

were only out to organize food at all times. Since these people mostly left their work place and so hurt their co-prisoners, so these people drew the attention more than anybody else.

Q You heard the testimony of the witness with reference to pouring water on these men when they were so weakened they couldn't get off the ground?

A Yes.

Q Is that correct?

A No, I never saw it and I never did it myself.

Q You heard the testimony you walked around the barracks where the prisoners were being gassed to prevent anybody getting out of the barracks?

A Yes.

Q Is that correct?

A No.

PRESIDENT: The witness is excused.

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

DEFENCE COUNSEL: If the court please, I wonder if we could have our morning recess now. I have some witnesses to interview.

PRESIDENT: Court will take a recess.

(Whereupon at 1023 hours the court recessed.)

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1050 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: Let the record show all 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.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: If the court please, the Defense calls as its next witness Johann Folger.

JOHANN FOLGER, called as a witness by the Defense, being first duly sworn, testified through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DOCTOR KLUGE:

Q Mr. Folger, please give the court your full name, age, nationality, residence, and profession.

A Born on the 9th of February, 1906, Munich, German nationality, laborer.

Q What was your political faith after 1933? Did you understand the question, Mr. Folger?

PRESIDENT: Does he want to answer the question or not?

Q What was your political faith after 1933?

A I was sentenced to seven years and one month in the penitentiary since I had political arguments with other people who were members of the National Socialistic party about the Reichstag Fuehrer.

Q Did you serve these seven years in the penitentiary?

A Yes.

Q Until when?

A Until the 11th of April, 1940.

Q Were you then released?

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1050 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

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Q Until when?

A Until the 11th of April, 1940.

Q Were you then released?

A Yes, for one day.

Q And then?

A I was arrested again on the 12th of April, and I was sent to a concentration camp.

Q Of which year?

A 1940.

Q To which camp did you come?

A First to Dachau, then to Mauthausen, and then to Gusen.

Q When did you arrive in Gusen?

A On the 16th of August, 1940.

Q Who was a camp leader at that time?

A Protective custody camp leader Chmielewski.

Q What were your duties there as a prisoner?

A I was prisoner and Capo.

Q When did you become a Capo?

A 1942.

Q What did you do until 1942?

A I was a prisoner.

Q In which details?

A Pumping station, Settlingpoint, gravel pit, St. Georgen, dynamiting detail Ratzdorf, mine construction St. Georgen, cellar construction, 1, 2, and

3.

Q Which of these details were inside the protective custody camp?

A None of these details was inside the protective custody camp.

Q Do you remember that at that time Russian P W's were in camp?

A Yes.

Q Who was in charge of this special camp?

A The man in charge was the SS technical sergeant Knoekl.

Q Was there a special reason to send you to a concentration camp or was it the custom of the Gestapo to send a man who had served his term in the penitentiary, afterwards to be sent to concentration camps?

A I was told at police headquarters in Munich that the police force was not large enough to supervise me properly, and in order to avoid reoccurrence of 1918, men of my type had to be taken into protective custody.

Q What kind of triangle did you wear in the camp?

A A green triangle.

Q That means the triangle of the professional criminal?

A Yes.

Q In your opinion was this right or wrong?

A It was wrong.

Q Why?

A Because the greatest criminals of all times made me a criminal, although there was no reason given at all for it.

Q Were there any sentences ever made against you for real crimes, in accordance with the criminal code?

A I was once punished with one year and six months, but this had happened nine years before that.

Q Whom of the six accused men here, did you meet in Camp Gusen during your stay there?

A All six.

Q Can you give us the names of them? Who was number six for instance?

A SS Sergeant Heisig.

Q Number 4?

- A SS Technical Sergeant Tandler.
- Q Number 1?
- A SS First Lieutenant Schuettauf.
- Q Number 5?
- A I don't remember the name any more.
- Q Number 2?
- A SS Master Sergeant Grill.
- Q From 1942 on, you were a Capo. How were you employed then?
- A I had a small detail of twenty men.
- Q We talked about the Russian P W's, what was the name of the man in charge?
- A Knockl.
- Q Who was under Knockl?
- A The block leader Kuetreiber.
- Q Anybody else?
- A SS Sergeant Becker. Otherwise I wouldn't know anybody.
- Q Of which barracks did this special camp for Russian P W's consist of?
- A At that time it consisted of Block 13, 14, 15, 16, 24, 23, 22, and 21.

PRESIDENT: At what time?

- A That was starting October, 1941, until--it existed perhaps for a year.
- Q Was one of the accused here?
- A Yes, SS Technical sergeant Tandler.
- Q Could you make any observations about his duties there?
- A As far as I knew, he was a block leader and interpreter.
- Q What did you hear about him if you did hear anything at all?

That is, in connection with the Russian P W's?

A Among us prisoners, he was called "The Father of Russians."

Q You said among the prisoners, not among the SS men.

A Yes, among us prisoners.

Q What was the reason for that?

A I don't know why he was called that, but he was.

