

Q What kind of instructions were then the result of this suggestion?

A The camp commander ordered that the men of my work detail had to be given preference in giving out food from these parcels.

Q Were these instructions made known to the prisoners in writing or orally?

A No.

Q Not at all?

A No.

Q Didn't it gradually become known among the prisoners that these instructions existed?

A No.

Q Are you absolutely certain about that? Do you remember very clearly this incident, Mr. Folger. By time it should have been known among all the prisoners that food was taken out of the parcels.

PROSECUTION: I object to the question on the ground that it is leading, in fact, the last several questions have been leading.

LAW MEMBER: Sustained.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Later on, did the prisoners talk about why things were taken out of the parcels?

A Yes, the commander Ziereis had ordered it, but he had stressed the point that only out of the packages which were too large should things be taken out.

Q How did you know this personally, Mr. Folger? Please speak a little bit more loud.

A All the prisoners had to fall out on the roll call-place when Ziereis published this order.

Q That means finally this order was published?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever speak with prisoners in camp who were very much dissatisfied with this order and the way it was carried out?

A Yes.

Q What did they say about it, whom did they make responsible for it?

A Everybody would have been willing to give something out of his package, but they all were very angry that the best parts of these packages were taken out.

Q Whose name was mentioned in this connection?

A The name Grill, SS Technical Sergeant Schmidt, and the old man Reichert wasn't well liked either.

Q Did he work in the post office also?

A Yes. On the other hand, people were well satisfied with SS Technical Sergeant Tandler, and the Labor Service Leader Fuessel.

Q Mr. Folger, I am still speaking about the post office. Did the prisoners have the suspicion that the things which were taken out of the parcels were not distributed among other prisoners?

A Yes.

Q So that means Grill's name was mentioned by everybody in regard to the distribution of parcels?

A Yes.

Q Did you hear at any time something about death baths which were given to invalids in camp Gusen?

A Yes.

Q What did you hear there, and for which years?

A The bathing of the invalids started in October, 1941, and was ended approximately in February or March, 1942.

Q Am I correct that all this happened under Chmielewski?

A Yes.

Q Since you said that Chmielewski stayed in Duceu until the middle of 1941?

A Yes.

Q Was it known who had given the order about these baths?

A As far as I can remember, it was said at that time that only three percent invalids were permitted in camp.

Q Did you ever make personal observations how prisoners, invalids, were taken to the bath house and did you see perhaps yourself, such baths?

A Yes.

Q Please, will you describe this to the court, and give also the dates?

A It must have been the end of 1941. There I saw the block eldest Schroegler took approximately thirty or forty prisoners to the prisoners' bath house, and then he returned alone, and I asked him what was being done there, and then he told me that these men would receive a bath there.

Q Were they taken there with clothes or naked?
A They had only their pants and an overcoat.
Q Please continue.
A At once I saw when the SS Technical Sergeant Brust and Jartsch went to the bath house. They went inside the bath house, and then the prisoners who were inside started to scream and then one could hear that they were beating them and approximately half an hour later they came out of the bath house again.

Q I didn't hear the date, Mr. Folger.
A That happened around the end of October 1941.
Q The second incident?
A No, the first incident.
Q And the second incident?
A The second incident was in November or December.
Q Though the first incident happened in October 1941, what were the reasons for you to ask Schroegler what had happened there?

A The first group was the last 48 Jews who were drowned there, and the second time they were invalids from Block 52, and there I heard for the first time that they were to be drowned there also.

Q Did you talk with Schroegler when he came back?
A Yes.
Q What did Schroegler tell you?
A Schroegler only said that, "They are going to be killed there".
Q Were these same words very clearly stated, Sir?
A These were the rough conditions of this camp.
Q Did Schroegler mention any names of people who participated there?
A No.
Q And how was it during the second incident?
A At that time I didn't take any interest in it any more because it happened nearly every day.

Q Was there also talk among the prisoners about it?

A Yes, they still spoke about it but they didn't make much of it any more.

Q Were names mentioned in this connection?

A The names of the 48 men--once I heard that Hans Lozen supposedly participated there also.

Q Do you remember any other times?

A No.

Q Beyond the two incidents which you have already mentioned, did you see or hear about any other incidents of this type in 1942?

A The talk about it continued until February, March 1942.

Q Did you testify that after Chaislewski had left the camp as camp commander, these death baths discontinued?

A I only know that once 17 Russians were supposed to have been drowned, and they were drowned through the camp camp Lozen.

Q In connection with such death baths, did you ever hear the name of anyone of the accused here in court?

A No.

Q Did you ever hear the name of Grill in this connection?

A No.

Q What was said about Grill otherwise in addition to the way he distributed the mail and the way he behaved towards the prisoners?

A He also had an easy hand while beating prisoners.

Q Did he ever appear in camp at night, and was he hanging around there?

A I didn't see him.

Q Was he living in camp at night and sleeping there?

A No.

Q Where did he live, if you should know?

A Grill lived in St. Goergen.

Q Do you know anything about whether Grill was the right hand man of the camp commander?

A No.

Q Who was that in your opinion and in the opinion of the prisoners?

A Probably Wentzsch was the right hand man of Chaislowski.

