

Iffeldorf, May 3, 1945

report

At the request of the Herr Kommandant in Iffeldorf, we report the following about the history of this transport of Jews and prisoners, which was liberated here by the American Army on April 29. :

The total number of prisoners was about 2400.

1000 women. The age of the prisoners in both sexes was between 15 and 55 years.

The transport came from KZ camp Dachau, which is close to Allach. The transport was loaded at Karlsfeld station on April 22 in the afternoon. The women were loaded into closed wagons, the men into open ones. The train stopped at the loading station Karelsfeld for 3 days. On April 25 in the evening, the train departed in the direction of Munich after the 3 people who had meanwhile died were taken out of the train. The transport moved only at night so that the prisoners were not oriented about the ride. There were 2 guards in each wagon for 50 to 60 prisoners. The daily rations were about 300 to 350 gram bread and 40 to 50 gram sausage. On April 28, the prisoners got love gift packages from the international red cross which saved the lives of many. On April 28 in the evening, the train stopped in Staltach where the liberation took place by the American troops on the next day.

The leader of the transport, a SS Lieutenant, who was taken captive then along with the guards (with the exception of one SS woman), was decidedly of good will, because he brought the transport back to Staltach from a place where fighting was to take place. His behavior during the ride was humane.

The largest part of the transport, that is the men in the transport, comes from Hungary, as well as the largest part of the women. All of them were arrested in Hungary in April, May and June 1944. After their arrest, they were taken to Auschwitz where they were robbed of all their personal belongings. The families were ripped apart, the men and women fit for work were sorted out and carried off partly to Warsaw, partly to Dachau, partly to Geislingen / Steige (Württemberg), partly to Buchenwald, partly to Cofrin (France). Those unfit for work, the old and the children up to 14 years remained in Auschwitz. It escapes our knowledge whether mothers were separated from their small children.

We were in Birkenau-Auschwitz for several weeks. There we were tormented very much. We slept in a barrack, 1000 to 1200 men together, on the stone floor without straw or blanket. Rations were 250 gram bread, 10 gram margarine and about 3 to 4 deciliters water soup; there were no dishes, no cleaning possibilities. We were beaten without any cause by the prisoners in charge of us, who were recruited from among the Gypsies. Many of us died due to lack of medical treatment and drugs because we had been robbed of the latter. So many died especially of diabetes because the insulin that we had brought along was taken away from us.

Report on those sent to Warsaw:

In the month of June 1944 a transport of 3500 men was deported to Warsaw. Their job was to clean up the ghetto which had been destroyed by the SS. Because of support from the population their rations were sufficient. In August 1944, when the Russians threatened Warsaw, they were removed and taken to Dachau. At first they had to march 150 km on foot within 3 days. Those who stayed behind were shot on the spot by the SS. Rations were 300 gram bread per day, water was not provided, the march was hurried. After this march the survivors were put into wagons, 90 persons and SS guards and Capos in each wagon. The middle of the wagons had to be kept free for the latter two. Rations

were the same as during the march. On some days there were no rations at all. Huddled together like this, not a drop of water was handed out in the greatest heat. At a water ditch many prisoners tumbled out of the wagon to quench their terrible thirst, but were shot by the SS. Many went mad inside the cars and were shot likewise. Whoever complained or wailed was beaten to death by the SS men and Capos. In this way this transport reached Dachau with more than 350 dead and more than 700 severely ill, most of whom later died in the camp in Dachau. The survivors were divided into various work camps among others the O.T. camp Allach. Many young lads between 14 and 15 years with injuries from guns or bayonets were in this group.

