

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT NO -4314

PROSECUTION EXHIBIT 29

AFFIDAVIT OF ERNST BIBERSTEIN,\* 2 JULY 1947

I, Ernst Emil Heinrich Biberstein, swear, state, and declare –

1. I was born on 15 February 1899 in Hilchenbach in the district of Siegen-Westphalia. Originally my surname was Szymanowski. I attended the elementary school in Muehlheim on the Ruhr and in Neumuenster-Holstein, and afterwards a classical high school where I passed my final examination in 1917. From 1917 until March 1919 I served with the army as a private in the infantry. From March 1919 to 1921 I studied protestant theology. I passed my first theological examination in April 1921 and then went for 6 months to a preachers' seminary; after that I was a curate for 12 months. My first post as a pastor I got on 28 December 1924 in Kating Schleswig-Holstein, which I held until November 1927. From then on until November 1933 I was a pastor in Kaltenkirchen Schleswig-Holstein, in the district of Begeberg. From November 1933 until August 1935, I was "Kirchenprobst" or "Superintendent" [presiding minister of the Provincial Protestant Church] in Bad Segeberg, Holstein. In August 1935 I was called to the Reich Ministry of Church Affairs in Berlin as a theological expert where I functioned until I was drafted in the army on 10 March 1940. In the army I took part in the Holland and France campaigns as a corporal. On 22 October 1940 I was draft deferred by the Reich Plenipotentiary of Internal Administration and was assigned to the Chief of the Security Police and of the SD. Taking effect 1 June 1941 and up to June 1942, I was head of the state police station of Oppeln. In June 1942 I was sent to Russia as leader of the Einsatzkommando 6 under Einsatzgruppe C in Kiev. However, my departure for Russia was delayed until September 1942. Between June 1943 and early 1944 I was unattached. From February 1944 until April 1945, I was working in the Economic Department of the Supreme Commissioner in Trieste. From there I returned to Neumuenster where I was arrested on 1 July 1945.

2. I have been a member of the NSDAP since 1926, my Party number being 40,718. I have been a member of the SS since 13 September 1936 with an SS member's number 212, 692. From 1934 until 1935 I was "Kreisschulungsleiter" [Party indoctrination director] in Bad Segeberg.

3. During my time of office as commander of Einsatzkommando 6, between September 1942 and June 1943 about 2,000 to 3,000 executions were performed in the area of my Einsatzkommando. I personally superintended an execution in Reztoc which was performed by means of a gas truck. The persons destined for death – after their money and valuables, sometimes the clothes also, had been taken from them – were loaded into the gas truck which held between 50 and 60 people. The truck was then driven to a place outside the town where members of the Kommando had already dug a mass grave. I myself saw the unloading of the dead bodies, their faces

were in no way distorted, death came to these people without any outward signs of spasms. There was no physician present at unloading to certify that the people were really dead. The gas truck was driven by the driver Sackenreuter of Nuernberg who had been most carefully instructed about the handling of the gas truck, having been through special training courses.

4. During my time of office as chief of Einsatzkommando 6, I had two officers for the administration, first 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Niegbur and afterwards 2d Lieutenant Homann. The latter told me one day that the Einsatzkommando had a surplus of 100,000 marks derived from people to be executed who had to hand over their money and valuables.

5. Since my Einsatzkommando was operating in various towns where there were sometimes only few persons up for execution at a time, the gas truck was not used always. I also witnessed an execution carried out with firearms. The persons to be executed had to kneel down on the edge of a grave and members of my Kommando shot them in the back of the neck with an automatic pistol. The persons thus killed mostly dropped straight into the pit. I had no special expert for these shots in the neck. No physician was present either at this form of execution.

6. From my time of office as chief of the state police station in Oppeln I know that "top secret" orders had been issued to the effect that we had to detach men for searching for Bolshevik agitators in prisoner-of-war camps. These men selected by these Kommandos were sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp. I do not know what happened to them in Auschwitz.

I have made the foregoing deposition consisting of three (3) pages in the German language and declare that it is the full truth to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have had the opportunity to make alterations and corrections in the above statement, and I made this declaration voluntarily without any promise of reward and I was not subjected to any duress or threat whatever.

Nuernberg, 2 July 1947

[Signed]

ERNST BIBERSTEIN

Translated by Giles Bennett