

Interrogation # 247

ZS-1026-1

INTERROGATION OF WALTER DUERFELD,
conducted on the 18th of October 1946
by Mr. von Halle from 1000 to 1200,
Reporter, St. Roeder, Section: Heath,
Lawyer: Drachler

JA Duerfeld

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1Q What is your name?

A Duerfeld.

2Q Your first name?

A Walter.

3Q Will you please rise, raise your right hand and repeat the following oath after me: "I swear by God, the almighty and Omniscent, that I shall speak the pure truth, and withhold or add nothing, so help me God."

(Witness repeats the oath)

4Q Mr. Duerfeld, my name is von Halle, and I am going to interrogate you repeatedly during the coming weeks. I should therefore like to establish certain rules and I ask you to abide by them.

The first thing I want you to be fully aware of is that you are testifying under oath.

At the moment you are testifying as a witness. If however, I should find out that you are telling lies or that you are committing, then you will no longer testify as a witness, but you will become a defendant.

The second thing is that you have to try to give me complete names, that is first and sur names.

When were you born?

A I was born on the 24 of June, 1899.

5Q Where?

A In Saarbruecken, as son of the railway clerk, Friedrich Duerfeld.

I attended the elementary school in Saarbruecken.

I should like to mention that I have already once submitted these dates.

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6Q I know that, but I should just the same like to have them from you once again.

A Well, I went to the elementary school in Saarbruecken and after that I attended the Humanistic Secondary School in Ludwigsburg. There, I ^{passed} ~~took~~ my matriculation examination which was in the year 1917 and I subsequently became a soldier. I was a soldier for a year and a half.

7Q Where did you serve?

A I served in the 166 Infantry Regiment.

8Q What rank did you hold?

A I held the rank of a sergeant of the reserve.

9Q Were you at the front?

A Yes. I was at the front in Flanders, North France and in the Ardennes.

10Q When were you released from the Army?

A In December 1918. From that moment on I did practical work, since I decided to become an engineer.

11Q What prompted you to this choice of profession?

A It was my love for science.

12Q Had you already specialized at any high school?

A I was always the first in my class in the subject of mathematics and this field of work was therefor my favorite.

13Q Where were your parents?

A My parents were in Saarbruecken.

14Q Where did you do your practical work?

A I worked until the autumn of 1919 in the railway workshops as a locksmith, that was in the various departments.

15Q That is where you learned the engineering profession from scratch?

A Yes.

In autumn 1919, I attended the high school at Aachen, where I passed a preliminary examination. In 1923--

16Q In what subject did you pass your examination?

A Machine construction.

17Q Did your parents pay for your studies?

A No. I worked on the side. That is how I paid for my studies. My parents lost their property because of the inflation. Conditions in Saarbruecken were generally not very good.

18Q Where did you work mostly?

A In the Saar territory. I utilized my holidays mostly for this occupation.

19Q How did you spend your evenings during the time of your studies?

A I taught many young students.

20Q Who were your friends at that time, and by that I mean people who reoccured later in your life, by that I mean people with whom you remain in contact?

A Albert Glaser.

21Q What was his profession?

A He became a machine builder and later a factory officer. Really, I have had no further relations with these men any longer.

22Q Do you recall any other names?

A Otto Mannherz.

23Q Who were your teachers?

A Professor Roetscher and Professor Jaeger.

24Q What did you read?

A Professor Jaeger, "Water Machine Construction," and Professor Roetscher, "Elementary Machine Construction."

25Q Did you belong to an association?

A Yes.

26Q What was the name of this association?

A It called itself Union of German Students.

27Q Was this an ordinary student organization or did it have a political ~~party~~ task?

A This association had no political task. It was a union which was based on a Christian and national fundament.

28Q Was it German--National?

A Yes.

29Q What kind of meetings did you hold? Were there any political speeches made or in what manner did you gather?

A You can hardly say "political speeches." There were lectures, however, but they were generally based on a cultural field.

30Q Do you still remember any such lectures?

A No.

31Q Did you have any dealings with the people of the "Technical Emergency Aid"?

A No.

32Q Did you enter any political party during your study?

A No. The situation at that time was very confused, it was the time of the separatism. Now and again, I perhaps peeped into some meeting and listened to what was being said, but I did not really participate in any of these things.

33Q When did you finish your high school?

A In the year 1923. In this year I also passed my diploma examination with "very good" and subsequently I remained at the high school for a short time as an assistant and since my father died, at the end of 1923, I left Aachen and went to the steel and iron works of Reesling.

34Q What position did you hold?

A At first I was a constructor. In this position I was also in charge of the building.

35Q Was this not a comparatively high position for a beginner?

A That may be. I do not know however why I received these positions. 00004

Perhaps great confidence was placed in me on the basis of my good of my good credentials. I knew no one at Roechling's. My uncle, however, knew a director by the name of Hanisch who was in charge of a factory department.

36Q Did he not later become your chief?

A No. My chief was Direktor Heinemann.

37Q Did you have an extensive position?

A No. I merely received orders for building work.

38Q How high was your salary?

A 110 Reichmarks.

39Q How long did you work there?

A Until 1945.

40Q Did you have personal friends?

A No.

41Q What did you do after 1925?

A In the autumn of 1925 I returned to the Aachen high school. My father was dead. My brothers were killed in action during the war and my mother only had a ridiculously small pension which she received from the French. It was 110 francs. I therefor have to keep my mother. I had to take over a position which paid a better salary.

42Q What was your position at the high school?

A First assistant. (Vollassistent.)

43Q Do you know Junker?

A I never made his personal acquaintance. I only know that Junker taught in Aachen and that was before my time. He had a very good reputation, he taught as a ~~Thermodynamiker~~ "Thermodynamiker."

44Q Who else taught with you at that time? Were any new people added?

A No.

45Q What branches did you teach?

A I was active in the branches of building, construction and lever study.

46Q What was your salary?

A 450 Reichmarks as an assistant. This was an important reason by my accepting this position since I knew that at Roeschling my salary would only have been increased very slowly.

47Q How long did you remain there?~~xxxxxx~~

A For two years. That was until the autumn of 1927, I then had finished ~~myxxxxxxxx~~ the required term for my promotion. I only chose this activity in the highschool because this gave me opportunity to obtain a higher degree. I had passed my examination in the year of 1927 with "excellent," and having gotten over this step transferred to Leuna, that is I. G. Farben. That was on the 15th of September, 1927.

48Q Why is it that you so clearly remember this date?

A It imprinted itself in my memory.

49Q Did you know anyone in Leuna?

A No. I knew no one. I merely applied for the job because of an anonymous advertisement.

50Q Who employed you there?

A A Dr. Strombeck. He was in charge of machine construction and dealt with engineers.

Q Who was the director general?

A There was no director general in Leuna. In Leuna there was at first a director Dana and under him there were a number of directors. The re in charge of was Dr. Sauer/~~xxxxxx~~ machine construction and Director Schneider was in charge of the factory.

52Q Which Schneider?

A Christian Schneider.

53Q He played a big part in Leuna?

A Yes. After Dehmel's death, he became first director and he then became the so-called factory manager in I. G. Farben. In all plants of I. G. Farben, there was a First Director, who in the sense of the National Socialist legislation was considered as factory leader (Betriebsfuehrer) and then there was a factory manager (Hauptbetriebsfuehrer) who was Dr. Schneider.

54Q Was Dr. Schneider a friend of yours?

A No.

55Q Do you remember any other directors?

A There was Schneider and then there was Buetefisch who succeeded him.

56Q When was that?

A Approximately in 1930.

57Q He was there when I came.

57Q From where did he come?

A He was already there when I arrived.

58Q What was his position?

A He worked in the plant department as "high pressure" chief.

59Q What was your work in Leuna?

A I was put to work as a plant assistant in the ~~oxygen~~ ^{nitrogen} department and I worked on a number of experimental tasks which made me known among the leading persons and I therefore became the head of a larger plant in 1930. In 1932 I became the head of all workshops for the entire high-pressure.

60Q Then you already started work in 1930 in a purely technical department.

A No. That is not expressed correctly. I am a machine builder. Owing to my activity in Leuna, I became a chemical engineer. At that time 00007

we did not^{yet} know chemical engineering as a particular professional branch. In Germany we mostly drew our chemical engineers from the field of machine construction, as it happened in my case.

61Q Can you explain something about your practical work? You said you were engaged in experiments. What problem did you deal with?

A Well, you can call it "wash experiments" with certain gases. Gases were derived from production by a "washing" process in order to reduce the possibility of loss to a minimum.

62Q What was its practical use?

A These were experiments in the plant for improvement of the nitrogen factory. In addition I was the head of the compressor plant. That is the plant which comprises the entire^{gas} compressors which puts the synthetic gases onto the highest pressure.

63Q At that time you probably only negotiated with the directors of your own firm. Did you perhaps also take part in larger conferences?

A No. I was too small a man. Most of the time I did not even negotiate with my own directors.

64Q Who was your superior?

A My superior was Dr. Paul Koppe.

65Q For how long?

A From 1930 to 1940.

66Q Do you know who at that time was responsible for patents?

A Dr. Koppe. He did that on the side. At that time, he was chief for "high-pressure" and at the same time dealt with patent matters. There was a Dr. Goetz in that office.

67Q How high was production in the Leuna plant?

A You are asking me too much. I cannot tell you that.

68Q What did you do after 1931?

A At that time, I was the head of the Compressor Plant and in 1932, I became the head of Engineering questions regarding high pressure and as such was active in the workshop for repair works of the high pressure. In 1935, or 1936 I had various other side tasks.

69Q How many people did you have working under you in 1933.

A 800 men.

70Q What was your field of work after 1933?

A It hardly varied in the beginning.

71Q But it was enlarged in 1933, was it not?

A No. At the time of the political change, there was no alteration. My field of work in Leuna itself remained unchanged. I received a few additional tasks from outside. For instance, technical advice to the compressor plants of the hydroworks in Böhlen.

72Q Who was the head, the factory manager?

A The factory manager of this plant was Dr. Hochschwender.

73Q Who did you deal with, only with Dr. Hochschwender?

A No. I dealt with other people, Hochschwender was the entire manager. I negotiated with engineer von Felbert who was in charge of the assembly shop.

74Q Did you take part in the conferences regarding the building of the plant?

A No.

75Q Did your work around 1935 until 1936 have any particular significance?

A No. My sphere of tasks remained unchanged. Until my departure from Leuna I was, I was merely the chief engineer of the high pressure lecture, the head of the high pressure plant. My field of work did not enlarge itself. There was one or other special task which was added. For instance, technical lecture or education of locksmiths.

76Q Who, in 1936, were the directors of Leuna?

A In 1936 there were the gentlemen who I already named, that is Dr. Schneider, Dr. Sauer and Butefisch. Later on I do not know what year, Dr. Strombeck and Dr. von Staden was added.

77Q During the time you were there who was responsible for personnel in Leuna?

A Dr. Polster.

78Q Who was responsible for security?

A You mean plant protection, that is the actual security of the work. Vendel-Sartorium was responsible.

79Q Was he responsible for plant protection as well as defence?

A No, not for both. I cannot say that exactly because there were continual changes. Once there was a certain Dr. Shaumberg in charge and I think Vendel Sartorium was in charge of industrial protection.

80Q Who was the liason man to Four-year plan during the years 1936 to 1937, when the first requests from the Four -year plan came to Leuna?

A Liason man? I do not know what you mean by that. Naturally a number of persons were asked to attend meetings there.

81Q But there must have been somebody responsible for the liason plan with Leuna?

A I do not know who took over this task officially.

82Q We shall come back to this matter. Now we shall go on and I should liketo ask you who was responsible for the execution of the MOB plan in Leuna?

A In my opinion that was the task of Dr. von Staden who in his capacity as director of the plant would be suited for it. Perhaps it was also Dr. Buetefisch.

83Q You, yourself, must also have been influenced by that?

A I was never influenced by the "MOB" plan.

I only know about the matter from the production side because certain enlargements were provided for the petrol and nitrogen production and new machines had to be ordered and I was responsible for the buying and erection.

84Q Did you say 1936?

A Yes, 1936 was the beginning and 1937 the first practical effects.

85Q Whose task was that?

A That must have been Staden's task.

86Q Did your activity change after 1937?

A No. There was no change. There was merely a bigger task which I received in addition to my technical ~~work~~ advise and collaboration with the hydroworks of Roehlen and Magdeburg. I had to collaborate with the hydroworks of Poelitz.

87Q What time was that?

A I think it was in 1939 or 1938.

88Q Were you only included in the conferences after the erection of the plant had already been decided?

A Yes, after the building of the plant was decided.

89Q In the meantime, you had already won a good reputation?

A That can be doubted, I do not know whether I was known in the circles of I. G. Farben at all beyond the limits of Leuna and the hydrowork of Poelitz and Magdeburg.

90Q What was your salary when you first occupied your position there?

A In Leuna my salary was 500 Reichsmarke.

91Q How high was your salary in 1939?

A I estimate it as 13000 reichsmarke.

92Q So your salary increased three.

A You have to understand it this

Farben to start with a very low salary which was later increased considerably. For two years I earned ~~RM~~ 500 marks in my position as assistant and I only accepted the position with the clear understanding that my salary would be increased.

93Q Well, you received 18,000 reichsmarks salary and how much bonus?

A That was all. We had no bonus. In the I. G. Farben company it was a practice to receive part of the salary monthly and another part of your salary every quarter of the year.

94Q What was paid monthly?

A We received approximately 60 per cent monthly and the rest followed in quarter yearly payments. The figures I mentioned to you comprise the entire income.

95Q What was your field of work in 1940?

A I still had the same field of work. My tasks in Leuna did not change at all. I was the head of the plant workshops, the repair department for the high-pressure plants and I only had one side task which was to visit the hydro works Poeschlitz in order to investigate. I only went there once every fourteen days and controlled the progress of work. I had no right of direction and I was limited to a right of proposal. I merely advised the engineer who was in charge there.

96Q How many employees were there in 1933?

A There must have been approximately 1500.

97Q Do you remember 1938 to 1939?

A You are asking me too much.

98Q And how about 1939 to 1940 ?

A Approximately 20 to 2200.

99Q So in the period between 1933 to 1940, only 7,000 were added?

- A I think that is right, but there are persons who can give you more information about that.
- 100Q Why did you leave Leuna in 1940?
- A At that time I had not left Leuna yet. At the beginning of 1939 I was still the advisor of the Hydroworks-Poelitz and I exercised my activity there as before. That continued until the beginning of 1941. Then a change occurred in my activity, since at that time Dr. Butefisch told me that a new plant was to be built. My activity in Poelitz as an advising engineer had come to an end and I was asked by Dr. Butefisch whether I would like to take over the building of a new plant. A Buna works was to be built and also a synthetic plant near Auschwitz.
- 101Q When did Butefisch talk to you?
- A In February or March 1941.
- 102Q Do you remember that conference?
- A Dr. Brause and I were called to Butefisch.
- 103Q In what manner were the negotiations carried on?
- A Dr. Butefisch who called Dr. Brause and myself said that ~~they~~^a knew a factory had to be built in Upper Silesia in the vicinity of Auschwitz and that I, Duerfeld, was chosen as building and assembly manager and Dr. Brause was chosen as factory head for the synthetic plant.
- 104Q And did you not put any questions to him, did you just leave saying "I am very satisfied having received this position?"
- A There were no questions to be put. I was told that a Buna plant was to be built whereupon I answered that I knew nothing about it. I was then told that specialists were available for that purpose and the names of Heydebrock (perhaps Rudolf) and Dr. Wiefeld were

mentioned to me.

105Q In what field did Dr. Heydebrock specialize?

A He had previously worked in an organic factory and was acquainted with side factories of the Buna plant.

106Q What was Bisfeld's experience?

A He had relatively little factory experience. He was the collaborator of Dr. Ambros in Ludwigshaven. I had never seen him previously.

107Q Did you ask why this new plant was just erected in Auschwitz?

A This was also discussed. It was stated that ~~the new plant~~ ^{the new plant} ~~new plant~~ would be directed there because of coal being available in upper Silesia and it was also indicated that I.G. Farben was interested in coal. That is Fless.

108Q You know that as soon as a new factory is erected, the first question that comes up is where does one get coal and water. What is the second question?

A With reference to the water question, I must say that the Weichsel was chosen for that.

109Q And the second question?

A You are trying to get at the manpower question are you not?

110Q Yes.

