

A I can not say that. I know that there was another officer who was very good looking. I do not know whether he was the superior officer. I said everything I could about General Bauch.

Q Did you have the correct information about the happenings in camp during these years, be it from what you heard from your comrades, be it from your own knowledge?

A Matters which I was informed about on this basis, I can not accuse those people. Only what I saw personally. I know, for instance, that the fire guard for one were drowning many people in barrels, but I did not mention it for the reason that I did not see it myself.

Q I think we get away from the topic in the answer to that question, Mr. Kowalski.

PROSECUTION: I object to that statement. I think it was a direct answer to the question that was asked.

LAW MEMBER: The interpreter didn't finish the translation of the answer. Let him finish that.

DR. KLUGE: All I wanted to know was whether in general you knew what was going on in the camp, be it from your own knowledge, be it from hearsay.

PROSECUTION: I don't object to that question that was just asked. I object to the statement that was made preceding it. I move that the statement preceding that question be stricken out--the statement by counsel preceding the question that he just asked. I object to the counsel characterizing that the answer was not responsive.

DR. KLUGE: Please, I don't attach much importance to that statement.

LAW MEMBER: Will the reporter read back that statement from her notes?

(Whereupon the statement referred to was read by the reporter as

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follows:

"I think we get away from the topic in the answer to that question, Mr. Kowalski.")

LAW MEMBER: The statement will be stricken.

The defense will proceed.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE: (Cont'd)

Q Do you know a name Vaessen?

A I heard that name.

Q In what connection?

A At the camp.

Q In your opinion, who was Vaessen?

A I heard his name. He must have been a Sergeant or an officer,

but I do not know exactly.

Q Being that you spent five years in Gusen, you must have known him as a company commander of one of the four companies just as you knew the accused Scheuttauf.

A Yes, in case he would have issued orders to the guards, in case he would have taken part in the executions, I would recognize him also. I saw him very seldom. I did not see him give any speeches to the guards, so I can not remember him very well.

Q You never saw him in front of the door through which the details were marching out in the same manner that you saw the accused Scheuttauf?

A I saw several officers standing there at that occasion, but they did not concern me, and I did not work with the companies. And General Baugh concerned himself with everything. He concerned himself with the executions and also with the transports that came to Gusen. He concerned himself with everything.

Q Would you give us the details in connection with which he

concerned himself with executions? Only he.

A I can testify to that during four and a half years I could observe 9 times at which the execution details were formed. Whenever names of people were called out at roll calls by the roll call leaders we knew that those people were to be shot or that they were to be brought to Mauthausen. We were greatly interested in those matters. The executions took place in the morning, but most of the time in the afternoon around 3 o'clock. I observed the guards being brought in who were standing the other side of the Joursaus. Then the people were brought to the spot between Block 7 and the kitchen and they had to undress partly. After the orders had been issued to the guards, the guards were taken by their guard commander to the execution square. Scheuttauf held a speech and once he led the detail there personally. And a certain Otto Voigt volunteered for that shooting.

Q If I were to tell you that Vaessen, whom I mentioned before, is accused of having carried out executions in this camp, what would you say to that?

A That is quite possible, but I did not see it.

Q But you said yourself that the whole camp concerned itself with such happenings. You want to say then that you have never seen Vaessen, whom you knew from the roll call square at such occasions?

A I don't remember exactly what he looked like. If I could see him again I might remember further incidents which are connected with him. At the camp there were 400,000 people who had been shot to death-- there were 40,000 people who had been shot to death, who lost their life.

PRESIDENT: Let's get the record straight on that. You made a statement there that over 400,000 people--and then you have changed

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that, did you, to 40,000?

INTERPRETER: It is 40,000, sir. I would like to correct it.

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, I would like to point out that he went on to say that 40,000 lost their lives, not that 40,000 were shot.

PRESIDENT: Let's see if we can get the record straight.

INTERPRETER: The correct statement is: Over 40,000 men lost their lives and a number of those was shot to death.

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE: (Cont'd)

Q And you don't know whether that Officer Vaessen has admitted that he had taken part in executions?

A I don't know anything about that. I did not talk to anyone about Vaessen or other SS men after I left the camp.

Q Then you do not know that whenever executions took place at the camp they were performed by Vaessen and SS Captain Riemer, who is dead now?

A I did not see that there were too many of these persons and I can not say anything about that.

Q Don't you find it surprising under those circumstances that you do not know an officer who has taken part on those executions and that you have not seen him taking part on those executions?

PROSECUTION: I object to that question on the grounds that there is no evidence in the case that the men mentioned in that statement ever did take any part in the executions.

LAW MEMBER: Objection sustained.

DR. KLUGE: I withdraw the question and reframe it.

Q As a last question, you do not know an officer Vaessen and you do not know anything about his participation at the executions

which happened in the years of 1940 to 1945?

A I did not see him and it was very certain that I heard his name mentioned. I might recognize him in case I could see him again and in that case I might remember other things that he did. He might have been there on days that I was not there.

Q During all those five years you only saw Scheuttauf whenever executions took place?

A In connection with executions I saw Scheuttauf 9 times and one time I saw him walk toward the execution. There were 7 to 8 executions near the crematory in the year 1944; and once I witnessed the execution by shooting of 7 young Poles.

Q Did you know Riemer? SS Captain Riemer?

A In case I would see him I might recognize him.

Q In the beginning of your statement you said that you frequently received packages. Didn't you see him at the post office, which he took over later?

A I only went to the post office when the packages arrived. The packages arrived in boxes. They were unloaded and then they were brought to the blocks and given to the separate prisoners. Correction, please, they were not brought to the blocks; they were distributed at the post office.

Q Then you did not know who was at the post office?

A I was not inside the post office. I was once interrogated there.

