

Help from the local population

Alfred Korn, a Polish Jew, first came to the Krakau ghetto in 1942 followed by the working camp in Plaszow. That is where he was separated from his wife and two children whom he never saw again. He stayed in Auschwitz from 1943 to January 1945. Via the concentration camps Groß-Rosen and Bergen-Belsen he was transported to Bisingen in March 1945. In a Radio-broadcast of SDR- station in 1976 Alfred Korn talked about food he received from inhabitants of Bisingen:

“One day when I was upstairs while my fellow prisoners were in the mine looking for shale there were some peasant women on a neighboring field harvesting potatoes. One woman pointed her finger on a certain place on the ground – look here. I understood. The distance was five to ten meters at the highest. I watched the guarding SS-man and when he did not pay attention I sneaked by and found it: five or six potatoes in a bag. I took them and put them in my pocket bags. Right and left.”

The pointlessness of operation “Wüste”

Alfred Korn: “(...) and there I saw a pipe very primitively fixed onto planks running from the shale-works to a cistern at the train station. I watched, thinking that there should be oil flowing down into the cistern. I watched and – I am not exactly certain – every five maybe four or six minutes there was one drop that came out of the pipe into the cistern. (...) Hundreds of prisoners worked so that there was one drop every few minutes then nothing for five minutes and then again – one drop. The drops went into the cistern and that was the great achievement of the shale-works in Bisingen.”

„Möglichkeiten des Erinnerns“ 1997 by Christine Glauning – english edition Judiht Rentschler, Bisingen 2008