A The upper Silesian territory was not considered as being completely drained of manpower and it is for that reason that upper Silesia was chosen.

111Q Were such considerations mentioned at the conference?

A No. I should like to add that shortly thereafter a message reached me from Butefisch where it was stated that concentration camp inmates were to be used for this new building project. At this opportunity he also told me that a discussion was going to take place in Berlin with regard to this matter and that I, as well as chief engineer 00014

Faust, were to hold ourselves in readiness for that occasion.

112Q But my question was, was the manpower question the second most important question?

A In this conference, I heard the name Auschwitz for the first time, and I did not then know that there was a concentration camp there.

113Q When did you first get your information material regarding the new factory?

A Yes. That happened shortly thereafter. We were told about the production figures.

114Q What production figure was that?

A I was merely told about the production figure which was expected.

114Q Who told you that?

A Buetefisch. I was told that 30,000 KKEE JATO BUNO were to be produced.

116Q When was the plant to be ready for production?

A That I was not told. In those days it was expected that a plant was to be ready for operation within two years.

117Q When did Buetefisch have his first conference with you?

A The first conference was in February or March.

118Q Did you in this conference inquire about the conditions regarding a new building in Auschwitz?

A After we knew what the tasks of the factory were to be we instituted a construction bureau and worked on the entire technical material.

119Q When was that?

A That must have been March, 1941.

120Q Were exact dates, figures, etc. put at your disposal?

A Well, according to my knowledge we were merely told what our production tasks were.

121Q Who told you that?

A Buetefisch.

122Q Did Misfeld come over too?

A We met regularly thereafter for building conferences in Leuna and Ludwigshaven.

123Q When?

A A few months thereafter, and Buetefisch, Misfeld, Heydebrock and Ambros attended.

124Q Who was conducting these conferences?

A Ambros.

125Q Ambrose probably was to a larger extent responsible for the previous negotiations of BUNA.

A This is how it was: In the I. G. we have various departments, Leuna with Buetefisch is in department Roman numeral I and Dr. Ambros is in department Roman Numeral II. What happened was a new foundation which concerned both these departments and all matters of mutual concern were discussed during these conferences. I assume that since BUNA had received the request for the creation of their plant, Dr. Ambros was conducting the conferences.
Ambros

126Q Did not, during the first conference, explain how many discussions and to what extent they had taken place previously?

A It is better if you ask Dr. Ambrose or Buetefisch himself regarding the preliminary history of this matter. I want you to understand me correctly. Under no circumstances do I want to ~~make~~ testify falsely.

127Q I should like to point out to you that it is not our task to tease you into a trap. We just want to establish the exact facts as they really were. You just have to state what you know exactly and just tell us the things you know with certainty.

A I should like to mention that the foundation of this plant originated from AMT Krauch.

128Q Why?

A Because Krauch was in charge of all these concerns.

129Q All the plants of the Four-year plan?

A Naturally. The entire planning or even the decision to build this plant cannot have originated from anyone without knowledge of Krauch.

130Q But it could have reached Krauch from Ambros on the basis of a suggestion by I. G. Farben?

A That is theoretically possible. I should doubt, however, that I. G. Farben was interested in building a Buna plant. I hardly think that he, himself made this proposal. It is possible perhaps that in conference with a superior office, he discovered that a Buna plant was missing and that this leakage would have to be filled

131Q But Ambros must have negotiated with Krauch in order to receive permission for Buna at all?

A Commission is perhaps not the right word.

132Q Who of the former directorate of I. G. Farben did Ambros have to contact?

A Presumably with his branch leader Termeer, but I do not know that exactly.

133Q And with whom did Dr. Termeer have to negotiate?

A As a small I. G. Farben man, I can only say that in my opinion Ambros was subordinated to the branch leader Termeer and Termeer was responsible to the Executive.

134Q Do you know of any previous discussion?

A I know of none.

135Q Do you mean to say that Ambrose did not even mention one conference which he had previously?

- A No. He said, "We have the order." For the entire armament sector there were two ordering parties, one was the general plenipotentiary for chemical products and the other was the armament office.
- 136Q What was discussed during the last conference?
- A These meetings were technical building meetings where the technical undertaking was discussed. Personnel of the Buna and Synthetic plants drew up their necessary factories and then all these drawings were coordinated and the entire camp plan was made. There were five or six of such building discussions, perhaps even more, until the entire plan was settled.
- 137Q How far removed was the plant from the concentration camp Auschwitz?
- A Approximately 110 kilometers.
- 138Q From where did you get your workers at that time?
- A At the first building discussion, it was already clear that concentration camp inmates were to be committed for that purpose. I estimated the first figure at 12 to 16 thousand at the most.
- 139Q How many skilled workers are included in that figure?
- A Generally speaking, you can say half of that figure. The peace conditions are still higher.
- 140Q From where did you take your skilled workers?
- A It was provided that we would take skilled workers from the old factory coming from the entire I. G. In addition it was provided that a part of the skilled laborers would come from the concentration camps since it was expected that skilled workers would be found among the inmates.
- 141Q How many people were put at your disposal from the concentration camp?
- A According to my knowledge, no figure was mentioned. It was agreed that they would be used to supplement any lack of workers.

Dr. Buetefisch informed me after the first conference after which I was put in charge of building assembly that concentration camp inmates were to be used and he asked me and Dr. Faust to go to Berlin for this purpose. Ambros was not present. The conference took place in Berlin at a certain Obergruppenfuehrer Wolff. I had never seen Wolff before.

142Q When was that?

A That was in March or April. During that discussion, the enmittment of inmates was ^{the} subject.

143Q Where did this discussion take place?

A In the Albrechtstrasse. There was a big office there.

144Q How many people were present ?

A I think there was an SS officer present.

145Q Do you remember the name of Maurer?

A I only make his acquaintance later.

146Q Do you remember the names of Pohl, Hoess, Gluecks?

A No.

147Q Was Termeer present?

A No.

148Q What was discussed during that meeting?

A The subject of the conference was the fact that prisoners were to be used for that labor. I was presented so to speak as the building and assembly test of the factory and it was agreed that the SS would write a confirming letter with reference to formal conditions and also that basic matters would be discussed between Buetefisch and Mr. Wolff. All other local question with reference to the committment of the prisoners such as working time, assembly, etc. were to be discussed between the plant and the head of the concentration camp directly.

149Q Who in the plant was the competent man for that?

A Whoever happened to be the head. At the building place, it is naturally the building engineer, who was Herrgott, and then the machine engineer and at last the chemical expert.

150Q What are the names?

A Chief engineer Faust for the building, I was the machine engineer, and there were two factory heads, Dr. Eisfeld and Dr. Braus. The question of factory heads had not been cleared up yet.

151Q How many negotiations took place with Bueteffisch and Amros in Leuna before the building got under way?

A There were not many. We started practical work, that is planning work, already in June.

152Q In which negotiations did Termser participate?

A In none.

153Q Who else from the I. G. Farben personnel participated in the conferences?

A I really cannot remember. Dr. Ambros always presided.

154Q Did Dr. Ambros take part in every conference?

A Yes.

155Q Did he live in Leuna?

A No. These discussions alternatively took part in Leuna and Ludwigshaven.

156Q How often did you go to Ludwigshaven?

A Once a month.

157Q Who acted as the personal adviser of Ambros in Ludwigshaven?

A Dr. Eisfeld with reference to the plant.

158Q How many personal advisers did Dr. Amros have?

A These two persons. There was Eisfeld for BUNA, as the chemist and Heydebrock as engineer. The building engineer in charge was

building director Santo. These three men were in Ludwigshaven.

159Q When did Faust get there and what was your relation with him which he was at the building place?

A Faust naturally must have been there from the beginning. I was his superior.

160Q When was that?

A In June 1941.

161Q Did Faust live in Auschwitz?

A No. He still had a building order in Dyarsenfurt, Lower Silesia.

162Q What was that?

A It was an organic factory. It was a big chlorine factory. I know that gas was produced there.

163Q How many workers were employed from Auschwitz at the time Faust was there?

A You mean inmates?

164Q Yes.

A That started from zero, increased and then decreased again. I do not know exactly how many were employed and in what status since I only seldom went there because Faust was really responsible. The building orders were passed on to the firm since the I. G. Farben could not do it themselves and so Santo as the leading building engineer in Ludwigshaven passed on the orders to the building firms.

165Q Do you know the building firms?

A I can give you the name of the largest of the building firms and that was the Schulz.

166Q Do you only know the firm Schulz?

A No. I know others. For instance I know the firm Bordwitzki, Rost, Weiss and Freitag. There were approximately 150 firms.

167Q Do you know Heilmann and Litmann?

A No. I cannot remember that name. And know regarding labor commitment, this is how it was: The firms locally reported to the labor office their need for workers and the labor office had to function ~~wherever~~ wherever it could. I do not know who the first workers were on the building place. I cannot remember whether there were civilian workers there at first or inmates. At any rate, the firm received their first workers starting with approximately 50 to 100 which until the end of 1941 increased to 1000.

168Q Did Faust at that time have his wife there with him?

A No. I think she only arrived in 1942.

169Q When did you get there?

A Well, I had no flat. I merely rented a room in 1942. I think it was autumn in 1942.

170Q What did Buna look like around that time?

A After one year there was a mass of iron ~~structures~~ structures available, the fundamentals of many buildings. The workers barracks were their already. That was the first thing built.

171Q Until talking to you the next time, would you please draw a chart for indicating Buna's position in relation to Auschwitz, indicating what buildings were erected in the year 1942; what alterations took place before 1945, and when production started. When you got there, who else besides Faust was present, that is, of leading men?

A I can only mention the man dealing with personnel. That was Dr. Rossbach. I think that Assessor Schneider was there too.

172Q What was Schneider's position?

A He was Rossbach's representative, and he dealt with workers questions.

They divided their work. Rossbach was responsible for employees and Schneider for workers, but Rossbach took the overall responsibility.

173Q Who went to Auschwitz with you in 1942?

A I sent a man there to the building place and that was a Diploma Engineer Hasler. He was so-to-speak my advance party. In addition, I took a number of other people with me as for instance my secretary and also a female secretary.

174Q Who was that?

A Mr. Klotzmann and Miss Moedback.

175Q Who else was present among the leading personnel?

A Among leading personnel, there was Faust and he had an assistant, by the name of Murr and then there was Dr. Rossbach with Assessor Schneider. That was all.

176Q When did you first view BUNA?

A I do not remember that.

177Q Name all leading persons of the I. G. Farben who were there.

A To start from the top there was Krauch, He was there.

178Q What year?

A That may hve been 1933 or 1944.

179Q Did he come alone?

A No. He had Ritter with him.

180Q Who was that?

A He was one of his collaborators.

181Q Who else did he bring with him?

A ~~There~~ There was secretary of state Koerner. I think they came together.

182Q Did they view the BUNA plant?

A Yes, they did.

183Q Did they go to Blechhammer?

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A Yes. They went to Blechhammer and then inspected the coal mines. Afterwards they went over to the concentration camp. Krauch was not with them for some reason.

184Q Who inspected the concentration camp at that time?

A There was the Secretary of State, Koerner. I think Ritter and Eisfeld were present too.

185Q Who inspected Buna?

A Krauch and Koerner. Ambros was repeatedly there since the last building took place in Auschwitz itself.

186Q When did he inspect Buna for the first time?

A That I cannot say. I think it was early in 1941. During his first visit he went to the concentration camp.

187Q Did Hoess conduct these gentlemen through the camp, together with Schwarz?

A Yes, Hoess. Schwarz was not present.

188Q Who else of these gentlemen were in the concentration camp?

A Bueteufisch was repeatedly there, but not as often as Ambros. Termeer was there once. They were taken around Buna. I can no longer say whether they went to the concentration camp. I do not even know whether they were in Blechhammer.

189Q Bueteufisch probably arrived with his entire circle of friends? Do you know Gajewski?

A I do not know his circle of friends. Gajewski was not there at all. Christian Schneider was there twice?

190Q When was that?

A That must have been 1943.

191Q Did these people remain there for any length of time?

A You can well say, the higher their position, the shorter were their

visits. Pohl was ~~twice~~ in the plant twice and peculiarly for only ten minutes each time.

192Q When was Schmitzler there?

A Never.

193Q When was Schmitz there?

A Schmitz was not there either.

Q Was Ilgner there?

A No. There was director Jaehne of Hoechst there and also Dr. Sauer.

194Q How long did you remain in Auschwitz?

A I stayed in Auschwitz from the end of 1942 until January 1945.

195Q What was your official position from 1942 to 1944 and from 1944 to 1945?

A That is a very delicate question, since this question was never clearly discussed. My official position was building and assembly director of the plant. I ~~was~~ held this title and it was not contested. As soon as one grows into the activity other questions come up, for instance, the social question.

Q Who is responsible to the trustees of work? ^{A:} [That is naturally the factory head. Now I entered strong conflicts of conscience. I was probably the first man there but I never received the order to exercise the functions of a factory head. But someone had to be there in a representative capacity. That was the factory head. In the eyes of the personnel it was practically I, but theoretically I was never appointed to that position. Only in 1944 was there a clarification of that position and that was the time I became director. In May of 1944 I was commissioned with the leadership of the factory. It was completely understood that after half a year or three quarter of a year when the

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plant was in full production, another person would come into my place as factory head since the leading man of such a large enterprise has to be a chemist and not an engineer as was in conformity with the I. G. Farben tradition.

196Q What was your salary?

A Twenty-four thousand Reichsmarks.

197Q How much income tax did you pay?

A My wife dealt with these matters. I really do not know it any more.

198Q Was there any large change in Buna during 1944 to 1945?

A No. Only one leading man was added, that was Dr. Savelberg, as business manager. He was responsible for the buying and for the entire economic administration including nourishment and messing. He was also responsible for transportation.

199Q What was Dr. Frigge?

A He was the collaborator of the Chief Engineer Faust and had the particular task of distributing the manpower to the building firms and supervising the proper commitment of the inmates in the building firms.

200Q What were the names of the building firms?

A That I do not know.

201Q What was Reinhold's position?

A He was a collaborator of Dr. Savelberg and was responsible for the entire economical administration.

202Q What was Lt. Colonel Inebmann's position?

A He was the delegate for defense for the plant, a man who had to be appointed in all armament plants and he was also the leader of the industrial protective squad period.

203Q When did your wife go to Auschwitz?

A She was at first in Kreis Bielitz, I rented an emergency apartment

occupying three rooms. Approximately in May, 1943, she arrived in Beilitz and one day, prior to Christmas, 1943, she came to Auschwitz.

204Q Where was your wife born?

A In Aachen.

205Q Is she older than you?

A No. She is four years younger.

206Q How old are your children?

A My children are now 7, 9, 11 and 13 years old.

207Q When did you leave Auschwitz?

A In 1945. On the 20th or 21st of January.

208Q Where did you go to from there?

A For a short time I went back to Leuna. Then I occupied a position with a building firm near Pirna. The building activity there, however, was practically nil.

209Q Why were you pulled out of Leuna?

A In January 1945, the Russian troops were already all over the place.

210Q For how long did you work in Leuna?

A In Leuna or Pirna I did planning work up to May, 1945. In June I was arrested.

211Q By whom?

A I think it was Major Blankenheim.

212Q Were they American troops?

A Yes.

213Q Were you interrogated?

A When I was arrested. At the end of the second conversation the Major told me that he unfortunately had to deprive me of my freedom for a few days since I was going to be interrogated again. As I found out

later, the librarian, Ophaus, testified false things about me.

214Q What false things were they?

A He ~~exaggerated~~ exaggerated terribly and he even dared to assert that the plans were built with the blood of the inmates. It was a completely erroneous misleading representation, an unheard of exaggeration. I never saw it, but it was reported to me that several prisoners were shot during flight at the building place in the first half year. In addition, he said that while being a decent person, I directed the works according to a social point of view and he further said that while in Auschwitz, no one of the staff knew what was happening in the concentration camp. He could not imagine that I in my position should not have been informed about the most secret matters.

215Q To which camp were you sent? ~~interrog~~

A At first to Siegenhain.

216Q How often were you interrogated there?

A Perhaps three times, approximately one hour each time.

217Q In German?

A Yes.

218Q Was it translated?

A No. The interrogating officer spoke some German. From there I was sent to Zuffenhausen. I spent ~~nine~~ nine months there.

219Q Were you interrogated there?

