Waffen-SS
SS-Standortkommandantur
Dachau

1487
Dachau 3, den
Fernruf Dachau 293

13 May 1946

Betreff:
Bezug: Dear Father and Mother,
Anlagen:

German civilians are being used to help clean up this mess - the mountain of rotting corpses. They can hardly believe their eyes - exhibit every sign of genuine surprise, shock, and guilt - even to the extent of vomiting and fainting. I've talked with a French prisoner who was permitted to travel from camp to camp with an SS guard. He told of how the civilians on the trains recognized his striped uniform, exhibited genuine pity for him and even offered him cigarettes. It is sure that not one in a hundred of the German civilians has the faintest idea of what actually goes on in a concentration camp. Yet, I wonder.

An interesting part of this camp that I haven't mentioned yet is its large femal complement - the wives, mistresses, Russian slave girls, etc that were kept here for the SS troops. They're all still here, plus lots of their children. The 127th Evac. which is also here with us, actually has a maternity ward.

Today I had a chance to read an official army report to the French government on the conditions of the camp at Buchenwald. This camp, like Dachau, specialized in

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leadership personnel, but was an extermination camp entirely – exterminating 6000 a month on the average. The industrial efficiency of the slaughter house and crematory was described as being typical of the grim and ruthless determination that has characterized all SS troop undertakings. One little innovation they had that we haven't discovered here was the special attention paid to tatooed prisoners. They were all skinned, the skin tanned, then made into lamp shades, wallets, and other leather novelties.

The patients each had an orange for breakfast the other day. Everyone was excited, but some were too weak to even put them. More and more of them are begining to look like people and less like animals. We have patient, or prisoner, ward boys to assist us now and things are going a little easier.

Perhaps you'll see much of this in the news reals. If so you'll miss the most grisly part. An article in Stars and Stripes says that the Hay's office has decided you couldn't take it.

Love,

Harold