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INSIDE THE GAS CHAMBERS

THE EXTERMINATION OF MAINSTREAM HOLOCAUST HISTORIOGRAPHY

CARLO MATTOGNO

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Inside the Gas Chambers

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By Carlo Mattogno

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Foreword

By Jürgen Graf

1. The Definitive Establishment of Total Historical Truth

In reaction to the spectacular advances of revisionist historical research after the mid-1970s, an anthology entitled *Nationalsozialistische Massentötungen durch Giftgas*[1] (*National Socialist Mass Killings by Means of Toxic Gas*) appeared in Germany in 1983. (An English translation with the title *Nazi Mass Murder* followed ten years later.) Its main editors were

- Eugen Kogon (1903-1987), former Buchenwald detainee and author of the book *Der SS-Staat* (1946), which is steeped in coarse political propaganda of the early post-war period;
- Hermann Langbein (1912-1995), former communist combatant, Dachau and Auschwitz detainee and co-founder and activist of the International Auschwitz Committee, founded in 1974;
- Adalbert Rückerl (1925-1986), at the time head of the German Central Office of the State Justice Administrations for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes (*Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen zur Aufklärung nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen*).

The introduction to this collection included a paragraph which could not but arouse suspicion in the mind of a non-partisan reader:

> *"People who attempt to clear the national-socialist system of any guilt are trying to profit from the incredible character of the events. Some will go so far as to deny outright the mass murder of a heretofore unimaginable degree. In order to fight such tendencies effectively and limit their propagation, the whole historical truth must be definitively stated once and for all. A group of 24 specialists from 6 different countries has consecrated itself to this cause."*

Historical research, just like any other discipline, is always open for revisions and thus can never be settled in a definitive way, and attempting to impose a certain vision, taken by some to be true, in such a dogmatic and unscientific manner, is proof of an unscientific approach. Such endeavors pave the way for an imposition of this dogma by means of the penal code. Revisions may be judged to be superfluous if we are dealing with matters that are clearly established by scientific proof and no serious objections can

[1] Eugen Kogon, Hermann Langbein, Adalbert Rückerl *et al.* (eds.), *Nationalsozialistische Massentötungen durch Giftgas*, Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt upon Main 1983; Engl.: *Nazi Mass Murder*, Yale University Press, New Haven 1993.

be raised. This would apply, for example, to the fact that the Battle of Waterloo took place in 1815, that Adolf Hitler became Germany's Chancellor on 30 January 1933, or that the US Air Force dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945. Anyone asserting that the Battle of Waterloo did not take place in 1815 but in 1789, that Adolf Hitler was nominated Chancellor not on 30 January 1933, but on 9 November 1918, or that the atom bombs which struck Hiroshima and Nagasaki were a product of Japanese black propaganda would be generally ignored. Such theories might be mentioned as curiosities in newspapers, but no serious historian would waste his time refuting them. The mere fact that "a group of 24 specialists from 6 different countries has consecrated itself to this cause" of definitively proving "the mass murder of a heretofore unimaginable degree" would indicate that already in the early 1980s Holocaust revisionism had become so significant that the proponents of the orthodox version of history could no longer afford to ignore it.

2. A Brief Review of the History of Revisionism prior to 1983

The Frenchman Paul Rassinier may rightly be called the founder of revisionism. He was a socialist and a member of the resistance in occupied France during WW2; arrested in 1943 by the Gestapo, he was tortured, deported to Buchenwald and later taken to the Dora-Mittelbau camp. In his post-war book *Le Mensonge d'Ulysse* ("Ulysses' Lie," 1950) Rassinier attacked the blatant exaggerations by former detainees about conditions in the German camps. For several years he carried out his own studies about homicidal gassings and came to the conclusion that such gassings had never been carried out or were attributable only to a few individual madmen. Three years before his death, in 1964, he wrote[2]:

> *"Over the last 15 years, whenever I heard of someone in a European country not occupied by the Soviet Union who claimed to have witnessed gassings, I travelled there to hear his account. Every time, though, things took the same course: on the basis of my file, I asked the witness a number of detailed questions only to hear the same obvious lies over and over again; in the end, he always had to admit that he had not seen the alleged scenes himself but had merely repeated the account given to him by a trustworthy friend who had died in a camp. I covered literally thousands of miles all over Europe."*

In 1976, Arthur Butz, professor of electrical engineering at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA, published a study entitled *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*,[3] which went considerably beyond Rassi-

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[2] Paul Rassinier, *Le drame des juifs européens*, Les Sept Couleurs, Paris 1964, p. 79.

[3] Arthur Butz, *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, Historical Review Press, Brighton 1976; 3rd, exp. ed., Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2003.

nier's various works. Butz compared the scenario drawn up by leading Holocaust historians, such as Gerald Reitlinger and Raul Hilberg, concerning the alleged eradication of the Jews with war-time reports and concluded that, on the subject of the killing methods allegedly employed and at least partly also regarding the alleged locations, the story had fundamentally changed. He also raised the question as to whether it would have been possible to hide an industrial genocide in extermination camps over any length of time. His answer was unambiguous: for any number of reasons such a cover-up would have been impossible. If the Allies had presented the Vatican or the International Committee of the Red Cross with proof of systematic mass murder, these institutions would have reacted without hesitation. They did not, however. While criticizing severely the persecution of Jews, they never spoke of gas chambers or extermination camps.[4] Butz concluded that the stories about gas chambers and exterminations were nothing but black propaganda which was continued after the war for political reasons.

The year 1978 saw the publication, in Germany, of a book entitled *Der Auschwitz-Mythos* (The Auschwitz Myth) by Wilhelm Stäglich.[5] Stäglich dealt primarily with the two basic pillars of the orthodox Auschwitz edifice, viz. the account written by the erstwhile Auschwitz commander Rudolf Höß while detained in a Krakow prison, and the verdict of the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial (1963-1965). He concluded that both elements were untrustworthy from any point of view: Höß's account was so full of contradictions and absurdities as to deprive it of any legal value, while the Frankfurt trial blatantly disregarded the elementary rules applying to a court of law, such as the precedence taken by factual or documentary proof over witness testimony.

Even more decisive than the books by Butz and Stäglich were the investigations of the French professor Robert Faurisson. Faurisson was convinced that any critical appraisal of alleged gassings at Auschwitz would have to begin with the weapon of the crime. He drew up a comparison between the rooms at Auschwitz which are labelled as "gas chambers" by orthodox historiography with rooms which have actually been used for executions with hydrogen cyanide in the United States since 1924. An execution using this poison was a dangerous and complicated act. The delinquent was strapped onto a chair, and then a certain amount of cyanide was dropped by the executioner from the outside into a container filled with

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4 On the Vatican's attitude see esp. Robert Faurisson, *Le révisionnisme de Pie XII*, Graphos, Genoa 2002; Engl.: *Pope Pius XII's Revisionism*, Historical Review Press, Uckfield 2006.

5 Wilhelm Stäglich, *Der Auschwitz-Mythos*, Grabert Verlag, Tübingen 1978; Engl.: *Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence*, 2nd ed., Institute for Historical Revisionism, Newport Beach 1990.

sulfuric acid. Fatal vapors of hydrogen cyanide were liberated in the process. The delinquent would lose consciousness within 45 seconds and died within 8 or 10 minutes. The gas chamber would then be ventilated for 15 minutes, another 30 minutes later a physician and two helpers, protected by gas masks, entered the chamber and removed the corpse.[6] Faurisson compared this procedure with the description given by Rudolf Höß, according to which the *Sonderkommando* would enter the gas chamber – which was full of corpses – some 30 minutes after the death of the victims without any gas masks, for, as we know from Höß, the members of the *Kommando* used to smoke and eat while removing the corpses. Faurisson concludes that the *Sonderkommando* members would have died on the spot and that, furthermore, any gassings in the poorly sealed rooms at Auschwitz would have quickly caused a chemical catastrophe in the whole camp.

On 29 December 1978 and on 16 January 1979, Faurisson succeeded in publishing two articles in the French newspaper *Le Monde* expounding these arguments.[7] Thereupon 32 French scholars published a reply in the same newspaper on 21 February 1979, declaring:

> *"We must not ask ourselves how such mass murder was technically possible. It was technically possible because it took place."*

In addition to Butz, Stäglich, and Faurisson, a number of high-caliber revisionist authors started speaking out toward the end of the 1970s. In Germany Udo Walendy started publishing his valuable journal *Historische Tatsachen*; in France, Faurisson received the support of revisionists like Serge Thion and Pierre Guillaume; in the US, under the leadership of Willis Carto, the *Journal of Historical Review* began to appear in 1979. The collection *Nazi Mass Murder* was obviously meant as the court historians' rebuttal of this worrisome revision of the officially sanctioned scenario.

3. *Nazi Mass Murder*: The Argumentative Structure of an Anti-Revisionist Anthology

When reading through this collection one is struck by the almost unbelievable fact that no revisionist scholar is mentioned by name, that no revisionist work is quoted and no revisionist argument is addressed for any kind of scrutiny. This aspect by itself casts a glaring spotlight on the propagandistic and unscientific character of the book and reveals the absurdity of

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[6] A detailed description of the U.S. gas chambers can be found in: Serge Thion, *Vérité historique ou vérité politique?*, La Vieille Taupe, Paris 1980; see also: Fred Leuchter, Robert Faurisson, Germar Rudolf, *The Leuchter Reports*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, IL, 2005.

[7] Robert Faurisson, "Le problème des chambres à gaz" ou "La rumeur d'Auschwitz," *Le Monde*, 29 December 1978; *idem.*, "Droit de réponse," *Le Monde*, 16 January 1979. Both articles are included in R. Faurisson, *Ecrits révisionnistes* (1974-1998), private edition, Vichy 2004, pp. 123, 133.

its arrogant claim that "the whole historical truth must be carved in stone once and for all" – anyone claiming to search for "the whole truth" must not shy away from a dispute with his opponents and their arguments.

A large part of this volume dealt with the so-called *Euthanasia* – the killing of mentally ill persons by the authorities of the Third Reich, which is not denied by the revisionists. Their past and present doubts (but not outright denial) concern merely the allegations that the killings were carried out by means of carbon monoxide gas supplied in steel bottles – there is no documentary proof for this. As the historic fact of euthanasia is not put in doubt, the question of the means used (carbon monoxide or injections?) would as such appear to be of secondary importance. Seen from the point of view of the orthodox historians, however, its great significance becomes clear in that the alleged mass killings of Jews in the "Eastern extermination camps" such as Bełżec, Sobibór, and Treblinka are depicted as a logical sequel to the Euthanasia Action.

An alert reader of this collection will soon notice that no documentary evidence exists for the alleged mass killings of Jews in gas chambers or gas vans. In an effort to get around this predicament, the authors made use of a sleight-of-hand, already used at the Nuremberg Trials, which was characterized in the following way by Carlo Mattogno[8]:

> *"At Nuremberg the inquisitors invented this absurd method of proof which allows reading into any document a meaning which cannot be found explicitly. This method of interpretation is based on the arbitrary and unfounded axiom that even in the most secret documents the NS authorities had employed a kind of code language, the key to which the Nuremberg inquisitors obviously claimed to have found. Thus, even the most innocent documents could be falsely interpreted in the sense of a thesis of extermination."*

In *Nazi Mass Murder* this technique was taken to a new level: on pp. 5-12 Rückerl provides us with a "decoding of the encoded notions." Like his predecessors, he regards words like "*Auswanderung*" (emigration) or "*Evakuierung*" (evacuation) as euphemisms for "physical extermination." He also distorts words which begin with "*Sonder-*," like "*Sonderbehandlung*" (special treatment), "*Sonderaktion*" (special action), "*Sondermaßnahmen*" (special measures). These designations, while sometimes being used as synonyms for "execution,"[9] could in other cases signify housing of famous enemy personalities in princely conditions and with additional food rations.[10] The topic "Special Treatment in Auschwitz" has been dealt with by

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8 Carlo Mattogno, *La soluzione finale*, Edizioni di Ar, Padua 1991, pp. 64f.

9 According to a decree of the RSHA as quoted on page 17 of the discussed anthology, severe crimes committed by foreign workers were to be punished by "special treatment by the rope." 3040-PS.

10 IMT, vol. XI, pp. 338f.

Mattogno in a separate book, published in 2003, which presents a number of Auschwitz documents containing "*Sonder*-" composites. He proves that in not even a single case did these words have a criminal connotation, yet instead often referred to hygienic, life-saving measures.[11]

Seeing the meagerness of such "documentary evidence," the authors of this collection felt obliged to make use of a large number of testimonies as "proof" for the mass killings by means of gas, some of which could only provoke incredulity. (In his article about the gas chamber of Mauthausen Hans Marsalek, on p. 247, quotes the verdict of a U.S. court, according to which the "gas cell" was preheated with a hot brick and the gas was introduced "bound on shreds of paper"!) Judged superficially, most of the testimonies and confessions did not appear to be contradictory and could thus be taken to be convincing at first sight. There is a significant reason for that: The editors had carefully combed through the corresponding statements and removed any obviously absurd passages. A significant example is the brief paragraph from an account by the SS officer Kurt Gerstein on the subject of alleged gassings of Jews in the Bełżec camp, quoted on pp. 171f. (German edition) by the Israeli historian Yitzhak Arad, where the author leaves out a line speaking of 700 to 800 victims herded into a 25 sqm chamber (*i.e.* some three persons per square foot!). Furthermore, the author omits Gerstein's repeated references to a diesel engine being used as the murder weapon, which would have roused the suspicion of any reader with some basic knowledge of toxicology.[12]

There is hardly any need to mention that this collection never discusses the fantastic stories published during the war and in the early post-war years, which proffered the most outrageously varying accounts of killing methods. At the time, most witnesses spoke of electric current as having been the means used at Bełżec. In 1945, a certain Dr. Stefan Szende asserted that "millions" of Jews met their death in gigantic subterranean water basins through high-voltage current.[13] According to another key witness for Bełżec, the non-Jewish Pole Jan Karski, the Jews were herded and locked into cattle cars whose floor was covered with unslaked lime which burnt the flesh off the living victims.[14]

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[11] Carlo Mattogno, *Special Treatment. Origin and Meaning of a Term*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, IL, 2004.

[12] Due to their high oxygen and low carbon monoxide contents, diesel exhaust gases are not at all suited for killing people; any gasoline engine would have been far more efficient. One year after the appearance of the German original edition of *Nazi Mass Murder*, U.S. revisionist Friedrich P. Berg published a well-founded paper about this ("The Diesel Gas Chambers: Myth within a Myth," *Journal of Historical Review*, vol. 5, no. 1, Spring 1984, pp. 15-46).

[13] Stefen Szende, *Der letzte Jude aus Polen*, Europa Verlag, Zürich 1945.

[14] Jan Karski, *Story of a Secret State*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston 1944, pp. 339-351.

In the case of Sobibór, the most important witnesses named chlorine as having been the killing agent, or an ill-defined "black fluid" which was poured into the death chamber through holes in its ceiling. Most witnesses state that the gas chamber had a moveable floor through which the corpses fell either into a pit or into a railroad freight-car.[15]

Passing on to Treblinka, we encounter a long report distributed by the underground resistance movement of the Warsaw ghetto, according to which two million Jews had been killed there by means of hot steam.[16] Once the Red Army had liberated the Treblinka area, a Soviet commission asserted that the Germans had suffocated three million Jews to death in that camp by herding them into sealed chambers and removing the air.[17] Later on, during the Nuremberg Trial, the Polish government revived the steam version; a document presented by Poland spoke of "several hundred thousands of people" having by murdered by hot steam in the Treblinka camp.[18]

The year 1946/47 saw the switch-over to chambers using toxic gases. As it was most incredible that in the three camps, all run by the same authority, such diverse methods of murder had been applied, all these variants were dumped into the trashcan of history and replaced by chambers using the exhaust gases of combustion engines. This version had been proposed by the confessions of Kurt Gerstein who claimed to have witnessed a gassing operation at Bełżec employing the exhaust gases from a diesel engine.

The case of Auschwitz is no less enlightening. In the period between 24 October 1941 and 7 July 1944, the Polish underground resistance published a total of 32 reports about this camp, depicting it as an extermination camp. The means used were described as having been poison gasses, an imaginary gas called "Kreuzolit," "electric baths" as well as a "pneumatic hammer"; whereas "Zyklon B" was never mentioned. The gas chambers themselves, according to these reports, were not in the crematories but in "houses in a forest."[19]

Very tactfully, the authors of *Nazi Mass Murder* treat these stories with complete silence.

The revisionists did not react with a comprehensive reply to this orthodox onslaught against critical, well-reasoned historiography. This is not really surprising, as revisionist scholarship was still in its infancy at that

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15 Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, Carlo Mattogno, *Sobibór. Holocaust Propaganda and Reality*, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.

16 K. Marczewska, W. Ważniewski, "Treblinka w świetle Akt Delegatury Rządu RP na Kraji," *Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce*, vol. XIX, Warsaw 1968, pp. 136ff.

17 Gosudarstvenny Arkhiv Rossiskoj Federatsii, Moscow, 7021-115-9, p. 108.

18 Nuremberg Document PS-3311.

19 Enrique Aynat, "Die Berichte des polnischen Widerstandes über die Gaskammern von Auschwitz," *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung*, 8(2) (2004), pp. 150-166.

time. For reasons evident, the revisionists had concentrated almost completely on Auschwitz. There were as yet no revisionist works dealing with the "*Aktion Reinhardt*" camps (Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka) or with the gas vans. Over the years, there have been fundamental changes, though.

4. The Evolution of Revisionist Scholarship from the Late 1980s Onward

In 1988, the Toronto court of appeals handled the appeal lodged by Ernst Zündel, a German-Canadian revisionist.[20] During the appeal trial, Zündel and Faurisson called for an expert opinion by Fred Leuchter, a U.S. specialist employed in the installation and maintenance of gas chambers which were still in use for executions in some U.S. states at the time. The expert opinion was to cover the rooms labeled gas chambers at Auschwitz I, Birkenau and Majdanek. In February of 1988, accompanied by a small group of assistants, Leuchter flew to Poland, visited the sites and then wrote the first ever technical expert opinion on the "crime scenes" of the "greatest mass murder" in history.[21] His conclusions covered three issues:

- The "gas chambers" were not designed as such and could not have been used for such a purpose.
- The capacity of the crematoria would have allowed for the incineration of only a fraction of the alleged victims.
- Chemical analyses carried out (not by Leuchter himself but by a chemist called Dr. James Roth) on samples taken from the walls of the "gas chambers" showed no or only insignificant traces of cyanic residues, whereas a control sample taken from a Zyklon B delousing chamber revealed enormously high cyanide contents.

The *Leuchter Report* had its undeniable weaknesses also in the eyes of revisionist researchers,[22] but its function as an ice-breaker cannot be overestimated. In the years between 1990 and 1993, the German accredited chemist Germar Rudolf analyzed the *Leuchter Report* in detail. A considerably enlarged new German edition of his report was published in 2001,[23] while the latest English edition of 2011 has been greatly expanded and re-

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[20] Cf. Robert Lenski, *Der Holocaust vor Gericht*, 2nd ed., Uckfield 2010.

[21] Fred Leuchter, *An engineering report on the alleged "gas chambers" at Auschwitz, Birkenau and Majdanek, Poland*, Toronto 1988; cf. Fred Leuchter, Robert Faurisson, Germar Rudolf, *The Leuchter Reports. Critical Edition*, 2nd ed., Washington, DC, 2011.

[22] For example, the cremation capacity claimed by Leuchter was too low, and he claimed erroneously that the "gas chambers" had no ventilation system. Just as flawed was his hypothesis that gas chambers could not have been located in the same building as incineration ovens due to the high explosivity of hydrogen cyanide. Such a danger would have existed only at extremely high concentrations of hydrogen cyanide. See apart from F. Leuchter, R. Faurisson, Germar Rudolf, *ibid.*, also Carlo Mattogno, *Holocausto: Dilettanti allo sbaraglio*, Edizioni di Ar, Padua 1996, pp. 212ff.

[23] Germar Rudolf, *Das Rudolf Gutachten*, 2nd ed., Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 2001.

vised.[24] Rudolf came to the conclusion that the mass gassings reported by the witnesses for Auschwitz could not have taken place for structural and chemical reasons:

- At the alleged time, the holes for the introduction of Zyklon B were missing; the granules could not have been introduced in the manner described by the witnesses.
- Hydrogen cyanide reacts with some of the substances contained in the brickwork. The most stable of the resulting compounds is the pigment Iron Blue or Berlin Blue, which originally provided the German name for hydrogen cyanide ("*Blausäure*," *i.e.* blue acid). If mass gassings had taken place in the "gas chambers," Iron Blue should have been found in quantities comparable to their presence in the brickwork of disinfestation chambers, but the walls of the "gas chambers" contain only non-reproducible amounts of cyanide, close to the detection limits.

The enormous upswing which revisionism experienced in the early 1990s was primarily due to Germar Rudolf and Carlo Mattogno. In 1994, Rudolf published the revisionist anthology *Grundlagen zur Zeitgeschichte*[25] under the pseudonym Ernst Gauss. In it, the essential aspects of the "Holocaust" topic were discussed. An enlarged English edition appeared later under the title *Dissecting the Holocaust*.[26] From 1996 onwards, Rudolf acted as the editor of the academically demanding *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung* (Quarterly Journal for Free Historical Research), regularly publishing his own articles there as well; he also supervised the publication of a large number of revisionist works by the publishing companies Castle Hill Publishers (England) and Theses & Dissertation Press (USA) which he had founded. In 2005, he summarized, in the form of dialogues, the most important revisionist arguments in a book entitled *Vorlesungen über den Holocaust*.[27] Lacking convincing counter-arguments, the Holocaust lobby had to be satisfied by a personal vendetta directed against Rudolf. In November of 2005, he was expelled from the USA, where he had been living with his American wife and daughter, and handed over to Germany where he was imprisoned until July of 2009. This persecution was too late, though, as Rudolf's work had already been done by that time.

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[24] G. Rudolf, W. Lambrecht, *The Rudolf Report*, 2nd, revised ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011.

[25] Ernst Gauss (ed.), *Grundlagen zur Zeitgeschichte*, Grabert Verlag, Tübingen 1994.

[26] Germar Rudolf (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust*, 2nd. ed., Theses & Dissertation Press, Chicago 2003.

[27] Germar Rudolf, *Vorlesungen über den Holocaust*, Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 2005; 2nd ed. The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.

In contrast to the German citizen Rudolf, the Italian citizen Mattogno has so far enjoyed the benefits of living in a country which has not (yet) fettered historiography (although the Italian Holocaust lobby has been trying and keeps trying to change that; if they succeed, such a measure will come into force too late to be effective.)

In the years after 1985, Mattogno has devoted the better part of his creativity to the elucidation of the fate of the Jews during the Second World War. His impressive activity when it comes to Auschwitz, culminating in the gigantic two-volume work *Auschwitz—The Case for Sanity*,[28] has been complemented by research into the other alleged extermination camps. For his studies on Majdanek[29] and Treblinka[30] as well as Stutthof,[31] labeled an "auxiliary extermination camp" by the Polish historical literature, I was able to assist him as a project initiator and co-author; the Bełżec[32] und Chelmno[33] camps he has handled by himself. The final one of the "extermination camps," Sobibór, we both covered together with the Swedish researcher Thomas Kues in a 500-page study.[15] I regard my contribution to this work as the epitome of my work as a revisionist.

Today the most significant revisionist author next to Mattogno is Thomas Kues, who is presently conducting a thorough analysis of the fate of those Jews who were deported to the East by the Germans, aimed at depriving orthodox Holocaust historians of their last remaining argument: What happened to the deported Jews, if they were not gassed?

5. "New Studies" – or Old Wine in New Skins

The "democratic" system reacted to the progress of revisionism by increasing Holocaust propaganda and by intensifying repression. Muzzling laws were foisted upon one European nation after another, and subsequently many revisionists landed behind bars, some of them for many years. But there were some people in the Holocaust lobby who found that propaganda

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[28] Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz. The Case for Sanity*, The Barnes Review, Washington 2010.

[29] Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *KL Majdanek. Eine historische und technische Studie*, Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 1998; Engl.: *Concentration Camp Majdanek*, 3rd ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2012.

[30] Carlo Mattogno, Jürgen Graf, *Treblinka – Vernichtungslager oder Durchgangslager?*, Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 2002; Engl.: *Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, reprint of 2nd ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.

[31] Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Das Konzentrationslager Stutthof und seine Funktion in der nationalsozialistischen Judenpolitik*, Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 1999; Engl.: *Concentration Camp Stutthof*, 3rd ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC (in press).

[32] Carlo Mattogno, *Bełżec. Propaganda, Zeugenaussagen, archäologische Untersuchungen, historische Fakten*, Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 2004; Engl.: *Bełżec in Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research, and History*, reprint, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011.

[33] Carlo Mattogno, *Il campo di Chełmno tra storia e propaganda*, effepi, Genoa 2009; Engl.:, *The Chełmno Camp in History and Propaganda*, Washington, DC, 2011.

and the terror of a police state were not enough. Something had to be done to counter the arguments of the "deniers." Hence, on the 25th anniversary of the publication of the original German edition of *Nazi Mass Murder*, a meeting dealing with "New Studies on National Socialist Mass Killings by Poison Gas" was organized. Three years later, the lectures given there were published in an anthology (no doubt with the usual corrections and enlargements added later) bearing the same title, whose editors were Günter Morsch and Bertrand Perz.[34]

Even a cursory examination of the book reveals the following points:

1. An over-emphasis on euthanasia

No less than six contributions (covering a total of 61 pages) are devoted to "euthanasia," the historical truth of which has never been put in doubt by anyone. What might be discussed in this connection are the means employed and possibly the number of victims. Unqualified as I am to pronounce myself on this topic, I shall not comment on it. Therefore, my criticism below does not refer to these texts.

2. The "Aktion Reinhardt camps": Ten pages and ten lines for 1.3 million "gassed" victims

In an article entitled "Mass killings by poison gas within the framework of '*Aktion Reinhardt*'" ("Massentötungen durch Giftgas im Rahmen der 'Aktion Reinhardt'"), Dieter Pohl sets the number of Jews allegedly gassed at Bełżec, Sobibór, and Treblinka at "roughly 95% of at least 1,366,000" persons (S. 193). This group of 1.3 million alleged victims is discussed on ten pages and ten lines (pp. 185 to 195) out of a total of 477 pages. This corresponds to one sixth of the number of pages devoted to the victims of euthanasia (allegedly 70,273[35] according to official sources)!

It had to be expected that Pohl would not write a single word about the revisionist studies on Treblinka and Bełżec, which have been available since 2002 and 2004, respectively. What could he have replied? But the fact that he brazenly distorts the archeological findings on the Bełżec site takes the cake, as it were. On p.193, he writes:

> *"New findings have resulted from the archeological digs on the camp sites as well as from aerial photographs of the Luftwaffe taken in 1943 and 1944. A precise topography of the camp sites, especially the locations of the mass graves and of the gas chambers, can now be established with greater accuracy. For Bełżec in particular, this has led to a significant enhancement of what we know."*

[34] Günter Morsch, Bertrand Perz (eds.), *Neue Studien zu nationalsozialistischen Massentötungen durch Giftgas*, Metropol Verlag, Berlin 2011.

