

28 April 1945

THE HASAG PANZERFAUST FACTORY AND CONCENTRATION CAMP

After investigation of the camp and factory located just north of FLOESSBERG (K3991) and interrogation of civilian employees, Polish watchmen and of three slaves who escaped from the camp after hiding for 13 days under a barracks, the following information has been pieced together:

Contracts were let by the German Government to the HASAG firm of LEIPZIG for the construction of a factory near FLOESSBERG, for assembling and loading PzFauste. Labor for the construction was allotted from the concentration camp at BUCHENWALD, near WEIMAR, and arrangements were made for two companies of SS guards to transport, guard and work the slaves. Labor for operation of the plant was provided in the form of Polish forced workers. HASAG sent about 50 employees to supervise construction and operation and sub-contracted some of the construction to EUGEN ENGERT Co, LEIPZIG, which installed the piping of the factory. The manager of the factory was an old employee of HASAG and former member of the TODT Labor Ministry named SPETTINAGEL. Original transfer of slaves from BUCHENWALD was directed by SS Sturmführer SCHELLER, assisted by SS Sturmführers HEINRICH and SCHNEIDER. Chief of the Polish watchmen, all of whom claim merely to have guarded stores and machinery and not to have dealt with the slaves, is said to have been a man named BELGER.

Construction of the factory and camp was begun on 15 December, although some preliminary work had been done before that time. In February the factory began to produce and had reached a rate of production of about 1200 weapons per month by the beginning of April, when the factory was shut down. Capacity was to be 500,000 weapons per month. At the present time there are 1200 completed PzFauste on hand, plus 20,000 loaded heads, 600 tons of HE and a quantity of the powder used in booster charges. The explosive is stored in bunkers near the plant, in boxcars and in a dump on the road between BEUCHA (K3994) and BAD LAUSICK (K4394).

The original complement of slaves was about 1300. These were mostly Polish Jews, but a small number of political prisoners were included. The SS company which guarded the prisoners in their barracks was composed of about 35 older men who wore either Death's Head or regular SS insignia. The company of SS who supervised the labor of the slaves consisted of about 120 Ukrainian and Hungarian Volkedutsche. The treatment of the slaves was inconceivably brutal, and between 400 and 600 were beaten to death during the period from December to April. The dead were buried in piles of 10-20 in graves well concealed in the woods. The chief of the SS guards in the camp was Oberecharführer STRESE, who was known by the nickname of "Zick-zack" and whose left hand is missing.

About 1 April the SS hastily loaded the slaves (approximately 1100 survivors) into boxcars and departed by rail, supposedly for CHEMNITZ, whence the slaves were to be taken either to PRAG or to MUNICH. SPETTINAGEL and a number of the German employees and of the Polish watchmen remained in the towns of BEUCHA and FLOESSBERG and are now in our custody.

Arrangements are being made for the burial of the victims under decent conditions. The physical labor of disinterment and reburial will be done by the employees of HASAG and by Nazis from towns near the camp. The cemetery will be located in a public place and the ceremony will be conducted as publicly as possible. Meanwhile every effort is being made to accumulate evidence against all persons directly or indirectly responsible for the atrocities in order that the guilty may be properly punished.

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