

Quest

MILITARY GOVERNMENT COURT

CASE RECORD.

VOLUME 61
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15

Case No. 000-50-37

Prosecutor Lt. Col. Wm. Berman

~~*Summary~~
~~Intermediate Military Court~~

Defence Counsel Major L. Poullada

*General

Interpreter Emily Powys-Cobb, Michael Shaw

Place Camp Dachau, Germany

Date 17 November 1947

Reporter Mabel D. Holt, Muriel Klingelhuts
Helen Nelson, Joseph Halow

Members of Court:

WITNESSES:

Louis Riegel, Richard Walenta

Accused ARTHUR KURT ANDRAE, et al

Address Sex Age

	First Charge	Second Charge
Pleas		
Findings		
Previous Convictions		

Sentence {
 Imprisonment {
 Term
 Beginning 194.....
 Fine {
 Amount
 To be paid before 194.....
 or in case of default of payment to serve a *further
 term of
 imprisonment.

Charge Sheet and Record of Testimony are annexed hereto.

.....
(Signature of member of court.)

REVIEW

Action of Reviewing Authority

.....
(Signature of reviewing authority)

*Strike out words not applicable.
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R E C O R D O F T E S T I M O N Y

In trial of

THE UNITED STATES

versus

ARTHUR KURT ANDRAE et al

by

GENERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT COURT

tried at

CAMP DACHAU, GERMANY

BEGINNING 7 AUGUST 1947

17 November 1947

Pages 5827 - 5849

T E S T I M O N Y

Witnesses

Direct

Cross

Redirect

Recross

Court

Louis RIEGEL

5827

Richard WALENTA

5830

E X H I B I T S

No.

Description

Mkd.

Rec'd in
Evidence

D-17

Statement of Richard Walenta

5831

5832

AFTERNOON SESSION

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1440 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: Let the record show that all members of the court are present. Prosecution and defense are present. All of the accused are present except the accused Valenta who is absent in consultation with his defense counsel. Reporter and interpreter are present. At the end of the last session the witness Riegel was under cross examination.

PRESIDENT: The witness is reminded he is still under oath.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: I would like to announce for the record that the accused Valenta is now present and I ask permission for the accused Helbig to leave the court room for consultation with his attorney.

PRESIDENT: Permission is granted.

(Whereupon the accused Helbig left the court room.)

LOUIS RIEGEL, recalled as a witness by the defense, having been previously duly sworn, resumed the stand and testified further through an interpreter as follows:

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTION:

Q At the end of the last session, Herr Riegel, you were telling the court about building number one in which the dispensary was. Do you remember that?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell the court just where the entrance was to building number one?

A Yes.

Q Will you please tell the court?

A At the front there was a large entrance that you could push the two sides in.

Q Was that the only entrance to that building?

A No, there was one other door on the opposite side and there was a door on the side where prisoners entered.

Q Was the entrance to block six and seven and to the hospital through the same door or was there another door?

A That was a different door.

Q And then this door that was the entrance to the labor office, could prisoners go through that door?

A Yes.

Q I mean, could prisoners that belonged to block six and seven and to the hospital, could they go through the door which led into the labor allocation office?

A Yes, naturally, block six and seven were downstairs and when you went out on the right hand side there was a door.

Q This building where block six and seven was, that was a big concrete building, wasn't it?

A No--well, yes, there was a wall but most of it was sheet metal.

Q Isn't it true that this place where the labor allocation was was in a separate small structure right next to building number one?

A No, that was one building but it was divided, partitioned off.

Q Was there a ground floor and an upstairs floor in that part occupied by the labor allocation?

A There was a ground floor but I don't know whether there was an upstairs floor or not.

Q Were you ever inside that building?

A Yes, I was inside once.

Q That was the time you went to the hospital, wasn't it?

A No, the hospital is on the other side.

Q How many times were you in the building where the labor allocation was?

A Once.

Q When was that?

A Well, maybe around the beginning of March, about that time.

for your work, either in Dora or Nordhausen?

A Well, at the beginning we didn't get them in money because it still had to be set up with the block and the arrangements hadn't been made yet, so that we received additional soup instead of premiums.

Q When did you first get your premiums?

A The firms, the employers, allegedly paid for that.

Q Well now, listen to the question please. When did you first get a premium in the form of something you could spend?

A In 1944.

Q What month?

A Well, I don't know.

