

DRAFT

Mining Assessor (Berg Assessor)

Rottwell

Certified Engineer (Diplom Ingenieur)

26 April 1945

Kurt GERSTEIN

Personal data: *GERSTEIN, Kurt, Mining Assessor, excluded from State service in 1936 for anti-nazi activities. Certified Engineer. Born on 11 August 1905 at MUNSTER, Westphalia. Associated with the factory DE LIMON, FLUHME and CO, automatic greasing for railroad engines, Brake factory WESTINGHOUSE, KNORR etc. DÜSSELDORF INDUSTRIE STRASSE 1-17

Father: Ludwig GERSTEIN, ~~30~~ LANDGERICHS PRASIDENT (President of the Superior Court) retired, HAGEN, Westphalia.

Mother: Clare GERSTEIN nee SCHMANN, died in 1931

Married since 2 May 1937 to Elfriede, nee BENSCH; (residing) at TUBINGEN, Gartenstrasse, 24, 3 children: Arnulf, 5; Adelheid, 3½; Olaf, 2.

Life: 1905-1911 Munster, 1911 to 1919 Saarbrücken, 1919 to 1921 Halberstadt, 1921-1925 Neuruppin near Berlin. Graduated from school 1925. Universities studies: Universities and Technical colleges at Marburg/Lahn, Aachen, Berlin-Charlottenburg. 1931 Examination for certified engineer. Since 1925 active member of the organized protestant youth, YMHA, and above all of the Educated Christian Youth called BK (BIBEL KREIS) *Bible Circle* around the bible.

Politics: Adherent of STRESEMANN and BRUENING, active for them. Since June 1933 persecuted by the Gestapo for Christian anti-nazi activities. Entered the National Social German Worker Party on 2 May 1933. 2 October 1936 excluded from the Nazi party for activities directed against the party and the state. 30 January 1935 public protest at the theater of the city of Hagen/Westphalia against the anti-christian drama "WITTEKIND". Beaten and wounded by the Nazis. 27 November 1935 examination for mining official (Berg assessor),

civil service position at Saarbrücken. 27 September 1936 imprisoned by the Gestapo for activities directed against the State, for having sent 8500 anti-Nazi pamphlets to high state officials. In prison until the end of October 1936. Excluded from the civil service. December 1936 until the beginning of the war: Medical studies at Tübingen, Institute for the Protestant Medical Tropic Mission.

Since 1931 I have given about one third of my annual income - that makes one third of RM 18000 - to my religious ideals. I had printed and mailed about 230000 religious, anti-Nazi pamphlets at my own expense.

From 14 July to 23 August 1938 I was imprisoned for the second time at the concentration camp WELZHEIM. Hearing of the massacres of the imbeciles and insane at GRAFENECK, HADAMAR, etc. I was shocked and hurt in my innermost feelings, since there is an instance of the kind in my own family; and I had but one desire: To look into all of ~~this~~ machinery and then to shout at everyone. Equipped with two references of the two Gestapo men who had worked on my case, it was not hard to join the armed SS. From 10 March to 2 June 1941 I, together with 40 doctors, received military basic training at HAMBURG-LANGENHOORN, ARNHEIM and ORANIENBURG. On account of my two ^{types of} training - technical and medical - I was ordered to enter the medical-technical service of the ~~Main~~ SS - Command - Sanitary service of the Armed SS - Group D, Hygiene. At this office I selected for myself the job of immediately building disinfecting equipment and filters for drinking water for the soldiers and for PW and concentration camps. ^{ON} ~~an~~ account of my exact knowledge of the industry I ^{soon} succeeded ~~soon~~ my predecessors had not. Thus it became possible to ^{lower} considerably, ~~even~~ the death rate among the prisoners. As reward for my success I soon was made Lieutenant. In December 1941 the court which ordered my exclusion from the Nazi party learned of my joining the Armed SS. Great effort

were made to expel me and to persecute me. But an account of success I was declared sincere and indispensable. In January 1942 I was appointed chief of the technical disinfecting service, which contained also the office dealing with extremely poisonous disinfecting gases. On 8 June 1942, SS Major GUENTHER of the Reich Main Security Office unknown to me, entered my office dressed in civilian clothes. He ~~ordered~~ ordered me to obtain 100 kg of prussic acid and to proceed with him to a place known only to the driver of the truck. We started our trip at the potash factory near COLLIN (Prague). After the truck had been loaded we left for LUBLIN, Poland. We took with us Professor Dr Max PFANNENSTIEL, full professor of Hygiene at the University of MARBURG/LAHN. At Lublin, SS Major General GLOBOCNEK awaited us. He told us: "This is one of the most secret things there is, even the most secret one. Everyone who talks will be shot immediately. Yesterday, two persons who had talked, died." Then he explained to us: at present- 17 August 1942- there are three establishments:

