp headquarters which ran that compound, isn't that true?

A Those were the SS men, the block leaders who had been sent to us from Mauthausen.

Q However, you did have a camp commander inside the compound, didn't you?

A Yes, there was a camp commander and he also had a deputy.

Q And that camp commander ran all of the administrative duties and other duties within the compound, isn't that true?

A Yes.

Q Now, on the outside of the compound you had what was known as a guard company, isn't that true?

A Yes, the SS men were located behind the camp and their commander was Scheuttauf.

Q His sole duty was to be commanding officer of that guard post, isn't that true?

A Yes, it was his duty to allocate the guards, and the guards had to see to it that nobody could escape, and he had already been admonished by Eiereis.

PRESIDENT: The court will take a 15 minute recess.

(Whereupon the court recessed at 1435 hours.)

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1500 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that all the members of the court, the prosecution, the defense, the accused, the court interpreters that were present at the last session are now present. There is a new court reporter to be sworn.

PRESIDENT: Miss Gloria M. Spears has appointed reporter to the court. She will be sworn.

(Whereupon Gloria M. Spears, U.S. Civilian, was sworn as court reporter.)

JOSEF KOWALSKI, called 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:

#### CROSS EXAMINATION

#### QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Q Kowalski, at the end of the last session you had just testified to the fact that outside of the main compound at Gusen was a guard company under the command of Schuettauf?

A Yes. There were about three or four companies of SS men. There were blocks of them.

Q But Schuettauf was in charge or the leader of one, isn't that true?

A Yes. Perhaps in the beginning he was company leader of one company. Toward the end he was leader of all the companies. He was called the General Bauch as the leader of the SS companies.

Q Isn't it a fact that those guard companies outside of the compound were under strict orders that at no time would they enter that compound?

A Yes. With the exception of the roll call leader, the block leader and the man who came from the post office, the guards could not enter the camp, and they could not look into the camp. With the exception of occasions of executions, at those times the execution leaders were  
(Kowalski-Cross)