

Q That means for the prisoners the name "Grill" was the name for the post office itself?

A Yes, that was one and the same name.

Q Please continue.

A Otherwise, a witness who had testified here before the court that he didn't know the name "Iffert" couldn't have testified so, since Iffert practically for three years took care of the censoring of parcels for the prisoners in camp. I cannot imagine that if a man participates in the censoring of parcels day by day for a period of nearly three years, his name should not be known in camp.

Q Is it possible to say that in view of the censoring of the mail and the beatings which took place in connection with the post office one cannot say that you were well liked in camp?

A In the cases of mail censoring where some parts of the letter had to be cut out, in case of the parcels where food had to be taken out, and in all the other cases which were mentioned in regard to punishment, it is obvious that one was not the best liked among the prisoners.

Q Mr. Grill, as far as that is possible for anybody, try to be critical of yourself now, would you say then that you were very sharp and very strict in your behavior, and had very much the appearance of a strict soldier?

A As I have testified before, all orders and instructions which had been given to us were for us valid and binding. We carried out these orders believing in their legality and for the security of the German Reich.

Q Is it possible that on account of your sharp and rough behavior and your appearance as a very strict soldier, the prisoners disliked you still more?

A I was a soldier and carried out my duties in accordance with my instructions as a soldier.

Q Were you ever sent from the post office on temporary duty to other assignments?

A I only took care of postal matters and afterwards party matters.

Q Was this an assignment which took your full time from morning until the evening?

A Our day started in the morning at 6:30 and ended in the evening at 10 o'clock.

Q And at that time you lived where?

A I lived in St. Georgen. In the morning I had to be at the mail train, and in the evening I had to get the mail ready which had to be taken to the mail train the next morning. In addition to this postal work, I had to take care of many hundreds of refugees since the middle of 1943.

Q How often did it happen that at night you did not go to your home?

A Starting the middle of 1943, I was home perhaps 3, 4 times; all the other nights I was on duty.

Q What kind of duty was that?

A Work for the Nationalist Social Welfare organization, for the Party, and caring for the refugees.

Q Did you live right from the beginning when you came to Gusen I at St. Georgen?

A No, from January 1941 until October 1941 I lived in Mauthausen in the Restaraunt Arras.

Q Anyway, never in camp?

A No, I did not sleep in camp, with the exception of three or four occasions at the beginning of my work there when as a non-commissioned officer I had to be on duty there during the night.

(Grill-Direct)

Q How do you explain the testimony of witnesses that you went through the camp with the Camp Commander Chmielewski, picked through the prisoners, out of their bags, beat them, and so on?

A I say that this entire testimony is not true and not correct. I myself was never in Camp Gusen during the night hours between 1 and 2 o'clock. Every block leader who was on duty should know that. In the evening at 6 o'clock my duties were over and I went home.

Q How often were you duty officer in camp?

A The non-commissioned officer on duty had nothing to do with the protective custody camp, he is solely responsible for the area of the SS barracks and the area of headquarters staff.

Q Was there also a similar setup for the prisoners' barracks?

A Yes, the block leader on duty.

Q They relieved each other in the blocks?

A The block leader on duty, the moment he became block leader on duty, had nothing to do with the blocks any more--that is wrong, I got mixed up there. The block leader was on duty at the jourhouse from one evening until the next evening, and then in the evening after the proper sign had been given, he went through the blocks in order to find out whether the lights had been turned out and the fire had been killed.

PRESIDENT: The court will take a recess until 1:30.

(Whereupon at 1155 hours the court recessed until 1330 hours.)

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(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1330 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May the record show that all the 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.

WILHELM GRILL, an accused, resumed the stand in his own behalf, and being reminded that he was still under oath, testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Mr. Grill, how was your duty relationship to Chmielewski, and in connection with that, your personal relationship?

A I personally had nothing to do at all with Chmielewski because the postal office was not under the jurisdiction of the security camp administration, but under a postal office in Mauthausen. Chmielewski wanted quite often to have reports about incidents in the postal office. However, I did not give him any reports, and I was repeatedly reprimanded for that.

Q And because of that, what personal relationship existed between you and him?

A Chmielewski did not like me very much.

Q In what manner was it shown?

A Chmielewski took every occasion to reprimand me, and he tried to have me punished because of a few cases.

Q What were your personal relationships to the other personnel of the administration?

A I knew the other members of the administration only in their

duty status, or I used to have conversations with them when they came occasionally to the postal office. I went to the non-commissioned officer's home at the most two or three times a year. The rest of my time, after 1800 hours, I spent at home.

Q Mr. Grill, how do you explain the fact that several persons, including some of the witnesses here, have described you as the right hand of Chmielewski?

A I never was the right hand of Chmielewski. I was never called upon by him to perform any duties, and I did not have any personal contact with him. I think that can be shown from an incident which happened late one evening when I worked late in the post office, that Chmielewski came and smashed all the windows in my post office, and shot the lights out with his pistol.

Q Mr. Grill, did you ever hear that Chmielewski himself, together with some other person, went at night through the barracks?

A I heard that.

Q In connection with what details?

A When I, in the morning, came to my office in the mail room, from my apartment, the inmates working for me would tell me about incidents which had taken place during the night. On such an occasion I heard that one evening after a non-commissioned officers' party had taken place, Chmielewski went, very drunk, through the barracks and had beaten inmates. However he was never alone.