A No, not personally. During the last half year I was a chemical engineer. Once day I was chosen for that. At that occasion, I came into contact with the Camp Commander and the Chief of the CIC. He convinced himself that he was dealing with a decent character whose conscience was not burdened with any crime. In addition, persons must have been

interrogated there who knew something about the plant. At any rate, there were two people from my plant in Zuffenhausen who were also interrogated there. I was then transferred to Ludwigsburg, which was a camp for prisoners about to be released. I thereby was eliminated from the war crimes group. Lt. Pattit and Captain Silver of CIC personally congratulated me at the occasion of their departure and said that I would be with my wife within three to four weeks. Instead I stayed in Ludwigsburg for ten weeks and then I came here.

220Q Were you already interrogated here before?

A No. I was only interrogated only twice, once when arrested by Major Blankenheim and in July, 1945, by the CIC in Zieckenheim.

221Q When did you join the party?

A I joined the party at the end of 1937. The cause was my activity as a glider pilot, an activity which I exercised for sports reasons since 1932. Glider flying was then taken over into the NS Flying Corps and then I obtained the rank of a Hauptsturmfuehrer in the NSFK.

222Q Have you any personal statements to make?

A I do not think so. In conclusion I should merely like to say that already during my first interrogation, I spoke freely and frankly since I never had any feeling of guilt.

Interview v. 1.11.46

1940-1941

Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

II

Kove 323

INTERROGATION

of Walter DUERRFELD by Mr. von HALLÉ

Institut f. Zeitgeschichte
München
ARCHIV
1948/56

Section : HEALTH

Lawyer: KOVE

Nr. 247a

at NURNBERG, 1 Nov 46, 13.30 to 16.00 hours.

Duerrfeld

Q: I told you at our last conversation, that we would have more of them. In the meantime I have read through the interrogation. I was amazed at your good memory.

A: The memory is still fairly good for more remote things, with regard to more recent happenings it has suffered through the long imprisonment just as with the other prisoners.

Q: To-day we begin with Christian SCHNEIDER. When did SCHNEIDER take over KRAUCH'S position?

A: KRAUCH'S, never.

Q: Who was the chief of Division I?

A: That was SCHNEIDER. I only know that KRAUCH filled an official position in the I.G. after BOSCH'S death. The two persons were DUISBERG and BOSCH. And when DUISBERG died Geheimrat SCHMITZ moved into these two responsible positions. When BOSCH died KRAUCH left. It is possible that this was the time when SCHNEIDER filled the position.

Q: When was that?

A: BOSCH died in 1940. I asked myself: what position did KRAUCH have previously. I never knew him, never saw him. Therefore I do not know.

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Q: After SCHNEIDER had taken over Division I, was not then DIVISION I split up into two main groups, Nitrogen and Gasoline?

A: That is not known to me: I believe they have always been together.

Q: But SCHNEIDER was responsible for Nitrogen?

A: Of SCHNEIDER I can only say what a friend of mine told me: I have never looked into the business of the Board and never belonged to a commission: everything is seen from my point of view, the point of view of a technician working in LEUNA. I can only say that SCHNEIDER actually may have taken some more interest in nitrogen problems, and BUETEFISCH got more tied up with the problems of the

Interrogation of DUBERFELD

(Page 2 of original, cont'd)

- A: gasoline production. But I could not say whether there was an official directive to this effect from the I.G.
- Q: Could you cite all firms you know as belonging to Division I?
- A: In the first place OPPAU, of course; that is, primarily the nitrogen producers OPPAU, LEUNA and PISTORITZ would belong to it. I believe that are the ones.
- Q: Is that all of Division I ?
- A: If I go through all the plants - LEVERKUSEN can not belong to it, HOECHST does not belong to it.
- Q: These are all Division II?
- A: I can not bind myself regarding the completeness of the information, but I do not know any better.
- Q: Ter MEER'S position is bigger than SCHNEIDER'S?
- A: Here again I have to make reservations; I have to judge from my position as a subordinate.

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- Q: Believe me, I am well aware that you are not Mr. SCHMITZ, and you can only judge "from below" nevertheless I am interested in your judgment.
- A: May I put it this way: If I weigh the two positions against each other, I would say, nitrogen and gasoline were the two big products in the I.G... the mass products, and the weight behind these mass products, and especially behind nitrogen which probably was the financial support of the I.G. for quite a while, naturally rests....
- Q: At what time?
- A: Especially in the period before 1929/30. For this reason there was naturally more importance attached to the entire Division I and therefore also to the divisional chiefs, regardless of the person. In the thirties the interests of the I.G. turned sharply toward organic production, *gas?*
- Q: To supply the heavy-industry?
- A: I would not know. In any case, the interest of the I.G. turned to new kinds of products because, after all, new fields of work had to be found and, after all, the I.G. could now reap the results of years and decades of research work. This must have resulted in an increase of

Interrogation of DUERRFELD

(Page 3 of original, cont'd)

- A: Ter MEER'S position. Besides that he was head of the technical commission.
- Q: Can you tell me something about SCHNEIDER'S sphere of activities?
- A: I do know that he was Divisional Chief of Division I and that he was Chief works manager of I.G.
- Q: Do you mean by Chief works manager Chief works manager of all I.G.-Farben installations?

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- A: Only of LEUNA. That means that he presided over the so-called Works Manager Conference in the I.G.
- Q: That is of the entire I.G.?
- A: The chairman of the works manager conferences. That does not mean that he had any works manager authority over other installations, but that he was chairman at the meeting of all the works managers of I.G.
- Q: Do you know whether all the works managers met in one place from time to time?
- A: I think so. Those works managers who were recognized as such by the I.G.
- Q: Do you know where they met?
- A: No, I would not know. In any case, it is not known to me. All I do know is that when you asked: Where is Dr. SCHNEIDER? You were told, he is at the works managers conference. I presume they took place in HEIDELBERG or LUDWIGSHAFEN.
- Q: What other position did he hold?
- A: I often heard that there was a commission called Soco, Social-Commission; I could not say whether this is identical with the works managers union. In any case, he was head of the Soco: Social questions of a general character, let us say pensions, the building of workers settlements, general wage questions, negotiations with the Main Trustee responsible for the I.G. in wages salary questions; these I would consider the tasks. He would have been a member of the technical committee.
- Q: Do you know whether he belonged to the Party?
- A: I think so, otherwise he could not have stayed on in the I.G. LEUNA.

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- Q: Why could he not?
- A: I know from personal experience that for example in 1937

Interrogation of DUERRFELD

(Page 5 of original, cont'd)

- A: a delegation from the party called on me and told me it was rather undesirable that people who were managers and so forth in the plant should remain outside the party and the intelligentsia had to be won. I cannot imagine that he could have stayed outside the party.
- Q: When discussions took place with the Board SCHNEIDER was a member of, where did these Board meetings take place?
- A: I think these alternated too, but I would assume that most of the Board meetings took place in HEIDELBERG.
- Q: Do you remember any Board meetings in LEUNA?
- A: No.
- Q: When was SCHMITZ in LEUNA for the last time?
- A: I could not say that, because the first time I ever saw him was toward the end of April 1945, a few days before HEIDELBERG was occupied. I did never see him before that.
- Q: Under what circumstances did you see him then?
- A: That was in LUDWIGSHAFEN, I just went to the house near Heidelberg and there I learned that SCHMITZ was downstairs, and that some gentlemen of the I.G. would gather downstairs, and, because I wanted to see Dr. AMBROSE, I too went there.
- Q: Did you speak to SCHMITZ personally?
- A: I did not talk to him, I only saw him.

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- Q: What did you discuss with AMBROSE?
- A: Personal matters only. It was at the time when LUDWIGSHAFEN was being occupied. He had been in LUDWIGSHAFEN and had been ordered across, had somehow come across during the night, and so we merely talked about his personal experiences and impressions during the occupation of LUDWIGSHAFEN.
- Q: That was a conference of the leading persons of the I.G.-Farben?
- A: That was a meeting.
- Q: It must have been an important meeting.
- A: No, you could not say an important conference. It was discussed who should remain in HEIDELBERG and who should

Interrogation of BRENNER

(Page 6 of original, cont'd)

- A: get away. That is what the members of the Board talked about.
- Q: So it was a Board meeting after all?
- A: No, in that case I would not have been present.
- Q: Who else do you remember as having been present?
- A: There was MUELLER-CUNRADI. I believe it was in SCHMITZ'S private home. Yes, now I remember why I had to go there: I had a letter to take along in my car from SCHMITZ'S secretary for a gentleman, whom I took along.
- Q: Who was SCHMITZ'S secretary?
- A: It was an elderly lady. I have never seen her, I do not remember her name. I got there and saw that MUELLER-CUNRADI was present. Then I remember Mr. BRENDL.
- Q: Who was BRENDL?
- A: BRENDL is the chief legal adviser in LUDWIGSHAFEN.

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- Q: And AMBROS was there?
- A: AMBROS came later. He had been in LUDWIGSHAFEN and was ordered across. The gentlemen had discussed who was to stay in HEIDELBERG in case it would be occupied, and who was to move on to some other place.
- Q: You took part in this conference?
- A: I just popped in because of the letter business, and stayed for some minutes.
- Q: Was BUESTEFISCH in charge of the Gasoline Sector of the entire Division I ?
- A: That is more than I can answer, I do not know.
- Q: What position did BUESTEFISCH occupy in the LEUNA plant?
- A: As far as I know BUESTEFISCH was chief of the Economic Group of Fuel Industry. I know that in his earlier years he was the representative, in any case the chief representative of I.G. in this international amalgamation of nitrogen producers, in the CIA.... Commission Internationale.....
- Q: Of what kind were his connections with the Continentale Oel-A.G. ?
- A: I know that at one time it was planned to found the Continentale Oel-A.G. No, not only planned, it also must have existed because according to my knowledge ~~xxxx~~, this new organization also belonged to the Continentale Oel A.G. this Latvian Shale Oil-Prospect. This corporation must be in existence. But what part he played in it I do not know.

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- Q: What do you know about experiments made in LEUNA on hydrogenation of coal under high-pressure?
- A: This I have already stated in my essay, when in 1927 I joined I.G. in MERSEBURG the plant was in a turmoil of expansion in the nitrogen sector as well as in the petrol sector

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I was convinced of it because of the presence of very many people, who also got there only in 1927. I recall that just at that time, 1927, the first - as they then called it - major experimental plant (Grossversuchsanlage) for gasoline was built. As I have already stated, this one started to operate in the first half of 1928 and at first was a great fiasco.

- Q: Why was it a great fiasco?
- A: I only know it from my elder colleagues. Holding the position of a small mechanic's assistant, I was not able to gain any insight into the affairs of the plant at that time. I was just 23 years of age and I only know from my older comrades and colleagues that they were called in night after night and there was one breakdown after another, one fire after another. The production was exasperatingly low. The difficulties were, as far as I know, that the Bergius method had been applied at once on a gigantic scale, without going through the intermediate stage of organizational growth, and that it had been applied immediately to the hydrogenation of lignite, and that offered unending difficulties. For instance, I know that the question of dust was a main issue in connection with tar, the furnaces were stopped up, etc.
- Q: Why do you think, the Leuna-experiments were not dropped? They costed 1 million Marks.
- A: In regard to this I must say that, looking back, one cannot answer this in quite as naive a way to day as one might have 10 years ago. You must always take into consideration the suspicion which is expressed today against all these things. As far as I know the people who worked there at that time, they worked with great idealism on the development of what were technically major-tasks. I can not say anything else, or I would have to tell a lie.
- Q: Does this also apply to BUNZELFISCH?
- A: To him as well. I also know nothing of VON KRAUCH but that he merits

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much from a technical point of view, with iron energy, under the difficult restrictions of the enterprise in 1930, he carried through this hydrogenation, in order

Interrogation of W. DUERRFELD

(Page 9 of original, cont'd)

- A: to create a new era for the I.G. on the basis of which it could again develop a strength such as it had had 10 or 15 years before with nitrogen.
- Q: But at that time, 1932/33 it was known that BUEDEFISCH was an adherent of Hitler's.
- A: I never considered him a Hitlerite. BUEDEFISCH was quite obviously a Freemason. It was known in our circle that he was a member of the "Drei Degen" lodge in Halle.
- Q: Have you ever seen him in uniform? BUEDEFISCH had a high rank in the SS.
- A: That I do not know; I know only that in later years - when it was, I cannot recollect - he received some office in the Cavalry-SS. I never saw him in uniform.
- Q: What top Leuna people do you know, who were major party leaders?
- A: Nobody from the higher-ups; that was SCHNEIDER, BUEDEFISCH, SAUER, von STADEN, STROMBECK. They had no office; STROMBECK only had the uniform on a few times. He held a low rank in the Motorized SA, probably Truppfuehrer.
- Q: Who was the secretary of BUEDEFISCH?
- A: SEILER, I do not know his first name.
- Q: Do you know his whereabouts today?
- A: No.
- (Page 10 of original)
- Q: Who was technical adviser?
- A: His technical adviser - he had an office. In this office - yes, that is at first he had a deputy, Dr. von STADEN, who died in the meantime. Also technical advisors.....
- Q: Outside of Leuna?
- A: No. Dr. von STADEN was the dominant figure in Leuna in technical matters; outside of Leuna Dr. RINGNER. He is now in the dustbin, as it is called, I heard it in Ludwigshurg from Dr. PIER.
- Q: What was the position of PIER?
- A: That is Professor Dr. PIER, who is the soul of the technical development of hydrogenation in Ludwigshafen. A very intelligent, able chemist.
- Q: How often did you see SCHNITZLER IN LEUNA?
- A: I have not met SCHNITZLER to this day.

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Q: ILGNER?

A: ILGNER I met once in Berlin through Dr. BUEHNFISCH, and in his office in the Laenderbank, in the outer office. It was near the Brandenburg gate.

Q: What dealings have you had with ILGNER?

A: None whatsoever.

Q: What year was it?

A: Perhaps three, four years ago.

Q: When did you see CANARIS in LEUNA?

A: I know the name; in connection with July 20th - Intelligence or Information office.

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Q: Do you know that SCHNEIDER was Chief Intelligence Commissioner (Haupt-Abwehrbeauftragter) of the I.G., of the entire I.G.?

A: Quite right, that was a further task of SCHNEIDER'S, which I had forgotten before.

Q: What does it include?

A: Again I can only judge by deduction the task which the Intelligence Commissioner of a plant had.

Q: For instance, let us take the part played by SCHAUMBURG, the Intelligence Commissioner in LEUNA.

A: The Intelligence Commissioner SCHAUMBURG had to ascertain that every precaution was taken in the plant to prevent espionage or sabotage by foreign workers.

Q: What was his connection with the Wehrmacht?

A: With the Wehrmacht? None at all in my opinion.

Q: His connection with CANARIS?

A: I could not say.

Q: You have never seen CANARIS?

A: Never.

Q: Have you heard that SCHNEIDER got his position through CANARIS?

A: I have heard it only now from you.

Q: When was KRAUCH in LEUNA for the last time?

A: I believe it was 1941 or 1942 at the LEUNA jubilee.

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Q: Was KRAUCH previously present at the conferences on Buna-Auschwitz?

Interrogation of W. MEHRFELD

(Page 12 of original, cont'd)

- A: I do not know.
- Q: When have you seen THE MEER for the first time?
- A: When he made his visit to Auschwitz, I believe in 1941.
- Q: Did you ever see RISLER in Leuna?
- A: No, never.
- Q: Let us again discuss the situation in Leuna itself, the work of Dr. SAUER?
- A: Dr. SAUER had nothing to do with the production. He was merely First Engineer of the plant. The position of engineer in the I.G., corresponding to the production of the I.G. is a priori second rank. Therefore here too, his position was unimportant. True, he belonged to the board of management, his powers equalled nil, I would say, in big matters. In the management he represented technical problems and all matters of a technical nature. SAUER was sent for by Professor KRAUCH, when the hydrogenation installations were being built. He wanted him as his liaison-man there - actually this is saying too much - so-to-speak, as his technical adviser in questions of engineering and constructions.
- Q: In what year?
- A: I believe in spring 1939, the framework of the Four Year Plan.
- Q: What exactly was the name of KRAUCH'S office?
- A: In the end KRAUCH was plenipotentiary-general for tasks of chemical production. Prior to that, it was the National Office for Economic Expansion (Reichsamt fuer Wirtschaftsausbau), this is not quite right, because these two still existed alongside each other - I am unable to say exactly any more. I know the National Office for Economic Expansion existed up to the end, and the functions were partly merged in the personal union of the various gentlemen there.