[35] *Ibid.*, p. 84.

Pohl's source is given here as follows: Andrzej Kola, *Bełżec. The Nazi Camp for Jews in the Light of Archeological Sources. Excavations 1997-1999*, Warsaw-Washington 2000. Robin O'Neil, "Bełżec – The 'Forgotten' Death Camp," in: *East European Jewish Affairs* 28 (1998), No. 2, pp. 49-62. It is, however, a fact that neither Kola nor O'Neil, in their soundings and digs at the Bełżec site, discovered even the slightest trace of the two gas chamber buildings mentioned by "witnesses,"[36] and that O'Neil admitted this quite frankly:[37]

> *"We found no trace of gassing barracks, neither for the first nor for the second construction phase of the camp."*

It is obvious that nobody could be gassed at Bełżec if there were no buildings housing the gas chambers!

3. A considerable rise in the alleged number of victims of gas vans compared to previous Holocaust writings

The total number of Jews killed in gas vans is given by Richard Evans as 700,000 (p. 9) and by Achim Trunk as 500,000 (p. 24). Out of these, some 250,000 are said to have met their death on the territory of the Soviet Union (*ibid*.) and 152,477 in Chelmno (p. 183). The authors don't explain what happened to the remaining ca. 100,000 to 300,000 victims. The reason for this strong increase beyond the traditional Holocaust figures is easy to comprehend: the alleged mass killings in stationary gas chambers are questioned by revisionists not only on the basis of historical but also technical arguments. On the other hand, it is obvious that people can be killed in a closed van by means of suitably introduced engine exhaust gases, and thus the tale of the gas vans cannot be refuted by technical arguments only. It is therefore in the obvious interest of the concerned circles to inflate the proportion of "gas van" victims within the total number of people allegedly gassed.

4. Playing up the alleged gassings at the Mauthausen, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, Neuengamme and Stutthof camps

A total of 59 pages have been devoted to the alleged gassings in the Mauthausen, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, Neuengamme and Stutthof camps, which is six times more pages than those discussing the three "*Aktion Reinhardt*" camps and two and a half times more than those dealing with the Auschwitz camp. At first sight this appears odd, all the more so as Raul Hilberg, in his standard treatise *The Destruction of the European Jews*, does not claim any gassings for these five camps, and because they would not be necessary at all in order to prop up the orthodox Holocaust

[36] See on this C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 32), chapter 4.
[37] Robin O'Neil, "Bełżec – The forgotten Death Camp," in: *East European Jewish Affairs*, 28 (2) (1998-1999), p. 55.

narrative in view of the small number of people allegedly killed there (a total of a few thousand).

There are two reasons for the authors' persistent occupation with these rather insignificant gas chambers, though: For one thing, an admission that nobody was gassed in these camps and that, hence, all testimonies to killings by gas at those sites are false, would lead an attentive reader to the question, why witness statements concerning gas killings at Auschwitz, Treblinka, Sobibór or Bełżec should be more trustworthy than those about Ravensbrück, Sachsenhausen or Mauthausen.

A second and very important reason for this state of affairs is underlined by Mattogno: The articles were written by historians and employees working at the various memorial sites who seem to possess a perverted sense of pride that "their" camp, too, could at least boast of a small gas chamber and thus contributed its share to the Holocaust. It is not enough for them that in "their" camp tens of thousands of people died from disease, malnutrition, or exhaustion. "Without any gas chamber of their own to boast of, these narrow-gauge historians feel excluded from the pack," states Mattogno in the present work.

For lack of any documentary evidence, these dodgy historians feel obliged to accept even the most foolish witness accounts and the most absurd confessions as legal tender. Morsch himself, who is working for the Sachsenhausen memorial, is the most daring of the lot. He reveals to his stunned audience that at Sachsenhausen, aside from Jews, Soviet PoWs and sick inmates, even German soldiers were gassed (p. 271).

5. The missing refutation of the "revisionist deniers"

In spite of the initial promise to unmask the "revisionists of history" who "disregard the fundamental rules of scholarly historiography and who present history selectively" and to provide "suggestions and concepts for dealing with revisionist denials" (pp. XI f.), an examination of revisionist arguments, as announced, does not take place. In the introduction, Morsch and Perz write (p. XXIX):

> *"The revisionist strategies of denial were reinforced with pseudo-scientific arguments and were disseminated widely in society.* […] *But our concern cannot be to address pseudo-scientific arguments in order to refute them, as this would ultimately result in honoring their representatives and the abstruse theories they defend."*

While mentioning some revisionists in his chapter "Killings by means of toxic gas in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp ("Tötungen durch Giftgas im Konzentrationslager Sachsenhausen"), Morsch strictly follows this procedure otherwise and keeps completely mum about the most detailed analysis of the alleged mass murders at Sachsenhausen, provided by

a German paper authored by Mattogno in 2003.[38] It's as simple as that for the court historians!

The only author who at least tries to refute this or that argument put forward by the revisionists is Achim Trunk, author of the chapter "The lethal gasses" ("Die todbringenden Gase") but he fails miserably, as Mattogno demonstrates in chapter 1 of the present volume.

Thanks to his profound knowledge, acquired over more than two decades of research, Mattogno relentlessly dissects the elements of "proof" advanced by the authors of this anthology and unmasks these historians for what they really are: at best incompetent and naïve amateurs, at worst blatant impostors. The total bankruptcy of orthodox historiography cannot be made any more devastating than by comparing *Neue Studien zu nationalsozialistischen Massentötungen durch Giftgas* with Mattogno's reply. The Great Lie can only be maintained by brainwashing, censorship and repression – for the time being.

As stated above, this merciless judgment does not apply to the authors of the chapters on "euthanasia." It may well be that what they say about this point does correspond more or less to the facts. Neither Mattogno nor I can assess this topic. We also have to exempt from this accusation the author of the chapter "The gas chamber in the Natzweiler concentration camp" ("Die Gaskammer im Konzentrationslager Natzweiler"). For me, who translated Mattogno's book from Italian to German, the conclusion that a gassing was "probably" perpetrated in the Alsatian camp at Natzweiler was very surprising. In August of 1943, 86 Jews were sent to the Natzweiler camp from Auschwitz and were subsequently murdered. The documents do not permit any doubt in this regard. The criminal deed was initiated by an SS professor who wanted to prepare a collection of Jewish skeletons. Without providing us with any clear documentary evidence, Mattogno believes that the murders were probably carried out by means of phosgene gas. By allowing such a hypothesis, the Italian researcher risks being rebuked by other revisionist historians. The fact that he accepts this risk proves that he does spread neither black nor white propaganda but is trying to do serious science.

Both the followers and the opponents of revisionism will wonder: if Mattogno, the leading revisionist historian, suspects that the gassing action at Natzweiler did in fact take place, could it not be that gassing actions also took place at other locations? The only answer which we, as revisionists, are able to provide in this respect is: if we are presented with proof or at least with circumstantial evidence pointing to such gassings, we shall take them into serious account. Passing over counter-arguments with complete

[38] C. Mattogno, "KL Sachsenhausen. Stärkemeldungen und 'Vernichtungsaktionen' 1940 bis 1945," *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung*, 7(2) (2003), pp. 173-185.

silence is something the other side may practice. They have decades of experience in this field.

16 August 2011

Introduction

In 2008 an international meeting of historians took place at Oranienburg, a northern suburb of Berlin, Germany. Three years later, the papers presented there were published as a collection by Günter Morsch and Bertrand Perz (and assisted by Astrid Ley) under the title *Neue Studien zu nationalsozialistischen Massentötungen durch Giftgas* (*New Studies on the National Socialist Mass Killings by Poison Gas*). In his foreword, Thomas Krüger describes the contents and the structure of this book with the following words (p. XII):

> *"This anthology summarizes new findings resulting from the international scientific meeting devoted to the topic 'Mass murder by means of poison gas.' It describes the aims and structures of revisionist propaganda and presents suggestions and concepts for the treatment of revisionist denial."*

As early as 1983, an anthology with the title *Nationalsozialistische Massentötungen durch Giftgas. Eine Dokumentation*[39] had appeared, claiming to refute revisionism by way of scientific historical methods. Still, in the introduction to the book being discussed here, Morsch and Perz are forced to admit that "questions and denials did not decrease after the publication of the collection in 1983" (p. XV) and that a new effort has thus become necessary.

The new work has six parts:

1. "Mass killings by poison gas: Scientific appraisal and memory."
2. "Technical and pharmacological aspects and the significance of remainders."
3. "The killing institutions of *Aktion 'T4'*."
4. "Poison gas as a means of genocide in gas vans and extermination camps."
5. "Murder by gas in the concentration camps located in the '*Altreich*' at Mauthausen, Stutthof und Natzweiler."
6. "The 'gas chamber lie' in the international revisionist propaganda."

The significance of each contribution varies greatly. Some of them are so unimportant and have so little to do with the objectives of the Oranienburg meeting that they are hardly worth being discussed in any detail. This applies especially to the article "How unique was the murder of the Jews

[39] E. Kogon, H. Langbein, A. Rückerl *et al.* (eds.), *Nationalsozialistische Massentötungen durch Giftgas. Eine documentation*. S. Fischer Verlag, Frankfurt upon Main 1983; Engl: *Nazi Mass Murder*, Yale University Press, New Haven 1993.

by the National Socialists?" by Richard Evans ("*Wie einzigartig war die Ermordung der Juden durch die Nationalsozialisten?*"; pp. 1-10), "Mass murder by poison gas as perceived by the survivors" by Moshe Zimmermann ("*Massenmord durch Giftgas in der Wahrnehmung der Überlebenden*"; pp. 11-20), "Technical aspects of the mass murder by poison gas as arguments in court" by Volker Bieler and Kurt Schrimm ("*Technische Aspekte des Massenmordes durch Giftgas als Argumente vor Gericht*"; pp. 50-63) as well as "Violence and death in concentration and extermination camps. Possibilities and limitations of archeology" by Claudia Theune ("*Gewalt und Tod in Konzentrations- und Vernichtungslagern. Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Archäologie*"; pp. 64-73), although I will address Theune's paper later.

Finally, Detlef Garbes's contribution "The concentration camps as scenes of mass murder" ("*Die Konzentrationslager als Stätten des Massenmordes*"; pp. 316-334) has only a tenuous link with the objectives of the meeting. Notwithstanding this, I will of course examine individual arguments as presented in these contributions and where necessary.

In the following analysis of the book I shall maintain the sequence in which the individual papers appear in the book. From time to time, however, I will allow myself to assess as a group those articles which deal with the same topic. For that reason, a discussion of the articles attacking revisionism, devoid of substance as they are, appears only towards the end of this present analysis.

1. The Lethal Gases

The first article deserving attention was written by Achim Trunk and is entitled "The lethal gases" ("*Die todbringenden Gase*"; pp. 23-49). It deals with the various gases allegedly used for killing people in the National Socialist era. The first three are well-known from Holocaust literature:

Carbon monoxide which, as we are told, was allegedly applied in the euthanasia centers during the so-called "*Aktion 14f13*," in an experimental gas vans of "*Sonderkommando Lange*," as well as in the Majdanek concentration camp.

Engine exhaust gases, said to have been employed in the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*" (Bełżec, Chełmno, Sobibór, Treblinka).

Zyklon B, claimed to have been used for killing people at Auschwitz, Majdanek, Mauthausen, Stutthof and Ravensbrück (as well as, maybe, Dachau).

Aside from these three gases, Trunk introduces a fourth and ill-defined compound into the debate: a "Hydrogen cyanide preparation" ("*Blausäure-Präparat*"), also labeled "*Blausäure*" or a "chemically related substance."

In a paragraph of seven lines, entitled "Murders by means of carbon monoxide: No objections from the deniers" ("*Kohlenmonoxidmorde: Keine Einwendungen der Leugner*"), Trunk writes (p. 30):

> *"No chemically-oriented arguments concerning mass murder by means of pure carbon monoxide have been brought forward by the deniers."*

Aside from the silly use of the word "denier," this is basically correct, but, as we shall see, far more important historical arguments exist against the alleged mass killings by means of pure carbon monoxide which render "chemically-oriented arguments" superfluous.

On the subject of the toxicological effects of carbon monoxide, Trunk explains (p. 28):

> *"As a rule, victims of carbon monoxide poisoning can be recognized by the red color of their mucous membranes due to the fact that hemoglobin loaded with carbon monoxide (and thus the blood in general) is cherry-red."*

We agree,[40] but then why do some witnesses assert that the corpses of the victims killed by means of carbon monoxide showed a blue discoloration? Trunk explains the matter as follows (p. 32):

> *"If diesel engines were used, agony surely extended over a longer period of time, because diesel engines produce appreciably less carbon monoxide. Furthermore, they also produce a considerable amount of irritants. In such cases, death could have been caused under certain circumstances by a combination of carbon monoxide (internal suffocation) and oxygen deficiency (external suffocation)."*

In a footnote, Trunk adds the remark that "occasional accounts" exist, according to which the corpses had a bluish color, which would point to "lack of oxygen as a cause of death" (fn. 24 on p. 32).

Before we discuss this point, we must remember the context within which the questions discussed here are placed. In his argument against revisionists who point out that diesel engines are most unsuitable for killing people, Trunk surprisingly asserts (p. 32):

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[40] On the skin discoloration of the alleged gassing victims at the Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka and Chełmno camps see the detailed discussion by Kues in Carlo Mattogno, Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, *The "Extermination Camps" of "Aktion Reinhardt,"* The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2013, pp. 856-868.

> *"This argument is irrelevant, as serious research does not believe at all that diesel engines were generally used at the 'Aktion Reinhardt' extermination camps."*

Trunk admits that in the earlier literature there are "indications attributing a considerable weight to the share of murders by means of diesel exhaust gas." He mentions Raul Hilberg in this connection (p. 32). In fairness he should also have mentioned the prestigious *Enzyklopädie des Holocaust*, which explicitly mentions a 250 HP diesel engine for the Bełżec camp[41] and postulates a diesel engine for Treblinka as well (for Sobibór it speaks merely of a 200 HP engine but does not indicate the type). It is of course possible that earlier Holocaust historians have erred, but anyone advancing such an argument must back it up by *new sources*.[42] Trunk writes (p. 34f.):

> *"The fact that gasoline engines were indeed employed in the 'Aktion Reinhardt' extermination camp is substantiated by reliable sources. Rudolf Reder for instance, one of the very rare survivors of the Bełżec extermination camps, speaks of a gasoline engine standing in a small room near the gas chambers."*

This is correct, but either Trunk has not read Reder's corresponding statements or disregards them on purpose. When questioned by Judge Jan Sehn, Reder clearly stated on 29 December 1945:[43]

> *"The bodies in the chamber did not show any unnatural discoloration. They looked like live persons, most had their eyes open. Only in a few cases were the corpses bloodstained. The air in the chambers, when they were opened, was pure, transparent and odorless. In particular, there was no smoke from the exhaust gas of the engine. The* [exhaust] *gas was evacuated from the engine directly into the open air, and not into the chambers."*

Hence, for Reder, the corpses were colored neither red nor blue, and furthermore the gasoline engine was *not* used for killing the victims. Anyone willing to go along with Trunk and considering the "older" Holocaust literature as unreliable must not shy away from the question why, of the two most important witnesses on the subject of Bełżec, one – Kurt Gerstein

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41 I. Gutman, E. Jäckel, P. Longerich, J.H. Schoeps (eds.), *Enzyklopädie des Holocaust. Die Verfolgung und Ermordung der europäischen Juden*. Argon, Berlin 1993, vol. I, p. 176 (Bełżec), vol. III, p. 1428 (Treblinka), p. 1332 (Sobibór). The English edition of this encyclopedia, which appeared three years earlier, is rather badly edited: I. Gutman (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, MacMillan, New York 1990.

42 The issue is thoroughly discussed in Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40), points 95-111, pp. 815-838.

43 AGK, OKBZN Kraków, 111, pp. 4-4a. See my study on *Bełżec: Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research, and History*, reprint, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011, p. 38.

– speaks of a diesel engine as having been the murder weapon (something which Trunk accepts in his footnote 22 on p. 31), while the other, Reder, speaks of a gasoline engine whose exhaust gases, however, were *not* used to kill any victims. As a graduate engineer and mining expert,[44] Gerstein was no doubt able to tell a diesel engine from a gasoline engine!

Trunk may well believe that Gerstein was wrong. But in this case he must also explain why Gerstein claims to have seen blue corpses of persons[45] which, according to Trunk, were victims of a gassing with gasoline engine exhaust gas and thus would have had to exhibit a cherry red skin discoloration, because he claims that a bluish discoloration could have been caused only "under certain circumstances" during gassings with diesel engines! But then perhaps the engine was both a gasoline engine for gassings and a diesel engine for the discoloration…

Trunk confirms that diesel engines operate "with a great excess of oxygen" and that, for this reason, their exhaust gases contain a higher "concentration of oxygen sufficient for [potential gassing victims] to survive." On the other hand, he states that diesel exhaust gases act faster "under higher loads." Referring to tests run by American engineers in the 1950s, he writes (p.33):

> *"Idling, or without any special load, the motors investigated produced exhaust gases with a high concentration of oxygen and very little carbon monoxide. Under higher loads, the carbon monoxide values increased without in themselves reaching directly critical values. At the same time, though, the oxygen content dropped to 3 percent."*

This decrease in the oxygen concentration down to 3% hence becomes the basis for Trunk's thesis mentioned above, according to which the death of the victims was possibly caused by suffocation as a consequence of a lack of oxygen.

The study mentioned by Trunk (in footnote 29 on p. 33) was done by John C. Holtz and M. E. Elliot and published under the title "The Significance of Diesel-Exhaust Gas Analysis."[46] The results summarized by Trunk were obtained by means of a modified injection pump which allowed an increase of 60% in the fuel injected, thus resulting in an incomplete fuel combustion on account of the unfavorable air-to-fuel ratio. Furthermore, the engine was loaded by means of a brake dynamometer. Page 99 of this study shows "Table 3" which contains the relevant data for "Engine B." For a total of eight runs, the highest concentration of carbon monoxide reached 6%, whereas the lowest oxygen concentration was as low as 0.3

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44 T-1310, p. 1.
45 PS-1553, p. 4 of the "Gerstein confession."
46 In: *Transactions of the ASME*, vol. 63, February 1941, pp. 97-105.

Table 1: Concentration of Gasoline Engine Exhaust Gases, Vol. %

Conditions	**Engine**	**CO_2**	**CO**	**O_2**
Idling at 1000 rpm	Hanomag	7.7	5.2	1.6
	Adler	8.5	8.5	1.1
	Benz	9.2	6.3	1.0
Full load at 1500 rpm	Hanomag	13.2	0.2	1.4
	Adler	13.3	0.2	2.3
	Benz	13.5	1.7	1.1

percent. On the other hand, gasoline combustion engines will normally produce an even higher carbon monoxide concentration and a slightly higher oxygen level; this was observed during tests carried out by the German *Reichsgesundheitsamt* (Reich health agency) and the I.G Farben company.[47] On moving from idle to full load, the percentage of carbon monoxide showed a strong decrease with a corresponding sizable increase in the carbon dioxide content, while the oxygen content increased slightly. This can be seen from Table 1 which I have simplified by merely showing the three gases which interest us here.[48]

This means that even the potential victims of a gassing procedure using gasoline engine exhaust gases would have died of "external suffocation." Hence, it is not really clear why the SS would have manipulated a diesel engine and slowed it down in a cumbersome way in order to reach concentrations of carbon monoxide which were still lower than those produced by an idling gasoline engine under conventional conditions.

Trunk explains his criticism of the assertion in the "older" literature that diesel engines were used in the Reinhardt camps by saying that, for Sobibór, the use of a gasoline engine has been postulated (p. 35). While this is true, an SS man stationed at Sobibór during the war, Erich Fuchs, stated that, during the installation of the engine, a chemist entered the chamber with a measuring device to verify the gas concentration.[49] It may be postulated that corresponding measurements would have been carried out on the diesel engine at Bełżec as well (although no witness stated this explicitly[50]) and that then the SS necessarily would have come to the conclusion that gasoline engines were more suitable for mass murder than diesel engines. But if that is so, it is not understandable why a diesel engine would once

[47] See on this C. Mattogno, J. Graf, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, reprint, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010, pp. 123-125.

[48] E. Keeser, V. Froboese, R. Turnau *et al.*, *Toxikologie und Hygiene des Kraftfahrwesens*, Julius Springer Verlag, Berlin 1930, p. 4.

[49] Footnote 37 on p. 35; Interrogation of E. Fuchs of April 8, 1963. ZStL, 208 AR-Z 251/59, vol. IX, pp. 1784f.

[50] Although Fuchs declared he knew the chemist doing the test "from BELCEC"; see the text in Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40), point 48, pp. 749-753.

again have been opted for at Treblinka later on.[51] Trunk mentions the fact that Holocaust historiography does assert the use of a diesel engine at Treblinka (p. 35), but he wiggles his way out by saying that the witnesses had mistaken the diesel generator used at Treblinka for the generation of electrical power with the gasoline engine employed for the mass killings.[52] This limping explanation is followed by a no less dubious argument (p. 37):

> *"That these witnesses may be in error on this one aspect is quite possible; the details of the scenario of the killings as gathered from the sources can best be explained, both technically and toxicologically, by the use of a gasoline engine for the production of the deadly gases."*

The "sources" referred to by Trunk are nothing but assertions of self-styled eye-witnesses which "technically and toxicologically" explain nothing at all, not least because quite a few of them speak of the corpses having a bluish tint, which according to Trunk could "possibly" be caused only by the use of diesel exhaust gases for the killings.

Trunk's conclusion is just as unfounded as the conjectures which form the basis of his thesis (p. 36):

> *"The revisionists' assertion that it is not at all possible to kill groups of people by means of diesel exhaust gases is not correct. What is correct is that diesel engines are much less suitable for mass murder than gasoline engines – something which no serious Holocaust scholar would dispute."*

This is precisely what is asserted by serious revisionists. They ask, however, why the SS opted for diesel, even though such engines – to use Trunk's own words – "are much less suitable for mass murder than gasoline engines." In a study pertinently titled "Diesel Gas Chambers: Ideal for Torture – Absurd for Murder," engineer Friedrich P. Berg comes to the conclusion:

> *"It would be hard to imagine a mass murder method more awkward and more inefficient. Even if some deranged minds had tried for a time to commit murder with diesel exhaust, after a few tries it would have become apparent to even the most demented fiend that something far better was needed."*

If we follow Berg, gasoline engines would have been "so much better" for mass murder – and especially gas generators, widely used by the Ger-

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[51] On this question see J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *Sobibór. Holocaust Propaganda and Reality*, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010, pp. 257f.

[52] This objection has been thoroughly discussed several times in Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40). pp. 116, 750, 766, 780, 827-830, 834, 873, 883.

mans during WW2, because they could use wood or coke as fuel and yielded a gaseous engine fuel containing up to 35% of carbon monoxide.[53]

In his discussion of Zyklon B, Trunk presents us with some well-known facts about the physical, chemical and toxicological properties of the disinfestation agent, and adds (p. 40):

> *"The skin of victims of hydrogen cyanide often shows a pinkish discoloration, typical for carbon monoxide poisoning."*

This is absolutely true, but Trunk forgets to mention the many witnesses according to whom persons gassed with Zyklon B showed a blue discoloration.[54] He reminds us of the fact that hydrogen cyanide, in spite of being called "blue acid" in German, "is not really blue but colorless, in the liquid and gaseous state" (p. 37). He does not explain, however, why numerous witnesses speak of "blue crystals" and "blue vapors."[55]

Trunk touches only briefly on the use of Zyklon B as a killing agent. He asserts that a concentration of 10 grams per cubic meter was used in the disinfestation chambers using Zyklon B (footnote 59 on p. 39). Referring to the statements made by Rudolf Höß, he writes that in the alleged homicidal gas chambers in crematoria II and III, which had a volume of 500 cubic meters each, 1,500 people had been gassed at the same time, with a corresponding "concentration of 10 up to a maximum of 20 grams of hydrogen cyanide per cubic meter" and that this, "hardly by accident, is the very concentration used for the elimination of insects" (footnote 60 on p. 39).

The modifier "hardly by accident" signifies, of course, that, in order to kill people, the SS had employed the same concentration of Zyklon B as was also needed for disinfestation. If we look at the fundamental differences between human beings and insects, this idea becomes simply ludicrous. This is also underlined by Robert Jan van Pelt, considered by the orthodox side to be the leading Holocaust historian, who has contributed two papers to the work discussed here. On p. 210 he writes:

> *"Since Zyklon B had been developed as a disinfestation agent, an evaporation time of 24 hours had been planned for the cyanide. Nits*

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[53] Friedrich P. Berg, "Diesel Gas Chambers: Ideal for Torture – Absurd for Murder," in: Germar Rudolf (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 26), pp. 435-469. Berg's quote is on p. 469.

[54] I quote numerous witnesses reporting about blue corpses of gassing victims in my study *Auschwitz: The First Gassing*. 2nd ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011, pp. 40, 61, 66, 86f.

[55] Among these witnesses is, for instance, the SS driver Richard Böck, who claimed to have seen a "blue mist" over the corpses after a "gassing" in one of the "bunkers" of Birkenau; see for this Germar Rudolf, "From the Records of the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, Part 4," in: *The Revisionist* 1(4) (2003), pp. 470-472. The former Auschwitz inmate Filip Müller spoke of "bluish-violet Zyklon B crystals." F. Müller, *Sonderbehandlung. Drei Jahre in den Krematorien und Gaskammern von Auschwitz*. Verlag Steinhausen, Munich 1979, p. 111.

> [the larvae of lice] *are difficult to eliminate and must therefore be exposed to the cyanide for a long time. People, on the other hand, die quickly."*

Trunk's assertions concerning the cyanide concentration used are also in fundamental disagreement with van Pelt's views. According to the latter, a concentration of merely 100 to 300 parts per million was used, which would amount to 0.12 to 0.36 grams per cubic meter, or 0.24 grams per cubic meter on average. The concentration proposed by Trunk (15 grams per cubic meter) is roughly 62.5 times higher than van Pelt's figure.[56]

The chapters of this book dealing with the Natzweiler and Sachsenhausen camps contain a discussion of the other "hydrogen cyanide preparations" mentioned by Trunk and alleged to have been used for killing people in these two camps.

