

Slave Labor at Auschwitz

Ter Meer admits that he visited the Auschwitz camp twice. On his second visit in 1942 he saw concentration camp workers who could be recognized, he states, from their clothing. He states that he observed nothing unusual and thought the camp was exemplary in every way. Concentration camp inmates were working for the construction firms, impossible, he says to say exactly for whom they were working. He did not notice that they were driven to work or that they were employed on especially difficult work

Ter Meer says he had no impression that workers were mistreated. This would be contrary to Farben policies. He denies any knowledge of mistreatment or overwork of concentration camp inmates.

During first visit in October 1941 ter Meer admits that he visited in the concentration camp itself. He was with Ambros who had to discuss something with someone there. Hoess was too busy to see ter Meer and Ambros but assigned a young assistant, probably and SS man who took them on a one hour tour of the camp. Says that the workshops were large. Plans for a model farm were (described) explained to the visitors. Housing and kitchen facilities were visited. Disciplinary measures were explained. The inmates seemed to be in good physical condition. Ter Meer states that the only untoward incidents observed was arrival of a group of emaciated Russian prisoners of war bearing two comrades who had been shot trying to escape.

Ter Meer said he saw no factory there and has no recollection of seeing any large chimney there. He says that he heard nothing about the exterminations at Auschwitz.

Ter Meer says that the first knowledge he had of exterminations was in July of 1945 when he [was] interrogated by Col. Tilly in the Cransberg camp. Ter Meer points out that he was in Italy between (get dates). He heard nothing of it from Italians. Had no radio in his room in Italy. He says he heard nothing about concentration camps when in Switzerland.

Cyclon B.

Ter Meer denies that Farben manufactured Cyclon B for extermination program. He says that Col. Tilly told him in interrogation that chemical warfare agents manufactured at Dyenfuerth were used, but these were manufactured by Farben for war purposes. Does not know anything about methanol being used to burn corpses. It is a low grade inflammable alcohol. Ter Meer states that in his opinion that methanol would not be suitable for burning bodies. Ter Meer knows nothing of taking clothes from victims.

Conspiracy Charges

Ter Meer says that he knew nothing about visit of Buetefisch and Gattineau prior to the visit. He thinks he learned of it only during the stay in Cransberg prison. Ter Meer testified that he knew nothing of the contributions and speech of Hitler at Goering's house

prior to the contribution.

Nature of contact between the Vorstand members was not sufficiently frequent or sustained says ter Meer to constitute a conspiracy. No definite Nazi in Vorstand or Aufsichstrat. After 1930 up to 1938 there were jews in the Aufsichstrat. Ter Meer testified that Krauch's position was an unimportant position in the Third Reich. Says he was never told by any colleague of the aggressive intentions of Hitler.