



RACHMIL CUKIER

Polish Mission for the Prosecution of War Crimes
Polish War Crimes, Liaison Group, Team Brunswick

Brunswick, 17 June 1946

Present:

Investigating Judge: Capt. R. Zdankiewicz, District Court Judge

Reporter: Lieutenant Cz. Tundak, secretary

In the case against: Otto Arthur Lätsch

There appears a witness, who having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations and duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Name and surname	Rachmil Cukier
Age	20 years old
Religious affiliation	Jewish
Marital status	unmarried
Occupation	weaver
Relationship to the suspect	none
Criminal record for perjury	none
Place of residence	Brunswick, Steinstraße 4, Jewish Community

As regards the case of Otto Lätsch, I have recently been interrogated at a German police station in Brunswick. My testimony, which I made in German at that police station and which has now been read out to me, is true to fact in its entirety and I fully uphold it now that I testify under oath.

In response to the question, I would like to add the following information: I myself witnessed several times how Lätsch shot at *Häftlings* [prisoners], mowing them down. Once I saw how he killed one *Häftling* with a shot to the back of the head from a dozen or so steps. He ordered that man to go 50 steps, and when the *Häftling* was already at some distance from him, Lätsch took out his gun and shot him. The reason for this was that this *Häftling* had lice.

Another time I saw Lätsch shoot one Strassberg (son) upon crossing the main gate to the camp. It happened during waste disposal.

The third time, I saw Lätsch shoot at one *Häftling*, Alte Najmann, and kill him on the spot during our evacuation march. The reason was that this *Häftling* was weak.

I witnessed how Lätsch tortured to death one Bajgielmann (a violinist from Łódź). Bajgielmann was so exhausted that he couldn't push his wheelbarrow well, and Lätsch made him exercise on a barrel, and whenever he failed to do it properly, Lätsch beat him with another barrel all over the body. About an hour and a half later, Bajgielmann died.

From time to time, Lätsch would organize punitive exercises, so called "sporting" exercises, during which we were beaten and tormented to breaking point.

For telling some Germans from outside our *lager* about what went on in our camp, we (that is 30 *Häftlings*) had two hours of punitive sporting exercises. During these exercises each of us received a dozen or so forceful blows with a rubber baton with a wire inside. Moreover, we had to do squats holding iron bars. After two hours, a few people died and were left at the site, and a few more died two days later. In total, ten people fell victim to the above-described "sporting" exercises.

At this I conclude my testimony. The report was read out before signing.sss

The witness additionally testifies: on Lätsch's orders, the sick room with 57 people who couldn't be evacuated due to illness was burned down. Two people managed to survive; I spoke about this event at a later date, when I was already in Łódź, with one of them, a man by the name of Rosenfeld. When coming back to Poland, I myself passed by our former *lager* and saw with my own eyes the burned sick room and charred human bodies left at the site.

At this I conclude my testimony. I have read the report before signing it.

The report was brought to a close.