

on the wooden horse twenty strokes, did you not?

A I heard it.

Q Is that correct?

A No. It is all a lie.

Q You also heard him testify you drowned him?

A I heard it.

Q Is that correct?

A No.

Q You heard Gomez, Pedro Gomez testify in connection with the young prisoners 15, 16 and 17 years old, that he saw you beat them when they were not in a good formation and wouldn't march in a good formation and wouldn't sing and that they were marched almost continually as a punishment and many of them died as a result of this treatment.

Did you hear Pedro Gomez testify to that?

A I heard his story.

Q He had to work in a rock quarry, had to push rock and this caused a good deal of Tb, that is, tuberculosis. Did you hear that?

A Yes, I remember that.

Q They were of a young age and because of the hard work they were to get an extra meal, but the block leader saw they never got the extra meal?

A I heard this testimony but it is not correct. The opposite is true.

Q "In fact, they would often steal their regular meal," continuing with the testimony of Gomez. Did you hear that?

A I heard this but it is also not correct.

Q Did you also hear Gomez testify to the fact that Tandler would never be called "Father of Russia" by the Russians?

A I heard it.

Q Did you hear this same witness say they would make soap from the bodies, right after he was testifying with reference to what was going on and that others who had tatoos on their skin would have it removed and it was preserved and also that the gold dental work was removed?

A I heard the testimony of this witness.

Q Is that correct or not?

A I never heard anything about it -- about such fairy tales.

Q You heard the testimony of Kamienski who testified, "I know Tandler. When Russian prisoners of war arrived in Camp Gusen in November or December 1941 he took charge of the prisoner of war camp." Also, "there were about 2,000 PWs in the first transport. These prisoners of war went to work for the first time on the 2nd of January 1942 and of the entire transport only a few who had been ina dispensary were alive in March." Did you hear that testimony?

A I remember this testimony.

Q Is it correct?

A No.

Q Continuing the testimony of Kamienski. "Tandler had sole control over all the PWs although they worked in other details. He translated into Russian the instructions of the foreman in those details where the Russians worked. I know that Tandler does not speak Russian very well, and I conclude from the fact that the Russians apparently did not understand the instructions and did not carry out the work in the manner they were instructed and because of that Tandler beat these Russians in a terrible manner and kicked them with his feet. I especially observed the mistreatment on the first day these Russians went to work. The Russians who had to remain in quarantine for a period of six weeks received only about one half as much in food rations as we received. One couldn't be surprised that everyone of them looked around on the way trying to find something to eat." Do you remember that?

A I remember this testimony.

Q Is that correct?

A Entirely wrong story.

Q Now, you testified you saw these Russians coming back with garbage in their pockets which they ate, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Did you hear the testimony before this court some of these prisoners were so hungry that they ate manure?

A I heard the testimony.

Q Is that correct?

A No.

Q Do you know how many inmates died in Gusen in 1942?

A I can't give you the exact figure. I am in no position to know it, but during the fall of 1941 and the winter of 1942 and the spring of 1942, we had the most cases of death we ever had in Gusen.

Q During your stay at Gusen did you ever hear of the death of these inmates by bathing?

A I heard about it.

Q While you were at Gusen?

A While I was in Gusen.

Q What did you hear?

A I heard that invalids were given baths and many of them died on account of it.

Q What kind of baths were they given?

A As I said before, I didn't see it myself, only heard about it and I heard they got cold baths.

Q Did you hear whether many of them died on account of these baths?

A I can't give you any figure but there must have been quite a number because I heard it quite often.

A I remember this testimony.

Q Is that correct?

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Q Did you hear who was in charge of these baths?

A I mentioned already at the beginning of my testimony here in court that Chiemelowski and his group usually committed these crimes at night after they had drunk a lot of alcohol.

Q In connection with the bathing of these invalids?

A Which connection?

Q I asked you a question, "Did you hear who was in charge of these baths," to which you answered "The crimes were committed after drinking," and I am simply trying to ascertain whether these bathings were due to drunken orgies.

A To a large part, yes. I like to point out that Chiemelowski and his group after great drinking used to give not only these cold baths, but other things too.

Q Did the capos punish any of these prisoners, particularly the Russian prisoners?

A I never saw anything like that and I wouldn't have let them do it if I had seen them.

PRESIDENT: Any further questions. Apparently not. The witness is excused.

(Whereupon the witness was excused and resumed his seat in the dock.)

DEFENSE COUNSEL: The defense calls Herbert Hartung who will testify in his own behalf. His rights have been explained to him and he desires to testify under oath.

PRESIDENT: You may make a sworn or unsworn statement on which you may be cross examined.

ACCUSED HARTUNG: I would like to testify under oath.

PRESIDENT: You are advised that the court may draw such inferences as the circumstances justify from your refusal to answer or your failure to take the stand in your own behalf. Are you now willing to testify?

ACCUSED HARTUNG: Yes. 434

PRESIDENT: The witness will be sworn.

HERBERT HARTUNG, an accused voluntarily took the stand in his own behalf, and after being duly sworn testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR KLUGE:

Q Mr Hartung, give the court your full name, residence, nationality and profession.

A Hartung, Herbert, born 7th of June 1906, residence Neukirchen, Germany. German nationality, merchant.

Q What was your profession in 1939 when the war broke out?

A In 1939 I had a business of my own.

Q Before that did you have anything to do with military service?