Q Was this man called that ironically or in which sense?

A I can't say that.

Q Did you hear anything bad about Tandler in connection with the Russians in this Russian P W camp?

A I didn't hear anything bad about them.

Q Nothing about mistreatments or killings of Russians?

A No.

Q Did you ever hear anything about gassings which allegedly took place in camp Gusen?

A Yes.

Q When and in which years?

A That must have been in January, 1943.

Q Who was camp commander at that time?

A Protective custody camp leader Seidler.

Q Chmielewski had left, when did he leave?

A Chmielewski must have left around the middle of 1942.

Q Did he ever return again?

A No.

Q Perhaps at the end of 1944 or the beginning of 1945?

A Yes, I saw him there as a civilian, but he wasn't Protective Custody Camp Leader any more.

Q What was his reputation in camp?

A He was probably the most terrible Protective Custody Camp Leader of Gusen.

Q And how was Seidler in comparison to him?

A Perhaps he was a little bit more quiet, but perhaps on the other hand he was more of a murderer.

Q What were the stories which went around in camp about Chmielewski?

A Chmielewski drank a lot, and when he was drunk, very often he visited the camp with block leader and labor service leaders, and then beat the prisoners.

Q Mr. Folger, just in between, why are you in Dachau now?

A I am charged with having beaten prisoners.

Q Are there other charges made against you?

A I don't know anything else.

Q Can you say anything else about Chmielewski about the manner in which he behaved towards his own SS men, if you are able to make any observation in this respect.

A I only know that SS major Obermeyer stopped these nightly visits so that Chmielewski and the block leaders couldn't visit the camp at night any more.

Q Were you able to make any observations about the group of SS men which usually surrounded Chmielewski?

A First Master Sergeant Jentzsch, Brust, Gross, Kluge, Kirchner, Streitwieser. These were the main persons around.

Q Was one of the accused here present there also?

A I don't remember. They might have been there, it is possible.

Q How were you able to make these observations?

A Because the persons I just mentioned also came to camp in the evening, and then met us prisoners.

Q Was one of the accused also there?

A No.

Q Did you especially see Grill there on one occasion?

A No.

Q Were such beatings discussed among the prisoners the next day?

A Yes.

Q As far as you can remember, were the same names mentioned then as you have given us just before?

A Yes.

Q How were your personal relations to the accused Grill, or how do you judge them?

A Personally I had nothing to do with Grill. I knew Grill only as a very nervous and vain man. The hate among the prisoners against him probably is a result of possibly he took out more of the packages than he was supposed to.

Q What was his reputation among his own SS men?

A As far as I know, he was not well liked.

Q Why?

A Because he was so vain.

Q Can you give us an example of that?

A I can remember that once an SS man told me that he, the SS man, intended to go bowling, and then he went to Grill's room and asked him to come along. There he called Grill by his first name, and Mr. Grill told this SS man that for him he was not Grill, but SS Master Sergeant Grill.

Q Did he behave in the same manner toward the prisoners in camp?

A Yes.

Q Where could you observe that?

A Once I was in the post office and Grill distributed the packages, and finally at the end after everything had been distributed, a few pieces of bread were left, and then he threw them through the door, in the group of prisoners. Grill knew well that the prisoners were hungry, and that they would jump for these bread crumbs.

Q Mr. Folger, in such a camp it is customary that people who are in an exposed position are called with certain nick-names, or also the same expressions are used in connection with their name. Now please tell me which nick-names or expressions were used in connection with Grill's name.

A The other prisoners called him the "Mail Robber."

Q Any other expressions?

A Otherwise I wouldn't know anything.

Q But not only special names, how was he judged, how was he considered by the other prisoners? Did they call him vain or whatever did they think of him?

A I can't say that.

Q What observations were you able to make in the post office itself?

A That Grill took out of the parcels more than was necessary.

Q Did you have any business in the post office?

A Yes.

Q From when until when?

A Because every evening I came to the post office with from fifty to one hundred prisoners.

Q Were you employed inside the post office, or not?

A Where the mail was distributed.

Q No, but I mean were you ordered by the post office to work there and help in the mail room?

A No.

Q If I understand you right, your observations were more or less made from the outside in front of the barrier?

A Yes.

Q And what was the talk about among the prisoners when you walked back with your fifty or sixty other prisoners?

A No, I didn't receive any packages, only for the men in my work detail. I received food from the things which were left over.

Q Left over, you mean the things which had been taken out of the parcels?

A Yes.

Q Do I understand you right that from the parcels which had been distributed the same day food had been taken out and was given out on the same day?

A Yes.

Q Was that the general custom in camp?

A Yes, those were the instructions given by the camp commander Ziercis, at the request of the SS Technical Sergeant Tandler.

Q And this suggestion of Tandler was made in the interests of whom?

A I had told Tandler that my men had to carry out heavy work, and he should tell about this to the commander.

Q And the camp commander followed this suggestion?

A Yes.

Q What kind of instructions were given then?

A I do not understand your question.