In the last section of his article, Trunk addresses the "chemical objection of the deniers." He starts by criticizing Fred Leuchter's thesis which labels hydrogen cyanide as explosive and hence cautions against its use in a crematorium (p. 45). Here Trunk preaches to the choir, since I have shown in detail as early as 1996 that Leuchter's argument is indeed not cogent.[57] Trunk goes on to say (p. 46):

> *"Another argument concerns the allegedly overly slow evaporation of hydrogen cyanide from the Zyklon B carrier. It is based on a wrong extrapolation of data from the product sheets."*

In an effort to strengthen his thesis, Trunk refers the reader to the alleged refutation of the revisionists' chemical arguments by Josef Bailer ("Die 'Revisionisten' und die Chemie"[58]). In that article Bailer polemicizes against Germar Rudolf; he asserts that the slow evaporation of Zyklon B mentioned by Rudolf (90% of the hydrogen cyanide has evaporated from the granules after two hours) was "presumably" based on the "data sheets for commercial Zyklon as available today" which would mean that Rudolf's interprets the values incorrectly.[59] Bailer mentions a patent issued on 27 December 1926 to DEGESCH (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schädlingsbekämpfung*, German Society for Pest Control) and referred to by Rudolf, although it does not speak about Zyklon B but only in a general way about

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[56] See about this my study *Auschwitz:…, op. cit.* (note 28), chapter 14.1.: "HCN Concentration in the Alleged Homicidal Gas Chambers," pp. 499-503.

[57] Carlo Mattogno, *Olocausto: Dilettanti allo sbaraglio. Pierre Vidal-Naquet, Georges Wellers, Deborah Lipstadt, Till Bastian, Florent Brayard et alii contro il revisionismo storico*. Edizioni di Ar, Padua, 1996, chapter V,5: "A titolo di esempio: una obiezione scientifica al rapporto Leuchter", pp. 212-215.

[58] J. Bailer, "Die 'Revisionisten' und die Chemie," in: B. Bailer-Galanda, W. Benz, W. Neugebauer (eds.), *Wahrheit und Auschwitz. Zur Bekämpfung "revisionistischer" Propaganda.* Deuticke, Vienna 1995, pp. 99-118.

[59] *Ibid*., p. 109.

hydrogen cyanide adsorbed on a porous substance such as diatomaceous earth. The patent states *i.a.*:[60]

> *"If the can's contents are spread out in a thin layer, the hydrogen cyanide will evaporate with 10 minutes."*

On the basis of this sentence alone, and without referring to any other documents, Bailer concludes:[61]

> *"The idea that it would take hours for the product to release the active agent is absurd."*

This alleged refutation of Rudolf's argument is openly contradicted by van Pelt, according to whom an evaporation time of the HCN of 24 hours was expected. It mainly fails to convince, however, if we take into account the results of experiments carried out in 1942 where the evaporation rate of hydrogen cyanide was evaluated. The corresponding study[62] is also mentioned by Trunk, but only as proof of the fact that "even at temperatures below the freezing point, considerable amounts of gaseous hydrogen cyanide are released by the carrier" (p. 46) and that "even at temperatures as low as minus 6°C something like half of the hydrogen cyanide adsorbed is released from the Erco cube" (footnote 84 on p. 46; Erco mainly consisted of gypsum). Table 2 of this article does indeed permit the conclusion that, at a temperature of -6°C, some 45% of the hydrogen cyanide has been released from the pellets; on the other hand, the last column of this very table[63] gives also the data for a temperature of +15°C:

After one hour:	57.0%
After two hours:	96.4%
After three hours:	100.0%

When cardboard disks were used as a carrier for hydrogen cyanide, like wise at +15°C, the results were as follows:[63]

After one hour:	77.0%
After two hours:	96.8%
After three hours:	100.0%

These experiments are vastly more significant than the claims made in the mentioned patent. Their conclusions were confirmed by two experiments which a Polish-Soviet commission carried out in the Majdanek camp

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[60] Deutsches Reich. Reichspatentamt. Patentschrift Nr. 438818, Klasse 451 Gruppe 3. Ausgegeben am 27. Dezember 1926. *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schädlingsbekämpfung m.b.H. in Frankfurt a.M.* Verfahren für Schädlingsbekämpfung. Patentiert im Deutschen Reiche vom 20. Juni 1922 ab.

[61] J. Bailer, *op. cit.* (note 58), p. 110.

[62] R. Irmscher, "Nochmals: Die Einsatzfähigkeit der Blausäure bei tiefen Temperaturen," in: *Zeitschrift für hygienische Zoologie und Schädlingsbekämpfung*, no. 34, 1942, pp. 35-37.

[63] *Ibid.*, p. 36.

shortly after its occupation in August 1944. Two cans of 1,500 grams each of Zyklon B were opened and then exposed at a temperature of +28°C; after that, the remainder was weighed. The contents of one of the cans weighed 450 grams, the other 470 grams, which means that over the period of two hours about 70 and 69 percent, respectively, of the hydrogen cyanide had evaporated.[64]

This leads us to the inexorable conclusion: If we follow Trunk, who cites witness statements to the effect that "the [homicidal] gassing procedure was normally terminated after 20 minutes by switching on the ventilation system" (p. 41), and if we follow Jean-Claude Pressac, who states that the ventilation in the morgues of the crematoria II and III, which were equipped with an aeration and a de-aeration unit, lasted 15 to 20 minutes,[65] we may conclude that the Zyklon B granules would go on releasing their deadly load for more than another two hours, *i.e.* during the removal of the corpses from the morgues. The situation in the alleged gas chamber of crematoria IV and V would have been much worse, as these chambers were not equipped with a forced ventilation system, to say nothing of the Birkenau "Bunkers"! Since the better part of the hydrogen cyanide would be released only after the victims' demise, the gas chambers' operating personnel would have been in constant mortal danger. We must realize here that there was a quick, efficient, easy and safe way of releasing the Zyklon B – by means of the DEGESCH circulation system developed in 1940, which I shall discuss later and about which no witness and no orthodox Holocaust historian has ever claimed that it has ever been employed for homicidal gassings.

These SS guys truly exhibited a very strange planning behavior: In the form of the DEGESCH circulation gas chamber they had at their disposal a highly efficient system for disinfestation, but they never used it for any killings. They possessed gasoline engines and gas generators, which were quite suitable for mass murder, but are said to have used diesel engines instead. What is most astounding, though, is that in the Forensic Institutes of the German Police, where it is claimed a host of wannabe Frankensteins were working at the development of effective killing systems, nobody ever had the idea to use the gases coming from gas generators for homicidal purposes before being fed into the engine. This method imposed itself outright. This is revealed in particular by a table published by the German chemists Flury and Zernik in 1931, which gave the carbon monoxide con-

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64 See on this J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *Concentration Camp Majdanek*, 3nd. ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2012, p. 125.

65 J.-C. Pressac, *Die Krematorien von Auschwitz. Die Technik des Massenmordes.* Piper Verlag, Munich Zürich 1994, p. 95.

tents of various gases. Engines of an unspecified type (probably gasoline engines) produced a maximum concentration of 12%, those from wood-fired gas generators, on the other hand, contained up to 34 percent.[66] Apparently, these SS technicians of death proceeded in accordance with the motto: "Efficiency is to be avoided at all cost"!

Towards the end of his contribution, Trunk raises a further question: The "absence of a compound called 'Iron Blue' in the remaining brickwork of the Auschwitz gas chambers" (p. 46). In doing so, he presents the results of the *Leuchter Report* and the *Rudolf Report* which set out, in simplified form, the extreme differences in cyanide content of samples taken on the one hand from alleged homicidal gas chambers and on the other hand from the Zyklon B disinfestation chambers at buildings 5a and 5b at Birkenau, and Trunk raises the following objection (pp. 46f.):

> *"To begin with, it is not at all certain that the Iron Blue of the disinfestation chambers was caused by the effect of hydrogen cyanide vapors. For example, its origin could also be faded paint; many wall paints in those days in fact contained this pigment. A lack of discoloration would then simply mean that, while the delousing chambers were painted in this manner, the gas chambers were not. But even if we accept that the Iron Blue of the delousing chambers was caused by exposure to hydrogen cyanide, it does not necessarily follow that similar stains would have developed in the homicidal chambers."*

Then Trunk lists the differences between the delousing chambers and the homicidal chambers and asserts that no Iron Blue could have developed in the latter "even if they had been exposed to hydrogen cyanide" (p. 47).

This argument fails on account of the following facts:

Rudolf utterly refuted the thesis of blue wall paint with eleven pertinent arguments in his expert report, which Trunk treats with silence, because the findings radically contradict his thesis.[67]

Aside from this, Trunk's reasoning is also refuted by hard facts. In addition to the alleged gas chambers of Auschwitz, as I mentioned above, Zyklon B is asserted by Trunk to have been employed for homicidal purposes at Stutthof and Majdanek as well. He postulates 1,500 of such murders at Stutthof (fn. 5 on p. 25) but is cautious enough not to assign any figures to Majdanek. However, Tomasz Kranz, author of the article on Majdanek in the discussed anthology, mentions a maximum of 12,000 persons gassed there, either by means of Zyklon B or carbon monoxide (p.

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66 F. Flury, F. Zernik, *Schädliche Gase, Dämpfe, Nebel, Rauch- und Staubarten*. Verlag von Julius Springer, Berlin 1931.

67 G. Rudolf, *op. cit*, (note 23), pp. 169f.; Engl. G. Rudolf, W. Lambrecht, *op. cit.* (note 24), pp. 269f.

227). Both the alleged homicidal gas chambers at Stutthof and at Majdanek show large Iron Blue stains, however, and this not only on the inside of the walls but on the outside as well. Jürgen Graf and I have pointed to this fact in our studies of these camps.[68] A strong blue discoloration is also shown on the outside of the southern wall of the Birkenau delousing chamber of BW 5b at Birkenau and – albeit to a noticeably lesser degree – on the outside of the western wall of BW 5a.

Hence, if the gas chambers at Stutthof and Majdanek were "homicidal chambers," there are only two possibilities: Either, these chambers were all painted with Iron Blue paint patches[69] – but then, why in the world were the bricks on the outside painted patchy blue as well? – or the stains did result from homicidal gassings in spite of all of Trunk's objections. This would mean that these stains should all the more appear in the homicidal chambers at Birkenau, which are said to have been used for considerably more gassings. If orthodox Holocaust historians maintain that a total of 13,000 people were killed by gassings at Stutthof and Majdanek (not all of them by means of hydrogen cyanide), and yet their walls show such a strong blue discoloration, then one should *a priori* expect to see such stains in the alleged gas chambers of crematoria II and III at Birkenau as well, as altogether 550,000 people were killed there by means of Zyklon B as affirmed by van Pelt.

The orthodox Holocaust historians have argued themselves into a corner, from which there is no way out. They must now choose: Either the gas chambers at Majdanek and Stutthof were "homicidal" chambers – then the blue stains should also be visible in the "homicidal" chambers at Birkenau; or it was impossible for Iron Blue to form in "homicidal" chambers – then the gas chambers at Stutthof and Majdanek were not "homicidal."

Trunk concludes with the following argument:

> *"That the victims had been exposed to large amounts of hydrogen cyanide was shown* […] *as early as 1945 by a toxicological analysis. It showed that e.g. the hair of the persons killed, which was destined to be used industrially, contained considerable amounts of cyanide residue."*

Let us first point out a lack of precision in Trunk's wording. The assessment at the time was a qualitative, not a quantitative one, and it did not speak of "considerable" amounts of cyanide residues but only in general of

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[68] J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *Concentration Camp Stutthof*, 2nd, revised ed., Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, IL, 2004, color images between pp. 110 & 111; J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 64), pp. 341-344 (consult the online version, as the print version is b/w only); see farther below, chapters 8 & 13.

[69] Both the inside and the outside walls show patches of various hues and sizes, located only here and there, which precludes the use of paint, which would have covered the entire surface of the walls equally.

their presence. The expertise was presented on 15 May 1945 by the director of the Krakow forensic institute, Jan Z. Robel, and was accepted on 15 December of the same year by the investigating judge Jan Sehn as an element of proof for the prosecution in the trial against Rudolf Höß.[70] The conclusion of the opinion – based on three analyses – stated:[71]

> *"It has thus been ascertained that, into an aqueous solution* [into which the hair had been immersed] *at room temperature, the hairs have released hydrogen cyanide."*

Furthermore, it has never been shown that the hair in question, bags of which the Soviets had discovered at Auschwitz, was hair of persons killed – *i.e.* persons gassed. On 9 August 1942, SS-*Brigadeführer* Richard Glücks, Head of Office Group D of SS Economic and Administrative Main Office (SS-*Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt*, SS-WVHA), had written a letter to the commanders of the concentration camps on the subject of "Utilization of hair cuttings." In it he transmitted the order by SS-*Obergruppenführer* and WVHA-Head Oswald Pohl to collect the hair of detainees for the purpose of its industrial use:[72]

> *"It is* […] *ordered to conserve the hair removed from female detainees after disinfection. Hair of male detainees can only be used if longer than 20 millimeters."*

Orthodox historiography tells us that, at the time, homicidal Zyklon B gas chambers were operated only at Auschwitz, whereas the collection of hair applied to all camps. At Sachsenhausen, for example, German, Flemish, Dutch and Norwegian detainees were allowed to have hair of up to 20 mm length, while all other detainees were shorn completely.[73] We hardly need to mention that hair was cut from living detainees and not from the dead. After the liberation of the Natzweiler camp, the French authorities found some 27 kg of hair at that campsite.[74]

It must be understood that "disinfection" actually meant "disinfestation," because hydrogen cyanide is not a "disinfection agent," as it cannot kill bacteria or viruses. The incorrect use of these terms is *i.a.* also found in the correspondence between the Majdanek camp administration and the firm Tesch & Stabenow concerning the supply of Zyklon B. For example,

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[70] Höß Trial in Warsaw, vol. 11, appendix no. 12, pp. 72-74.
[71] *Ibid.*, p. 74.
[72] URSS-511.
[73] Letter of the camp commander to the administration of the inmate hospital, 11 October 1944. GARF, 7021-104-8, p. 1.
[74] J.-C. Pressac, *The Struthof album: study of the gassing at Natzweiler-Struthof of 86 Jews whose bodies were to constitute a collection of skeletons: a photographic document*. The Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York, 1985, p. 57.

the Majdanek camp physician addressed a memo to the camp administration on 11 September 1943 saying:[75]

> *"It is requested to order disinfection gas in large amounts for the purpose of disinfection at the camp."*

It was standard practice to disinfest the hair clippings by means of Zyklon B before packing them and shipping them to the companies concerned.[76] After all, it was an urgent matter that lice from this hair, which were responsible for transmitting typhus in the camps, did not get transferred to the outside world and thus possibly causing epidemics there too. Therefore, any kind of analysis of a hair sample sent from any concentration camp to companies concerned would have shown traces of hydrogen cyanide. Hence, Trunk's thesis that the analysis run at Krakow is proof of homicidal gassings at Auschwitz is completely untenable.

Let us conclude by raising a point on which Trunk is completely silent but which causes problems for other Holocaust historians: why did the alleged extermination of the Jews make use of so many vastly different methods of killings:

- pure carbon monoxide in gas cylinders
- "Gas vans" of the first generation (an ill-defined collection)
- "Gas vans" of the second generation (using diesel engines)
- Exhaust gases from diesel or gasoline engines in stationary gas chamber
- Zyklon B

The Holocaust historians claim that each of these methods had its own genesis; thus, it would be incorrect to speak of any kind of systematic "development of the technology." This means that the execution of the alleged Hitler order or any alleged decision by Hitler was not at all centrally planned but implemented individually by local commanders and their staff in a clumsy and amateurish manner, resulting in a hodge-podge of wildly diverging and mostly inefficient killing methods!

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[75] APMM, I.d.2, vol. I, p. 19.

[76] The Majdanek camp sent the hair to the Paul Reimann company at Bratislava; see Edward Dziadosz, "Stosunki handlowe obozu koncentracyjnego na Majdanku z firmą Paula Reimanna" in: *Zeszyty Majdanka*, II, 1967, pp. 171-204.

2. The Euthanasia Centers and "*Aktion 14 f 13*"

No less than seven contributions are devoted to euthanasia centers. They vary in significance. I shall discuss them here as a group.

In her article "The destruction of life unworthy of living under National Socialism: 'Operation T4'" ("*'Vernichtung lebensunwerten Lebens' im Nationalsozialismus: Die 'Aktion T4'*", pp. 77-87) Brigitte Kepplinger characterizes the body of source material with the following words (footnote 9 on p. 79):

> *"We must underline here the precarious nature of the sources which does not allow us to define with any degree of precision the beginnings or the detailed scenario of how the various euthanasia actions were set up. The most important primary sources no longer exist, such as the files of the Führer chancellery. The files of 'Zentraldienststelle' of 'T4' were destroyed in 1944/45 except for a small portion which was later labeled the 'Heidelberg Documents.' For that reason, the statements by the witnesses and the defendants during the corresponding trials thus constitute the most important source. These statements are in part imprecise, contradict one another or are contradictory in themselves to such an extent that a reconstruction of the planning process is tainted by a degree of uncertainty."*

As early as 1987, Matthias Beer, a participant of the Oranienburg meeting and author of an article concerning the "gas vans" in the present collection (cf. chapter 3), wrote:[77]

> *"However, the historian is not entitled to use court verdicts without examining them, because justice and historiography pursue different ends. For him* [the historian] *primarily witness testimonies are important, because they help to fill the gaps in the sources. But due to their peculiarities testimonies can be treated on an equal footing with documents, for example, and be used profitably by historical research only if certain principles are observed. The basic requirement is not to abandon the link between witness statements and documents which have been subject to thorough sources criticism, that is to say, to always connect the probable with a certain fact.* [But] *even in this way we cannot respond satisfactorily to every question."*

These considerations are valid in particular when we keep in mind that, in these cases, we are dealing with Allied military courts which later were followed by political tribunals conducted mainly in Germany.[78]

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[77] M. Beer, "Die Entwicklung der Gaswagen beim Mord an den Juden," in: *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, vol. 35. no. 3, 1987, p. 404; Engl.: http://dss.ucsd.edu/~lzamosc/chelm10.htm

The primary, though not the only aim of the prosecutors in both cases was to discredit the National Socialist ideology and the entire German nation. (Another goal of the Allied tribunal was also to divert attention from crimes committed in the name of the Allied nations.) The defendants, on the other hand, employed a strategy of emerging from the trial with the least damage possible. Seen in this light, both sides did evidently not shy away from resorting to lies in order to achieve their goals.

The Americans began moving against the directors and the personnel of the euthanasia centers at a very early stage. In April 1945 they investigated the Bernburg case (p. 137), in June 1945 the Hartheim case followed (p. 129), and in October 1945 the Hadamar case came under scrutiny (p. 149). Thus, the basic points of future charges had been formulated very early and became the foundations of all future trials. This means that for these latter procedures – which, in many cases, began years after the respective events – the observance of standard legal practice was not assured in any way. It would be naïve to use them as a means for elucidating historical facts. Hence, any historiographic approach using the verdicts of such trials as its basis would have to be called essentially unscientific.

I should stress the point that the historical reality of the euthanasia of mental patients is not in doubt. Still, I think it is legitimate to raise the following questions:

1. What items of proof exist for the assertion that the euthanasia centers were equipped with homicidal gas chambers employing carbon monoxide?
2. What items of proof permit the assertion that carbon monoxide in steel cylinders was used in the euthanasia centers?
3. What items of proof allow establishing the Ludwigshafen branch of I.G. Farben as the supplier of carbon monoxide in steel bottles to the euthanasia centers?
4. In what manner did carbon monoxide become the selected killing instrument?
5. A secondary, albeit certainly not irrelevant question concerns the crematorium furnaces allegedly installed at the euthanasia centers. Is material or documentary evidence available for their existence? If so, which firms were the manufacturers? What type of fuel was used? How did they operate and what technical characteristics did they have? Most important however: what was their capacity? This latter question is relevant in connection with the number of persons killed, said to have exceeded 100 per day at some centers over a longer period of time (p. 146).

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[78] Cf. Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40), pp. 68-83.

What is even more relevant, though, is the alleged link between these centers and the so-called "extermination centers" of "*Aktion Reinhardt*," which are said to have been extensions of the euthanasia centers. This aspect of orthodox Holocaust historiography will be dealt with in chapter 4 of the present book.

In her article "Mass killings by means of carbon monoxide. The 'invention' of a homicidal method, the 'test gassing' and the murder of patients at Brandenburg on the Havel" ("*Massentötung durch Kohlenmonoxid. Die 'Erfindung' einer Mordmethode, die 'Probevergasung' und der Krankenmord in Brandenburg/Havel*"; p. 88-99) Astrid Ley discusses the fourth of the points just raised, *i.e.* the decision process said to have led to the choice of carbon monoxide as the instrument of murder.

Following in the footsteps of Gerald Reitlinger,[79] she also starts out from the known statement by SS judge Konrad Morgen at Nuremberg in which Morgen referred to the euthanasia centers. Then she comments on them as follows (pp. 88f.):

> *"Morgen's statement is a rather early indication of the link between the 'euthanasia' undertaking and the Holocaust of the European Jews, even though the declaration by this questionable IMT witness may be somewhat problematic.* […] *No NS files in this respect being in existence, we shall reconstruct events on the basis of trial statements made by persons involved."*

According to these "statements," the original plan had been to kill mental patients by means of injections; later, in view of the large number of potential victims, a different killing system was opted for. Astrid Ley writes (p. 91):

> *"Although Ferdinand Flury, who held a professorship at the University of Würzburg and could have replied exhaustively to the special inquiry from the Führer chancellery – Ferdinand Flury and Fritz Haber had done research and development work on chemical warfare during the First World War – another institution was consulted: the Institute of Forensic Technology (KTI) in Berlin, which was part of the Imperial Police Office for Crime Investigation and had just begun developing new killing methods."*

For the latter assertion there is not even the shadow of any kind of proof. Flury, by the way – together with Franz Zernik – was the author of a highly documented standard work in this field, *Schädliche Gase, Dämpfe, Nebel, Rauch- und Staubarten*[66] (Harmful gases, vapors, mists, and types of smoke and dust). Even a very cursory look at this book informs the

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[79] G. Reitlinger, *La soluzione finale. Il tentativo di sterminio degli Ebrei d'Europa 1939-1945*. Il Saggiatore, Milan 1965, pp. 156-158.

Table 2: Toxicity of Poison Gases Used in WWI

COMPOUND	TOXICITY INDEX†		
Phosgene	450	highly	toxic
Diphosgene	500		
Mustard gas	1,500		
Ethyl-iodo-acetate	1,500		
Chloro-picric acid	2,000		
Chloro-ethylsulfate	2,000		
Hydrogen cyanide*	1,000-4,000		
Ethyl-bromo-acetate	3,000		
Perchloro-methylmercaptan	3,000		
Chloro-acetone	3,000		
Bromo-acetone	4,000		
Bromo-xylene	6,000		
Chlorine	7,500		
Carbon monoxide	70,000	slightly	toxic

† according to Haber's rule; * depending on concentration

reader of the substances best suited for mass killings. In fact, the effectiveness of these substances was ranked according to their toxicity based of a rule established by Haber.

The most lethal substances are listed in Table 2; the figures given for each entry correspond to the dose (in milligrams) which provokes death within one minute.[80]

This table clearly shows us that carbon monoxide – allegedly used in the euthanasia centers – is 155 times less toxic than phosgene, and 17.5 to 70 times less toxic than hydrogen cyanide. Still, Albert Widmann, a chemist working at the Institute of Forensic Technology, is reported to have recommended its use (pp. 91f.):

> *"Albert Widmann thus recommended carbon monoxide and not cyanide gas, used for executions in the gas chambers of various U.S. states and most probably known to him."*

In this connection, this is the second point which would cause one to raise eyebrows. How was this decision arrived at and how was it tested? Ley tells us (p. 92):

> *"Historical literature usually mentions a so-called test gassing carried out at the 'euthanasia institution' of Brandenburg on the Havel on-*

[80] Michele Giua, Clara Giua-Lollini, *Dizionario di chimica generale e industriale*. UTET, Turin 1948, vol. I, entry "Aggressivi chimici di guerra," p. 313; Attilio Izzo, *Guerra chimica e difesa antigas*. Editore Ulrico Hoepli, Milan 1935, "Principali aggressivi chimici," Table on unnumbered page.

ly 70 km away from Berlin. […] *It is not known who the patients killed were, or where they came from. Furthermore, an exact date for this first mass murder cannot be established on the basis of the available sources."*

During one of the post-war trials it was asserted that the gassing was carried out in December 1939 or January 1940. Ley states that it "probably took place in the early days of January 1940." At this point matters become highly convoluted, though, because the orthodox Holocaust historians – as usual basing themselves on some witness statement or other made during a trial – maintain that carbon monoxide had been in use since late November of 1939 "for killing patients of mental institutions" at "Fort VII in western Posen (Poznan) converted to an SS-camp" and explicitly "unrelated to the 'T4' enterprise" (pp. 93f.).

This propaganda story had originally no connection at all to an alleged testing of carbon monoxide. In 1942 it was claimed that,[81]

"from the institution at ***Kocborowo****, in Pomerania, as well as others, hundreds of patients were sent in lorries to Poznań, where they were poison-gassed in special chambers in Fort VII, called* Entwesungs-Kammer. *The children of the establishment at* ***Jankowice*** *were also poison-gassed.*

Cripples were disposed of in this manner. A considerable number of them were poisoned at Fort VII a ***Poznań****.* [...]

In this fort existed a 'gas chamber,' to which dozens of cripples (victims of terror) and invalids from various hospitals were carted, and there were poisoned, apparently with military gases ."

The term "*Entwesungs-Kammern*," however, means disinfestation chambers, and that's exactly what they were. Their use with military gases does not fit at all into the context mentioned above. This alleged event was unknown at the trial of Arthur Greiser (21 June to 9 July 1946): in the indictment and during the trial, the prosecution rested their case particularly on "Fort VII" of Posen, but without the slightest hint of these "gassings."[82]

This brings into focus once more all the questions mentioned above, even though Astrid Ley remains completely silent about them. This also concerns the unclear relationship between these alleged gassings and the "test gassing" at Brandenburg as mentioned above.

Astrid Ley then goes on to cite the statements made by the two most important witnesses of this (alleged) event, Viktor Brack and Werner Hey-

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[81] Polish Ministry of Information (ed.), *The Black Book of Poland*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York 1942, pp. 72, 80.

[82] Główna Komisja Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce (ed.), *Proces Artura Greisera przed Najwyższym Tribunałem Narodowym* (Trial of Artur Greiser before the National Supreme Court), Warsaw 1946, pp. 34f., 57-60.

de, and discusses them as follows (pp. 96f.):

> *"The text passages quoted here show that the statements of the persons involved, when describing the scenario of the 'test killings,' contradict each other on occasion, e.g. as to the number of victims or the question as to who fed the toxic gas into the chambers. They also differ in the essential significance of the event, i.e. they at times assign to the Brandenburg murders different degrees of relevance as far as the 'T4' procedure is concerned.* […] *Brack and Heyde basically had opposing views as to the significance of the Brandenburg experiments: while Brack considers this to have been a central point in the definition of a suitable killing method serving as a basis for Hitler's later decision in favor of CO gas, Heyde plays down the relevance of the experiment for this decision."*

The last sentence quoted is not precise: According to footnote 30 on p. 97, Heyde not only played down the relevance of the experiment for this decision, but excluded it altogether, because, according to him, "the decision to use CO was taken before the end of November [1939]."

