

Deposition on oath of VAN LEEUWEN ADRIANUS MARTINUS, male, of ZOETERWOUDE, Schenkelweg 25, sworn before Capt. F.M. WARNER, General List of War Crimes Investigation Unit BAOR at ZOETERWOUDE on 31. Jan. 1947.

My name is ADRIANUS MARINUS VAN LEEUWEN, born at ZOETERWOUDE, 8th April, 1922, by occupation gardener, unmarried, living Schenkelweg 25, ZOETERWOUDE. I am of Roman Catholic faith and Dutch nationality.

In 1942, I was obliged to go to work in HAMBURG/GERMANY. In January, 1943, I was arrested by the German Police, because I refused to work for the German A.R.P. The Gestapo interrogated me and without having been in front of a court of justice, they sentenced me and I was taken to FUHLBÜTTEL. I stayed there for three or four weeks. Then I was transported from FUHLBÜTTEL to WILHELMSBURG. I was there three months and then went back to FUHLBÜTTEL prison. After two or three weeks we had to build fences for the Germans. I did so for about five or six weeks. Then we had to go back to the prison of FUHLBÜTTEL, where I stayed till the liberation. Some weeks before the liberation in 1945, the prisoners were evacuated from FUHLBÜTTEL to KIEL, except those who had built the defences, so I had to stay in FUHLBÜTTEL too. Shortly after that, I was released by the Gestapo, who had sentenced me.

I recognize the photograph you show me of WILLY TESSMANN, as the Commandant of the prison in FUHLBÜTTEL. I personally often saw him beat and kick prisoners. They were of all nationalities and he beat them with his hands and with a rubber truncheon, wherever he could hit them. He beat them all, especially Poles and Italians, but also Germans. Many times I have seen that the prisoners were kicked between their legs and then they fell down on the ground and were trod on their faces by TESSMANN. When we had to evacuate from WILHELMSBURG, we were obliged to bring away the properties of the guards that were not lost in the fire of the bombardment. Then two Italians put some cigarettes into their pocket. TESSMANN saw this happening and called the two to come to him and when they were at a distance of about three meters, he shot them down. When we had done our best, we got every Sunday three cigarettes. TESSMANN was always there, when we got the cigarettes and more than one time it happened that, if a prisoner did not salute correctly, he was beaten in his face.

In WILHELMSBURG once a month, von BASSEWITZ-BEHR and the commandant TESSMANN came to inspect the prisoners. This was once a month as a rule, when the barracks were inspected. Then they went through the whole camp and meanwhile they beat with all they could get, everyone whom they felt like beating at the moment. I do not remember the name but the photo you show me is that one of the man, who came with the commandant for the inspection.

The photo you show me, marked PAUL REPPIN, is the man well known to me as "Lange Paul". He was Transportführer and brought the prisoners away from different Gestapo Offices to FUHLBÜTTEL. When he guarded me on my transport, it happened often when I looked round, that he beat me in the face. He was the worst of all. For smallest thing he beat with his hands very heavily. For instance when we had to rise in the morning he came into the room and if there was somebody still lying on his bed, then he draw him out of his bed and gave him a severe beating. The day I was transported from the Gestapo Office to FUHLBÜTTEL by "Lange Paul",

we were beaten by him nearly the whole day. I saw that the people, who were beaten by him, had their noses full of blood and had black-eyes. He beat all foreigners. He especially looked out for Poles and Italians, to give them extra severe beatings.

I recognize the photos of ULRICH SCHNAPPAUF and JOHN MAU, you show me, as the doctor and his assistant of the prison of FUHLSBÜTTEL. The doctor never gave the prisoners bandages or other medical help. He let them walk till they stopped and they were then brought to the sick-room where most of them died. The dead bodies generally remained one or two days there among the other sick people, before they were buried.

Once my stomach was troubling me and I asked the doctor for some tablets, but he did not examine me and did not give the tablets either. His assistant took even less trouble than the doctor himself. He and the doctor did not take care of ill German either. I cannot certify special cases of the assistant of the doctor.

The photo of HELMUT HEYE, you show me, I do recognize as the man who was often on my duty with the women. He has often beaten us and some times he has beaten me with a rubber-stick. I have often seen him beat women with the stick and pull their hair. I have seen that the women he had beaten had bleeding noses and men he had beaten walked around with open wounds on their faces.

The photo of CARL TITIUS, you show me, I recognize as that of a guard, I have only seen in the kitchen. He was generally in the kitchen at the distribution of food. When he saw boys, who went twice with their little pan for some food, he commanded them to fall in with their pan in the evening and then he gave them for a half hour punishment-drill. I have seen many times, that boys, who passed him without saluting, got a blow in their face, from him with his hand.

The photo of CARL OEHL, you show me, I recognize as that man who has beaten much with his rifle. He was guard and always carried a rifle. When we had to parade and it did not go sufficiently quickly for his liking then he beat everybody with the butt-end of his rifle, wherever he could hit them. He kicked the prisoners too, till they fell down on the ground.

The photo of GEORG MATHEA, you show me, I recognize as that of a guard of FUHLSBÜTTEL. He beat the people with his rifle and kicked them too. I have seen him beat the people with the rifle till they fell on the ground and after that he trod on their faces and on their bally. He beat everybody a lot. Once he beat me too, because he called for me and I did not come to him quickly enough. I once saw him beat a Pole with a rifle. The Pole then fell on the ground, came up again and then he kicked the Pole against his ankle so that one ankle was broken. He was in bed in the sick-room for a long time. I have seen too how he (MATHEA) knocked three teeth out of a prisoner's mouth with his rifle.

The photo of WALTER ORTMANN, you show me, I recognize as that of a guard of FUHLSBÜTTEL. He was a beast of man. He did not beat the Germans so much, but beat the foreigners all the more. He beat much with the rifle and kicked vigorously. I did not see details.

The photo of WILHELM HENNINGS, you show me, I recognize as that of a guard of FUHLBÜTTEL, who did not beat so much as the other ones. He beat many foreigners too, but not Germans.

During the bombing of WILHELMSBURG I was with many other people in a cellar with corn. During the bombardment a fire started and many were suffocated. My eyes are half blinded by the heat of the fire and I can see badly. It was not allowed to go to a doctor and later on I was not treated by a doctor either. TESSMANN was the commandant then. TESSMANN after the bombardment gave the order to some guards to hunt down some fugitives and to kill them at once.

(signed) ADRIANUS VAN LEEUWEN

SWORN by the said Deponent VAN LEEUWEN, ADRIANUS MARTINUS, voluntarily at ZOETERWOUDE, on 31 January, 1947, before me, Capt. F.M. WARNER, detailed by C.-in-C. BAOR.

(Signed) F. M. WARNER, Capt.
Investigating Officer

CERTIFIED that this is a true translation from Dutch into English of the Deposition of ADRIANUS MARTINUS VAN LEEUWEN, marked Deposition No. 16.

(Signed) C. R. FREUD)
S/Sgt.
for Interpreter
Field Investigation Section
War Crimes Group (NWE)
(C. R. FREUD)