

concentration camp, because the men who were there, the reformatory prisoners who were there, were all wearing civilian clothes and were running around together and among the SS men.

Q Mr. Grill, all right, that was your first personal contact with a concentration camp, but what were the ideas which you had in your young head about the organization and the purpose of the concentration camp?

A I thought about it like this: Enemies of the Nazi Party were to be locked up there in order to be re-educated for some length of time and whenever these men stopped to be enemies of the German Reich then they would be released again and would be members again of the German people.

Q According to your own experiences, didn't the entire German people have approximately the same idea about the purposes of concentration camps?

A That was the opinion of the entire German people. That is what they heard about concentration camps.

Q Was it possible to hear anything to the contrary from prisoners who had spent there some length of time?

A To hear anything else about concentration camps was impossible, because prisoners who had been released, as far as I know from one special case, would not talk at all about their own experiences in concentration camps.

Q Didn't they have even to take an oath on that--an oath to secrecy?

A I do not know that exactly, but in the one case where I spoke to a man who had been released from a concentration camp, he was very cautious in his remarks.

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Q Why, perhaps?

A I don't know the reason. Probably in the treatment.

Q Did you ever get your doubts and when did you get your doubts about the purposes of concentration camps?

A I got my doubts as far as I was personally concerned in 1942, 1943.

Q That means until 1938 you were in the Waffen SS. What happened later on?

A Then I was for seven months with the Labor Service. Then, until 1940 I went with the Army, and then I was drafted again into the Waffen SS. That was done because I had been wounded in the Wehrmacht and had been discharged from the Wehrmacht.

Q Will you please tell the court how you were wounded?

A I was wounded during maneuvers of the 61st Infantry Regiment through a machine gun bullet.

Q And on account of this wound you came to which SS unit?

A On account of this injury I was discharged from the Wehrmacht. I returned to civilian life and I was drafted to the mail room Mauthausen.

Q What remained as permanent injury from this wound?

A Up to now, a stiff right hand and very great pains in my nervous system.

Q Did you train your left hand in the meantime so that it can replace your right hand?

A No, by birth I am righthanded and during such a short period of time it is impossible to learn to do with the left hand whatever you could do with the right hand.

Q With which hand are you writing, for instance?

A For writing I use my right hand with a glove, because without

a glove I am unable to write.

Q Which SS unit were you attached to?

A I was assigned to the post office, Concentration Camp Mauthausen.

Q Is it correct that an appeal was made to your duty and honor as a former soldier and that you were told, in spite of your injury, you certainly would be able to take charge of a post office?

A Yes.

Q You did that?

A I was discharged by the army as unfit for military service.

Then I was examined again through the Waffen SS and I was marked as fit for service on the home front. Therefore, during the war years I had to relieve a comrade who was healthy, who went to the front, and who died there in action.

Q Was it, therefore, your intention when you entered the SS again to take charge of a mailroom and to take only charge of a mailroom, is that correct?

A Yes, because I was unable to take care of any other duties.

Q Where did you go? To which unit?

A Directly to the post office.

Q In which camp?

A Concentration camp Mauthausen.

Q How long did you stay there?

A 4 days.

Q For what purpose?

A For training and instruction.

Q Where were you transferred then?

A Then I came to the mailroom Gusen.

Q How long did you stay there?

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A I stayed there until the middle of August 1944.

Q That means not until the end?

A I was in Gusen until the end, but since 1942 in April I had taken charge also of all criminal matters for the Nazi Party and the National Socialist Welfare Organization, and when after the bombardments and the retreat refugees came into our area, I was put in charge of the Refugee Welfare Department of the National Socialist Welfare Organization as my main duty.

Q That was exactly when?

A That was on the 14th or 15th of August 1944.

Q That means, then, you were relieved entirely from duties in the camp?