1. BELCEC on the road from Lublin to Lemberg where it crosses the Russian demarcation line. Maximum per day 15,000 (seen)
2. SOBIBOR, I do not know exactly where, (not seen) 20,000 persons per day.
3. TREBLINKA 120 kilometers northeast ~~from~~ ^{of} Warsaw. 25,000 per day (seen)
4. MAIDANNEK near Lublin, seen in preparation

GLOBOCNEK said: "You will have to disinfect very large quantities of clothing, ten or twenty times as large as the result of the "SPINNSTOFFSAMMLUNG" (Collection of clothing and textiles) which had been conducted only in order to camouflage the origin of Jewish, Polish, Czech, etc. clothing. - Your other duty will be to change the system of our gas chambers, now working on the exhaust fumes of an old Diesel motor to a substance which is more poisonous and which works faster:

vis. prussic acid. But the Fuehrer and HIMMLER who were here on 15 August - ie, the day before yesterday - have ~~MINISTER~~ ordered me to personally accompany ~~visit~~ all those who ^{need} have to see those installations. Professor PFANNENSTIEL asked "But what does the Fuehrer say? GLOBOCNEK, now SS and Police Chief of the Adriatic Coast at Trieste: "Carry out the action faster and faster is what he said." Dr Herbert LINDNER, section chief (MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR) in the Prussian Department of the Interior (asked): "Would it not be better to burn ~~them~~ the bodies rather than bury them? Another generation might think differently about these matters." GLOBOCNEK: "But gentlemen, if there ever should come after us a generation so cowardly, so soft-boned that it would not understand our act which is so good and so necessary, then, gentlemen, the entire National Socialism would have been in vain. To the contrary we should bury bronze tablets on which it is inscribed that we were the ones who had the courage to carry out this gigantic deeds" HITLER then said: "Yes, my good GLOBOCNEK, that is a saying, and it is also my opinion." The next day we left for BELCEK. A special railroad station with two platforms slopes down a hill of yellow sand just north of the LUBLIN-LEMBERG railroad and highway. To the south near the highway were some official buildings marked "Service Station BELCEK of the Armed SS." GLOBOCNEK introduced me to SS Captain OBERMEYER of Pirmasens who showed me the installations very reluctantly. On that day no corpses were visible, but the smell all over the region and in the highway was pestilential. Next to the little station was a big shed marked "Cloakroom" with a counter "Valuables". Then a room with 100 chairs "Hairdresser". Then a corridor 150 meters long in the open air, barbed wire on both sides with posters "To the baths and inhalations". Before us was a building ^{similar to a bathhouse} a bathhouse, right and left a big concrete pot with geraniums of other flowers. After having climbed a little staircase to the right and to the left

three of four rooms like garages 4 by 5 meters and 1.90 meters high. At the back, invisible, were wooden exits. On the roof the Star of David in copper. In front of the building the inscription: "HECKENHOLZ FOUNDATION". ~~TEXT~~ That afternoon I did not see anything in ^{more} addition. The next morning, a few ~~minutes~~ minutes before 7 AM I was told: The first train will arrive in ten minutes! - Truly, after a few minutes the first train arrived from LEMBERG. 45 cars containing 6700 persons. 1450 were already dead upon the arrival. Behind the little windows closed with barbed wire were children, yellow, filled with fear, women and men. The train arrived. 200 Ukrainians, forced to do this work, tore ^{open} the doors ~~open~~ and ^{drove} ~~closed~~ the people out of the cars with leather whips. Then a great loud-speaker gave instructions. Remove all clothing, including prostheses and ^{glasses} ~~glasses~~, in the open, a few in the shed. Tie the shoes together with a small piece of string offered by a small four-year-old Jewish boy. Turn in all valuables, all money at the counter marked "Valuables" without (obtaining) a coupon or receipt. Then the women and girls to the hairdresser to have the hair cut off with one or two jabs of the scissors to disappear in large potato bags "to make some thing ^{Special} ~~particular~~ for the submarines, thickness (?) etc." said the sergeant in charge. Then the march began, the barbed wire to the right and to the left behind them two dozen Ukrainians, ^(armed) with ~~(armed)~~ rifles; they drew nearer, led by a girl of singular beauty. I and the police captain WIRTH were in front of the death chambers. They passed us completely nude, the men, the women, the girls, the children, the babies, the one-legged ~~ones~~, all naked. In a corner a strong man told the unfortunate people in pastoral voice: "Nothing will happen to you. All you have to do is to breathe strongly, that strengthens the lungs; this inhalation is necessary against contagious

