

14.
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POLAND

PERSECUTION
Resettlement
Deportation

Fate Of A Reimmigrant To Poland

SOURCE SALZBURG: A young Pole, 28, who escaped to Austria
DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until September 1951.

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Escapee was born in 1923 in NOWA-WIES, district KATOWICE. In 1941 he became a locksmith apprentice, but in 1942 he was taken to Germany as a foreign worker. He stayed in Germany only a couple of weeks and then escaped to Switzerland where he stayed until the end of the war. In May 1945 he returned to Germany and served with a Polish Guard Unit in NUERNBERG under the supervision of the United States Army. He served therein from June 1945 until January 1946. In January he reported voluntarily for repatriation to Poland and was taken by train to KATOWICE where he was released immediately. After about two weeks the Polish Police found out that he had served with a Polish Guard Unit in the US Army, arrested him and took him to the KATOWICE court jail holding him in pre-trial confinement. During his interrogation there, the well-known NKVD methods were used. After two months, without having been taken before any court, he was transferred to a labor camp at MODLIN near WARSAW, where he was held from April 1946 until December 1948. From this labor camp he was taken to a jail in BOGUCICE, a suburb of KATOWICE, from which he was released on 20 September 1951. His release was made on condition that he would not say anything to anybody about the time of his confinement. He was told that if he did say anything, the penalty would be death or life imprisonment. Next day he reported to the Labor Office at KATOWICE and was given a job in a steel plant. Even before he could start work, he was summoned to police headquarters in ulica Franzuska at KATOWICE on 24 September 1951, to receive his identity card. Instead of receiving same as was mentioned on the summons, he was taken with about 180 men to the KATOWICE court jail and from there by train to the CSR to MOR. OSTRAVA. There the Poles turned the group over to the Czechs after taking away all their identification papers. In TROP-PAU he managed to escape through the toilet window and got to VIENNA.

EVAL. COMMENT: Labor camp at MODLIN and prison at BOGUCICE UNCONFIRMED here. All other names of places confirmed. The report presents a personal story which fits well into the general picture of UB supervision over people returning to Poland from the West, but cannot be confirmed. For details concerning the escape and conditions in MODLIN labor camp and in BOGUCICE prison, see items No. 9531/52, 9538/52 and 9539/52.