

A f f i d a v i t

I, Hermann Buchmueller, born 28 December 1902, residing at Essen-Bergeborbeck, Milendongweg 31, have been cautioned that I render myself liable to punishment by making a false affidavit. I declare on oath that my statement is true and was made in order to be submitted as evidence to the Military Tribunal, Palace of Justice, Muerenberg, Germany, or other Allied or German authorities or courts.

During the war I was employed as camp leader at the Bergwerke Essen. My superior was Herr FASSBENDER who has since died.

During the whole of 1942 I worked at the camp at the Seumannstrasse and there at the huts for Eastern workers, which were near the Hundebrinkstrasse. Since 1943 I have been employed in my present capacity at the workers' hostel at the Kronenberg.

Herr FASSBENDER paid great attention to cleanliness, adequate food, and fair treatment of the Eastern workers. He made daily rounds. He sometimes even asked for the wardrobes to be removed in order to see if the rooms were kept clean. I should not have kept my job if he had not been fully satisfied with my work.

I can well remember the inspection in question of December 1942.

(Weiss Document 1151)

At the time the central heating installation at the camp was defective so that more distant huts, where I had my office and where the families of the Eastern workers were living, could for a while not be heated. But after the boiler at the main building had been repaired, the heating worked again so that no one could complain. Unfortunately the inspection took place at the time when the boiler was out of work.

The huts where the families of the Eastern workers were accommodated, were separated from the rest of the camp by an ordinary wire fence (not barbed wire); there was an order that the Eastern workers should not communicate with the other inmates of the camp. In fact, however, foreign workers of various nationalities were able to get together with the Eastern workers, esp. the female Eastern workers, without difficulties. The families of Eastern workers - there were to my knowledge some 4 or 5 married couples - lived together in a hut. During the inspection objections were raised that the beds for the various families were not separated by partitions. Immediately after the inspection those partitions were put up. I know that the Eastern workers families did not like this erection of cubicles. They stated again and again that in Russia, too, they used to live together in large rooms and that they did not object to the presence of other families. I had to explain to them with the help of an interpreter that this intimacy did not conform with German views and that in such a camp order must be kept

according to German principles. Gradually they calmed down. It is out of the question that the people lived together in that way for seven months; probably it was less than seven weeks. Any-how, the people themselves never complained about these conditions. They even considered it superfluous for me to knock before I entered the married quarters. They said that, after all, I was a married man and that as camp commander I need not be so considerate. There was no reason at all to complain about bad treatment.

The dispensary for Eastern workers was also situated at the two camps set aside for their use. In principle, Eastern workers received woollen blankets; for the winter three blankets were provided. According to regulations, bed linen for Eastern workers was not permissible. White towels were not only issued for use at the dispensary; every Saturday they were issued to every Eastern worker. The families received towels, too. Only when, as a result of the long war and the destruction of the stores in airraids, distribution of linen was no longer possible, the Eastern worker had to be satisfied with his woollen blankets.

Essen, 17 July 1947

signed: Buchmueller, Hermann.

No. 333 of the Register of Deeds for 1947

I hereby certify the above signature of Mr. Hermann Buchmueller, residing at Essen-Bergedorbeck, Milendongweg 31, whose identity has been proved by presenting his identity card for the British Zone bearing the number A M 038043 AAC.

Essen, 17 July 1947

signed: Dr. Ballas, Notary

Stamp: Dr. Walter Ballas, Notary at Essen.