diseases, it is a nice means of disinfection." Asked as to what their fate would be, he said: The men, it is true, will have to work, build roads and houses. But the women are under no duty to do so. Only if they want to, they may help in the household of the kitchen. A few of these poor people gained ~~again~~ a little hope, ^{once more} enough to make them walk into the death chambers without offering any resistance, - the majority know~~s~~ everything, the stench indicates their fate. Then they climb the little staircase and see the truth. Brothers, mothers nursing their children on their breasts, nude, many children of all ages, nude. They hesitate, but they enter the death chamber, the majority without saying a word, pushed by others behind them who are kept moving by ~~of~~ the whips of the SS. A Jewish woman, aged about 40 with eyes like flames called the blood of her children on their murderers. Upon receiving five lashes across her face from the police captain WIRTH himself, she disappears into the gas chamber. Many pray, others say, "who shall give us water for the death" (Jewish rite). In the chambers the SS pressed the people together. Captain WIRTH had ordered: "Fill well." The nude people stand upon ^{each} the others' feet, 700-800 in 25 square meters, 45 cubic metres! - The doors are being closed. In the meantime the others from the train wait in the nude. I am told: "Also naked in winter! But they might ^{die} ~~on~~ death!" "But that is what they are here for!" was the answer. At that moment I understood the meaning of "Foundation HECKENHOLT". HECKENHOLT is the name of the attendant of the Diesel, the exhaust gases of which are supposed to kill these poor people. SS Sergeant (UNTERSCHARFÜHRER) HECKENHOLT attempts to start the Diesel. But it will not work. Captain WIRTH arrives. It can be seen that he is afraid because I am watching the failure. Yes, I see everything, and I wait. My stop watch records everything.

50 minutes, 70 minutes, - the Diesel does not work! The people wait in their gas chambers. One can hear them cry "Just as in the synagogue," says Major Professor Dr PFANNENSTIEL, full professor of hygiene at the University of MARBURG/LAHN, keeping his ear to the wooden door. furiously, Captain WIRTH ^{strikes} HECKENHOLT, Ukranian assistant 11 or 12 times across the face with his whip. After two hours and 49 minutes-the stop watch has registered everything- the Diesel gets started, up to that moment the people in the four filled chambers live, 4 times 750 persons in 4 times 45 cubic metres. Another 25 minutes pass: Many it is true are dead. One can see that through the little window through which an electric lamp permits for a moment a look at the interior of the chamber. After 28 minutes a few are still alive. After 32 minutes at last, everything is dead. On the other side Jewish workers open the wooden doors. For their horrible work they have been promised their freedom and a small percentage of the valuables and money found. The dead are still standing like columns of Basalt, since there was not the least room for them to fall or to lean over. Even in death one can recognize the families who are still clasping ~~their~~ hands. It is difficult to separate them in order to clear the chamber for the next group. They throw out the bodies which are blue, damp ^{with} sweat and urine, the legs soiled with ~~feces~~ ^{feces} and ~~menstrual~~ ^{MENSTRUAL} blood. All over the babies and the bodies of the children. But there is no time. Two dozen workers are busy ^{checking} ~~controlling~~ the mouths which they open with iron hooks. "Gold to the right, without gold to the left." Others check the anus and the genitals for money, diamonds, gold, etc. Dentists remove gold teeth, bridges, and crowns with hammers. Captain WIRTH is in the middle of it all. He is in his element, showing me a large tin can filled with teeth he says to me: "Feel for yourself, the weight in gold that is