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- Q: Were they, for instance SAUER, still paid by I.G. Farben or by the Reich?
- A: SAUER remained an I.G.-man.
- Q: But he worked for the Reich?
- A: Only part of his working time.
- Q: What part of his time?
- A: That is difficult. He used to travel a lot, so that I cannot judge exactly the purpose of his continuous journeys.

Interrogation of W. DUERRFELD

(Page 13 of original, cont'd)

- A: He also had functions in Ludwigshafen. He rated as the first engineer of Division I ,
- Q: Of the intire Division I ?
- A: Of Division I including OPPAU.
- Q: Whom did he work with in OPPAU?
- A: With Dr. EIMANN, first engineer of Ludwigshafen and Dr. SCHIRMANN, first engineer of Oppau.
- Q: To whom were these two engineers responsible?
- A: To MUELLER-CUNRADI and WURSTER, their plant manager.
- Q: When did you see SAUER for the last time?
- A: The last time was before my arrest in Leuna.
- Q: Does SAUER still work in Leuna?
- A: He has written to me once during my captivity, in a very nice way, and I know he lives in the Taunus, in his father's house.
- Q: Do you know the address?
- A: I think I can look it up; I believe I still have the letter.

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- Q: POLSTER?
- A: POLSTER is the personnel chief, director of the workers department (Leiter der Gefolgschaftsabteilung).
- Q: Is he entirely responsible for the position of MATHY and FENDEL-SARTORIUS?
- A: For MATHY, yes. SARTORIUS was in charge of the plant security (Werkschutz). That belonged in the workers department. The plant security had a lot to do with matters relating to penal law. In case of thefts or burglaries in the plant canteen, he had to deal a lot with SCHAUMBURG, who is the lawyer of the plant. Besides the activity of the Intelligence Commissioner is closely connected with the supervisory work of the plant security. Only these organs enable the supervisory officer (Aufsichtsbeauftragte) to take steps against sabotage acts. This always caused a bit of skirmishing between the two, as to whom SARTORIUS was under. I do not know of the arrangements at the time I was there, but I think I may say with some certainty that FENDEL-SARTORIUS was under POLSTER.
- Q: The foreign workers were under MATHY?
- A: Yes.
- Q: When did you get the first foreign laborers?
- A: That started with the war, when the recruiting for the

Interrogation of W. BUEHRFELD

(Page 14 of original, cont'd)

- A: services became so heavy that the production simply could not be kept up; it must have been in 1939 or 1940.
- Q: Do you remember when the first foreign workers arrived here; it must have been quite a sensation. Were they Yugoslavs?
- A: No, I believe they were Poles.

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SLAVE LABOR

- Q: Have you an idea of the number?
- A: No, I only know that in 1941, around the middle of the war, they represented about 30 percent of the staff.
- Q: How many was that?
- A: Between 15 and 20,000, yes.
- Q: Who was responsible for the foreign workers, for the treatment of the foreign workers?
- A: I think here one has to differentiate carefully. For the bringing in of foreign labor, state agencies, the Labor Office, was probably responsible. The requisitioning of labor took place as follows: The plant furnished an exact account of the labor available and the labor required.
- Q: Who?
- A: The labor recruiting office (Sammelstelle) there; that might have been HARTNY. He forwarded it to the Labor Office. To make it clearer, may I add that this is the way we handled it. How Leuna handled it, I have not seen and can only draw conclusions from Auschwitz.
- Q: We shall come back to that. To whom is HARTNY responsible?
- A: POLSTER.
- Q: To whom is POLSTER responsible?
- A: SCHNEIDER.
- Q: Not BUETEFISCH?
- A: No.
- Q: Then CHRISTIAN SCHNEIDER was responsible for the foreign workers. Which nationalities do you recollect in Leuna?

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- A: Yes, we had some Poles.
- Q: We know about the Yugoslavs.
- A: Yugoslavs were also there. Then there were also Frenchmen there.

*CHRISTIAN SCHNEIDER
SLAVE LABOR*

Institut für Völkergeschichte

Interrogation of W. DIERREFFELD

(Page 16 of original, cont'd)

Q: In what year?

A: I do not know that.

Q: What other nationalities were there?

A: I think there were also Russians.

Q: Concentration camp inmates as well?

A: No.

Q: Were there no camps in the vicinity?

A: No.

Q: What kinds of accommodations did the slave workers have?

A: I cannot say that I have not seen it with my own eyes. They were encamped around LEUNA. Then was a camp DESWITZ (Daswich?) exactly west of Leuna; it is supposed to have been comfortable and a great sensation caused, when the accounting for the camp expenditure was given. MATHY could never make it luxurious enough. I think it created quite a sensation when the cost of accommodation per man, amounting to 1200 Marks was disclosed.

Q: For what period of time?

A: That was the first investment in 1941 or 1942.

Q: Was there not any difference in the treatment of people of different nationalities? Were the Russians treated in exactly the same way as the French?

A: Yes, I think so.

Q: You know the attitude of the Reich towards the Russians, were they nevertheless treated in the same way?

A: Yes. That is already impossible for internal reasons. Just imagine if the factory technician has workers who are treated differently, it will always had to trouble in the factory.

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Q: Who was responsible for the treatment?

A: All that probably was with in MATHY's field of activity.

Q: ESSEN?

A: ESSEN as well.

Q: Do you know anything about that?

LEUNA HAD FOREIGN LABOR

Institute für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

Interrogation of W. DUERRFELD

(Page 17 of original, cont'd)

A: No.

Q: Do you recall the incidents with foreign workers at LEUNA in 1940/41?

A: No.

Q: Then was an incident at LEUNA, which created a big sensation.

A: It is unknown to me. I do not know that.

Q: Who guarded the labor camps?

A: I think that the labor camps only had one sentry; - a security guard who, I think, was furnished by the plant security. (Werkschutz)

Q: Was he armed or unarmed?

A: I do not know that.

Q: Do you recall the incidents with the guards in 1940/41?

A: No, I have heard nothing about it.

Q: Tell me something about the war games in 1934/35.

A: I know nothing about that.

Q: Yet, they did take place.

A: It must have been a black-out exercise or something similar.

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"KRIEGSSPIELE"

Q: It was a case of dropping flour sacks on buildings, thereby causing great damage in order to test the effects of air attacks.

A: I recall a big exercise, an official test - which was made. Even guests from Berlin were present. But by God, I do not know, when it took place.

Q: What do you remember?

A: I know, that an exercise took place - not perhaps a more indoor game - but it was an official exercise. I know, it was assumed to be a regular air-raid test; it was arranged as such. All air-raid agencies in the plant and all departments - the emergency posts in the department - were occupied, and then, for example reports were transmitted like: power station, is on fire, failure of the main control, building of a certain number decrease of production by a certain percentage. The section chiefs and others then had to take appropriate measures. Or, on the other hand, a pipe line is afire, fire started on the gaz pipes between - let us say - the sulphur purifier and compressor plant.

Interrogation of W. DUEBENFELD

(Page 18 of original, cont'd)

Q: What do you know about the dropping of flour sacks?

A: No, nothing.

Q: You do remember, that it was before the war?

A: I am sorry but that I cannot discern anymore.

Q: Who were the gentlemen from Berlin?

A: MILCH must have been there.

Q: General MILCH ?

A: Yes.

Q: What about KRAUCH?

A: Unknown to me. I only remember MILCH in connection with a joke - some

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kind of a joke. A part of the people was taken out naturally because of the fire and so on, which were faked and assumed in some plants. The respective staff had to be led out and stood in front of the gates, and the remark was made, that these people were standing on the "Milky way". If MILCH was there or not, that I do not know. In any case I believed, that he would be there; I have not seen him there.

Q: But it would have been well known, had General MILCH been there.

A: I would assume that he was there. I certainly remember the joke about the "Milky way".

Q: Have you not - such a long time before the war - reflected why such war games had been started?

A: All this practices, which were made were certainly in the interest of the people, employed in the plants. This were wonderful practices, which gave assurance to the enterprise as to how it would function in case of some factory damage.

Q: Here it is not a question of factory damage, but here is the question of air attacks. Where do you find the advantage for the plant?

A: Certainly, I wanted to answer the question herewith: These practices were by all means in the interest of the factory workers, because they had herewith a wonderful

Interrogation of W. BUEHNFELD

(Page 19 of original, cont'd)

- A: general example for damages arising from some other causes, through explosion in the factories. This was the reason for these practices. They were also furthered by relatively small people as well. Do just imagine what an advantage to know: explosion in the main control - and everybody knows at once at which was the right place to go in order to prevent further mischief.
- Q: I am only interested in this: Why these defense games for the security of buildings.

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The problems of security for a building in cases of fire in normal peaceful times or the problem of an air attack - these problems are as different as night and day.

- A: That was ordered by higher authorities and also the air-raid business which was diffused these were official authorities.
- Q: Which were they?
- A: I do not know.
- Q: You have not thought it over: such a long time before the war security against air attacks? And MELCH is there, the Air General?
- A: Yes now - that is as I said, I can no more remember the conditions of that time, because I do not know exactly the year either.
- Q: The year was 1934/35 very long before the war.
- A: The practices took place as security measures against all eventualities.
- Q: Did you talk to BUEHNFELD about the practice?
- A: No.
- Q: Who else had come from Berlin?
- A: I do not know.
- Q: Have you heard the name of DR. BITTER?
- A: Oh, yes, I know DR. BITTER very well; he was collaborator of KRAUCH.
- Q: Do you remember, whether he was there at that time? 00044

Interrogation of W. IMMERFELD

(Page 20 of original, cont'd)

A: No.

Q: Do you remember DR. ECKELL in this connection?

A: I remember him very well. But I can not say, if he was there at that time. I have seen him only in Berlin.

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Q: If Dr. RITTER had been in Louna at that time, you would have discussed these matters with him?

A: Oh, no, in 1934/35 I have been in the I.G.-factory for seven years. I was a small constructor among 200 other academicians. At that time I had also a function inside the whole factory.

Q: Who besides SAUER was taken over for the Four Year Plan?

A: There was a number of people taken over ^{for} the cooperation - for permanent cooperation in the Reich office: Dipl. Ing. OBERNAUS.

Q: Did he apart from that work for the I.G. as well?

A: No, he withdrew completely and was transferred to the Krauch-office.

Q: Who else?

A: Dr. KRANFUHL, a scientific chemist from Louna.

Q: TER MEER?

A: He did not work in the house of KRAUCH; not at all. As already said, Dr. SAUER occasionally, for special questions.

Q: Do you know whether BUNDEFISCH was employed in the Speer-ministry? Or whether he was there in a responsible position e.g. with regard to the process of hydrogenation of coal.

A: That I do not believe.

Q: Did AMBROS have an important position in Speer's Ministry?

A: He was considered an expert for Buna (artificial rubber) - I could not tell you whether he had an official position in Speer's Ministry.

Q: Besides this position in connection with Buna, could have he also have it in connection with poison gas?

A: He was regarded as an expert for poison gas.

*Ambros expert in poison gas
sell to the Nazis*

Interrogation of W. BENTON

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- Q: As representative of VEB NEMR - in the same position as the latter?
- A: Only in a subordinate position.
- Q: You said in your first interrogation - (he is reading) - how machines were procured with their purchase and installation I was entrusted.

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- Q: Yes, that is in connection with that what I have stated: In 1927 I came to this new wing, where most of all machines and apparatuses had to be improved. They had been ordered before my time, the installation as a whole went on till 1929/30. Then there was a period of inaction from 1930 to 1933; constructions were suspended, buildings were kept intact. Then gradually the work started in individual plants and supplementary plants. In proportion to the increase with output of certain plants due to the improvement in process, I had in the position which I held also to procure machines mostly for the compressor plant.
- Q: What was the amount for which machines were bought?
- A: What had to be procured, was chiefly the replacement of machines which in the course of all the years of inactivity had fallen into disuse and had become useless and instead of this other machines, steam driven machines were electrified.
- Q: Which was the approximate purchase-price, did it amount to hundreds of thousands or to millions?
- A: Not to millions, it might amount to something like several hundred thousands of marks. This amount is also to be regarded as partly to be accounted for replacements and repairs, partly for the standardization of capacities.
- Q: Also for the increase of capacity, or does standardization mean in itself increase?
- A: No, standardization only in so far, as one plant has to keep pace with the other. I said already in the report that I believe that the change of the total increase in production may be between 10 and 15 %.
- Q: To whom were you responsible for the purchase of the machines?
- A: To my superior Mr. BENTON.

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- Q: To whom was he responsible?
- A: It is like this: if something must be undertaken for the purpose of repairs it comes from the subordinate branches.

Interrogation of W. DUERRFELD

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A: The factory reports: this is out of order, this must be replaced. In this case it goes through the channels from the lower to the higher authority. For the standardization however the initiative comes from the superior authority that means it will be established: that one section cannot keep pace because other sections have a greater capacity; they can make better use of their tools and machines; the capacity of this plant must be increased to some degree. This order comes from a superior authority. The factory must scheme how to reach the standard of the other enterprises.

Q: Do you know, that AMBROS was a personal friend of HIMMLER?

A: No. You told me that last time. That is new to me that he should be a personal friend of HIMMLER, I would like to doubt that even to-day, in spite of you saying so. I know he went to school with HIMMLER in the same town. I think it was in Landslut or Landsberg, AMBROS has told it once.

Q: It was not known in the I.G. Farben circles that he was a friend of HIMMLER?

A: No, not at all.

Q: Has AMBROS in 1941 led the first negotiations in Berlin for TER MEER concerning Buna Auschwitz?

A: I am afraid I cannot tell you anything about all what happened before. My story of Aschwitz begins at the time, when TER MEER in Louna told BRAUS and me together: a new plant must be constructed. About anything else, that had happened before, I know nothing about. It was in March 1941 - it could also have been in February or April.

Ter Meer

Q: Of which previous negotiation in connection with Buna-Aschwitz between TER MEER, SCHWIDER and AMBROS do you have any sort of knowledge?

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A: I only know of the fact that such discussion must have preceded, because it was agreed that there would be a combined work of both divisions. I cannot say anything about the topic of the discussion and its result and date.

Q: But you know that AMBROS was designated as a leading person?

A: Yes. But in connection with the I.G. Farben one has to distinguish between the question concerning Buna and the general questions, in other words, technical questions. And for these AMBROS was competent. I know, for instance,

Ambros negotiated for Buna for Auschwitz

Interrogation of W. DUBROWSKI

(Page 24 of original, cont'd)

- A: that AMBROS prospected in Upper Silesia in order to find a building-site.
- Q: That happened in 1941?
- A: Yes, that must have been in the winter. Once, I saw photos of this reconnaissance trip; they showed deep snow; it must have been in the winter 1940/1941.
- Q: Who was with AMBROS?
- A: I am quite positive that Dr. BIRKENKOPF, the leading engineer of Buna Schkopau accompanied him, I can not name anybody else.
- Q: So, AMBROS decided for this place?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Could he make a decision without TER MEER?
- A: No, I do not think so. TER MEER was his superior; at least, he discussed it with TER MEER.
- Q: Did AMBROS make a report about this trip; - there must have been a report.
- A: I only saw these pictures and BIRKENKOPF in Schkopau showed me two more. I was there in order to visit a Buna* factory.

AMBROS

Anton could not decide without Ter Meer

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- Q: Was AMBROS also responsible for Schkopau?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Who was the manager of Schkopau?
- A: Dr. WULF.
- Q: To whom was he responsible?
- A: To AMBROS; AMBROS was responsible to TER MEER and TER MEER to the Board.
- Q: How often have you been in Schkopau?
- A: I was there once in 1941 when I wanted to know how a Buna factory worked. When I was charged with the construction of the plant, I went to Schkopau.
- Q: With whom?
- A: Alone.
- Q: How long did you stay in Schkopau?
- A: I was there a full day.
- Q: Did you meet AMBROS in Schkopau?

Worstand

Interrogation of W. DUBERFELD

(Page 25 of original, cont' d)

A: No.

Q: Who showed Schkopau to you?

A: I reported to WULFF. It was partly Dr. BIEDENKOPF, who as the leading engineer showed me around, partly I was accompanied by somebody of his staff, who was in charge of the factory concerned. But I do not recall the name.

Q: Where did Schkopau recruit his workers?

