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OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL
APO 403, US ARMY
INTERROGATION DIVISION

Nurnberg, Germany.
31 October, 1945.

Brief of
Interrogation of Werner KIRCHERT

by
Major J.J. Monigan.

30 October, 1945, AM.

KIRCHERT continued a discussion of his duties as camp physician at DACHAU and later at BUCHENWALD. During the period of his duty at these camps, executions there had not yet taken place except for one instance at BUCHENWALD in which a sentence imposed by a Weimar court involving certain persons who had killed a guard at the camp was carried out. The situation at BUCHENWALD was not substantially different from that existing at DACHAU, except that BUCHENWALD was just being constructed when Kirchert was stationed there. The supply of food was ample although the diet lacked fresh vegetables.

After an interval of troop duty, Kirchert was hospitalized and, thereafter, was assigned to the Sanitaets Amt in Berlin where he was the medical advisor to Brigadefuehrer Gluecks who was in charge of concentration camps. During the course of this duty, Kirchert was called upon to visit concentration camps as part of the inspection party. He stated that on these occasions he found conditions fairly good in the camps without any particular mistreatment of prisoners, but emphasized that since these visits were always announced in advance, the actual conditions which existed there might have normally been different. The first foreign inmates which he had seen were Poles in Oranienburg in 1940. Except for the fact that the Poles were quarantined upon their first arrival at the camp and that, thereafter, they were segregated from the rest of the inmates, their treatment was not substantially different from that accorded the German inmates. The first knowledge which he had concerning exterminations in concentration camps he received in 1942 at Auschwitz. Prior to this time the attitude toward concentration camps was to use the labor of the inmates in order to obtain useful production. He was unable to explain the reason for the change in attitude toward concentration camps but felt it was due to political intrigue and that the rise to power of Pohl contributed. Kirchert emphasized that he was extremely anxious to be relieved from concentration camp duty and made such representations to the Reichsartz, Dr. Grawitz.