

MILITARY GOVERNMENT COURT

Defense

CASE RECORD

354 - 112

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

PROSECUTOR \_\_\_\_\_

\* SUMMARY  
INTERMEDIATE MILITARY COURT  
GENERAL

DEFENSE COUNSEL \_\_\_\_\_

INTERPRETERS Arnold Mathanson  
Fred Becker

PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

REPORTERS Herbert S. Greenstock  
Paul H. Silverman  
John G. McDonald  
Irving S. Hopt  
William F. Jones  
Peter L. ...

DATE 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 1947

WITNESSES \_\_\_\_\_

ACCUSED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST CHARGE \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND CHARGE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEAS \_\_\_\_\_

FINDINGS \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

IMPRISONMENT \_\_\_\_\_

SENTENCE \_\_\_\_\_

FINE \_\_\_\_\_

(TERM) \_\_\_\_\_

(BEGINNING) \_\_\_\_\_ 194

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE PAID BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_ 194

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.

RECORD OF TESTIMONY

in trial of

THE UNITED STATES versus JOSIAS PRINCE ZU WALDECK, et al

by

GENERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT COURT

tried at

DACHAU, GERMANY

BEGINNING 11 APRIL 1947

16 APRIL

PAGES 354 - 442

TESTIMONY

<u>WITNESSES:</u>	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Cross</u>	<u>Redirect</u>	<u>Recross</u>	<u>Court</u>
DR. KURT SITTE	354	385	434		
ANDRE CHALLE	434	439			

EXHIBITS

<u>NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>MARKED</u>	<u>IN EVID</u>
P-13	Flywood beard containing tattooed skin	376	
P-13a	Tattooed skin	376	379
P-13b	Tattooed skin	376	
P-13c	Tattooed skin	376	379
P-13d	Letter re tattooed skin	376	380
P-13e	Certificate re tattooed skin	376	
P-14	Shrunken head	380	382
P-15	Newspaper clipping	381	

to 51 1jh 1  
4/18 Bush

Camp Dachau, Germany  
April 18, 1947

MORNING SESSION

(Whereupon the Court reconvened at 0900 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The Court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May it please the Court, let the record show that all the personnel of the Court with the exception of Colonel Robertson, who is ill, are present, all the personnel of the Defense, all the personnel of the Prosecution, and all the accused are present. If there are any spectators who expect to be called as witnesses in this case they will please leave the courtroom. At this time, May it please the Court, the Prosecution would like to interrupt the cross examination of Dr. Kegen and present, at this time, another witness for the Prosecution by the name of Kurt Sitte who is living in England and has to return to England tonight.

PRESIDENT: Is there any objection by the Defense?

DEFENSE COUNSEL: The defense has no objection just so long as it is understood that they are not waiving their right to continue cross examination of Dr. Kegen.

PROSECUTION: That is understood. Prosecution calls as its next witness Dr. Kurt Sitte.

DR. KURT SITTE, called as a witness by the Prosecution, being first duly sworn testified as follows:

(Whereupon the proceedings were translated into the German language.)

DR. SOROWITZ: May it please the Court, the witness will testify in English.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY DR. SOROWITZ:

Q Please state your name?

A Kurt Sitte.

(Kegensitte-direct)

Q What is your age?

A Thirty six.

Q What is your residence please?

A Manchester, England.

Q Do you have a permanent address in addition to that one?

A No, sir.

Q What is your nationality, please?

A Czechoslovakian.

Q And your profession?

A I am a Doctor of Physics at present with the Imperial Chemical Industry as a research fellow at Manchester University.

Q When did you first arrive at Buchenwald as a prisoner?

A On the 28th of September 1939.

Q Until when were you there as a prisoner?

A Until the liberation of the camp in 1945.

Q What kind of prisoner were you upon your arrival?

A We were Czech hostages, so called honest prisoners, protectorate prisoners.

Q Describe to the Court, Dr. Sitte, what you saw upon your arrival at Buchenwald?

A We arrived from Camp Dachau on the evening of September 27th at the station Weimar. We had to spend the night in the wagons at the station and were marched in the morning to Ettersberg to Camp Buchenwald. We had nothing but our thin summer clothes on, the so called Zebra, and it was very cold and it was raining. Of course, we were kept in order by the SS guards by the usual methods of kicking and beating and so on. When we arrived at Buchenwald we were lined up on the Appell Platz, facing the bunkers. The first thing we saw was the whipping of a



to 51 1jh  
4/18 Buch

prisoner with twenty five on the so called "Block", the execution of which was obviously postponed until the time of our arrival, so that we new arrivals had to see the scene.

Q Dr. Sitte, let me ask you this question, how many prisoners were on the march from Weimar to Buchenwald?

A About 2,000.

Q What was the nationality, in general, of these prisoners?

A They were mixed nationalities, Germans, Czechs, about 600 Czechs, and a few Poles.

Q Dr. Sitte, will you be good enough to describe to the Court, if you are familiar with it, the conditions of the Polish prisoners at Buchenwald in October 1939?

A Up to October 1939 there were very few Polish prisoners but in October 1939 in two days there arrived 2,000 Polish prisoners who were separated from the others to the so called "Garden of Roses". This Garden of Roses was on the left side of the Appell Platz and was surrounded by barbed wire and consisted of tents and later on a small hut with an open wall to the front so that it was not protected from the cold and rain or the winds. In this hut a few days later the so called members of the "Majak" were separated. There were 100 of them and they had still less food and still less clothing and still worse treatment. From about 100 prisoners in this group, in less than a fortnight all but one died and this one survived only by a method often used later on, that he was reported dead and carried out of this Rose Garden by members of the illegal camp organization. The food these people got was one tenth of a three pound loaf of bread, one pint, half a liter, of very thin watery soup and that is all. In addition they got, every second day, twenty five with the whip by Hauptscharfuhrer Hinkelmann. I might add that I had the opportunity to see these things because we Czech prisoners could speak with people and one of our Doctors (Sitte-direct)

Professor Karwat, was permitted to visit this camp and I was twice with him. In general, from 2,000 Polish prisoners, in the one month the mortality was 500. This camp was later on, when it was half empty, abandoned because of the danger for the entire camp and for the SS which was too grave because of the epidemics prevailing in this camp, dysentery and other diseases.

Q Dr. Sitte, did you witness any mistreatments, any brutalities, or killings in Buchenwald in the period between the time you first arrived and the end of 1941?

A Yes. I did repeatedly. To give only a very few examples. One of my friends, a man called Steinbach, a Czech prisoner from Alleenots, was working there in the quarry. I saw him almost every day and almost every day I saw him with fresh bleeding wounds. It was rather hard to see one's friend, to see death is coming to a man and you cannot help him. He died early in the winter of 1939. He was the first of my friends to die and not the last. One witnessed almost daily the following: The Czech block of prisoners used to stand on the Appell Platz in the first row facing the bunker, so we had to cross the whole Appell Platz. I remember how horrified we were the first times when we first saw the dead bodies or the dying prisoners lying there sometimes in pools of blood. These were people who had just come through the door and had been beaten in the camp and were not even able to reach their barracks. We were horrified at first but later on were hardened so that we did not notice the bodies we only noticed if especially there were no bodies on the Appell Platz.

Q Dr. Sitte, do you know who the adjutant of the camp was during that period or sometime during that period?

A Yes, it was Hackmann, so called "Johnny" as a nick-name.

Q Dr. Sitte, if you saw Hackmann or "Johnny" in the courtroom, would you be able to recognize him today?

A Yes.

ta 51 1jh  
4/18 Bush

Q Dr. Sitte, would you look among the prisoners in the dock and see if you can identify the accused Hackmann?

A Yes. He is the last in the first row on the right side.

Q What number is he wearing?

A Number 10.

MR. SIROWITZ: Let the record show that the witness has correctly identified the accused Hackmann.

Q During this same period of time, that is, between the time of your arrival and the end of 1941 did you ever know personally or hear of a Dr. Sissle?

A Yes.

Q Describe to the Court just what you saw Dr. Sissle do or just what you know he did at Buchenwald during that period?

A I did not see Dr. Sissle do anything because I had been in this time separated in the Protectorates Block. I know from what I was told by other prisoners that he had the name among the prisoners of "The Horror of Buchenwald". It was told that Dr. Sissle --

PROSECUTION: Just one minute. Doctor, what was it please with respect to the translation?

THE WITNESS: It was nothing important. Not that I was separated from the block but that the Protectorates' Prisoners' Block was separated from the others in so far as they did not go to work at this time.

PROSECUTION: Dr. Interpreter you will please give us the translations.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SIROWITZ:

Q Please continue with your story, Doctor, about Dr. Sissle.

A The story was general knowledge among the prisoners of the camp and it was that Dr. Sissle had the habit of calling prisoners

(Site- direct)

to the camp hospital, in general healthy prisoners upon whom later on he performed surgical operations. These people were the second day or afterwards killed by injections. This may be new to Dr. Eisele, but one of his victims survived, a Dutch prisoner by the name of Webig. He was saved again by the method of reporting him dead and transferring him, in the days of the absence of Dr. Eisele, after the liberation to another department in the hospital.

Q Would you be able to recognize Dr. Eisele if you saw him in the courtroom today?

A Yes, I would.

Q I ask you to look among the defendants in the dock and see if you can identify the accused Eisele?

A Dr. Eisele has the number 6 in the courtroom.

MR. SUROWITZ: Let the record show that the witness has correctly identified the accused Eisele.

Q Doctor, is the phrase 14-F-13 familiar to you?

A Yes, certainly, it is an action in which groups of prisoners were sent to the gas chambers or killed by other extermination methods beginning with July or August 1941 and continuing, to my knowledge, at least to the spring or early summer of 1942. Initially this action was meant to liquidate people who were called lunatics or mentally inferior or physically unfit people. A number of my fellow Czech prisoners were among them. To mention only one name among them, was a former member of the Czech Parliament, Robert Klein, a prominent leader of the Czech Trade Unions. Robert Klein was so mentally inferior that even in the terrible conditions of Buchenwald he outlined and even formulated in his mind a scientific book about sociology, a subject very familiar to him. He used to discuss with his friends, in the evenings new chapters and his friends were kept informed about his results. I don't remember whether it was



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Dr. Herbert Klein or another of our Czech fellow prisoners who was killed in this action, in which case later on we found the reason why he was sent to this death camp. Czech prisoners used to work later in the Political Department and they found among the cards of these 14-V-13 people at least one case where the reason given was: "Jew, German traitor, Democrat."

Q Dr. Sitte, did these transports continue when Pieter was the commandant of Buchenwald?

A Yes, certainly, at least to the spring or early summer of 1942.

Q Dr. Sitte, will you please describe to the Court in general the conditions which existed in Camp Buchenwald for the period beginning with the Fall of 1942 until the end of the camp in April 1945?

A After a period of relative calm, in this time, transports to the camp began and also the building up of the out-commandos. It was obviously the method then that although production was still required, as the number of prisoners were rapidly increasing the death rate also increased. Therefore, hard working conditions and bad food conditions prevailed in this period. Especially transports to and from this camp were done under the most incredible conditions. At times I had the opportunity to see transports directly coming in the door or even at the station and I remember especially a transport of French prisoners from Compiègne. There were several transports from Compiègne naturally, but in one case I was myself present when from a car of dead bodies, of dead prisoners we simply, by taking out these bodies, had sometimes only limbs in our hands because they were simply broken. In one of these transports prisoners arrived naked. The other transports that arrived were partially clothed. Their clothes had been taken away which reduced their chance to escape.

Q Dr. Sitte, what was the condition with respect to children in the camp during this period between 1942 and 1945?

A We had all these times several hundreds up to more or less thousands of children in the camp, mostly of Russian nationality, later Hungarian, Czech and Polish. Children, at least from the age of 12 to 14, were sent to work. The youngest inmate of the camp was about three years old. He was, of course, not working, but he used to stay in the commando. One day a leading SS officer of this commando, Berger, came and told the prisoners that this child had to be sent on a transport on order of the leading officer Barnewald, Sturmbannfuhrer Barnewald. Barnewald, the leading officer of the commando, had seen, had visited the child there, and that was the story Berger told. The prisoners succeeded in saving the child by hiding it under a block in the so-called Small Camp.

Q Dr. Sitte, would you be good enough to raise your voice a little higher? Doctor, if you saw Barnewald in the courtroom today, would you be able to identify him?

A Yes, sir.

Q Please look among the accused in the dock and identify to the court the man you knew as Barnewald at Buchenwald.

A Number 2.

MR. SURKOWITZ: May it please the court, let the record show that the witness has correctly identified the accused Barnewald.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SURKOWITZ:

Q Dr. Sitte, what was your first work assignment, if any, upon your arrival at the camp?

A After we arrived we were not assigned to work, being so-called honest prisoners.

(Sitte-Direct)

Q When did you receive your first duty assignment?

A In spring '41. It was in the garden detail.

Q How long did you work in the gardening detail?

A Only for a few months.

Q At that time did you witness any mistreatments in the gardening detail?

A Yes, sir, I did.

Q Please describe to the court what mistreatments you observed in the gardening detail.