A: I do not know how many foreign workers were there at that time. In any case, Schkopau was completely filled up with workers. At the beginning of the war, they came from the middle-German region mostly from Leuna. I saw in Leuna and also in other factories which, at that time, were under construction, that a "stock"

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of workers of the original factory was always transferred to the new-established factories; furthermore, they were recruited in the region where the factory was built. And the requirements were covered by the labor offices by allocation of foreign workers. The problem was still the same. You asked me that question the last time already, and you said that the problem must have interested me. Naturally, but it was no problem for us, because, the I.G. had guaranteed the supply of personnel that was urgently necessitated for the Buna-factory from the original Leuna factory, as well as from Ludwigshafen. I said already the last time, that the labor market in Upper Silesia had not yet been so much exploited; Upper Silesia was considered - if I may say so - as the district with the largest number of available labor and I quote as an example for the availability of man power, that at that time many people were seen in public places selling cigarettes. Things like that did not happen in the Reich. The main task of the labor offices consisted in taking manpower from those factories that were of no military importance. In this way we had to solve the problem.

Q: But on the other side, you recruited 20,000 workers?

A: Yes, but you should not forget that in the position I held, I did not try to solve this problem, but that I waited for it to develop.

Q: What other Buna-factories did you visit at that time?

A: Once, I also was in Huels. It happened before; it was before the war.

Q: Were you already interested in the Buna-problem before the war?

00049

Interrogation of W. GUSEWELD

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A: I only visited that district in connection with service trips I had to carry out. No acquaintances showed me this place.

Q: Who was the manager of Huels-Buna?

A: Dr. Karl BARNHART.

Q: To whom was he responsible?

A: To Dr. AMBROS. I never visited Huels again. At the time of the building of the Buna-factory, I was in Schkopau several times, because I had the special mission to bring high-pressure gas, a high-pressure hydrogen, from Leuna to Schkopau. That was a purely technical problem, which was at first to be solved for a distance of approximately 15 kilometers.

Q: Did you meet AMBROS later in Schkopau?

A: No, I once met AMBROS again, after 1941, when the Obergruppenfuehrer FOHL visited the Schkopau-factory. AMBROS was there and invited me.

Q: Who else was there?

A: WILLY and BIERBRONN and maybe four or five NS-officers, generals.

Q: GLECKES?

A: No.

Q: MAURER?

A: No.

Q: FRANK?

A: Yes.

Q: SCHUBERT?

A: No.

Q: HORSCH?

A: No.

Q: Who else was there from the I.G.-Farben?

A: Nobody.

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Q: In what year was that?

A: It was either in 1941, in the second half of 1941, or in 1942.

Interrogation of W. BUETEFISCH

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Q: What was shown to you in Schkopau?

A: The Buna-factory, the whole Buna-factory.

Q: The labor camps?

A: I do not know anything about it; I do not think so.

Q: In 1941 BUETEFISCH sent you and FAUST to Berlin to the conference with the SS-Obergruppenfuehrer WOLF. What kind of instructions did you receive from BUETEFISCH before you left?

A: We went to Berlin to meet BUETEFISCH. He was in Berlin.

Q: Where did you see BUETEFISCH?

A: If I remember correctly, we called on him in the Laenderbank (Federal Bank) and we went from the Laenderbank to the Albrechtstrasse.

Q: How long did you stay with BUETEFISCH?

A: As long as the conference lasted. At first, we had to wait for a long time. BUETEFISCH was very angry about it. He then asked us to accompany him. May I once more clarify the chronological order? Between February and April 1941 BUETEFISCH notified BRAUS and myself, that the factory was to be built and that I had my assigned task as an engineer. He asked me whether I accepted the job. I was pleased to get a technical job. I often saw BUETEFISCH in Leuna; on those occasions we sometimes discussed the technical questions concerning coal and production.

Q: Never with Ambros?

A: No. I saw AMBROS very rarely. On such an occasion, it was soon after the first conference. BUETEFISCH told me that there was a concentration camp and that camp inmates were to be employed for the construction of the Buna factory. And for this purpose, FAUST and myself should be ready.

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to come to Berlin, to discuss further instructions.

Q: What did you discuss with BUETEFISCH in the Laenderbank?

A: We did not discuss anything; BUETEFISCH headed the conference that was evidently purely formal and to which we were only invited in order to be introduced to the other members. But as far as I know this reason was not mentioned before.

Q: Consequently, BUETEFISCH was responsible at this conference?

Interrogation of E. BIERFELD

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A: Certainly, I think that neither FAUST and myself ever said a word during this conference.

Q: How long did you wait for WOLF?

A: Maybe 15 minutes or half an hour.

Q: Who was present in the Albrechtstrasse?

A: BIERFELD, FAUST, myself and an SS-officer whose name I do not know.

Q: BIERFELD had a conversation with WOLF?

A: Yes.

Q: How did the conversation start?

A: I have told myself that this point was very important. I have tried my best to remember. But I cannot recall any details. I only remember that the question concerning the instructions for utilization of concentration camp prisoners was no longer to be discussed.

Q: That was already decided?

A: Yes, I had this impression.

Q: What was discussed?

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A: It was decided that BIERFELD and WOLF were to discuss the fundamental questions - if any fundamental questions should come up in future - and that FAUST or myself were to discuss the local questions with the commander of the concentration camp.

Q: What kind of fundamental questions were to be discussed?

A: They were not yet discussed at that time.

Q: Were any decisions made in connection with fundamental questions?

A: It was decided that the SS was to write a letter concerning the conditions, the financial conditions.

Q: Who of the SS was to write a letter to whom?

A: To the I.G.

Q: Addressed to whom of the I.G.?

A: I do not know. A letter was written on this subject. I do not have it in my files, but I think that FAUST must have it.

Q: Did you read this letter?

A: I have been thinking about that too, but I cannot remember.

Interrogation of H. BARRFIELD

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A: I always got these things, second hand, and I do not think that I ever saw this letter.

Q: BURTFISCH was the spokesman for the I.G. , and WOLF for the SS. It is probable that this letter was sent to BURTFISCH, if it was not sent to AMBROS.

A: Yes it is even more probable that it was addressed to AMBROS himself.

Q: Did you understand from the conversation that BURTFISCH or AMBROS already had a conference with the SS or with WOLF himself?

A: I had that impression.

Q: Do you remember any sentence of the conversation that would justify this impression?

A: I understand the importance of your question, but I cannot tell you more about it than I did.

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I left with the following impression: how we were introduced, and the whole business will be conducted according to previous decisions.

Q: What should have been discussed between yourself and the concentration camp in Buna-Auschwitz?

A: The number of inmates, that was necessitated to start with.

Q: Did you mention the number?

A: Yes, I think that I mentioned a number with reference to my first estimate for the entire construction. Our first estimate amounted to 12000 - 15000 workers, and I believe - upon reflexion - that I mentioned 1/3 of the total number, because this was actually the number we always maintained.

Q: What else did you discuss?

A: The question of transportation and supervision. In this connection it is also necessary to mention that essentially the conditions were made by the SS, and that we had to accept them and make modifications according to the circumstances, if necessary. I recall another point that was discussed: WOLF and BURTFISCH took it for granted that the prisoners of the camp were to be used even for the construction work. This was quite new for me and very depressing, and when I left, I said to RAGST that I could not imagine, how we could employ the prisoners for the construction, since one of the conditions - according to WOLF - was that the prisoners were to be completely isolated from the other civilian workers and Germans. It made me very miserable, because I knew that it was practically impossible to have prisoners and civilians working at the same place, without giving

Interrogation of W. DUEMFELD

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them the chance to communicate. Workers ought to work hand in hand. And now we were told: Just start working, that will be straightened out. You will discuss it later with the men, and there will be a solution for this difficulty.

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Q.: Where did you go after the discussion?

A.: Home to Leuna.

Q.: With BUETEFISCH ?

A.: No.

Q.: With FAUST ?

A.: No, we usually took separate trains.

Told Ambros all about it.

Q.: Do you know if BUETEFISCH spoke with AMBROS about this discussion?

A.: No, I do not know.

Q.: Did AMBROS later speak with you or in your presence about this discussion?

A.: AMBROS? No, on the contrary, I informed AMBROS of all I did.

Q.: Did you inform him about this discussion?

A.: I think so.

Q.: Do you know when?

A.: No.

Q.: You met HOESS for the first time in Leuna?

A.: No.

Q.: HOESS was in Leuna in 1941; he went to Leuna and Ludwigshafen in order to get acquainted with the IG.

A.: I do not know of it.

Q.: When did you meet HOESS for the first time?

A.: For the first time in Auschwitz in 1941.

Q.: There you discussed further matters?

A.: No, it was rather a formal call if you can still use this expression - a first visit.

Q.: In his home?

A.: Not in his house, at his office.

Q.: At the entrance of the camp?

A.: Yes, I was often there.

Q.: Your wife was acquainted with the wife of HOESS?

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A.: No, I think these two women never met. I only once went to his home when HOESS after a walk round the place asked me to enter, and meet his wife.

Q.: When did you discuss with HOESS in Auschwitz the conditions which you arranged in Berlin?

A.: I never discussed them, it was FAUST who did.

Q.: It was FAUST who negotiated with HOESS?

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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A.: Yes.

Q.: Were you informed of this?

A.: Yes. I sometimes met FAUST at the construction meetings, as well as at several inspections of the building site.

Q.: The prisoners lived in Auschwitz and used to go out of the camp, when they went to the working place. When was this changed?

A.: This was changed, as I already told you when camp No 4, south of the plant, which had been built up for our own workers, was placed at the disposal of the concentration camp inmates.

Q.: What was the name of this camp?

A.: Camp No 4.

Q.: How many people could be accommodated there?

A.: Only a few at that time. We then employed prisoners for the building up of the interior of the camp. I do not remember how many were with us inmates when we moved into the camp; there may have been several hundred in the spring or in the middle of 1942.

Q.: How often did you enter the concentration camp Auschwitz?

A.: Concentration camp? The first time I visited the Auschwitz camp was when I made my first call and on that occasion FAUST and I were shown all over the place; then in 1942, in the winter 1941 to 1942 on the occasion of a visit of Gauleiter BRACHT, I was ordered to the camp because BRACHT wanted to inspect the building place after his visit to the concentration camp.

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Q.: Who else was present besides BRACHT?

A.: He had a whole staff with him.

Q.: Can you tell me who?

A.: I remember Regierungspraesident (District President) SPRINGORUM. Of IG AMBROS was with him, and I think, also BUETEFISCH. He must have been present, because there was some kind of reception in Kattowitz.

Q.: Who was present from the SS. Was GLUECKS present?

A.: You want to know too much.

Q.: FOHL ?

A.: I do not know.

Q.: Which camp did you visit? Camp Nr 1 ?

A.: I cannot tell you which number. We went into the room near the Kommandatura; there we were taken around.

Q.: Do you know the names of the camps?

A.: The commander's office is in camp Nr 1, and camp Nr 2 is Birkenau.

Ambros inspects Camp

Interrogation of Walter DUERRFELD

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- A.: Does it not amount to the same? I know that it was kept terribly secret, it was not located on any map and nobody was familiar with the location of the camp. I do not know more of it than, that a new part was built on the other side of the railway line which passes from North to South.
- Q.: What about camp Nr 3?
- A.: I do not know.
- Q.: How often did you come to the town of Auschwitz?
- A.: I used to pass through Auschwitz, when I had to leave or when I arrived.
- Q.: Daily?
- A.: No, not that. Let us say every fortnight.
- Q.: How often did your wife come to the town of Auschwitz?
- A.: My wife lived in Auschwitz only for one year and she used to go to town only for shopping. That is all I can tell you.

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- Q.: How often approximately? Every day?
- A.: No, perhaps twice a week.
- Q.: How often did your children come to the town of Auschwitz?
- A.: My eldest son used to go there every day after Easter 1944, because he attended the high-school.
- Q.: Did SCHNITZ send you a letter concerning AMBROS, in which he expressed his thank for the wonderful job done in Auschwitz?
- A.: No, I never received it.
- Q.: He wrote a letter to AMBROS, expressing appreciation for the job that was done in Auschwitz.
- A.: I never saw it. I would have very much appreciated such a letter.
- Q.: What were the other Buna-works of the IG ?
- A.: The first was built in Schkopau, the second was Huels, the third Ludwigshafen and the fourth Auschwitz.
- Q.: What was Leverkusen?
- A.: Whether this was an ordinary factory plant I do not know. May be, just as a plant for experiments.
- Q.: Was AMBROS responsible for all of them?
- A.: Here I am asked too much. He was responsible for the four plants I mentioned. Whether he was in charge of the Leverkusen plant, I do not know.
- Q.: Do you know FRANK, the SS-General ?
- A.: Yes.

Interrogation of Walter DUENFELD

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Q.: GLUECKS?

A.: I have seen him too - I think it was on the occasion of the Gauleiter-visit, when BRACHT came - that I saw him.

Q.: MAURER ?

A.: I know MAURER, I think I saw him too or ~~three~~^{three} times at the plant.

Q.: Did you accompany MAURER to the concentration camp?

A.: No.

Q.: POHL ?

A.: POHL was two or three times at the plant.

Q.: Did you accompany POHL to the camp?

A.: No.

Q.: Who else went with you to the camp?

A.: When I visited it for the third time KOERNER was present.

Q.: Secretary of state KOERNER?

A.: Secretary of state KOERNER. It was according to plan, that he had to visit the camp, and I, according to order, accompanied him as the chief engineer to the plant.

Q.: How often did you visit the camp with FAUST?

A.: For the first time when I made my first call and then, maybe three times we visited - the commander's office at the entrance of the camp.

Q.: From 1943 to 1945 you visited the Auschwitz concentration camp only six times?

A.: Yes, but I want to point out that I made only 3 visits to the camp: for the first time on the occasion of my first call, when I was shown the place, the second time with BRACHT, the third time with KOERNER, and that I visited the commander's office three times.

Q.: Altogether six times?

A.: Yes. I want to add, that I was invited to "strength through Joy" (Kraft durch Freude) parties. Maybe I went twice to those parties, but they were in an entirely different place, one had to drive round the camp far to the South. On the other side just at the gate there was a large wooden hall with a stage.

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Q.: HOESS was present?

A.: Yes.

Q.: HARTFENSTEIN?

A.: Yes.

Q.: LIEBKENSCHIEL?

A.: LIEBKENSCHIEL, it is possible that I met him at one of those parties.

Q.: Whom else did you meet there among the leading people.

A.: CAESAR.

Interrogation of Walter DUERRFELD

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Q.: Who was that?

A.: He was the farm manager of the Starabannfuhrer. The farm manager was present. Once they had arranged for an inspection of his farm. I was there with Dr. HISELDO. It was located somewhere in the south. What was the name of the village? Baisko.

Q.: Whom else did you meet?

A.: SCHOETTEL, who was our superior.

Q.: His full name?

A.: His christian name was Bavarian, but I cannot remember it.

Q.: What was his position?

A.: He was chief of the Monowitz labor camp.

Q.: The Monowitz labor camp was located near the IG Farben?

A.: South of the plant. It was ^{built} by the IG Farben, but was not their property?

Q.: Monowitz and camp 4 are identical?

A.: Yes,

Q.: Why camp No 4?

A.: We built these labor camps one after the other, first of all in order to distribute the workers around the plant, so that their way to the working place was as short as possible, and secondly in order to avoid accumulation of too many workers in one large camp because of its disadvantages.

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what disadvantages?

Q.: What was the name of the camp No 1 of IG Farben?

A.: It was always called camp No 1.

Q.: Other camps?

A.: We had 8 camps, all around Buna.

Q.: Did you have a camp-leader for each camp?

A.: Yes.

Q.: Who was the camp leader (Lagerfuhrer) of camp Nr 1?

A.: I do not know.

Q.: Of Number 2?

A.: You ask me too much.

Q.: Of number 4? Obersturmfuhrer SCHOETTEL?

A.: Yes, I think so, but we do not talk about the same thing.

Q.: Here is the map of Auschwitz.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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- A.: When the prospective boundaries of the plant had been established, labor camps were built around the plant, beginning in the west.
- Q.: Which was the first camp?
- A.: It was started immediately in 1941; but the camps were never finished. They were constantly extended.
- Q.: When did the first people move in?
- A.: As soon as the buildings were there. In this first labor camp there were Germans and Poles together.
- Q.: German employees?
- A.: German and foreign workers.
- Q.: Kz - prisoners?
- A.: No. At the beginning the KZ-prisoners, who lived in the camp were brought by train to the IG Farben works.
- Q.: Consequently, a distinction was made between the KZ -prisoners the German workers and foreign workers? Or were these Polish workers the KZ-prisoners?
- A.: No, they were civilian employees.
- Q.: Were they hired by the firm?
- A.: By the building contractor of the IG-Farben-Industry. In this connection I want to give the following explanation: The construction of a plant is organized in the following way:

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The contracting factory, which was in this case the IG Farben-Industry, is in charge of the supervision of the construction. The board of supervision works out the plans and gives definite instructions to the commissioned contractors. These contractors are responsible for the execution of their commission. Consequently they have to procure the labor. This is the normal procedure, and such was the procedure in 1941, when the buildings were started.

