

Duerrfeld's Testimony:

Joined party in 1937 through his interest in flying. Says he became a member of the party "automatically". Had no misgivings about the party at that time. But later became more critical of the party. Did not concern himself with the party program. Read it once on the wall in a glass case, but did not consider it anything more than a nice statement. Held no office in the party. Donated to the "Winter Help" fund only.

Position in Farben: Became a prokemist(?) in Farben. In 1944 became titular director of which there were about 120 in Farben. Not a member of the Vorstand, TEA. In 1941 became construction and assembly manager at Auschwitz.

From ^October^ 1942 stationed permanently at Auschwitz. Most important work was in the planning and construction offices.

At end of 1938 was appointed commissar for the Poelitz Plant and ended in 1943 when hydrogenation plant was completed. [CROSSED OUT Vol. 14 of Duerrfeld – Doc. 1079 – p. 34 Book IV. Aff. von febert]

Did not know most of the defendants in 1939. Knew only Schneider & Buetefisch then. Construction conferences – were leadership meetings with reference to the Auschwitz. Vorstand members or their representatives. Dr. Buetefische, Sparte I. Dr. Ambros, had no ref. Sparte II. – Dr. Buetefische delegated to Dr. von Stadler – Dr. Gregen took his place. – Large circle of eminent engineers. Before he was assigned had no discussion. Was assigned by [CROSSED OUT Auschwitz] Buetefische to Auschwitz. Knows nothing of selection of site from own knowledge. - First saw construction site in 15 March 1941. Made trip to Upper Silesia. The impression was unfavorable "shook me". But I had said yes and there was no going back on it so I stayed. I wanted to do my duty. Saw a necessary "cultural function" which I could contribute while constructing. This was an "armament plant" – well maybe that is wrong it is a plant ordered by the Reich.

Backward country due to varied political history. No planning – confused approach – bad distribution – machinery not there. Town of Auschwitz – mayor said had 12000 inhabitants. Belonged to Upper Silesia – small dirty station – no hotel – no inn. Description of an Upper Silesian family – one son in Wehrmacht, one in the Polish Army, one in the concentration camp.

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Construction site – terrain was ideal. Beautiful, wide, plain field, no hills, water streams Vistula, etc ideal for a large chemical plant it was the only suitable site in Upper Silesia. –

Hoped for labor transfer from the Reich – from Upper Silesia hoped to get workers.

Difficult project – 3, 4, 5 or 6 year of the war – no bldg material – all allocated – Reich
controlled all materials – Had to build concurrently with the planning. No access to mother plant.
Advantages not true in the case of Auschwitz. Thought there would be peace & employment for
15,000 persons. "Cultural and happy" life to be created – well worthwhile working for. –

Planning and construction office was set up at Leuna – personnel, raw materials, backbone of the organization. The center of activity was there. One man could not possibly do any
such job. Difficulties of the job detailed.

Oct. 1942 to June 1945. Started transfer of offices at Oct. or Nov. 1942 to Auschwitz.
Was not constantly at Auschwitz. Family still at Leuna – as a result of the numerous matters had
to travel a great deal. [CROSSED OUT From]