

AUSCHWITZINGE

Nazi guard who escaped justice now moans: My state pension's been cut



Defiant . . . Wendel, right, guarded the towers at camp



A NAZI guard who herded thousands of Jews off the train at Auschwitz claims that HE is a victim — as his pension has been cut.

Jakob Wendel, who served just five years for his part in the atrocity, says he is being punished by government officials docking his payment by around £47 a month.

A law was passed making it possible to cut the pensions of those who violated "principles of humanity" during the Nazi period.

Wendel, 91, spoke about his role in the Holocaust to a German magazine after a decision last month not to prosecute him.

He did so on the condition he kept his anonymity — but today The Sun names the monster.

And he whined to our reporter: "I was a victim of the regime too."

"I was robbed of ten years of my life by the German army. Around here, not many people know about it — I don't want them to know about it."

"Why should I be held responsible after 70 years?"

He was one of Hitler's feared SS henchmen who penned Jews into Auschwitz for extermination.

Now the father of three lives with his wife in a large apartment on a well-to-do estate near Stuttgart, in southern Germany.

Wendel was one of 30 surviving Nazis targeted by German prosecutors in 2013 as accessories to multiple murder as his role in the Holocaust was deemed so significant.

But state lawyers were forced to

EXCLUSIVE by BRIAN FLYNN
Investigations Editor, from Germany

abandon the case last month as a 1948 Polish court had already sentenced him to five years over his duties at the camp.

That term would have been longer but Jewish survivors sent to identify their captors did not pick him out from the ranks of PoWs.

He also avoided justice in the 1970s when he lied to prosecutors — and failed to mention he was part of the selection committee when trains arrived for unloading.

Wendel remained unrepentant as he spoke to The Sun, saying he bore no responsibility or guilt.

He said: "I sleep soundly because I did not do anything wrong. I knew it was a gas chamber. I never saw what happened inside, but you knew what they were."

"Many people arrived in trains and no one left. I never saw how they were killed in there but I knew no one came out."

"I can remember the smoke and the smell. I knew it was people burning. I never thought it was good, but I couldn't do anything."

Ethnic German Wendel grew up near Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and was drafted into the SS in 1942 when he was 19. He was posted at Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp for 2½ years until 1945.

Campaigners last night called for him to face justice. Dr Efraim Zuroff, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said: "I would like to see him put on trial and to end his miserable life in a prison cell."

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Wendel . . . with Sun man Brian

Drills for thrill pills

THIEVES tunneled into a chemist's shop and stole Viagra worth more than £100,000.

The gang broke into the basement of the building next door and used power drills to get into the storeroom where the sex pills were kept.

Police in Rome said hundreds were taken, along with drugs such as laxatives and painkillers.

A spokesman said: "We suspect they will all end up on the black market."

POPPY COINS

A limited edition of 2,014 £5 coins with a poppy on them have been minted to mark the WW1 centenary.

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Sun

POLICE charged a priest with aggravated violence after whipping "sinful" churchgoers with rosary beads and forcing them to lick the floor in Lanciano, Italy.

SPOT

'ILL' FINE AXE

A FACEBOOK campaign has forced a council to overturn a hospital parking fine imposed when a dad's meeting about his critically-ill wife overran.

Derek Weir, 61, appealed the £80 ticket at Queen's Hospital in Romford, Essex, but was rejected. But 125,000 people "liked" a page set up by furious daughter Heidi, 34, to slam the decision — and Havering Council backed down.

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