

LAW REPORTS  
OF  
TRIALS OF  
WAR CRIMINALS

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THE BELSEN TRIAL

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spoke of experiments with lethal injections carried out by Dr. Mengele in the crematorium.<sup>(1)</sup>

#### 24. *Roman Sompolinski*

This witness, a Jew from Poland, said that he was sent as a prisoner to Auschwitz in the autumn of 1943, and was transferred to Belsen on the approach of the Russian troops. Hoessler was the Kommandant of a crematorium at Auschwitz. (In the cross-examination and re-examination, however, it appeared that the witness had come to this conclusion because Hoessler was in charge of the transports arriving there.) On the arrival of the witness and his two brothers at the railway station near Auschwitz the accused sent the two latter to the crematorium. The witness claimed to have been employed in the cleaning of gas chambers, in undressing the bodies and taking them away and loading them into lorries.

In the course of his evidence, the witness testified that the wire surrounding the compounds at Auschwitz was never electrified during the daytime for the reason that the prisoners were away from the camp. It was only during the night that the wire was electrified.

At Belsen, three days before the liberation, the witness went to the cookhouse to get some soup for his friends. Some rotten potatoes were lying on the ground and he and others started to take some. Kramer started shooting, killed two and wounded the witness in the arm. The other two were Hungarians.

At Belsen Kraft was in charge of people dragging corpses to their graves; he beat and shot the prisoners engaged in the task. Kraft was also in charge of a store near Block 9. The witness first saw him in the concentration camp seven days before the liberation. Schlomowicz had no particular function at Auschwitz but at Belsen he arrived about eight days before the arrival of the British and became Block Senior in Block 12 three days before the liberation. Before this he was a prisoner. When he was Block Senior he behaved very well to the prisoners. Aurdzieg lived with Sompolinski in No. 12 Block. This accused had no functions, and he and the witness brought food back to the others in the block who were exhausted. Polanski arrived in Belsen seven days before the liberation. He had no functions at all and lived in Block No. 12 together with the witness.

#### 25. *Anita Lasker*

Anita Lasker, who lived in Breslau before her arrest, was sent to Auschwitz in December, 1943. She was transferred to Belsen in November, 1944. She claimed that she saw Kramer, Hoessler and Dr. Klein take part in selections for the gas chamber. Borman had a dog with her and the prisoners were afraid of her; but the witness never saw her doing anything of which to complain. Lobauer collaborated with the S.S. Starotska was a Camp Senior at Auschwitz and at Belsen, and a notorious collaborator with the S.S.; people seemed more frightened of her than of the S.S. Kopper was known to be a camp spy at Auschwitz.

<sup>(1)</sup> This witness also gave evidence in the *Zyklon B Case* (See Volume I of this series, p. 96).