

16.04

TRANSLATION OF INTERROGATION ~~REPORT~~ BY CAPTAIN O. M. NORDON

6 November 1945

MARTIN GOTTFRIED WEISS, born 3 June 1905 in Weiden/Oberpfalz,
SS Sturmbannfuhrer

(Carried in jail register - No. 2, Cage No. 60 A as Martin
Gottfried Weiss 6058959 - SS Sturmbannfuhrer)

Weiss states the following:

From 1933 till 1938 I was Camp Engineer in Dachau,
from March 1938 till 1940 I was Adjutant to Oberfuhrer Lorenz
and Obersturmbannfuhrer Piorkowski. From 1940 till 1942 I was
Commandant in Hamburg/Neuengamme and from

1 September 1942 - 1 November 1943 Camp Commandant
in Dachau.

From 1 November 1943 - 25 April 1944 Commandant
in Lublin, from 25 April on Office Chief for special use in the
Office Group of Oranienburg.

Obergruppenfuhrer Mueller ordered me to install
microphones in the special building to listen to Niemoeller
etc. However, I did not do this, but installed a loudspeaker
and fitted it with a bell. If the bell rang once the radio
would be put on, if it rang twice it would be put off.

During my time only one clergyman died in the
clergymen's block and that was Rev. Huber. (It was Himmlers
order that the Polish clergymen were not allowed on this block).
As I was told, this Rev. Huber was subjected to biochemical
experiments.

To my mind Dr. Rascher is a criminal.

The experiments of the biochemical laboratory at
Dachau started about 1942. During my time no experiments were
conducted. Dr. Rascher was in Camp Dachau and was in charge
of the experimental station there. When I took over as Camp
Commandant on 1 September 1942, the Staff physician, Dr. Rascher,
had already made experiments. Dr. Rascher came to me, introduced
himself, and told me that the Reichsfuhrer had personally or-
dered him to conduct experiments here. He mentioned only that
he was conducting cold-water experiments.

I, myself, was forbidden to enter experiment station. The experiment station was subordinate only to the Reichsfuehrer. Rascher received all directives and orders from the Reichsfuehrer directly. We had to furnish arrested persons for these experiments. I was present, once, as some of these from the prison enclosure were presented to him. Rascher said that the experiments would not be fatal. These people received special food. None of them was condemned to death; they were only professional criminals. I ordered that all of the people selected must be presented to me. During my stay there some Russians volunteered for this. When a prisoner died the Camp physician, Hauptsturmfuehrer Dr. Wolter, determined the cause of death. Dr. Wolter left early in 1944.

Once, by order of the Fuehrer, I had to witness such an experiment. That was 10 November 1942. I had had various arguments with staff physician Dr. Rascher. This experiment of 10 November 1942 was attended by Himmler in person. It was a cold water experiment. A large basin, about 3 x 3 yards and 11/3 yards high, was filled with water and pieces of ice. The basin was lined with tin. When I arrived, two men in flyers' suits were already in the basin. The prisoners had various instruments on their bodies to determine their heart action. I do not know how long the prisoners were in the water. One prisoner was taken out and put into a tub of hot water. The other prisoner was taken out and put into a bed between two naked women in order to determine how long it would take the prisoner return to consciousness under applied animal heat. Both prisoners had become unconscious in the cold water. I did not stay to witness the end of the experiment. The head of the prisoners was not under water during the experiment. The women who were used for the warming were prisoners from Ravensbrueck. Altogether there were four women. Himmler also observed the described process of applying animal heat. The prisoner Dr. Bunzengruber, and a certain person named Neef were also present at these experiments.

These two prisoners had assisted in the tests. The women were sent back to Ravensbrück; one of them was released and assigned as assistant to Hauptsturmführer Schnitzler, aide to the Reichsführer.

When Himmler ordered me to attend the tests, the following happened: I reported myself present upon which he addressed me: "So you are Weiss. Why don't you put coal at the disposal of Dr. Rascher?" I replied, that I knew nothing about Rascher demanding coal for a test. Himmler: "I ordered you to come here to tell you, that staff physician Dr. Rascher receives all orders and directives from me, and that he is not subordinate to you. You will have to fulfill all Dr. Rascher's wishes. If this happens again you will have to bear the necessary consequences. If Dr. Rascher wants brandy or coffee from you, it is your duty to produce them." Upon my protest that these things are rationed, Himmler answered: "Then you must see to it that these things are provided, just remember that." Himmler said these things to me in the presence of the above-mentioned prisoners. He then sent me away. After this experiment Himmler left immediately.

Dr. Rascher often came to me to express his desires. He was, in my estimation the very epitome of the criminal type. I have been told that he is not the father of his wife's four or five children, but that he assumed paternity of the children. The prisoner Neef told me all this. Also, that he had agreed to help a prisoner to escape for a consideration of 20,000 RM.--. Rascher, as a criminal, was both soft and cowardly. He could only keep up a front by constantly citing Hitler and threatening to complain to Himmler if his wishes were not carried out.

