

Josef Holzberger (1921-)



Professions: Lumberjack, Gestapo, People's Policeman (VoPo)

1921: Born in Deutsch Mokra (Nimetska Mokra, Carpatho-Ukraine) as son of a forestry worker

Before 1941: forestry worker. Member of the Youth Association of the Sudeten German Party, then of the German National Union in Hungary

1941: In October, he goes with a group of ethnic Germans to Stanislau in the Galician district of the Generalgouvernement.

On 1.12.41 he joins the guards of the Gestapo in the Gestapo prison Stanislau

1941-1943: from 12/41 to 04/43 he took part in about 25 actions against Jews in Stanislau. He is said to have shot 61 people with his own hands

06/1943: Participation in the liquidation of the ghetto in Drohobycz (clearing of the ghetto, guarding at the meeting place, 10-20 truck transports to the Bronica Forest)

10/42 and spring 43: Three deportations from the ghetto to extermination camps in addition: aiding and abetting murder in prison, deportation to forced labour in the Reich

1943: Conversion to the Waffen-SS on 1 July; combat service in the SU and France

1945: American captivity; released in June 1946

1946: Move to relatives in Nordhausen (Thuringia); work as a lumberjack

1954: People's policeman until 1973, when he is declared disabled at the age of 52

1973: From 30 October in remand with the Stasi (MfS) in Erfurt

1975: sentenced to life by the BG Erfurt (1 Bs 21/75) for crimes against humanity and war crimes

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Justification of life imprisonment by the Erfurt District Court, 1975:

»As a submissive tool of his fascist commanders, as part of their apparatus of annihilation, he intervened over a considerable period of time in the lives of a large number of peace-loving Soviet citizens, killed countless innocent and defenceless people, persecuted, abducted and oppressed others... The accused has forfeited any claim to a place in our midst, among the humanistically-minded citizens of a socialist state. He must be permanently isolated from society.« (Judgment BG Erfurt 1 Bs 21/75, DDRJuNSV Vf. 1026)

Sources: DDRJuNSV Proceeding 1026; Pohl: Ostgalizien; Sandkühler, Endlösung; Kuwalek: Belzec