Q This dry cleaning place you worked at, what kind of clothes did you dryclean?

A Civilian clothing and military clothing.

Q Whose military clothing? Was it SS clothing?

A No, from the airforce.

Q Now, you testified that you had reached the end. Was the work in the tunnel so very hard?

A In the beginning, yes.

PROSECUTION: I have nothing further.

DR. AHEIMER: No further questions.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: There are no further questions from any member of

the defense. Are there any questions by any member of the court?

PRESIDENT: There are no questions from the court.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: May this witness be permanently excused.

MR. CROOK: I would like to have the right to interrogate this man later on subject to my rights to question him - later on this afternoon perhaps.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: We have no objection.

PRESIDENT: The witness may be excused at this time from the court room. It is my understanding he is not yet permanently excused.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: That is right, could I ask the reporter to read this (whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew from the court room.)

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Defense calls to the stand now the accused Richard Walenta. (Defense Exhibit D-17 for identification.)

PRESIDENT: If the court please, at this time I would like to introduce a statement of the accused Walenta. I will ask these questions for (whereupon the accused Walenta did as directed.)

PRESIDENT: You are advised that you may make a sworn or an unsworn statement on which you may be cross examined. You are further advised that the court may draw such inferences as circumstances justify from your refusal to answer or from your failure to take the stand on your own behalf. Are you now willing to testify?

ACCUSED WALENTA: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Sworn or unsworn? Identification and ask you whether that is your signature?

ACCUSED WALENTA: Sworn.

RICHARD WALENTA, an accused, voluntarily took the stand in his own behalf and made the following sworn statement through an interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. REMMER:

Q Please give the court your full name?

A Richard Walenta.

Q How old are you?

A Thirty-five years old.

Q What is your profession?

A Construction leader.

Q Where is your residence?

A Fegensburg.

Q Are you married?

A Yes.

Q Are you an accused in this trial?

A Yes.

(Walenta - direct)

DEFENSE COUNSEL: At this time I would like the reporter to mark this Defense Exhibit D-17 for identification, statement of Richard Walenta.

(The document referred to was marked Defense Exhibit D-17 for identification.)

DEFENSE COUNSEL: If the court please, at this time I would like to introduce a statement of the accused Walenta. I will ask these questions for the purpose of introducing the statement and ask permission to read it, and Dr. Renner will continue with the direct examination.

The court interpreter will please ask the accused to restore their numbers so that they are visible..

(Whereupon the interpreter did as directed.)

QUESTIONS BY THE DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Q Mr. Walenta, I show you a document marked Defense Exhibit D-17 for identification and ask you whether that is your signature?

A Yes.

Q And is this your voluntary written statement which you want to have presented to the court in your own defense?

A Yes.

Q Do you understand that you may be fully cross examined on the matter contained in this statement?

A Yes.

Q Do you understand that you may make additional oral statements to the court on material not covered in this statement, in your own defense?

A Yes.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: I now offer into evidence Defense Exhibit D-17 and ask that it be made a part of the record and permission be granted to read it in open court.

PROSECUTION: No objection.

PRESIDENT: Defense Exhibit D-17 will be admitted to the record for such probative value as the court may see fit to give it and permission is granted to read it in open court.

(Walenta - direct)

(The document heretofore marked Defense Exhibit D-17 for identification was received in evidence as Defense Exhibit No. D-17, is attached hereto, and made a part of the record.)

QUESTIONS BY THE PROSECUTOR (Cont.)

Q In your statement you stated that you were first arrested in the concentration camp at Buchen. What type of activity did you do in Buchen?

A The first half year I worked with a spade and shovel; later I became more abstract with the priests, and the end of 1942 I became a capot.

Q With what details were you an capot?

A In the stone quarry, in the arm manufacturing or repair room, the clean up detail, Gestapo, Munich, in Fallop in the mountains helping to repair the villa of Reichsfuehrer Himmler, bathing master in the swimming pool, --- I can't think of any more right now.

Q You frequently mentioned Gestapo proceedings which were pending against you from Buchen. What kind of Gestapo proceedings were these?

