

LL
24 Jul
VIII-6905

POLAND

PRISONS AND CAMPS

Location

Forced Labor

The BOGUCICE Jail

SOURCE SALZBURG: A Pole, 28, who escaped to Austria.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: December 1948 to September 1951.

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In BOGUCICE, a suburb of KATOWICE, there is an old jail, the capacity of which is about 2,500 men. The jail itself was divided in floors: the ground floor, called "Section A," was for political prisoners; the second floor, "Section B," for ordinary criminals; the third and fourth floors, "Section C" and "Section D", were for convicts sentenced for violations of the economy (rationing.)

In Section A there were only 50 to 80 persons, living in cells of two to four and 10 to 15 men. During the time the prisoners were in jail, the cells were locked separately. They were taken out to work six days a week; on holidays and Sundays they remained in jail. On these latter days they were permitted two hours' walk in the jail courtyard. While in the jail they had to wear clothing for prisoners, but at their places of work they were given fatigues or permitted to work in civilian clothing.

The food was much better than in the labor camp at MODLIN (see Item No. 9538/52.) For breakfast they received Ersatz coffee without milk and sugar, but with 200 grams of bread and 20 grams of margarine or 50 grams of sausage. They were served lunch in the mess of the steel-plant where they worked. This meal was contributed by the administration of the plant and consisted of a strong bean-soup, pea-soup, or lentil-soup cooked with a couple of bones and some meat. On other days they had noodle-soup and cabbage with potatoes, sausage or meat. Supper was taken in the jail building again, consisting of tea and bread with margarine.

There was one guard in Section A walking up and down the floor all the time and three guards when the food was distributed. The man in charge of the jailguards was PODLASKI (fnu). Guards known in Section A are KAMINSKI (fnu), PIATEK (fnu), PIOTROWSKI (fnu), and GROMA (fnu), whom the prisoners saw mostly on Sundays. The jail

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physician, Dr. BANASZ (fnu) was there all the time and in charge of the jail dispensary.

The inmates of Section A were taken to work at various steel plants: HUTA BATORY in KATOWICE, HUTA POLSKA in SWIETOCHLOWICE, and HUTA NOWY BYTOM in NOWY BYTOM. All the 50 to 80 men were sent to work in trucks with only one guard per vehicle. Their job was to load and unload steel on trucks. As far as the work was concerned, there were no fixed norms; however, their lunch-eon food ration depended on the work they performed. It was not permitted to talk to civilian workers on the plants, but this rule was not too strictly enforced and offenders were not punished. It was strictly forbidden for the guards to beat up prisoners and they were never seen doing it. The prisoners even got rewards for their work in the form of one Zloty and enough tobacco for three cigarettes a day.

Some guards were ordinary prison-guards, others were members of the regular police force.

EVAL. COMMENT: Prison at BOGUCICE UNCONFIRMED. All names of places and foundries therein confirmed. Names of prison personnel UNCONFIRMED. It is known that prisoners are employed in various industrial establishments. The working and living conditions of prisoners described in the report correspond to the known picture.