

About the SS



Isaac Arbeid 1996 – Eröffnung der Ausstellung im Heimatmuseum, Bisingen
– Foto: Gemeinde Bisingen

Isaac Arbeid, Jew from the Netherlands, was arrested in Holland and brought into a Dutch forced labor camp at the age of 18 in 1941, followed by three years in the concentration camp Blechhammer in Uppersilesia where he had to work for the Upperslesian Hydrierwerke. When Blechhammer was evacuated in January 1945 the prisoners were forced to walk to Groß-Rosen. Few days later they came to Buchenwald and from there on to Bisingen in March 1945. Isaac Arbeid died in Amsterdam in 2002. He visited Bisingen when the exhibition opened on November 3rd, 1996.

On November 4th, 1996, he reported in an interview:

“Here in Bisingen it was dreadful, unimaginable. First, the treatment was very, very bad, even worse than I had experienced it in other camps. And as I recall there was a guard, an SS-man, an “Unterlagerführer” in Blechhammer who was humane back then. But here he was, evacuated himself, on the building site in the ‘Kuhloch’ walking around with a dog, a Sheppard dog and behaved even worse than a dog. A dog cannot be like him. (...)”

The conditions here in Bisingen were appalling, they beat and beat. There was only little food and we had to work very hard in the ‘Kuhloch’. For several days I also worked here in town, on top of the church next door.

I also remember that someone escaped, got caught close to the Swiss boarder after being denounced by some Germans, and was returned and hanged here in Bisingen. (...)

Many SS-men got drunk. They went into town and when they got back into the camp they were drunk and behaved accordingly and beat.

„Möglichkeiten des Erinnerns“, 1997 by Christine Glauning

English edition: Judith Rentschler, Bisingen 2008