

Q From March, 1943, until when?

A From March, 1943, until September with a few interruptions, I was in the stone quarry Kastenhof, September, 1943.

Q How large was the detail in your charge?

A There were approximately four hundred to five hundred prisoners.

Q How did such a detail move out in the morning and return to camp in the evening?

A It left the Protective Custody Camp in the morning through the second so-called Peek-docr, after the large guard chain had taken its post before.

Q Did special guards accompany the detail?

A These details were never accompanied by a guard.

Q Why?

A The large guard chain was already in possession, and the working place was known and automatically when they left the camp they moved to their work place.

Q Did any special incidents occur on your work detail between March, 1943, and September, 1943?

A No, I can't say that, because I wasn't there very often. I was with a detail at that time only as an assistant detail leader.

Q Mr. Hartung, you heard the testimony of the witness Kowalski about a sabotage act which allegedly was committed by an American prisoner in the winter of 1943 to 1944.

A Yes, I heard that.

Q Where were you in the winter of 1943-1944?

A From September, 1943, I had the stone quarry Gusen, and at the same time I was detail leader of the newly established prisoners' fire department.

Q What were your duties as detail leader of the prisoners' fire department?

A As detail leader of the fire brigade, I was responsible for the entire camp, including the barracks, as far as fires were concerned. Furthermore training and instructions for the personnel of the fire brigade, sports, gymnastics, also, because at that time in September, 1943, we also received motorized fire equipment.

Q Was this now a permanent job which took all day?

A All forenoon, nearly until noon-time. I had to take care of matters of the fire department. At noon-time I went out to the stone quarry and took care of the noon roll-call. And I wasn't alone in the stone quarry. Others were led there too as detail leaders. In the spring of 1944, I had received two Master Sergeants who had just been transferred to Gusen, as detail leaders.

Q And you said in addition to the fire brigade you which detail?

A In addition to the fire brigade, I had the stone quarry Gusen.

Q Who was taking care of your work in the stone quarry Gusen when you were busy with matters of the fire brigade?

A Usually nobody was out there, or another block leader went out there for a short while.

Q What were your duties when you were in the stone quarry, and for instance, air raid alarms were given?

A From 9 o'clock in the morning I kept myself in readiness, and as soon as the siren came, I went on the shortest way to the garage. In the meantime the prisoners, there were ten of them, had appeared already at the garage. We went on our vehicles and left the camp.

Q Was this neighborhood especially under danger of air attacks?

A In 1944 we had nearly every day without exception one air raid or at least two to three air raids a day. I left the camp with a fire brigade without any guard escorts, and then about two to two and a half kilometers

away from the camp. I took cover in a stone quarry which was out of use.

Q Do you know anything about the incident about which the witness Kowalski has testified here in court about the American citizens, the American prisoner?

A It is not known to me that at any time an American citizen was supposed to have been in Camp Gusen. When Kowalski testified about that I heard about it for the first time.

Q Do you remember that Szmura testified about the same incident?

A Yes.

Q Is his testimony the same as Kowalski?

A There are great differences in their testimony.

Q Please would you explain the differences?

A One of them, I don't know whether it was Szmura or Kowalski, said that Wolfram, the Capo, Schimmel, and Seidler appeared. Szmura mentioned the name, whereas Kowalski only spoke as of his neighbor. He should have known this man by name also.

Q Who of all the prosecution witnesses identified you, Mr. Hartung?

PROSECUTION: I object to this line of questioning. The record speaks for itself, and the court is getting a day to day copy of this record. We don't have to have witnesses testify as to what was said in the court when the court has the record before it.

DR. KLUGE: May it please the court, the question I have just propounded to the witness is supposed to serve the foundation for further questions, namely if the accused himself knew these witnesses when he was on duty at that camp. After all, it is the good right of the accused, because the very first time he heard those charges brought out by witnesses against him is here, he must be given the right to justify himself.

LAW MEMBER: I believe counsel for defense can go direct to the point and ask the witness what he knows rather than to ask him how many identified him.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Did you know the witness Kowalski, Szumura, and Szule, the witnesses who have identified you here in court?

A I don't know any one of these three men.

Q Did you know the witnesses Gomez, Lerdzinski, and Kamienski, who did not recognize you here in court?

A None of them.

Q Mr. Hartung, you have just testified that you didn't know at all that prisoners of American nationality had been in the camp. Do you know the case of an American citizen, a prisoner, who was in the bunker?

A No, I cannot remember it.

Q The corpse which supposedly was in the crematory later on?

A Absolutely new to me.

Q Was a key to the bunker ever in your possession, and if so, in which capacity?

A The block leader on duty has the key hanging in his block leader's room.

Q As far as the organization is concerned, did you have anything to do at all with the bunker in camp?

A It happened only when two, three, or four prisoners were brought in for interrogations. Then during the interrogations the other prisoners were locked up in cells.

Q Did you ever have anything to do with a prisoner who was in the bunker for eight, nine, or ten days, and first had only salt water and

bread, and afterwards nothing at all to eat?

A When a man came to the bunker, as far as I experienced it, he was only for one to two days at the most.

Q And furthermore, Mr. Hartung, there is talk about gassings which are supposed to have happened in 1945. The witness Kowalski speaks about them. Do you know anything about such gassings?

A No, I do not know anything about gassings in 1945.

Q When did you leave Camp Gusen 1, in 1945?

A In the middle of March, 1945, I was transferred to the newly organized SS tank regiment No. 1, as telephone operator.

