

Roman Schönbach (1912-): perpetrator



Occupation: Bricklayer

1928: HJ; 1937: SS

1939: Family name Mucha changed to Schönbach

1939: use in Poland, among others guard service ZAL (Zwangsarbeitslager = forced labor camp) Chelm

1941: Degradation; verdict Krakau SS police court: three months imprisonment for drunkenness during service

1941: Guarding Residence Governor Frank; Commander „Trawniki“ (auxiliary troops trained by the SS and recruited by locals in the occupied territories) in the ZAL Janowska

1943: SS guard in the ZAL Drohobycz and Boryslaw

1968: Judgement LG Stuttgart, Ks 5/65, 29.04.1968: eight years imprisonment for two crimes of aiding and abetting the murder of a total of 51 people:

1. Participation in the liquidation of ZAL Grodek-Jagiellonski end of June 1943
2. Shooting of a hidden child in the Ostbahn repair factory

1973: Remaining sentence suspended. Acquittal for lack of evidence by the LG Augsburg in a trial of his actions in Boryslaw and Drohobycz

On the command of SS-Untersturmführer Willhaus, Schönbach went in search of hidden Jews at the Ostbahn's repair plant in Lemberg:

»One of these prisoners, an older man named Chasin, was employed in the works canteen... A few months earlier, after an action, Chasin had learned that his son, about 7 to 10 years old, was wandering helplessly and alone in the ghetto after his mother had died in the course of the action. With the permission of the German canteen manager Schulze and the support of a German chauffeur, Chasin had succeeded in bringing his child... to his repair workshop. Here he hid his child... in a food box.«

Schönhaus was told the hiding place - without hesitation he shot the child.

Sources: Sandkühler, „Endlösung“ in Galizien, p. 236, p. 435; JuNSV 671, p. 741ff.