A Especially we saw repeatedly about three prisoners carrying these very difficult boxes, so-called "tragens", or carrying stones in the garden which were used for developing purposes. The garden, I should say, was not a garden at all in the usual sense of the word. It was certainly not a garden with flowers or in which there was things like that at this time. We had to cultivate the whole area from the fence to practically the DAW. It was not a good earth. Mostly earth had to be transported from other places to this gardening detail. Stones had to be used for building paths and roads. This material had to be brought with the help of these so-called "tragens", big boxes filled with a heavy load which normally had to be transported by two prisoners in double time. It was especially in these commandoes that very often Jewish prisoners, Polish Jews and other nationalities were beaten by the SS chief of the gardening detail, Dumbeck and his collaborators. Very often these commandoes had to work in the free time of the prisoners to punish them for any so-called delict.

Q Dr. Sitte, do you know the names of any of the other commissioned or non-commissioned officers in the garden detail, either during the time that you worked there or thereafter?

(Sitte-Direct)

A I certainly do remember the name Krautwurst. He was not in the garden at that time when I was working there, but from my work assignment I came very often to see the gardening chief Dumbeck, so I had very good opportunity to observe Krautwurst.

Q Dr. Sitte, did you ever see Krautwurst engaged in any mistreatments or acts of brutality against the inmates?

A Yes, I saw it repeatedly.

Q Please tell the court very briefly just what you saw Krautwurst do from time to time.

A I saw him again mainly engaged with these commandees carrying earth. I saw him beat them with clubs -- I saw him kick these prisoners -- I saw him speed them in their work by ordering double time of prisoners who were already not fit to work.

Q Doctor, after you were finished with your duty assignment in the garden detail, what was your next duty assignment?

A My next assignment was to the Commando Ahnenforschung, the Ancestry Research Commando.

Q Doctor, in order to save the time of the court, I will omit at this time the nature of the work done there and ask you to point out to the court on Prosecution Exhibit Number 8 in evidence just where the block for Ancestry Research was located.

A Mainly in this place, in a small room from the end, on the end of block 7. (Indicating)

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, let the record show that the witness has pointed to a spot on Prosecution Exhibit Number 8 in evidence, the central block of three blocks enclosed by a red border and arbitrarily designated on the exhibit as Number 11.

(Sitte-Direct)



Q Will you be good enough, doctor, to tell the court what you observed while you were working in the Ancestry Research Block with respect to Russian prisoners or Russian prisoners of war?

A Russian prisoners of war were from autumn 1941 in these blocks. They were then, although it was very cold, clothed in their very thin summer uniforms. They were normally not even in their free time allowed to spend their time in the block, but had to stand for hours and hours outside. In those first weeks only part of them were assigned to work. They were selected by the block eldest or capo of their commandos, which were only prisoners of the worst kinds, criminal or so-called black social elements. There were no political prisoners among them. I saw the method how people were selected to work. The block eldest took his broad leather belt and went through the rows of these prisoners lined up before his block with hard blows. He indicated which of the prisoners he wanted to step out and these had to go then to work. From our room we could see the space between two of these blocks and the doors of these blocks very very accurately. Every man we could see, and the bodies of prisoners of war, and they died there by exhaustion in the night. I do not remember a morning where I would have seen less than at least two, sometimes five bodies lying at the door of each of these blocks.

Q Doctor, until when did you work in the Ancestry Research Commando?

A I did work there until the summer of '42.

Q What was then your next duty assignment?

A My next assignment was the Pathology Department.

(Bitte-Direct)

Q How long did you work in the Pathology Department?

A I worked there until the end.

Q Under what department was the Pathology Department?

A The Pathology Department was an independent commando in close connection with the camp hospital.

Q Dr. Sitte, precisely what position or positions did you hold in the Pathology Department in the period that you worked there?

A I began working in the chemical laboratory and was since autumn '42 the deputy leading prisoner and later in the last months, leading prisoner of this department.

Q Dr. Sitte, please explain very briefly, if you please, what were the official functions of the Pathology Department?

A The functions of the Pathology Department were fourfold. We had the dissection department; secondly and thirdly, the departments where preparations, macroscopic and microscopic were made; and fourthly, the chemical laboratory.

Q In reality, Dr. Sitte, what did the Pathology Department at Buchenwald do?

A Apart from the official functions, we had, of course, a number of other functions to fulfill, so in all departments things were done which were not official under the title of the department. The dissection department had, for instance, the official duty to perform dissection of all prisoners who died in the camp in order to establish the cause of the death. This was, because of the number of deaths in the camp in the later years, a simple impossibility. We pointed that out repeatedly to the SS doctors of the camp. They always refused to permit us not to write dissection protocols as done by the dissection of all prisoners, but to practically fake these protocols by writing protocols of dissections we could not perform.

(Sitte-Direct)

Q Dr. Sitte, how many dead bodies passed through the Pathology Department in the period from 1942 and the end in 1945, the 11th of April?

A I cannot tell the accurate number but I think it has been between thirty and thirty-five thousand.

Q Does that figure include all the deaths of prisoners in Buchenwald as well as all of its Aussen-Kommandoes?

A This figure includes the prisoners who died in out-commandoes not too far from Buchenwald, from which bodies could be sent to Buchenwald. It does exclude those who were too far, and does exclude bodies of prisoners who were executed or liquidated in the camp and did not pass through the Pathology Department.

Q Dr. Sitte, of the thirty to thirty-five thousand dead bodies that passed through the Pathology Department during the period 1942 and 1945, can you tell the court what in your opinion was the chief cause of death of such dead bodies?

A The real cause of death in the majority of these prisoners was exhaustion by overworking and underfeeding. They collapsed through overworking and underfeeding.

Q Dr. Sitte, again, of these thirty to thirty-five thousand dead bodies that passed through the Pathology Department, can you state in descending order, numerically, the first four nations represented by these bodies?

A I think the greatest number of victims were among the French. The second, I think, were Russians, the third, I think, the Polish, and then the Czech. I have no exact statistics about that.

Q Doctor, do you know of the phrase, if any, you were required to include on an SS cause of death report with respect to death that was caused by external violence?

(Sitte-Direct)

A If prisoners were shot while attempting to escape, or if prisoners were found hanged, we were compelled to add the phrase as having described the state of the corpse, the marks of the shot or the hanging. We were compelled to add the phrase, "No other traces of violence could be found."

Q Dr. Sitte, do you have any statistics of the number of prisoners in Buchenwald Concentration Camp that were shot while trying to escape?

A In these cases very accurate protocols had to be written. I had statistics concerning the first month when these protocols were introduced, that is, from June 1940. In this first month, beginning with June 1940, we had within six months, more than 80 protocols that we saved, of prisoners shot while attempting to escape. In June 1940, it was 34. It is interesting that in the first months up to October, the general description heading the protocol begins with, "Body of a man of reduced, of very bad state of health and strength", in seventy-five percent of all cases. The official phrase is, "Leiche eines -- 60 jaehrigen Mannes in herabgesetztem Ernaehrungs-und sehr schlechtem Kraefte zustand." -- in eighty percent of all cases. Most of these men were old men, so from that it would follow that only the old and physically unfit people would try to attempt to escape, which, of course is ridiculous. After October 1940 we were not allowed to write in these protocols anything about the general state which was bad. I might add that we were able to save all these protocols because I had all these things prepared in the end, although I was not present then, being myself among this group of 46 prisoners who had to be saved. My duties succeeded in saving most of the protocols for all these years.

(Sitte-Direct)



Q Dr. Sitte, do you have any other statistics that you can describe very briefly to the court concerning either health or mortality of nationalities or prisoners from Buchenwald or its Aussen-Kommandoes?

A I had a precise statistics of Danish prisoners, about 1700 young, strong and healthy men, active police officers. Of those, 3.5 percent died within four months. For a year that would mean a mortality of more than ten percent, although, of course, it should be understood that this figure is certainly too small as the mortality increased after a long stay in the camp so that figure is certainly an optimistic one. To prove that, I subdivided these statistics in two parts, first, concerning the death protocols taken the first weeks of the custody of these Danish prisoners. In this time, in sixty-seven percent of all cases the general state of the bodies was found to be good or very good. In no case we found a bad state. For the later weeks I got eighty-two percent of bad or very bad state and only in about ten percent a good state.

PRESIDENT: Court will recess for twenty minutes.

(Whereupon at 1000 hours the court recessed until 1020 hours.)

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(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1020 hours.)

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, let the record show that all the personnel of the court; all the personnel of the prosecution; all the personnel of the defense are present; all the accused are present; the interpreter and reporter are present.

The witness is reminded he is still under oath and if there are any spectators in the courtroom who expect to be called as witnesses in this case they will please leave the courtroom.

DR. KURT SITTE, called as a witness by the prosecution, resumed the stand and testified as follows:

(Whereupon the proceedings were translated into the German language.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION (continued)

QUESTIONS BY MR. SURONITZ:

Q Dr. Sitte, just before the morning recess I believe you concluded telling the court about the conditions of the Danish prisoners in Buchenwald, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q When were these Danish prisoners at Buchenwald?

A These Danish prisoners were in Buchenwald in the Autumn of 1944.

Q Who was the Commanding Officer at Buchenwald at that time?

A The Commanding Officer at that time was Fister.

Q Dr. Sitte, will you please continue with whatever other descriptions or statistics you have concerning the condition or conditions of prisoners at Buchenwald Concentration Camp proper or its Ausserkommandos?

A I had mainly statistics prepared about the causes of death and mortality of the out commandos of Laura, Dora and S-3, Ohrdruf. I may quote from these statistics the following facts: In Dora died in the

(Sitte-direct)

month of December 1943 to March 1944 an average approximately 5% of the inmates in a month.

Q Doctor, did the dead bodies of the prisoners who died at Dora come to the Pathology Department at Buchenwald?

A At that time they were all sent to the Pathology Department at Buchenwald to establish the cause of death. They were sent to us approximately every third day and normally about fifty or sixty bodies. The bodies were again in an indescribably bad state. I should think the average weight of these bodies was approximately 100 pounds, forty-five kilograms.

Q What nationalities did these dead bodies represent, Doctor?

A Most French, Polish and Russian. It happened very often also that we found corpses without lips and without heads who died in these mines of Dora.

Q We are speaking only about Dora, now.

A That's all Dora.

Q And that, to repeat, was between the period of September 1943 and March 1944, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Proceed, Doctor, with your description of the dead bodies that came from the Aussenkommando, Laura.

A The mortality at Laura was still higher than that of Dora. We had in the months of December 1943 to March 1944 approximately 10% mortality. The appearance of the bodies was the same as from Dora, utterly exhausted and underfed.

Q During the time that these dead bodies came to you from Laura was Laura still an Aussenkommando of Buchenwald?

A Yes, it was.

Q Do you have any idea during what period of time that was?

A It was beginning with about September 1943 to about September 1944.

I may add that the mortality later on was a little less and may add, furthermore, that these numbers of course do not include the transports sent from Laura and from Dora or other extermination camps. We know other reasons. About 300 were sent from Laura to Bergen-Belsen. About three thousand were sent in the period from Dora to Lublin and from Dora to Bergen-Belsen.

Q Doctor, before you give the court statistics on S-3 otherwise known as Ohrdruf, will you be good enough to describe to the court just what kind of an Aussenkommando S-3 was?

A S-3 was founded only about November 1944, was a production of V weapons in the last sense. In January 1945 it was transferred to the Camp Buchenwald and from that time on we have precise knowledge about it.

Q And your figures with relation to the dead bodies from Ohrdruf relate to the period between January 1945 until the end, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Please relate to the court, then Doctor Sitte, what these statistics are.

A Between seven, including thirteen thousand prisoners, we have had a total mortality of at least fifteen hundred persons, not including again transports from Ohrdruf to extermination camps. Not including, further, the number of prisoners liquidated on the march from Ohrdruf to Buchenwald in April, the last days when from twelve thousand prisoners marched from Ohrdruf, nine thousand and three hundred arrived at Buchenwald.

Q Now, Doctor, do you have any knowledge concerning any kind of execution detail in Buchenwald Camp proper?

A Yes, sir, I do.

Q Will you please be good enough to tell the court precisely what you knew about one of the execution details?

(Sitte-direct)



A We have precise knowledge about the Commando 99 method used for liquidation of Russian prisoners of war and we have knowledge about liquidation of at least two groups of Allied parachutists. We have precise knowledge that Commando 99 got for all of the executions extra rations of bread, of sausage, of margarine and of schnapps. We know they were the very first to get their Distinguished Service crosses. We know how liquidations were done. Personally, I happened to be present the evening when the capo or the commando adjoining the workshop in the camp told us, "I went there to teach two of these members of the commando higher mathematics" he told us in the evening almost crying they got the material to build the equipment which they meant to be for liquidation of prisoners and they couldn't do anything about it. Furthermore, later I was in the Pathological Department. Prisoners of our department had the opportunity to see vans with the bodies coming to the court of the crematorium.

Q Dr. Sitte, what do you know about the execution or killing of the Allied parachutists at Buchenwald?