A No, it isn't like that. The office of the Nazi Party and the office of the National Socialist Welfare Organization was in the same barracks as the mailroom. There was also the room of the man in charge of the local ward, SS Colonel Ziereis. That was done for the purpose that this barracks was approximately right in the center of the whole area of this local ward.

Q And had an exit outside the camp?

A The Nazi Party and the National Socialist Welfare Organization had its own entrance and had nothing to do with the general entrance to the camp.

Q Am I correct when I state that since August 1944 you still were located with your offices in camp, but that you had no duties in camp any more?

A That is correct. In August 1944 I was relieved of my duties through SS Colonel Ziereis, was transferred to the National Socialist Welfare Organization, and left with this my services at the mailroom.

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Q Is it true that from this day on you really did not participate any more, in any way in fact, in the business of the concentration camp?

A Yes.

Q Will you please give the court the exact dates, from when until when, you were on duty in the concentration camp Gusen I?

A From the 15th of November 1940 until the 14th or 15th of August 1944.

Q Please, would you give the court a short report on an average work day you had in your new assignment?

A Are you referring to the new assignment for the National Socialist Welfare Organization or the mailroom?

Q I am referring to the period of time from November 1940 until August 1944.

A In the morning at 7 o'clock a truck came from Mauthausen and we went with an SS man and two prisoners to the railroad station St. Georgen. There the passenger train arrived where the mail was unloaded, and then we drove to the post office St. Georgen, and the mail was sorted, and the camp mail was handed over to us. Approximately at 9, 9:30 we returned to camp. There we started with the sorting of the SS and the prisoners' mail. Then the censoring of the mail started, as well as the handing out of the SS mail. In the afternoon at 2 o'clock the new SS mail was accepted and was brought to the post office at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. From there I returned to camp, did a little bit censoring whenever there was any time left, and then after that I drove home.

Q Where did you live at that time?

A From January 1941 until October 1941 I lived in Mauthausen

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and from January 1942 until the 2nd of May 1945 I lived in the SS Settlement in St. Georgen.

Q How did the work day continue then?

A That was a work day before October 1942, since until that time only on holidays like Christmas prisoners were allowed to receive packages, but otherwise the mail of the prisoners consisted only of letters. After October 1942 the picking up of parcels and the censoring of parcels became an additional duty.

Q To how much did this additional duty amount?

A After the order which permitted the sending of parcels was published in the first time we received two to three hundred parcels a day. Until the middle of 1943 the sending of parcels increased to seven, eight hundred a day. You can see this from the fact that the Reich's Bahn was unable to take care of this business on its own and that we received our own mail car. This special mail car was brought every morning from the railroad station in St. Georgen on the special camp tracks right in front of the camp.

Q And this car came every day? You remember this exactly?

A This car came every day, including Sundays.

Q How was the mailroom organized and installed?

A I ask for the permission of the court to be permitted to hand to the court two sketches which I made of the arrangement of the post office inside the camp, as well as of the mailroom outside the camp.

DR. KLUGE: Request the reporter to mark these two diagrams for identification purposes D-2 and D-3, representing the post barracks of Camp Gusen and the censoring office of the packages in Camp Gusen.

(The diagrams referred to were marked

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Defense Exhibits D-2 and D-3 for identification.)

DEFENSE COUNSEL: We would like to offer this in evidence, if the court please, solely for the information of the court--not to be offered in evidence, but merely to enlighten the court as far as the situation was of the mailroom.

LAW MEMBER: Any objection?

PROSECUTION: I understand that it has not been offered in evidence. Is that correct?

DR. KLUGE: Not in evidence, but only for the explanation which the accused will give as a witness.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: We offer it solely for the information and enlightenment of the court.

PROSECUTION: I object on the grounds that no proper foundation has been laid.

LAW MEMBER: Defense Exhibits D-2 and D-3 will be received by the court as evidence, being two sketches which will tie up with subsequent testimony.

(The diagrams heretofore marked Defense Exhibits D-2 and D-3 for identification were received in evidence as Defense Exhibits D-2 and D-3, are attached hereto, and made a part of the record.)