A One Gestapo proceeding was from 1942 until 1943 for suspicion of espionage, together with the General Major Langner. The second one was at the home of Reichsfuehrer SS Himmler in Fallop because of an affair with a girl. The third one was at the Gestapo in Munich, where we always had to receive the safe and strong boxes in case of bombings, and it happened that on the transport---we always took these things to a place located 40 kilometers away from Munich---that some of the files were lost, and we were accused of having removed these on purpose. Then, with the assistance of a prisoner who was working in the garage, I was able to leave in the evening, and there I also had connections with a girl who was working with the firm Jochen in Munich---that is a restaurant, the bearer of the Ritter Cross, von Sternlein, and the entire staff of the police, and I was accused of having the intention to murder these people or something like that.

Q Can you mention any names of fellow prisoners from Buchen who are informed about these matters?

A Yes.

(Whereupon Defense Exhibit D-17 was read in open court by the defense counsel.)

QUESTIONS BY DR. KEMNER (CONT'D):

Q In your statement you stated that you were first arrested in the concentration camp at Dachau. What type of activity did you do in Dachau?

A The first half year I worked with a spade and shovel; later I became room eldest with the priests, and the end of 1942 I became a capo.

Q With what details were you as capo?

A In the stone quarry, in the arms manufacturing or repair room, the clean up detail, Gestapo, Munich, in Fellep in the mountains helping to repair the villa of Reichsfuehrer Himmler, bathing master in the swimming pool, --- I can't think of any more right now.

Q You frequently mentioned Gestapo proceedings which were pending against you from Dachau. What kind of Gestapo proceedings were these?

A One Gestapo proceeding was from 1942 until 1943 for suspicion of espionage, together with the General Wicker Lampert. The second one was at the house of Reichsfuehrer SS Himmler in Fellep because of an affair with a girl. The third one was at the Gestapo in Munich, where we always had to remove the safe and strong boxes in case of bombings, and it happened that on the transport---we always took these things to a place located 40 kilometers away from Munich---that some of the files were lost, and we were accused of having removed those on purpose. Then, with the assistance of a prisoner who was working in the garage, I was able to leave in the evening, and there I also had connections with a girl who was working with the firm Doshof in Munich---that is a restaurant, the bearer of the Ritter Kreuz, von Eberstein, and the entire staff of the police, and I was accused of having the intention to murder these people or something like that.

Q Can you mention any names of fellow prisoners from Dachau who are informed about these matters?

A Yes.

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Q What are those names?

A Karl Frey, Ismanninger Strasse 19, Munich; Kaspar Bachl in Traunstein, Chief of the welfare office for former concentration camp inmates; then Betty Mohr, Munich, Ganghofer Strasse 64A. She was arrested because of this matter herself.

Q You stated that you were also in Buchenwald. During your term of detention in Buchenwald was there interruption there?

A Yes. I went to the camp eldest, Johnny [?], and told him that I only had received cigarettes for 1,500

Q I was sent to Buchenwald for punishment on the 22nd of December 1943. On the 27th of December 1943 I was returned again to Munich to the Gestapo for interrogation. There I was interrogated for six weeks because of these matters. In February I was transferred again back to Buchenwald.

Q In connection with your stay at Ellrich you mentioned the name Ritz. Who was Ritz?
A Ritz was the executive officer of captain Fritsche, and first of protective custody camp leader.

Q Before you came to Dora, and before you refused to carry out this order which you mentioned in your statement, did you, previous to that time, have any argument or difference of opinion with Ritz?

A Yes.

Q Why?

A I had some trouble there. It was said that every prisoner could buy as many cigarettes as he wanted to. The block clerks took in the money and made note of how much money each prisoner had turned in. Camp Two where I was camp eldest gave a total of 3,000 Marks - - -

DEFENSE COUNSEL: (Interrupting) Just a minute. I believe there was a mistake in the translation. He means second camp eldest. When he says "lager aelteste zwei" he means second camp eldest, rather than camp eldest of Camp Two.

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ACCUSED RICHARD WALENTA: Camp Two. There was Camp One and Camp Two, and this is Camp Two where I was camp eldest.

- - - turned in a total sum of 3,000 Marks. After two days I was called and told that we could pick up the cigarettes. When I counted up to see how many cigarettes I should receive, I only received cigarettes for 1,500 Marks. I asked and said "After all, I had turned in 3,000 Marks" and the man from the canteen said "Well, we have nothing to do with that. That is the affair of the camp eldest." I went to the camp eldest, Johnny von Derheiden, and told him that I only had received cigarettes for 1,500 Marks. He said he can't do anything about that, that is the concern of protective custody camp leader Ritz. He kept the rest for himself. When I went to Second Lieutenant Ritz he threw me out and told me that camp eldest No. 1 had told him that he could keep these cigarettes for himself—that was Johnny von Derheiden. Then I went to camp commander Fritsche and explained the matter about cigarettes to him. On the next day I received the cigarettes for the other 1,500 Marks, and that is the reason I became the favorite of the camp leader. He was only waiting for a chance where he could get me.