We are dealing here without exception with mere assertions which have no basis in documents and which contradict each other. One might say that the whole story of the genesis of the killings by means of carbon monoxide, including the Brandenburg "test gassing," is located in the realm of holocaust mythology without any links to factual history.

For the total number of mental patients killed in the euthanasia centers, Brigitte Kepplinger refers the reader to a "*Hartheimer Statistik*" which sets it at 70,273 victims (p. 84). It consists of two sheets without header, undated, unsigned and without any official stamp imprints. The first sheet begins with this sentence:

> *"As of 1 September 1941 were disinfected: Persons: 70,273*
> *This number*
> *1. distributed over the individual institutions results in the following breakdown for the years 1940 and 1941:"*

A table follows with the following data:

Institution	1940	1941	Total
A [*Grafeneck*]	9,839	–	9,839
B [*Brandenburg*]	9,772	–	9,772
Be [*Bernburg*]	–	8,601	8,601
C [*Hartheim*]	9,670	8,599	18,269
D [*Sonnenstein*]	5,943	7,777	13,720
E [*Hadamar*]	–	10,072	10,072
A-E:	35,224	35,049	70,273

The second sheet continues with the following sentence:

"2. distributed over the individual institutions for the months of 1940:"

Below this follows another table and a chart. The table contains the following data:

Institution	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
A [*Grafeneck*]	95	234	500	410	1,119	1,300	1,262
B [*Brandenburg*]	–	105	495	477	974	1,431	1,529
C [*Hartheim*]	–	–	–	–	633	982	1,449
D [*Sonnenstein*]	–	–	–	–	–	10	1,116
E [*Hadamar*]	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	*95*	*339*	*995*	*887*	*2,726*	*3,723*	*5,356*

Institution	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	[corr.]
A [*Grafeneck*]	1,411	1,228	761	971	948	9,839	10,239
B [*Brandenburg*]	1,419	1,382	1,117	397	386	9,972	9,712
C [*Hartheim*]	1,740	1,123	1,400	1,396	947	9,670	
D [*Sonnenstein*]	1,221	1,150	801	947	698	947	5,943
E [*Hadamar*]	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	*5,791*	*4,883*	*4,139*	*3,711*	*2,572*	*35,224*	
[corrected]			4,079		2,979	35,564	

The chart's curve gives the "number of disinfected"; a side note explains the correspondences between the letters shown in the "Institution" column of the tables (A-E) and the related institutions.[83]

I want to draw the readers' attention to the strange fact that the total figure given on these two sheets corresponds closely to a prediction by Viktor Brack who stated on 9 October 1939 that one might be facing some 65,000 to 70,000 cases (p. 82). Although it is not disputed that the "Aktion" was cut short on 24 August 1941, the figure of projected killings given by Viktor Brack would thus still have been reached.

[83] NARA II, RG-549, Exhibit 39.

Let us now return to the questions I raised in this regard. All authors dealing with the euthanasia centers assume *a priori* as a certain and indubitable fact that they were equipped with gas chambers using bottled carbon monoxide, but they offer no documentary evidence for their claim.

Concerning my point 3, Thomas Stöckle asserts in his contribution "Grafeneck. The installation of an extermination center" ("Grafeneck. Der Aufbau einer Vernichtungsanstalt") that Viktor Brack had been entrusted with the task of "transporting the carbon monoxide gas needed for the killings from the Ludwigshafen branch of I.G. Farben to the individual killing centers. The necessary gas cylinders came from the Mannesmann factory at Buss upon Saar" (p. 105), but Stöckle does not give any source. In this connection the anthology *Nazi Mass Murder*[84] mentions two letters from I.G. Farben, dated 17 December 1943 and 18 February 1944 respectively, but already the extremely late dates of these letters raises suspicions about their authenticity. If any documents proving or suggesting the supply of carbon monoxide in steel cylinders to the euthanasia centers had ever been found, it is obvious that the orthodox Holocaust historians would have published them right away. But as far as I know, any such documents have been referred to only in passing for the last three decades.

The Ludwigshafen plant is mentioned by Mathias Beer as well, but the source given is a statement by Albert Widmann dated 28 January 1959 (p. 156).[85] The same point is dealt with by Florian Schwanninger in his article "Hartheim 1940-1944" (p. 127); he writes:

> *"On 19 April the purchasing department of 'T4' ordered 15 CO cylinders which, according to Choumoff, 'could only have been destined for Hartheim.'"*

Schwanninger's source is not a document but a book by P.-S. Choumoff (footnote 70 on p. 127). As opposed to his colleagues, Tomasz Kranz maintains that the cylinders in question had the markings "Jennerwein und Brenner, Berlin" (cf. chapter 8).

Some of the seven articles contain answers to the fifth question I raised on the subject of the cremation furnaces. I shall list them under the heading of the respective euthanasia center:

Brandenburg: Astrid Ley merely says that the corpses of the patients killed were cremated "in crematoria (p. 99)."

Grafeneck:

> *"During the first half of January* [1940], […] *two mobile crematorium furnaces are supplied to Grafeneck.* […] *In the spring of 1940, when*

[84] E. Kogon *et al.*, *op. cit.* (note 39), German edition, note 86a on p. 307.

[85] In his earlier paper Beer gave the date of August Becker's statement as January 28, 1960; M. Beer, *op. cit.* (note 77), p. 405.

the killing capacity is to be raised, the gas chamber is enlarged, and a third crematorium furnace is set up in the crematorium." (p. 104)

Sonnenstein: As Boris Böhm explains in his article "The National Socialist killing facility at Pirna-Sonnenstein" ("Die nationalsozialistische Tötungsanstalt Pirma-Sonnenstein"), two crematorium furnaces were set up in this institution under the direction of master mason Erwin Lambert:[86]

"The particular installation works, among other things the construction of the incineration furnaces, was carried out by a fitter of the Kori company, Berlin."

Just like the Erfurt company Topf & Söhne, Böhm continues, the Kori company had also developed special crematorium furnaces for mass incineration which came to be used both at the "T4" institutions and in concentration and extermination camps. A fire in the chimney of the killing building during the euthanasia period showed, however, that "the technology used did not always correspond to the requirements." According to an investigation by Albert Widmann, head of the chemistry department of the Institute of Forensic Technology, "the long flames were due to too many corpses having to be cremated at one time." Furthermore, Albert Widmann is said to have found that the design of the chimney – rectangular instead of round – was unsuitable: "A round chimney would not have cracked either" (p. 110).

Let me point out right away that no documentary evidence exists for the alleged supply of Kori furnaces to the euthanasia centers and that these furnaces have never been found.[87] Furthermore, Böhm's expression "special crematorium furnaces for mass incineration" is misleading, because we are dealing here with absolutely normal furnaces, each of which was designed to cremate one corpse at a time.[88] As Widmann writes about the construction process of such furnaces, it is clear that he referred to coke-fired furnaces, because the oil-fired mobile furnaces were supplied fully assembled and ready for use.

The tale of the chimney fire makes no sense at all. Seen from the point of view of heat technology, the simultaneous cremation of several corpses presents no advantage at all, neither concerning the duration of the crema-

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[86] Excerpt from the statement by Erwin Lambert of 2 October 1962 (note 7, p. 110).

[87] Annegret Schüle asserts that the Kori firm "equipped the euthanasia institutes […] with its ovens," but she gives no documentary sources. A. Schüle, *Industrie und Holocaust. Topf & Söhne – Die Ofenbauer von Auschwitz*, Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen 2010, pp. 114f.

[88] On the structure and operation of the Kori ovens see my study *I forni crematori di Auschwitz. Studio storico-tecnico con la collaborazione del dott. Ing. Franco Deana*. Effepi, Genoa 2011, vol. I, second part, chapter XI, pp. 435-448; an English edition is in preparation.

tion nor in terms of fuel needs; hence there was no motive for it. If it was done anyway, the duration would practically have doubled for two corpses, tripled for three, etc., but a chimney would not have caught fire for that reason alone.[89] Widmann's reasoning on the subject of the chimney design is likewise confused, because the draft in the duct would have been determined by its cross-sectional area, its height and the load involved,[90] and the formation of any cracks would not have been linked to the shape of this cross-sectional area. Viewed in this light, the whole tale strikes one as not very credible.

Böhm then moves on to a description of the furnaces (pp. 113f.):

> *"Then, two of three corpses were cremated each in both crematoria. They consisted of brickwork, strengthened by steel bands at different levels. The corpses were pushed by a stretcher to the front of the furnace, which was protected by a heavy shield of steel and closed by a trap. The shield hung down from a cable having a counterweight; over rollers the cable was led to the side, where it could be moved. The stretcher consisted of sheet metal, welded to two rods, one on each side. These rods were pushed onto two rollers set onto a support bar in front of the furnace. According to Emil Hackel,*[91] *the ash was 'not preserved individually' but commingled. Behind the furnace section was a bone mill which reduced to the size of oatmeal any bones that might not have crumbled during the combustion process."*

As I have already stated, the simultaneous cremation of two or even three corpses would not have brought along any improvement (except for small children). In all likelihood, we have here a model for the future Auschwitz propaganda stories.

The description of the furnace is not very precise and, in places, nearly unintelligible. The "shield," in any case, was a fire-clay closure, held by a frame of cast iron; located above the rear portion of the furnace, it could be moved by a cable and two pulleys with counterweights, but this closure ran up and down vertically like a guillotine along two guide rails set into the furnace brickwork behind the muffle door. Its purpose was to retain the corpse in the muffle while the introduction cart was being pulled out. This cart ran on two rollers, mounted on a roller frame, the horizontal bars of which were welded to the anchor frame of the muffle door, whereas the vertical bars were set into the floor.

A "bone mill" is out of place in a normal crematorium. I shall return to this point in connection with the Hartheim euthanasia center.

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89 *Ibid*., chapter X, § 11, "Il problema dei camini fiammeggianti," pp. 430-434.
90 *Ibid*., first part, chapter 2, § 4, "Il camino," pp. 39-41.
91 Hackel was the stoker of the crematorium.

The whole description is apparently based on the Kori furnaces, the design and operation of which, however, escape Böhm.

Finally, Böhm looks at the ruins of the crematorium furnaces (p. 117):

> *"One can still see the very rusty U-shaped remains of the steel frames which supported the furnaces. In addition, the ceiling shows knocked-out holes which served to support the rollers of the furnace. The two crematoria were connected to a large square chimney, measuring about 1.40 by 1.40 meters.* […] *The attic still shows stains caused by the fire of the chimney."*

This description is again rather confused and shows that the author did not know much about the design of such furnaces. The term "knocked-out holes" ("*Ausbrüche*" in German) is somewhat mysterious; apparently we have here holes in the ceiling from which some object, a hook for example, had been removed by force. We have already seen that the rollers of the Kori furnaces served only to guide the introduction cart and did not have anything to do with the ceiling. The ceiling could have served for hooks holding the pulleys for the fire-clay plate or those of the smoke-duct vane which was operated in a similar way. If the "steel frames" were roller supports, the bars were ⊓ -shaped (the vertical bars) or ⊔ -shaped (the horizontal sections set into the furnace wall.

The chimney was part of the building, but was removed in spite of this. Why should this have been done? That an ordinary smoke duct, planned and designed for an ordinary heating plant, would have measured 1.40 by 1.40 = 1.96 square meters is something totally outrageous, if we remind ourselves that the chimneys of crematoria II and III at Auschwitz reached a height of 15.46 meters and were split into three ducts, 0.80 by 1.20 meters. As these ducts were each fed by two furnaces consisting of three muffles each, a section of 0.96 m² would have sufficed for the equivalent of six Kori furnaces. At the time it was not unusual for a domestic chimney to catch fire,[92] so that even the traces of a fire by themselves do not prove anything significant.

Hartheim: In his article mentioned above, Florian Schwanninger speaks of the cremation of corpses in this euthanasia center (pp. 120f.):

> *"The killing institution was equipped with its own cremation furnace which the Kori company supplied from Berlin and which was presumably installed by Berlin workers. The coke-fired furnace contained two chambers ('muffles'), in which up to eight corpses were cremated simultaneously. Originally the crematorium was connected to the domestic chimney. Presumably caused by the permanently high load, a chimney*

[92] *Ibid.*, p. 434.

fire occurred which threatened to spread to the rest of the castle as well."

In this case as well, the assertion that the furnace in question was supplied by the Kori company is supported merely by a statement of Lambert (footnote 16 on p. 120). Schwanninger apparently confuses the Kori furnace with the Topf double muffle furnace, because the former had only one muffle, and if it became necessary to install two muffles in one block – as in the case of the two central furnaces at the Dachau crematorium – two single furnaces were used. The idea of simply feeding the exhaust gas from a cremation furnace into a domestic chimney is ludicrous and could only be entertained by someone without any foundation in heat transfer, because the very hot gases would soon have set on fire the layers of soot always found in a domestic chimney.

A few pages on, Schwanninger tells us (p. 124):

"As the carcasses would not completely disintegrate into ash during cremation, an electric bone mill was employed. Part of the ash was shipped away in urns, each one having a capacity of some 3 kg. The remainder was filled into bags and, using a truck stationed at Hartheim, taken to the Danube, where it was dumped into the water."

As the ash was placed partly into urns that were later sealed, partly dumped into the Danube, the electric bone mill makes no sense at all – quite apart from the fact that the Kori furnaces were very efficient and a cremation with them yielded only ash, but no larger bone fragments.

When construction work was carried out in 2001 on the eastern wing of Schloss Hartheim, "large amounts of ash and bone fragments were found" (which is not what Schwanninger claimed earlier!) as well as "urn lids with the names of victims and identification tags which detainees had held at the Mauthausen concentration camp" (pp. 129f.).

Bernburg: In her contribution "Cleared for imperial purposes. On the equipment and function of the 'euthanasia' institution Bernburg/Saale" ("Für Reichszwecke freigemacht. Zur Einrichtung und Funktion der 'Euthanasie'-Anstalt Bernburg/Saale"; pp. 131-139) Ute Hoffmann writes that this euthanasia center contained "a crematorium with two stationary incineration furnaces" (pp. 135f.).

Brandenburg: In the same paper Hoffmann says merely that this center had a crematorium whose smoke was objected to by the people living in the area, whereupon cremations were moved to a site of a mansion some 4 km east of Brandenburg (p. 133).

Hadamar: In his article "Gas murder at Hadamar" ("Der Gasmord in Hadamar"; pp. 140-150), Georg Lilienthal tells us only very little about the cremation of the corpses in this euthanasia center, except that it contained

two cremation furnaces (p. 148). Whether these furnaces were also supplied by the Kori company is not made clear. The two furnaces are said to have left "visible traces" (p. 150) after having been "dismantled." Apparently, the furnaces of all other euthanasia centers were dismantled as well, except for the two mobile furnaces at Grafeneck, of which we do not know whether they were built by the Kori or the Topf company (no other firms built such furnaces).

The stationary coke-fired Kori furnace had metal fittings which weighed a total of 1,460 kilograms,[93] which means that, when dismantling the 10 or 11 furnaces allegedly set up in the euthanasia centers by Kori,[94] some 14,600 to 16,060 kg of iron would have been recovered, the fate of which is unknown. (By comparison: the metal fittings of the Topf furnaces dismantled by the camp administration at Auschwitz were stored in a room of Crematorium I where they are visible even now.) And what happened to the two or three mobile furnaces? They did not leave a trace either.

In connection with Hadamar, the topic of cremation takes on a particular importance, because an extremely large number of people is said to have been killed there within a short period of time. According to Lilienthal (p. 146)

> *"between 5 and 9 May* [1941], *88 to 90 patients were taken to Hadamar each day and murdered there. Starting in June, transports of more than 100 persons took place frequently. For example, between 21 and 24 July between 102 and 173 patients arrived daily, an average of 136 persons daily."*

The crematory was allegedly opened on 13 January 1941 (p. 144) and closed on 24 August (p. 147), so it worked for about 220 days, during which 10,000 people are said to have been murdered there (p. 147), or precisely 10,072, if we follow the above-mentioned "Hartheimer Statistik."

During one operating day of 20 hours of operation, one Kori crematorium furnace could cremate a maximum of about 24 corpses daily,[95] or 48 for two such furnaces. If we accept the above number of victims, the Hadamar furnaces would have been running at full load for more than seven months, but as the number of victims fluctuated from day to day, on certain days a large number of uncremated corpses would have had to be dealt with. For example, during the month of June only half of the corpses could have been disposed of in this manner. The witnesses – starting with the

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93 *Ibid.*, pp. 437f., letter of the H. Kori company of 18 May 1943 to engineer Waller of Office CIII of the SS-WVHA.

94 It is unclear whether the Grafeneck furnace was mobile or stationary.

95 C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 88), p. 362.

furnace attendants – have nothing to say on this. Instead, they proffer the tale of several corpses in one muffle as a solution to all of these problems!

I do not wish to assert in any way that no crematorium furnaces existed in the euthanasia centers. I merely wish to stress the fact that the information offered by the various authors is contradictory, both as far as documents are concerned and in technical respects, and thus cannot be taken as reliable historical sources.

Another topic which is not even cursorily addressed by orthodox historians concerns the death certificates of those killed. Böhm merely says that the employees at the registrar's office had indeed established such certificates, always signed them with the fictitious name of "Greif," and wrote "so-called letters of condolences"; the fact that they had always used fictitious names when writing to the families "would indicate that the killer physicians were aware of the illegal character of what was going on" (p. 114). In this respect Saul Friedländer explains elsewhere:[96]

> *"A death certificate was an official document, and the physician, when stating the cause of death, did so in his function as a government official."*

We may conclude the following: If a death certificate giving a false cause of death had to be issued, it was also necessary to establish an official confirmation to the effect that the deceased had been cremated and buried. With respect to cremation the legal dispositions in force at that time were particularly severe, as we can deduce from the legal requirements, *i.e.* the "Law on cremation" ("*Gesetz über Feuerbestattung*") dated 15 May 1934, the "Service regulations concerning cremation plants" ("*Dienstreglement für die Verbrennungsanlagen*") dated 5 November 1935, and finally the "Decree concerning the implementation of the law on cremation" ("*Verordnung zur Durchführung des Feuerbestattungsgesetzes*") dated 10 August 1938.[97] All of these dispositions were in effect long into the war, even for concentrations camps, as is documented by Himmler's decree dated 28 February 1940, entitled "Decree concerning the implementation of incinerations in the crematorium of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp" ("*Erlass über die Durchführung von Einäscherungen im Krematorium des Konzentrationslagers Sachsenhausen*").[98]

Aside from all this, not even a single witness statement claims that after the cremation of the victims false cremation documents were created, even though such documents would have been as indispensable as false death

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[96] S. Friedländer, *Le origini del genocidio nazista. Dall'eutanasia alla soluzione finale.* Editori Riuniti, Rome 1997, p. 142.

[97] See on this C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 88), second part, chapter VIII, § 4, "Le liste delle cremazioni del crematorio di Westerbork," pp. 357-362.

[98] BAK, NS 3/425.

certificates. After all, cremations were permitted only in officially licensed crematoria, which means that the furnaces of the euthanasia institutions – always assuming that they existed – would have been illegal.

Let us now turn to another question: the technical operation of the gas chambers at the euthanasia centers. It strikes me that the witnesses are unanimous when it comes to a particular detail which causes an impartial observer to raise his eyebrows. In all euthanasia institutions the gas is reported to have been removed by means of a blower (often labeled using the Anglicism "*Exhauster*"). At Brandenburg the gas supply "was stopped after half an hour; the room was ventilated by means of an exhauster and then opened" (p. 105). At Grafeneck the ventilation of the chamber was carried out "by means of a ventilator" (p. 105). At Bernburg, "a ventilation unit set into the window removed the CO-air mixture before the gas chamber was opened" (p. 136). At Hadamar "a ventilation device was installed" for the removal of the gas was. "It consisted of a pipe with a diameter of about 8 cm, set below the ceiling. It passed through the wall next to the door into the room in the west, was connected to a ventilator there and passed through the window of this room to the outside" (pp. 141f.).

Such systems cannot correspond to reality, because a gas chamber of this type would have needed *two* ventilators – one to feed fresh outside air into the chamber, and another one removing the air from the gas chamber to the outside. The disinfestation plant at Sachsenhausen (cf. chapter 10) operated in this manner.

Let me summarize: The "reconstruction" of the events in the euthanasia centers, while useful for backing up verdicts of politically motivated trials, has nothing to do with serious historiography.

It is practically an axiom for orthodox Holocaust historians that euthanasia served as a model for the alleged extermination of the Jews. They claim that, as a result of this, the personnel from the euthanasia centers were partly transferred to the "extermination camps" and that the killing method (gas chambers) was taken over by the latter. This transfer of personnel allegedly went along two avenues: into the "*Aktion Reinhardt*" camps and, via "*Aktion 14 f 13*," into the concentration camps.

The second avenue is covered by Astrid Ley in an article titled "Aktion 14 f 13 in the concentration camps" ("Die Aktion 14 f 13 in den Konzentrationslagern"; p. 231 – 243). She asserts that this "Aktion" has so far been interpreted "by a portion of historical research" as "a step in the direction of creating a 'genocidal mentality' and has been linked to the preparation of the genocide against the European Jews" (p. 231). The designation "Aktion 14 f 13," Ley assures us, was "taken from the code which was used by the Oranienburg Inspectorate of Concentration Camps (IKL) to

Table 3: Euthanasia Victims at Various Concentration Camps		
Location	Victims	Page
Sachsenhausen (first phase):	269	235
Sachsenhausen (second phase):	232	235
Auschwitz:	575	236
Buchenwald:	187	236
Mauthausen (first phase):	150	236
Mauthausen (second phase) and Gusen:	1,132	237
Dachau:	1,452	238
Ravensbrück:	572 female 334 male	239
Groß-Rosen:	214	239
Flossenbürg:	208	240
Neuengamme:	240	240

designate a murder by gas. The code 14 f by itself stood for 'death in the concentration camp,' with 13 specifying 'gassing'" (p. 231).

It is absolutely correct that "14 f" indicated death in a concentration camp. For example, "14 f 8-10" was used for non-natural causes of death,[99] while "14 f 14" stood for an execution, but there is not the slightest proof that "13" referred in any way to gassings. This assertion is based on a misleading fallacy of logic: because the victims of "*Aktion 14 f 13*" were gassed with carbon monoxide in the euthanasia centers, the figure "13" had to stand for "gassing"!

The only valid conclusion, however, is the following: As "*Aktion 14 f 13*" signified an extension of the euthanasia from civil institutions to concentration camps, the figure "13" stood for "death by euthanasia," quite independent from the way euthanasia was brought about – in the same way as "14 f 14" referred to legal executions, whether carried out by shooting, hanging or in any other manner.

This *Aktion*, "probably decided on by Heinrich Himmler" (p. 231), initially concerned "physically and mentally sick detainees unsuitable for work," as Ley tells us, and it was later extended to include all detainees unfit for work (p. 231), and finally, at least in the Mauthausen and Buchenwald camps, to all Jews (pp. 231f.). If we follow Ley, this *Aktion* began in April 1941, lasted through April 1942 (it was officially terminated only in February 1943) and is said to have caused the number of victims as given in Table 3.

According to this data, the total number of persons killed in this way amounts to some 5,900, roughly one twelfth of the "civilian" victims of the euthanasia centers.

[99] D-569.

The case of Auschwitz is especially interesting. Ley refers here to Danuta Czech's *Kalendarium*, which says that on 28 July 1942, 573 sick and unfit detainees were sent to Sonnenstein to be gassed there, but this incident is based exclusively on a statement by Rudolf Höß.[100] As opposed to this, the Polish underground movement at Auschwitz had sent out the following message on 2 July 1942:[101]

> *"The first use of gas took place in June 1941. A convoy of 1,700 'incurably sick patients' was formed and* [allegedly] *sent to Dresden; actually, though,* [it was sent] *into a building converted into a gas chamber."*

Thus, the Polish underground asserts that the "first gassing" occurred at Auschwitz itself and not at Sonnenstein. Moreover, it should be noted that the two sources differ by thirteen months, as far as the date is concerned!

Hence, an extension of "*Aktion 14 f 13*" to Auschwitz is not borne out by documents.[102]

Ley does not explain why this *Aktion*, also known as "*Sonderbehandlung 14 f 13*," is said to have evolved eventually into the alleged extermination of the Jews, which is also (but wrongly) labeled "*Sonderbehandlung*"[103] in the orthodox Holocaust literature. Thus, there is no connection between the euthanasia centers and the alleged extermination of Jews at Auschwitz.

Even as to the question why the SS relied on the help of the euthanasia centers when it came to implementing "*Aktion 14 f 13*" instead of solving these problems by the means available to them in the concentration camps, Ley leaves us stranded. She offers only the excuse that this question "cannot be satisfactorily answered" (pp. 242f.). Actually, the alleged "genocidal mentality" of the SS, a concept so popular among orthodox Holocaust historians (p. 231), should have prompted them to set up gas chambers on their own and right on time. In a search for an argumentative safe haven, Ley quickly moves on to the "relocation to the east of the center of gravity

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[100] D. Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939-1945*. Rowohlt Verlag, Reinbek near Hamburg, 1989, pp. 105f.

[101] *Obóz koncentracyjny Oświęcim w świetle akt Delegatury Rządu R.S. na Kraj,* Zeszyty Oświęcimskie, Numer specjalny I, Oświęcim 1968, p. 47.

[102] Jochen August's paper "Transport 575 więźniów KL Auschwitz do Sonnenstein (28 lipca 1941 roku). Rekonstrukcja zniszczonej listy transport" (The transport of 575 inmates of KL Auschwitz to Sonnenstein (28 July 1941). Reconstruction of the destroyed transport list), in: *Zeszyty Oświęcimskie*, no. 24, 2008, pp. 111-160, confirms that the Auschwitz Museum has no documentary proof whatsoever about the reality of this transport.

[103] See on this my study *Special Treatment in Auschwitz: Origin and Meaning of a Term,* Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004, as well as *Auschwitz: assistenza sanitaria, "selezione" e "Sonderbehandlung" dei detenuti immatricolati*. Effepi, Genoa 2010; a combined English edition of both works is planned.

of the National Socialist mass murders by poison gas," where, "from March 1942 onwards, 'T4' collaborators murdered the Jews deported into the General Government within the framework of the '*Aktion Reinhardt*'" (p. 243). This topic will be dealt with in chapter 6.

