

STATEMENT of HELMUT TANZER

SEE GERMAN VERSION, PART V, SCHEDULE 23

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No. 3

Innsbruck district, Tirol
File reference P 1747/89
13.08.1990

Neustift i. St.,

RECORD

of interview with Helmut TANZER, [REDACTED] occupation
PISTE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE STUBAI GLACIER CABLE RAILWAY,
address, [REDACTED] as INFORMANT. Interview
began at 11.30 a.m.

Having been told the reason for the interview, he volunteered the following statement:

Since 1972, I have been employed by the Stubai glacier cable railway as superintendent of the piste area. Since 1976, it has been leased to us by the Tirol Provincial Government Office on the strength of its Tirolean piste seal of quality, and since then it has been repeatedly inspected and found in order. The precise criteria to be met are contained in the relevant ordinance issued by the Tirol Provincial Government. The area tended and supervised by the Stubai glacier cable railway is prepared and marked by us. The necessary barriers are also constantly repaired and inspected by us. Everything outside this area is regarded as "public alpine land" AND IS NOT tended and supervised BY US.

As regards the status and operation of the draglifts, my account is based on the records, which we keep daily.

On 08.08.1989 the Gaiskar, Eisjoch I and Eisjoch II lifts were in service. In addition, the Gaiskar and Eisjoch I and Schaufelschuss 1a pistes were open.

On 09.08.1989 only the Eisjoch I and II drag lifts and Eisjoch I and Schaufelschuss pistes were still open.

On 10.08.1989, the same situation prevailed, as also on 11.08.1989, when Eisjoch I and Schaufelschuss slope 1a were open.

In addition the log for 08.08.1989 shows that on that day we did marking and crevasse inspection. By way of comment, it should be added that the procedure is as follows: the entire piste region is covered on skis and by Ratrac [a tracked vehicle] in order to check all the barriers, markers, and warning signs, while inspecting all the pistes to see whether any crevasses have opened on the glacier. The log shows that no further work had to be done after that, which means that the piste was entirely in order and 100% safe for skiing. The next reference to work done in the piste area is taken from the daily log for 13.08.1989, which states that on that day crevasses near the supports of Eisjoch lift 1 (14) and Eisjoch lift 7 were closed, and that in addition a mesh fence was installed. I should like to add that I know exactly the status of all the crevasses in the area of the piste. When any of them opens or a small hole forms, it is immediately marked and fenced off. When it becomes necessary to close an opening crevasse, the area is first probed and inspected. In addition, the ground around the crevasse is scanned optically to make sure that nobody is in the crevasse, after which the latter is filled in. Then the crevasse is ripped open by a Ratrac and closed up again. Hence, after these operations it is impossible that a skier should ever fall into a crevasse in a supervised piste area or even be pushed into one during operations to render the crevasse safe.

Interview terminated at: 12.45 p.m.

Statement taken by:

[signed] Brecher

Read and approved:

[signed] Helmut TANZER