Q What other names were mentioned in that connection?

A In that connection the names of SS Master Sergeant Yentzsch, and the SS Technical Sergeant Kluge.

Q Did you know, or were you closely acquainted with these people?

A No, I did not have any close contact with them either, because

my work did not bring me in any close contact with them. I knew them only when they came to my postal office and had a conversation with me. I want to explain in this connection that what I am saying here now about these incidents, is only heresay, which was brought to me by the inmates.

Q Mr. Grill, it is logical to speak of one person as the right-hand man of another person, when this person is in very close contact with the second person, if he works together with him in the same office or in the neighboring office. Did you yourself ever live or spend any time in such close physical contact with Chmielewski?

A No, my place of duty has never been in close vicinity of Chmielewski's place of duty. In his vicinity were only the officers of the roll-call leaders, labor commitment leaders, and the office of clerk of the security camp.

Q What names were there in the course of the time?

A During the time of Chmielewski, the head clerk was SS Master Sergeant Yentzsch, and during the time of Seidler was Schmidt. The labor commitment leader and roll call leader, during the time of Chmielewski, were Brust, Kluge, Damaski, and Knockl.

Q Can you give for the court, a picture of incidents which caused the death of inmates in the years in Camp Gusen I? By the death of natural causes of death of unnatural causes?

A There are various kinds of cases of death which I would like to enumerate. First of all death caused because of sickness. Secondly, death caused by spotted fever which was quite prevalent in the camp. Of spotted fever many SS men died also. Inmates shot while trying to escape. Inmates who were killed by the electrical current. And according to

heresy, inmates who were bathed, and inmates who were gassed. I call attention to the fact that I give this testimony from hearsay, and not from my own knowledge.

Q You do apparently forget the cases of death caused by executions.

A Yes, executions and hangings were carried out also. I myself participated in one hanging.

Q Do you mean when you say participated, you attended, or did you help execute?

A On this execution all members of the guard company as well as the head administration and headquarters staff had to be present at this execution, and I myself was there by order, and was a spectator. The camp commander, Ziereis, was personally present at this execution.

Q What kind of sicknesses were prevalent?

A As I mentioned before, spotted fever.

Q Did cases of malnutrition happen?

A Also cases of undernourishment. I do not know on what other sicknesses inmates died, only the camp physician could answer that.

Q Did you participate in any executions in a sense that you helped to carry out these executions?

A I never participated in any executions except the one I have mentioned before, where I was a spectator.

Q Now coming to the death bathings, which were mentioned during this trial, what do you know about these baths?

A I personally never participated in any way, form, or manner, in any of these bathings during my entire time of duty. However, I did hear from the inmates who worked in my postal office that such cases were supposed to have happened.

Q Did you learn in that manner also from Krause?

A Yes.

Q How long after such an incident would you learn about it?

A He told me about it after one or two days.

Q Including details?

A No, without details.

Q Did you ever learn details?

A No, in connection with that I am not aware of any details.

Q What about the procedure previous to the bathing, especially as concerns the selecting of the inmates for the bathing?

A No, I don't know anything about it and I assume that the entire incident was handled by the security camp leader and the physician. Concerning such matters other SS men were never consulted or informed. It is my assumption that only the selected circle around Chmielewski knew about it and performed these matters. After Chmielewski's time when Seidler took over the inmates didn't talk about such things any more and I don't think that it happened to Seidler.

Q Did you ever take occasion to talk about these matters with comrades?

A I already stated that I didn't have any contact with the close circle around Chmielewski and that I never talked about matters of that kind. Testimony I am making here concerning these incidents is based solely on the hearsay I heard from my inmates.

Q The witness Kowalski claims to have seen you three times participating in such bathing at the end of 1941 and beginning of 1942. What do you have to say about that?

A I brand that testimony as untrue and want to say the following. Because I wasn't under the jurisdiction of Chmielewski but was a postal employee I was prohibited from entering the security camp. Only in October, 1942 did I receive a pass with photograph attached that entitled me to enter the camp. Before October, 1942 if I wanted to get into the camp I was accompanied by a block leader to the point within the camp where I wanted to go.

Q Do you think it possible that a case of mistaken identity might exist?

A I am led to believe that because there was an SS Tech Sergeant Gross who was my size and had a swathy appearance like I. He belonged to the closer circle around Chmielewski. Chmielewski took this SS Tech Sergeant Gross with him to Hertogenbosch in Holland.

Q Were you ever in the bath at all, Mr. Grill?

A I personally do not know the bath. I have never been back there where the bath is. As a matter of fact I was never so far back in the camp where that bath was supposedly located.

Q Did you ever hear anything about who selected the inmates for the bathing?

A No, I don't know anything about that.

Q What did you hear about gassings which are supposed to have taken place in the camp?

A I only heard about gassings here at Dachau during the interrogation. The same is true as far as the gassing of 156 Russians is concerned. In my postal office I had a file of inmates who were allowed to write letters. The Russians were not included in the category of inmates who were allowed to write letters, therefore I could never ascertain by my file whether or not large numbers of Russians suddenly disappeared.

Q What would have happened to you and other SS men in the camp if you had not carried out superior orders?

A We were bound by orders which came down from the Reichs Fuehrer SS Himmler or from the camp commander. We just simply had to carry out such orders without making many questions