There, and I was only told to show my hands. Then I asked my other comrades who had already been there and had already received these various punishments, what this meant, they said that near the tree. Two days later I was told not to leave the camp but was to an interrogation.

From the gate we were taken to the bath. In the bath at a height of two meters there were stumps and hooks. There we had to stand in front of a back. Our hands were tied on our backs with a chain and we had to get up on a small ladder consisting of three rungs or a chair when the hands on this chain to a distance of 10 cm. The chair was pulled away and one would hang for one hour free in the air. After one hour one was let down again.

Q. Why did you see the other three punishments?

(Walenta-direct)

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(Walenta - direct)

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Ta 603-hn-Nordhausen
17 November 1947-1

Q What kind of punishments did you receive in the three camps, Dachau, Buchenwald and Ellrich as a prisoner?

A In Dachau I received the 25 blows with a stick four times, two hours' punishment on the tree and once two and a half hours' on the tree during an interrogation.

I received no punishment at Buchenwald and in Ellrich I was sent to the bunker to Dora where I received the 25.

Q You said that you had frequently received the tree. Will you tell the court just what this punishment consisted of?

A Yes.

Q Please.

A The first time I received an hour on the tree I was a capo in the stone quarry in Dachau. Next to the stone quarry there was a large farm and there we organized several hundred crates of potatoes for the detail. The control came and caught us just as we were cooking the potatoes for the entire detail. He wrote down my number and left. Three days later I was called to the dispensary, at that time Dr. Kahr was still there, and I was only told to show my hands. When I asked my other comrades who had already been there and had already received these various punishments, what this meant, they said that mean the tree. Two days later I was told not to leave the camp but come to an interrogation.

From the gate we were taken to the bath. In the bath at a height of two meters there were timbers and hooks. There we had to stand in front of a hook. Our hands were tied on our backs with a chain and we had to get up on a small ladder consisting of three rungs or a chair then the hands on this chain were hitched up to the hook, the chair was pulled away and one would hang for one hour free in the air. After one hour one was let down again.

Q Why did you get the other tree punishment?

Ta 603-hn-Hordhausen
17 November 1947-2

A Two and a half hours I received when I had the interrogation with the Gestapo concerning the suspicion of espionage together with General Lampert. One hour because of the Gestapo in Munich and the other hour I received when I was room orderly for the priests.

Q Please describe to the court your arrival at the bunker in Dora.

A When I arrived in the bunker at Dora I was called to the roll call leader. There a slip for a receipt was made out and an SS man led me into the bunker. He turned me over to bunker administration and left.

Q Who was the administrator of the bunker at that time?

A Grund and Deckert.

Q Were those two SS men?

A Yes, Tech Sergeant Grund and Tech Sergeant Deckert.

Q What happened then?

A Then four rubber hoses came into the picture. One was thick and the next thicker until they got that thick (indicating). Then I was told

to pick out the one I liked best. I picked out the thickest one because that doesn't hurt as much as a thin one and then the Tech Sergeant said,

"No, now you are just going to get it on purpose with the thin one." The whole game lasted about five minutes, but inspite of that he didn't give me any blows.

I had to change clothes, take a bath and then I went into the cell. After I had been in the cell for eight days, a call went out, "Who was a painter?" At that time most of the people who had bunker arrests were

working. I reported with another prisoner from the dispensary who was in the bunker for some punishment. We whitewashed the entire bunker with chalk and oil colors. We worked at that until I was dismissed as a

prisoner from the bunker and stayed as a man of all work in the bunker.

Q Was it possible for you, after you had finished your stretch of punishment, to report for some kind of work yourself?

A No.

Ta 603-hn-Nordhausen
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Q Please describe to the court the circumstances that took place after you had finished your punishment?