- Q.: The IG-Farben did not build at all?
- A.: Not at all. Only a staff of engineers, technicians and business men represented the IG-Farben but no workers at all in the beginning.
- Q.: They were supervised by the engineer FAUST.
- A.: There was only a technical supervision of the contractors, in order to assure the proper execution of the commission.
- Q.: Who were the supervisors? FAUST and MURRI? And also FRIGGE?
- A.: Yes. But I do not know, when FRIGGE arrived. FRIGGE arrived only later. An other commission was given for the setting up of barracks, and one barrack-camp after the other was built up for the civilian workers around the factory.
- Q.: Were all these barracks built for the same purpose?
- A.: Only for this purpose.

Interrogation of Walter DUEBERFELD

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- Q.: Also the Monowitz camp was only for civilian workers?
- A.: It had been planned for them. But when we all had agreed that the bringing in of the prisoners was impossible for technical and sanitary reasons, we continued to request and urge the SS, until we were allowed to lodge the workers in a special labor camp within the boundaries of the plant.
- Q.: That was Monowitz?
- A.: Yes. And for this purpose we used camp Nr 4 planned for civilian workers
- Q.: Who conducted the negotiations for the permission to move the KZ prisoners into camp Nr 4?
- A.: FAUST and I.
- Q.: With whom?
- A.: With HOESS.

KZ Labor

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- Q.: In what year?
- A.: In 1941 and in the beginning of 1942.
- Q.: Where did you negotiate with HOESS?
- A.: I cannot tell you exactly. We met quite often, sometimes in the works, sometimes, as I told you before, here in the headquarters building and sometimes in the town.
- Q.: How often did you meet HOESS?
- A.: May be we negotiated with HOESS 10 or 15 times.
- Q.: How many people were moved into this camp?
- A.: At first only a few hundred.
- Q.: In which year?
- A.: In 1942.
- Q.: How many were moved into it later? Was it all occupied?
- A.: The greatest number of people present in the works was as far as I know, about 8500.
- Q.: They all lived in Monowitz?
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: How many barracks were in Monowitz?
- A.: It was an excessively large number.
- Q.: How many?
- A.: I don't remember.
- Q.: Who was responsible, the IG. Farben or the SS, or rather what was the responsibility of the IG. Farben and what was the responsibility of the SS?

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A.: Let us put it this way: IG.Farben was responsible for the original set up. Here is what happened: Monowitz camp No 4 was built by building contractors by order of the IG.Farben. The direction of the concentration camp asked for an enclosure and in the course of time also for the installations for that went with it, such as towers and barbed wire.

Q.: Live wire?

A.: Was there electrically charged wire? I think so.

Q.: How many towers?

A.: One, two, three, four. - And a few more between them. Six towers.

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Q.: Occupied by whom?

A.: By a sentry on each tower.

Q.: SS?

A.: Yes.

Q.: Armed with?

A.: That I do not know.

Q.: How often were you inside Monowitz?

A.: I was there quite often.

Q.: You said you did not see how the guards were armed?

A.: They stood at their posts - I do not know. The guards who were outside the camp in the works had guns.

Q.: SS guards?

A.: Yes.

Q.: Rubber clubs?

A.: No.

Q.: Sticks?

A.: No, on the contrary - I remember, I once saw such a stick, a kind of whip. So I said to the guard: Such a thing is not suitable! Throw the thing away!

Q.: Did SS troops guard the slave-workers in the plant?

A.: In the beginning.

Q.: Until when?

A.: Certainly till 1943.

Q.: Did you have Capos?

A.: Yes.

Q.: Did the Capos guard the other inmates?

A.: Yes.

Q.: They were foremen?

A.: Yes.

Interrogation of Walter DUEFFELD

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Q.: Did the Capos also come from the concentration camp?

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A.: Yes. From the Monowitz labor camp. We were not in touch with the Auschwitz concentration camp. My merit-excuse me, if I call it a merit - I considered it as my great merit - that we managed to have these prisoners transferred - since we had to work with them - to the Monowitz labor camp.

Q.: You had to work with them?

A.: That was from my point of view the fundamental condition, that we had to work with the prisoners.

Q.: You said in the beginning, that you did not come to Auschwitz, because the IG. Farben wanted to use these workers.

A.: That must have been a misunderstanding before. We went to Auschwitz, because the IG. Farben wanted to use these workers. I had better say: When I was charged with the procurement of labor I did not see any difficulty in this problem, because civilian labor was still available in Upper Silesia. This was certainly another reason besides the strategical reasons, why my superior, AMBROS- BUETEFISCH, shifted the plant to this place. But when BUETEFISCH in the course of our conversation informed me that we had to work with camp labor, I understood, that I had to put up with these technical conditions.

Buete-fisch allow labor

Q.: BUETEFISCH explained that to you? employ

A.: Yes. That is all I know about it, that the order to/prisoners of the camp was issued by higher authorities.

Q.: By whom?

A.: I do not know. But I consider it as my merit as well as Mr. FAUST's merit that, when it was an established fact that we had to work with the prisoners, these prisoners were transferred at my instigation from the Auschwitz concentration camp to the neighborhood of the works, in order to improve their living and working conditions.

Q.: Were the living conditions bad in Auschwitz?

A.: No, but the prisoners had to walk great distances.

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Q.: Was the food bad?

A.: I do not know. Looking back, I can only say that the prisoners - my people told me the same, that it was a real threat for the prisoners when they were told: You have to return to the camp.

Q.: How were the living conditions?

A.: I only know that they were not the same as they are here. May I add, that the next important step I took was that at the time of the spotted fever epidemic we - took advantage of this opportunity by separating this labor camp completely from the concentration camp, in order to exercise an influence, a certain influence on the food situation. And the third step is still more important: We managed to convince the SS of the necessity of shifting the guards to the outskirts of the plant, so that the prisoners within the limits of the large area of 1 x 3 km had the liberty of moving and working without being guarded by the SS.

Continuation of the interrogation:

Monday, 4 November 1946.

Interrogation of Walter DUKERFELD

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

We, N. ABRAHAM Civ. 20056, G.W. GARAND Civ. D-143692, R. SPITZ, Civ. 30219 hereby certify, that we are thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of the original document.

N. ABRAHAM Civ. 20056

G.W. GARAND Civ. D-143692

R. SPITZ Civ. 30219

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Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

Interrogation No 347 B

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD
 by Mr. von Halle
 by order of Section-Heath-Lawyer, Kove
 on 4 November 1946 1330 - 1525 hours
 Stenographer: Georg Gottinger

Duerfeld

Institut für Zeitgeschichte
 München
 ARCHIV
 1948/56

Continuation of the Interrogation of 1 November 1946.

Q.: The interrogation today is a continuation of the last one. The last time we ended with the question of how great the distance was.

A.: I pointed that out to you already on the map, approximately 10 kilometers. Naturally it depends on the place in which the prisoners were employed, plus - minus 3 - 3 kilometer, about 10 kilometer.

Q.: They came on foot?

A.: I cannot tell you how it was in the beginning because I was not at the building site. I do not know whether the people came on foot or came in trucks then. At any rate, the transportation was too long. The trucks were not available. Things did not run smoothly and that is why, as I said, we urged these special camps.

Q.: If they rode 10 kilometers, that is not very long?

A.: As I told you, I cannot give you exact information about that, because at the beginning I was not at the construction site.

Q.: Did the people ride or

A.: When I came there the people went by train.

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Q.: All the people, all the prisoners?

A.: Yes.

Q.: When you came there, no prisoners were walking?

A.: No, not so far as I knew.

Q.: By what train?

A.: By the state railroad from Auschwitz. Where they got on I don't know. In any case they got out at our side track.

Q.: What did you call the concentration camp Auschwitz?

A.: Yes, K L or concentration camp.

Q.: What was Buna called, what is the real legal expression for Buna-Auschwitz?

A.: What do you mean by Buna-Auschwitz?

Q.: The factory.

A.: I-G. Farben Auschwitz, the works.

Interrogation of Walter DUEKFIELD

(Page 2 of original, cont'd)

- Q.: There is not only a Buna-Auschwitz, there is a Blechhammer there too?
- A.: No, that is 350 kilometers away.
- Q.: 100 kilometers distant.
- A.: Breslau is 230 kilometers away. I really don't remember exactly. It must have been between 100 and 200 kilometers.
- Q.: But when you talk of IG. Auschwitz, you only think of Buna-Auschwitz?
- A.: Not only the manufacture of Buna was there, but also a so-called synthetic for the production of fuel.
- Q.: That still is part of I.G. Auschwitz?
- A.: Yes, IG has nothing to do with the "Fueratlich Plessischen Bergwerke-G.m.b.H." (Fuerst Plessche Mining Company, Ltd.) affiliated company the "Fuerstengruben G.m.b.H." but only with the

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- Q.: There are three mines?
- A.: There is only one, the Plessche mine. The old Fuerst^e mine is also called "Fuerstengrube" and for that reason this new company signs as the "Fuerstengrube Gm.b.H."
- Q.: This new company was founded to supply Auschwitz IG. Farben?
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: Were the SS asked to establish a new camp Monowitz?
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: From whom did the IG company get permission or to whom did it make the proposal that camp Monowitz should be changed from a civilian workers' camp to a concentration camp for prisoners?
- A.: I don't remember exactly how it happened. It was a long time ago and we had often talked about it amongst ourselves and even with the concentration camp chiefs. I suppose with Hoess or the adjutant who was in control for us at the time, I don't remember his name.
- Q.: Whose adjutant?
- A.: Hoess's adjutant.
- Q.: Had you the right or was your power sufficient to hold conferences in IG. for Monowitz without consulting the IG Farben people, the higher officials in IG.? Do you remember who made the proposal the first time?
- A.: These things were discussed from time to time at the so-called construction meetings. Who made the suggestion first I really don't remember.

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- Q.: Could it have been Faust?
- A.: I really cannot tell you any more.

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Q.: Whom do you remember, you spoke with people from IG. Farben that IG. wanted to set this up.

A.: That was a general discussion at a planning conference.

Q.: Do you remember this planning conference?

A.: No I really cannot remember. I already gave a statement. These so-called planning conference used to take place about every four weeks, at the beginning they took place alternately in Ludwigshafen and in Leuna and when there was something to see, in Auschwitz at the building site, and when there was a possibility of obtaining conference rooms etc., these planning conference took place now and then in Auschwitz.

Q.: Again with AMBROS?

A.: Yes.

Q.: And BUETEFISCH?

A.: He did not come very regularly.

Q.: But AMBROS was always present?

A.: AMBROS was always there for the planning conference.

Q.: And they used to be monthly?

A.: Monthly or every six weeks. The planning meeting took place alternatively in Ludwigshafen and Leuna, and in Auschwitz when something was to be seen there. Only when most of the activity was in Auschwitz, did the planning conference take place there almost exclusively.

Q.: Most of the activity started in 1943?

A.: Let us say 1943, I think from that moment on, there were no more meetings outside of Auschwitz.

Q.: I repeat that AMBROS was from 1943 on nearly every month or every six weeks in Auschwitz.

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A.: At the beginning there were many technical things to discuss. That was the reason for the urgent need of these planning conference. Only when everything was in full activity did the planning conference take place at greater intervals and therefore I could say that the planning conference took place every six - eight weeks during the last period.

Q.: Could you explain to me, what you understand by "the last period"?

A.: In 1944 I am sure that it was every eight weeks until we stopped these meetings in the last months of 1944.

Q.: Did you receive authority from AMBROS to negotiate?

A.: Of course I got it.

Q.: In written words ?

A.: No.

Q.: Only verbally?

A.: Yes.

Interrogation of Walter DUEFFELD

(Page 5 of original, cont'd)

- Q.: Full authority?
- A.: You say full authority? What do you mean? We had the authority and that by an agreement of AMBRGS as well as by BUETEFISCH, to make this camp in the south of the plant available for the Monowitz labor-camp.
- Q.: You had full authority for the planning conference?
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: You spoke of about fifteen conferences with HOESS.
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: Most of these conferences took place in HOESS's office?
- A.: No. I told you that in the administration building three to four conferences took place in the office, the others at our place or

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- Q.: Our place? in the plant?
- A.: In the plant. Or we met somewhere in Auschwitz. That was not anything like official meetings or official discussions.
- Q.: When did you speak to HOESS about the proposition?
- A.: At the moment I cannot remember very well, when and where it was. I cannot remember the situation. In any case our aim was to save this road for the internees and to obtain a certain separation-since we were obliged to use concentration camp inmates for the building - from the main camp and that was possible in this way. We I cannot tell any more who had that idea and who told HOESS about it first. I could not say any more.
- Q.: What approximately were the discussions with HOESS, these fifteen discussions, tell me all you can remember. Enumerate what was discussed.
- A.: These questions about the camp, the installation of the camp.
- Q.: Where did the proposal come from to charge the wire fence with electricity?
- A.: That came from the concentration camp.
- Q.: The number of the guards?
- A.: The number of the guards was not our concern, but was purely an affair of the SS. The number of watch towers to be constructed was naturally given by the SS, this and that place must be provided with a watch tower.

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- Q.: What else did the SS state?
- A.: How many barracks there had to be.
- Q.: The assigning of people to the barracks?
- A.: Yes.

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Q.: That was not initiated by you?

A.: No. What other installations there had to be.

Q.: What do you call installations?

A.: The shower barracks, the toilets. The kitchen was built entirely according to our suggestion. Moreover: The showers and toilet installations were also built, because originally it was to have been a German labor camp, therefore all these installations were made exactly as for our other labor camps.

Q.: For how many persons were the camps originally planned, for how many German workers?

A.: I cannot say now. But in general those camps were built for approximately 5000 people.

Q.: Later there were 8500 people.

A.: It was enlarged considerably. Even the fence, the whole grounds, were enlarged.

Q.: Who was responsible for the feeding?

A.: Originally the food supplies depended solely on the SS. However, I cannot say any more how the food was transported before the camp existed. I never saw it. Anyhow, the final arrangement was that our administrative set-ups (Wirtschaftsbetriebe) under supervision of Dr. SAVELSBERG and under special responsibility of Herr REINHOLD, the manager of our supply set-up, bought the food products, which were then delivered to the kitchen of camp Monowitz.

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In addition, we could supply something from our own farming. The kitchen was under supervision of a chief cook, who was put in charge by the supply management whose name I also cannot recollect any more.

Q.: Then you were responsible?

A.: Yes.

Q.: You said, the SS?

A.: In the beginning. One must distinguish between the beginning and the final arrangement. When exactly the supplying of food was taken over by us, I cannot say now. It was after the great epidemic of spotted fever in the camp. We took that as an opportunity for taking over the food supplies, to be sure that the food was sufficient and to have a certain insight into these matters, to know whether the inmates were sufficiently fed. When the epidemic of spotted fever had broken out, we could say quite rightly, that it was impossible to keep up a daily contact between the concentration camp Auschwitz and the labor camp Monowitz; the danger being too great that the epidemic might spread to camp Monowitz and possibly to the whole staff of the plant. With this argument we then succeeded in putting through this separation also in respect to food supplies.

Q.: Were "Expos" used in the camp Monowitz?

A.: No, never.

Q.: Were industrial police (Werkschutz) used in the main plant?

A.: Yes, indeed.

Q.: For guarding concentration camp inmates?

Interrogation of Walter DIERFELD

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- A.: No, never. Industrial police was only used in the form of single guards at the main entrance of the plant.
- Q.: Did you use "Kapos" as guards in the plant?
- A.: You might form the question differently. We did not use these "Kapos"; but the SS.
- Q.: Will you describe exactly, what "Kapos" are.
- A.: According to the experiences I made in the plants, "Kapos" are foremen, drawn from the inmates, whose duty it is to instruct the individual inmates to give technical working instructions, and, but that has been handled differently, to keep them at work.
- Q.: How could a "Kapo" be distinguished from an ordinary concentration camp inmate?
- A.: He wore an armband.
- Q.: How else does he distinguish himself?
- A.: That I do not know.
- Q.: Can any concentration camp inmate become a "Kapo" ?
- A.: To my knowledge, yes.
- Q.: Were the "Kapos" not political prisoners, in distinction from racial- or foreign prisoners?
- A.: Yes, I have seen all possible categories of people as "Kapos". In the beginning I have seen many of them with, I believe, green colours. This was the only distinctive mark, if it was not the language.
- Q.: What do you mean by: If it was not the language?
- A.: Well, by the language one could find out, if it was a foreigner or a German.