A At least twice in the Autumn of 1945, first in September and the second a few weeks later, a lorry was driven to the court of the crematorium from which bodies were discharged. We found later that just at the same time Allied parachutists had been called to the door and never returned to the camp. It was therefore established that these prisoners of war had been killed in the time and their bodies were brought to the crematorium to be burned there.

Q Dr. Sitte, do you know who was the roll call leader at Buchenwald Main Camp during the period from approximately May 1942 to October 1942?

A Yes, sir, it was Roscher.

Q What do you know about the accused, Roscher?

A I had repeatedly opportunity to see Roscher mistreat prisoners coming in from their working assignments and how he most brutally treated

(Sitte-direct)

prisoners standing at the door waiting there or called to the door for any reasons.

Q Dr. Sitte, if you saw Roscher in court today would you be able to recognize him?

A Yes, certainly.

Q I ask you to look at the accused in the dock and point out to the court the accused, Roscher.

A It is No. 24.

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, let the record show that the witness has correctly identified the accused, Roscher.

PRESIDENT: The accused will not raise their hands when the witness attempts to identify someone.

THE WITNESS: May I mention that I looked at Roscher and he saw that I looked at him when the question was asked, before the question was translated.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Dr. Sitte, to your knowledge was the processing of tattooing human skin of prisoners carried on in the Pathological Department at Buchenwald?

A Yes, it was.

Q Will you be good enough to describe to the court just what this practice or process consisted of in the period you actually worked there between June 1942 until the end?

A At the time when I was occupied in the Pathology Department the order existed that of all bodies with either colorful or other interesting tattoo the skin had been stripped off and it had to be prepared in our Pathology Department. I may add that first of all obscene tattooing were considered interesting.

(Sitte-direct)

Q Can you tell the court whether or not anywhere in Buchenwald Concentration Camp index cards or file cards existed setting forth the name of the prisoners together with the fact whether or not he had any tattooing on his body and the nature of that tattooing.

A To my knowledge such a list existed at the hospital. It was in a large double size list of cards.

Q Dr. Sitte, will you be good enough now to tell the court what you know about the tattooing practices carried on in Buchenwald prior to the time you came to the Pathological Department in June 1942.

A I know that during that period that tattoos were often misused for construction of a lampshade, of knife cases and similar instruments for SS. I have seen with my own eyes still a knife case which was ordered by one of the SS guards and in the meantime Frau Koch had been too well known in the camp not then delivered. It remained in the Pathological Department in the end and we showed it to the American investigating authorities after the liberation.

Q Do you know, Dr. Sitte, whether or not a prisoner was ever killed merely in order to secure his tattooed skin?

A It was not done during the time of my occupation in the Pathological Department but it is known that before things like that had happened. I pointed out in direct proof of that to the American authorities after the liberation in the thesis work of SS Dr. Wagner there is a photo taken of an arm of a prisoner with tattooing on it, of a living man. The same tattooing I found when I came to the Pathological Department in 1942 in one of these glass cases prepared in a solution.

Q Dr. Sitte, do you have any knowledge concerning a letter issuing from higher headquarters and directed to authorities at Buchenwald relating generally to tattooing?

(Sitte-direct)

A Yes, I have. In the time of the investigation of the Koch affair a letter was written by Lolling, Chief of D-3 to the Concentration Camp asking whether in Buchenwald there is a frame for a lampshade. Actually this frame did at that time exist. I have seen it. The answer we were to give was that that was not the frame for a lampshade but a frame on which human skin should be dried.

Q To your knowledge, Dr. Sitte, was that answer a true one or a false one?

A It was a false one.

Q Why?

A Because the thing was not even fit for drying but was the frame of a lampshade. One could recognize that quite easily.

Q Dr. Sitte, do you know what relationship, if any, Frau Ilse Koch had with the practise of tattooed human skin?

A I know that the lampshade had been delivered before the time of my activity in the Pathology Department to Frau Koch. The art of preparing the skin for that purpose was still in use later on to make the skin transparent. It was only part of the skin tattooing preparations that were treated in this way. I know also that it was common knowledge that in the camp it happened that prisoners were called to the hospital from commandos where Ilse Koch had passed by the day before and so had seen the prisoners. That these prisoners later on were killed in the hospital and the tattooing was stripped off.

Q Dr. Sitte, you mentioned that a lampshade was delivered to Ilse Koch. Was that lampshade made of tattooed human skin?

A Yes sir, it was.

(Sitte direct)



MR. SUROWITZ: I now ask the reporter to mark as prosecution Exhibit 13 for identification this piece of plywood containing thereon five separate items and ask furthermore that each item be marked Prosecution Exhibit 13 a, 13b, 13 c, 13 d and 13 e for identification.

(The documents referred to were marked Prosecution Exhibits 13, 13 a, 13 b 13 c, 13 d and 13 e for identification.)

Pursuant to stipulation, Prosecution Exhibit No. 7 in evidence, I now offer in evidence Prosecution Exhibits for identification 13 a, 13 b and 13 c and state for the record that these exhibits have been captured by the Allied Armies and fall within the purview of the stipulation which is now in evidence. For the record, the three items that have been offered here in evidence are pieces of human skin captured by the Allied Armies at Buchenwald. A letter will be placed in evidence, a letter issued by competent authority, properly identifying and describing such exhibits.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: If it please the court, the defense objects to the introduction in evidence of the proceesed exhibits on the ground that no foundation has been laid for its introduction; the circumstances under which the exhibits have been obtained have not been presented to this court; nobody here has testified about the manner in which these exhibits came into the hands of the authorities, how they were obtained and who was the author of that statement.

MR. SUROWITZ: If the court please, I will identify these skins by the witness since the objection has been made.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SURDOWITZ:

Q Dr. Sitte I show you Prosecutions Exhibits 13-A, 13-B and 13-C for identification and ask you whether or not these exhibits have been seen by you before?

A I certainly have seen 13-A and 13-C. I cannot be quite sure about 13-B because we had hundreds of pieces of that kind. There is no special mark which I remember. It may well be that it was one of our pieces, but it could have been from other sources. Not so the other two, 13-A and 13-C.

Q When is the last time you saw Prosecutions 13-A and 13-C for identification?

A When I handed them over to the allied authorities after the liberation of the camp.

Q Are they now in substantially the same condition as they were when you first handed them over to the allied authorities at the liberation of the camp?

A They are.

MR. SURDOWITZ: I now renew my offer to place into evidence Prosecutions Exhibits 13-A and 13-C for identification. I am omitting, at this time, Prosecutions Exhibit 13-B for identification.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: If the prosecution intends to prove by this witness that he was the owner of that skin and turned it over to allied forces we will not object, but we still contend that there has been no proof in this court that that skin came from Buchenwald before the American forces entered the camp nor that it came from any responsible authority in Buchenwald or from any of these accused.

MR. SURDOWITZ: I respectfully call the court's attention to Prosecutions Exhibit Number 7 in evidence, a stipulation consented to by counsel for the accused in which all exhibits captured by the allied armies whether documentary or otherwise are not to be objected to by the accused

(Sitte-54)  
Direct

upon the presentation of such items in evidence upon the trial of this action. In addition, I respectfully submit to the court that counsel's argument does not go to the competence of the evidence but merely as subject matter for cross examination.

LAW MEMBER: I want to ask the witness a question.

You say that you turned over these exhibits A and C to the American authorities on liberation. From what source did you obtain those pieces of skin?

THE WITNESS: 13-A and 13-C were produced in the time of my activity in the pathology department by prisoners of the pathology department. It was a Czech prisoner called Anton Vedicka.

PRESIDENT: Does the defense desire to cross examine the witness on that point?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: The defense does.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q The court asked you a question which was very simple--where you obtained Exhibits 13-A and 13-C. Are you now prepared to tell the court where you obtained it?

PROSECUTION: We object to counsel either lecturing or arguing with the witness.

PRESIDENT: Objection sustained.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q Will you tell the court where you obtained Exhibit 13-A and 13-C for identification?

A I obtained these pieces of evidence here in the courtroom. Is that the meaning of the question?

Q You just identified two proposed exhibits and you testified that you turned those over to the American authorities?

A Yes.

Q The question is where did you get them?

A During the time of my activity in the pathological department hundreds of these pieces were prepared. The majority of them were sent to the SS Academy in Berlin or other SS institutions. At all times there were a number of skin preparations of that kind for exhibition purposes whenever SS officers or other officers visited the camp. We had to show them the preparations of the pathology department. Among them first interest was concentrated upon the tattooed preparations. So it happened at the time of the liberation of the camp--all other times we had a certain stock of pieces of tattooed skin--these pieces of it I handed over to the American authorities.

Q Were these two particular pieces which you handed over to the American authorities and which you identified today taken from the pathological department?

A Yes, they were.

Q Did you personally take them from the pathological department and turn them over to the American authorities?

A I can't say whether I handed over these particular pieces, but I handed a number of pieces. I cannot say that I had handed over these particular pieces myself personally to the American Authorities, but I remember for certain that these two pieces belonged to the stock of our preparations which after the liberation were handed over partly by me and partly by other persons to the American authorities.

PRESIDENT: The court is satisfied with the identification. Prosecutions Exhibits Number 13-A and 13-C will be received in evidence.

(The documents heretofore marked Prosecutions Exhibits 13-A and 13-C for identification, were received in evidence as Prosecutions Exhibits 13-A and 13-C, are attached hereto and made a part of the record.)

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, I now offer in evidence



as Prosecutions exhibit 13-D an exhibit which has been marked Prosecutions Exhibit 13-D for identification. In order to further clarify the record may I respectfully state to the court that this exhibit intended for submission in evidence is a letter identifying the pieces of skin that have now been admitted into evidence as 13-A and 13-C and excluded from the offer in evidence of this letter is that portion thereof that relates to the pieces of skin identified as Exhibit 13-B for identification, which has not been received in evidence.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: No objection by the defense counsel.

PRESIDENT: Prosecutions Exhibit Number 13-D will be received in evidence as stated by the prosecution.

(The document heretofore marked Prosecutions Exhibit 13-D for identification, was received in evidence as Prosecutions Exhibit 13-D, is attached hereto and made a part of the record.)

MR. SUROWITZ: I respectfully ask permission of the court to read this particular exhibit.

PRESIDENT: Permission granted.

(Whereupon the exhibit was read by Mr. Surowitz in the English language and translated into the German language by the interpreter.)

MR. SUROWITZ: I now ask the reporter to mark this exhibit as Prosecutions Exhibit 14 for identification.

(The object referred to was marked Prosecutions Exhibit 14 for identification.)

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Dr. Sitte I show you prosecutions Exhibit 14 for identification and ask you to describe to the court just what that is?

A This is a shrunken head of a prisoner which I also handed over to the American authorities after the liberation.

May I be allowed to submit a picture, a newspaper picture, showing this?

(Sitte-direct)

MR. SURDOWITZ: I now ask the reporter to mark this exhibit Prosecutions Exhibit 15 for identification.

(The document referred to was marked Prosecution Exhibit 15 for identification.)

Q Doctor Sitte please explain to the court what you know about Prosecutions Exhibit 14 for identification?

A It is one of two shrunken heads prepared among us at the pathology department before the time of my activity. It is a head of a Polish prisoner who escaped from the camp, was recaptured, executed and then on the orders of the SS Doctor Mueller decapitated. The prisoner Bach got the order to prepare these shrunken heads by first splitting the skin, peeling out the whole interior of the head, filling the cavities with sand and putting the whole thing in sand of a certain heat and pressure from 24 to 48 hours. After this procedure the head was shrunken to a size one sees here and these two heads were among the main attraction then again when visitors, SS or other officers came to the pathology department. Prisoner Bach was in my time still a member of the pathology commando and told us the story of these heads.

Q Is this head, plaintiff's exhibit 14 for identification, the same head that you handed over to the American authorities at the liberation of the camp?

A Yes, it is.

Q Is it now in substantially the same condition it was when you handed it over to the American authorities?

A Substantially it is. There is only a new base.

MR. SURDOWITZ: If it please the court I now offer in evidence Prosecutions Exhibit 14 for identification. This is made not only on the basis of the testimony now given by the witness, but also pursuant to prosecutions exhibit 7 in evidence.

(Sitte-direct)

CAPTAIN LEWIS: The defense objects to the admission into evidence of the proposed exhibit on the ground that is not relevant to this case because the witness has testified that it was prepared by a prisoner named Bach. On the further ground that it was apparently ordered by a Doctor Mueller who was not one of the accused in this case and no connection whatsoever has been shown by this for this proposed exhibit to any of the accused in the dock here today.

PRESIDENT: Objection is overruled. Prosecutions Exhibit Number 14 will be received in evidence.

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Dr. Sitte were heads similar to Prosecutions Exhibit 14 made at Buchenwald during the period from June, 1942 until the end, that is while you were in the pathology department?

A Not at the time of my activity.

Q MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court we have no further questions of this witness. We respectfully ask that we be permitted to withdraw these exhibits at the conclusion of this trial or at any time when the defense counsel is finished with these exhibits so that we may send them to Washington and substitute photographs therefore.

