

quarters for assignment of rooms and were told that sleeping accommodations were very scarce in Munich, all of the hotels having been demolished. We were assigned rooms at one of the few remaining hotels—adjacent to the railroad station. It had been badly hit but had been repaired and was habitable. The business section is devastated, the once stately cathedrals and the treasured buildings were all wrecked by our aerial bombs.

After a good dinner at the hotel's Army mess, we walked about the city, inspecting the destruction.

The lovely Frauen Cathedral was gutted by fire. The railroad station was a shambles. Here we saw discharged German soldiers returning home in freight cars. Many D.P.s sitting among the wreckage and rubble of the railroad station ate their supper of black bread.

## ***Horrors of Dachau Prison Camp***

*Wednesday, August 15*

Visited Dachau, one of the infamous Nazi concentration camps, 8 miles from Munich. Enroute we saw hordes of prisoners of war in camouflaged suits clearing up rubble. The prisoners, being Hungarians, wear a different uniform.

We were met at the gates of the Dachau prison camp by the officer in charge, who furnished us with a guide. We saw here some 8,000 SS troops behind heavily charged electrical wire. The camp was built for 8,500 prisoners, and the Germans had as many as 32,000 prisoners at all times in this camp during the war. The prisoners were required to work 15 hours a day, their food being breakfast: black coffee; lunch: a plate of potato soup (two potatoes); dinner: 25 grams of sausage. The English-speaking Polish guard told us that when the Americans came he weighed 78 pounds. Now he weighs 150.

In the gas chambers—where the prisoners were told to take a shower bath, and were then exterminated—we saw a large skull and crossbones painted on the door of the deadly chamber warning the attendants of the danger; in this chamber 80 men were killed at one time in 4 or 5 minutes.

### ***A Cremation Fraud***

The large cremation ovens resembled huge baker's ovens. Two bodies were cremated at the same time. In the cremation room was a large sign in German, "Cleanliness is your duty. Don't forget to wash your hands."

Then in the inspection of horrors we were taken to the room where the Nazis stored the ashes of the cremated victims. The ashes were placed in pots resembling small flower-pots—we were told that the Nazis sold these ashes to the families of the deceased for 1,000 marks. The families thought they were receiving the ashes of their loved ones, but in reality the Nazis had filled the pots from a huge vat containing ashes of all the cremated prisoners.

Going to the execution yard where the Nazis shot prisoners, we were told that the prisoners were placed behind a bamboo screen, through which the soldiers fired their volley, murdering their victims. We saw also the two notorious trees from which the Nazis hung certain victims. Wherever we went in the environment of the horror chamber, we smelled the sickly odor of death. The bodies, however, had been removed by impressed German labor.

We took time to visit the Red Cross building with its huge Red Cross signs on the roof. Here on the site occupied by workers of mercy the Nazis had maintained an arsenal of bombs, guns, etc.

We were sick at heart as we came away from the place of gas chambers, cremations, and other atrocities. It was all a pitiful, almost incredible sight.