A No, only in 1933 I joined the motorized SS.

Q When were you drafted?

A On the 27th of March 1940 I was drafted to Vienna.

Q Which unit?

A 13th SS regiment.

Q Did you volunteer or were you drafted?

A I was drafted.

Q How long did you stay there?

A I was assigned to the motorized detachment of the SS regiment on account of my drivers' licenses and until the beginning of May 1940 I stayed in Vienna.

Q With the usual training?

A Yes, I received the usual recruits training.

Q Where did you go from there?

A At the beginning of May 1940 a guard company was organized out of the SS regiment.

Q And you were a member of it?

A The motorized company had to transfer most of the men because it was the strongest unit and I was one of them.

Q And where did the guard company go?

A On the 14th of May 1940 we moved in the direction of Gusen with a strength of 170 men.

Q Under whose supervision did you go in Gusen?

A We were attached to the guard company as a guard company. The commander of the battalion was at that time Habben.

Q And the leader of the four companies?

A The leader of the companies was the SS Captain Habben and the leader of my company was SS First Lieutenant Konradi.

Q How long did you stay with this guard detail?

A After a few days we received a medical examination and since I had some heart trouble I was sent to the SS hospital, Dachau.

Q And how long did you stay there?

A I stayed in Dachau four weeks and then retransferred to Gusen as unfit for guard duty.

Q And where did you report there?

A Back to the Third Company and I did company duty there in the office.

Q For how long?

A On the 3rd of August 1940 I was transferred as a telephone operator in the central office.

Q Inside or outside the protective custody camp?

A Outside.

Q How long did you work as a telephone operator?

A My work as telephone operator lasted until June 1941.

Q During this time were you allowed to enter the protective custody camp?

A No.

Q What kind of duty did you perform while you were telephone operator in the central office?

A During this time my only duty was twenty-four hours in the telephone office and twenty-four hours off.

Q Why was this job in the telephone office discontinued?

A In the officers quarters a corporal had been transferred and a suggestion was made I should become orderly.

Q How long did you do this job?

A Until March 1942 I had this job as an orderly in the officers' quarters.

Q Approximately nine to ten months?

A Yes.

Q How long did your job as orderly last during the day, how late in the night?

A We were on duty, two of us, sometimes three of us, and we were on duty from 6 o'clock in the morning until 12 o'clock at night, or even 2 o'clock in the morning.

Q Mr. Hartung, an orderly in officers quarters is used to know the customs of his officers as well as a valet is to the habits of his master. Which of the variations are you able to make in regard to Chmielewski?

A SS Captain Chmielewski didn't make any distinction between SS men and prisoners.

Q Please, will you explain this a little more in detail what you mean by that?

A When he was drunk, he wasn't afraid of anything. During the summer he put myself once in the refrigerator. Twenty minutes later a comrade of mine liberated me from there. He didn't know what all the knocking was doing. For three days thereafter I was sick with a bad cold. Otherwise I haven't any other injury. That's one example I can give about what happened to me.

Q In camps of this character, Mr. Hartung, quite a group assembles around a leader. Who belonged to this group in Gusen I?

A The names I mentioned before. It usually happened late at night in the home of the non-commissioned officers; that was Kluge, Jentzsch, Chmielewski. Right now I don't remember the other names, but there are two or three more. Erust.

Q How large was the group?

A Five to six men.

Q What were the usual pictures which could be seen in these officers

according to the groups, I mean in accordance with the groups which used to assemble there?

A The groups assembled there quite often.

Q I mean on one side was a group of Chmielewski's, and on the other side--

A No, they always came together. Chmielewski and the ones I mentioned before were always together.

Q Did the other non-commissioned officers come together also with these men whom you mentioned before?

A Yes, but they were really started and got rough then when the others disappeared.

Q According to your observations, did these men who were around Chmielewski, were these the same people who were around Chmielewski during duty hours also?

A They were always the same who were on duty and off duty.

Q When this group of Chmielewski left the officers quarters at night, drunk, didn't you take an interest the next morning as to what this group had done after they left the officers' quarters?

A I closed my canteen and went home and was glad that I was left alone.

Q I mean whether on the next day you heard what these fellows had done.

A Yes, once I heard that they went inside the camp and took a dog along.

Q Otherwise you didn't hear anything?

A Otherwise I didn't hear anything, and that they broke the furniture in the officers' quarters.

Q Did you ever see the accused Grill in connection with this group in the quarters of the non-commissioned officers?

A No, he was never present.

Q Was he very often in officers quarters at all?

A Once in a while he came to officers quarters for a glass o beer, and then as I said before, he disappeared.

Q Around what time as far as you can remember?

A That was during the general evening meal of the non-commissioned officers.

Q Where he participated?

A No, he didn't get his foot there.

Q And where did he eat?

A I don't understand?

Q Where did he eat?

A Probably he ate at home.

Q What happened then with you in March, 1943?

A In March, 1943, for the first time I got in contact with the Protective Custody Camp itself.

Q Why were you transferred as an orderly?

A That was a time when the young active SS men were transferred to front line duty.

Q Until that time, until March, 1943, had you been in camp at all in any connection?

A No, I had no entry to the camp at that time.

Q And you really didn't enter the camp?

A I couldn't enter the camp. It would have been impossible for me.

Q What were your duties then, starting March, 1943?

A I was assigned as block leader and assistant detail leader for the stone quarries.