

G
18 Jan
III-3077

POLAND

LABOR (1900)
Norms (1905)

Dismantling Job In Silesia.

SOURCE BERLIN: A nine-teen-year-old auxiliary mechanic, who was employed dismantling a former paper factory in KORZYCIN, District RZEPIN (REPPEN), Voivodship ZIELONA GORA (GRUNBERG) from August until the beginning of October 1953.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: August - October 1953

EVAL. COMMENT: This report is of no outstanding value. The only point of interest is workers' wages at the dismantling job. The name of Emil SOWA had not been known here to date. The major difficulty in evaluating this report is the fact that the locality KORZYCIN cannot be traced on available maps (probably misspelled). Other geographical details are correctly given.

* * *

The dismantling was carried out by an official firm, the "Katowickie Zjednoczenie Instalacji Przemyslowych w Katowicach - WROCLAW branch." This firm did dismantling as well as fitting new structures. Source was employed by this firm on various other building sites since the beginning of 1952, before he came to KORZYCIN.

Acchief mechanic (brygadzysta) named SOWA Emil was in charge of the eleven-man work brigade assigned to dismantle this huge, former paper factory which had lain idle since the war and whose machinery had long since been stolen by the Russians. SOWA Emil was a very unpopular, forty-five-year-old Silesian from GLIWICE who had been once employed as a locomotive fireman by the Polish railroads and who been celebrated for some while as the best fireman and fastest worker. He was a Party member and always emphasized the advantages and achievements of Communism.

Of the eleven men on his brigade, nearly all were Silesians, none were Party members, and all were very critical of Communism.

Working hours were from seven o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon. However, when the work was

Over

worth while, these hours weren't always rigidly observed. Work was paid by ton of dismantled iron. They were paid 300 zloty per ton at first but only 140 zloty at the end. Each day the number of tons was determined, the total divided among the workers employed, and the resulting earning placed on their credit.

Payment was made twice a month. Calculation of tonnages was for the most part falsified so that the tonnage total credited was really greater than the tonnage collected. The chief mechanic was forced to wink at this since he too was interested in filling the largest possible quota and also since his merit was evaluated from the tonnage collected.

Source's earnings during the last months averaged 1500 zloty gross. Deductions from 1000 zloty earnings amounted to 100 zloty; the percentage of deduction went up for higher incomes.

Source was a member of the metal union (Zwiazek Zawodowy Metalowcow w Polsce.) In his last place of work the union dues weren't deducted from the payment. As a result, Source made no contributions to the union later on. Earlier, when he was earning 700 zloty per month, the membership dues amounted to 3,50 zloty a month.

The staff lived in rooms of the paper factory and did their own cooking.

They often visited the large market town of CYBINKA (ZIEBINGEN) the next railroad station (last station, owing to the border, of the branch line RZEPIN-CYBINKA). The inhabitants of this village are Poles who had wandered in from various parts of Poland. Only one German, the school attendant, was employed here. In the surrounding area was a lignite mine which had lain idle since the end of the war.

End.