3. The "Gas Vans"

Mathias Beer's article "Gas vans, from euthanasia to genocide" ("Gaswagen. Von der Euthanasie zum Genozid"; pp. 153-164) is nothing but a pale rehashing of his earlier study "The development of the gas vans and the murder of the Jews" mentioned above ("Die Entwicklung der Gaswagen beim Mord an den Juden"), which I have already analyzed critically in an earlier book.[104] Even more than the first article, this one shows a blatant lack of critical judgment.

Beer attributes a great deal of importance to the role of the Institute of Forensic Technology (*Kriminaltechnisches Institut*, KTI) of the German police in the development of the "gas vans." After the creation of the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* (RSHA; Imperial Security Main Office), the KTI was integrated as group D into department V (*Reichskriminalpolizeiamt*, Imperial Police Office for Crime Investigation), headed by SS-*Gruppenführer* Arthur Nebe. Section VD2 (Chemistry and Biology) was headed by the chemist Dr. Albert Widmann (p. 155).

As a starting point for his presentation, Beer chooses the already analyzed declaration by Widmann, dated 27 January 1960, in which the latter stated that he had recommended carbon monoxide for the killing of mentally sick patients. Based on Widmann's recommendation, Beer goes on to state that the Hitler chancellery had opted for carbon monoxide (CO) as the "most suitable agent." Passing along well-trodden paths, Beer then moves on to the phantom "test killing" at Brandenburg and mentions August Becker's assertion, dated 4 April 1960, that the first gassing was "carried out by Dr. Widmann," who "manipulated the gas lever and controlled the gas flow" (p. 156). In doing so, however, he omits the account given by witness Richard von Hegener in 1949, also mentioned by Astrid Ley, according to whom, at the very same "test gassing," "the room was closed" and "the chemist concerned, Dr. Becker, let CO-gas flow into the room" (p. 95).

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[104] *Chełmno: A German Camp in History and Propaganda*, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011, pp. 9-16.

Without furnishing any documentary source, Beer goes on to assert that two "test gassings" had taken place at Fort VII in Posen/Poznan in October of 1939 (p. l56). This is in contradiction with the depositions made by Werner Heyde during his interrogations on 12 October and 22 December 1961 to the effect that "two tests were carried out on mental patients, one using lethal injections, the other CO gas" (p. 96).

After these contradictory accounts, for which there is no solid proof, Beer turns to the alleged consequences of these "test gassings":

> *"On the basis of the 'test gassings,' the search for efficient, or, in NS terms, more 'mass-effective' killing methods yielded two lines of approach. One led to the stationary gas chambers used for the 'T4'-Aktion.* […] *The other approach resulted in a first (proto)type of gas vans."*

According to Beer, the other approach was undertaken by the activities of "*Sonderkommando* Lange," but "unfortunately, the genesis of this killing process cannot be established cohesively in view of the lack of contemporary sources as well as of suitable methods of investigation" (p. 157). Or in plain English: Historians depend on speculations, and this is exactly what Beer does as he goes along: He speculates vacuously on the structure of a "gas van" of the first type and states that such a device was a "mobile gas chamber" consisting of an "air-tight trailer, moved along by a tractor." On the trailer were "steel cylinders with CO, [which] fed the lethal gas to the passengers." We learn neither where the victims were located nor how the gas was piped into the cargo box, but we are told that this "mobile gas chamber" carried the designation "*Kaisers Kaffee-Geschäft*" on the outside.[105]

"*Kaisers Kaffee Geschäft AG*" was a commercial company founded by Josef Kaiser which blended and roasted coffee and distributed it in many countries of the world with their vehicles, which on the side bore the name of the company. Witness references to "Kaisers Kaffee" vehicles may have been the result of a confusion of a special military vehicle referred to as "LC-Koffer," which had been produced since 1940.[106]

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[105] The first reference to such a coffee van was made by the Polish investigating judge Władysław Bednarz during his 1946 investigations on the Chełmno camp, cf. *idem*, *Obóz straceń w Chełmnie nad Nerem*, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, Warsaw 1946, p. 23; from there it entered the verdict against Albert Widmann handed down by the Stuttgart district court on 15 September 1967, cf. Christiaan F. Rüter *et al.* (eds.), *Justiz und NS-Verbrechen. Sammlung deutscher Strafurteile wegen nationalsozialistischer Tötungsverbrechen*, University Press, Amsterdam, Case 658, vol. XXVI, p. 565.

[106] Michael Ehrmann, *Die Geschichte des Werkes Sindelfingen der Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft und der Daimler-Benz AG*. Historiches Institut Universität Stuttgart, 1998, p. 201.

Toward the end of 1939, Beer tells us, a practical test was decided upon which proved positive indeed, because:

> *"Between January 1940 and July 1941, the 'Sonderkommando Lange' killed thousands of patients brought in from institutions located in the Warthegau by means of this 'Kaiser's Coffee Shop' van."*

Another 1,500 patients, Beer continues, were killed in the Soldau transit camp by vans of this type (p. 157).

As usual for cases of this nature, he cites writings by other orthodox Holocaust historians as his sources, which, in turn refer to their colleagues, resulting in a vicious circle. As far as the Soldau transit camp is concerned, however, Beer did give a source in his first article, viz. a letter from Higher SS and Police Leader (*Höherer SS- und Polizeiführers*) Wilhelm Koppe to *SS-Gruppenführer* Jakob Sporrenberg, which says, among other things:[107]

> *"The so-called Lange Sonderkommando for special tasks subordinated to me was seconded to Soldau, East Prussia, during the period of 21 May to 8 June 1940 in accordance with the agreement made with the RSHA, and in that time has evacuated 1,558 patients from the Soldau transit camp"*

There is no mention here of "Kaiser's Coffee Shop" nor of any killings, but of a transit camp. That there were also sick people passing through this camp is not surprising.[108] For example, between December 1943 and March 1944 no fewer than 20,850 sick or incapacitated detainees were moved from the camps at Buchenwald, Dora-Mittelbau, Neuengamme, Mauthausen, Ravensbrück, Auschwitz (!) and Flossenbürg to the concentration camp Lublin-Majdanek.[109]

For some unknown reason, this imaginary line of technical development in the field of "test gassings" breaks off abruptly at this point. The "gas vans" of the second generation are said to have come on the drawing boards only in late fall of 1941, this time not for the purposes of euthanasia, but for the extermination of the Jews.

In this case Beer travels along well-known paths as well and starts his narrative with a visit by Himmler to Baranovici and Minsk on 14 and 15 August 1941, accompanied by SS-*Obergruppenführer* Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, who held the position of *Höherer SS- und Polizeiführer Russland-Mitte*, (Higher SS and Police Leader, Central Russia), where they are said to have attended the shooting of mental patients. Shaken by the inhumanity of the killing process, Himmler allegedly realized that "shooting,

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[107] See on this my study about Chełmno, *op. cit.* (note 104), p. 11.
[108] On this see Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40), Chapter 5, points 81-83, pp. 281-284.
[109] J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 64), p. 46.

after all, was not the most humane way" and worried about the psychological effect on the firing squad, whereupon he ordered von dem Bach-Zelewski and Nebe to look for more humane killing methods.

This anecdote appeared on 23 August 1946 in the New York Jewish newspaper *Der Aufbau* as part of a statement attributed to von dem Bach-Zelewski,[110] but its contents had been massively manipulated by the editorial staff of the newspaper, as is apparent from a comparison with the original statement of this SS officer.[111]

The search for a "more humane" method is said to have been entrusted to KTI, the institute for forensic technology (p. 159):

> *"In the second half of September, Nebe, in his position as head of Office V of RSHA, called two meetings with KTI personnel, including Dr. Widmann, who brought along 400 kg of explosives and flexible metal tubing. The idea was to experimentally explore 'more suitable' killing methods at the Nowinski institution near Minsk and at the one in Mogilew. If we follow these depositions, it was probably intended also to take into consideration the fact that, on account of the distances involved, it was impossible to bring sufficient amounts of cylinders with pure CO into the operational areas of the Einsatzgruppen in the USSR."*

At this point, Beer briefly touches on alleged experiments with explosives as well as with the exhaust gases of two vehicles which were fed, by way of metal tubes, into a closed space holding several patients of an institution. The source given by Beer is an interrogation of Widmann on 11 January 1960 at Düsseldorf.[112] Yet nobody in his right mind should take this account seriously for the following reasons:

Widmann reports about a phone call Nebe had with his deputy Werner after the beginning of the Russian campaign. The latter then informed him, Widmann, about the subject of this phone call. According to this, Nebe said that he had received the order to kill the mental patients in his area and had selected explosives and gas for this purpose. Widmann was allegedly ordered to get hold of 250 kg of explosives and two metal tubes and to take them to Minsk. He said that he had executed this order, taking along 400 kg of explosives as a precautionary measure. He reported that the transportation of CO cylinders into Russia was impossible and that engine exhaust gas had to be used instead. He stated that it was actually Nebe who had hit

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[110] "Leben eines SS-Generals. Aus den Nürnberger Geständnissen des Generals der Waffen-SS Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski," in: *Aufbau*, 23 August 1946, p. 1.

[111] NARA, RG 238, M1270, OCCPAC. Interrogation Records Prepared for War Crimes Proceedings at Nuernberg 1945-1947, von dem Bach-Zelewski, pp. 37-42. This issue will be discussed in detail in an upcoming study on the *Einsatzgruppen*.

[112] ZStL, 202-AR-Z 152/59.

on this idea after almost dying of suffocation in his garage while the engine of his car was running.

After having reached Minsk with his two vehicles (the detonators had to be transported separately from the explosives), Widmann had met Nebe and carried out the following experiment together with him:[113]

> *"In the afternoon of that day, we drove with Nebe into a forest near Minsk. We found a clearing with 2 shelters. They must have been built by the Russians. The shelters measured about 3 by 6 meters. When we arrived, the shelters were still empty. We then set up the explosives, which were contained in boxes, and the cables. The boxes with the explosives were in the shelters themselves."*

The experiment was carried out in a single shelter. On this subject Widmann stated:[114]

> *"At Minsk 250 kg were used, as it had been planned by Nebe."*

Earlier, Widmann had spoken of "a killing of a maximum of 18 mental patients" and of the "use of 250 kg of explosives."[115] Nebe had apparently been in touch with the *Luftwaffe* to find out how much explosive material would have to be used in order to achieve the necessary effect,[116] and he had apparently been told that the needed amount was 250 kilograms. This amount had then been used as planned.

Later, Widmann spoke of the test gassing:[117]

> *"Next morning, I went to the mental institution at Mogilev together with Nebe.* […] *All that was needed was to select a room where this was to be done. It turned out that a laboratory was most suited; it was located in the same building.* […]
>
> *Nebe then had the window walled up in the afternoon, leaving two openings for the gas feed. Nebe wouldn't have it in a different manner. It was clear that this feed had to be left open for the hoses.* […]
>
> *The next morning the operation was carried out.* […]
>
> *When we arrived, first of all a hose which I had brought along in the car was connected. It was connected to a passenger car.*
>
> *I do not remember whether it was one of the cars Schmidt and I had brought with us. Pieces of pipe had been set into the openings and allowed an easy mounting of the hoses.*
>
> *Initially, there were no patients in the laboratory. They arrived shortly afterwards on* [horse-drawn] *farm wagons. I remember only one*

[113] *Ibid.*, pp. 45-47, quote is from p. 47.
[114] *Ibid.*, p. 48.
[115] *Ibid.*, p. 51.
[116] *Ibid.*, p. 45.
[117] *Ibid.*, pp. 49f.

of those wagons, but there may have been room on those wagons for 5 or at most 6 patients who were taken into the laboratory.

Once the patients were in the laboratory, Nebe ordered the engine of the car with the hose to be turned on. Nebe went into the building, where one could look into the laboratory through a window in the door.

Five minutes later, Nebe came out saying that no effect was noticed and wondered what to do now.

Nebe and I decided that the engine of the car was too weak. Thereupon, Nebe had the second hose connected to a personnel truck of the police. Then it took only a few minutes until the people fainted. Then both cars were left running for some 10 minutes."

The description of the alleged experiment with explosives is grotesque, to put it mildly. It would mean that, while the perpetrators were still in Berlin, they already knew that they were going to kill 18 mental patients with 250 kg of explosives – some 14 kg per head! Truly a reckless waste of war material.

From the results of the experiment, Nebe and Widmann concluded that, while the explosion did cause the immediate death of the victims, the method was not really practical – first of all on account of its laborious preparation and, secondly, because much work was involved in leveling the resulting craters.[118] Was it really imperative to run an experiment in order to arrive at such an obvious conclusion?

From the description, the test gassing seems to have been a rough improvisation, starting with Nebe's bright idea (the incident in his garage) right down to Widmann's vague description. On what floor and at what distance from the cars was the laboratory located? How big was it? What type of engines did the vehicles have? What was their displacement? All these indications would have been required if one were to draw any even halfway reliable conclusions. And how could Nebe be sure that the exhaust gases would bring about death within five minutes, if a gassing with pure carbon monoxide in the euthanasia centers took two or three times as long?[119]

Thus, the whole narrative sounds absolutely foolish. Who can seriously believe that the SS would have sent one of their people to Minsk, some 1,150 km away from Berlin, with a load of 250 kg of explosives and two metal pipes in order to run experiments involving a handful of patients, which could just as well be killed at some shooting range or euthanasia center in the Reich?

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[118] *Ibid*., p. 51.

[119] 15 min. at Grafeneck (p. 105), 10-15 min. at Hartheim (p. 123), 10 min. at Hadamar (p. 146).

The reason for my detailed analysis of this ludicrous story is because Beer takes it at face value and draws a far-reaching conclusion (p. 160):

> *"The tests at Mogilev and Minsk constituted the starting point for the development of the second generation of gas vans which would now use exhaust gases instead of pure carbon monoxide."*

This decision was of course triggered by the *Einsatzgruppen*'s urgent need for mobile gas chambers… Arthur Nebe und Walter Heeß, the head of the KTI, submitted this proposal to the head of the RSHA, Reinhardt Heydrich, who in turn ordered the construction of a first prototype of the second generation gas van. Subsequently, "the vehicle, modified accordingly into an instrument of death, […] was taken to the KTI, where chemists, protected by gas masks, took air samples with the engine running and analyzed their composition" (p. 160).

While not the slightest trace of documentary evidence exists for this account, it does show the absurdity of the alleged experiment at Mogilev. Beer continues (p. 161):

> *"The chemical analyses were followed by several 'test gassing' of Russian prisoner of war at Sachsenhausen: 'the corpses had a pinkish appearance, as we chemists determined, which is typical of people who have died from carbon monoxide poisoning."*

Such gassings, too, were "proven" only by witness statements and the confessions of the perpetrators; we have already seen the value of such statements. The mention of the corpses' pinkish color in Beer's text, by the way, is based on a statement by Theodor Friedrich Leiding dated 6 February 1959 (footnote 33 on p. 161). While it does show on the one hand that Leiding, as a chemist, obviously knew what color corpses of CO victims would show, it does not prove, on the other hand, that he had ever seen such corpses himself. It is interesting to note that in this case not one of the seven articles dealing with euthanasia in this anthology mentions such a discoloration, which should necessarily have struck the perpetrators. In particular, such a reference is lacking in the very detailed description of the corpses provided by Maximilian L. on 3 March 1947 at the Hadamar trial (p. 147).

Once Beer has presented his tale of the genesis of the second generation gas vans, he goes on to relate their alleged use, citing the rare documents available to historiography. Pierre Marais and Santiago Alvarez very thoroughly analyzed these documents, so I shall limit myself to simply referring to their studies[120] and to one additional remark:

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[120] P. Marais, *Les camions à gaz en question*, Polémiques, Paris 1994. S. Alvarez, *The Gas Vans. A Critical Investigation*, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011.

Beer cites the well-known paragraph from a letter said to have been written by August Becker to Walter Rauff on 16 May 1942 and used as a document at the Nuremberg trial (p. 163):[121]

> *"On all occasions the gassing is not done in the right manner. In order to get the work done as quickly as possible, the driver gives full throttle. Through this measure the executees suffer a death through suffocation and not as intended a death by being put to sleep."*

Let me remind the reader that Achim Trunk asserts in his article mentioned above that the "gas vans" had gasoline engines but that, in stark contradiction to this, the victims allegedly suffocated under the effect of a diesel engine run at high speed.

Considering the high standard that German engine technology had already attained in the 1930s – as shown by the aforementioned German book on toxicology of vehicle engines[48] – the test gassings carried out ten years later and described by Beer and other writers appear rather childish. The only purpose of this permanent rehashing of these ridiculous stories merely is to prop up the credibility of the "gas van" legend, which is solely based on worthless testimonies and verdicts of politically motivated trials.

4. From Euthanasia to the Camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*"

Let us now turn to the relationship between the euthanasia centers and the alleged extermination camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*." This topic is dealt with by Patricia Heberer in her article "From "Aktion TA" to the mass murder of the European Jews. The transfer of the killer staff" ("Von der 'Aktion T4' zum Massenmord an den europäischen Juden.' Der Transfer des Tötungspersonals"; pp. 165-175). Two topics dominate here: the transfer of personnel from the euthanasia centers to the eastern camps of Bełżec, Treblinka and Majdanek, and the alleged relationship between the mysterious gas chambers at these centers and those of the three camps. This second point is what mainly concerns us here.

Patricia Heberer believes that euthanasia had served "in many ways as a technical model for the 'final solution,'" whose planners had "referred to the experience and the methods of 'Aktion T4' (p. 171). She backs up her assertions by saying (p. 171):

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[121] This letter was thoroughly scrutinized by P. Marais, *ibid.*, pp. 29-43. See also S. Alvarez, *ibid.*, pp. 40-55.

> *"The gassing method used in the camps of the 'Aktion Reinhardt' was a nearly perfect reflection of the model that had taken shape at the 'euthanasia' murder sites. As opposed to most concentration camps where the prisoners were used as cheap labor, only a few 'able-bodied' men or women were selected at Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka from each transport while the others were immediately sent to their death. Here, too, the gas chambers resembled shower rooms; the deportees were told that they had to undress for washing and disinfection.* […] *After the gassing, Jewish 'Sonderkommandos' were forced to bury or incinerate the victims, just as the 'T4 murderers' had dealt with the corpses of the mental patients."*

Patricia Heberer concludes that the men of "*Aktion T4*" had arrived in occupied Poland with a thorough knowledge of the gassing procedure and the corpse incineration process (p. 175).

This thesis is a little adventurous. We have heard that in the euthanasia centers crematoria were allegedly used for this purpose, and so one wonders about the experience the men of "*Aktion T4*" may have had when it came to open-air incinerations as allegedly employed in the Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka camps. What is much more important, however, is the question of the gas chambers. Heberer's "model" theory is not supported by the sources, as the descriptions of witnesses relating to the gas chambers for euthanasia centers are radically different from the chambers allegedly used in the "eastern extermination camps." While carbon monoxide supplied in steel cylinders is said to have been used in the former, engine exhaust gases were purportedly employed in the latter, we are told today. This is how Patricia Heberer tries to get around this contradiction:

> *"At Bełżec, initially pure carbon monoxide from cylinders was used for the first gassings, just like in the 'euthanasia' centers. Later on, the exhaust gases containing carbon monoxide*[122] *from operating automobile engines became the standard killing method at Bełżec and at all other 'Aktion Reinhardt' extermination camps."*

The assertion that carbon monoxide in steel cylinders was initially used at Bełżec is based solely on a somewhat opportunistic statement made in 1962 by SS *Untersturmführer* Josef Oberhauser, who was stationed at Bełżec at one time:[123]

> *"While bottled gas was still used during the first experimental series and also for the first transports of the second series, the Jews of the last*

[122] Note that P. Heberer carefully avoids referring to the type of engine allegedly used!

[123] Interrogation protocol of J. Oberhauser, 12 December 1962. ZSL, 208 AR-Z, 252/59, p. 1685.

transports of the second experimental series were killed with the exhaust gases from a tank or truck engine operated by Hackenholt."

When, how and by whom it was then decided to use engine exhaust gases at Bełżec instead of bottled carbon monoxide has not been made clear yet. I have underlined elsewhere that Holocaust historians are still busy looking for the "missing link" between the alleged gas chambers of the euthanasia centers and those of the three "*Aktion Reinhardt*" camps. Patricia Heberer now claims to have discovered this link in a well-known document (p. 168):

"On 25 October 1941, Dr. Erhard Wetzel, responsible for racial issues at the Imperial Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories, wrote a letter to Reichskommissar Hinrich Lohse, explaining the proposal made by Brack, i.e. to set up stationary gassing plants within the Reichskommissariat Ostland and to use 'T4' gassing technology as well as the staff from the killing centers for this purpose. In the so-called 'gas chamber letter,' Wetzel recommended using 'Brack-type means' on Jews who were no longer able to work, whereas able-bodied Jews were to be taken further east for further assignments. While Brack's proposals were never implemented at Riga as originally planned, the 'Reinhardt' strategists now came back to his offer to delegate 'T4' personnel for the gassing of Jews in the General Government. The interruption of the 'euthanasia' program in August of 1941 thus occurred at an auspicious moment when the plans of the 'final solution' were taking shape."

In one of my previous books I have already dealt with the questionable aspects of this document:

– It is the draft of a letter which never went out;
– Wetzel never recognized the authenticity of this letter;
– The criminal content of the letter was put in doubt or at least not confirmed by Eichmann and by Helmut Kallmeyer who was mentioned in the letter.[124]

Furthermore, we must note that the letter suggests merely the killing of Jews no longer able to work, whereas – if we follow orthodox historiography – even the able-bodied Jews are said to have been systematically killed in the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*,"' which is explicitly mentioned by Patricia Heberer.

Wetzel's letter begins as follows:[125]

[124] See on this Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op, cit.* (note 40), Chapter 5, points 49-51, pp. 171-176..
[125] NO-365.

"Referring to my letter of 10/18/1941, you are informed that Oberdienstleiter Brack of the Chancellery of the Führer has declared himself ready to collaborate in the manufacture of the necessary shelters, as well as the gassing apparatus. At the present time the apparatus in question are not on hand in the Reich in sufficient number; they will first have to be manufactured. Since in Brack's opinion the manufacture of the apparatus in the Reich will cause more difficulty than if manufactured on the spot, Brack deems it most expedient to send his people directly to Riga, especially his chemist Dr. Kallmeyer, who will have everything further done there."

According to Patricia Heberer, the "gassing apparatus" were standard carbon monoxide bottles. But then why would Wetzel say that their manufacture in the Reich was so much more difficult? On the other hand, we have heard that it was allegedly almost impossible to ship CO cylinders into the occupied East; hence their local manufacture would have been just as logical.

Santiago Alvarez has proffered a number of arguments indicating that the "gassing apparatus" were mere delousing equipment, for instance the fact that they are mentioned in connection with "living shelters."[126] This interpretation is supported by a radio message intercepted by the British on 13 November 1941:[127]

"SS Main Section North Sea, HAMBURG 13.

Firm TESCH STABENOW, HAMBURG 1. Re. letter of Nov. 5. Request immediate notification when Zyklon was shipped, and when partial shipping of Tegas, Ethyleno. D and Trito can be expected, so that Dr Tesch, who [does] *training at RIGA ... (corrupt groups) ... all of them ... are very needed. Dr TESCH asks to forward his mail here. Senior physician at Higher SS and Pol. Leader Riga"*

The chemicals referred to in a garbled way were the disinfestation agents "T-Gas", ethylene oxide and "Tritox," none of which could have been used for homicide. It is thus clear that at that time the SS at Riga was being trained in the use of a number of disinfestation methods to fight disease carrying insects.

The theory that the euthanasia centers were a "model" for the "eastern extermination" camps is moreover refuted by bare facts. Between 1997 and 1999 a group of archeologists from the Nicolaus Copernicus University at Thorn, headed by Professor Andrzej Kola, carried out studies on the site of the former camp at Bełżec. They undertook soundings at a total of 2,227 locations spaced some 5 m apart, using a drill of 65 mm in diameter and 6

[126] S. Alvarez, *op. cit.* (note 120), pp. 96f.
[127] TNA, HW 16/32, German Police Decodes, No. 1 Traffic: 13.11.41, no. 10.

m in length. The length could be increased to 8 meters by a supplementary rod. The official goal of the soundings was to locate the sites of the mass graves and to find architectural remains of any buildings of the erstwhile camp. Andrzej Kola published a report on the results,[128] which also exists in an English version with the title "Bełżec. The Nazi Camp for Jews in the light of archeological sources. Excavations 1997-1999."[129] Kola was unable to find any trace of the alleged Bełżec gas chambers, neither of those of the first phase of the camp's history, which were allegedly located in a wooden building, nor those of the later phase, whose gas chambers are said to have been located in a concrete structure.[130]

In 2000 and 2001, Kola carried out similar studies at the Sobibór camp. He published the results in a brief article whose title translates to "Archeological investigations in the area of the former extermination camp for Jews at Sobibór."[131] So far this report has not been translated into a western language. Revisionists have nevertheless analyzed it in great detail in one of their books.[132] Neither Kola nor the other archeologists, who picked up their shovels between 2007 and 2011, accurately described by Marek Bem and Wojciech Mazurek,[133] were able to unearth even the slightest trace of the alleged building for the gas chambers.[134] Under these circumstances it is not surprising that Kola's results were not discussed by the participants of the Oranienburg conference. Claudia Kühne mentions Kola merely in a footnote (footnote 9 on p. 66) without devoting a single word to its contents, in spite of the title she gave to her paper, *i.e.* "Violence and death in concentration and extermination camps. Possibilities and limits of archeology" ("Gewalt und Tod in Konzentrations- und Vernichtungslagern. Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Archäologie"), which would well have warranted a critical discussion with this immensely important topic.

The tale about the genesis of the alleged gas chambers in the eastern camps, as proposed by orthodox Holocaust historians, is bursting with arbi-

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[128] A. Kola, *Hitlerowski obóz zagłady Żydów w Bełżcu w świetle źródeł archeologicznych. Badania 1997-1999*. Rada Ochrony Pamięci Walk i Męczeństwa, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Warsaw/Washington, DC, 2000.

[129] The Council for the Protection of Memory and Martyrdom, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Warsaw/Washington, DC, 2000.

[130] On this see my study *Bełżec*, *op. cit.* (note 43), pp. 93-96.

[131] A. Kola, "Badania archeologiczne terenu byłego obozu zagłady Żydów w Sobibórze w 2001 r.," in: *Przeszłość i Pamięć*, no. 4, October-December 2001, pp. 115-122.

[132] J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), pp. 109-167.

[133] M. Bem, W. Mazurek, *Sobibór: Archaeological research conducted on the site of the former German extermination centre in Sobibór 2000-2011*, The Foundation for "Polish-German Reconciliation," Warsaw-Włodawa, 2012.

