

A f f i d a v i t .

I,

Josef NICKELMANN,
Essen, Hedwigstrasse 73,

have been warned that I render myself liable to punishment by giving a false affidavit. I declare on oath that my statement is true and was made to be submitted as evidence to the Military Tribunal at the Palace of Justice, Nuernberg.

Until the end of the war I was janitor at the Neerfeldschule and also lived at the school.

I assisted in the fitting up of camp Neerfeldschule, acting also as deputy camp leader. In the autumn of 1944, Belgians were sent to us from Dechenschule. I also had many contacts with Herr von BUELOW, a very distinguished man who took a great interest in the camp and saw to it that it was not lacking in any essentials. I shall refer to him later.

The camp was fenced in by barbed wire. The inmates lived in the spacious classrooms which were of the following dimensions: 9,15 m by 6,20 and 4 meters high. In each of these large classrooms there were ten double-bunk beds (two beds, one on top of the other as in German barracks). Each inmate had his bed with paillasses, each had one or two good warm woollen blankets, each one had a stool or chair and a locker with padlock. In each classroom there was a stove (with slow-burning fire), which was heated day and night during the cold season. On each corridor there were washing facilities. In the yard a laundry had been built where the Belgians could do their washing. Later on Eastern female workers were employed to do the Belgians' washing. Each one had his towel and they all received soap and soap-flakes.

If a part of the fittings was lacking or had been lost, I saw to its replacement. In such a case I addressed myself to the Main Camp Direction. It was my task to keep the camp clean and in order. Besides that, I had to distribute the food.

On the morning when the Belgians moved from Dechenschule to us at Neerfeldschule, Herr von BUELOW appeared at Neerfeldschule at about 5.30 a.m. Until that time Italians had been quartered with us. Herr von BUELOW saw to it that the accommodation of the Belgians was assured at once. He had all the necessary articles of furniture brought there. On this one day a hot meal was not available on account of the difficulties in connection with the removal, which were aggravated by heavy air-raids. Instead on this day the Belgians were given bread, sausage, butter, cigars, cigarets and brandy, in the same way as the German population received supplements after heavy air raids. Beginning on the next day, Kitchen I of the Gutehoffnungshuette provided the hot meals. After some time the food came from Kitchen II of the Gutehoffnungshuette. This Kitchen II, until then, had provided food for German soldiers. I myself saw the meals every day, repeatedly tasted them and sometimes ate them. As I have said before, I distributed the food at noon. I can swear to it that it was always sufficient and tasty. The German guards also had the same food. At noon there was a soup or a complete meal (2 or 3 times during a week). In distributing the food I always filled the Belgians' dishes to the top. In the soup there were potatoes and vegetables or noodles, barley or semolina. Sometimes there were noodles only or with beef or corned beef. The meat boiled potatoes. Three times a week there was meat, for instance/ either cooked in the soup or given out in pieces. At night there was soup, such as barley- or semolina-soup; on Saturdays it was mostly milk-soup with sugar. The bread for the uncooked meals came from a bakery. I believe it was a 3 lb. loaf of exactly the same quality as supplied to the German civilian population against ration cards in the bakeries. The bread was often new and still warm when I distributed it. Every other day each inmate received a loaf and with it butter, margarine or jam, also every other day a piece of sausage weighing about 100 grammes.

Besides, most of the Belgians were given supplementary rations for heavy and very heavy workers. On the receipt of the necessary voucher I handed out a standard parcel from Krupp's Cooperative Society containing butter or lard,

also bacon or sausage and half a loaf of bread.

A cobbler's shop, a tailor's and a hairdresser's shop were set up and workers employed there were Belgians.

The medical officer (Dr. Grosse) came to Neerfeldschule every morning. Any of the Belgians reporting sick were examined by him. Severely ill patients were hospitalized, less severe cases were treated at the infirmary. At the infirmary, there were ample supplies of medicines and bandages. One of the Belgians was appointed medical orderly and was always available.

In the case of an alert the Belgians had at their disposal the school cellar which had been converted into an air-raid shelter. It frequently happened that the Belgians profited by the released supervision to run out of the camp to go to the large shelter in the vicinity.

In connection with my statements on food I must add that the Belgians who were working at the plant at noon received their food in the camp at night. Some of the Belgians were given a hot meal at noon in the plant. The Belgians who did not have a hot meal at noon in the plants were given their dinner at night and also the supper to which they were entitled.

At the end general practitioner Dr. Weber was medical officer for the inmates of the school, in place of Dr. Grosse. Whenever he was sent for in cases of illness he came at once and made an examination. In my opinion he treated the school-inmates extremely well.

Only in the case of air-raids at night did the inmates of the school, including the Belgians, stay in the air-raid shelter in the cellar. This cellar had formerly been used as workshop (size of 2 classrooms). Pupils had been working there at joiner's benches. These premises were dry. If the floor was wet, this can only be explained by the fact that one of the inmates had turned on the tap and did not catch the water properly. For this nightly stay four emergency-lavatories were provided in the air-raid shelters for general use. They were cleaned regularly, but some of the camp-inmates were untidy and dirty. It happened that camp-inmates relieved nature right on the floor of the air-raid shelter. They were

reprimanded for this in the interests of the community.

The inmates of the school, including the Belgians, had their hair cropped. This was done to prevent vermin, and 2 hair cutting machines were used for the purpose.

One of the guards was called Willi DOPAT. He used to shout his orders. There were people among the inmates, Belgians included, who often did not want to hear. I never saw a Belgian or other inmate of the camp being beaten.

Essen, 27 April 1948
signed, Josef NICHELMANN

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I certify herewith that the above signature, affixed before me, is that of Herr Josef NICHELMANN, Essen, Hedwi strasse 73. Herr NICHELMANN proved his identity by submitting identity-card for the British Zone AM 050 482 AAC.

Essen, 27 April 1948

signed Dr. Rust
Attorney
officially appointed deputy of Notary
Public Dr. W. Ballas, Essen.

Calculation of costs:

Value: RM 3000.--

Fee according to paragraphs 144, 26, 39 Reich Fee Regulation RM 4.--
Turnover tax 3 % RM 0.12

RM 4.12

Deputy of Notary Public
signed Dr. Rust

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