A In the beginning of December Major Foerschner came to the bunker. I was painting there and he spoke to Richter and said to him that he would be dismissed after a few days. Richter at that time was a man for all work in the bunker among other things. The Major also came to me and told me that within the next few days I would be dismissed, that my punishment had come to an end and that he would reinstate me once more as camp eldest

at Ecelke Caserne. I told the Commander that I wasn't in a position to be camp eldest anymore, my nerves weren't good. Then Max Deckert said,

"Well, now Richter is going away. We need a new clean-up man around here.

maybe it would be possible for him to take over that job in the bunker."

The Major said, "Yes, when Walenta is dismissed, you report that to the

roll call leader and tell him that Walenta will stay as orderly in the bunker."

When my arrest punishment was finished in the middle of December, I automatically remained in the bunker as orderly.

Q In your statement you used the expression "ordinary camp prisoner".

What is meant by that expression?

A An ordinary camp prisoner was one who was turned over to the bunker because of camp matters by order of the roll call leader or the protective custody leader or the camp leader.

Q What does the expression Gestapo prisoner mean?

A A Gestapo prisoner was the kind of prisoner who was turned over

to the bunker by order of the Gestapo.

Q And an action prisoner?

A An action prisoner was that kind of prisoner that had connection and belonged to the Resistance movement or sabotage organization.

Q And a prisoner with special treatment?

Ta 603-hn-Nordhausen
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A A prisoner for special treatment was where the Gestapo had made a request to Berlin for special treatment, that is, that he should be hanged or a political prisoner where the Political Division had made a request that he should be hanged. Those were prisoners who were given special treatment. They were not allowed to fall-out for and action prisoners weren't allowed to work either.

Q The witness Cespiva mentioned another name here besides the ones you already mentioned Lehr and Minister. He mentioned the name Melinuk.

A Melinuk was the prisoner minister.

Q Was that one and the same person?

A Yes.

Q The witness Cespiva also mentioned the name Chalupka. What can say to that?

A Chalupka was the radio construction man for the Resistance movement. Besides that he also worked for Sander in the Bunker and in Niedersachwerfen.

Q When did Chalupka work for Sander in the bunker?

A Chalupka was arrested at the end of January or the beginning of February; from that hour onward he always worked with Sander.

Q You also mentioned that Chalupka worked for Sander in Niedersachwerfen. Where was that?

A The work shop in Niedersachwerfen was that place where I was arrested and there I met Chalupka until the first of April.

Q Why didn't you meet him any later?

A Because the camp was evacuated and they must have left.

Q Do you know where Chalupka is now?

A Yes, in Czechoslovakia.

Q When did you see Chalupka the last time?

A The 1st of April.

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Q Which year?

A 1945.

Q And when did you see Melinuk Minister for the last time?

A On the same day because he always came there together with Chalupka.

Q Do you know where Melinuk Minister is now?

A In Czechoslovakia.

Q The witness espiva stated that you had brought a letter from Chalupka to him into the cell, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Was that permitted?

A No.

Q What would have happened if this had been found out?

A The cheapest would have been the 25.

Q You also mentioned the interrogations carried out by Sander. What did you have to do with the interrogation that Sander made at Dora in the bunker?

A I had nothing at all to do with interrogations by Sander. I only had to take a prisoner from his cell when Sander requested him and led him up to the interrogation room. Then I knocked on the door and when Sander called, "come in" I opened the door, pushed the prisoner in, closed the door and stayed outside and waited, but I would like to emphasize the fact that from that time on Sander started having interrogations at Dora in the bunker, I was no longer allowed to open the door of a prisoner alone only in the company of the SS.

Q Where were you during the interrogations?

A That varied. Sometimes I received the order to wait outside in the hall and then the prisoner would come out pretty soon and I would take him back to his cell or else he would have requested three or four prisoners together for a confrontation and they were standing in the hall and I had to

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remain standing near them. If I didn't have any other order I would be in my room.

I would like to make another statement here. It's also spoken of as a room. It wasn't a room, it was a double cell and in the same room was a clothing store and a shoe store. Kilian and I slept there.

Q Will you please show the court in connection with this plan of the bunker here where your room was?

A The plan is the wrong way around.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Can all the members of the court see that exhibit?

PRESIDENT: I think it would be better if you would use a pointer.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Is the distance too great?

PRESIDENT: The distance is all right.

A (Continued) The right side is where the left side ought to be. This is our room where Kilian and I slept (indicating).

Q Where is the entrance?

A Here (indicating), but when one came in here it was on the right-hand side. This is the way it was. It was the first room here (indicating). This was the chamber where Kilian and I were.

