

LL
24 Jul
VIII-6905

POLAND

PERSECUTION
Deportation

The Escape Story Of A Locksmith From KATOWICE

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

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On 24 September 1951 the escapee received a summons from the Police Headquarters in KATOWICE saying that he was to report there to receive his identity card (dowód osobisty.) Following the order he reported to the Police Headquarters in KATOWICE in Ulica Francuska at the district registering office. Without explanation he and 10 more men were taken to another wing of the building which was a jail. In the corridor of the jail another 80 men were waiting. Temporary identity cards had been prepared for them. Their fingerprints were taken and then the cards issued to them. One truck took these 80 men to the main railroad station of KATOWICE. On the platform of the truck were two police escorts. At the railroad station another group of 100 men had been waiting for them and both groups boarded two ordinary third class coaches attached to a freight train. There were two guards at each exit of the coaches. The windows were kept shut with screws fixed to the panes and could not be opened. Before the train left KATOWICE, a policeman who knew the escapee told him they were being taken to work, but he did not know where. The train went in five hours from KATOWICE via RYBNIK to MORAVSKA OSTRAVA (CSR.) At the border the Polish guards told the men to produce their identity cards. The Czech guards who had boarded the train took the cards and did not replace them with other documents. The Czech guards had brown uniforms, but the escapee does not know whether they were soldiers, policemen, or prison guards. The Czech guards did not say anything; the men did not get any answers when they inquired where they were being taken or who the guards were. In MORAVSKA OSTRAVA their coaches were put on a different track and they were served a meal in the coaches consisting of lentil soup and 250 grams of bread. After two hours they proceeded to BRNO and then via TROPPAU to CESKE BUDEJOVICE railroad station. Source went to the toilet and broke open the window-pane which had been broken before and repaired only with paper-tape. He ran to a nearby forest and after four days' walking and hiding in the CSR he crossed over to Austria.

(Over)

ITEM No 9557/22

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POLAND
(cont'd)

EVAL. COMMENT: All names of places confirmed. Police office at Francuska street in KATOWICE - UNCONFIRMED. The report presents a personal story which cannot be checked. This is the first report in which mention is made of Polish prisoners being deported to Czechoslovakia. For background to escape story see Item No. 9536/52.