

Bernard Knezo Schönbrun's Caricature Of The Army Work Brigade In Presov, 1941-42



This photo shows my caricature of the army work brigade in Presov, during the years 1941-1942. Back then a person had to buy various little things, like for example a toothbrush, toothpaste, shoe polish, ... But I didn't have any money, and as I was quite good at drawing, I got a bright idea and said to myself that this was the way I should go. One of our friends there, Dr. Imrich Barna, had a camera. He took photos of the boys and for each photo of their face, I appended a caricature of his body according to his characteristics. That group tableau then hung in our unit commander's office. His name was Ocvirk. To each boy's face, which was a photo, I drew a body according to his particular characteristics. I got three crowns from each one of them for it. But what was even better, I made some brownie points with Ocvirk. He even hung the panel on the wall in his office. Once another non-com, Grohol, stopped by our commander's office, and saw the panel. Ocvirk was of course flattered by it, as he was pictured in the function of commander in it. Grohol asked him, 'What's this you've got here?? I've got very clever Jew-boys, and this one is good at drawing.? Would you lend me this Jew-boy?? So I ended up in Grohol's office. Our job there was to record army things being sent to the Eastern Front.