

Testimony from Heinrich Gruber, a German Protestant theologian who was sent to several concentration camps because he spoke out in 1940 about the treatment of Jews as well as Christians of Jewish descent

Q: My first question about the Dachau camp concerns the conditions in which you and your fellow clerics lived.

A: Just like everywhere else, it was an existence of utter uncertainty, because we were totally at the mercy of the SS troops, without any protection or rights. If someone was shot, it was of no consequence...

Q: When you were in Dachau, did you hear of Majdanek and Auschwitz?

A: Not only did we hear about them, we also saw something of them, lots of clothing of those gassed in Auschwitz was sent to Dachau for sorting. Whole wagonloads arrived. When in the first consignment we found a pair of tiny children's shoes, we were all shocked to our inner souls by this, and we men, for all that we were used to terrible things, had to struggle with our tears, because it brought all the suffering of those children before us. Then more and more children's shoes arrived, and that was something which was part of the most bitter suffering we went through.