only yesterday and the day before yesterday." And you would not believe what we find every day: "Dollars, diamonds, gold!! - But look for yourself - Then he took me to a jeweler who was in charge of all those valuables. They also made me see one of the managers of the great department store in the West of Berlin, KAUFHAUS DES WESTENS, and a little man whom they made play the violin; they were the chief of the Jewish labor detail. "That is a captain of the K and K Austrian army, knight of the German Iron Cross, first Class, (??)" Captain OBERMEYER told me. Then the naked bodies were thrown into deep ditches about 100x20x12 meters located near the death chambers. After a few days the bodies would bloat and everything would rise 2 or 3 meters on account of the gas which ~~was~~ developing in the corpses. After a few days the bloating would be over, and the bodies would collapse. Another day the ditches would be filled again and covered with ten centimeters of sand. I was told that somewhat later grills were made of railroad ties on which the bodies were burned with Diesel oil and gasoline ~~in~~ order to make the corpses disappear. At BELCEK and TREBLINCA they did not even bother to count the ~~number of~~ ^{dead} people in a somewhat exact ~~way~~ ^{manner}. The numbers given by the BBC Radio are not exact. Altogether 25,000,000 human beings are involved! Not only Jews but in preference to Poles and Czechs who, in the opinion of the Nazis, were biologically without value. The majority died anonymously. Commissions of pseudo-doctors, simply young ?? men in white gowns and limousines passed through the cities and villages in order to point out the old people, the tuberculars, the sick, so that a little later they would disappear ~~in~~ the gas chambers. Those were the Poles, the Czechs of No III(?) who were ~~no longer worthy of life~~ ^{no longer worthy} since they could not work. Police Captain WIRTH requested me not to suggest another method of gas chambers to Berlin but to

leave everything as it was. I lied -as I would have in any event- that the prussic acid had been destroyed on the transport and that it had become very dangerous. Hence I ^{was} ~~was~~ compelled to bury it - this was done immediately. The next day we drove in Captain WIRTH's car to Treblanka about 120 kilometers NNE from Warsaw. The installations of this place of death were almost the same ^{as those} ~~was~~ at Belzec, but even larger. Eight gas chambers and genuine mountains of clothing and underwear, about 35-40 meters high. Then in our "honor" a banquet was given ~~and~~ at which all members of the post attended. Major Professor Dr. Max PFANNENSTIEL, full ^{professor} of hygiene at the University of Marburg /Lahn made a speech. Your work is a high duty, a duty ^{both} ~~so~~ useful and ~~so~~ necessary. To me, alone, he talked of the institution as ~~of beauty~~ ^{of beauty} and a humane thing. To all he said: If one sees the bodies of those Jews, one understands the greatness of your good work! The dinner itself was simple but upon the orders of HIMMLER's, those who worked in this service received all the butter, meat, alcoholic beverages, etc. they wished. Upon our departure we were offered several kilograms of butter and a great number of liqueur bottles. I had difficulty in dissuading them, by lying that I had enough of all from our farm. For that reason PFANNENSTIEL took ~~also~~ ^{also} my share. We went by car to Warsaw. Waiting unsuccessfully for an empty bed, I met the secretary of the Swedish legation, Baron de OTTER. Since all berths were taken we spent the night in the passage ^{way} of the sleeper. There, under my recent impressions, I told him everything with the request to relate all to his government and to all the Allies. He asked me for a reference. As such I gave him the address of General Superintendent ~~LEBI~~ (Chief Supervisor of the Protestant Church) D. Otto DIBELIUS Berlin-Lichterfeld-West, Bruderweg 2, friend of Martin NIEMOLLER and head

of the protestant resistance against national socialism. After several weeks I saw Baron de OTTER twice more. He told me that he had made his ~~report~~ ^{report} to the Swedish government, a report which according to his words had a great effect upon the relations between Sweden and Germany. My attempt to refer all this to the head of the Vatican legation did not meet with much success. I was asked whether I was a soldier. Thereupon they refused having anything to do with me. Then I prepared a detailed report for Dr. WINTER secretary to the Berlin diocese to have him refer all this to his bishop in Berlin and thus to the Vatican legation. ^WWhile leaving the Vatican legation in the Rauchstrasse in Berlin I had a dangerous encounter with a police agent who followed me but who ~~let~~ ^{allowed} me to escape after a few most disagreeable minutes.