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- Q.: And "Kapos" were Germans?
- A.: No, not exclusively.
- Q.: To a very great percentage?
- A.: I would not like to give a figure on it, I cannot do it. But in any case, there were all categories.
- Q.: Was there not a great difference between a "Kapo" and an ordinary concentration camp inmate?
- A.: Yes, by the fact, that they were foremen and did not have to work. That was the consequence of their activity.
- Q.: What is the meaning of the abbreviation "Kapo" ?
- A.: I think it comes from the Italian. Old people from the building trade told me once, that it is common among Italian members of the building trade to use this expression for foreman. "Kapo" might also be connected with the Latin word "Caput", the brains, the head. I do not know how it is called in Italian.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

(Page 10 of original, cont'd)

Q.: Who was responsible for the clothing of the inmates?

A.: The SS was solely, exclusively, responsible for the clothing of the inmates. Beyond that we issued voluntarily, in the beginning even against the intention of the SS, protective- and warm winterclothing. I said: in the beginning against the intention of the SS, because the SS had after all an understandable interest, that a prisoner should always remain recognisable as such. And that such a prisoner should not put on anything on top of his clothes, which would make it impossible to distinguish him from a civilian worker.

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In spite of this we issued the so-called "workers vests" marking them specially. We also issued rubberboots to people working in ditches or similar places.

Q.: You have the impression that you had to wrest something from the SS, that you had to fight them, to gain something. Did the SS think inhumanly?

A.: I would not like to say that in this respect, because these were rather reasons, which with the SS sprung from a desire for security.

Q.: In general don't you have got the impression, that inhuman treatment took place in Auschwitz?

A.: At least not in the labor camp Monowitz.

Q.: I mean in the concentration camp Auschwitz?

A.: I cannot form an opinion on the treatment in the concentration camp Auschwitz.

Q.: You had the impression, that there was a group of blackguards out for something wicked here on the other hand was somebody who absolutely wants to do good.

A.: If it made an impression of that kind, then I would like to modify it considerably. I do not want to say, that there have only been bad fellows and we are the angels. By no means. It is not my intention to present the plant personnel and myself as standing out against a dark background. I want to be quite honest about it, about the impression I had. I want to remark as a matter of principle in this regard: On principle I as well as my closest collaborators regarded a concentration camp as something detestable. This I can say out of true conviction and with a clear conscience, without regarding the matter retrospectively.

Q.: Why did you regard it as something detestable?

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A.: Because I consider it undignified to lock up people without proper court proceedings being opened.

Q.: There were no proceedings?

A.: Not in the least. The story went round, that since 1933 people were imprisoned if they were some how politically inconvenient.

Q.: Was that the only reason?

A.: I think that is surely reason enough.

Q.: But is it the only reason?

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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cont'd

A.: I would not know what else I could mention. I may perhaps add, that our basic attitude towards the loath some establishment of a concentration camp would strangely enough because more lenient after the first visit of a concentration camp. This may seem strange to you, for even I could hardly understand it to-day. But at our first visit we saw so much that was - I would not call it favorable - but let us say there was nothing unworthy, nothing inhuman. Imprisonment remains inhuman. But I must say, beyond this very fact, I did not get the impression that people were treated roughly or brutally - nor that their accommodations or general living conditions were inadequate. I was perhaps only shown their display window. I must say that to-day.

Q.: Why did you expect something bad?

A.: Because it was said at that time, about Dachau: people are locked up there and they have to work terribly hard, if they get ill they do not get sufficient care etc.

Q.: All that was not the case in Auschwitz?

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A.: In any case I did not see it. ä

Q.: You did not hear about it either?

A.: I did not hear about it either. Only in so far: To start with we had a favorable impression and this favorable impression changed - changed into the opposite, when we saw how the first internees - that is how I was informed - were put to work at the building site; there I was told - the language usual was very rough.

Q.: Only the language?

A.: No, people have been pushed.

Q.: Pushed or beaten?

A.: Pushed, partly also beaten. I was told that the "Kapos" used sticks and that - I would like to say- caused us to keep away as far as possible from the KZ; but since it was our fate to work together with these poor people we used and influence as much as possible to get them humane treatment, because than at least we were sure, as far as we could do it, - to be able to exercise a favorable influence. Now I think it has become sufficiently clear, that I do not wish to say that they are the black sheep and that we are angels.

Q.: There were 8500 people in Monowitz?

A.: That was the maximum.

Q.: Were at that time still people living in the Auschwitz concentration camp and were they brought to IG Farben?

A.: No, never.

Q.: Then no more?

A.: No.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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Q.: The highest figure you had was only 8500 people?

A.: That was the highest figure for internees. In the work-shops there were only 6500 all together. That was - according to my knowledge - the top figure employed in the plant. As to the difference between the two figures you have to account first of all for the sick and convalescents and those in need of rest, then for those, who are under quarantine. We were still on the ascending line. The camp had just been extended aiming at a capacity of 10000. The last incoming transports were always under quarantine for about 4 weeks, until one was assured, that they were not carrying any contagious disease.

Q.: Were there any epidemics in Auschwitz camp?

A.: Yes, in the main camp, it was terrible.

Q.: You just said, the only thing that was repulsive to you, was that the people were imprisoned. Should not epidemics represent another terrific reason?

A.: Well, that I had to accept as a given fact, that is why I repeatedly used the word spotted fever. This spotted fever epidemic is transmitted through lice, was brought in somehow, nobody knows how, and it was seen to have raged terribly.

Q.: That was repulsive to you?

A.: Yes certainly for god's sake!

Q.: Was the gassing of people repellent to you?

A.: Gassing? I tell you I have heard about gassing at my interrogation. Shortly before my first arrest there was talk about it, and my own relations have asked me about it, saying: how could you live through these things without a break down? I lighted right out and said: don't you believe me, do you despair of me, do you believe me, that I could live through or bear anything like that.

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Q.: What could you do against it?

A.: Nothing, but suffer under it.

Q.: Did you bear epidemics?

A.: Terribly.

Q.: Still you have them.

A.: Yes.

Q.: You have had to make many compromises, you would have had to make this one as well.

A.: A person can stand a great deal, but how terrible if one would have had to bear this one too.

Q.: What kind of jurisdiction had chief engeneer Faust?

A.: Faust is Chief architect.

Q.: What kind of career had Faust, before he came to Ludwigshafen and Buna?

A.: Before he came to Ludwigshafen - that I do not know; he was ~~right~~ in Ludwigshafen from the beginning.
right

Interrogation of Walter DIERFELD

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Q.: Does his whole career consist of Ludwigshafen?

A.: I think so.

Q.: His field of activity is the building site itself?

A.: Yes before he came to Auschwitz, he was in Renford.

Q.: That is prior to Auschwitz?

A.: Yes.

Q.: Were you already responsible for Faust in Duerenfeld?

A.: No.

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Q.: But you did not go there?

A.: When I met Faust for the first time - I had not know him at all, so I went to Dyhrenfurth to meet him and called on line at his office. There was not much of a building site there at that time, there were mere constructions, just the frame-work. I did not walk around, but wait on with my journey, I did not stay for more than one hour in Faust's office.

Q.: What year was that?

A.: 1941.

Q.: What was to be produced in Dyhrenfurth?

A.: There was a big Chloric acid electrolytic plant with a gas factory attached to it.

Q.: For what purpose was this produced?

A.: This--according to my knowledge-- was a preventive measure for the case of the outbreak of Gas-Warfare.

Q.: Who was in charge of the Dyhrenfurth works?

A.: I knew the name . Unfortunately I forgot it.

Q.: Is ARBROS responsible for Dyhrenfurth?

A.: Yes.

Q.: What other gas-factories were there in Germany under IG Farben?

A.: None that I know of.

Q.: Gendorf?

A.: Gendorf? I really do not know.

Q.: Was there somebody else responsible in this question of gas?

A.: That certainly comes under the division of Ter Meers.

Q.: When did you last see FAUST?

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Q.: In May 1945.

Q.: What is FAUST's exact name, first name?

A.: Max, civil engeneer MAX FAUST.

Q.: Approximate date of birth, elderly or young?

A.: Older than myself, may be born around 86.

Q.: Where did he come from?

A.: From Ludwigshafen.

Q.: Do you know where he is at present?

A.: No.

Q.: Did he write to you?

A.: No.

Q.: Dr. BRAUS?

A.: Karl, born in 1900, I believe.

Q.: What is his exact sphere of activities?

A.: His sphere of activities is that of production manager for synthesis. I like to mention once more that two major productions were envisaged in Auschwitz, the production of Buna and the production of fuel, shortly called Synthesis.

Q.: How many people worked under him?

A.: The production was still in the very beginning. There were not many yet. There was a capacity of perhaps 800.

Q.: When did you see him last?

A.: In April 1945.

Q.: Do you know where he is at present?

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A.: No.

Q.: Do you know his private address?

A.: Yes, he used to live in Leuna, in Rosenstrasse.

Q.: Was he married?

A.: Yes.

Q.: His wife lived in Leuna?

A.: Yes, he has four children.

Q.: Did he have KZ-internees at his disposal?

A.: No.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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Q.: Where were the leading people of IG Farben, housed? Within the camp?

A.: We will have to differentiate. If you mean the few we just discussed: FAUST had, even at the end a private home in Auschwitz in the post office building. BRAUS had a newly built place, as well as myself, and also EISFELD.

Q.: Where was it?

A.: It was on the housing area. I refer to the little sketch. On the housing project which was to be built between the plant and the town of Auschwitz.

Q.: How far is that from the town of Auschwitz?

A.: Four to five kilometers.

Q.: For how long was BRAUS in Leuna?

A.: I guess since 1930.

Q.: And before? Did he work for the IG Farben previously?

A.: In Ludwigshafen, I believe.

Q.: Did he know AMBROS previously?

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A.: I do not think so.

Q.: FAUST is a personal friend of AMBROS?

A.: He esteemed him highly. It would be going too far to call it friendship.

Q.: Protege?

A.: He had high esteem for him as a good construction engineer, whether he had particular personal contact with him, I would not say.

Q.: AMBROS was in a much higher position, that accounts for much.

A.: Yes.

Q.: Dr. SAVELSBERG? Full Name.

A.: I will yet remember it.

Q.: Where does SAVELSBERG come from?

A.: Previously, SAVELSBERG was foreign representative in India. To whom these are subordinated I do not know. I do not know to whom the foreign representatives are subordinated; I always thought SCHNITZLER, but I am not sure.

Q.: What did SAVELSBERG do after he had returned to you?

A.: He happened to be on leave in Germany when war broke out. So he did not return any more, but stayed, and offered his services for some kind of work, now and then he actually did do some minor jobs in the IG - I do not even know where - . He then mentioned some minor assignments and, in 1941, he was put at our disposal as business manager, by AMBROS.

Q.: I would like to get a minute description of his sphere of activities. Which of the offices in the IG was his? Was it an entire barrack or a building?

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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A.: He was in charge of the business department.

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Q.: How many people were in this business department?

A.: I should estimate: To the business department belonged Economy Purchasing, and Transportation.

Q.: Approximately, how many people were that?

A.: I really could not give any exact figures any more. According to the size there were between 1000 and 2000 people.

Q.: Who is the chief of Economy?

A.: Chief of Economy is REINHOLD. First name I do not know.

Q.: What was he in charge of?

A.: REINHOLD has all of the Economy including catering installations.

Q.: REINHOLD is responsible to SAVELSBERG?

A.: Yes, his special field was purchase, the purchase of food supplies.

Q.: Under whom?

A.: For that he had his people.

Q.: Where does he go to get these food supplies?

A.: That I do not know. The Economy offices allocated his contingencies to him and with these he made his purchases, using either his own connections or his trade experience and or the directives of the Economy offices.

Q.: How much food was allocated to an inmate of Monowitz concentration camp per day? Not how much he was supposed to get, but how much he actually received.

A.: I was not standing by watching.

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Q.: You have never seen that for yourself?

A.: When the soup was distributed in the plant I often looked on.

Q.: Breakfast?

A.: I don't know about that, I was in the Monowitz work camp.

Q.: You were in Monowitz?

A.: When they ate, no, never, I don't know about that.

Q.: Do you know that there is an order from SAUCKEL. Saying that the works manager must among other things look after the accommodation and the feeding of the workers including the foreign workers or prisoners of the concentration camps?

A.: No, never. I make a clear distinction between our own workers, the foreign workers on one hand, and the prisoners of the concentration camp on the other hand. It has not been our business to do anything for their feeding. We, the plant, did that in order, as I said, to obtain a separation from the concentration camp Auschwitz and to make sure how much food entered the concentration camp.

Interrogation of Walter DUEBELD

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- Q.: How could you know that the people received it if you did not observe?
- A.: By the menus which were made up. I demanded them and in my office they were calculated according to calories, although this was not usual then in Germany to calculate in calories. I found out in a doctors book how many calories

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are necessary for people doing light, medium and heavy work, and I had this calculated in calories and daily I had these calories noted down. I supervised all the kitchens for foreigners and went there very often.

- Q.: How many calories did the prisoners of the concentration camp receive daily?
- A.: According to the menu 3000 - 3300 calories.
- Q.: The heavy workers?
- A.: As far as I know no difference was made, they were treated equally.
- Q.: How many calories did the foreign workers receive?
- A.: Just as many.
- Q.: The Germans, how many?
- A.: Same thing. I still have clearly in my mind the curve which was drawn up in my office by my men. It naturally was a fluctuating picture, a zigzag curve and this set-up was not very wide. I always was very happy to see that everything was about equal. For Germans and foreigners there was a difference established between heavy workers, and people doing light work and working long time and the employees came at the bottom of the set-up.
- Q.: The concentration camp inmates were not divided in the same way?
- A.: This division into different groups, no. In any case I don't believe it.
- Q.: You did not consider yourself obliged to do this? You only did it for personal reasons?

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- A.: For personal reasons.
- Q.: You did not feel yourself obliged, as works manager of IG. Farben, to see that the people were fed?
- A.: No, that was not part of the plant's duty.
- Q.: What else in the administration came under REINHOLD?
- A.: Purchase of food, then all the other workshop, such as the shoemakers, and tailors, the laundry, the buttershop.
- Q.: In all these works there were also concentration camp prisoners?
- A.: No.
- Q.: All German or foreign workers?
- A.: German and foreign workers, yes.

Interrogation of Walter BUENFELD

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Q.: What was the second section?

A.: The second section was transport. Transport chief was SCHWEIZER. To this belonged motor car service, truck service, electric cars and forwarding.

Q.: What was the third section?

A.: The third section was Purchasing.

Q.: Was that purchase of food?

A.: No, purchase in general. The chief was SCHMIDE.

Q.: And how about the purchase of materials?

A.: Yes, everything that is necessary in building materials, all the purchases except the purely technical purchases when it concerned machines.

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Q.: Who was responsible for the clothing of the Concentration Camp inmates?

A.: The concentration camp.

Q.: When did you last see SAVELSBERG?

A.: Likewise in April 1945.

Q.: Do you know where he is now.

A.: I know only through a report from my wife that he was at one time in internment in the British Zone on account of his former India activity.

Q.: And REINHOLD?

A.: About him I know nothing more at all.

Q.: Do you know REINHOLD's first name?

A.: No.

Q.: What were REINHOLD's previous activities?

A.: He came from the "Sudetenslaendischen Treibstoffwerken Bruex" (Fuel); there he was in a similar position.

Q.: Dr. EISFELD?

A.: Dr. EISFELD is the scientific chemist of the plant and manager of the technical department Buna. But he is particularly noted for having been my deputy during my absence. This again must be understood - as I have already indicated - because my position was an all together somehow a limited one of an enterprise leader. I meant to explain this to you already the last time. Perhaps I could mention it now. I started my activity with a clear out task of the first engenser, that means as chief of the technical organization.

