

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. NIK-7147
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

Affidavit.

I, HOEFER Alois, of Heckelsberg 15, Essen-Borbeck, have first been cautioned that I make myself liable to punishment if I make a false statement on oath. I hereby state the following on oath voluntarily and without duress:

I have been shown 4 photographs of the torture cupboard which stood in the camp for foreigners in the grounds of "Panzerbau" 4, and of the dirty, neglected Russian camp, and I depose as follows:

Photograph A shows an iron cupboard which was specially constructed by Krupps for the purpose of torturing Russian civilian workers in a way which is impossible to describe in words. In one partition of the cupboard - in which a man could hardly stand upright - it is 1.52 m high, and 40 cm to 50 cm. wide and deep - men as well as women were very often locked up for a considerable time. I myself have often seen men and women being locked in there by Lagerführer (Camp Commander) Lowenkamp or his deputy GERLACH. One morning, when I came to work, a Russian woman who was about seven months' pregnant, told me that she had been penned up in such a cupboard the whole night. The woman looked terribly worn and ill. At the top of the cupboard are some holes for ventilation, and I have very often seen how GERLACH poured water into these ventilation holes, in order to make the torture still more excruciating in this way

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In photograph B the same cupboard is shown closed. In photograph D the cupboard is shown open.

Photograph D shows the camp which the "Direktorium" of Krupps had allotted as the living quarters of the female Russian civilian workers. Each room was 2 m. to 2.5 m. wide and approx. 7 m. long and 2 m. high. Each room housed up to 16 people in double beds. The beds were made up of palliasses, and the palliasses were only changed when they were nothing but rags or were through and through infested with lice. It depended generally only on the mood of the camp commander when and at what time the palliasses were changed.

The roof of the camp was covered with corrugated iron which was damaged by raids. It was not allowed to repair the roofs, and when the weather was bad, the rain came through. The individual rooms were damp. Every day 3 to 5 people became ill as a result of these living conditions. There were only very small stoves in this camp, and they had not been fixed properly, so that they never burnt. When the female workers themselves built another stove, it was removed immediately by the camp authorities (Lagerführung). The floor was stone and very cold. Nothing was done to cover the floor and thus make the room warmer. During the years 1942 to 1944 it was my task to convey prisoners of war from the prisoners of war camp to their place of work and back, so that I stayed during the day in the office of the camp for civilian workers and had a good opportunity to observe everything. When I entered LÖWENKAMPS office for the first time, I saw a number of

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rubber truncheons there, and LÖWENKAMP said to me: "If one of them does something wrong, just hit him." This shows LOEWENKAMP'S attitude towards the prisoners of war and the civilian workers. It often happened that individual prisoners of war or civilian workers were summoned to LOEWENKAMP'S office, on account of petty details, whereupon I was asked to leave the office. One could then hear the people scream or moan - and when they came out, one could see that they had been beaten. The noses of some were bleeding and one could often after a few days see bruises and bruised eyes. Such cases often occurred. Female workers from the eastern territories were very often punished for petty offenses by withholding the bread from them.

I have carefully read all 3 pages of this affidavit, I have made the necessary corrections in my own handwriting and I have countersigned them with my initials, and I declare hereby on oath that I have in this affidavit stated the pure truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(signed) Alois Höfer
(signature of deponent)

Sworn to and signed before me this 19 day of May 1947 at Essen by Alois HOEFER, Essen-Borbeck, Heckelsberg known to me to be the person making the above affidavit.

(signed) Manfred A. Issermann

U.S. Civilian AGO number A-446810
Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crim.
U.S., War Department

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CONTINUED.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION.

I, E.J. Hinchliffe, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages and that the above is a true and correct translation of document No. NIK-7147.

22 July 1947

E.J. Hinchliffe
M.P. No. 026034

"END"

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