I ~~had to~~ ^{must} add that early in 1944 SS Major GUENTHER of the Reich Main Security Office asked me for a very large supply of prussic acid for a secret purpose. The acid was to be delivered to his office at Berlin, Kurfurstenstrasse. I succeeded in making him believe that it was impossible ~~to~~ because ^{it was} much too dangerous. It concerned several car loads of poisonous acid, enough to kill many people, millions as a matter of fact. He told me that it had not been decided whether, when, for what persons, in what manner, and where the poison would be used. I am not sure about the intentions of the Reich Main Security Office and of the Security Service. But later on I had to think of GOEBBELS words about "closing the doors behind them, if national socialism should not succeed". Maybe they intended to kill a large portion of the German people, maybe the foreign workers, maybe the prisoners of war. - I do not know. At any rate, I made the acid disappear (by using it) for disinfecting purposes as soon as it arrived. That was somewhat dangerous for me but if someone had asked me for the whereabouts of the poisonous acid, I should

have answered that it had already been in a dangerous state of dis-
solution and for that reason it had become necessary to use it up
for purposes of disinfection. I am certain that GUENTHER -the son
~~HE~~ of the "race specialist" GUENTHER- according to his own words
had the order to purchase ^{enough} acid ~~ANON~~ to kill -eventually- millions
of persons, maybe also in the concentration camps. I have, with ^{me,}
~~several~~ invoices for 2,175 kilograms, actually about 8,500 kilograms,
enough to kill 8 million persons. I had these invoices made out
in my name for reasons of secrecy (as I pretended) actually in order
to be more free in disposing of them and in order to have the pois-
onous acid disappear more easily. I never paid for those deliveries,
in order to avoid reimbursement, thus reminding the Security Service
of this supply. The director ^{of the Liegesch who had made this delivery} told me that he had furnished prussic
acid in phials for the killing of people. Another time GUENTHER
asked me whether it would be possible to kill a large number of Jews
in the open air in the trenches of the fortifications of MARIE-THER-
ESIENSTADT (TEREZIN) In order to prevent this diabolical plan I dec-
lared this method impossible. Somewhat later I heard that the SD
had obtained in some other way the prussic acid in order to kill
the poor people at Theresienstadt (Terezin) - The most detestable
concentration camps were not Oranienburg nor Dachau nor Belsen - but
Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Mauthausengusen near Linz/Donau. There
millions of persons have disappeared in the gas chambers or(?) trucks
used as gas chambers. The method of killing children was to hold
under their noses a tampon of prussic acid. ^{personally} I have seen ~~myself~~ in
concentration camps, experiments conducted on living human beings
and continued until death occurred. Thus SS Captain Dr Med GUNDLACH
has conducted such experiments at the women's concentration camp
at Ravensbruck near Furstenberg-Mecklenburg. At my office I read

many reports on such experiments being performed at Buchenwald, for example the giving of up to 100 tablets of PERVITIN a day. Other experiments, killing in every instance 100-200 persons, were made with serums, lymphs, etc. HIMMLER had reserved to himself the right to grant the permission for such experiments.

At Oranienburg I saw on a single day disappear all the prisoners who were there for being perverts (Homo-sexual).

I tried to avoid frequent visits to concentration camps, for it was customary, especially at Mauthausen-Gusen near Linz to hang one or two prisoners in honor of the visitors. At Mauthausen it was customary to make the Jews work in a very high quarry- After a while the SS on duty would say: Attention, there will be an accident in a few minutes! And truly-a minute or two later some Jews were thrown from the quarry falling dead ~~at~~ our feet. "Accident during work" was registered in the papers of the people thus killed. Dr Fritz KRANZ - an anti-Nazi SS Captain - frequently told me about such matters which he ^{heartily} condemned ~~as wrong~~ and which he frequently ~~braght~~ ^{exposed} ~~out in the open~~.

The crimes which were discovered at Belsen, Oranienburg, etc, were insignificant, as compared to the others, which were committed at Auschwitz and Mauthausen.

I plan to write a book dealing with my experiences with the Nazis.

I am prepared to swear that all my statements are the full truth.

/s/ Kurt GERSTEIN

SUPPLEMENT

At my house at Berlin W35 Bulowstr. 1st floor left, I gathered around me a circle composed of anti-nazis. Here are the names of some of its members.

Major LUTZREIS, now at Hamburg, Glasurit Werk

Dr Felix BUSS, Chief Legal Advisor of Telefunken, Berlin SW11, Hallesches Ufer 30.

Director Alex MENNE, Hamburg Glasurit Werk.

Clergyman BUCHHOLZ, chaplain of the Plötzensee penitentiary, who accompanied to the gallows the officers of 20 July 1944. These officers as well as the minister Martin NIEMOLLER my dear friend, smoked cigarettes and cigars which I had furnished them at their prisons

The clergyman MOCHALSKI replacing the Reverend Martin NIEMOLLER at the Annen Church at Dahlem.

Dorothea SCHULZ secretary to the Reverend Martin NIEMOLLER at Dachau.

