

A f f i d a v i t

I, Ernst van BAACHT
born on 8 August 1889 in Essen,
at present residing in Essen, Goldschmiedstr. 4,
have been cautioned that I render myself liable to severe punishment
by making a false affidavit and have been informed as to the
significance of an oath. I herewith declare on oath that my
statement is true and was made to be submitted as evidence to the
American Military Tribunal in the proceedings against the directors
of the firm of Krupp.

I entered the firm of Krupp in June 1938 as an office messenger,
namely in the wheel set shop. In summer 1943 I was transferred
to the Works Security Police where I was at first engaged as a
guard at gate 51 and later did guard duty at the Artillery
Construction Building. In summer 1944 - I no longer recall the
exact date - I was assigned to the so-called "Dechenschule" by the
Works Security Police. The Dechenschule was a special camp
where prisoners of the Secret State Police were kept. We
called these prisoners "Stapo-prisoners".

When I took up my duties at the Dechenschule, there were approx.
300 inmates in the camp; they were mostly Belgians, Frenchmen and
Flamands. At the time there were no Eastern workers.

I was employed as chef and was in the camp day and night.
I am unable to furnish detailed information concerning the housing
facilities and the treatment and guarding of the prisoners,
because I paid no attention to these matters as my duties as chef
kept me fully occupied. On the other hand I am well informed
regarding the feeding of the prisoners as it was all my responsibility.
I should like to state the following in this connection:

a) Dechenschule

The prisoners received a hot meal twice daily, namely at midday
and in the evening. Many workers who spent all day working at
the plants received their midday and evening meal at night. The
rations issued amounted to 1 liter at lunch and 1/2 liter at night.
The food - which was already prepared - was supplied in large
buckets by the firm "Muehlheimer Fleisch- und Wurstfabrik"
(Muehlheimer Meat and Sausage factory). I do not know why the food
was procured from this firm in particular. I only know that I
negotiated with the firm several times concerning the delivery of
food. With regard to the hot meals I am in a position to state on
the basis of notes still available to me today, that they were
sufficient, well prepared and also that the diet was varied. My
notes contain the following references in this connection:

White cabbage soup with potatoes, gruel without potatoes,
sauerkraut soup with potatoes, dried vegetables with potatoes,
noodle soup without potatoes. Often there was meat in the soup
and sometimes a slice of meat was issued as well. The soups
were principally prepared with fats. In general the food was

sufficient; furthermore a certain number of second helpings could be issued.

According to my notes the cold rations consisted of 350 gr bread daily. Then sausage was issued twice a week - 50 gr per person; 75 gr sugar per person and 50 - 75 gr jam were also issued twice a week. Butter was issued once a week, namely 35 - 50 gr. Instead of the sausage, the same amount of cheese was sometimes issued.

The rations as described above were the so-called "normal rations". Insofar as the prisoners were engaged in heavy work, they were given corresponding heavy workers' supplementary rations; these I received already packed and they consisted of bread, butter, cheese, sausage and bacon.

On the whole I must say that the rations issued in the Dechonschule were such that I should be happy to receive the same today. The present normal food rations are considerably worse.

b) Noerfeldschule

With regard to the food issued in the Noerfeldschule, I have to distinguish between two periods. In the first period, approx. until January 1945, the food was basically the same as in the Dechonschule. I must however point out that during a period of about four weeks the meals - which at the time were supplied from the Gutoeffnungshuette - were considerably better than in the Dechonschule. Mainly there was more meat or fat in the soup. I specifically recall the Christmas dinner of 1944 in this connection, which consisted of the following: boullion with noodles, potatoes and sauerkraut, a slice of roast and plenty of gravy.

The second period lasted approx. from the end of January until the end of the war. During this time the food was considerably worse. I cannot say whether this was due to the increasing destructions caused by the war. I complained several times to Herr Hassel concerning the poor quality of the food; he, however, showed little understanding for these matters and thought that the food was good enough for these people. During this period the Stape prisoners received additional food consisting of sausage or sugar or jam once a week only apart from watery soups and a small bread ration. Fats were no longer issued at that time. I must emphasize that this was the case only during the last weeks of the war. I am of the opinion that the food was insufficient during the last weeks, on the other hand I must say that it was definitely ample before. I have carefully read this affidavit consisting of three pages and declare that it contains the full truth. I have personally signed it below:

signed Ernst v. Bracht

Essen, 3 March 1948

I hereby certify and attest the above signature of Herrn Ernst
van BRACHT which was affixed before me.

signed Dr. MASCHKE
Assistant Defense Counsel for the
defendant von Buelow

Essen, 3 March 1948

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