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For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE
 Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department
 United States of America

 In the matter of the execution * Perpetuation of Testimony of
 of 100 American airmen and 52 * 2d Lt William Powell, O 808 137,
 British airmen at Camp Buchenwald * AC
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Taken at: AAF Redistribution Station No. 1
 Atlantic City, N. J.

Date: 3 August 1945

In the Presence of: Captain Charles R. Butler, O 907 701, AAFRS No. 1

Reporter: Sergeant Arnold Cohen, 32 697 066, 1010th AAF
 Base Unit, Squadron A, Atlantic City, N. J.

Questions by Captain Butler:

Q Will you state your name, rank, serial number, and permanent home address?

A Second Lieutenant William Powell, 160 Yale Avenue, Waterbury, Conn.; serial number O 808 137.

Q Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?

A Yes.

Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes.

Q At what places were you held and state the approximate dates?

A First place was Buchenwald, from August 20, 1944, until October 19, 1944. And Stalag Luft III at Sagan, from October 21 till January 28, 1945. And then Stalag Luft III again at Nuremberg from February 4 to April 4. And Stalag 7A, Mooseberg, Germany, from

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April 13, 1945, to April 29, 1945, when I was liberated.

Q Are you familiar with any of the particulars of the alleged execution of a number of American and British Air Force officers who were at Camp Buchenwald and who were removed therefrom on or about 19 October 1944?

A Yes, I am. I know nothing about the execution; there was no execution.

Q What were the circumstances of that particular incident?

A Well, there were eighty-two American airmen, eighty-three Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, and so on, who were moved from Paris, April 15, to Buchenwald, and we were all together there at the time, and eventually, while there, two died; and eventually all but twelve were moved to Stalag Luft III at Sagan, and the twelve remained there in the hospital.

Q Who were the two who died?

A One was a Royal Air Force Flying Officer ~~Hemmins~~, and the other one was a First Lieutenant ~~Beck~~, from California-- I don't know what his first name was, though.

Q Do you know what the cause of their deaths were?

A Well, Hemmins is believed to have died from rheumatic fever and Beck died from pneumonia.

Q Do you know what if any medical attention these two men received?

A Hemmins received practically no medical attention at all. He was put in a hospital one day and died the next. He had been pretty sick previous to that, with no medical attention. At that time we were sleeping on the grounds at Buchenwald, no blankets, we had no shoes, and he was sick right up until the time he was removed to the hospital one day and died the next.

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Q What day was that?

A Well, I should say offhand it was probably about September 14 or 15, 1944; somewhere around there.

Q How long had he been sick before he was removed from the hospital?

A He had been sick about seven days.

Q Had any medical attention been requested for him?

A Yes. They had a doctor come down to see him, but had no medical supplies or anything else; just took his temperature and said, "If he gets any worse, why, we'll put him in the hospital." That was as far as the medical attention went.

Q How often did that doctor see him?

A Doctor came down once a day, and in addition he saw all the men that he could and delivered a little iodine for cuts or something like that. That was all.

Q Did anybody request that Flying Officer Hemmins be placed in the hospital?

A Yes, we had requested the SS doctor--we had a squadron leader who was in charge--and the SS doctor had been requested to put this man in the hospital, and that time nothing was done about it.

Q Did you personally hear anybody ask any doctor to put him in the hospital?

A No, I didn't. The request was relayed through channels. We had no chance, of course, of seeing the SS doctor, and so the request was put through the doctor who was the German prisoner, who in turn went to the SS doctor. I also know for a fact that there was a Hollander there who worked in the hospital, prisoner, who also had requested that the man be removed to the hospital.

Q Do you know what that Hollander's name was?

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A No, I don't. I believe his first name was Paul. I don't know what his last name was. I could describe him. He stands about 6 feet 4, probably weighed about 240 or 250 pounds, and light hair, very full face, and quite good size to him.

Q Do you know the name of the doctor who came and took the temperature of Flying Officer Hemmins?

A No, I don't.

Q Could you describe him?

A Yes. He was a man about, oh, offhand I should say 55 years old, sort of iron-gray hair which was cut short, stood up straight, very fat, flabby faced, wore glasses, and, if I remember correctly, I believe he was an Austrian.

Q Was he an Army doctor?

A No, he was a doctor in civilian life who, by the way, had practiced at Harvard University and spoke English very well. He had studied medicine at Harvard.

Q Was he connected with the prison staff?

A He was a prisoner himself, and anybody there who had any medical experience at all did what they could for the prisoners. He was the head of the small hospital that they had for the prisoners and would hold sick-call, and so on, when he was able to get supplies.

Q Could this Austrian doctor have placed Flying Officer Hemmins in the hospital earlier if he had so directed?

A I think he could have, yes. That was when it was necessary at the beginning, and not when he did bring him in. Of course, the hospital was crowded, but still and all there were empty beds. They were dying right and left there all the time. They were always moving one out and moving another one in at the same time.

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Q But no doctor connected with the prison camp as an official ever saw Flying Officer Hemmins?

A No, none of them.

Q Although it had been requested?

A That's right. It had been requested two or three times.

Q Do you personally know that Flying Officer Hemmins died, of your own knowledge?

A Yes, I do. In fact, we viewed the body and we also held our own funeral service for him, even though the Germans put him--they cremated him.

Q Now, with regard to the American Lieutenant Beck: What were the circumstances surrounding his death?

A Well, at this time we were living in these barracks, which were rather inadequate. There were no blankets, and in fact everybody there had colds. It so happened that Lieutenant Beck had been sick, dysentery, got this cold which developed into pneumonia. He was laying in the bunk day after day. We did what we could for him. We were making hot soup, and so on and so forth. The doctor came down to see him every day, took his temperature, which ran around 103½, 104 practically all the time. And just before we moved out of there, they sent Lieutenant Beck to the hospital.

Q How often did the doctor see him?

A Came down probably about every other day.

Q Was it the same Austrian doctor?

A Same Austrian doctor.

Q Did he administer any drugs or medicines of any kind?

A He administered a few aspirins.

Q Did you also request that he be removed from the hospital?

A It had been requested several times of the doctor, that

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he remove them.

Q Do you know who made those requests?

A Yes, there was a--Beck had a very good friend there by the name of ~~Petrich~~, 1st lieutenant, who was from California also, and this Petrich was pretty good friends with this big Dutchman. So he had asked the Dutchman and also requested the doctor that he be taken to the hospital before it was too late.

Q How long was he sick before he was removed to the hospital?

A He was sick about seven days and went to the hospital and died two days later, three days later.

Q Did you view his body?

A No; we had left Buchenwald when he died. He died the same day as we arrived at Stalag Luft III.

Q Who told you that he died?

A Some of the officers who were still left there eventually came to Stalag Luft III about a month later.

Q Do you recall their names?

A Yes. There was one, a ~~Lieutenant Roy Allen~~ from Philadelphia, and Lieutenant Vincent.

Q Other than the deaths of the two officers previously mentioned, then, you know nothing concerning the report that approximately one hundred Americans and fifty-two British Air Corps personnel who entered the camp on 20 August 1944 were turned over to the Gestapo on or about 19 October 1944 and executed?

A That's right. I know nothing about that.

Q Were you in the camp during that period?

A I was in the camp from August 20 until October 19, 1944.

Q And you were then included among this group of American

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