PRESIDENT: Permission is granted to withdraw as stipulated.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: The defense counsel asks for a recess until one thirty in order to prepare the cross examination of this witness.

PRESIDENT: Request is disapproved. We will recess in place.

(Whereupon the court recessed in place.)

18 April 1947

PRESIDENT: Court will come to order.

MR. KUNZIG: The witness is reminded that he is still under oath.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q You testified on direct examination concerning the activities of the accused Roscher. When, for the first time, did you ever see the accused Roscher beat any prisoner?

A I remember having seen it in 1942, in the Summer of 1942, when we were on the Roll Call Place and standing there in formation, the first rows.

Q And what was Roscher doing at that time?

A Roscher at that time was Roll Call Leader.

Q Was he taking the roll call at the time that you saw him?

A He was taking the roll call in turn with another roll call leader.

Q And while he was taking this roll call, did he enter the numbers or counts of the prisoners on the roll call report?

A He got the numbers from the Block Leaders, took them down and added them and reported that to the Camp Leader.

Q Now, tell us exactly what you saw the accused Roscher do regarding the beating of any prisoners when you saw him at that time?

A I saw him beating prisoners coming in with commandos or prisoners standing at or called to the door, assaulting prisoners who were late and all prisoners who had doing something which was considered as against the rules of the camp.

Q I want you to tell me the first specific instance that you saw Roscher beat any of the prisoners?



A It was certainly soon after I got to know Roscher when he became Report Fushrer. The number of similar incidents makes it impossible to recall specific incidents.

Q Well do you know what prisoners were involved in any of these beatings?

A Camp Buchenwald at that time had something like twenty thousand prisoners. Therefore, it is impossible to know the names of them. There were certainly prisoners of French, Polish and Czechoslovakian. I spoke to Czech prisoners who were beaten by Roscher.

Q I am asking you now about the specific incidents of beatings that you saw. Could you identify any of these prisoners by nationality?

A Yes I could.

Q Now, tell us specifically by the identity of the prisoner's nationality, what occurred?

A Roscher mistreated prisoners in the way mentioned before, prisoners which I could identify as French, Czechs and others. I remember also having spoken to Czech prisoners who were beaten by Roscher.

Q Do you remember any specific incident where any French prisoner was beaten and if so, tell us in what manner he was beaten?

A I remember a commando, mainly of French, coming in not in the right order. They were not in rows of five exactly. I remember I was standing at the door. I remember how Roscher kicked these prisoners and I remember how other prisoners misunderstood Roscher for some reason or other and was beaten back from out of the door because he belonged to another group and was not accepted by the same group.

Q How many times did Roscher kick this prisoner?

A One couldn't count the number of kicks that were administered.

Q And how many times did Roscher beat this prisoner?

A I think only a sadistic prisoner would have looked long at scenes like that, therefore nobody would be able to testify about the number of kicks and beatings a man would have to take.

Q Did Roscher at that time have any stick or other weapon in his hand?

A Not at that time or else he would have used it. He had it in other cases.

Q All right, tell us of an incident in which you saw the accused Roscher beat a prisoner with a stick or other weapon?

A For the same reasons given before, it is impossible to recall specific instances of that kind, because of the high number of similar incidents happening almost every day.

Q Did you see the accused Roscher every day?

A Almost every day. I did see him always when he was on duty.

Q Was he on duty every day?

A No.

Q How often was he on duty when you saw him?

A Normally every second day and sometimes in between.

Q So that from the period of May, 1942, to October 1942 you only saw the accused Roscher every other day or even at less frequent intervals, is that right?

A That is not correct, because I mentioned I saw him on duty. I did see him when he was not on duty as Roll Call Leader also.

(Sitte - cross)

Q Well you testified that you saw the accused Roscher at the door of the camp as the prisoners came in and after they came in beating these people. I am referring to the time you saw him at Roll Calls?

A I hope to make this clear that it is impossible to state numbers of these incidents. I did see him almost regularly beat prisoners on duty. I saw him beating prisoners when he was out of duty also and I did see him, of course, in other places at times other than when he was taking Roll Call.

Q Do you want to say that every time that the accused Roscher took the Roll Call, either in the morning or at night, that he beat prisoners?

A May I say that sometimes he did not, but that he did very often.

Q Would you say that the times that he did were more often than the times he did not?

A Probably yes.

Q And of these times that it did happen, would you say that most of the times he had a weapon or stick in his hand when he beat these prisoners?

A Very often he had a weapon or a club, something like that.

Q What kind of a club did he have?

A Wooden.

Q Was that a wooden club that had a leather thong or wrist strap on it?

A I don't think so. I myself was not beaten at that time.

(Sitte - cross)

Q But you saw the beatings that Roscher gave, didn't you?

A Yes.

Q Can't you remember the club, the type of club that he used?

A To my knowledge it was a wooden club.

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, may I remind Doctor Sitte that he speak louder, more distinctly and slower for the benefit of the court and the reporter.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q On these occasions when Roscher was alleged to have beaten the prisoners called to the door, do you know whether he beat them at this time with this club or with his hands?

A With both.

Q And were these prisoners called to the door to receive punishment for camp infractions?

A Only in a few cases when they were beaten by Roscher.

Q What was the occasion for these prisoners being called to the door during the Roll Call?

A They were not called during Roll Call. They were standing all during the roll call or coming in singly.

Q But they were called specifically to report to the door weren't they?

A They were usually stopped at the door coming in for instance or they were called to the door often for other reasons than for punishment, as going out for duties.

Q And at that time when they were called to the door, the accused Roscher was taking the Roll Call, isn't that so?

A As I mentioned before mostly in turns, sometimes.



Q But the times when you saw Roscher on the Roll Call Place he was actively engaged in taking the Roll Call, wasn't he?

A When he was taking the Call directly he had to have his block and pencil in his hands and one can't beat directly like that, but while waiting for the reports of the Block Leaders he would beat them.

Q When Roscher was taking these Rolls and writing with his pencil, would he be carrying a club with him?

A As I mentioned, one can't very well carry a pencil and a block in his hand as well as a club. The club wasn't very far.

Q Now on other occasions where did you see the accused Roscher beat prisoners outside of the Roll Call Place?

A Going through the camp.

Q Well can you tell us any specific instances that you know of?

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, I object to this line of questioning. It is repetitious. The witness has stated that so many instances occurred that he couldn't recall any specific ones.

PRESIDENT: The objection is overruled. Bring your questioning to the fine point and don't wander around so much.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: Yes sir.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q I ask the witness again if he can recall one specific instance where he saw the accused Roscher beat a prisoner not in the Roll Call Place?

A I certainly have seen him beat prisoners on the path leading to the camp hospital where at that time I often had to go.

Q And when was this?

A The Summer of 1942.

Q And that was during the day, between Roll Calls?

A During the time between roll calls, in the daytime.

Q Do you recall the nationality of any of these prisoners who you allege you saw the accused beat at that time?

A If I do not belong to the kind of sadistic prisoner who liked to look at things like that, I did not observe more than I could avoid.

Q So then you want us to believe that when you saw the accused Roscher beat anybody you didn't look very long, isn't that right?

A May I respectfully point out that any prisoner of the camp was rather glad not to see or go too close to things like that. It was far too dangerous.

Q But you still will not deny that whenever you saw such beatings you looked for a few moments and then turned your head away, isn't that so?

A In the camp -- inside the camp.

Q And you didn't watch the whole beating that the prisoners received, did you?

A I would look and then go into another direction or another way, not looking for a similar beating.

Q Why were you interested in finding out for certain whether a prisoner was being beaten?

A I didn't want to make certain but I could see these things close enough to find out what was going on.

(Sitte - cross)

Q You can't say that you ever saw the accused Roacher give more than one or two blows to a prisoner before you turned your head away, isn't that right?

A That is not right. It is right that I did turn my head away and go ahead as it would be a danger to come too close to that. I did observe things like that. I had sometimes to observe things like that from a large distance.

Q And those occasions when you observed the beatings from a large distance, you are quite certain that that was the accused Roacher that was involved, aren't you?

A Definitely.

Q And would you say then that you saw any incident from the beginning of the beating until the end of the beating?

A Probably not from the beginning to the end, but for a time to see more than one or two blows.

Q So you can not testify in this court that you ever saw the accused Roacher beat any person more than once or twice, isn't that so?

A That is not. I didn't see it from the beginning to the end but at that there wasn't only one or two blows. I would repeatedly see him beat people but not to the end, but more than one or two blows would fall.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: May we recess now. I think this is a good place to recess.

PRESIDENT: Continue. We have seven minutes yet.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: Yes sir.

(Sits - cross)

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEVITS:

Q You testified on direct examination that there was a child two years old in Camp Buchenwald. Can you tell the court how that child came into camp?

A The child came to the Camp with its father after having been smuggled through a number of other camps at great danger to the father and the child.

Q And was that true of all the other children in camp?

A No. Parents that were Russian were sent to the camp with children in sections in which the whole population was sent to the camps in Germany. The same was true with Czechs and Poles. With their families there came Gypsies who were later sent to the extermination to Bergen-Belsen.

Q Were there any transports of any children under the age of twelve sent to Buchenwald?

A I don't remember any consisting entirely of children. That would not necessarily mean there was no transport because I couldn't see all the transports.

Q Isn't it a fact that children that would arrive at Buchenwald would come with their parents or fathers?

A No. In many cases the parents did not live. In other cases they were sent alone.

Q And these were children under twelve years of age that were sent to Buchenwald, the labor camp?

A Partly.

Q Do you know whether these children wore camp uniforms?

A During the time all the prisoners had uniforms. During the later years the prisoners had kind of civilian clothes with special marks.



Q I am referring to these children. Did they wear the triangle like other prisoners?

A Yes they had.

Q And were there any political prisoners among these children?

A They were called political prisoners with an "R" or a "P".  
The triangle had red.

Q Were these red triangles or other triangles issued to these children from the camp authorities?

A Yes they had to have the triangles as they were prisoners in Camp Buchenwald.

Q Did you say also that a record was kept in the Headquarters, either a personal file or some other cards indicating that these children were prisoners at Buchenwald?

A Yes they were. They had special blocks.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: May we recess here?

PRESIDENT: Court will recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon at 1159 hours court recessed until 1330 hours.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1330 hours.)

PRESIDENT: The court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, let the record show that all the personnel of the court, all the personnel of the prosecution, all the personnel of the defense, and all the accused are present.

The witness is reminded that he is still under oath.

If there are any spectators in the courtroom who expect to be called as witnesses in this case they will please leave the courtroom.

KURT SITTE, called as a witness by the prosecution, resumed the stand and being reminded that he was still under oath testified further as follows:

(Whereupon the proceedings were translated into the German language.)

CROSS EXAMINATION (continued)

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q In connection with these children who were present at Camp Buchenwald, were any children under the age of fourteen ever sent out on any work details?

A No, only in especially--in several very few cases.

Q And in what few cases were the children sent out to work?

A I can say only what I have seen from the children's block -- the block behind the pathology department. That is why I can't tell you.

Q And you can't tell us what details they went to, can you?

(Sitte - Cross)

A No.

Q Was there a school at Camp Buchenwald for the children who were there?

A Partly; organized by prisoners.

Q And the children who were in camp attended the school, did they not?

A The youngest children did in their free time attend these schools organized by the prisoners.

Q And did this school exist up until the liberation of the camp?

A I do not know.

Q Turning now to the pathology department where you worked in 1942, did I understand you to say that the processing of human skin continued even during the time while you were there?

A Yes.

Q And what was done with this skin after it was dried?

A These skins were prepared in the form shown in the exhibits, were partly sent then to the SS academy or other SS institutions; partly kept as one of the most attractive exhibits in the exhibition of the pathology department, shown to visitors during all these times. Most of the SS officers took opportunity to show these things to the visitors--SS officers and other officers--among them, certainly, for instance, Pister, Schobert, others. They did never miss the opportunity to point out these exhibits--shrunken heads and tattooed skins.

Q Is it not a fact that these skins were mounted and displayed with tags and labels describing the nature of the

(Sitte - Cross)

tattooing and other details about its origin?

A No. Most of these tattooings were kept in a cupboard. Only a few--the most elaborate examples--were kept on a board with a label containing nothing than the description of it--marked that it is a tattooed skin. Nothing about origin at all.

Q Wasn't a case file kept or a file kept of the case history of the people from whom this skin was taken?

A Not a case file of all these things; only a list of preparations was kept in the pathology department by responsible prisoners, where he described what kind of preparation he was doing.

Q Is it not a fact that this skin was skin that was taken from habitual criminals and was part of a scientific research into the connection between criminals and tattoos on their bodies?

A In my time this skin was taken of all prisoners, whether they were criminal or not, who had a tattooed skin. The so-called scientific work referred to is more statistics work of Dr. Wagner, which, of course, nobody who has seen it would probably ever refer to as scientific work. It was nothing that a real -- absolutely inferior statistics of tattooings--of which characters of people had tattooing and things like that--actually of no scientific value at all.

Q You testified that an order existed that interesting tattooings would be preserved. Do you know from whom this order emanated?

