

Q The other SS non-coms who were in the camp, were they Reservists as in contrast to the group around Chmielewski who were active SS men?

A As far as I remember the group around Chmielewski consisted solely of active SS men.

Q For example, was any one of your co-accused here involved?

A Of the ones who sit here, none was there.

Q Did you expressly observe at any time that the accused Grill was together with those people, and if so, when?

A No, I never saw Grill in the camp except when he went to the post-office.

Q Where did he spend his evenings?

A I rarely saw Grill in the evening because he went home most of the time.

Q And if he was there, with whom was he together in the non-commissioned officers' club?

A It happened so rarely that he was there that I am not able to remember with whom he sat; if he was there he drank a glass of beer and disappeared again.

Q What duties were given to you by Chmielewski when you reported to him?

A First of all I was given the detail well construction Weihe.

Q How long did that last?

A I was in charge of that detail approximately the beginning or the middle of November, 1941.

Q Concerning that time can you relate any special incidents which happened?

A How am I to understand that?

Q Whether or not any particular or peculiar incidents happened in the

detail or to you while you were in charge of the detail?

A Yes.

PRESIDENT: Is the counsel for the defense covering the period for 1941 in that question?

DEFENSE COUNSEL: No, I tried to find out if he covered 1941 and--

PRESIDENT: The court isn't concerned with the year 1941 with reference to the evidence of the witnesses.

QUESTIONS BY DOCTOR KLUGE:

Q When did the detail well construction end?

A The beginning or the middle of November, 1941.

Q What duties were given to you then?

A I was then made the interpreter of the entire camp Gusen I by Chmielewski.

Q How long did that last?

A That lasted until the end of March or April, 1942.

Q Were you interpreter for the Russian language, or also for the Polish language?

A For both languages.

Q Will you please explain to the court briefly what your duties consisted of?

A In criminal cases I was called into the SS office to act as an interpreter. In the political department I had to interpret in cases concerning divorce cases or inheritance cases, also criminal investigations, but my main work was to interpret to the work details the work they had to do, and how to use their tools, et cetera.

Q Did you hear of or see any particular incidents during the performance

of the last mentioned duty?

A I can't say so.

W What was then done with you?

A When at the end of September or beginning of October, 1941, the Russian prisoners of war arrived in Camp Gusen I, my main work was to interpret in the Russian block and in the Russian work details.

Q Do you mean 1941, or 1942?

A 1941.

Q Tandler, the court has just stated that the court is not interested in any incidents which took place in 1941. I want to know of you what did you do after your duties as the interpreter for the entire camp, after it ended?

A In the end of March or the beginning of April, 1942, I am not sure of the exact date, I was given the job of detail leader in the industry yard. I would like to emphasize that regardless of the detail I was on I was called to do translations and interpretations at any time, regardless of what my regular work was.

Q What was the detail you were on?

A I had several details. I was in charge of the breeding of angora rabbits. I was in charge of the cabinet makers shop. I had the charge of all construction material. And especially I had to watch out that the construction material being stored there was not carried away by the inmates and burned.

Q How long did this duty last?

A Approximately the end of June, the beginning of July. Then the young Russians arrived in Gusen I.

Q 1942?

A Yes, 1942.

Q Please always mention what year you are referring to. Where did the young Russians come from, and how many of them were there?

A The young Russians came from Mauthausen, and there were approximately three hundred to four hundred.

Q What block were they billeted in?

A They came into Block 24.

Q And who was put in charge of the block?

A SS Technical Sergeant Kluge was put in charge of the block and I was there as the interpreter. However SS technical Sergeant Kluge remained as the block leader for only about three or four weeks because he was then again given the job of the labor commitment leader.

Q And who was made block leader?

A I then was the block leader as well as the interpreter of the young Russian block.

Q That was from when until when?

A I was in the Russian block from the end of June, the beginning of July, 1942, until May, 1944, with the exception of the time from November, 1943 until March, 1944, during which time I was sick.

Q In that time did executions of young Russians take place?

A Of the young Russians who were in Block 24, none was ever executed.

Q How was your personal relation to the young Russians?

A I can state like a father to his family.

Q Did you hear of a term which expressed such a relationship in the camp referring to you?

A From the Russians themselves I never heard that, but from my SS buddies.

Q What did you do on an average day with the young Russians?

A In the morning a half hour after roll-call, I marched with them while they were singing to their place of work. There I handed them over to the SS man who was a skilled worker, under whose care they worked as apprentices to become stone cutters.

Q What kind of songs did you have them sing?

A From the beginning they sang German and Russian songs.

Q Were the Russians' songs allowed? Was it allowed to continue singing the Russian songs?

A No. SS Captain Schmielewski strictly forbid the singing of Russian songs after I had come in with them the second time. After that we only now and then sang Russian songs.

Q What was the time of work of the young Russians?

A The young Russians worked a shorter time than the older inmates.

I already mentioned that we marched out a half hour after roll call. That is a half hour after all the other inmates, and returned a half hour before the other inmates. On Wednesday afternoon and Saturday afternoon they were free from work. On Wednesday afternoon I drilled them in marching while they were singing or did athletics, and on Wednesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, I went with them to the movie. On Saturday afternoon they were altogether free.