Report on those sent to Allach-Dachau:

On July 17, 1944 the transport came from Auschwitz to Allach. Here the prisoners were divided into work crews. The two severe "executions crews" were railroad construction Karlsfeld and the company Sager & Werner; Reichsminister Todt was the owner of the latter. This camp belonged to the adjacent KZ camp of which SS Hauptmann Jarolin was the leader. This man personally murdered many inmates. He saw to it that the prisoners of the above mentioned work crews were tortured in the most terrible way. He put the prisoner Christian Knoll in the position of Capo for the work crew railroad construction Karlsfeld, a man who had already killed many prisoners with his own hands. The leader of the crew was a SS Sturmfuehrer who was equal to the previous two by his behavior. For example, on December 2 the coats were taken from the prisoners while working on the railroad so that many died of pneumonia. Without any cause and reason the prisoners were beaten by Capo and Kommandofuehrer. Working time was from early morning till evening. Lunch had to be taken in the open air at the workplace. Only later was a hut put up for this. Regretfully, three Jewish assistant capos were among the Capos that pushed the people to work, namely Franz Boehm, Eduard Gutmann and Weigl. They took away some of the little food of the prisoners.

In the work crew Sager & Werner the coats were taken away on the same day, too. This work crew worked at Bavarian MotorWorks in the construction of bunkers in day and night shifts. The prisoners had to unload cement, iron and wood for the construction of the bunker from the wagons and carry it on their shoulders up 2 and 3 floors. Working hours: 12 hours. Leader was Oberscharfuehrer Jentsch. He tormented the prisoners most cruelly. For example, when marching out, five had to walk in step arm in arm. If someone let go he was attacked and bitten by the specially trained dog "Nero" and simultaneously beaten by Jentsch so that the larger part of the crew perished. In one week 58 prisoners succumbed to the injuries and beatings. Of the little food Jentsch even stole some for the dog which was despised by the animal due to its poor quality. Jentsch's accomplices in his cruel activities as Capo were Capo Kotz, assistant Capo Stephan Achel, foremen Sasnowsky and Wiener. All of them beat and tortured the people in the most horrible way. In the other work crews Capo Chlatt, assistant capos Steiner and Glas stood out for their cruel activity. Steiner mainly stole from people's food, rushed them to work. In the camp it was mainly block writer Rotholz who made Einsatzschreiber Zoltan Friedmann mercilessly schedule the old and weak for the heavy work. By this these two caused the death of many. By the way, Rotholz was involved in the shifting of entitled food rations by the block leaders. The latter was punished by Jarolin for that. Zoltan Friedmann would have had the possibility to assign younger people for the heavy work, who would have been better able to endure the heavy exertions. Therefore, he is complicit in the death of many older and frailer people. The camp had sick quarters. The doctors there, foremost Dr. Molnar, did everything to save the sick. But they had no drugs, could not prescribe sick food and were hindered by the responsible Capo in every respect. This Capo was not afraid to bloody up doctors and sick people.

Report on those sent to Geislingen:

Around August 15 a transport of 800 women and girls were sent to Geislingen. There they worked at a submachine gun factory. Working hours were 12 hours in day- and night shifts. Rations were one potato in its peel, 3/4 litres water soup with turnips, and 150 to 200 gram bread per day. When one of them appropriated a second potato she was beaten in the face till she was bleeding and then she got 25 beatings on the buttocks. When German employees of the factory wanted to give an extra potato or an apple to a prisoner, he was reported by the SS-women. As punishment the prisoners had to stand outside for hours in winter. The names of the SS-women who behaved the meanest are these: Rosl Baumeister, Paula Weber, a Mrs. Sauer and Maria Klotz. The latter escaped from the wagon before she could be arrested by American soldiers.

Report on those sent Buchenwald:

At the beginning of April 1945 the prisoners from Buchenwald were transferred to Allach-Dachau, at about the same time the women from Geislingen arrived there. They were about 800 to 1000 people. During the ride they had 120 deaths. After arrival of the transport about 20 inmates died every day. The reason for this being torture and malnutrition. More details cannot be provided because we lived separately from these inmates.

Report on those sent to Cofrin:

The prisoners were evacuated from Cofrin in the previous fall. They had it relatively good in France because they were supported by the French. From France they came to a German salt mine where they had great losses due to maltreatment and hunger. We cannot give more details because none of the prisoners was available for interrogation.

The 2400 prisoners liberated by the American troops at the station of Staltach were the one rest of the above mentioned transports. The other rest, namely those not fit for travel, remained in Allach.