A Not to my own knowledge, no.

(Sitte - Cross)



Q Do you know to whom this order was directed?

A To the chief prisoners of the pathology department--  
at that time Jinevagra in Vienna.

Q And pursuant to this order you say that the skins  
of the prisoners were preserved?

A Yes.

Q Now, you testified that you saw a photograph of  
a man with a tattooed skin on his arm, and that subsequently  
you saw that same tattoo in a specimen jar; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Where was this photograph of this person kept?

A It wasn't a photograph of a person; it was a photo-  
graph of the arm of a person and was part of this mentioned  
scientific work of Dr. Wagner.

Q Were there other photographs of tattoos in this  
collection of Dr. Wagner's?

A Yes.

Q Was there any printed matter or written matter in  
this connection together with the photographs?

A Yes, a thesis of Dr. Wagner.

Q So is it not a fact, then, that this process of  
collecting this skin was a scientific work by Dr. Wagner?

A I don't think a responsible scientist would ever  
call this kind of work scientific.

Q You would not call it scientific, would you?

A Certainly not.

Q But Dr. Wagner called it scientific, did he not?

A The standards of some of the SS doctors were not  
the same as those standards we had.

(Sitte - Gross)

Q Now, you testified also that a file card was kept in the hospital showing the names of the people who had tattoo marks on their body. Was that a special file or did that include all the people in the camp who had visited the hospital?

A There is the card I know of--a general one. Whether or not Dr. Wagner in his scientific work did register tattooed prisoners separately, I don't know from my own knowledge. I was told he did.

Q Did Dr. Wagner work in the hospital, too?

A Yes.

Q Is it not a fact that this card index in the hospital had remarks on it concerning the tattooing on persons' bodies only as a means of identifying these people?

A That is true for a general register.

Q And that is the card index that you referred to this morning, is it not?

A Yes.

Q So you do not want us to believe that a special index was kept of tattooed persons, do you?

A As I mentioned, I was told so. I haven't seen it with my own eyes.

Q You testified that you saw a knife sheath made out of human skin?

A Yes.

Q When did you see this for the first time?

A Soon after I had come to the pathology department.

Q And was this also part of the exhibits there?

A Not usually, because as it was after the Koch affair,

and these things were not even popular with the SS.

Q Who did this sheath belong to?

A It was made for one of the scharfuhrers--SS guards-- and it was kept by first the prisoner Werner Boch, later by Ackerman, and then by me.

Q Do you still have that sheath?

A No.

Q What did you do with it?

A As a matter of fact, I showed it after the liberation, I showed it to the different observers in the camp. The last time I showed it to a British member of Parliament on the delegation to Buchenwald concentration camp, who promised to bring it back. I wanted to hand it over to the American authorities. But he didn't.

Q Do you know what he did with it?

A No.

Q Now, you also testified about a lampshade?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see a lampshade made out of human skin at Buchenwald--yes or no?

A As I mentioned, I haven't seen a lampshade. I have seen only the letter referred to and the frame.

Q Were there any lamps in the pathology department where you worked at all?

A Of course there were.

Q And did they have lampshades on them?

A Not of human skin.

Q And you also saw the framework of a lampshade there, did you not?

(Sitte -Cross)

A Yes, I saw a frame.

Q Were you in Buchenwald on the day of liberation?

A Yes.

Q And how long after the liberation did you remain in Buchenwald?

A About six weeks.

Q Were you present when photographs were taken of Buchenwald after the liberation?

A Yes.

Q And didn't you see a lampshade exhibited on a table before the people of Weimar?

A Yes.

Q Do you know what that lampshade was made of?

A No. It was not a lampshade of tattooed skin. It was a lampshade of a transparent material, the origin of which I do not know. It may have been human skin. I don't know. One can't decide that without a microscopic test, which I couldn't do in this time.

Q Do you know where that lampshade came from?

A No.

Q Had you ever seen that lampshade before?

A No.

Q Were you told at any time while you were there that the picture was being taken that that was a lampshade of human skin?

A I think so.

Q Who told you?

A American authorities.

(Sitte - Cross)



Q When I first asked you the question whether it was made out of skin you testified it was made out of transparent material.

A Which could have been -- yes, which could have been human skin, but one can't decide that without microscopic tests.

Q Can you say definitely to this court that that lampshade that was exhibited to the people of Weimar by the American authorities was made of human skin?

A I cannot say yes nor can I deny it.

Q Do you know what happened to that lampshade?

A No.

Q And was that the first and last time that you ever saw it, when it was displayed there for the movie photographers?

A Yes.

Q You testified also that you heard in camp that a lampshade had been delivered to Mrs. Koch. When did you hear that?

A I heard that for the first time in 1941, in autumn, I think, from prisoners with whom we did play then in our free times games such as handball, later on football. They heard it later on in the pathology department.

Q Did I understand you to say that the prisoners played football and handball in Buchenwald in 1941?

A A very few did.

Q Did you play football in 1941?

A Yes. In this time we were still in a better position of honor prisoners.

(Sitte - Cross)

Q You testified also that you heard that Mrs. Koch took the number down of some prisoner and later on this man was killed?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see Mrs. Koch in Buchenwald?

A I did see her outside the camp when I was standing on the roll call square.

Q You were standing in the roll call place, were you not?

A Yes.

Q And Mrs. Koch was outside of the camp, was she not?

A Yes.

Q What was the occasion that you saw her?

A I saw her very, very often going on the path from the house of the commander to the riding hall she had erected and leading to the SS part of Buchenwald.

Q Was this at the morning roll calls or the evening roll calls?

A Mainly at noontime; sometimes in the evening.

Q Was there a roll call in the midday, too, at that time?

A For working commandos sometimes--during some times.

Q Was your working detail required to attend the roll calls at midday?

A I went then to this roll call with a block of the protected honest prisoners, Block 47.

Q Can you fix a time by month and year, if possible, when you saw Mrs. Koch outside the camp?

(Sitte - Cross)

A It was in summer 1941, and I think also in summer 1940.

Q Did you ever see Mrs. Koch take the numbers of any prisoners down?

A No. At this time we were not permitted--the honest prisoners were not permitted to go outside the camp.

Q Do you know when Mrs. Koch left Buchenwald?

A Not exactly.

Q But after the time her husband was relieved as camp commander, did you ever see her again in or near the camp?

A I don't remember.

Q Did you ever see Mrs. Koch on horseback?

A Yes.

Q How many times?

A Not often.

Q But the many times that you did see her she was mostly on foot going in the direction of the riding academy?

A Mostly walking. I mentioned it only because it is the only road you can see from the roll call place. You can see that this road does not lead only to the riding hall.

Q What else does it lead to?

A It leads, among others, to the infirmary--SS infirmary, and to the quarry and--well--out of camp.

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4/18 Buch

Q This road that you saw Mrs. Koch on, that is the road that is directly on the main gate to the camp, is it not?

A Yes.

Q Now, can you tell us who in the pathology department made these knife sheaths and lamp shades out of human skin?

A To my knowledge the prisoner Werner Koch.

Q Did he work in the pathology department?

A Yes.

Q Was he the only one who did it?

A He collaborated with, I think, a man by the name of Wall. (Wall?)

Q Were there any others?

A I don't know of others, at this time.

Q Did you ever see any book covers made out of human skin?

A No.

Q Did you hear that they were also being made?

A I don't remember. It may be.

Q Then the only thing that you do know about human skin being used, for all practical purposes, was the knife sheath you testified about and the lamp shades that you testified about?

A I was told of several knife sheaths and several other objects I do not remember exactly anymore.

Q Now, referring to the shrunken heads that you testified about, to your knowledge, how many of such heads were ever made in Buchenwald?

A I have seen two and I have heard of at least two others.

Q So that during the whole time that you were in Buchenwald from 1939 until the liberation you can only testify concerning four heads, is that not right?

A Yes.

(Bitte-cross)



Q Is it not a fact that these shrunken heads were made for a medical institute or academy?

A To my knowledge only one of them was sent to a medical institution.

Q Do you know upon whose orders that specimen head was sent to the medical academy?

A I think it was Lolling.

Q Who was Lolling?

A He is the Chief of Office D-3 in Berlin.

Q He was one of the ranking SS physicians, is that not right?

A Yes.

Q He is also connected with the Hygiene Institute in Berlin?

A Yes.

Q Is this the same Lolling that you mentioned earlier today in connection with the letter about the lamp shade?

A Yes.

Q Do you know whether Dr. Lolling requested all these heads to be turned over to him or not?

A No.

Q But you do know one case where one head was sent to a medical academy, don't you?

A Yes.

Q You testified that there were two more left?

A Three more.

Q One of these is here in Court, is it not?

A Yes.

Q What happened to the other two?

A The other one was in our pathology department up to the liberation, what happened to him I don't know. One of them was, so I was told, given to one of the SS officers, I don't know to whom.

(Bitte-cross)

It was given by an SS doctor.

Q I want to ask you one question about the lamp shade again. I am referring to the lamp shade that was on exhibition and photographs were taken, you got close enough to examine that shade, did you not?

A Not close enough to examine it, whether or not it was human skin, that cannot be done by a simple inspection.

Q How close did you get?

A Certainly close enough to determine that it could have been human skin.

Q Did you get close enough to observe the base of the lamp?

A Yes.

Q Was that a metal or a wooden frame, referring to the base?

A I did not look at the base so much as on the other things. I think it was wooden, I maybe mistaken.

Q Would you say that that lamp shade that was exhibited there after the liberation was the same lamp shade that you testified about concerning it having been delivered to Mrs. Koch?

A No it was not, according to the description we got of the lamp shade for Mrs. Koch, this should have been of tattooed skin and should have a base of human bone.

Q When did you get this description of the lamp which Mrs. Koch is supposed to have had?

A In the autumn of 1941 or early 1942, I cannot say that anymore. It was described to me by one of these Jehovah Witnesses prisoners.

Q What was his name?

A I don't remember his name. We usually knew only the Christian name of those people as a safety measure in the camp.

Q What was his christian name?

A Paul.

Q Did he tell you where he had gotten this information about the lamp shade?

A That he had seen it?

Q Did he say where he had seen it?

A He told me he had seen it in the work shop they had then in the basement of one of these blocks, I think it was Block 18, the last row leading to the kitchen.

Q Is that where the lamp shade was made?

A Probably the place where it was completed.

Q Who worked there?

A The people working there were sculptors and other such work was made there.

Q Did he say that he had seen it there before it had been delivered to Mrs. Koch?

A Yes.

Q Did he say how he knew that that lamp which he had seen in the camp was going to go to Mrs. Koch?

A He told us he was informed so by his SS guard.

Q What did he tell him?

A I think, "It should be done quick, the work should be done quick it is for Mrs. Koch".

Q That is what this man Paul told you he heard the SS guard say?

A I don't know whether he heard that himself or whether he told us why he knew it was for Mrs. Koch.

Q Did he say which SS guard made this remark about the lamp being for Mrs. Koch?

A No.

Q Did anybody ever tell you whether Mrs. Koch requested that a lamp shade be made for her?

A As I mentioned before it was said in the camp that Mrs. Koch had even taken the numbers of prisoners so that their skin could be stripped off.

(Sitta-cross)

Q Was it also said in camp that she gave the names or numbers of these prisoners so that their skin would be removed and lamp shades made out of them?

A Yes.

Q You do not know, as a matter of fact, that this lamp which Paul told you about was actually delivered to Mrs. Koch, do you?

A I have not seen it.

Q You don't know, as a matter of fact, whether there ever was any lamp of human skin in her house, do you?

A I have not been to her house. Prisoners who were there have told us that they have seen it.

Q Tell me which prisoners told you that?

A Kalfaktors working there, I don't remember their names. Some of the other prisoners will remember their names.

Q When did these people tell you that they had seen the lamp in Mrs. Koch's house?

A They did not tell me, it was told in camp and I got to hear it, as I said before, at the football games and similar things where tattooed people were warned not to be too close to Mrs. Koch.

Q I am talking about the prisoners who worked in Mrs. Koch's house and told you personally that they had seen the lamp in her house?

A I mentioned before that I did not speak personally to the kalfaktors of Mrs. Koch and I mentioned before that we were 12,000 prisoners in the camp which we couldn't know all of them.

Q Do you recall less than two minutes ago having stated to this Court that you spoke to persons who worked in her house and that they told you that they had seen the lamp in her house?

A I recall to have spoken about the people named Paul who told us about the lamp shade directly. I recall that I have not said I spoke to them but I had heard that the kalfaktors had seen it.

(Sitts-cross)



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4/18 Buch

CAPT. LEWIS: Will you please read back the question and answer to which I am referring, I think it was three or four questions back?

(Whereupon the question and answer was read as follows)

" Q You don't know, as a matter of fact, whether there ever was any lamp of human skin in her house, do you?

A I have not been to her house. Prisoners who were there have told us that they have seen it."

QUESTIONS BY CAPT. LEWIS:

Q Do you want to change that answer?

A No. Because I said that people told us, they told it to the other prisoners in the camp, the prisoners as a unity in the camp.

