

AH
12 January 1952
V/578

BULGARIAPRISONS AND CAMPS

Atrocities
Personnel and guards
Inmates
Location
Conditions

Labor Conditions At "Kutsiyan" Concentration Camp.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: Turkish ethnic emigrant from Bulgaria

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1948 to 1951

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The 1,300 inmates of "Kutsiyan" are usually sent to the camp with a sentence ranging from one to three years of hard labor, however, quite a number of prisoners are spending their fifth year at the camp. A unknown number of prisoners are killed yearly either by torture or overwork.

The prisoners get up at 0430 and work starts at 0530 hour. The work at the camp is divided into three main chores: brick laying, road repairing and extracting sand from the Struma river. In winter, the prisoners are sometimes used in clearing snow.

One shift of workers must finish 7,000 bricks per day, which is an impossible task; so all those ordered to go brick-laying expect to receive a severe punishment in the evening for not completing the required norm.

In October 1948, during a heavy snow storm, 160 prisoners, under the command of the camp's most feared warden, sergeant NUN Nayden, were sent to clear the railroad at 0400 hours. Although the temperature was 38° C below zero, the prisoners received no warm clothing for the occasion. They had to work for eight hours, as a result of which as many as five froze to death. One of them, DUDUNOV Mehmet, a Turk from NEVROHOP, fell exhausted on the snow. Nayden viciously kicked him with his nailed boots, then ordered some other prisoners to drag him back to the camp by pulling him by the legs. By the time DUDUNOV was brought back to the camp he was dead. He was left in the barracks square as an example to others who "refused" to work for the welfare of the Bulgarian nation.

In November 1950, a number of prisoners was ordered to work on the shores of the Struma, extracting sand. Many of the workers returned to camp in the evening with bad cases of frost-bite. They received no medical care whatsoever, and a number of them lost their fingers and toes as a result of their injuries. Of late, the Government started coal mining in the vicinity of the camp, and the inmates are now employed at the mine.

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BULGARIA
(cont'd)

The inadequate food, consisting of bread and diluted vegetable soup, has raised the mortality rate, and it is reported that some 200 camp inmates die monthly as a result of malnutrition and brutal treatment by wardens.

EVAL. COMMENT: Generally accurate.