DR. REMNER: Let the record show that the witness is pointing to a space which is marked "Walenta, Kilian and Laundry room" on Exhibit P-31.

Q Where was the interrogation room of Sander?

A Here (indicating).

DR. REMNER: Let the record show that the witness has pointed to a space which is marked "interrogation room".

Q And where were you standing during the time that Sander was having interrogations in that room?

A That varied. Sometimes I was out here in the hall or here in this hall.

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DR. RENNER: May the record show that the witness is pointing to a hallway which runs the length of the bunker and to a space which is near cell No. 16.

A (Continued) or I was in the room where I slept. The minute he called I had to stand here (indicating).

Q In your statement you also mentioned the SS bunker. Where was the SS bunker?

A The SS bunker was the righthand side, this part (indicating).

DR. RENNER: May the record show that the witness is pointing to the entire right side of the bunker.

PROSECUTION: Looking at it from what point of view?

THE WITNESS: Seen from the direction of the entrance to the bunker.

Q Why was that part called SS bunker?

A Because only members of the SS were sleeping here until the action started. Then all these prisoners whose interrogations were finished were moved over to the other side because they were separated from the other prisoners.

Q And where was the room occupied by Tech Sergeant of the SS Deckert and Grund?

A Tech Sergeant Grund and Deckert were here (indicating).

DR. RENNER: May the record show that the witness is pointing to a room located opposite the entrance to the bunker and marked "Deckert and Grund".

Q You further stated that female prisoners were kept here and also a civilian. Where were they kept?

A Two girls were kept here (indicating), a German and a Russian one.

DR. RENNER: Let the record show that the witness is pointing to a cell marked "Aufstand" meaning something like revolt.

A (Continued) and two were kept in this cell (indicating).

Ta 603-hu-Nordhausen
17 November 1947-8

DR. KENNER: Let the record show that the witness has pointed to a cell located directly opposite to the one mentioned just before.

A (Continued) But in the middle of February they were taken away from there to Hoelke Caserne. The civilian was kept in cell No. 1 in the prisoner bunker.

In the bunker I also had the prisoners' clothing, etc. room. There were always 20 to 30 men kept in preparation in the bunker because as soon as the people came in the bunker their clothes were changed and distributed and then kept in the cellar in the bunker.

Q Now you stay in bunker here for your interrogation about the past proceedings?

A Until the action started, Sander had never been in the bunker nor did he ever have any interrogations there. All interrogations took place only in Stierstrasse. When Sander had completed his interrogations in the bunker on the 18th or 19th of March 1945, he went back to Stierstrasse and took care of all the interrogations there, which consisted of private matters and such matters. In the Fall of March, 1945, I was called for an interrogation. There were three proceedings against me and one of them covered 52 typewritten pages. For that reason my interrogation lasted several days. After I had been interrogated for five days it was said that the time should be exhausted and I was told to go back to work but that I should stay in camp and wait for my execution. And there I was able to secure through the help of the girl named Hilde.

Q Do you ever share this girl named Hilde in work?

A Either in the camp or in the Russian camp.

Q Do you ever see her again?

A No, I do not.

Q In what way did you see her in the Russian camp?

A In the Russian camp I was in the same cell as the girl named Hilde. In the middle of April I worked in the kitchen there and she worked in the kitchen. She was in the same cell as I was. She was in the same cell as I was. She was in the same cell as I was.

Take 604 - Nordhausen
11-17-mdh-1

Q You mentioned an occasion where you procured some civilian clothing for yourself. Besides that, did you have any other occasion to get civilian clothing for yourself?

A Yes.

Q How?

A In the bunker I also had the prisoners' clothing store room. There were always 40 to 50 suits kept in preparedness in the bunker because as soon as new people came to the bunker their clothes were changed and disinfected and then kept in the cellar in the bunker.

Q Why didn't you stay in bunker Dora for your interrogation about the gestapo proceedings?

A Until the action started, Sander had never been in the bunker nor had he ever had any interrogations there. All interrogations took place only in Niedersachswerfen. When Sander had completed his interrogations in the bunker on the 12th or 13th of March 1945, he went back to Niedersachswerfen and took care of all the interrogations there, which consisted of private matters and camp matters. On the 21st of March, 1945, I was called for an interrogation. There were three proceedings against me and one of them covered 52 typewritten pages. For that reason my interrogation lasted several days. After I had been interrogated for five days it was said that the camp should be evacuated and I was not to go back to Dora but that I should stay in camp and wait for my execution. And there I was able to escape through the help of the girl named Hilda.