Q But the point is that you never heard directly with your own ears from the mouth of anybody who had been in Mrs. Koch's house that they saw a lamp shade there, did you?

A No.

Q You testified also that Mrs. Koch took down the numbers of prisoners and reported them, did you not?

A I told in the same way that prisoners reported these things to us, the same way they knew other things of misbehavior of Mrs. Koch which will probably be called to notice of the Court later.

Q Dr. Sitte, please. I give you credit for having enough intelligence to know that when I ask a question I want you to testify to what you know and not what the camp did.

MR. SIRONI: May it please the Court, I respectfully object to counsel for the accused reprimanding the witness. If there should be any admonition to the witness that should issue from the Court.

PRESENTER: Objection sustained. I warn you to be careful about your questions.

CAPT. LEWIS: I would like to apologize to the witness if I have offended him.

(Sitte-cross)

QUESTIONS BY CAPT. LEWIS:

Q Dr. Sitte, I would like you, in answer to my questions, to talk only for yourself and not use the plural "Us" but "I" or "He". Now, did anybody in camp ever tell you personally that he had been present when Mrs. Koch took down the number of any prisoners?

A I was told at the opportunities mentioned before by prisoners that they were warned not to be too close to Mrs. Koch when they were tattooed because things of that kind happened.

Q I ask you again, were you ever told by any prisoners in Buchenwald that that prisoner had been present when Mrs. Koch took the names or numbers of any prisoners down?

A I have not talked to a person who was present at that opportunity but it is absolutely impossible that talk of that kind would have begun without any reason for it. Things of that kind did not happen among the prisoners of Buchenwald.

Q Do you know of any instance, either from your own knowledge, or from what you learned at camp, where a prisoner was reported by Mrs. Koch and was killed and his skin later was made into a lamp shade for her?

A I think I answered the question before that was told in the talk about the camp and that I have not met personally a man who was present at that time.

Q This talk in camp did it say how many times Mrs. Koch had reported prisoners and how many times they had been killed and how many lamp shades had been made of their skins?

A Only one lamp shade was made and that answers the other questions. The number of prisoners who had been killed this way could not be higher, and we will speak of maximums, than something like ten.

(Sitte-cross)

Q Were the names of the ten victims ever mentioned or told to you?

A I did not talk about ten victims, I talked about a maximum of possibly ten victims. I did not hear names.

Q Were you also told when this maximum of ten people were put to death?

A No.

Q Can you place any time as to when this all happened?

A Probably in early summer 1941. I am not sure.

Q Do you mean that in the early summer 1941 you first heard about this incident or do you mean that this incident occurred in the summer of 1941?

A As I answered before, as far as I can remember I heard of that in the late summer or autumn of 1941 for the first time.

Q When was that incident supposed to have taken place with this maximum of ten people?

A Probably in the summer of 1941.

Q Do you know when commander Koch was arrested?

A In the autumn or winter of 1941.

Q And you are quite certain that from the time you went into the pathological department no tattooed skins were ever prepared?

A On the contrary, I mentioned that at the time the tattooed skin was prepared it was not prepared for lamps and not made for lamp skins and it could be prepared in the transparent form which could be used for this purpose. The method of preparing this transparent form was still in use.

Q While you were in the pathology department was every piece of human skin that bore a tattoo on it taken to the pathology department and treated there?

(Sittes-cross)

A Every body passed through the pathology department dissection room and therefore every piece of tattooed skin but not every piece of tattoo skin was stripped off or taken, only those pieces either of colorful design or of some interest.

Q Who determined whether the tattooed skin was colorful or interesting when the body was brought to the pathology department?

A In my time usually the prisoners in charge of the dissection room, instructed by the SS doctors.

Q Which SS doctors in the pathology department instructed the inmates at the time you were there to preserve certain portions of the skin?

A At the time I was there this practice was in use as well as that of taking organs of interest and similar things. Instructions were given long before that by Dr. Mueller probably or Dr. Wagner.

Q Well, the question I asked you was who determined whether the skin, the tattooed skin was colorful and interesting and you said the SS doctors, now I want you to tell me which doctors there, at the time you were there, made these decisions?

A As I mentioned before the prisoners in charge of the dissection room determined whether the thing was interest enough or not.

(Sittes-cross)



Q So now you withdraw your previous answer that the SS doctor decided?

A No, I was not ready --

MR. SUROWITZ: Just a moment. Let that be translated. May it please the court, I respectfully pray that the witness be permitted to complete his answer. He merely paused at that time to give the translator an opportunity to interpret for the accused.

THE WITNESS: I repeat, in my time the prisoners in charge of the Dissection Room determined whether this or this piece was interesting enough or was not interesting enough. Instructions before, as I mentioned this morning already, that all tattoos being colorful or other interest mainly obscene were to be taken down. This practise continued all during the time of my activity without any special later order.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q Isn't it a fact that the SS doctors did not choose the special means of tattoo but the prisoners who worked on it made the choice themselves.

A Mainly the prisoners did on instructions obtained before.

Q These instructions were given before you got there, weren't they?

A They were still true.

Q Would you say that the same people who originally received these instructions before you got there still remained working in the Pathology Department as late as '44 or '45?

A They were not the same but in no time was there such a completely change but not one in each department continued to be working there. For instance, the chief prisoner of the Pathological Department, Wegerer, remained there until half a year before the end during all the time.

Q Was this man, Wegerer, the man responsible for cutting these skins and drying them?

A He was not responsible for that. He was responsible for general line of work of pathology and had to instruct therefore on these general lines instructions as given by the SS the prisoners working under him.

Q When did this man, Wegerer, first begin to work in the Pathology Department?

A At the time when the Pathology Department was organized in 1939 or early 1940.

Q And it was around this time or sometime later on before you got there that the orders came down about preparing skins, isn't that so?

A Yes.

Q Any new employee or prisoner who came into the Pathology Department and had to work on the bodies was instructed by Wegerer, wasn't he?

A Mainly, partly also by doctors.

Q Give me the name of one doctor, to your knowledge, who notified or instructed any inmate in the Pathology Department as to what skins should be preserved?

A Certainly. For instance, Wegerer.

Q Is he one of the accused in this case?

A No.

Q Was the Wegerer you speak of an SS doctor or was he a prisoner doctor?

A Dr. Wegerer was an SS doctor.

Q Isn't it a fact that while you were in the Pathology Department Norwegian students studied there?

A Yes.

Q And they were conducting scientific studies, weren't they?

(Sittes-cross)

A They were learning, they were conducting anatomic studies, also histology studies.

Q I have just one or two more questions and I will be finished. Did you know Dr. Bender at Buchenwald?

A Yes.

Q Was he an SS doctor?

A Yes.

Q Is he one of the accused in this case?

A He is and I would like to state here that Dr. Bender was of all the SS doctors in camp by far the most decent of all. I may say that I have precise knowledge that he did have prisoners not only in several individual cases but it also happened that he stopped transports which had to be sent away because they were unfit or badly equipped.

Q And the last question -- isn't it a fact that when the bodies of prisoners were brought in and they had been shot while trying to escape the report was made "shot while trying to escape"?

A Yes.

QUESTIONS BY DR. AHEIMER:

DR. AHEIMER: Cross examination on behalf of the accused, Eisele

Q Would you recognize Dr. Bender here in the courtroom if you would see him?

A Of course.

Q Please look around in the dock and point out the accused, Dr. Bender if you see him.

A In the first row, No. 3.

DR. AHEIMER: The record will indicate that the witness identified the accused No. 3 as Dr. Bender.

Q Dr. Sitts, this morning you spoke about Dr. Eisele. When, for the first time, did you hear the name of Dr. Eisele in Camp Buchenwald?

A In the summer of 1941.

Q Did you see Dr. Eisele at approximately the same time in Camp Buchenwald perhaps?

A Yes.

Q Do you know how long Dr. Eisele was stationed in Buchenwald?

A To my knowledge only for a few months, approximately to autumn or early winter of 1941.

Q Isn't it a fact that Dr. Eisele was stationed in Buchenwald only from June to August 1941?

A Maybe August or autumn.

Q You testified about operations of Dr. Eisele in the hospital. Who was operating in the hospital in the time when Dr. Eisele arrived there?

A I was at that time not yet in the Pathology Department, had therefore no intimate knowledge of the structure of the hospital. I knew the names of the SS doctors working but I did not know their special functions.

Q Didn't you hear that up to then only a prisoner who was a locksmith by profession had taken care of the operations?

A I knew that prisoners being doctors were not yet working in the hospital therefore prisoners of other professions had to work there.

Q Had you heard also that at that time for the reason that these prisoners of other professions were unable to keep up with the surgical work so prisoners were lying as patients in the hospital and were close to death because there was nobody to operate on them?

A No, that is not so. The prisoners had done the work up to then and did it still later up to a later date when under Dr. Hoven this restriction was no longer had. The prisoners did this work as good as it was possible under the existing circumstances and there was certainly



no need for such operations as performed by Dr. Eisele.

Q You have just spoken about the kind of operations done by Dr. Eisele. Did you ever witness one of Dr. Eisele's operations?

A May I again respectfully point out to counsel for the defense that prisoners present at operations of that kind or prisoners present at similar events in the Camp were not alive today. It was sufficient the little knowledge I had of the Camp although not being present at these things only at others, to have me put on the list of those 46 people who were to be liquidated before the immigration of the Camp. If I had been present I certainly wouldn't have been present today.

Q Dr. Sitte, have you spoken to anyone else except Max Louis when you mentioned before who was present at operations done by Dr. Eisele?

A No, I don't know that any other person of that kind is alive.

Q Did you understand my question correctly? My question was to the effect whether you had spoken at that time to anybody who was present at Dr. Eisele's operations?

A I think I answered the question. I don't think that Dr. Eisele would have tolerated witnesses for these operations.

Q The men who gave you the information, were they physicians?

A At the time I referred to, I repeat, doctors were not permitted to be occupied by the camp hospital. The men who did these operations were men of the staff of the camp hospital who had done the medical work for years and had a sufficient knowledge of medical science to judge whether these operations were simply murder or were not.

Q Can you give us the names of these prisoners?

A Two of them are dead -- Felix Kraemer. Otherwise they would probably come forth to testify in this trial.

Q Dr. Sitte you spoke before about rumors in camp. You testified that such rumors would not start without reason. Did you never experience during your stay in Camp Buchenwald that camp rumor started and later on it was found out that only part of this rumor was true?

(Sitte-cross)

A That usually could happen in political questions, but not in questions concerning the procedure of events of that kind in the camp, not in administration or medical administration or similar fields. The illegal camp movement was too much aware of its responsibility to follow rumors that were not very well founded.

Q Dr. Sitte you testified before about a thesis of Dr. Wagner about tattoos. If it is said in the newspapers that Dr. Sissele wrote a thesis about tattoos then this is incorrect?

A I suppose it is.

Q Cross examination on behalf of the accused Dr. Greunuss.

During your stay at Camp Buchenwald did you get to know SS Doctor named Dr. Greunuss?

A Yes.

Q Would you be able to recognize him if you would see him in court?

A Yes.

Q Please look around at the dock and point out the accused Dr. Greunuss if you see him?

A Dr. Greunuss is sitting in the first row and has number 7.

DR. AHEIMER: The record may indicate that the witness identified the accused number 7 as Greunuss.

Q At what time did you get to know Dr. Greunuss in Camp Buchenwald?

A In Autumn or early winter of 1944.

Q What was the rank of Dr. Greunuss?

A I think it was SS Obersturmfuehrer. I am not sure.

Q Aren't you mistaken? Wasn't he perhaps an Oberjunger?

A Sorry. It was Oberjunger. I remember now because his function was most unusual.

PRESIDENT: What is the translation of that word?

(Sitte-cross)

A Officers candidate.

Q How long did Dr. Greunuss stay in Buchenwald?

A Only for a few months. I don't remember exactly the time.

Q Is it possible that it was only between November and the end of December, 1944?

A Yes.

Q Did he have any functions whatever in camp?

A I think he was second or third camp doctor.

Q Isn't it a fact that he was in camp only for training and instructions and that he was attached to the second or third physician?

A I'm not sure about that, I am sorry.

Q Did you observe the attitude and conduct of Dr. Greunuss? His conduct towards the prisoners?

A I have not observed any misconduct of Dr. Greunuss in the Camp Buchenwald.

Q Did you have an opportunity to talk with Dr. Greunuss yourself?

A Yes, repeatedly. He came often to the pathology department.

Q Did he show to you, I might say, a cordial attitude?

A Yes, he did.

Q Do you know to where Dr. Greunuss was transferred from Buchenwald?

A To Ohrdruf.

Q Is that the camp Ohrdruf which you mentioned during the morning session?

A As far as I know it is.

Q Dr. Sitte during the morning session testified that the camp Ohrdruf was a camp for the production of V-1 or V-2 weapons.

A As far as I know it was determined to be a camp of that kind. I may be mistaken on this point as it was only last month that we got information from Ohrdruf and we were far more concerned then with the conditions prevailing .  
(Sitte-cross)

there than with the work done there.

Q That means you don't know exactly about this question?

A Yes.