[134] This issue is treated with more detail in Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit*. (note 40), pp. 868-939.

trary assertions and raises so many questions that it fails to convince a critical mind.[135]

The second aspect of the relationship between the euthanasia centers and the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*" consists in the assignment of a considerable portion of the staff of these centers to the Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka camps. Patricia Heberer writes (p. 167):

> *"The first assignment of German personnel to the camps of 'Aktion Reinhardt' comprised 153 SS members and policemen under the command of Globocnik in the Lublin district, another 205 SS-men, policemen and men from other SS units, as well as 92 persons from the 'T4' staff."*

Hence, some 20% of the German personnel of these three camps consisted of former "T4" staff members. We see no reason to doubt these figures – but why were these men assigned to those camps?

Orthodox historians, basing themselves on the untenable thesis that the alleged gas chambers in the three camps were modeled on those of the euthanasia centers, take the transfer of euthanasia personnel to the Lublin district as proof for the claim that they were used there for the alleged extermination of the Jews. But the problem is far more complex. The participants of the Oranienburg meeting did not even try to begin dealing with the serious contradictions which orthodox Holocaust historiography has been facing for a long time.

As I have already explained, the NS policy towards the Jews is very well documented, from the promotion of Jewish emigration up to the concept of a "territorial final solution," which initially targeted the island of Madagascar for this purpose and later the temporarily German-occupied Soviet territories. As against this, the radical change of course towards a policy of systematic extermination is not based on a single document. At what time was this new objective of NS policy conceived? When did expressions like "evacuation" or "resettlement" become euphemisms for physical annihilation? Who decided the construction of extermination camps, and when, and for what reason did this take place?[136]

Patricia Heberer and her likeminded colleagues assume axiomatically that such a crucial change did indeed occur, but they don't make the slightest effort to prove their thesis.

Another problem avoided by these historians concerns the command levels on which the alleged extermination orders are said to have been is-

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[135] J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), foremost chapter 8.4, "The Alleged First Gas Chamber Building at Sobibór" as well as chapter 8.3.3., "Construction of the Alleged Gas Chambers: General Problems." On Treblinka see C. Mattogno, J. Graf, *op. cit.* (note 47), chapters IV.1.-IV.7, pp. 111-137.

[136] I have discussed this issue extensively in Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40).

sued. According to orthodox Holocaust historiography, there were at least three chains of command (regarding the authorities involved and the killing methods allegedly arrived at):

1) Hitler → Führer chancellery → The KTI: carbon monoxide in steel cylinders (euthanasia centers, Majdanek) → gas vans (Chełmno; *Einsatzgruppen*);

2) Hitler → Himmler → Eichmann → Höß: Zyklon B (Auschwitz/Majdanek);

3) Himmler → Globocnik → Höfle → Wirth: exhaust gases of diesel and/or gasoline engines (Bełżec/Sobibór/Treblinka).

Orthodox Holocaust historians admit that the former euthanasia personnel were recruited on two occasions to temporarily take part in two undertakings which have nothing at all to do with mass killings and are thus completely unexplainable from the orthodox point of view. Patricia Heberer tells us (p. 166):

> *"In January of 1942, the managers of certain 'euthanasia' institutions urged their staff to take part in a special medical assignment on the eastern front. In this so-called 'assignment east,' coordinated by 'Organisation Todt, the 'T4' personnel was supposedly employed for the evacuation of soldiers wounded at the eastern front."*

In an effort to extricate herself from this quandary, Heberer asserts that the euthanasia personnel were possibly sent to the eastern front in order to kill *German soldiers* who "were suffering from serious head injuries or other untreatable wounds" (p. 167), but she is unable to support her outrageous thesis with even one witness statement. If this had really been the case, one could not understand why such an undertaking was ordered only once, in January 1942, because the number of seriously injured German soldiers strongly rose after this date.

Finally, Heberer's thesis is based on a logical error: As the staff in question had earlier been used for killings, she imputes that they could now be used only for that purpose! With the same twisted logic, Heberer *et al*. explain the fact that many of the people concerned were moved to the Adriatic coast in late 1943 in order to serve at the so-called "Risiera di San Sabba" camp near Trieste, which some Holocaust historians therefore consider to have been a small "extermination camp." Heberer writes (p. 175)

> *"Erwin Lambert himself, the former master mason of 'T4,' built the gas chamber and the crematorium of the new camp, in which several thousand Jews and other victims were to perish."*

In September 1943 Globocnik was moved to Trieste, together with the staff of "*Aktion Reinhardt*." At that time the Bełżec camp had already been shut down and the Sobibór as well as the Treblinka camp were about to be

closed. At Trieste Globocnik became the "Higher SS and Police Leader in the Operating Zone of the Adriatic Coastal area." The former personnel of the three camps were regrouped as a new "Unit R" (the letter R probably referring to "Reinhardt"). The unit was directly attached to the Führer chancellery and to Globocnik and had three sections:[137]

"R"/I: Trieste – Risiera di San Sabba, under the command of SS-*Hauptsturmführer* Gottlieb Hering;

"R"/II: Fiume-Susak, under the command of SS-*Hauptsturmführer* Franz Reichleitner;

"R"/III: Udine, under the command of SS-*Hauptsturmführer* Franz Stangl.

The Risiera di San Sabba camp was used as a transit camp for some of the deported Italian Jews. On this matter, the Italian historian Liliana Picciotto-Fargion has this to say:[138]

> *"From December 1943 through March 1944 the prison of Coroneo in Trieste served as a collection center for deportees and was then replaced by the collection and transit camp of Risiera di San Sabba (police detention center)."*

The author adds that, while the number of deportees per transport had amounted to an average of 500 to 600 persons in other parts of the country, it had only reached some 68 to 80 persons in the operational zone of the Adriatic coastal area with its "capital" Trieste.[139]

Altogether 23 transports left the area, with a total of 1,173 Jews; most of them went to Auschwitz.[140] One of the deportees was Bruno Piazza, about whom Picciotto-Fargion has this to say:[141]

> *"Born in Trieste on 15 January 1899.* […] *Arrested by the Germans at Trieste on 13 July 1944. Detained at the San Sabba camp, as well as Trieste prison. Deported from Trieste to Auschwitz on 31 July 1944. Inmate ID number 190712."*

Piazza died in 1946, but before passing away he wrote a report – published in 1946 as a book – in which he also wrote about his stay at Risiera di San Sabba.[142]

> *"Regardless of the presence of informers which the SS had placed among us in order to spy on what we did while in our quarters, the stay at the Risiera was still better than while in deportation. At least we were*

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[137] P.A. Carnier, *Lo sterminio mancato. La dominazione nazista nel Veneto orientale 1943-1945*. Mursia, Milan 1982, p. 66.

[138] L. Picciotto-Fargion, *Il libro della memoria. Gli Ebrei deportati dall'Italia (1943-1945).* Mursia, Milan 1995, p. 35.

[139] *Ibid*., p. 35.

[140] *Ibid*., pp. 60-63.

[141] *Ibid*., p. 471.

[142] B. Piazza, *Perché gli altri dimenticano*. Feltrinelli Editore, Milan 1960, pp. 14f.

still in our own country; we hoped to see the end of the war quite soon and to be able to return home in good shape right away. Leaving here meant to give up any hope of being saved, even if we did not yet know what we would have to face. Here we weren't nourished that bad at all so that we would have starved to death. One of us, Nino Belelli functioned as a cook, and there was always enough fat in the soup dished out to us. The bread ration was sufficient, the water was clean. One night we even had wine. Then several blankets and linens were stolen from private homes on which we could rest quite comfortably in spite of the fleas. There were stools and even a table. We also had – albeit hidden away – an electric stove on which we could secretly toast some bread and fry a few potatoes. We had two faucets for washing. A few even received parcels from outside with food and newspapers. The men assigned to work unloaded heavy bags, one of us had to clean our room. I did nothing. On Sundays we were allowed to get some fresh air in the courtyard. I stayed at the Risiera only for a few days, during which time other unlucky fellows were brought in, later to end up, like me, at the Auschwitz hell where they met a cruel death."

At the time Piazza penned his account, the legend of the "extermination camps" was still in its infancy. While Piazza does write that the political detainees at Risiera were able to escape "death by suffocation and the crematorium," he adds right away: "I learned about all this, as I have already said, only later"[143] – *i.e.* after his return to Italy where the myth of the extermination camp at Risiera di San Sabba was already in the making. The inventors of this legend were led by ideological motives: in order to balance the massacres committed by the Tito terrorists in Istria and Dalmatia – in 1945 thousands of Italians had been thrown, some of them alive, into ravines in the Karst Mountains. The political left was thus in desperate need of a "Nazi extermination camp on Italian soil"!

The "evidence" adduced by orthodox Holocaust historiography for the existence of a gas chamber at the Risiera camp is more than far-fetched, the assertions as to the existence of a crematorium border on the ridiculous.[144]

On 29 April 1976, thirty years after the events themselves, a trial took place *in absentia* against members of the SS who had been on duty at the Risiera. The verdict states, *i.a.*:[145]

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[143] *Ibid.*, p. 17.

[144] See my book *La Risiera di San Sabba. Un falso grossolano*. Sentinella d'Italia, Monfalcone, 1985, as well as the well-documented study by Carnier, who came to the following conclusion: "There is no material proof for the existence of a furnace at Risiera. […] The claim according to which mass murders are said to have occurred in Risiera di San Sabba is untenable." P.A. Carnier, *op. cit.* (note 137), pp. 160f.

[145] Adolfo Scapelli (ed.), *San Sabba. Istruttoria e processo per il Lager della Risiera*.

> *"*[Heinrich] *Gley has provided the following detailed description:* […] *'I knew that an incineration plant existed at the Risiera of Trieste. This plant was built by Lambert in the same way as the others of this type in the extermination camps*[146] *and the euthanasia centers. At the Risiera, an existing chimney was incorporated. The rest of the installation I remember only vaguely. At the foot of the chimney, there was an open brick furnace measuring roughly 2 by 2 meters, with a large steel grid. I should say that some 8 to 12 corpses could be placed into this furnace simultaneously. The furnace and the chimney were open. There was no iron door. It was a very primitive set-up that did the job because of the high chimney.'"*

For the San Sabba camp, the alleged SS crematoria "specialist" Lambert, who is said to have erected modern Kori furnaces at the euthanasia centers, is described here as having resorted to the furnace designed by Brunetti in 1873, which needed six (!) hours to incinerate a body completely.[147]

If Lambert's furnace really measured 2 by 2 meters, as Gley asserts, it could not accommodate more than two corpses at the same time, which meant that its maximum theoretical capacity would have been about eight corpses in 24 hours!

After this unavoidable detour through Italy, let us return to our initial question: Why was the euthanasia staff moved to the Lublin district in the first place? If we want to find a logical answer, we must remember the following ascertained facts:

1. The National Socialist policy towards the Jews did not intend their physical annihilation, but their relocation to the Eastern Territories.
2. There is not the slightest trace of a document indicating a basic change of this policy. Any "Führer order" changing the relocation into a policy of extermination has remained a mirage.
3. There is no material or documentary evidence for the existence of homicidal gas chambers at the euthanasia centers.
4. There is no material or documentary evidence for the existence of homicidal gas chambers in the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*."

The only rock-solid conclusion which orthodox historiography could draw from this state of the matter is to accept that the euthanasia program was extended to include Jews destined for resettlement in the east who were physically and/or mentally severely handicapped. We cannot expect

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ANED, Mondadori, Milan 1988, vol. II, p. 307. This work is also quoted by P. Heberer (note 40 on p. 175).

[146] The "extermination camps" in the east, where Lambert was deployed, never had any cremation furnaces.

[147] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 88), p. 47.

this to happen any time soon, though, because it could bring down the tale of a systematic annihilation of Jews like a house of cards.[148]

5. The Chełmno Camp

In his article titled "Mass killings through poison gas at the Chełmno camp" ("Massentötungen durch Giftgas im Vernichtungslager Chełmno"; pp. 176-184) Peter Klein deals with the Chełmno camp (German name: Kulmhof). In line with the usual practice of orthodox Holocaust historiography, he begins his account with a letter allegedly written on 16 July 1941 by SS-*Sturmbannführer* Rolf-Heinz Höppner, Head of the Security Service's central district of Posen, and addressed to SS-*Obersturmbannführer* Adolf Eichmann. The letter reads *i.a.*:[149]

> *"All the Warthegau Jews will be assembled in a camp for 300,000 Jews which will be built in the form of barracks as close as possible to the railway line carrying coal and which contains equipment for industrial workers, tailors, cobblers and so on* […] *This winter there is a danger that not all Jews can be fed any longer. We must seriously consider whether the most humane solution is not to eliminate the Jews by some substance with rapid effect insofar as they are unfit to work."*

Klein notes that the construction project mentioned was "never actually realized" but states that "the partial project, the mass killing of Jews unfit for work" had begun "a good six months later." Between 8 December 1941 and 14 July 1944, more than 150,000 Jews are said to have been killed at Chełmno (p. 176). The "killing method sketched out in the Höppner memo – some quick-acting means" – is said to have been carbon monoxide from car exhaust gases (p. 177).

This explanation of the genesis of the camp is not supported by the letter ascribed to Höppner which suggested merely to submit the unfit Jews to some kind of euthanasia and to kill them – should starvation threaten – by "some quick-acting means." The identification proposed by Klein in the sense that this "quick-acting means" had the same meaning as "gas vans" is utterly arbitrary, because it changes the meaning of a mere *allusion* into an *evidence* for an actual mass murder of *all* able-bodied Jews alleged to have taken place later on.

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[148] On this see J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), chapter 8.5, "Euthanasia and *Aktion Reinhardt*," pp. 269-281.

[149] See on this my Chełmno study, *op. cit.* (note 104), pp. 25f., where I quote the complete content of that document.

Who is said to have given the order for such murders, at what time, and for what reason? Klein supplies us with this highly dubious reply: only two days after Höppner's letter, the head of the Warthegau, *Gauleiter* Arthur Greiser, had the opportunity to "inform Hitler personally about the security situation in the Warthegau region."

> Although *"we cannot assume that Greiser submitted to Hitler detailed blueprints for the Jewish camp, or spoke about specific possibilities of mass murder, the Reich governor would have been satisfied to learn from the 'Führer' during this conversation that the latter had no objections against anti-Jewish measures which in principle included the regional murder of unfit persons."* (p. 177)

Klein has to admit, however, that "there is no written evidence for the conclusion that during this conversation the 'Jewish question' too was on the agenda" (p. 177). This is a blatant understatement, for there are *no written documents* on the subject of this meeting. The only evidence for the meeting to have taken place is a photograph dated 18 July 1941 showing Hitler in conversation with Greiser (footnote 4 on p. 177)! It is truly breathtaking to what extent Klein loads this snapshot with interpretations.

To back up his thesis, Klein claims that the "*Sonderkommando Lange*" became active once again, shooting or murdering in gas vans nearly 4,000 Jewish people who were unfit for work in the counties of Konin, Kalisz and Yarochin (p. 177). The only support for this claim, however, are accounts by some self-styled eye-witnesses which never even mention any "*Sonderkommando Lange*."

The Jews allegedly selected to be killed were males of 14 to 60 and females of 14 to 50 years of age, hence basically fit for work, something which speaks against Klein's thesis. Anyone having read the article by Matthias Beer and who goes into Klein's account must get the impression that the Jewish victims claimed by Klein were murdered in gas vans of the first generation (the ones marked "*Kaisers Kaffee-Geschäft*"), but no witness speaks of such vans. According to an account dated 25 March 1942, "the only thing that could be established was that the Jewish community of Zagórów, Distrikt Koniń [...], was taken by trucks into the nearby woods of Kazimierz where any trace of them was lost." The account thus does not explicitly state that these Jews were killed. Another witness, the Pole Miecysław Sekiewicz, does assert that the deportees were indeed killed, but he does not mention any gas vans; instead, he describes the following rather bizarre method of murder:[150]

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[150] S. Krakowski, *Das Todeslager Chełmno/Kulmhof. Der Beginn der "Endlösung,"* Yad Vashem/Wallstein, Göttingen 2007, p. 24; see also: Carlo Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 104), chapter 5, p. 49. If this story has any basis in reality, then the liquid with which the able-

"Then – the witness continues – a truck appeared on the side of the road which stopped on the path at the edge of the clearing. I noticed that there was something on the truck, like tubs for washing. The Germans then started up a small engine, which was clearly a pump, and connected it via a pipe to one of the tubs. Two Gestapo agents held the pipes and began sprinkling the Jews herded into the pit with a liquid. I think it was water, as it appeared to be, but I cannot be sure. During the pumping operation they connected the pipes to each of the other tubs. People began to cook while still alive, and this was certainly due to the boiling fresh lime."

Klein continues (p. 177):

"Once Greiser had learned from Himmler on 18 September 1941 that the deportation of Jews from the Reich was imminent and that the first trains were heading for the Litzmannstadt ghetto, an intensive search for a site for the mass murder of the unfit Jews began."

Here, Klein insolently distorts the contents of the document he bases himself on. In fact, Himmler's letter to Greiser says:[151]

"The Führer wishes that the Old Reich and the Protectorate[152] *be emptied and cleared of Jews from west to east as soon as possible. For this reason I have worked hard to transport, possibly even this year, the Jews of the Old Reich and the Protectorate, primarily as a first step, into the new eastern territories obtained two years ago by the Reich, and to expel them farther east in the coming spring.*

I propose to shelter for the winter about 60,000 Jews from the Old Reich and the Protectorate in Litzmannstadt ghetto, which, in my view, has the space to accommodate them.

I beg you not only to understand this decision, which will certainly create difficulties for your Gau, but to support it with all your strength in the overall interest of the Reich.

SS-Gruppenführer Heydrich, who has to carry out this Jewish emigration, will approach you in due course directly or through SS-Gruppenführer Koppe."

Hence this letter contains not the slightest reference either to unfit Jews or their intended death. It is thus most awkward for the orthodox Holocaust historians to acknowledge that as late as 18 September 1941 Himmler still intended to transfer the Jews from the Reich first into the newly gained eastern territories and then further east yet. Who then was it that decided to

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bodied Jews were sprayed was undoubtedly a disinfestant/disinfectant.

[151] Carlo Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 104), pp. 26f.

[152] Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia; today's Czechia minus the Sudenten area.

start up an extermination camp at Chełmno for unfit Jews only three months later?

The alleged extermination camp is said to have been started up on 8 December 1941. This date is mentioned by all orthodox Holocaust historians, but not a single one of them props it up by means of a document.

Klein established the following untenable hypothesis in this regard (p. 179):

> *"*[…] *early into the mass murder, the 'Sonderkommando Lange' still made use of its gassing cars with bottled carbon monoxide gas. In early 1942 new gas vans from the automobile section of RSHA arrived at Kulmhof."*

In order to prop up his thesis that the SS at Chełmno initially made use of "gassing cars with bottled carbon monoxide gas," Klein cites the "detailed account of a Chełmno survivor" (footnote 9 on p. 179):

> *"What he says about the gassings on 6 and 8 January 1942 unambiguously documents the use of an automobile in which the gas was fed from the driver's cabin into the truck body."*

As I have shown in my study on Chełmno, this "detailed account" by a Jewish detainee named Szlamek is totally unreliable.[153]

Concerning Klein's hypothesis, I wish to indicate that "Szlamek" describes the vehicle allegedly used at Chełmno as a genuine "gas van":[154]

> *"The vehicle had a special design. It looked something like this: It was as large as a normal truck, of gray color, but at the back it was closed hermetically with two doors."*

As opposed to this, the murder van allegedly used by "*Sonderkommando Lange*," the one marked *Kaisers Kaffee-Geschäft*, is said to have consisted of a tractor attached to a box-like trailer. Its depiction as "reconstructed" by orthodox Holocaust scholars and as published by Alvarez visually demonstrates the inconsistency of the hypothesis proposed above.[155]

Klein himself writes that the "gas vans" shipped to Chełmno in early 1942 were vehicles of the second generation, which allegedly used exhaust gas fed into the inside. If we follow him here, there was yet another type of "gas van" occupying an intermediate position between the other two! The convoluted story of the genesis of those vans thus takes on yet another twist, quite apart from the fact that the leading specialist of "gas vans" on the orthodox historians' side, Matthias Beer, explicitly contradicts Klein's thesis (pp. 161f.):

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[153] *Ibid*., chapter 6, pp. 51-58.
[154] *Ibid*., p. 53.
[155] S. Alvarez, *op. cit.* (note 120), Ill. 17, p. 278.

> *"The first gas vans of the new generation were probably shipped to the 'Einsatzgruppen' during the first half of November* [1941], *certainly not any earlier.* […] *The Kulmhof extermination camp, with the 'Sonderkommando Lange' as the nucleus of its staff, started operations with two vehicles."*

Back to "Szlamek." It is correct that he stated that "gas was fed from the driver's cabin," but he does not mention any gas cylinders; the fact that he speaks of a "button" having to be pressed to liberate the gas[156] would even explicitly exclude the use of such cylinders. Moreover, "Szlamek" speaks of a "deep and pungent smell of gas" in the cargo box, but, as Astrid Ley underlines in her article discussed above, carbon monoxide "is known to be completely odor- and flavorless" (p. 95).

The corpses of the victims allegedly killed in "gas vans" are described by "Szlamek" in the following manner:[157]

> *"It seemed that they were only put to sleep; their cheeks were pale, and they maintained their natural skin color."*

Let us stop here for a moment and recall what Achim Trunk has written about the color of the skin of victims of carbon monoxide poisoning (p. 40):

> *"The skin of victims of hydrogen cyanide often shows a pinkish discoloration, typical for carbon monoxide poisoning."*

Hence, for all these reasons, Klein's assumptions are nothing but hot air.

Next Klein goes on to tell us the well-known story of how Paul Blobel came to Chełmno:

> *"The Gestapo's central office in Berlin delegated SS-Standartenführer Paul Blobel to Kulmhof, where he was to try out ways to destroy corpses by burning them in the local forest camp in a manner leaving as few traces as possible. Actually, this was a problem not least for hygienic reasons – the threat of ground water pollution."*

Hence, Klein explains Blobel's (alleged) mission by arguing that cremation of the corpses had become imperative for hygienic reasons. The latter reason was also adopted by Wladysław Bednarz, the Polish judge who conducted the investigation into events at the camp in the early postwar years. However, Wladysław Bednarz does not mention Blobel in his account.[158]

In connection with Blobel's alleged stay at Chełmno, Klein speaks of a "bone mill" and a "ball mill," apparently in total ignorance of the question-

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[156] Carlo Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 104), p. 54.
[157] *Ibid.*, p. 55.
[158] *Ibid.*, pp. 83f.

able nature of the documents which mention such pieces of equipment.[159] He then goes on to write about Rudolf Höß's alleged visit to Chełmno (p. 180):

> *"During Höß's visit on 16 September 1942, the ball mill already mentioned came up on the agenda; it was rerouted to Auschwitz even before it arrived at Kulmhof."*

Here, too, Klein is completely ignorant of the problems resulting from Höß's alleged visit to Chełmno. If we follow Blobel himself, the meeting of the two men took place "on a former Jewish cemetery near Lodz"![160]

The story of Blobel's trip to Chełmno has no historical foundation; neither does his alleged responsibility for "*Aktion 1005*" or the interpretation of Höß's trip to the "*Feldöfen Aktion Reinhardt*." This designation, by the way, prompted Bertrand Perz and Thomas Sandkühler to proffer the hypothesis that "*Aktion Reinhardt*" (which orthodox Holocaust historians consider to have been the alleged extermination of Jews in the elusive "eastern extermination camps") had been extended to Auschwitz.[161] In this case one would have to explain why in Höfle's radio message of 11 January 1943, which refers to the "*Aktion Reinhardt*" camps with their initials, only Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka and Lublin (read: Majdanek) are mentioned, but not Auschwitz. In my study "*Azione Reinhard" e "Azione 1005"*[162] as well as in my book about Chełmno[163] I have discussed the corresponding hypotheses of orthodox Holocaust historians and have demonstrated them to be unfounded, both from a historical and a technological point of view.

Klein does not tell his readers why the "first phase" of the camp "ended in April of 1943" (p. 180) and why, once Chełmno was re-opened in 1944, only 7,176 out of the more than 85,000 Jews still living in the Lodz ghetto at that moment (p. 182) are said to have been gassed (p. 183). In any case, it cannot even be shown that these 7,176 Jews were ever taken to Chełmno, let alone gassed there. The latter assumption can be excluded simply because these transports consisted almost exclusively of able-bodied Jews, which obviously contradicts Klein's assertion that the Jews *unfit for work* were murdered at Chełmno. In addition, a few months earlier, on 4 and 16 March 1944, two transports (the first one with 750 Jews and the second

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[159] *Ibid.*, chapter 8.5.
[160] G. Reitlinger, *Die Endlösung. Hitlers Versuch der Ausrottung der Juden Europas 1939-1945*, Colloquium Verlag, Berlin 1992, p. 153.
[161] B. Perz, T. Sandkühler, "Auschwitz und die 'Aktion Reinhard' 1942-1945. Judenmord und Raubpraxis in neuer Sicht," in: *Zeitgeschichte*, no. 5, vol. 26, 1999, pp. 283-318.
[162] Effepi, Genoa 2008.
[163] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 104), chapters 8 & 9, pp. 73-93.

one with 850 Jews on board) had left Lodz for the armament plants at Skarżysko-Kamienna located some 45 km southwest of Radom.[164]

Klein closes his account with an assertion that is utterly absurd even from an orthodox point of view (p. 184):

> *"Even though Chełmno, the 'Aktion Reinhardt' camps in the district of Lublin, and the concentration and extermination camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Majdanek were located in areas with different jurisdictions, these camps were in any case interconnected as far as the optimization of the mass killings and the elimination of any traces was concerned."*

As I have stressed elsewhere, this "optimization" could apparently not prevent each one of these camps to develop their own system of killing… If we follow Gerstein's account, which is almost sacred for some of the participants at the Oranienburg meeting, the RSHA did indeed decide to "optimize" the murder method used in the eastern camps by replacing engine exhaust with hydrogen cyanide, but this plan came to naught, because no-one even dreamed of putting it into practice there![165] And what about the "elimination of any traces," *i.e.* the cremation of the corpses? This was not even "optimized" within the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*," because at Sobibór it allegedly started in October 1942, at Bełżec two months later, in December of that year, and at Treblinka as late as March 1943, whereas Himmler is said to have issued a corresponding cremation order as early as July 1942![166]

Klein has apparently never heard or read of the archeological searches on the grounds of Chełmno. He therefore does not know that the results, as far as the mass graves and the crematorium are concerned, are in glaring contradiction to the assertions of orthodox Holocaust historiography.[167] Or maybe he thought it more prudent not to mention them at all.

Let us summarize: The article by Peter Klein is of a particularly low quality and does not withstand even a single moment of critical scrutiny.

Only a few of the authors of this anthology have made an attempt at refuting the revisionist arguments by counterarguments. As opposed to them, Peter Klein does not even devote a single word to my Chełmno study, the

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[164] *Ibid.*, chapter 13, pp. 123-129.