Q Do you know where this girl named Hilda is now?

A Either at Hamburg or in the Russian zone.

Q Do you know her address?

A No, I am sorry.

Q In what direction did you go when you escaped?

A In the direction of Nordhausen, Klein-Bertheim and Gross-Bertheim; on the ninth of April I reached the American front line, and I was driven in an automobile to a general, to a hotel Green Lantern. There I was inter-

(Walenta - direct)

rogated about Dora. He said, if that is all true it would be very good for me. The next day I was called to a Colonel and he told me that all the statements I had made were correct, that already several prisoners were there who had escaped from Dora and because I was a Czechoslovakian citizen it would be stupid for me to go back into camp, because all the people who had been in camp of the foreign nationalities were going to be gathered together in other camps and would I place myself at their disposal. I stated that I was pleased to work for that division, and we completed the entire occupation through Thuringia, Bavaria, all the way down to Linz, and I stayed with this outfit until the 15th of May, 1945.

Q You just stated that you were a Czechoslovakian citizen, but the witness Birin stated that you had adopted German nationality because you had been guilty of cruelties in the bunker. What can you say to that statement?

PROSECUTION: Excuse me just a minute; who said that?

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Birin.

A I was called into the political department three times and told to sign as a German and that then the possibility would exist that, as a German, I could join the army and then be dismissed, but that was here in Dachau. But I refused to do so every time. I didn't take the German nationality until the day this trial started; because of the condition that I am in now, war crimes suspect, and under those circumstances could not return back to Czechoslovakia. That is why I took on German nationality on that day.

Q Do you know how the political prisoners of Czechoslovakian nationality were marked? Characterized?

A Yes. Every Czechoslovakian political prisoner were a red triangle with a black T. There were also Czechoslovakians with green triangles.

Q At any time, at any one of the four concentration camps, did you wear one of these triangles with a T?

(Walente - direct)

Q Yes.

Q Where?

A In Dachau.

Q And where else?

A And in Buchenwald.

Q And in camp Dora did you wear a triangle with a T in it?

A No. Not in Dora and not in Ellrich.

Q Why not?

A When I came to Buchenwald from Dachau I was supposed to stay

in Buchenwald because I had many comrades there who had formerly been in

Dachau. I stated to them that matters were far from clear for me,

because I had some trouble with the Gestapo and I might be hanged. If it were

possible they should send me to an outdetail, where I would have a chance

to escape and then those in labor allocation in Buchenwald said, O.K.,

if there is a good detail like that that turns up, we will send you

along." In 1944, the end of April, I was called to labor allocation

and there I was told that a detail was being formed consisting of 300

prisoners going to Ellrich. At that time nobody knew what Ellrich was

or what it was going to be. It was only known that the total strength

of Ellrich was to increase to 1,000 prisoners. The capo in labor allo-

cation in Buchenwald told me, "That is a favorable detail for you because

it is always easier to escape in a smaller subcamp; we will send you

along as camp eldest and, because you are a Czechoslovakian citizen, it

is impossible for you to become camp eldest, so we will make swindle

in your card file and we will put an "R" there to show that you are a

German.

Q What was this "R" supposed to be?

A A Reichs duetscher. "But in the main card file, in the political

section, you will still be carried as a Czech." I was introduced to the

labor allocation leader in Buchenwald on the first of May 1944, together

(Walenta - direct)

five other capos who were all supposed to go to Ellrich. The labor allocation leader said, "O.K., Walenta, you go to Ellrich as camp eldest." When we arrived in Ellrich on the first of May, 1944, there were only 200 prisoners there, with the camp eldest by the name of Johnnie Vanderheiden. The transport leader turned the letter over to Capt. Fritsche, and he turned the letter over to the camp eldest, who read out the list to see that every prisoner was there. Next to every prisoner's name, his activity, his duty, was noted at Buchenwald, the duty to which he was to be assigned. When Johnnie Vanderheiden read my name, political prisoner and camp eldest, he said: "You want to become camp eldest? Well, you go right through the chimney." And that is how, from the very first day on, the quarrel started between Johnnie Vanderheiden, the functionary of Ellrich, and myself.

