

NAZI BLAMES INDUSTRY FOR PRISON DEATHS

FRANKFURT, Germany, Feb. 3 (UPI)—A squeaky-voiced former Nazi S. S. corporaal said today that inmates of the Auschwitz prison camp were condemned to gas chambers because I. G. Farben and other Hitler-era industrial giants complained that they were too weak for slave labor.

But Gerhard Neubert, 54, told a West German court that he did not know that laborers he and an inmate doctor decided were too sick to work were gassed. He said he thought they were sent to a convalescent camp.

Neubert is one of 22 former staff members of infamous Auschwitz on trial for taking part in the murders of up to 4 million inmates during World War II.

Weakest Winnowed Out

A medic at an Auschwitz sub-camp for slave laborers at nearby Monowitz, Neubert said he and a doctor winnowed out the weakest inmates.

"This was at the request of the big factories like I. G. Farben," he said. "They were always complaining the S. S. sent too many sick people to work."

He referred to a little-known aspect of Adolf Hitler's grisliest death factory—that major industries operated factories near Auschwitz and paid daily "head money" into the S. S. coffers for slave laborers. The allies broke up the I. G. Farben complex after the war.

Becomes Death Sentence

If a prisoner was reported sick, Chief Judge Hans Hofmeyer asked, was it not in effect a death sentence?

"I thought at the time the people we picked out went to a convalescent camp at Birkenau," Neubert said, turning up his palms. Birkenau housed Auschwitz's gas chamber and ovens.