

[...]

The next day I was busy with office work. In the morning, Blobel drove off to some meetings [handwritten remarks, marked with [cursive] in the following: *a number of times everyday. Whereto – unknown*]. The next morning, the 29th of September, orders were issued to the officers. It was disclosed to us that the shootings of the Kiev Jews was to be conducted by one [2] battalion[s] of Order Police and the whole SK 4a including the Grafhorst company. An officer was commandeered for the baggage collection point [*one for a counting/registration point*]. I received the order to go to the front of the ditch. I cannot name any names. To some extent I was perplexed about the fact that I was the only one assigned to this task at that point in time. I then discovered that the fall in and transportation to on site had already taken place. I do not know any details. We then arrived at the area, at the Babi-Jar-Ravine. It was north-west of Kiev.

- The 1941 Kiev city map from the files was then viewed by all concerned.
- - RA [Barrister] Steinacker departed at 17:10pm. -

Häfner, the accused, explained further:

I have no memory thereof that directly north of this shooting site there were houses. I remember that we saw large numbers of Jews along the way moving towards the area. It was a large area; on the one side allotment gardens, it was [*slightly hilly*] [*relatively flat, slightly undulated*]. It randomly came to my notice that registration and baggage collection points were to be set up. When I arrived, Uniformed =Police and the Commando were already there. Lots of people were milling about. Blobel gave orders. Blobel said I was to go with him. There was a dispute between the two of us. I resisted as I was to go to the shooting. He said to me, up front there is a ravine; on the left the Schupo and on the right the SS would shoot. I said, I knew exactly that the Waffen-SS would do it their way and that Grafhorst would complete the matter and had declared that he would accept no meddling [*gist*]. He ordered me then to go forward, but under no circumstance be seen by the police battalion. For the day before there was trouble; 2 [2 encircled] police officers stated that because of these few Jews the SK 4a was not needed as a reinforcement. But Jeckeln [*u. Rasch*] had said that SK 4a must go with as a reinforcement. To avoid any trouble in this matter I should not show myself. Blobel also said to me: “You have missed out on shootings; because of you I had trouble the day before yesterday, as a punishment you are to go forward.” I went forward. The Jews were moving in several rows. They had deposited their baggage and some of them their upper body clothing. [In the pit there lay 3, 4 and also 5 Jews loosely on top of one another]. [*They went in 3, 4 and also 5 rows*] Schupo stood on the right and left. That was [*an internal agreement*] [*internal barrier and went as far as near to the Babi-Jar Ravine*], perhaps went as far as the so called Babi-Jar Ravine .

- From 15:15pm RA Steinacker took part in the proceedings again. -

The term Babi-Jar Ravine did not exist at the time. I heard about it first in Nuremberg. About 100 metres before the ravine were about 2 - 3 Schupo officers as a sort of traffic police. Some of the Jews marched on in the direction towards the Schupo and the others in the direction towards the Waffen-SS. I met Grafhorst and another officer from his company. The shooting had already begun. I watched it. About the ravine itself I want to say it was [a sort of clay pit] [*washed out gorge-ditch in clay terrain, so called Balka*], about 300 – 350 meters long; it made an [incline] [*bend*]. The slant was varied. I cannot remember a side ravine nor a wooden bridge.

The Waffen-SS had a 30 meter long area for themselves. Grafhorst told me the Jews had to lay down in the bottom close to one another. Around 4 – 6 Jews fitted in next to one another. So it continued until the bottom was covered. Then it started again. The others had to lay themselves on top of the already dead Jews. In the course of the 2 days it was about 6 to 7 layers. At the beginning the Waffen-SS were shooting with 2 shooting squads. The whole action was described as a shooting-in-the-neck action. In actual fact that was not the case. The Waffen-SS did not shoot in such a way, as one defines “shooting in the neck” [*see the manuscript*]. I watched it for a while and hung about on the plateau. What could I do as long as Grafhorst was there? After all, I went along towards the Schupo to see what they were doing. I went there [*up to about 50 meters away*] and saw that 8 – 10 shooting squads were present. Around the bend there must have been another 2 – 3 shooting squads that I was unable to see [*Approximately the same shooting technique*]. I immediately left again and stayed around further up on the plateau. Around noon Blobel came and said that the Waffen-SS and I were to be relieved by the SK 4a. I should drive to quarters for lunch and return when the Waffen-SS also returned. Around 2:30 pm we were once again at the forward collecting point. We took over again and ceased with the matter at nightfall. We returned to the barracks and I undertook nothing further. What I had seen was absolutely enough for me for this day. The next morning the same. I had to go forward again. The Waffen-SS came with 12 – 15 men. They only shot with one shooting squad. Midday the same replacement, Grafhorst [*midday*] [*on this day*] did not show up. I heard that on this day he had driven to Berlin and attempted to have his company detached from this duty. Suddenly I was spoken to by my rank from behind. I turned around and there stood Brig.Führer Rasch and a vast number of officers. I saw how he stood up there as white as a sheet as he viewed this valley of misery. I called to him and said; “[Mr] Brigadeführer, this is what it looks like from below as it has been ordered from above; a stream of blood. He gave me the order to be given a [M] pistol [sub-machine gun] , go down and mercy shoot. What was I to do? I was given a [M] pistol and climbed down. [I perhaps made a few mercy shots.] [*see the manuscript – the already long dead*] Rasch left and I gave the submachine-gun back. I climbed out of the pit and went back over the site. I had gone about 150 – 200 metres, when Schupo Colonel Franz came. He was alone; so was I. I said to him: “Tell me Colonel, have you [*already*] ever executed a shooting of under 10,000 people?” He looked at me horror stricken. In the meantime he must have realised we already knew one another. He said: [“I have executed only one shooting before and that was with only 9500.”]. [*See manuscript*]. It was clear that the man was very depressed. He was silent and we took our leave of one another. When I returned to the barracks I was informed that we were leaving for home the next day. Together we drank perhaps 2 to 3 bottles that night. To say that a drinking binge took place is not true as all desire had been taken from us.

[...]

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