[165] See on this C. Mattogno, J. Graf, *Treblinka…*, *op. cit.* (note 47), chapter IV.5, "The 'Mission' of Kurt Gerstein," pp. 126-131.

[166] J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), chapter 8.6. "Himmler's Cremation Order," pp. 281f.

[167] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 104), chapter 10, "Excavations and Archaeological Findings," pp. 95-105.

Italian edition of which had appeared a year before the publication of the anthology discussed here.[168]

6. The Camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*"

Dieter Pohl's article "Mass killings with poison gas within the framework of '*Aktion Reinhardt*'" ("Massentötungen durch Giftgas im Rahmen der 'Aktion Reinhardt'"; pp. 185-196) is a real disappointment. The author pretends to present an overview of the state of the art of Holocaust research on the camps at Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka, but he is a far cry from fulfilling his promise, as he limited himself to rehashing hackneyed assertions.

Early into his explanations, Dieter Pohl writes that the background of the "mass murder" has not been fully elucidated to this date ("*nicht völlig durchleuchtet*," p. 185). After summarizing very briefly the NS policy towards the Jews in the General Government – the project of a "*Judenreservat*" (Jewish reservation) in the District of Lublin, the plans for the removal of the Jews into the occupied Soviet territories, as well as the role of the ghettos as transit stations for this expulsion – he comes up, as if by magic, with an alleged plan for the physical elimination of the Jews (p. 186).

> *"At roughly the same time, in September 1941, the National Socialist leadership decided to carry out systematic mass murders also outside of the occupied Soviet territories, e.g. in the Warthegau, the Polish part of the Province of Posen, but also in Serbia.* […] *It is most likely that, on 13 October 1941, SS-Chief Heinrich Himmler ordered the SS and Police Leader in the District of Lublin, Odilo Globocnik, to organize such a murder action within the GG* [General Government]*."*

This date can be found in a number of recent articles published by orthodox Holocaust historians. Saul Friedländer and Martin Pfeiffer, for instance, wrote in a 2006 book:[169]

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[168] One could, of course, object against this that Mattogno's book existed only in Italian at that time (the English edition was published in late 2011) and that it is too much to ask of a German historian to have some Italian language knowledge. On the other hand, revisionist researchers also evaluate Russian, Polish, Czech and Hungarian sources, although these languages are more difficult to learn for western Europeans than Italian. Translator's remark.

[169] S. Friedländer, M. Pfeiffer, *Das Dritte Reich und die Juden: Die Jahre der Vernichtung, 1939-1945*. C.H. Beck, Munich, 2006, p. 311.

> *"On 13 October* [1941] *the Reichsführer met Globocnik and Krüger. During this meeting, the SS-Chief probably* [!] *ordered Globocnik to begin with the erection of the Bełżec extermination camp."*

Barbara Schwindt believes that the subject of this conversation had "probably"[!] been the "erection of a regional extermination center."[170] Everything is based on the sparse notes in Himmler's service calendar, which reads:[171]

> *"Monday, 13 October 1941.* […] *18h – 20h meeting with SS-Ogruf. Krüger and SS-Brif. Globocnik."*

The book's editor comments:[172]

> *"During the meeting Himmler probably commissioned Globocnik to build the Bełżec extermination camp."*

This is pure fantasy.

Regarding the hypothesized decision of a complete eradication of the Jews, orthodox Holocaust historiography has begun in recent years to move away from a "Führer order," and instead assumes a mere "decision" by Hitler, allegedly taken on 12 December 1941. Boris Bart bases the argument on the assertion that on that day Hitler allegedly announced his fundamental decision to murder all European Jews:[173]

> *"Hitler spoke to some 50 members of his immediate political staff who did not really need to get convinced once again. It was not an order, but the announcement of a decision."*

But even this is completely unfounded, as I have shown elsewhere in abundance.[174]

The desperate attempts by orthodox Holocaust historians to finally nail down in a conclusive manner a date for the decision to "eradicate the Jews" only continue to complicate the issue still further.

Ever since the publication of Karin Orth's article on Rudolf Höß and the Final Solution of the Jewish question,[175] it appears that no serious historian any longer believes that the alleged Führer order was transmitted to Höß by Himmler in the summer of 1941. Schwindt declares unambiguously:[176]

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[170] Barbara Schwindt, *Das Konzentrations- und Vernichtungslager Majdanek. Funktionswandel im Kontext der "Endlösung."* Könighausen & Neumann, Würzburg, 2005, p. 38.
[171] *Ibid.*, note 40 on p. 205.
[172] Peter Witte (ed.), *Der Dienstkalender Heinrich Himmlers 1941/42*. Hans Christians Verlag, Hamburg 1999, p. 233, note 35.
[173] Boris Bart, *Genozid. Völkermord im 20. Jahrhundert: Geschichte, Theorien, Kontroversen*. C.H. Beck, Munich, 2006, p. 99.
[174] See in this regard Chapter 5 in Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40), pp. 166-377.
[175] "Rudolf Höß und die Endlösung der Judenfrage. Drei Argumente gegen deren Datierung auf den Sommer 1941," in: *Werkstattgeschichte*, no. 18. November 1999.
[176] B. Schwindt, *op. cit.* (note 170), p. 26.

"Neither the Auschwitz commander, Höß, nor the SSPF in the District of Lublin, Globocnik, were ordered in the summer of 1941 to undertake preparations for the implementation of the 'Final Solution'."

This opinion is shared by Robert J. van Pelt. It follows that the first three of the alleged extermination camps – Chełmno, Bełżec and Sobibór – must have begun operations *before* Hitler's alleged "decision," because Höß is now said to have been informed about this decision only in July of 1942 according to the latest whims of orthodox Holocaust historians. I shall come back to this question in Chapter 7. At this point I will merely state that the excuse employed by orthodox Holocaust historians to resolve the anachronism that Chełmno, Bełżec and Sobibór were allegedly started up *before* Hitler decided to exterminate the Jews, is unusually silly. What, pray tell, does a "regional extermination center" (B. Schwindt) stand for?

Let us return to the alleged extermination decision of 13 October 1941. This date shows, into what kind of a corner the orthodox Holocaust historians have driven themselves. They feel the urge to resort to the most ridiculous attempts of an explanation in order to create the impression of reconciling things which are irreconcilable. At the point in time mentioned by Pohl – September 1941 – the NS policy of moving the Jews into the East was still continuing in full swing. This is borne out, *i.a.*, by a letter dated 18 of that month which Heinrich Himmler wrote to Arthur Greiser,[177] informing the Warthegau *Gauleiter* about Hitler's wish to ship the Jews of the Old Reich and those of the Protectorate (Czechia) into the occupied eastern territories.

Three weeks later, on 10 October 1941, Reinhardt Heydrich presided over a meeting in Prague, an account of which has come down to us entitled "Notes from the meeting of 10 October 1941 about the solution to Jewish questions" ("*Notizen aus der Besprechung am 10.10.41 über die Lösung von Judenfragen*"). According to this, Heydrich confirmed there that "the Führer desires that, if at all possible, the Jews be removed from the German space by the end of the year." This meeting considered *i.a.* the deportation of 50,000 Jews to Riga and Minsk. On this topic the account tells us that SS-*Gruppenführer* Nebe and SS-*Brigadeführer* Rasch would be able to take the Jews "into the camps for communist detainees in the operational territory."[178]

The option for Jews to legally emigrate from the German sphere of influence, by the way, was rescinded only on 23 October – ten days after the extermination decision had allegedly been made:[179]

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[177] See chapter 5.
[178] T-1193.
[179] T-394.

"The Reichsführer-SS und Chief of the German Police has ordered with immediate effect that the emigration of Jews be prevented."

The collision between the date mentioned by Pohl and the documents I have just cited is a minor one, if we consider it in the light of the so-called Wannsee Protocol of 20 January 1942. During the Wannsee meeting Heydrich advised the officials present of a new orientation of the German policy towards the Jews:[180]

"As a further possible solution, and with the appropriate prior authorization by the Führer, emigration has now been replaced by evacuation to the East."

The usual trickery to accuse Heydrich of using a coded language in which "evacuation" stood in fact for "extermination" does not apply here in any way because the "protocol" speaks explicitly of the evacuation of "Jews capable of working" who are to be moved east, for road-building, via "transit ghettos."[181] It is silent about the fate of unfit Jews, aside from the following paragraph:[182]

"The intention is not to evacuate Jews over the age of 65 but to send them to an old people's ghetto. Theresienstadt has been earmarked for this purpose."

Out of all Jews still present in the *Altreich* and Austria, a total of 280,000 persons, 30 percent belonged to this category, some 84,000 persons altogether.[183] Hence, if "evacuation" was a code word for "extermination," the SS was planning to murder the able-bodied Jews and to spare the lives of the Jews who could not work!

Pohl lists the new sources concerning his topic and notes (pp. 186f.):

"The investigation into the extermination camps of the so-called 'Aktion Reinhardt' made considerable progress between the end of the 1970s and the mid-1990s, not least by the publication of the anthology Nazi Mass Murders.*"*

More recently, he continues, while "many new insights into the clearing of the ghettos and the deportations" have been gained, "less was achieved when it comes to the extermination camps themselves, *i.e.* Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka" (pp. 188f.). He praises the books by Thomas Blatt and Jules Schelvis about Sobibór,[184] which by the way have been discussed extensively by revisionist authors,[185] and adds regretfully:

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[180] NG-2586-G, p. 5 (following the English translation on www.ghwk.de).
[181] *Ibid.*, pp. 7f.
[182] *Ibid.*, p. 8.
[183] *Ibid.*, pp. 7f.
[184] T. Blatt, *Sobibór: The Forgotten Revolt. A Survivor's Report*. H.E.S. Issaquah, 1998; J. Schelvis, *Vernichtungslager Sobibór*. Metropol, Berlin 1998.
[185] J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), pp. 40-45 as well as *passim*.

> *"Still, more detailed studies are still lacking, especially into Treblinka, the largest of the three camps, and Bełżec."*

He complains that the investigations into the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*" "are limited by a lack of reliable sources" because we dispose of "hardly any contemporary documents." For that reason, historians have to base themselves "almost exclusively on statements by the perpetrators, by the few survivors, and by Polish eye-witnesses" (p. 187).

In an effort to compensate at least in part for this lack of documents, Pohl points out new sources on the three camps. The major part, he tells us, consists of files from Soviet trials of the so-called Trawniki men, Soviet citizens who had served the Germans as helpers. There were some 200 such trials, it appears. Pohl does admit that these trials cannot be counted as legal procedures, if measured by western standards (p. 188):

> *"During the interrogations, the defendants were often threatened and at times – especially during such proceedings at the end of the 1940s or the early 1950s – ill-treated, which means that individual accusations or self-incriminations should be considered with the necessary caution."*

Still, says Pohl, the results of these trials can be verified to a certain degree by comparing them with the results of similar proceedings in western countries, thus determining their credibility (p. 188).

In other words, "individual accusations or self-incriminations" in connection with Soviet trials are believable as long as they agree with the "individual accusations or self-incriminations" made during proceedings in western countries. A truly peculiar kind of logic, which does not take into account that both the defendants and the witnesses of all such trials in western countries based their statements, voluntarily or not, on the propaganda claims spread by the Soviets and the Poles after 1945.[186] This signifies that the verdicts of all these trials are historically worthless.

Among the important new sources, Pohl refers in particular to the trials conducted in the 1980s and 1990s in the U.S. and Canada, even though here, too, "Soviet trial documents, once more, were largely used," but at least "new witness statements were also obtained" (p. 189). Pohl disregards the obvious fact that witness statements made many decades after the events and after decades of exposure to a relentless Holocaust propaganda are without probative value.

Then Pohl goes on to the "contemporary sources," which have not yet "been fully exploited." This applies in particular to the documents concerning the Polish underground resistance movement and the government in exile. In this connection he mentions two articles, one by Józef Marszałek

[186] On this see my study on *Bełżec, op. cit.* (note 43), chapters II & III.3.

dealing with the Polish resistance at Bełżec, Sobibór und Treblinka,[187] and one by Krystyna Marczewska and Władysław Ważniewski dealing specifically with the reports on Treblinka[188] (footnote 13, p. 189). These sources are "new" only for orthodox Holocaust historians, whereas revisionist authors have analyzed them and cited them as references in their earlier books[189] along with other sources which Pohl and his colleagues apparently do not know.[190]

Further along, Pohl discusses the decryption reports by the British secret service, in particular the well-known "Höfle radio message," as well as the "forensic digs undertaken in the 1990s on the sites of the former camps." Nonetheless, he concludes that "we are still at some distance from an all-encompassing synthesis of all these findings; the state of the art has not fundamentally changed since the 1980s" (p. 190). Here, too, Pohl's statement applies only to orthodox Holocaust historiography, whereas the revisionists have already prepared such an "all-encompassing synthesis," thereby creating a ground-breaking change in the state of our knowledge as compared to the 1980s.[191]

What Pohl writes about the relationship between the euthanasia centers and the eastern camps sounds quite convincing (p. 191):

> *"First of all, we must answer the question whether it was originally intended to continue the euthanasia murders – after their temporary interruption – in occupied Poland. During the "T4'-Aktion,' deaths of Jewish mental patients were often certified by an imaginary registrar's office at Cholm in the Lublin area. There had been a mental institution at Cholm, the inmates of which were murdered by the Gestapo as early as January 1940. The death certificates, however, were actually prepared in Berlin, then sent to Lublin by courier and mailed from there. The first assignment of euthanasia personnel dates from late September or early October 1941, i.e. before the decisive meeting between the Lu-*

[187] "Rozpoznanie obozów śmierci w Bełżcu, Sobibórze i Treblince przez wywiad Delegatury Rządu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na Kraju i Armii Krajowej," in: *Zeszyty Majdanka*, vol. XIV (1992), pp. 39-59.

[188] "Treblinka w świetle akt Delegatury Rządu RP na Kraj," in: *Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce*, vol. XIX, Warsaw 1968, pp. 129-164.

[189] Chapter II of *Treblinka…*, *op. cit.* (note 47), for instance, begins with a quote from the article by Marczewska/Ważniewski, and chapter 3 of *Sobibór*…, *op. cit.* (note 51), with a quote from the book by Marszałek.

[190] Among others Maria Tyszkowa's paper "Eksterminacja Żydów w latach 1941-1943. documenty Biura Informacji i Propagandy KG AK w zbiorach oddziału rękopisów buw"; in: *Biuletyn Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego w Polsce*, No, 4 (164), 1992, pp. 47-60; cf. C. Mattogno *Bełżec nella propaganda, nelle testimonianze, nelle indagini archeologiche e nella storia*. Effepi, Genoa 2006, pp. 17f.; this source is not included in the English edition, which originally appeared in 2004 (reprint 2011; note 43).

[191] Foremost Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40).

blin SS and Police Leader Odilo Globocnik and Himmler, which probably took place on 13 October 1941."

This explanation confirms what I stated earlier on the subject of the euthanasia centers: the only legitimate conclusion one may draw from the reassignment of the euthanasia personnel to the eastern camps is that of an extension of euthanasia to include mentally ill Jews who were not to be moved on into the eastern territories by way of these camps.

The genesis of the three camps is described by Pohl only very concisely. He carefully avoids crucial questions such as the number and size of the gas chambers or the type of engine used. He tells us that in all three camps the original buildings were torn down after a while and replaced by larger ones (p. 192), without realizing in the least the nonsensical nature of such a tale. A critical reader would certainly wonder why the administration of each camp, first at Bełżec, then at Sobibór and finally at Treblinka, would have erected a gas chamber building which turned out to be too small in each case, although the alleged gas chambers were all designed by the same "SS specialists" who could easily have used their experience from one camp for the design of the following one![192]

As far as the archeological investigations on the sites of the former camps are concerned, Pohl knows only those carried out by professor Andrzej Kola at Bełżec, but draws his knowledge not directly from this source but from a brief article by Robin O'Neil (footnote 26 on p. 193),[193] which he comments as follows (p. 193):

"The exact topography of the three sites, especially the location of the mass graves and of the gas chamber building, can now be established in greater detail."

In doing so, Pohl unabashedly turns O'Neil's conclusion upside down, as the latter had actually written:[194]

"We did not find any trace of the gassing barracks dating from the first or the second construction phase of the camp."

As I have already pointed out, Andrzej Kola did not find any traces of the alleged gas chambers either!

The immensely important archeological investigations carried out by Andrzej Kola in 2000 and 2001 on the site of the former camp at Sobibór do not belong to what Pohl calls the "new sources." The fact is that only the revisionists – often labeled "deniers" by orthodox Holocaust historians – went to the trouble of translating the accounts by this Polish archeologist

[192] See about this J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), chapter 8.3.3., pp. 254-262.
[193] "Bełżec – the 'Forgotten' Death Camp," in: *East European Jewish Affairs*, vol. 28 (1998), no. 2, pp. 49-62.
[194] *Ibid*., p. 55.

about his soundings and digs at Sobibór[195] into two western languages (German and English) and of analyzing them in detail.[196]

The "famous telegram sent by Hermann Höfle, the chief of staff of '*Aktion Reinhardt*,' to Adolf Eichmann" is taken by Pohl to "contribute greatly to the elucidation of the number of victims" (p. 190). We must remember, though, that this telegram speaks only of "arrivals" and presents no clues as to the fate of the persons deported into those three camps. For some unknown reason, Pohl says nothing at all about the camp at Lublin-Majdanek, even though this camp, too, is mentioned in Höfle's radio message and hence ought to be counted as one the "*Aktion Reinhardt*" camps.

According to this radio message, a total of 434,508 Jews had been moved to "B[ełżec]" which causes Pohl to conclude that some 434,000 victims can be allotted to this camp. "Up to five percent" of the victims, he concludes, died during the transport (p. 193). Five percent of 434,000 would be roughly 21,700 – a figure which would be quite compatible with the mass graves located by A. Kola on the camp site. The total volume of these mass graves amounts to some 21,300 cubic meters, if we follow Kola (actually, he considerably overestimates both the number and the size of the graves).[197] If a total of 434,000 corpses had actually been interred, this would correspond to 20 corpses per cubic meter – obviously a physically impossible figure. As a comparison, let us remember that the alleged 80,000 corpses of the first phase of the existence of the Sobibór camp were alleged buried in graves having a total volume of some 13,739 cubic meters, or roughly six corpses to the cubic meter – a somewhat high but not unreasonable figure.[198]

Pohl's article never even mentions Kurt Gerstein, who has been counted for decades as one of the major witnesses concerning the extermination of Jews at Bełżec, and nothing is said about Gerstein's alleged companion either, Wilhelm Pfannenstiel, who used to be another key witness for Bełżec.

Just like Peter Klein in the case of Chełmno, Pohl completely disregards the fundamental revisionist studies on the subject of the camps of Bełżec and Treblinka, even though the German editions appeared as early as 2002 and 2004 (the book on Sobibór may have come too late to be considered

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[195] In: *Przeszłość i Pamięć*, no. 3, July-August-September 2000, pp. 89-92.

[196] J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), chapter 5; ditto in the German edition (*Sobibór: Holocaust-Propaganda und Wirklichkeit*, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2010).

[197] *Bełżec*, *op. cit.* (note 43), pp. 88-90, as well as my online paper "Bełżec e le Controversie olocaustiche di Roberto Muehlenkamp", 2009 (www.ita.vho.org/BELZEC_RISPOSTA_A_MUEHLENKAMP.pdf).

[198] J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), pp. 125. The entire chapter 11 of Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40) is dedicated to the issue of mass graves of the Operation Reinhardt camps, including Chełmno, pp. 1071-1168.

here). For the sake of completeness, I will list these studies once again here:

- Carlo Mattogno, Jürgen Graf, *Treblinka. Vernichtungslager oder Durchgangslager?* Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 2002, 432 pages, 24 documents and 11 photos; English edition: *Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, reprint of 2nd edition, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011, 370 pp.
- Carlo Mattogno, *Bełżec. Propaganda, Zeugenaussagen, archäologische Untersuchungen, historische Fakten*. Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 2004, 156 pages, 17 documents; English edition: *Bełżec in Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research, and History*, reprint of 2nd ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011, 138 pp.; this book also exists in an Italian and a French edition.
- Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, Carlo Mattogno, *Sobibór. Holocaust-Propaganda und Wirklichkeit*. Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2010, 526 pages, 6 Documents and 15 photos; English edition: *Sobibór. Holocaust- Propaganda and Reality*, The Barnes Review, Washington 2010, 434 pp.

Neither Pohl nor the other participants of the Oranienburg meeting even mention a single one of these books! To consciously ignore counterarguments is an infallible sign of an unscientific attitude, and these historians thus pronounce their own verdict.

7. Van Pelt's Auschwitz

The anthology under discussion here contains two articles by Robert J. van Pelt: "Auschwitz" (p. 196-218) and "For want of a nail, or reflections on how history must not be rewritten" ("Weil ein Nagel fehlte, oder Überlegungen, wie die Geschichte nicht umgeschrieben werden darf"; pp. 343-354). It seems logical to discuss both contributions together. I shall start with the second one. We are dealing here with a polemic rather than a serious paper, which is revealed by its frequent use of inflammatory words (several times van Pelt even refers to Clausewitz!). While the author apologizes for his "military metaphors," he still considers that "the fight against the denial of the Holocaust" feels "like a war" and "is conceived as a defensive battle" (p. 344).

This introduction makes the reader believe that he witnesses a fight to the finish against the revisionist "enemy," but anyone reading the article carefully gets the impression of not observing a "war," or at least a "bat-

tle," but rather merely a desperate rear-guard skirmish. The author ends his contribution by a somewhat shameless self-adulation.

Van Pelt describes his career up to its apex when he led the "counterattack" against revisionism by accepting the position of an "expert witness" offered to him by the lawyers of Deborah Lipstadt and the publishing house Penguin Books in their court battle against British historian David Irving. Somewhat surprisingly, he also speaks of his relationship with Jean-Claude Pressac, among other things. In his preceding works – the book *Auschwitz 1270 to the Present*,[199] written jointly with Debórah Dwork, and the study *The Case for Auschwitz: Evidence from the Irving Trial*,[200] van Pelt had shamelessly plagiarized the so-called "criminal traces" which Pressac had discovered (or, shall we say, rediscovered[201]) by reintroducing into the discussion a number of documents already cited or published by Pressac without naming his source. An uninitiated reader had to get the impression that van Pelt had made the discoveries himself. Maybe as a sign of remorse, van Pelt dedicated his second article to Pressac (footnote 1 on p. 343). As far as I know, he never publicly acknowledged Pressac's death, who had passed away on 23 July 2003. In icy silence the orthodox historians and the press had passed over the death of the man whom, a decade earlier, after the publication of his book *Les crématoires d'Auschwitz*,[202] they had celebrated as someone who had finally refuted revisionism. Ironically, the only obituaries were written by his "enemies" – by Jürgen Graf, Germar Rudolf, Robert Countess and myself.[203]

Van Pelt asserts that Pressac's first book, *Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers*,[204] had turned out to be the catalyst he had needed for "starting my own work in the archives of Auschwitz in the expectation that I would be able to provide the historical context for the material elements which Pressac had discovered, hoping that I would bring to light yet more plans and documents" (p. 353).

Things, he goes on to say on the same page, had developed "as planned" – which evidently means that his expectations and hopes were fulfilled. If we compare this rather global statement with the results of his

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[199] D. Dwork, R.J. van Pelt, *Auschwitz 1270 to the Present*, W.W. Norton & Company. New York/London, 1996.

[200] Indiana University Press, Bloomington/Indianapolis 2002.

[201] Most of the pertinent documents were already used by Roman Dawidowski in his expert report on Auschwitz dated 26 September 1945; see C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 28), pp. 28-30.

[202] CNRS, Paris 1993. Deutsche Fassung: *Die Krematorien von Auschwitz*, Piper Verlag, Munich-Zürich 2004.

[203] J. Graf *et al.*, "In memoriam Jean-Claude Pressac", in: *The Revisionist* 1(4) (2003), pp. 426-435.

[204] The Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York, 1989.

activity at Auschwitz, these are astonishingly disappointing. His contribution to the research on Auschwitz is in fact limited to a single "criminal trace" he found in a file memo of 29 January 1943 by SS-*Unterscharführer* Heinrich Swoboda, which he interprets in a rather bizarre manner,[205] as well as his elaborations on an alleged "convergence of proof" and his fanciful reconstruction of a historical background.[206]

After sketching out his personal relationship with Pressac, van Pelt describes the circumstances concerning their parting of ways. He gives as a reason Pressac's "insistence that no-one except himself would be able to provide a legitimate interpretation of the architectural evidence for the crematoria" (p. 353). It is much more probable, though, that Pressac resented the manner in which van Pelt plagiarized the contents of his studies, while van Pelt, as a Jew, was deeply worried by the idea that Pressac's position and the revisionists' point of view increasingly converged.

Let us now look at van Pelt's pompously labeled "counterattack." Once having paid due tribute to the anthology *Nazi Mass Murder,* he defines the term "fact," insisting that the revisionists were attempting to "attack and eradicate those facts which that book had assembled" (p. 343). He summarizes the duels between the orthodox Holocaust historians and the revisionists since the 1980s and counters the revisionists' insistence on proof for the homicidal gas chambers with "a convergence of various types of proof" (p. 350). His rather haphazard salvos against the revisionists refer *i.a.* to a paper presented in 1982 (!) by Arthur Butz[207] saying that the "Holocaust deniers" do not intend to question "all the evidence. They rely on the so-called butterfly effect" (p. 349) which consists of attacking merely a few major points of the history of the Holocaust, hoping that, in doing so, they will bring about a collapse of the whole structure (*ibid.*). This angle of approach, van Pelt believes, has "become a dogma with a number of variants" (*ibid.*). In an effort to prove the validity of his assertion, he cites Robert Faurisson's well-known phrase "no holes, no holocaust" and concludes that the revisionists' motto was "for want of a hole, there was no Holocaust." But this pronouncement by Faurisson is obviously a provocative simplification. In the conclusion to my own study of the alleged Zyklon B introduction holes in the concrete roof of the Birkenau Crematorium II, I had said "no holes, no homicidal gas chambers in Crematorium II" – with all the serious consequences this entails for Holocaust historiography.[208]

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[205] See C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 28), pp. 189-199.
[206] *Ibid.*, pp. 658-663.
[207] Arthur Butz, "Context and Perspective in the Holocaust Controversy," *The Journal of Historical Review*, winter 1982, pp. 371-405.
[208] "The Elusive Holes of Death," in: G. Rudolf, C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz Lies. Legends,*

Personally, I don't feel touched by van Pelt's criticism in any way, having discussed and refuted in various studies, many of which have also appeared in English or German,[209] *all* types of alleged "proof" – not only a few – for the existence of homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz. In my most comprehensive work so far I have examined in detail all the "evidence" proffered by Pressac and van Pelt for the reality of these rooms and have come to the following conclusion:[210]

> *"his study of Auschwitz has no scientific and historiographic value,*
> - *because it ignores works of crucial importance;*
> - *because it does not even mention essential opposing views and arguments;*
> - *because it fails to approach pivotal technical issues with technical means;*
> - *because it is highly inconsistent;*
> - *because it uses deceptive methods;*
> - *because it presents conflicting sources without due source criticism;*
> - *because it reveals a decidedly threadbare knowledge of the camp's history;*
> - *because it deforms all sources to serve the alleged 'extermination' aspects of Auschwitz;*
> - *and because even regarding the claimed 'extermination' aspects it exhibits an incomplete and superficial grasp.*
>
> The Case for Auschwitz *is neither a scholarly nor a historical work; it is only a biased journalistic assemblage of poorly understood and poorly interpreted historical sources."*

Initially I had only intended to refute van Pelt's "expert opinion" mentioned above, but then I realized that I had to extend my criticism also to Pressac for the following reason:[211]

> *"Whereas Pressac was an investigator, van Pelt is first and foremost a compiler with a much weaker critical mind and much less gifted for historical and documental analyses. His reassessment of the 'criminal traces' represents a simpler way of spreading Pressac's theses and does not take into account their complexity and variety.*
>
> *Hence, replying directly to van Pelt's recycled arguments makes no sense."*

Lies, and Prejudices on the Holocaust. Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, 2005, p. 316.

