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Alfred Grünewald

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Alfred Grünewald (2 November 1918 – 18 November 1944) was a German Jehovah's Witness who refused military service during World War II. As a result, he was executed with 105 others sentenced to death for refusing military service or deserting from the Wehrmacht (German armed forces) in the Brandenburg-Görden prison in the last days of the war in Europe. Grünewald was one of the last Jehovah's Witnesses executed for refusing military service in Nazi Germany.

Born in Berlin-Charlottenburg, Grünewald grew up in the Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg district and became a Jehovah's Witness in 1935. Because of his religious beliefs, he was imprisoned four times between 1937 and 1939 and was placed in Jugendverwahrung (juvenile custody) in the Berlin-Lichtenberg district. Grünewald was baptized in 1939 during Operation Barbarossa. He worked in Berlin-Charlottenburg as a bricklayer, but was drafted into the Wehrmacht and sent to the Flak training school in Cottbus and stationed first with artillery units in Berlin and later with a Luftwaffe unit in Berlin-Lichtenberg. Grünewald was sentenced to death twice for refusing military service, first in Berlin-Moabit and later in Berlin-Charlottenburg. He spent the last months of his life in the Brandenburg-Görden prison, where he was executed with other Jehovah's Witnesses and other prisoners who had refused military service or deserted from the Wehrmacht.

From April to late October, Grünewald completed his compulsory Reich Labor Service (Reichsarbeitsdienst) in Jüterbog, Brandenburg, and was then drafted into the Wehrmacht. He was assigned to a Flak training school in Cottbus (Flakhelferschule) for the Flak (German anti-aircraft artillery) and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg. Grünewald was then transferred to a Luftwaffe unit in Berlin-Lichtenberg. Sometime during his military service, he was sentenced to death twice for refusing military service, first in Berlin-Moabit and later in Berlin-Charlottenburg. He was then placed in the Brandenburg-Görden prison, where he was executed on 18 November 1944 with other Jehovah's Witnesses and other prisoners who had refused military service or deserted from the Wehrmacht. Grünewald was one of at least 105 prisoners executed in the Brandenburg-Görden prison in the last days of the war in Europe. Grünewald was one of the last Jehovah's Witnesses executed for refusing military service in Nazi Germany.

Early life and career

Grünewald was born 2 November 1918 in Berlin-Charlottenburg, the son of Gustav Grünewald and his wife Ida (née Kaiser). Gustav was a bricklayer and Ida was a housewife. Alfred was the second of his three children, the other two being his sister, Gertrud, and younger brother Heinz.[1] The first person to the door, characterized by hastening to open the door and by a friendly greeting, was Gertrud, who became a Jehovah's Witness in 1934 by learning about it via Gertrud's friend, Gertrud Hoffmann, who was a Jehovah's Witness. Hoffmann, the daughter of a pastor, was baptized and offered to pass on the Jehovah's Witness literature she had received to her friend Gertrud Grünewald, who was a Jehovah's Witness.[2]

From Kant to Jehovah, Grünewald completed his compulsory Reich Labor Service (Reichsarbeitsdienst) in Jüterbog, Brandenburg, from April to late October 1938.[3] Jüterbog was a training camp for Jehovah's Witnesses.[4] Reichsarbeitsdienst was a compulsory labor service for all Germans aged 18 to 25 years, which was established in 1935 by the Nazi Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, or NSDAP) to indoctrinate young people with Nazi ideology.[5] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939 and was placed in Jugendverwahrung (juvenile custody) in the Berlin-Lichtenberg district.[6] Grünewald was imprisoned four times between 1937 and 1939 during Gestapo interrogations. Gestapo was the Nazi Party's secret police.[7] Grünewald was placed in Jugendverwahrung (juvenile custody) in the Berlin-Lichtenberg district because of his religious beliefs.[8] Grünewald was baptized in 1939 during Operation Barbarossa.[9] Grünewald was a bricklayer, but was drafted into the Wehrmacht and sent to the Flak training school in Cottbus (Flakhelferschule) for the Flak (German anti-aircraft artillery) and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg. Grünewald was then transferred to a Luftwaffe unit in Berlin-Lichtenberg.[10] Grünewald was sentenced to death twice for refusing military service, first in Berlin-Moabit and later in Berlin-Charlottenburg.[11] Grünewald spent the last months of his life in the Brandenburg-Görden prison, where he was executed with other Jehovah's Witnesses and other prisoners who had refused military service or deserted from the Wehrmacht.[12]

World War II

World War II in Europe began on 1 September 1939 and ended on 8 May 1945. Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[13] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[14] Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[15] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[16]

Refusal of the Second Oath

Following its brief stagnation in the Battle of Kursk, the Soviet Union's Red Army had begun its offensive against the Wehrmacht in the Battle of the Dnieper, which was fought from August to December 1943. The Soviet Union had begun its offensive against the Wehrmacht in the Battle of the Dnieper, which was fought from August to December 1943.[17] Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[18] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[19]

Alfred Grünewald

Birth name	Alfred Grünewald
Nickname(s)	Kurt
Born	2 November 1918 Berlin-Charlottenburg, Prussia, Germany
Died	18 November 1944 (26 years) Brandenburg-Görden prison, Nazi Germany
Cause of death	Execution by shooting
Resting place	Unknown
Nationality	German
Occupation	Bricklayer
Criminal status	Executed
Conviction	Refusal to swear the military oath
Criminal penalty	Death
Victims	105 executed
Date apprehended	1937–1939
Imprisonment	Jugendverwahrung (juvenile custody)
Other information	Jehovah's Witness

Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[20] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[21]

Refusal of the Oath

Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[22] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[23]

Imprisonment

Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[24] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[25]

Death and burial

Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[26] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[27]

Conclusion

Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[28] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[29]

Aftermath

Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[30] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[31]

Legacy

Grünewald was drafted into the Wehrmacht and was stationed in Berlin-Charlottenburg and Berlin-Lichtenberg.[32] Grünewald was baptized in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1939.[33]

See also

- Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nazi Party
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Wehrmacht
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Gestapo
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Holocaust
- Jehovah's Witness Conscientious Objectors in Nazi Germany
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nuremberg Laws
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nuremberg Trials
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nuremberg Trials
- Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nuremberg Trials