Q But you know that the accused Grill worked in the post office?

A I know that Grill was at the post office. Our comrade had to report there for interrogation. Grill looked over our letters. Grill was on Block 2. He was always present when the packages were opened

and he had to see what was contained in the packages.

Q And you did not know his successor?

A I do not know. In the evening when Grill was not there, there were other Block Leaders there. They used to change off.

Q Who censored the mail, Mr. Kowalski?

A Grill censored the mail at the post office, but I know that others did it also.

Q And how about the packages?

A I can testify to that I have seen Grill frequently at the room at Block 2, at which the packages were given out.

Q And from that you assumed that he was also censoring--that he had dealings with the censoring of the packages?

A Yes.

Q Can't you tell the court approximately how many packages arrived at Suzen for the prisoners during one month?

A That is difficult to say. Sometimes there were 100 to 120 packages a day. Sometimes there were 500.

Q Per month? Could it be true ---

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, the witness said something to the interpreter that wasn't translated into English.

PRESIDENT: Translate everything the witness said to the court.

A Sometimes there were packages--20, 50, 100, 150, up to 500.

Q Could it be true, then, that approximately 18,000 packages arrived per month?

A That is possible. It is possible that such a number of packages arrived, but prisoners only received one to two packages. The

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rest of the packages were distributed among the guards of the camp and among the capoes and among the prominent people. They were distributed among the block eldest, the capoes, and the prominent people.

Q You make that statement from your own knowledge or from hearsay?

A I tell you what I have seen.

Q You witnessed the distribution to others but the actual receivers, Mr. Kowalski?

A Yes. I shall correct that immediately.

Q But as briefly as possible, please.

A When the packages arrived there were lists made out. They were distributed among the different blocks, and on that list were contained the receiver and the package. But the prisoner received only one or two packages, and of the package there was only one-fourth or one-third left.

Q And where did the remainder go?

A The better food was distributed among the block leaders, the capoes, and also to the home of the commanders. The poor food was distributed among several details.

Q Since you spent five years there, I am sure that you know the postal directions that applied to the camp, isn't that true?

A I could not enter a place where I could see those directions. It was not permitted to us to have the least piece of paper in our pocket.

Q And weren't the postal directions posted upon each block so every man could read them?

A That was not the case at Gusen.

Q And not a monthly indoctrination by the block clerk?

A Yes, the block clerk explained things to us in the following manner: If you write to your family too frequently you receive 25 strokes

on the behind.

Q Do you know that there was a camp order that the heavy laborers who worked on details were to receive additional rations out of these packages?

A Yes, that was the case, but only for a short space of time.

Q Isn't it true, Mr. Kowalski, that since the year of 1942, without any interruptions, that order which I have explained in my last question had been enforced in camp?

A I did not notice that. That is not true. I must mention also then that when packages arrived from the Red Cross that those were opened also and that half of the contents were taken away.

Q During the time of service of the accused Grill, were Red Cross packages in existence already, and at what time did the Red Cross packages appear for the first time?

A The Red Cross packages arrived toward the end of the year 1943 and during the year 1944.

Q And you definitely do not know that part of the contents of those Red Cross packages were given to heavy laborers who worked in details, even though you worked with those heavy laborers for a great length of time?

A Yes, it occurred that out of the 2,000 people that worked at the stone quarry, 20 to 22 were searched out and part of the contents were given to them and also part to them who worked at the tunnels.

PRESIDENT: The court will recess until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

(Whereupon the court recessed at 1700 hours, 13 June 1947.)

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MORNING SESSION

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 0920 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that all the members of the court who were present at the previous session are present now, and in addition Lieutenant Colonel John T. Keeley is also present.

PRESIDENT: Colonel Keeley is directed to read the proceedings of the previous day's testimony and upon completion, the record will so indicate.

PROSECUTION: The prosecution is present, the defense counsel are present; all the accused are present; the court reporter, who has been previously sworn, is present. A new interpreter is to be sworn.

PRESIDENT: The court has appointed Mr. Simon Weisglass as interpreter of the court. He will be sworn.

(Whereupon Simon Weisglass, U. S. Civilian, was sworn as court interpreter.)

PROSECUTION: The prosecution will not call Colonel Keeley as a witness and does not desire to challenge him. Does the accused desire to challenge Colonel Keeley?

DEFENSE COUNSEL: The defense has no grounds for challenge.

JOSEPH KOWALSKI, called as a witness by the prosecution, being reminded that he was still under oath, testified further through a Polish and a German interpreter as follows:

CROSS EXAMINATION (CONT'D)

QUESTIONS BY DR. KLUGE:

Q Mr. Kowalski, I show you here a draft, a diagram

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of the whole Camp Gusen. Will you please look closely at the draft and tell me whether according to your opinion this is a true representation of the camp and its surroundings?

A Here a small building is missing which was built between the Blocks 28 and 29.

DR. KLUGE: Indicating the space between Barracks 28 and 29 within the area of the protective custody camp.

THE WITNESS: Here at this point the Jourhouse or gate should be. The halls where the stone workers were working should be closer to the jourhouse. The halls should be lined up in two rows and three of each. What is this here supposed to indicate?

DR. KLUGE: The area where the work shops are. The area where there is the steyr factory, without the opinion of the defense that it has any bearing on this.

THE WITNESS: These halls were built in 1943. The year of 1942 next to the kitchen was the exit in which we used to walk out in order to go to Oberbruch and Kasten Hofen.

PROSECUTION: If the court please, as I understand it, this has not been introduced into evidence yet. When it is I am going to object on the grounds that the witness said it isn't a true representation of the camp.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: If the court please, I do not believe he has said that.

DR. KLUGE: If the court please, this diagram has been fixed up on Saturday morning by all the accused. This diagram is going to be introduced in evidence. However, I