Q You said that the camp Ohrdruf was attached to Camp Buchenwald only in January, 1945.

A Yes.

Q Did you receive any information about the medical and sanitary conditions in this camp before it was attached to Camp Buchenwald?

A Apart from the general information that was extremely bad nothing in detail.

Q That means Dr. Greunuss came there and found these bad conditions which you mentioned just now, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Did you hear later on about any attempts of Dr. Greunuss to improve the conditions for the prisoners there?

A We did hear they did try to improve conditions although under the conditions existing that was an almost hopeless task.

Q Furthermore you testified this morning that out of 12 thousand prisoners who left Ohrdruf 9 thousand arrived at Buchenwald. Are you certain that all prisoners who were first in Ohrdruf were transferred and transported to Buchenwald?

A That was prisoners from Ohrdruf. Prisoners told us when they arrived. That was what the prisoners of Ohrdruf when they arrived at Buchenwald told us and we can therefore take it for certain that they all did know.

Q Did these prisoners who came from Ohrdruf tell you also that Dr. Greunuss had all sick patients transported to Buchenwald on trucks.

A They did tell us that sick persons were sent by cars to Buchenwald. Whether or not it was all was not in their knowledge, it may have been all.

DR. ABELMER: That is all.

PRESIDENT: The court will recess for thirty minutes.

(Whereupon at 1500 hours the court recessed.)



(Whereupon the court reconvened at 1530 hours. )

PRESIDENT: The court will come to order.

PROSECUTION: May it please the court, let the record show that all the personnel of the court, all the personnel of the prosecution, all personnel of the defense and all the accused are present.

The witness is reminded that he is still under oath.

If there are any spectators in the court room who expect to be called as witnesses in this trial they will please leave the courtroom.

May it please the court, there is a matter that has arisen with respect to the witness Dr. Kogon. He was on loan to this court from the Tribunal at Nuremberg. He has to go back there and be there by Sunday. This court does not sit tomorrow as I understand it and we would like very much to have him excused and come back at the end of next week for the completion of his cross examination. I understand from the defense counsel that practically the better part of this afternoon will be consumed with this witness and they expect to take at least four hours further cross examination with Dr. Kogon.

PRESIDENT: Is there any objection by the defense?

DEFENSE COUNSEL: There is no objection by the defense. I would like to cooperate.

PRESIDENT: He will be excused.

DR. WACKER: My questions are on behalf of Pister and Barnewald.

QUESTIONS BY DR. WACKER:

Q What were the privileges you had as a so-called honor prisoner?

A Privileges we had up to spring, 1941 was: We are not assigned to work furthermore we had for sometime the privilege that we were allowed to get parcels of four pounds, ones to be sent from Czechoslovakia.

Q Did you have any other privileges concerning rations, your haircut, your clothing?

(Sitté-cross)

A We had no privilege concerning with rations. We had with the hair that you could have your hair long. With respect to clothes we had no special privileges.

Q What nationality did these honor prisoners belong to?

A Czechoslovak. There were certain other phases. Norwegian students which were in a little different conditions than the average prisoner and certain exceptional cases of German prisoners who were given the position of honor prisoners. Apart from the action to which I belonged there was no czech prisoner, or very few Czech prisoners normally allowed the privileges of honor prisoners, nor prisoners other than German nationality.

Q Were there any Russian prisoners of honor?

A As far as I remember there was only one man who was collaborating with the SS in the position of an honor prisoner.

Q Were there any Polish honor prisoners?

A Yes, there were a few.

Q Did all the other prisoners have their hair cut short?

A Normally they had their hair cut short with the exception of one kind right "Bist ein friseur" which had to be long--the rest of the hair had to be long and one row was cut out through all over the head from the---

Q I draw your attention to that exhibit over there--the shrunken head--and I would like to ask you how you would explain the haircut of this exhibit since it is supposed to be an executed Polish prisoner.

A The explanation is given in the words I told the court in the morning. It was a Polish prisoner who escaped and was recaptured after a period of a few weeks. This also explains that he was immediately hanged because that was not always the case with prisoners who escaped from the camp, but in cases like that they were hanged because in order to live they had, of course, to get some clothes and food, so he was  
(Sitte-cross)

immediately hanged when he came back, even before they took the time to cut his hair.

Q What was Barnowald's position in camp?

A Chief of administration.

Q What did he have to do with the matter of this three year old child you were talking about this morning remaining in camp?

A He was the chief of the SS. Oberscharfuhrer Berger the commando leader of the effekten kammer where this three year old child was kept at that time---

Q What influence did he have on whether this child would stay there or not.

A The influence was that he could send the child on a transport and take it off the list of the commando effektenkammer where it was kept.

Q Was Barnowald, as administrative officer, able to send people on the transport?

A He certainly had the administrative channels to do that.

Q Was not the best that he could possibly do be to put in a request or petition of some sort for this child to be sent away?

A I do not know exactly which ways he had, but certainly he could find his way.

Q Are you familiar with the fact that the child remained available until the end, that is until the liberation of the camp?

A Yes, I pointed that out myself.

Q Did you see any transports that came in from the outside or from some other concentration camp immediately upon their arrival?

A Yes.

Q Did it not happen that a large number of dead persons were among those transports when they arrived?

A It did happen.

(Sitten-cross)

Q Had any of the accused any influence on that?

A I do not know exactly how they were responsible for a transport before they arrived at Buchenwald but certainly they were responsible for conditions prevailing after they had come. Even before these people were allowed to go into the barracks which sometimes took a very long time, certainly longer than it would have been necessary if these people would have cared.

Q You said before the recess in connection with the accused Greunuss, that he was not in any position to make any changes for the better in the outcamp of Ohrdruf in view of the conditions existing there. What do you mean by conditions existing there.

A As I mentioned before I hadn't been to Ohrdruf so I have no special knowledge about exact conditions prevailing there. What I do know is from general reports we got from half dying prisoners coming back conditions had been very bad, which means very little food, very hard work and exhaustion. Through these conditions prisoners were exhausted.

Q What do you mean by these general conditions against which Greunuss was not able to do anything?

A Living conditions in short.

Q Would anybody else have been able to change those?

A Yes.

Q Who?

A The commanding officer of the camp and the leaders of the camp.

Q How was that supposed to have been accomplished?

A Far more than they would be responsible. I would point out one more detail again. The so called little camp in Buchenwald had when



it was built, no water in the barracks, no lavatory and no hygienic equipment. Only in one central barracks was there water and hygienic equipment. The prisoners illegally built, in this little camp, in all these barracks, water and as far as they could other things to help their fellow prisoners. Every foot of pipe, every tap, every working hour, had practically to be stolen without the knowledge of the SS, under the greatest danger of the life of the prisoners. That should show what was possible to improve, how it was possible to improve conditions. The SS did not care.

Q Dr. Sitte, do you know about what applications the commandant made to Berlin concerning these matters?

A No, but I do know he didn't do anything as the prisoners under the gravest danger of their lives did do.

Q How do you know he didn't do anything?

A Because nothing happened.

Q Could the reason for that not be that his applications were not approved by Berlin?

A That doesn't excuse inactivity. The same as the prisoners did he could have done if he would have cared.

DR. WACKER: No further questions.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN GROTH:

Q Dr. Sitte you testified concerning allied parachutists that were executed: Do you recall that?

A Yes.

Q If I do recall correctly you testified that two such instances occurred in the year 1943.

A Yes, to my knowledge.

Q When was the first of these?

(Sitte-cross)

A In September.

Q And the second?

A Shortly afterwards, a few weeks afterwards.

Q Would you say in October?

A Probably.

Q Did you see this first group that you refer to?

A As I told the court in the morning I didn't see them myself, but the prisoners of the pathology department, prisoners I knew very well, had the possibility to see the lorries coming to the court of the crematorium.

Q When of your own knowledge you do not know whether they were allied parachutists do you?

A No, but we do know that groups of approximately 20 persons were burned in the crematory who were not prisoners of the camp coming through the pathology department therefore they had not died of a natural cause, and the death was in coincidence with the group of parachutists called to the door and which never returned.

Q With reference to the second group, you do not know whether they were allied parachutists of your own knowledge do you?

A The same as the first.

Q You do not know how they were dressed?

A No.

Q Do you know whether they were prisoners of war?

A No. They were not Russian prisoners of war because it was not known at that time that no group of Russian prisoners arrived.

Q But you of your own knowledge do not know that any of these persons that you referred to were prisoners of war do you?

A We could find that out, as mentioned, by this rather strange coincidence of the two events.

CAPTAIN GROTH: Please read the question Mr. Reporter.

(Whereupon the reporter did as directed.)

(Sitting-cross)

A I did not see them.

Q Do you know whether or not they were civilians?

A No, I can only repeat that it is an easy conclusion from what we did know to decide which group that may have been. We did know that no group of civilians arrived at that time.

Q You do not know, do you, whether there were any Americans among them?

A No.

Q You do not know whether these people were captured spies or not, do you?

A No.

Q Then what you have testified to here concerning the allied parachutists is pure hearsay?

A It is what the prisoners of the command of pathology had seen with their own eyes--friends of mine had seen with their own eyes from the dissection department of the pathology.

Q They did not know that these were prisoners of war or captured spies?

A No.

Q Is it possible that you may be mistaken as to the dates when these allied parachutists passed through the camp?

A I don't think so because the event was much discussed.

Q You do not know whether these allied parachutists were moved from the camp to another camp do you?

A That would most probably have been observed by some of the prisoners working outside. Much of that kind was observed.

Q However, you yourself do not know.

A No.

Q Now you spoke of being an honor prisoner. What connection did the honor prisoners have with the underground?

(Sight-cross)

A Honor prisoners as all other ranks of prisoners--some did work with the underground.

Q And they collaborated during the daytime with the camp officials?

A May I ask for a better explanation of that question? I don't understand it.

Q They participated in the work of the camp didn't they?

A As all prisoners did work in one commando or the other up to about 1941 in autumn were not allowed to work in other commandos--then in a group of other honor prisoners--later on we could take part in all commandos of the camp.

Q But they participated in the work of the camp just like the prisoners who are sitting here did, isn't that right?

A We, of course, had nothing to do with the SS. We worked with the prisoners--we were prisoners as the other prisoners taking part on all the duties, the work of the prisoners of the camp. We had nothing to do with the SS, not more than other prisoners.

Q During what period Doctor were you in the gardening detail?

A From April to about June or July, 1941.

Q Were you there voluntarily?

A In the first weeks we were assigned to this work on the so called voluntary basis which meant that the commando, the block, had the duty to go there voluntarily--I think which probably a normal brain would understand that was the methods used in the Concentration Camp. We couldn't have dared to refuse voluntary work. Later we were assigned work since about May, 1941 we were assigned to work like any other prisoners had the duty to work. It was not voluntary work.



Q Just what did you do in that garden detail, Doctor?

A I, myself, most of the time was building roads and planing the earth.

Q Did you carry these heavy stones like the prisoners did?

A Sometimes yes.

Q Who was your immediate superior Doctor?

A We had at this time, at the time that I was working there, the immediate superior was one of the Czech prisoners who was responsible to the capo of the gardening detail and these were, of course, responsible to the SS.

Q Didn't you have your own capo?

A I said before that this capo was responsible to the capo of the gardening detail.

Q What is the meaning of the word "capo"?

A Capo means the prisoner who has to organize the work and has to look out for the work, the chief of the commando.

Q What was the name of your capo?

A The capo of the gardening detail was later on Hersch and I don't remember exactly who was capo in my time.

Q You have testified concerning Krautwurst. When did you see him first?

A In 1942.

Q About what month?

A I am not quite sure. I think in the Summer.

Q Was he there when you arrived?

A No.

Q Well how long were you there in that gardening detail with him?

A I wasn't there at all in his time in the gardening detail.

Q Well you testified that you observed Krautwurst beat prisoners. Where were you when that happened?

A I had when I was working on my detail very often to go to this gardening detail. I was on the ancestry research detail. We had to go there because we had things to do for Dumbeck. We painted a big water color picture of his family and other things.

Q And when you went to this gardening detail, what month was that?

A In about June or July 1941.

Q Are you sure it was 1941?

A Yes.

Q Now, the beatings that you have testified that Krautwurst gave to prisoners, during what period did they occur?

A I could observe it only in the early Summer of 1942 probably because later on in the pathological department we had not so much to do with the gardening detail.

Q During what period in 1942 did you observe these things, these beatings?

A In the Summer. Even after officially being assigned to the pathological department I still went sometimes to the gardening detail because I was still doing work for Dumbeck.

Q How often did you see Krautwurst beat prisoners?

A From the garden probably some three, four or five times.

Q Do you mean to say that the maximum incidents that you witnessed beatings on the part of Krautwurst was five?

A AS I could only occasionally visit the gardening detail I could not see every beating that Krautwurst gave to the prisoners.

I only observed it three, four or five times.

Q And it may be that none were administered during the time that you were not looking?

A I can't prove to the contrary, but it is probable there were more.

Q However, of your own knowledge you know of no more?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall the first beating that you witnessed?