Q Is that Johnnie Vanderheiden the same one that the witness Usinger mentioned here?

A Yes.

Q A witness named Ackermann testified against you here. Did you know that witness Ackermann in Dora already?

A I made the acquaintance of Ackermann after my arrest punishment in the bunker through Ferdinand Karpik, whom I already knew before from Dachau.

Q Where was he working?

A This Karpik?

Q No, the witness Ackermann?

A Ackermann was in the office in the dispensary in Dora.

Q The witness Ackermann stated that at the time that he was there, there were 50,000 prisoners in Dora. What do you say to that?

A As far as my information goes, the highest number was 17,000.

Q Did you ever see Ackermann in the bunker in Dora?

A Never.

Q Did you speak to Ackermann in Dora?

A Very often.

Q At Dora could a camp prisoner speak to a bunker prisoner?

A No.

Q The witness Ackermann stated that when you came to arrest him he said he had no time. Was that a normal answer for a prisoner in Dora to make when he was supposed to be officially arrested?

A No. Ackermann didn't say that, either.

Q What did Ackermann say?

A When I got up to the dispensary I explained to Ackermann and Ferdinand what had happened to the instruments. I only knew that Ackermann was the dispensary capo, not Ferdinand, and stated that Sander had declared the capo was to come along. Ackermann said, "It is impossible." And he trembled all over and said, "You know how I am. If Sander says, gives me one blow on the rear and says I murdered Hitler, I'll say yes. I am not going along, I am frightened when I just see him." So then Ferdinand Karpik said, "All right, I will go along. After all, what can happen." I said to Ferdinand, "Look, you are my friend, my pal, I have known you for four years; I can't chain you." I said, "First, let's go to your physician and report to him what happened." Ferdinand and I went together to Dr. Wirths and we explained to him what kind of order I had. Dr. Wirths said, "Well, Ferdinand can just go along, if Ackermann is too cowardly." Ferdinand Karpik and I went as far as the entrance to the bunker and not until we reached the entrance of the bunker did I say to Karpik, "Now I have got to put these handcuffs on you, otherwise we are going to get a lot of trouble from Sander." He said, "All right." When I had the handcuffs on, I rang the bell, and I took him in to Sander and, because we were somewhat delayed, because we had to see the doctor first and the doctor had been in a consultation, I explained to Sander, "Look, this man, and I too, can't help it because

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we are here too late." Sander took him into the office and then I heard Sander shouting and a lot of noise and I heard him say, "If that happens again you will get the 25 and you will go into the bunker." Ferdinand excused himself and said it wouldn't happen the second time, and Sander allowed him to go back to the dispensary.

Q Did Ackermann go along with Karpik?

A Nobody went along.

Q Well, then, how was Ackermann in position to make statements concerning your activities in the bunker?

A All the information concerning all of my activities which the prominent witnesses mentioned here they have received only from me. Only that here they have reversed their statements and made them sound different from what I told them formerly. There is no statement that Ackermann or any of the other witnesses made that they didn't get from me. All their information. Otherwise, not one witness would be able to come here and make statements concerning the bunker.

PRESIDENT: The court will recess until 0845 tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon the court recessed at 1625 hours, November 17, 1947, until 0845 hours November 18, 1947.)

MILITARY GOVERNMENT COURT
MILITÄRGERICHT
CHARGE SHEET
ANKLAGESCHRIFT

Place
Ort

Date
Datum

Name of accused
Name des Angeklagten

is hereby charged with the following offences:
wird hiermit wegen der folgenden strafbaren Handlungen angeklagt:

First Charge: Erste Anklage:

.....
.....

Particulars: Einzelheiten:

.....
.....

Second Charge: Zweite Anklage:

.....
.....

Particulars: Einzelheiten

.....
.....

The above charges are referred for trial to the
*Summary
*Intermediate Military Court to be held
*General

Die Verhandlung wird vor dem
*Einfachen
*Mittleren Militärgerichte
*Oberen

at on 194
in (Address of Court) am
(Anschrift des Gerichtes)

at um Uhr stattfinden.
By Order
Im Auftrage von

*Strike out words not applicable.
*Nichtzutreffendes ist durchzustreichen. (Signature of person preferring charges)
(Unterschrift des Vertreters der Anklagebehörde)

Copy of above served on accused 194
Abschrift dem Angeklagten zugestellt am

.....
(Signature of person making service)
(Unterschrift des Zustellers)