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In the course of the years untill 1943 the circumstances demanded- the connection of the plant in its relationship with the authorities, the local offices and so forth - a manager to be present, and therefore I have acted as the lead of the factory in the competent local question. My actual orders I received - if possible before, if not afterwards - from the construction councils that means from AMBROS or from BUETEFISCH, whoever was competent for

Interrogation of Walter DUEFFELD

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these questions. Dr. BUETEFISCH for example was competent for the questions concerning the raw materials, especially coal and for all questions dealing with the productions of synthetic fuel and the line of combustibles. AMBROS was responsible for the production of Buns-plants, power plants and other general questions.

Q.: These are all technical things.

A.: All general questions, also on social lines. From 1943 onwards I was so to say in the position of a - I would like to say - acting factory manager, and when I became director for the first time a basic discussion was held dealing with my position and this position as acting factory manager was so to say legalized - legalized for the time being.

Q.: Do you mean legalized as factory manager?

A.: No, because AMBROS and BUETEFISCH remained as before responsible for the plant to the IG. (Betriebsfuehrerbesprechung und EA.)

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Q.: The only thing, which in this connection I still would like to know is, what is understood by social questions.

A.: The social questions include the basic problems of establishment of the general social conditions and of the general labor, salary and wages policy.

Q.: Including foreign labor?

A.: As far as there was any thing left to be decided upon.

Q.: And does that include the KZ internees?

A.: Yes, as far as basic questions are concerned, as the lay out of the camp, a question which was discussed with AMBROS.

Q.: Inclusive?

A.: Inclusive the basic questions concerning the worker.....

Q.: For the labor commitment?

A.: The word labor commitment.....

The question "who was the enterprise leader" of the Auschwitz factory, can not be answered in one word. The fundamental decisions concerning the factory were taken by the planning session (Bausitzung) that means by the two competent members of the board of directors of the IG. - Dr. AMBROS and Dr. BUETEFISCH. In the intervals between planning sessions I myself was the responsible person who acted as the plant manager.

Q.: When did you see EISENBERG for the last time?

A.: The last time I saw him was in February or March 1945.

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Q.: And where is he now?

A.: I do not know either. In the ~~xxxxxx~~ British Zone.

Q.: Did you know his last address before Auschwitz?

A.: He was in Ludwigshafen before.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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- Q.: And why is he now in the British Zone?
- A.: Because he stays there with his relatives in the country.
- Q.: How do you know, that he is staying with relatives?
- A.: My wife wrote it to me. He is staying with relatives in Westfalia as an agricultural worker.
- Q.: Where is your wife?
- A.: In Helmstedt in the British Zone.
- Q.: Who is von LOMM?
- A.: He is the chief engeneer for one part of the synthetic products. And in technical things he was my representative.
- Q.: That means a rather high position?
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: What is his full name?
- A.: Albert von LOMM.
- Q.: Will you tell me about his past?
- A.: He has been in Leuna, he was in the organizing department for North and South.
- Q.: When did you see him for the last time?
- A.: In May 1945
- Q.: Where is he now?
- A.: He is now in Uerdingen on the lower Rhine.
- Q.: Did you still write to him?

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- A.: No, but I know it from my wife.
- Q.: Which was his field of activity before Leuna?
- A.: Before Leuna? He was in Leuna about the same as I, since 1937.
- Q.: Dr. SANTO ?
- A.: He is not Doctor but Director Santo. He is the constructionsdirector of Ludwigshafen.
- Q.: There are three people: SANTO, HEYDEBROCK and EISFELD - they all come from Ludwigshafen.
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: Does the greater part of them live in Ludwigshafen or Auschwitz?
- A.: In Auschwitz. Lately HEYDEBROCK and EISFELD lived in Auschwitz. SANTO has never been assigned for Auschwitz.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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- Q.: And they belonged also to Auschwitz?
- A.: Except SANTO, yes.
- Q.: After its termination would they have gone back to Ludwigshafen?
- A.: No, they would have remained in Auschwitz.
- Q.: But Santo does not belong to Auschwitz and is living in Ludwigshafen?
- A.: Yes.
- Q.: And howoften does he come to Auschwitz?
- A.: It was very seldom there.
- Q.: Is he the direct representative of AMBROS for Auschwitz?
- A.: No, he has only the technical construction question to deal with.

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- Q.: Worked together with Faust ?
- A.: Has FAUST's chief been in Ludwigshafen before. I mean in a certain sense a kind of relationship between superior and subordinate has remained.
- Q.: But in spite of that FAUST is responsible?
- A.: Only concerning technical questions. He was the former subordinate and I do not know how many times SANTO has been there; once every six months.
- Q.: When did you see SANTO for the last time
- A.: That has been long before the collapse.
- Q.: Where is he now?
- A.: I did not hear his name mentioned any more. I had nothing personal in common with him.
- Q.: Do you know HEYDEBROCK's first name? He was engeneer.
- A.: Yes, the first name I do not know.
- Q.: His activity?
- A.: Corresponding with the one of von LOMM, who was the competent directing engeneer of the Buna works.
- Q.: How many people did he have under him?
- A.: Possibly about 2000 men.
- Q.: When did you see him for the last time?
- A.: That is also a very long time ago - oh no, I have seen him in April 1945.
- Q.: Do you know where he is now?

Interrogation of Walter DUEFFELD

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A.: I suppose in Ludwigshafen.

Q.: Did you know his address in Ludwigshafen?

A.: No.

Q.: Dr. ROSSBACH ? First name?

A.: Martin.

Q.: His former activities?

A.: I know ROSSBACH from Leuna. He also was there some supervision in the Personnel Branch and was transferred to me by Leuna as director of the Personnel Branch at Auschwitz.

Q.: Before Leuna?

A.: He was appointed to the employment-office in Merseburg.

Q.: What was exactly his field of work?

A.: He was chief of the Personnel Branch at the work in Auschwitz.

Q.: How was it divided? Subdivisions?

A.: The Personnel-Branch attends all employees and workers of the factory in question of their personal welfare. That means for the employees all personal questions, as leave superannuation funds, pay and for the workers the establishment of wages, wages-statistics, clothing questions.

Q.: Does this include foreign workers and KZ-inmates?

A.: No, only the foreign workers. I repeat: clothing of the inmates belong to the resort of the SS.

Q.: Who is responsible for the payments?

A.: This question must be precisely defined.

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Q.: For the Germans and foreign workers?

A.: For the establishment of the wages-scales?

Q.: Yes, for the payment, the pay master.

A.: For the indigenous workers the pay-office did it.

Q.: Under whom was that?

A.: This belonged to the commercial department.

Q.: Under?

A.: Also under SAVELSBERG. An entire branch was not mentioned here: the book-keeping-department under SAVELSBERG.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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- Q.: And who is now responsible for the payment of the KZ-inmates?
- A.: The account for the payment of the KZ-inmates has been rendered to the plant by the SS, whereupon the plant honored the bill of payment.
- Q.: With the SS?
- A.: To the SS.
- Q.: Who was that person in the SS?
- A.: I do not know that.
- Q.: Was that in Auschwitz?
- A.: All matters of Dr. SAVELSBERG respectively Mr. FROMMELD, the competent man of the book-keeping department.
- Q.: Do you know, if the inmates have ever really been paid with money?
- A.: I do not know that.
- Q.: Were you not interested in it?
- A.: No, it was handled that way, that the SS collected the money.

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- Q.: And the inmates were not paid?
- A.: I think they have never been paid. I believe, I do not know it, they received from the SS also some kind of vouchers, with the help of which they could buy canteen-merchandises.
- Q.: Do you know the value of these vouchers?
- A.: No.
- Q.: Did you not take an interest in it?
- A.: No, I was interested in the inmates receiving something in addition to this from the plant. I have besides that to make further statements concerning these questions what more has been done on the part of the plant.
- Q.: We shall later refer to this subject. Which was the field of activity of Assessor SCHNEIDER under ROSSBACH?
- A.: All questions concerning the workers, the indigenous one's as well as the foreign workers, regarding the engagement, accommodation and administration of the labor camps.
- Q.: Which is the full name of SCHNEIDER?
- A.: I cannot remember it at this moment.
- Q.: How old is ROSSBACH?
- A.: I think he is born in Ol.
- Q.: When did you see him for the last time?
- A.: In April 1945.
- Q.: Do you know where he is now?
- A.: In Thuringia.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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- Q.: Do you know his address?
- A.: No, I think he is in Weimar.
- Q.: And SCHNEIDER, about when is he born?
- A.: SCHNEIDER is younger, I think he is born about 08.
- Q.: When did you see him for the last time?
- A.: SCHNEIDER? Also in April 1945
- Q.: Do you know where he is now?
- A.: In Goslar, in the British Zone.
- Q.: Do you know his address?
- A.: I can find it out, I have his address in a letter.
- Q.: Did ROSSBACH address direct demands to the KZ-camp, in order to get additional workers, KZ-inmates?
- A.: May be.
- Q.: That would be in your sphere of activity. In general the Employment office had to ask for.
- A.: The Employment office told us, to address our demand to the KZ.
- Q.: Whom had one address to the KZ?
- A.: Normally this was done through HOESS, respectively his adjutant.
- Q.: Who was his adjutant.
- A.: Or through SCHOETTEL, the competent man for us.
- Q.: Who was his adjutant?

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- A.: They have changed many times, I cannot say that.
- Q.: SCHWARZ ?
- A.: I do not think so. It is the best way, as it was usually done, that this was discussed with SCHOETTEL. He was the competent man.
- Q.: Not in writing?
- A.: No.
- Q.: Lieutenant Colonel NIERMANN?
- A.: Yes, Lieutenant in the reserve.
- Q.: Sphere of activity?
- A.: Industrial security chief and Delegee for defense.

Interrogation of Walter DUERFELD

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Q.: How many Industrial security chiefs did you have?

A.: We had 70 to 80 men.

Q.: In what form did NIEMANN collaborate with the SS in questions for security in the camp.

A.: Not at all. The camp has not been guarded by the Factory Security.

Q.: Did people of NIEMANN's Factory Security beat the workers?

A.: Not as far as I know. We had strictly forbidden to do that.

Q.: A written or verbal order?

A.: From me. Must such a decree of forbidding be given in writing? I neither gave an order such as: You are not allowed to kill or murder anybody.

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Q.: There were some brawls.

A.: Brawls?

Q.: There were some.

A.: By Factory Security.

Q.: In the camp?

A.: Yes of course.

Q.: Also in the factory.

A.: This happened with the Kapos?

Q.: Not at all by people of the Factory Security?

A.: No, no.

Q.: But you had to forbid it very strictly?

A.: Not strictly forbidden.

Q.: Forbidden? How did you find out, that is had to be forbidden?

A.: For the simple reason, that I did not want under any circumstances, that any civilian or man under me would lay hands on a prisoner like the Kapos did it.

Q.: The Kapos did that daily?

A.: No, I remember only two clear cases.

Q.: When was NIEMANN born?

A.: About 95.

Q.: His first name?

A.: This I do not know.

Q.: When did you see him for the last time?

Interrogation of Walter DUMERFELD

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A.: In November or December 1944.

Q.: Do you know where he is now?

A.: No.

Q.: His permanent address?

A.: No idea. He lived near Auschwitz in a village about 15 km south of Auschwitz.

Q.: From where did he come?

A.: He came somewhere from North Germany, has been a soldier.

Q.: How did he come to you?

A.: He was not even engaged by us the IG Auschwitz, but by Leuna and was originally supposed to become an assistant of Sartorius. He also worked there for about 1 year.

Q.: And was he there already responsible for Auschwitz?

A.: What he did I do not know. He walked round the place with Sartorius to become acquainted with the sphere of work.

Q.: That will be about all for to-day. Will you draw a plan of Buna, how you did it for Leuna, plans of the work which were situated round Auschwitz or which received labor from Auschwitz, plans of all IG. works.

Q.: Did you use prisoners in Dyhrenfurth?

A.: Dyhrenfurth used prisoners of the Kz camps and they produced gas.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

21 November 1946

We, J.H.FRIEDLAENDER, Civ. 20067, R. SPITZ, Civ. 30219 and L.J. van WALLE, Civ. 486, certify that we are thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of the original document.

J.H. FRIEDLAENDER, Civ.20067

R. SPITZ, Civ. 30219

L.J. van WALLE, Civ. 486

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Eidesstattliche Versicherung.

Ich, Dr. Walther D u e r r f e l d, Dipl. Ingenieur, zur Zeit Gerichtsgefaengnis Nuernberg, bin darauf aufmerksam gemacht worden; dass ich mich strafbar mache, wenn ich eine falsche eidesstattliche Versicherung abgebe. Ich erklare an Eidesstatt, dass meine Aussage der Wahrheit entspricht und gemacht wurde, um als Beweismaterial dem Militaergerichtshof VI im Justizpalast Nuernberg, Deutschland vorgelegt zu werden:

Die angefuehrten drei Photographien sind Originalkopien von Bildern, die waehrend des Aufbaus des I.G.-Werkes in Auschwitz aufgenommen worden sind und kennzeichnen einige Arbeitsbedingungen aus dem Bau der Montage. Die Bilder sind auf der Rueckseite mit meinem Namen und laufenden Nummern gekennzeichnet.

Bild 1 ist eine Aufnahme vom 6. August 1942 und stellt den Beginn der Erdarbeiten fuer das Trinkwasserwerk dar.

Bild 2 ist eine Aufnahme vom 4. Februar 1943 und stellt dar die Montage von Hochdruckleitungen an einer Methanolkammer durch eine gemischte Arbeitsgruppe von deutschen und russischen Zivilarbeitern.

Bild 3 ist eine Aufnahme vom 5. Januar 1944 und gibt wieder die Arbeit von Haeftlingen, die in Maentel gekleidet sind und sich mit dem Aussieben von Kies befassen.

Nuernberg, den 14. Oktober 47

Walther Duerrfeld
Dr. Walther Duerrfeld

Die Echtheit vorstehender, vor mir vollzogenen Unterschrift des Dipl. Ing. Dr. Walther Duerrfeld wird hiermit beglaubigt.

Nuernberg, den 14. Oktober 47

Dr. Alfred Seidl
Dr. Alfred Seidl
Rechtsanwalt.

Bild 1:

Am Trinkwasserwerk

Aufnahme vom 6.8.1942

Bild 2:

1. Methanolkammer

Aufnahme vom 4.2.1943

Bild 3:

Nebenanlage der Schwelerei

Aufnahme vom 5.1.1944





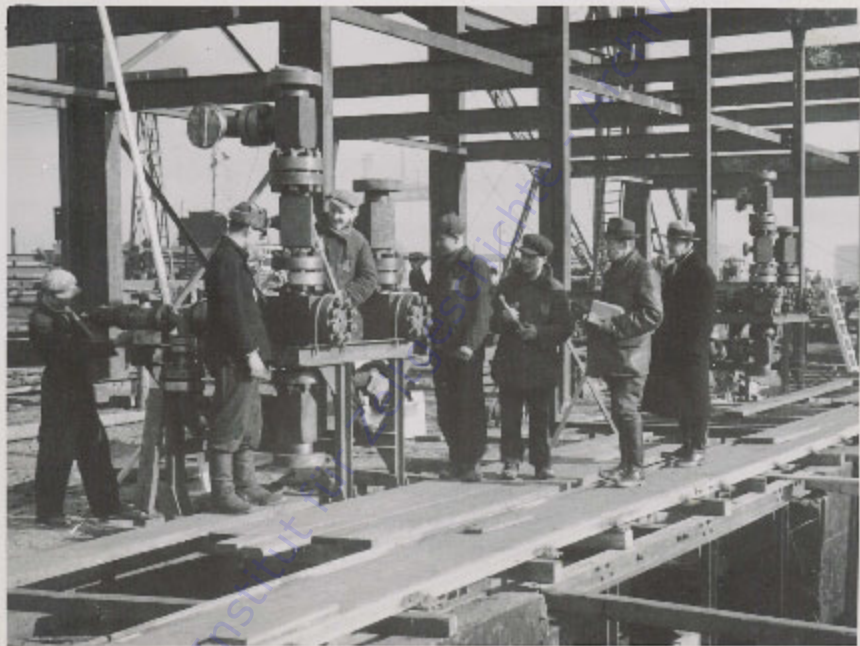
ZS-1026-93

Bilco 1

Amfsey

Am Trinkwasserwerk

6.8. '12



ZS-1026-34

Bild 2

Leinwand

1. Methanolkammer

4. 2. 43



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Bild 3

Linien

Neben anlage d. Schwelerei 5. 1. 44