

DEPOSITION

of

Robert SCHROEDER

Deposition in oath of Robert SCHROEDER, male, of LAUTERBACH/Rosson, Marktplatz 23, sworn before W. WIERZBOWSKI, Civ. Inv. Officer, Field Investigation Section, War Crimes Group (NWG), at LAUTERBACH on this 16th day of July 1948.

I am Robert SCHROEDER, born at ROSTERBERG/Silesia on 18-IX-1907. I am a driver by trade. I am married and have 2 children. I was a member of the NSDAP since 1933.

In 1940 I was conscripted to the Gestapo. I worked there as a driver. In 1942 Oberregierungsrat SCHARPINKEL took over command of the Streifenleitstelle FRESLAU. From 1942 until the end I was his personal driver.

I remember that in the early summer of 1944 a car and a lorry were sent from the Gestapo office (Leitstelle) to RAUTSCH. I was driving the car and SCHARPINKEL and either Kriminalrat DANKEBT or Kriminalkommissar APPELON were in it. There was an armed guard detachment on the lorry.

I stopped in RAUTSCH in front of the jail: the lorry drove into the prison yard. SCHARPINKEL and his companion walked into the prison. About one hour later the lorry drove out of the prison. There were about ten prisoners on it. SCHARPINKEL and his companion got into the car, and we drove directly to the GROSS ROSEN Concentration Camp.

SCHARPINKEL told his companion on the way that the prisoners were Frenchmen and Dutchmen, who committed sabotage. Most of them were supposed to have jumped with parachutes. They were supposed to have been arrested in France, and to have been in French prisons for some time. Further on SCHARPINKEL told him that they had been transferred to RAUTSCH because of the threat of an invasion. They were to be shot in GROSS ROSEN.

We handed the prisoners in at GROSS ROSEN to a guard detachment under the command of an Ober- or Hauptsturmfuehrer. They were marched off into the camp and in the direction of the crematorium. I do not know what happened to these prisoners, but Sturfwacht SUWA WINKEL said, I must assume with certainty that they were shot.

Eighteen photographs were shown to me. The pictures marked Exhibit "6" & "7" seem to me to be the pictures of two of the prisoners, who were then transferred from RAUTSCH to GROSS ROSEN. I wish to add that I have seen these prisoners only for a very short time, but these two faces seem to have stayed in my memory.

About one week later, one of our drivers told me, that he had driven on the previous day a lorry full of prisoners from RAUTSCH to GROSS ROSEN, and this driver has seen it. They were shot separately near the Crematorium. One of the prisoners is said to have shouted: "Long live France", before being shot.

(Sgd) Robert SCHROEDER

SWORN by the said Deponent Robert SCHROEDER, voluntarily, at LAUTERBACH, on this 16th day of July 1948, before me, W. WIERZBOWSKI, detailed by G.-in-C. B.A.O.R.

(Sgd) W. WIERZBOWSKI, Civ. Inv. Officer

CERTIFIED that this is a true translation from German into English of the deposition of Robert SCHROEDER, Marked Dep. No. 5.

(Sgd).

W. WIERZBOWSKI
Field Investigation Section,
War Crimes Group (NWG).
(W. WIERZBOWSKI)

Readable part of declaration of **Robert SCHROEDER**, from document **TNA WO 309 / 618**

Deposition of Robert Schroeder

Deposition an oath of Robert SCHROEDER, male, of LAUTERSBACH / Hessen am Markplatz 23, sworn before W. WIERZBOWSKI, Civ. Inv. Officer, of Field Investigation Section, War Crime Group (NWZ), at LAUTERSBACH on this 16th day of July 1948.

I am Robert SCHROEDER, born at FESTENBERG / Silesia on 18-IX-1907. I am a driver by trade. I am married and have 2 children. I was a member of NDSAP since 1933.

In 1940 I was conscripted to the Gestapo. I worked there as a driver. In 1942 Oberregierungsrat SCHARPWINKEL took over command of the Stapo-leitstelle BRESLAU. From 1942 until the end I was his personal driver.

I remember that in **early summer of 1944** a car and a lorry were sent for the Gestapo office (Leitstelle) [Breslau] to Rawitsch. I was driving the car and **Scharpwinkel** and either Kriminalrat **Dankert** or Kriminalkommissar **Absalon** were in it.

I stopped in Rawitsch in front of the jail: the lorry drove into the prisonward. **Scharpwinkel** and his companion walked into the prison. About an hour later the lorry drove out of the prison. There were **about ten prisoners** on it. Scharpwinkel and his companion got into the car, and we drove directly to the **Gross Rosen Concentration Camp**.

Scharpwinkel told his companion on the way that the prisoners were **Frenchmen** and **Dutchmen**, who committed sabotage. A part of them were supposed to have jumped with parachutes. They are supposed to have been arrested in France and to have been in French prisons for some time. Further Scharpwinkel told him that they had been transferred to Rawitsch **because of the threat** of an invasion. They were **to be shot** in Gross Rosen.

We handed the prisoners in at Gross Rosen to a guard detachment under the command of an Ober or Hauptscharfuhrer. They were marched off into the camp and in the direction of the crematorium. I do not know what happened to these prisoners, but afterwards Scharpwinkel said, I must assume with certainty that they were shot.

Eighteen pictures were shown to me. The pictures marked Exhibit "**6**" & "**7**" seem to be the pictures of two of the prisoners, who were then transferred from Rawitsch to Gross Rosen. I wish to add that I have seen these prisoners only for a very short time, but these two faces seem to have stayed in my memory.

About one week later, one of our drivers told me, that he had driven on **the previous day** a lorry full of prisoners from Rawitsch to Gross Rosen, and this driver had seen it. They were shot separately near the crematorium. One of the prisoners is said to have shouted: "Long live France", before being shot.

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(Sgd) W. WIERZBOWSKI
Field Investigation Section
War Crime Group (NWZ)
(W. WIERZBOWSKI)