A I think the argument is the same as I answered in the morning. One doesn't like to look too much at these being not a sadistic man, which I was not. Therefore, I can not describe details more accurately than I did this morning.

Q The incident however is so unusual that it must have left an impression on your mind.

A I think that a beating does leave an impression on one's mind, even if involuntary.

Q I am asking the date as nearly as you can remember when the impression was made upon your mind of Krautwurst beating one prisoner?

A As it was in fair weather, I take it that it was probably in the Summer of 1942.

Q Morning or afternoon?

A I think ---

MR. SUDOWITZ: I object, may it please the court. The question is repetitious. The witness has already stated that he can not remember specific incidents or details.

PRESIDENT: Sustained. Bring your questions to a point.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN GROTH:

Q You can not remember any approximate dates of these beatings can you?

A We did not have a diary in the camp. We had several times to destroy all writings we had because of the too great danger when those things, things like that were found.

Q How far away were you from the scene of these beatings?

A In this one case I was only some twenty or thirty meters.

Q And in the others do you recall?

A Not very much more than that.

Q Do you know who the victims were?

A No, in one case I think it was a group of mostly Czech Jews. The other cases I do not know exactly. I think there was French Jews too.

Q Do you know whether there was any reason for beating them?

A The usual reason was that the speed of the work was not satisfactory enough for what Krautwurst wanted them to do.

Q In these five cases do you know that was the reason?

A As I was not a member of this group I have not see any other reason but Krautwurst shouting at the prisoners that they should work faster and things like that. I don't think there was any sound reason for beatings of that kind for any normal human being.

Q Do you know that when a prisoner violated the rules that he could be reported and sent to the Block.

A Yes, of course.

Q Do you know the operation of the Block<sup>k</sup>?

A Yes, of course.

Q Do you know that in Krautwurst's detail there were many who stole bread from their fellow prisoners?

A No, I wasn't in this commando.



Q Do you know that members of his commando committed other violations of existing rules?

A No.

Q Do you know whether in these cases Krautwurst considered the punishment of reporting a man and sending him to the Bock to be too severe for the violation which these men had committed?

MR. SUROWITZ: Just a minute. I object to the form of the question. It calls for a conclusion on the part of the witness as to the mental operations of the accused Krautwurst's mind.

PRESIDENT: Objection overruled.

THE WITNESS: I think that the beatings these people got by Krautwurst was certainly at least as severe a punishment as the Bock would have been, but it was the whole group usually that was beaten and mistreated.

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN GROTH:

Q I am speaking of the five cases of which you have personal knowledge.

A So do I.

Q How did Krautwurst beat these people. Confine yourself to the five cases which you saw and of which you have personal knowledge and don't mention cases of which you have no personal knowledge.

A I have seen partly with his fists and partly with a club.

Q Do you know whether or not the victim was a German national?

A As I mentioned before, at least in two cases I am sure that they were not.

Q In which way did the beatings that Krautwurst gave differ from the treatment a man would have received on the Bock?

A In the book a man had his punishment over after twenty-five blows. In Krautwurst's beatings he was chased and exhausted from being beaten. It was certainly a far more grave danger for the life of a prisoner to work on Krautwurst's supervision than to be beaten by twenty-five on the back.

Q As a matter of fact, in some of these five cases all Krautwurst did is to slap the prisoner in the face, isn't that right?

A I don't think you should use the word "slap" if you were in the concentration camp and observed the kind of beatings that was the rule there.

Q Now will you answer the question, please?

A It was far more. It was a permanent beating with fists and clubs and driving people and kicking people, all that combined. Mistreatment for which I have no expression.

Q Do you remember a single one of those five cases now?

A As I mentioned before, I have a general impression of that, but I can not remember a single one case with date and with the name of the person, which I probably don't know by name.

Q Now, with reference to these three or five cases, you have no distinct recollection in your mind now as to the circumstances do you?

MR. SUBOTITZ: I respectfully submit to the court that the witness has already answered that question in several forms and therefore object on the ground that it is repetitious.

PRESIDENT: Objection sustained.

CAPTAIN GROTH: Nothing further.

PRESIDENT: Further questions by the prosecution?

MR. SUROWITZ: I have one question for the witness.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Did Doctor Bender actually send physically unfit or physically incapacitated prisoners to work at the Aussenkommandos?

CAPTAIN LEWIS: The defense objects to the question on the ground that it is leading and calls for a conclusion by the witness.

PRESIDENT: Objection overruled.

THE WITNESS: To my knowledge sometimes transports had to be sent and Dr. Bender said to send on this transport all people, in which there were unfit prisoners.

MR. SUROWITZ: If it please the court, the prosecution has no further questions of this witness.

PRESIDENT: Are there any further questions by the defense.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Nothing.

PRESIDENT: There are no questions by the court. The witness is excused.

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, may the witness be excused from further attendance at this trial in order to return to London.

PRESIDENT: Is there any objection by the defense?

DEFENSE COUNSEL: No objection.

PRESIDENT: He may be excused.

(Whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew.)

MR. SUROWITZ: The prosecution calls General Challe.

ANDRE CHALLE, called as a witness by the prosecution, being first duly sworn, testified through interpreters as follows:

MR. SUROWITZ: Subject to the approval of the court, may we follow the same procedure previously established by the prosecution

(Challe - direct)

with regard to translation and interpretation. That is from the English question to the German to the French and from the French to to the English and thereafter to the German?

PRESIDENT: That will be done.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY MR. SUROWITZ:

Q Please state your name?

A Challe, Andre.

Q Where do you live, please?

A St. Germain du Puy, Department of the Cher.

Q Is that in France?

A In France.

Q And your nationality is what please?

A French.

Q What is your professional vocation now please?

A Reserve Division General.

Q General, when did you first arrive in Buchenwald as a prisoner?

A I arrived in Buchenwald the nineteenth of January, 1944.

Q General will you please excuse me if I revert to a question which I have forgotten to ask you, namely how old are you?

A I was born on the sixth of March, 1875.

Q General, when you arrived in Buchenwald on the nineteenth of January, 1944, was any member of your family at Buchenwald as a prisoner at that time, other than yourself?

A My oldest son had arrived at Buchenwald one month before I did.

Q What is the name of your oldest son?

A My oldest son is called Hubert Challe.

(Challe - direct)



Q What was the age of your son when he came to Buchenwald as a prisoner?

A When my son arrived at Buchenwald as a prisoner he was twenty-five years old.

Q General, after you arrived at Buchenwald did you have occasion or opportunity to speak to your son?

A After a few days through the barbed wire I was able to contact my son with the help of some comrades who told me "He is there. He is waiting for you."

Q Do you know the nature of the work that your son was forced to undertake at Buchenwald?

A At his arrival at Buchenwald my son was placed in the Eisenbahn 3 Commando.

Q Will you be good enough to explain to the court the nature of the work performed by your son and the general conditions prevailing with respect only to that job?

A That Eisenbahn Commando was in charge of keeping up the railroad tracks between the camp and Weimar. Every morning the men who were part of that commando, in order to get to work, would get on some small railroad cars and then the SS who were there, if they did not get on fast enough, would beat them with a stick or sic the dogs on them so that they would be beaten.

Q Was your son himself beaten or bitten by the dogs while working on the railway commando?

A My son was bitten several times by the dogs while he was on that commando and he showed me the wounds on his thigh which were caused by being bitten by the dogs.

(Challe - direct)

Q General, when did you leave Buchenwald?

A I left Buchenwald on 17 April 1945, six days after the liberation of the camp by the American Army of General Patton.

Q Did your son Hubert leave with you?

A My son Hubert -- I asked General Patton the permission to take him along with me, and he left by airplane. We got into the plane at the Gotha airdrome.

Q Where is your son now, General?

A My son died the same evening as we arrived in France.

Q Do you know the cause of your son's death?

A My son had been sick on several occasions. The first winter they were forced to work just wearing pants, a thin shirt, and a jacket, and they worked all day exposed to the cold and the snow. They worked for 12 hours a day. They were not allowed to sit down at any time, and even during the noon interruption they were not even allowed to sit down at all. In the morning before going to work they drank their substitute coffee and their piece of bread, and they had nothing else to eat before they came back from work at 6 o'clock.

Q Turning to another subject, General: Is the name Katzen-Ellenbogen familiar to you?

A Yes. He is in the second row, the third one beginning on the left.

Q What is his number, please?

A Thirteen.

(Challe - Direct)

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, let the record show that the witness has correctly identified the accused Katzen-Allenbogen.

Q General, do you know what position the accused Katzen-Allenbogen held in Buchenwald concentration camp?

A Katzen-Allenbogen was in charge of the medical visits. He passed in the morning and in the evening through the small camp and through the large camp.

Q General, do you of your own knowledge know of any incident wherein the accused Katzen-Allenbogen was involved in the mistreatments of prisoners at Buchenwald?

A The so-called Dr. Katzen-Allenbogen just went through the barracks and left the prisoners who were sick there without taking any care of them. At the beginning I remember that Dr. Katzen-Allenbogen used to go through the quarantine camp where I was at that time. I remember that he went through the Block 59. Two of my comrades who had made the trip with me from Compiègne to Buchenwald, who were a Protestant priest named Roux and a doctor named Rodachi were very sick, and they were pointed out to Katzen-Allenbogen. He asked him that they be admitted to the hospital and they be taken care of. The first day he said no, and then three days in a row he adopted the same attitude. On the fourth day our comrades died during roll call without receiving any care whatsoever.

Q Do you know the nationality of this pastor and this doctor?

A Both of them were French.

Q General, do you know what if anything Dr. Katzen-Allenbogen could have done to give medical treatment in order to take care of the doctor and the pastor who were sick?

)Challe - Direct)

A He could have had them admitted into the hospital where they would have been taken care of and where they could have been in bed, instead of dying on the floor.

MR. SUROWITZ: May it please the court, the prosecution has no further questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY CAPTAIN LEWIS:

Q General, when did this incident happen with your two comrades?

A It occurred about two or three weeks after our arrival in the camp. It must have occurred in the beginning of the month of February 1944.

Q At that time both you and your comrades were in the small camp; isn't that right?

A No, we were still in the quarantine camp, because they had not finished yet to give us the series of inoculations which were given to all the prisoners who arrived in the camp.

Q Wasn't this quarantine camp part of the so-called small camp?

A Yes, it was a part of the small camp. It was separated from it by some barbed wire. I could indicate on the plan with a stick where it is.

Q How many prisoner doctors were working in the small camp?

A The French doctors did not have the right to take care of the sick. They were warned that if they took care of the deportees and of the prisoners who were there they would be punished.



Q Weren't there any other prisoner doctors of any other nationalities in the small camp?

A At that time I did not know any.

Q Did you find out later that there were other doctors there?

A I learned that later that there were some other doctors, but I also learned that there were some doctors who were not doctors. They just pretended to be. There was one French man -- one big, dark-haired fellow, who pretended to be American but who wasn't.

Q Wasn't there a capo named Obernauer in charge of the medical facilities in the small camp?

A I only knew at that time the block leader who had been interned in Buchenwald for ten or twelve years, who was in very bad health and who was most of the time lying on his bed.

Q When you saw Katzen-Ellenbogen on this occasion did he have any medical kit with him as customarily carried by doctors?

A I do not remember. I cannot tell you that.

Q Did you see Katzen-Ellenbogen treat anybody else in that same block where you were?

A I know that many times questions were asked of him to take care of sick people, so that he would give them medical treatment.

Q Do you know why it was that Katzen-Ellenbogen refused to put your two friends in the hospital?

A I do not know.

Q Can you give us any reason?

A I only know that we learned later after we had been in the camp a while that you could not get admitted in the

hospital unless you had 39 degrees point 5 Centigrade of fever.

Q Did your friends have this temperature?

A We were unable to take their temperature because we did not have any thermometer at our disposal.

Q Did Doctor Katzen-Allenbogen have a thermometer?

A I cannot say that. I do not know.

Q Don't you know, as a matter of fact, that this order about persons with high temperature being admitted to hospitals was a camp order?

A That order was transmitted to us while saying that the SS doctor commanding the hospital had given that order.

Q Don't you know, as a matter of fact, that at that time the camp hospital was overcrowded and there was no room for any further patients?

A I do not know. I cannot say that because I never went to the hospital, but I know that later there was room in the hospital. My oldest son was sick. I tried to have him admitted, but I was unable to do so.

Q But this incident with your son had nothing to do with Katzen-Allenbogen, did it?

A No, but it is just to say that at times there was room in the hospital, but that wasn't reason enough to have deportees who were sick admitted in it.

Q At the time of this incident wasn't Katzen-Allenbogen also a prisoner in the camp?

A It was said that he was a prisoner, but I have no proof of that fact.

CAPTAIN LEWIS: No further questions.

MR. SUROWITZ: The prosecution has no redirect.

PRESIDENT: No questions by the court. The witness is excused

Take 61 - Buch  
4-18-47; JGMCD;6

(Whereupon the witness was excused and withdrew.)

PRESIDENT: Court will recess until Monday morning  
at 9 o'clock.

(Whereupon at 1700 hours the court recessed until  
0900 hours, 21 April 1947.)