**INTERROGATION OF EMILE DUVAL**

*Date: 20 August 1944, the day after the liberation of the Septfonds camp.*

*Interrogation: of staff who worked for the Vichy regime.*

*Objective: to determine their degree of involvement in the life of the camp.*

*Conducted by: CTE.*

**Resistance fighter (R): Surname? First name? Age?**

Prisoner (P): Duval, Emile, 25 years.

**R: What was your role in this camp? Why did you work there? How did you end up here?**

P: Uh... I went to a youth work camp, and then I arrived here. I wanted to work, earn my living, and also serve my country and the Maréchal. Why was I working here? It seemed logical to me, we can’t allow refugees, foreigners and Jews to wander about our country unsupervised!

**R: Our questions are simple, please answer without giving your opinions! So, what group were you assigned to and what exactly were you doing?**

P: To no. 369, a group of foreign workers. My mission was only to guard them, to make sure they respected the rules, whether inside the camp or outside when they were working in the fields.

**R: Did you change jobs? Were you promoted?**

P: In '42, I was promoted to group leader.

**R: What were your relationships with your group and the detainees?**

P: As you can see, I am quite young, I had to make fathers who had their own children, respect me. It was not always obvious with the detainees, but I finally managed to assert my authority.

With the other guards we got along quite well, except for a few who didn't have the same opinions as me.

**R: I see, why was that? Can you be more specific?**

P: Well, let's say that when I had to conduct inspections in the huts, I saw changes in attitude, as if they thought I was a pushover or as if they were hiding something from me, I suspected they were smuggling spoons.

**R: What? Smuggling spoons! You must be joking Duval.**

P: No, I'm not! Not at all, the prisoners swopped spoons with each other. My colleagues and I had discussed it, some disappeared and others appeared.

**R: Spoon smuggling inside the camp! And when did this incredible story happen, I’m curious to find out?**

P: I don't know exactly. When I arrived, the camp was already built and I quickly realised that something fishy was going on. But in June 1941, I took advantage of a moment when I was accompanying a Spaniard, Alfonso, who worked at the hospital, to the village, to ask him if he knew anything. He acted as if he didn’t know what I was talking about and I didn’t find out anything. Yet I knew he was hiding something from me, I was sure of it.

**R: So, the gentleman is turning into a private detective now...**

P: Well anyway, it’s the truth! One summer evening, when I saw internees behaving strangely, I understood that something was going on. So, I decided to search the barracks with three other guards. When we entered, they didn't seem worried. I remember very well the smirk on their faces. We turned the whole hut upside down and that's when they took out their spoons. All of them! They had me fooled! Anyway, with people like that, the truth always comes out in the end. Their reputation as thieves is not just a myth.

**R: Watch what you say. They may be foreigners but many fought against the Nazis, while you and your little friends had a cushy job! Apart from this famous smuggling, were there any particular problems while you were in charge?**

P: I wouldn't call them problems, but rather complications. A few months later, two of my workers escaped while working in the field. And I was the one who was punished! I was demoted to the bottom of the ladder as a simple guard. After that, I tightened the screws.

**R: What else?**

P: A conflict with an officer older than me, Thebault, Commander Thebault. We didn’t agree on the release of the prisoners, he thought it would be better to release them after a year of internment. But I didn’t agree. He resigned some time after our dispute because he could no longer stand life in the camp nor the policy.

**R: What else?**

P: And then you arrived and liberated the camp. You freed all the prisoners, and now we’re the ones that are locked up, I don't understand... It’s unjust! France is going to the dogs!

**R: What? What’s that you said? Anyway, who cares, the wheel has turned Duval, you served the Nazis and the collaborators, don't boast about it! Now listen to me, I’ll tell you what’s going to happen: you will be handed over to the authorities so that you can be tried and justice will finally be done. You and your cronies won't get away with it!**

*This report of the resistance fighter was sent to the court at Montauban, Duval was judged 2 months later, for collaboration. He was given a sentence of 6 months in prison.*

*After serving his sentence, he returned to the Aveyron département and resumed his profession as a cabinetmaker.*