Q Why did you do this marching drill at all?

A First of all because I could march better with the boys and secondly because the boys liked it.

Q How did they show that they liked it?

A When I came to the block and told them that they had to learn another song, and I am saying had to because I received the order from Schmielewski that the Russians had to sing while marching, they would come, ten or twenty of them who spoke German, came to me and offered to write the German words

in Russian letters so the others would be able to read and pronounce the German words.

Q Was any other drill administered besides marching, like crawling or climbing or anything like that?

A No.

Q What relationship existed between the young Russian Block and the Blocks of the Russian P W's?

A The young Russians were prohibited to go into other blocks. They were not allowed to get in contact with the older inmates, and they were not wearing the striped prisoners' uniform. They were clothed in captured Belgian uniforms, trousers, jackets, overcoats, and caps.

Q Did a camp for Russian P W's exist, and if so, which blocks were they in?

A Yes, there existed a Russian P W camp, blocks 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Q Were they fenced off from the rest of the camp?

A Yes, there was a wire fence around them. There also was a guard posted, and no one, neither an inmate nor another block leader, with the exception of the block leader of those Russian blocks, were permitted to enter.

Q You yourself weren't permitted to enter either?

A -Yes, I was allowed in for the purpose of interpretation.

Q Did you have anything to do with the administration of this P W camp during your stay in Gusen?

A I had nothing to do with the administration of these four blocks which were called the Russian Camp. Neither did I have any authority of any kind inside that P W camp.

Q In conclusion, can it be said that you had no organizational connection with the Russian P W camp, during your entire stay in Gusen?

A No, as I already stated, I was only used as an interpreter in the Russian P W camp. Now and then when one of the block leaders was not present, I had to attend the roll call of such blocks, or supervise the distribution of the food.

Q Who was in charge of the Russian PW Camp?

A In charge of the Russian Camp was SS Tech Sergeant Kneckl. Block leader and detail leader in the stone quarry were SS Staff Sergeant Becker and Kuehtreiber.

Q Who else?

A Later there was another block leader added. His name was Smernov. He was a Russian. He had formerly been a Captain of the Cossacks. He was also used as an interpreter there because many times was outside on work details.

Q At this time I would like to ask you where were you born?

A I was born in Lodz, Poland.

Q How much of your time did you spend in Lodz? How much of your life did you spend in Lodz?

A Until 1904, until I was 14 years old.

Q What language or languages did you speak until you were 14 years old?

A I spoke Polish perfectly. For the Russian I got a basis. The rest of my Russian I learned as a prisoner of war.

Q That was in the first world war?

A Yes, from 1916 until 1918.

Q In this Russian PW Camp there, especially in Block 16, a lot of bad things, for example, gassings are supposed to have happened. What do you know about it?

A Lately I have heard a lot of stories about it, but at the time I was on duty I neither saw nor heard anything about these things, neither from an inmate nor from an SS man.

Q Did you hear the testimony of the witness Kowalski,

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who related that 156 Russians had been gassed in Block 16 and that he was given the number by the clerk of the block itself?

A Yes, I heard the accusation.

Q What do you say to it?

A I already stated and emphasize that I neither was present at a gassing Block 16 nor did I hear anything of it during my time of duty in Camp Gusen. I only heard about these gassings after I had become a prisoner.

Q Mr. Tandler, do you remember to have stood in front of Block 16 together with Seidler, Brust, Jentzsch, and Slupinski at any time at all and that Slupinski at the time wore a Tyrolean outfit?

A If that had been the case I should be able to remember it, especially so because the name Jentzsch was mentioned in that connection, and I do know that I never stood in the camp anywhere together with Jentzsch.

Q Do you remember an occasion where either Block 13, 14, 15, or 16 was deloused and gas was used for this delousing procedure?

A Yes, I do remember.

Q Will you describe that incident as well as you remember it?

A I do remember one evening on which the block leader Knockl told the block eldest that the prisoners were to clear the barracks early the next morning, because the barracks was to be disinfected and gas was to be used for it. I do not

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remember to which blocks these inmates were supposed to go.

Q Do you remember any occasion where all openings, that is, windows, doors, any cracks in the walls, in any of the Blocks 13, 14, 15, or 16 were closed--were hermetically closed?

A Yes, when gas was used for disinfection the windows were sealed with strips of paper. I did not see how they were attached to the windows, but I saw after this disinfection that some of the windows still had these paper strips.

Q Did you at any time, possibly while you were on leave, talk to bodies who had to do with Russian prisoners of war?

A No.

Q Or within the camp? Within Gusen 1?

A In Gusen 1 only with those who were on duty in the Russian prison camp.

Q Were the hygienic conditions under which these Russian prisoners of war arrived and the conditions under which they lived in the blocks ever discussed?

A Yes, I myself saw how they arrived.

Q How was their condition?

A They were badly undernourished.

Q And as far as vermin is concerned?

A They also had vermin. I want to mention that these Russian prisoners of war were sent to Gusen 1 from a front collection camp and that there they had been very poorly fed and came to Gusen 1 in a bad state of undernourishment.

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