Q Now, according to Kowalski's testimony you allegedly were standing near the block and were watching that none of the prisoners would escape gassing.

A This cannot be correct because especially at that time the fire brigade was alerted at all times. My place was always in the barrack.

Q Didn't you hear anything about gassings in 1945, even through hearsay?

A No, I didn't hear anything about gassings.

Q Mr. Hartung, you heard the testimony of Jaroszewicz?

A That was not a witness who was here.

Q No, that was a written statement.

A Yes, I heard it.

Q You know the contents of this statement?

A Yes, partly I still do remember it.

Q According to this statement you are supposed to have thrown five to ten prisoners into the electrically charged wire fence on orders of Chmielewski.

A No, as far as I can remember, Chmielewski left Gusen during September

or October, 1942, and went to the Netherlands.

Q Anyway, supposedly he came back in 1945, he also was not in the same assignment as before?

A That cannot be true, since from the time he left, until 1945, the SS Captain Seidler was protective custody camp leader.

Q What were your duties from September, 1944 until the end?

A From September, 1944, or really already from summer, 1944, until the end when I was transferred out, I was on duty practically only with the fire brigade.

Q Did you ever get special assignments in addition to these duties from the camp commander?

A Yes, transfer of prisoners to Mauthausen, or one had to leave the camp with a prisoner, or I replaced somebody for a short while in the officers' mess. In the meantime women were on duty in the telephone office, and I helped out there. I had a variety of duties.

Q In between didn't you make duty trips which kept you away for quite a while? When was that?

A Yes, in 1945 I had been ordered to Berlin for a period of three weeks to take special instructions in affairs of fire brigades and fire departments.

Q Mr. Hartung, the witness Jaroszewicz testified about an incident in August, 1944, where allegedly a large number of Russians were beaten on the roll call place. - Can you remember such an incident?

A No.

Q According to the testimony of this witness you are supposed to have participated in the beatings.

A That is absolutely untrue.

Q After the beating, forty dead Russians were lying on the roll-call place, in accordance with this witness's testimony.

A No, that is not true either.

Q During your time in Camp Gusen, did any incident like this, or a similar incident happen with more or less dead bodies?

A Nothing like that. I only can remember that during the time I worked in the stone quarry Gusen, we had an accident, and there were three dead prisoners because they were covered by sand and gravel. I can remember this incident very clearly.

Q Mr. Hartung, did you ever form an opinion of which cause of death most of the prisoners have died in Camp Gusen?

A Yes.

Q Anyway there must have been a very large number of cases of death in camp and this causes a man to think about it. Did you do that?

A Yes.

Q What was the result of your thought?

A The main guilt for the things which were done with the prisoners there in Gusen lies entirely with higher headquarters, starting with the Reich's Economic Administration Office, over the various administration leaders. And as far as Gusen itself is concerned, the managers Walter, and Wolfram, they always requested large numbers of prisoners and more prisoners.

Q For which plant?

A In order to keep the stone quarries going. In order to construct the large halls, but the food and clothing required for them was not supplied. At the end, the camp just supplied the prisoners, and they did their own work assignments out there. That is the only reason.

Q In 1942 when the crematory was constructed in Gusen, wasn't there

talk among the non-commissioned officers of the SS where the large number of dead bodies came from?

A At that time I had nothing to do with it. I was only a telephone operator at that time.

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1620 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The 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, the court interpreter that were present at previous sessions are present now. The witness Hartung is still on the stand.

HERBERT HARTUNG, an accused, voluntarily took the stand in his own behalf and continued to make the following sworn statement through an interpreter:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Mr. Hartung, do you know anything about the reason why the crematory was built in 1942, where the large number of dead corpses came from?

A At that time I was telephone operator, had nothing to do with the camp, but I can imagine that as always it had something to do with the bad food which the prisoners received in Cason, and we had bad weather conditions there also in June, July, and August when fogs are coming up from the Danube. It was a very unhealthy climate, and we also had to suffer from it.

Q Mr. Hartung, let's say from 1943 when you were in a better position to observe conditions in camp, how many cases of dead did you experience there which were not caused through undernourishment or things like that?

A I definitely cannot give any figures but it is correct that starting 1943 in comparison to the time from 1940 to 1942 conditions improved--that is correct.

Q Mr. Hartung, I meant with my question, from 1943 on, how many cases of deaths were not caused through undernourishment, not caused through disease, but through executions and other unnatural causes?

A I cannot make any statement about that.

Q How do you explain the fact that three of the witnesses who have testified here did not identify you at all?

A I cannot explain this either. They testified that they worked at the stone quarries two, three, and four years, and in spite of that, they did not identify me.

Q In accordance with your observations, in a case of mass beatings or better, mass killing of approximately 40 prisoners, wouldn't an incident like this be known among all prisoners in the entire camp?

A I did not understand this question.

Q Wouldn't an incident like a killing or beating of 40 prisoners in the open roll call place be known to the entire camp?

A Definitely, if something like that would have happened.

Q And also the names of the men who committed this crime?

A Certainly, the names, too.

DR. HUGG: No further direct examination.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTION:

Q If approximately 150 prisoners of war were gassed in the barracks, wouldn't that also be known in the camp?

A Certainly, it would have been known.

Q Would it have been known among all the SS personnel of the camp, too?

A I don't think so.

Q When were you first put on the fire fighting brigade?

A To the fire fighting brigade I actually came already in March 1943, but the motorised fire vehicles came to Gusen only in the fall of 1943.

Q And when did you finally leave Gusen?

A End of March 1945.