

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No D - 355
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR
WAR CRIMES

Essen, 8 October 1945

A f f i d a v i t

I, the undersigned

Walter THOENE,
born 30 October 1890
and living at Wolfsburg, Ganghoferstr. 13,

make the following statement voluntarily.

I admit that I punched and beat Hungarian Jewesses which I had to supervise in # 3 Steel Moulding Shop. I did not do this of my own freewill but was ordered to do so by my works manager REIF, who was a Party member like me. Almost every day this unscrupulous man made me understand, in no mistakable manner, to drive on these Jewesses and to get better performances from them. He also emphasized always that I should not be trivial in the choice of means, and if necessary, hit them like hitting a piece of cold iron. As soon as I saw that these women were standing near the stove, I had to drive them back to their work. And this while the poor women were so badly protected against the cold, as they only had thin rags on their bodies. Most of these people had no stockings on in the severe frosty weather. In winter their legs were frozen blue and showed scabbu chilblains as big as a half-crown. The women received no food all day. They were fed in the camp. I could not bear to see the sufferings of the women, and was glad when I was transferred from the Steel Forming Shop to the Railway during the last days of February.

I ought to mention that the work in which the Jewesses were engaged was much too heavy for women. For instance they had to knock down the remains of walls with sledge hammers which weighed 8 to 10 pounds, or they had to carry or clean stones the whole day. They also had to unload sheet metal from Railway waggons and carry it about 100 meters. REIF always inspected this work and made sure that I kept an eye on the speed of the work. If Reif had not always been standing behind me, I should definitely have treated the Jewesses better.

I ought to mention one case specially which happened in February 1945. I hit a woman with my clenched fist on the shoulder and she fell down. Reif who was standing about 6 meters away impelled me to do it.

(signed) Walter THOENE

J.W.L. Rathborne, Major
President

Military Government Stamp

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, ERNA E. UIBERALL, AGO No D-150096, 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 D-355.

ERNA E. UIBERALL
U. S. Civilian
AGO No D-150096

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