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE: (Cont'd)

Q Please continue, Mr. Grill.

A The entire censoring of prisoners' mail was taken care of at the SS mailroom outside the camp. I ask the permission of the court to be able to show the way the handling of parcels, the censoring of parcels was handled through the sketch which I prepared.

PRESIDENT: You may explain to the court the method of operation of this post office.

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A Yes. The parcels for the prisoners came from the mail car to the post office of the SS and were checked there against the parcel post card receipts which were lying there. From the moment the mail car was opened until the time the last parcel was disposed of, always a civilian employee of the German post office, of the Austrian post office, at St. Georgen was present. After the parcels had been checked against the parcel post cards and after it had been found out that the addressee of the parcel was really in camp, as far as it was possible the parcels were loaded on a big vehicle and were brought through the gate of the Jourhaus to the parcel mailroom inside the camp. There the parcels were unloaded and all parcel post cards went through the filing system of the camp office. After this check-up, the packages which didn't belong to the camp or were for prisoners who had died in the meantime, or for prisoners who had been transferred to outside details, such packages were taken out again during the evening. The check-up of parcels took until the afternoon, on account of the large number of parcels which were received.

Q Mr. Grill, in the meantime, would you please answer my question about the organization of the post office as far as the personnel was concerned?

A In the mailroom there were on the average four to five SS men and a work detail of approximately five to six prisoners.

Q Both groups were under your supervision?

A Yes.

Q What were the duties of the SS men?

A It was the duty of the SS men to censor the prisoners' mail, to censor parcels, and to take care of the SS mail.

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Q And what were the duties of the prisoners?

A It was the job of the prisoners to file the letters which came in in accordance with the filing system we had, to fix stamps on outgoing letters, and to file the outgoing mail in accordance with our filing system. Furthermore, the loading and unloading of parcels and the bringing of parcels to the parcel post office inside the camp.

Q Did you personally participate in the censoring of either letters or parcels?

A Yes, in the beginning until approximately the beginning of 1943 I participated.

Q Letters and parcels?

A Yes, letters and parcels.

Q And then?

A And thereafter, on account of my work for the National Socialist Welfare Organization it was impossible for me to participate in this work as I had done before, and then I did only do the supervising job on the censoring. In the beginning I did part of the work myself but later on I worked only in a supervisory capacity.

Q Did you find any difficulties with the prisoners in the censoring of the prisoners' mail--their letters?

A Yes.

Q What kind of difficulties?

A On each letterhead it was imprinted what each relative of a prisoner was allowed to send.

Q I am referring now to letters, not to parcels.

A Even in the letters there were many pictures, sketches, and so on, which in accordance with the camp rules were not permitted to enter the camp.

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Q How did you take care of these cases?

A Pictures usually I handed out without permission, but then I took them back again and returned them to the sender. Money which was in letters was entered in a book and then handed over to the office which took care of the personal effects of the prisoners and the prisoner, the addressee of the letter, was credited with this amount. The prisoners themselves took care of this book.

Q And other contents?

A Other contents, as for instance sketchings, drawings, et cetera, were burned.

Q Did the way the censoring job was taken care of, partly through yourself, partly through the men under your supervision, create any bad feelings among the prisoners?

A That happened in some cases, because reports about other camps and about anything which was directed against the Reich was cut out of the letters, and, of course, each prisoner of which part of a letter had been cut out is angry.

Q Did you give out censoring instructions on your own?

A The censoring instructions came from Headquarters Staff Mauthausen and were applicable to Camp Mauthausen and all outcamps. These rules and regulations were rules and regulations of the Reich Main Security Office at Berlin.

Q Did you receive these instructions while you worked at Mauthausen for training purposes for four days?

A No, these instructions were brought to my knowledge during a period of six months through constant visits of the man who was in charge of the post office at Mauthausen, and only after this six months' period which was used for training and instructions, only then I took

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