Dr. Rascher also told me that he had received a new order from

Himmler, namely, to make freezing experiments. As I understood him it meant that, in extremely cold weather, people should be

out of doors with one arm or leg naked until symptoms of freezing were visible. Dr. Rascher further told me that he was ordered to do research work in cancer and also that he had made these cold water experiments. Dr. Rascher also made experiments to stop the flow of blood with tablets. Dr. Bunzengruber and Neef tested this method of stopping the flow of blood on themselves. The prisoner Feix told me about experiments to stop the flow of blood. I left Dachau 1 November 1943 and do not know what other experiments were made. I only heard that, before my arrival, low-pressure experiments had been made. Later I also heard that Dr. Rascher had been arrested. Dr. Rascher had belonged to the Luftwaffe and these experiments were done for the Luftwaffe. As far as I know, the Air Research had put in a request with the Reichsführer and he, as leader of the KZ was the middleman between the Luftwaffe and Dr. Rascher. Thus, actually, Dr. Rascher had been put at Göring's disposal by Himmler.

While I was at Dachau the following visitors came. Obergruppenführer Pohl, Obergruppenführer Freiherr von Eberstein, Obergruppenführer Schmidt, Gruppenführer Glücks, his deputy Standard Bearer Maurer. Obersturmbannführer Dr. Berngraf from the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Main Security Office), and Himmler.

The orders for execution (shootings and hangings) came from the Reichsführer through the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, signed Gruppenführer Müller and previously Heydrich. Toward the last these orders were occasionally signed by Kaltenbrunner. These orders came by wire. By order of the Reichsführer the Camp Commandant was not permitted to take part in any execution.

During my stay 1942/43 there was no Gaschaber. Originally there had only been an old crematorium with 2 or 3 furnaces. I, personally know only these, but a new one was being built when I was there. Himmler ordered the new one. Obersturmbannführer Hubert Karl from Munich supervised its construction. He was the leader of Building Inspection of the Waffen XX Polizei Süd (Weapons XX Police South). He was subordinate to Obergruppenführer Dr. Kammler.

I never received the blue prints. Karl told me, however, that a crematorium with a large disinfection unit was being built. I occasionally looked at it. Hubert Karl was about 1.8.m tall, well built, dark, with wavy hair, a fairly round face and good coloring; a reserved person.

We also had a prisoner named Karl, from Austria, who was about 1.69 m tall, frail, not stocky, with a red face, and who parted his hair. He was already there when I came and still there when I left. Karl was an average prisoner without special privileges. He did janitor service in the Commandant's office.

All building matters were controlled by the leader of the Bauabteilung Süd (Building Section South) I had to occupy myself with the management of the Camp. The Crematorium was not finished during my stay. Previously the disinfection had taken place in the store room.

Once I was told by the prison camp leader that the shooting and hangings took place in the court of the crematorium. Hauptsturmführer Redwitz, who is here, can tell where the executions took place. The matter never interested me.

Personally I knew Kimmler only from his one visit in Dachau. I was made Camp Commandant by Gruppenführer Glücks.

Christian Weber too I knew by sight only. When I came here I came only to Obersturmbannführer Schäffer, who was the leader of the Gestapo in Munich, and to his deputy, Sturmbannführer Mamon, Schäffer I visited two more times in connection with an incident involving the Präzifix firm in Dachau.

Sepp Dietrich I never knew personally.

I became a member of the Party in August 1926 and was a member until 1927, but had to terminate my membership then because I had no money to pay the dues. Later I joined the SS (1932). My membership number is 43136.

I know a Hans Buchner, Sturmbannführer of the SS.

In Poland I had dealings with Obergruppengührer Sporenberg. I carried out the dissolution of the Camp at Lublin. On 1 November 1943 I was ordered to Lublin by Obergruppenführer Pohl, chief of the Ka. Pohl had talked to me in Dachau about my taking charge of all the Camps in Lublin, which were subordinate to the SS and police there.

On the night of November third I went to Lublin. When I arrived I was told by Hauptsturmführer Melzer, who had been in charge of the Camp, that on the previous day, November 11 th, 14,000 Jews had been shot by order of the Reichsführer. These shootings were not managed by the Camp but by the SD under the leadership of Gruppenführer Sporenberg. The Jews were stripped naked, men and women had to lie down in a large trench where they were machine-gunned.

Obersturmführer Ruppert, who was there at the time of the execution and who is here now, can be questioned about the entire process. He can also confirm my saying at the time that I would immediately report to make representations that I considered myself as having received a punitive transfer, and that such a thing could never have happend in my presence.

An order came from Obergruppenführer Pohl, that the prisoners of Lublin should be return to the Reich, to Natzweiler and Grossrosen, the women to Ravensbrück. During my stay in Lublin there was not one shooting.

Of Frank I know that he was called the "uncrowned king of Poland", that he gave lavish entertainments at which his wife was announced by her own page, etc. I have also been told that, when the dissolution came, he is said to have taken entire freight cars of goods with him.