

DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE
7708 WAR CRIMES GROUP
EUROPEAN COMMAND
APO 407

18 November 1947

UNITED STATES)

v.)

Case No. 000-Buchenwald-4

Alfred Andreas HOFFMANN)

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. TRIAL DATA: The accused was tried at Dachau, Germany, on 17 September 1947, before a General Military Government Court.

II. CHARGES AND PARTICULARS:

CHARGE I: Violation of the Laws and Usages of War.

Particulars: In that Alfred Andreas HOFFMANN, a German national, did, at or in the vicinity of Weimar, Germany, in or about December 1943, wrongfully encourage, aid, abet and participate in the killing of approximately three non-German nationals, inmates of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, who were then in the custody of the then German Reich, the exact names and numbers of such persons being unknown.

CHARGE II: Violation of the Laws and Usages of War.

Particulars: In that Alfred Andreas HOFFMANN, a German national, did, at or in the vicinity of Weimar, Germany, in or about August 1944, wrongfully encourage, aid, abet and participate in the killing of an unknown non-German national, an inmate of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, who was then in the custody of the then German Reich.

CHARGE III: Violation of the Laws and Usages of War.

Particulars: In that Alfred Andreas HOFFMANN, a German national, did, at or in the vicinity of Weimar, Germany, in or about August 1944, wrongfully encourage, aid, abet and participate in committing an assault upon approximately 12 non-German nationals, inmates of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, who were then in the custody of the then German Reich, the exact names and numbers of such persons being unknown.

III. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE: In July and August 1944, accused HOFFMANN, an SS sergeant and detail leader at Buchenwald Concentration Camp, beat inmates with a club until they collapsed then kicked them. He beat Poles, Russians, Frenchmen and J

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with the handle of a spade. He beat inmates daily with his hands or a stick. The Court found the accused not guilty of participation in the killing of approximately three inmates on or about December 1943, Charge I. It also found him not guilty of participation in the killing of an inmate on or about August 1944, Charge II. Evidence under Charges I and II is not discussed herein.

IV. EVIDENCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Alfred Andreas HOFFMANN

Nationality:	German
Age:	43
Civilian Status:	Unknown
Party Status:	Unknown
Military Status:	SS Sergeant
Pleas:	NG Charge I; NG Charge II; NG Charge III
Findings:	NG Charge I; NG Charge II; G Charge III
Sentence:	5 years, commencing 5 May 1945

Evidence for Prosecution: The accused stated in his extrajudicial sworn statement that he served at Buchenwald Concentration Camp from February 1942 to 11 April 1945; that he was a guard from 1942 to February 1943; that he was a block leader of Block 3 and Block 58 from February 1943 to October 1944; and that he was a detail leader of outdetail Sennelager from October 1944 to 11 April 1945. He admitted that he beat inmates with his hands and with a stick 20 to 24 inches long and not quite as thick as the little finger once or twice a day when they smoked cigarettes, when they lied to him, or when something was wrong; that he sometimes beat inmates in the Gustloff works at Buchenwald; that such beatings were in violation of camp regulations which required that a report be made of any serious infraction of the rules; and that he never made such a report (R 24;

NARA Date 3/21/60
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One witness, a Polish officer and former inmate, testified that the accused always had a club and that whenever this witness saw him during the summer of 1944, he was beating somebody. The accused and the witness were present in Buchenwald during the summer of 1944 before 24 August. The witness testified that, on one occasion in or about August 1944, the accused beat a Russian inmate, who was a good friend of the witness, so severely that the victim was taken to the hospital. Later, when the witness went to see him, he was told that his friend had died (R 8-10).

Another witness, a Jewish newspaper man and former inmate, testified that in July and August 1944 the accused beat Polish, Russian, French and especially Jewish inmates of Buchenwald with the handle of a spade. Because these inmates were so weak that, after being beaten, they did not have the strength to rise, he kicked them (R 15, 16).

Evidence for Defense: The accused did not testify.

Sufficiency of Evidence: The findings of guilty are warranted by the evidence. The sentence is not excessive.

Petitions: No Petitions for Review nor Petitions for Clemency were filed.

Recommendation: That the findings and sentence be approved.

V. QUESTIONS OF LAW: It is clear that the Court had jurisdiction of the person of the accused and of the subject matter.

Examination of the entire record fails to disclose any error or omission which resulted in injustice to the accused.

VI. CONCLUSIONS:

1. It is recommended that the findings and the sentence be approved.
2. Legal Forms Nos. 13 and 16 to accomplish this result are attached hereto, should it meet with approval.

HAROLD E. KUEHN
Attorney
Post Trial Branch

APRA Date 3/21/52
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Having examined the record of trial, I concur, this _____ day
of _____ 1948.

C.W.PHIFER
Lieutenant Colonel, USAF
Acting Deputy Judge Advocate
for War Crimes

NARA DATE 3/21/00
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