Q Did Grill's duties take his entire time during the day?

A I can't say that.

Q How was the business of the post office--was it very large?

A Yes.

Q In your estimate, how many parcels arrived there every day?

A That was between 14 hundred and 15 hundred to two thousand.

Q In which period of time?

A Daily.

Q And how many packages were distributed among prisoners every day?

A It must have been 2, 3, 4 hundred.

Q Who selected the men who were supposed to get these baths, if you should know anything about it?

A I assume that it was the camp physician.

Q Was this also discussed among the prisoners?

A No.

Q Did you ever testify in another trial about these bath incidents?

A Yes.

Q And in which trial?

A In the trial against Benjamin Sapiro. It is a Spanish name. I don't know how to spell it. Only against him or also against others; only with the interrogating officers.

Q Did I understand you right--against Sapiro in connection with

the death baths?

A Yes.

Q And your interrogations, were they in connection with the death baths?

A Yes.

Q And which names were mentioned there?

A In my case "Rust."

Q The only name?

A Yes.

Q Was the name of any of the men present here mentioned there?

A No.

Q Did you ever participate here in the lineup?

A Yes.

Q Together with any of the accused here?

A Yes.

Q Together with Grill?

A Yes.

Q Did you hear there that any accusations were made in connection with the baths?

A Yes.

Q By whom?

A I do not remember the name any more.

Q A witness of which nationality?

A I think it was Poland.

Q Was this an individual, or were there more of them?

A I can't state this definitely because the questions were asked by several of them.

Q That means they were questions, or were they accusations?

A They were more of accusations.

Q Did you hear anything about gassing incidents in Camp Ouseu?

A Yes.

Q Please, will you tell about this to the court with dates?

A It must have been in January, February 1943. There our barracks were gassed also and we were quartered in the block, and then during the night-time one shot was fired. Next day in the morning I met Cape Lozen and he told me, "Hans, you have to look at that". Lozen was there with a truck and 10 prisoners, and he went to Block 16 and he was supposed to pick up the corpses there for the crematory. I went there also and looked at the block and saw the whole matter. There were dead corpses in bed and in front of the door. There were approximately 16, 20 dead bodies.

Q Did you want to say anything about that?

A They had strangled each other. Some of them had strangled each other. Not many of us saw it.

Q Were any notes mentioned in connection with this incident, Mr. Folger?

A At that time SS Technical Sergeant Schmitt.

Q Any other names?

A Dauschke.

Q Any other names?

A And then the man who took care of the gassing from the lines. I do not remember his name exactly any more, something like Lyauliski.

MR. FOLGER: No further direct examination.

PROSECUTOR: No cross examination.

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

QUESTION BY THE COURT:

Q Yes testified that you heard that only three percent of invalids were permitted in camp?

A Yes.

Q Is it your understanding that all over the three percent who

were unable to work were exterminated?

A Yes.

Q About how many deaths do you estimate occurred at Gusen during your period of incarceration there?

A As far as I know, until March '43 there were 39,000.

Q Up to March of 1943?

A Until March '43.

Q What was the cause of most of these deaths?

A Bad food, not enough clothes, and the chicaneries, the mistreatments.

Q Did you have many deaths from spotted fever?

A Yes, we had many, but that wasn't so important.

Q Do you remember a Russian convoy of some 2,000 prisoners that arrived in Gusen somewhere in the latter part of 1941?

A October '41.

Q We have had testimony before the court that of these 2,000 Russians who arrived there in the latter part of '41 approximately, practically none of them were living at the end of March 1942 except those in the infirmary. Are you in a position to state whether this is correct or not?

A That should have been correct.

Q Do you know what they died from?

A Bad food; during the day they had to work in the stone quarries without socks, with wooden shoes; it was raining and snowing. They had very little clothes, only a pair of pants, a thin jacket; and at noontime they didn't get much to eat; they had to eat while standing up in the stone quarry; very long roll calls, and that is the reason why the people perished.

Q How long did they work during the day?

A From 7 until 12, then from 12 to 1 o'clock was the noon recess, and until 5 o'clock.

Q Did you ever hear of any executions at Gusen?

A I know only about two executions.

Q What were these?

A Two prisoners were hanged.

Q When was this?

A One case was in 1942, and the second incident was in '44 the last days of '44. In one case it was said he had tried to escape, and that he had been hanged in accordance with the decree of the Reichfuhrer SS Himmler, but the prisoner who was hanged told us, or better yet had somebody else tell us that he was innocent.

Q Did you hear anything about gassing in 1945?

A I wasn't at Gusen at that time any more.

Q Did you ever hear of the nickname for Fandler, "The Ukrainian".

A No.

Q What was this dynamite detail that you were on?

A It was my job to construct together with 10 prisoners a test tunnel and there about 10 bombs and two air mines were brought to explosion, in order to find out the result of how far underground installations could be destroyed in this manner.

Q Were you permitted to give any punishment to prisoners while you were a capo?

A No.

Q Not even for minor infractions?

A No.

PRESIDENT: Any other questions by the court?

QUESTIONS BY LAW MEMBER:

Q You testified that Grill threw some bread to the prisoners after distributing parcels knowing what would happen. What did happen?

A They started to fight for the bread crumbs.