Emil NIEUWENHUIZEN and his friend Hendrik of Philips-Eindhoven, deportees whom I had met in church and who for a long time were my guests ~~for a meal and~~ ^{twice or three times a week} in order to listen to the radio.

Director HAUEISEN, Berlin NWT, Mittelstrasse * Printing shop Franke

Herbert SCHARKOWSKI, editor of the Scherl publishing company.

Captain and Mrs NEBELTHAU, Berlin, now at Kirchentellinsfurt-Württemberg

Dr Hermann EHLERS, legal adviser of the NIEMOLLER church of anti-Nazi resistance.

~~Dr~~ Dr Ebbo EHLERS, same as Dr EHLERS

Other references;

General Superintendent D Otto DIBELIUS, Chief of the Church

resistance to national socialism.

Clergyman REHLING, Hagen Westphalia, resistance of the Westphalian church, activist.

Praeses Dr KOCH, same.

Baron von HUENE, professor at the University of Tübingen, anti-nazi.

Bernard J GOEDECKER, manufacturer, München, Tizian strasse, anti-nazi

The catholic clergyman VALPERTZ, Hagen, Westphalia.

I The clergyman Otto WEHR, Saarbrücken

The clergymen SCHLAEGER and BITTKAU, Neuruppin near Berlin.

August FRANZ and his entire family, strong anti-nazis, Saarbrücken, now Talheim-Württemberg.

Dr STRAUB, Metzingen-Württemberg, and his family.

The prussic acid covered by these invoices had been ordered by the Reich Main Security Office, Berlin W35 Kurfursten Strasse, upon the direction of SS Major GUENTHER. I, being responsible for their function, performed it loyally by ~~XXXXXXXX~~ making these boxes disappear in the disinfecting chambers upon their arrival at Oranienburg and Auschwitz. Thus a bad use of the acids was prevented. Lest the Reich Main Security Office be reminded of the presence of rather nonexistence of this supply, I never paid for these deliveries, the invoices of which -for the same reason- had been made out in my name. Thus it became possible to make the acid disappear immediately after its arrival. If its absence had been ~~KNOWN~~ noticed I should have answered, "That is a mistake of the ^{local} ~~Acid~~ disinfecting service which ^{true} does not and may not know the purpose (of the acid)." Or I should have said; "The acid had become decomposed and it was ^{not} ~~no longer~~ possible to keep it any longer.

/s/ Kurt GERSTEIN.

DEGESCH

German company for the Control of Vermin

First Lieutenant

Kurt GERSTEIN

(1) Berlin

Leipzig Str. 31/32

9 June 1944

Dr Peters has turned your letter over to us for answering.

Attached we are transmitting a statement concerning the unpaid bills up to the 18th of the preceding month. This statement, however, does not contain our two invoices of 30 May amounting ~~to~~ to RM 975.^{each}

As to your question concerning the ability to store the merchandise, we can inform you that we assure the warranty for a year. We do not doubt that the merchandise can be stored for a longer period. But in view of the ~~present~~ especially precarious situation ^{at present} we ~~have to~~ ^{must} request you not to exceed the period for storage, but to use the oldest deliveries for disinfecting purposes. In this connection we have to inform you of the fact that our factory has been ^{badly} ~~very~~ ^{damaged} ~~unpleasantly~~ during the attacks in the Pentecost period, so that production has been interrupted completely. ^{According to information} ~~we hear~~ from the factory, repairs will take about three months. Accordingly during this period we shall ^{not} be able to fill out obligations to you. If, however, you should urgently need the merchandise - which we hardly imagine - judging from your letter - kindly inform us thereof. Maybe it will become possible, within a reasonable time, to manufacture certain limited quantities in another factory.

In connection with the durability of the goods we wish to stress in particular that a decomposition can hardly occur, but that it, nevertheless, is possible that the cans become affected. The slightest impurities in the tin, frequently discoverable only under a

microscope, are the cause for corrosion. Then little holes occur from which a little prussic acid may escape. But even this is not dangerous provided the goods are kept in well aired storage, as prescribed by us. Should the smell of prussic acid be perceived, we recommend ~~to~~ examining the boxes and ~~to~~ using the damaged cans as soon as possible.

We hope that the preceding lines contain the information you ^{requested} asked for; if not, please get in touch with us again, so that, if the occasion should ^{arise} arise, we can answer any additional questions.

Heil Hitler

new address

DEGESCH

Kaiser Str 70

Post Office Box 98

German Company for the

Control of Vermin, Ltd

Zs/KAUFMANN

/s/WÜSTINGER