[209] See the revisionist bibliography at the end of this volume.

[210] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 28), p. 670.

[211] *Ibid.*, p. 26.

Hence, Pressac was quite right in his insistence that no orthodox historian "is able to provide a legitimate interpretation of the architectural evidence for the crematoria" – least of all van Pelt!

As I have categorically refuted, item by item, van Pelt's "evidence" for the existence of homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz in my book mentioned above, I would not be obliged as such to deal with his contribution about the Auschwitz camp, but the new theses which he amasses in it warrant a critical assessment of his text after all.

As far as the question of the origin of the alleged order to carry out mass killings at Auschwitz is concerned, van Pelt tells us that "contradictory documents" make it "difficult to reconstruct the exact sequence of events" (p. 199). Rudolf Höß, the first Auschwitz commander, had asserted in his "autobiographical notes" that Himmler had given him the order for the extermination of the Jews in the summer of 1941,[212] but van Pelt regards this statement as "problematic," because "in the summer of 1941 the decision to kill the western and central European Jews had not yet been taken" (p. 199). Furthermore, van Pelt continues, the "existing extermination centers in the east" mentioned by Höß, *i.e.* the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*," did not yet exist at that point in time. He concludes:

> *"Probably, when writing down his text, he* [Höß] *mixed up his dates and really meant the summer of 1942."*

This hypothesis is also untenable for two reasons. For one thing, Höß spoke clearly and unmistakably of the summer of 1941 in all of his statements: On 14 March 1946 ("June 1941"),[213] on 5 April 1946 ("June 1941"),[214] on 29 January 1947 (summer of 1941"),[215] at Nuremberg ("summer of 1941")[216] as well as at the Warsaw trial (summer of 1941).[217]

Secondly, in the "autobiographical notes" cited by van Pelt, Höß wrote:[218]

> *"As to the time the extermination of the Jews may have begun, I do not remember. Probably by September of 1941, but possibly as late as January of 1942."*

But how could Höß confuse the summer of 1941 with the summer of 1942, if the alleged extermination began in January of 1942 at the latest? If van Pelt's hypothesis were correct – in fact all orthodox historians are in

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[212] Martin Broszat (ed.), *Kommandant in Auschwitz. Autobiographische Aufzeichnungen des Rudolf Höß*, Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, Munich 1981, p. 157.
[213] NO-1210.
[214] PS-3868.
[215] NI-7183.
[216] IMT, vol. XI, p. 398.
[217] Höß trial, 2nd session, 12 March 1947. AGK, NTN, 105, p. 110.
[218] M. Broszat (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 212), pp. 159f.

agreement as to the beginning of the mass murders in early 1942 – mass exterminations would have begun before a corresponding order was ever issued!

Van Pelt examines Höß's account of the events after the issuance of the alleged extermination order, in connection with which Eichmann, according to Höß, played a major role. Van Pelt states (p. 200):

> *"After his arrest in 1960, Eichmann vehemently denied Höß's account, both as to their meeting at Auschwitz and to the discussion of a suitable poison and the location of the killing sites."*

Van Pelt asserts that, "as in the case of the alleged meeting of Himmler and Höß in the summer of 1941," there is no evidence for the correctness of Höß's account. Referring to a study by Karin Orth[219] he concludes that "Höß's statement concerning the meetings with Himmler and Eichmann do not reflect the truth" (p. 200). In doing so, van Pelt disputes the explanation given by Höß, which had constituted one of the mainstays of orthodox Holocaust historiography on Auschwitz for many years. He does this in spite of the fact that he had boasted in 2002 that the "negationists" had not succeeded in "destroying Höß's credibility by stressing its contradictions."[220]

Van Pelt then embarks on a laborious attempt to reconstruct the genesis of the alleged homicidal gassings. He accepts as "an undisputed fact" that poison gas was first used at Auschwitz to kill Soviet prisoners of war, even though this assertion is essentially based on Höß's statements, which van Pelt himself had classified as being unreliable. He stresses that at the end of August 1941 several high-ranking SS officers had met at Oranienburg to discuss the most efficient killing method (p. 200). I shall come back in greater detail to this alleged meeting in chapter 9. Let me merely state here that there is not the shadow of a proof that this meeting ever took place.

Van Pelt continues (p. 201):

> *"It is not clear whether it was Höß himself or one of his deputies who participated in the Sachsenhausen meeting.*
>
> *It is, however, a fact that the Auschwitz camp commander Karl Fritsch* [recte: Fritzsch] *started his own killing tests a few weeks after said meeting."*

According to van Pelt, Zyklon B was used in these experiments, which was already being used in the camp as a disinfestation agent (*ibid.*).

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[219] K. Orth, *op. cit.* (note 175), p. 57.

[220] R. J. van Pelt, *The Case…*, *op. cit.* (note 200), p. 271. Fact is that Höß's "credibility" had already been undermined in 1997 by Karin Orth and that it had been utterly destroyed much earlier by the revisionists with the same and even farther reaching arguments.

It is, however, a fact that Höß, in his numerous and extensive statements, never refers to this alleged meeting at Oranienburg, in spite of the fact that, before his transfer to Auschwitz, he had been detention camp commander at Sachsenhausen. Van Pelt freely admits that the exact date of the experiment conducted by Frit[z]sch is not known and offers a selection of dates ranging from 15 August 1941 through early December 1941 (footnote 14 on p. 201)!

There is, however, no chronological connection between these two "events," because we have no evidence for the first one (the Oranienburg meeting), and the second one, the alleged "first gassing at Auschwitz," is pure invention, as I have shown in an extensive study.[221]

At this point van Pelt's description becomes entirely chaotic. At first he writes about a gassing of Soviet PoWs which Fritzsch is said to have conducted in the "Bunker" (basement) of Block 11 of the Auschwitz main camp during Höß's absence. Höß had this to say about this alleged gassing in his "autobiographical notes":[222]

> *"On occasion of a business trip, my deputy, Hauptsturmführer Fritzsch, had used gas on his own initiative for the extermination of these Russian PoWs. He did this by cram-packing the individual cells located in the basement with Russians and by throwing Cyklon B into the cells while wearing a gas mask, which caused an instant death."*

According to van Pelt, this "test gassing" was followed by a second one (p. 203):

> *"After Höß had returned to Auschwitz, Fritsch conducted a second experimental gassing in the basement of Block 11. This time it involved 600 Soviet PoWs and 250 sick detainees from the camp infirmary selected by Dr. Siegfried Schwela."*

Van Pelt cites the *Kalendarium von Auschwitz* as his source, which he praises as a "fundamental description, very useful for anyone interested in the history of Auschwitz" (footnote 1 on p. 196). This book, however, speaks of only one gassing in the basement of Block 11, said to have taken place from 3 through 5 September 1941.[223] In the book containing Rudolf Höß's "autobiographical notes," edited by the Auschwitz Museum, one can read on this subject:[224]

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[221] *Auschwitz. The First Gassing,* 2nd revised ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011.

[222] M. Broszat (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 212), p. 159.

[223] D. Czech, *op. cit.* (note 100), pp. 117-120.

[224] J. Bezwinska, D. Czech (eds.), *Auschwitz in den Augen der SS. Rudolf Höß, Pery Broad, Johann Paul Kremer*, Staatliches Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, Oświęcim 1997, note 107 on p. 64.

"Previous investigations have shown that the first experimental killing with gas took place in the basement of Block 11. A second gassing of detainees in this basement has not been proven."

As van Pelt does not cite any new source to prove his "second experimental gassing," a favorable view would be that he has not read the available sources correctly, or, more severely, invented the whole story himself. The latter assumption is probably correct, because van Pelt does not shy away from inventing "historical facts," like he does when pretending to know exactly how the alleged gassing at Block 11 proceeded (p. 203):

"The main access [to the Bunker] *consisted of a door opening up into a long corridor which was cut into three sections by gates with cross-bars. Once the victims had been herded behind the gates of the first and third sections, an SS man with a gas mask had no problem to throw the cyanide-laden cubes of calcium sulfate* [= gypsum pellets soaked with hydrogen cyanide] *into the second section and then close and seal the door. The cross bars were no obstacle for the evaporating cyanide."*

A page further on he comes back to the "special separation of the corridor of Block 11 into three sections" which allegedly permitted the SS men to empty their Zyklon B containers unimpeded into the central section (p. 204).

These assertions are nothing but hot air. For one thing, van Pelt refers to the present state of the Bunker.[225] While there is evidence for two gates in the basement of Block 11 in the form of a drawing dated 26 June 1944, there is no proof that they existed already in 1941. Secondly, no witness asserting to have been involved in the removal of the corpses from the Bunker confirms van Pelt's description. According to Zenon Rozanski, the corpses of the victims were located directly behind the steel door leading into the Bunker, which can only mean that the central section must have been full of corpses as well:[226]

"Wacek turns the knob while taking a step back and yanks the door open.

The door opens and at the same time I feel that the stubbles of hair on my head stand on end.

One meter in front of me there are people standing!"

Other witnesses say, on the other hand, that the corpses were in the cells. Vojciech Barcz:[227]

[225] Pertinent photos can be found in C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 221), pp. 144-150.
[226] *Ibid.*, pp. 49f.
[227] *Ibid.*, p. 53.

"We had to move the corpses out of the Bunker cells. That way, we were able to see that they had simply gassed in those cells a large number of Russian inmates together with the patients we had taken there.

The sight we faced when the doors were opened was something like opening a tightly packed suitcase. The corpses fell towards us."

Bogdan Gliński:[228]

"In the cells there were piles of corpses, and a stifling odor irritating the eyes reigned in the basement."

Konrad Szweda:[229]

"In a cell [meant] *for one, detainees were piled 30, 40, finally 50! One standing on top of the other."*

The preceding paragraph of Höß's "autobiographical notes" flatly contradicts van Pelt's assertions:[230]

"The gassing was carried out in the stockade cells of Block 11. I myself witnessed the killing, protected by a gas mask. Death in the crowded cells took place immediately after throwing in [the product]. *There was only a brief, almost choking scream, and everything was over."*

Hence, the victims were locked into the cells, the doors of which would at least have slowed down the penetration of the cyanide vapors into the corridor. If Höß's account is to be believed, he could at best have observed the progress of death through a peep-hole in the cell door,[231] but in that case van Pelt's tale of the three sections collapses completely. Hence, his description is pure invention and contradicts the witness statements.

The utter unreliability of Höß's "autobiographical notes" results also from the following, rather revealing fact: Höß wrote that the next gassing carried out "shortly afterwards" took place in Crematorium I, which confirms that only a single gassing occurred in Block 11, namely the very one he claims to have witnessed while wearing a gas mask. This is what Höß himself had to say about the alleged gassing:[230]

"While [I was] *on a business trip, my deputy, Schutzhaftlagerführer Fritzsch, had used gas for killings. In fact, it was the hydrogen cyanide preparation Cyklon B which was in daily use at the camp for disinfestations and hence was in stock. After my return he informed me about this, and then this gas was again used for the following transport."*

This is followed(!) by the paragraph quoted above. One can only conclude that Höß witnessed a gassing which took place in his absence!

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[228] *Ibid*., p. 46.
[229] *Ibid*., p. 63.
[230] M. Broszat (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 212), p. 126.
[231] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 221), p. 153.

But this is not the end of the absurdities. In accordance with orthodox Holocaust historiography, van Pelt asserts that the gassing had caused the death of "600 Soviet PoWs and 250 sick inmates" (p. 203) while Höß speaks exclusively of "Russian Politruks and political commissars."[232]

Another discrepancy: whereas Höß, as we have just seen, stated that the victims died immediately, Michał Kula – whose statements of 11 June 1945 were used by the Polish judge Jan Sehn as a basis for his "reconstruction" of the "first gassing"[233] – asserts that the victims were still alive at 4 p.m. the day *after* the introduction of the Zyklon B.[234]

Van Pelt next deals with the alleged gassings in the morgue of Crematorium I at the Auschwitz main camp, where, he says, "an existing ventilation system" which "had been installed by the Gestapo-henchmen" allowed "the uncomplicated removal of the hydrogen cyanide" (p. 204).

The Auschwitz *Kalendarium* states that the first gassing in Crematorium I took place on 16 September 1941,[235] but at that time the ventilation system requested on 7 June of that year by SS-*Untersturmführer* Maximilian Grabner, head of the political department of Auschwitz (one of the "Gestapo-henchmen" in van Pelt's terminology) did not yet exist. It was only on 25 September – nine days after the alleged first gassing in this crematorium – that the detainee workshop began with the necessary job which took at least until 13 October to finish.[236]

Van Pelt writes that "introduction holes" for the Zyklon B granules had been chiseled through the roof (p. 204) but keeps quiet about the source for this assertion, and he does not write anything about the size and shape of these openings either. He continues (p. 204):

> *"In early 1942, this gas chamber was also used for the first group of Jews. They had been working for 'Organisation Schmelt' named after its head, SS-Oberführer Albrecht Schmelt, who coordinated the employment of 50,000 Jews as forced laborers in Upper Silesia. In early 1942, Schmelt decided that the 'unfit' among them were to be killed, and he talked Höß into carrying out the dirty work at Auschwitz."*

Once again this story is pure fiction made up by van Pelt. In the *Kalendarium von Auschwitz*, the name Schmelt appears for the first time under the date of 28 August 1942.[237] Starting on 28 August 1942, Jewish trans-

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[232] M. Broszat (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 212), p. 125.
[233] Except for the date, as this gassing is said to have taken place on 14 & 15 August 1941 according to Kula.
[234] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 221), pp. 83f.
[235] D. Czech, *op. cit.* (note 100), p. 122.
[236] C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: Crematorium I and the Alleged Homicidal Gassing.* Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2005, pp. 209ff.
[237] D. Czech, *op. cit.* (note 100), p. 288.

ports headed from France to Auschwitz stopped at Cosel, where a portion of the able-bodied Jews were selected for the "*Organisation Schmelt*" as replacements for deceased or sick detainees.

In a section of his "autobiographical notes," dated 16 November 1946 and not published by Martin Broszat, Höß wrote several pages about the "*Organisation Schmelt*." The following is an excerpt:[238]

> *"Schmelt, as far as I can remember, employed more than 50,000 Jews. I do not know how many Poles and Czechs. The extermination order from RF-SS of the summer of 1941 forced 'Organisation Schmelt' to close down the work camps and workshops where Jews were employed and to transfer the Jews to Auschwitz. But continuous serious objections by the Wehrmacht and the armament commandos, both with RSHA and with the RF-SS, caused the dissolution to be repeatedly postponed. It was only in 1943 that an unmistakable RF-SS order was issued to close down the workshops, to move the Jews and their jobs to Auschwitz, and to transfer the major work camps to factories essential for victory, under the administration of the Au*[schwitz]. *or K. Gro*[ss].-*Rosen camps, respectively."*

This happened in the spring of 1943. Hence, "*Organisation Schmelt*" cannot have ordered any gassings of physically unfit Jews in early 1942, but then perhaps van Pelt knows these things better than Höß!

Van Pelt next describes this alleged gassing, calling upon "SS-*Unterscharführer* Pery Broad," a self-declared witness of this alleged event (p. 205). Here, too, van Pelt makes a big mistake, because *SS-Rottenführer* (not Unterscharführer!) P. Broad was transferred to Auschwitz only on 8 April 1942 and consequently could never have "witnessed" events which took place or are said to have taken place several months earlier – unless he had, like Höß, the rare gift of being present at events which occurred in his absence…

Van Pelt describes the "procedure" as described by Broad in the following words (p. 205):

> *"For the first time, deception was used in the killing of the 'Schmelt-Jews'* […]. *The so-called 'delousing' in the Birkenau gas chambers was made more credible by the fake shower heads installed here and by the calm behavior of the SS and the Sonderkommando."*

The only thing wrong with this is that no fake shower heads existed in the alleged gas chamber of Crematorium I, and that the only shower heads

[238] Höss Trial, vol. 21. pp. 180f. The Korherr Report of 27 March 1943, modified on 28 April of that year, mentions 50,570 Jews working for the "Organisation Schmelt"; NO-5194, p. 13.

which can be shown ever to have existed at Birkenau were the real ones in Crematorium III![239]

Van Pelt tells us that Höß was proud of his killing system which was more efficient than the one used at Treblinka (p. 205). Unfortunately van Pelt "forgets" to draw the reader's attention to the fact that Höß, in a declaration under oath made on 5 April 1946, asserted to have visited the Treblinka camp *before* the adoption of Zyklon B for the murders at Auschwitz,[240] and that he had specified on 14 March 1946 that his stay at Treblinka had taken place in the spring of 1942.[241] The problem with this story is, though, that Treblinka began operating only on 23 July 1942[242] and thus was not yet in existence when Höß claims to have paid it a courtesy visit! In an effort to eliminate this gaping discrepancy, van Pelt arbitrarily moved Höß's trip to July 1942 in an earlier book,[243] but that gets him from the frying pan into the fire, because then the adoption of Zyklon B at Auschwitz would have been decided upon only *after* that date.

Van Pelt posits the "evolution of the Auschwitz concentration camp from a concentration camp with unusually many deaths, which also operated a gas chamber as one of its killing instruments, into an extermination camp in which nearly all of the victims were murdered in gas chambers." He splits that evolution into two discrete steps, the first one being said to have lasted from January to August 1942, and the second one from September 1942 through May 1943 (p. 205). He attempts to retrace the genesis of "Bunker I,"[244] in spite of the fact that there is no documentary evidence for the existence of such a building and that there is no logical reason as to why such a structure should have been set up. For what purpose and on whose orders would such a killing site have been built? Van Pelt does not supply us with a clear answer; he merely writes (p. 207):

> *"The Bunker began operating on 20 March 1942 when a small group of 'Schmelt-Jews' was killed as an experiment."*

This assertion is obviously linked to the completely untenable thesis that Jews who were not fit enough to work for "*Organisation Schmelt*" were shipped to Auschwitz for extermination. In an earlier book van Pelt had written:[245]

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[239] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 28), pp. 148-157.
[240] PS-3868.
[241] NO-1210.
[242] I. Gutman *et al.*, *op. cit.* (note 41), p. 1430.
[243] D. Dwork, R. J. van Pelt, *op. cit.* (note 199), p. 321.
[244] In contravention to the common nomenclature, van Pelt writes "Bunker I."
[245] D. Dwork, R. J. van Pelt, *op. cit.* (note 199), p. 301.

"Auschwitz already had become the destination for one particular group of Jews residing on Reich territory: those considered unfit for work in the so-called Schmelt program.'"

Let us first of all note that, in the documentation of the Auschwitz Central Construction Office with its tens of thousands of pages, not even the slightest reference to the Auschwitz "Bunkers" has ever been found. Van Pelt freely concedes this point (p. 207):

"There no longer exists any written evidence on the way in which this farmhouse was turned into a gas chamber."

As I have stated in a study devoted to the Birkenau "Bunkers," it can be shown that the two Polish farmhouses, called "Bunker 1" and "Bunker 2" by orthodox Holocaust historians, were not within the domain of the Auschwitz Central Construction Office and were never used by it.[246]

The date of the first alleged gassing in "Bunker 1" was taken by van Pelt from the Auschwitz *Kalendarium*. I do not have to emphasize that no documentary evidence exists for this. In addition there is not even a witness statement which would allow us to affix the date of 20 March 1942 to the beginning of the alleged gassings in this building. Incidentally, the first edition of the *Kalendarium* stated just as arbitrarily that "Bunker 1" went into operation in January 1942.[247]

For good measure, van Pelt distorts the contents of his source. Danuta Czech, in fact, speaks only of "transports of Polish Jews from Upper Silesia organized by the Gestapo" which were allegedly gassed "without having undergone a selection."[248] This means that the author of the *Kalendarium* never referred to "the unfit Jews of *Organisation Schmelt*," because these had already been selected as such and would not have required a further selection.

Rudolf Höß tells us:[249]

"Now in the spring of 1942 the first Jewish transports from Upper Silesia began to arrive, which all had to be annihilated. They were led to the farmhouse – Bunker 1 – from the ramp across the fields of what later became construction sector II."

Broszat, in this respect, speaks of Jews from Beuthen (Bytom) in a footnote, which means that those Jewish transports came from the ghettos in Upper Silesia and not from *Organisation Schmelt*.[250]

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[246] Carlo Mattogno, *The Bunkers of Auschwitz. Black Propaganda versus History*, Theses and Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004.

[247] D. Czech, "Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau," in: *Hefte von Auschwitz*, no. 3. Wydawnictwo Państwowego Muzeum w Oświęcimiu, 1960, p. 49.

[248] D. Czech, *op. cit.* (note 100), pp. 186f.

[249] M. Broszat (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 212), p. 127.

Van Pelt must necessarily take recourse to such falsifications because his own thesis concerning the beginning of the alleged mass gassings at Auschwitz cannot be reconciled with that of Czech. While the latter embraces fully the statements by Rudolf Höß (although they are bursting with contradictions) and has the *systematic* annihilation of the Jews begin in March 1942, van Pelt, as we shall see, is convinced that it began in mid-July of that year.

Still, van Pelt's statements, too, are loaded with contradictions. If "Bunker 1" did not serve for the systematic killing of Jews, but only for the liquidation of the unfit Jews from "*Organisation Schmelt*," it would have been no problem for the SS to make use of the "gas chamber" in Crematorium I, which, after all, is said to have been in operation for several months. The alleged reason why the SS is said to have moved the gassings from Block 11 into Crematorium I is given by van Pelt on p. 204:

> *"The location of the crematorium just outside of the camp perimeter allowed the victims to be taken there quietly, without imposing a camp closure."*[251]

Thus, for van Pelt, all requirements for gassing the unfit Jews of "*Organisation Schmelt*" in Crematorium I were fulfilled – but then why convert and use Bunker 1?

The second reason given by van Pelt for the start-up of "Bunker 1" is related to the negotiations between the Slovak government and the Reich on the subject of the deportation of Slovakian Jews (p. 206):

> *"The Slovak government was worried that the SS would accept only young and strong Jews* [who, according to van Pelt, were sent to Auschwitz to replace the PoWs working in the armament factories there], *leaving behind children, old people and the sick, which would then have to be taken care of by the Slovakian state. The government therefore tried to talk the SS into accepting all Jews, offering a sum of money for each Jew deported to Auschwitz."*

Then, on p. 208, van Pelt sums up his thesis:

> *"The sequence of steps in this process – the selection on arrival and the creation of a 'Sonderkommando' – turned an initially 'sporadic' process (the killing of the Schmelt-Jews from Upper Silesia), into something that might be called 'normal practice' of annihilating the Jews at Auschwitz. But this practice had yet not become official. The Bunkers continued to be a special solution for a problem which had arisen from*

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[250] *Ibid*., p. 187.

[251] Van Pelt confuses two terms: "*Blocksperre*" (block closure, which meant that the inmates were not allowed to leave their buildings) and "*Lagersperre*" (camp closure, which refers to an isolation of the camp from the outside world, usually due to hygienic measures like quarantine).

the concurrence of two facts: first of all the unwillingness of the Slovak government to take care of children and the elderly among the Jewish population, and secondly the greed of the SS for money and manpower."

When discussing the (alleged) consequences of these negotiations, van Pelt mentions the Auschwitz visit by SS-*Brigadeführer* Hans Kammler, Head of Office Group C of SS-WVHA, on 27 February 1942. At that time Kammler ordered the new crematorium, which originally was meant to be set up at Auschwitz I, to be moved to Birkenau instead. Van Pelt comments on this order as follows (p. 206):

"A layout plan of Birkenau prepared soon after this meeting indicates that the crematorium was initially planned to be set up directly next door to the farmhouse which the SS, a month later, would convert into a gas chamber. This gas chamber was referred to as 'little red house' or 'Bunker 1.' As the crematorium and the Bunker were to be located so close to each other, one may suspect that Kammler not only opted for the construction of a crematorium at Birkenau modeled on the one at Auschwitz, but also ordered the farmhouse to be turned into a killing station at the same time. What is crucial in this case is the fact that the SS notified the Slovak government of its readiness to accept even unfit Slovakian Jews only after Kammler's return to Berlin. If Höß is right in saying that Eichmann visited Auschwitz in late 1941 or early 1942 and in saying that both men searched the Birkenau area for a location suitable for setting up a killing station, it would not be farfetched to assume that Kammler simply approved the decision arrived at by Eichmann and Höß earlier on, viz. to consider the farmhouse as a suitable location for a gas chamber. On the basis of the available evidence, no unambiguous pronouncement can be made."

In order to lend some credence to his outrageous speculations, van Pelt systematically distorts the facts and the contents of the documents. Let us begin with the negotiations between the German and the Slovak governments.

On 16 February 1942 Martin Luther, head of the domestic department in Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sent a telex to the German embassy at Pressburg (Bratislava) stating that the Reich, as part of the "measures related to the final solution of the Jewish question in Europe," was willing to immediately "deport 20,000 young and healthy Slovakian Jews" to the east where there was a demand for manpower.[252] On 13 March 1942 a schedule for the first transport of that kind was drawn up. It com-

[252] T-1078.

prised of 10 trains each to Auschwitz and Lublin with a load of 1,000 deportees each.[253]

Referring to this telex, Luther prepared a memo, dated "21 August 1942," for his Ministry, stating *i.a.*:[254]

> *"The number* […] *of Jews deported to the east is insufficient to cover the local demand for manpower. Therefore, the Reichsführer-SS asked the RSHA to approach the Foreign Ministry with the request of asking the Slovak government to furnish 20,000 young and healthy Jews from Slovakia for deportation to the east. The Pressburg embassy reported to* [department] *D III 1002 that the Slovak government had responded very positively and that the preparations could begin."*

On 20 March Luther transmitted to the German Embassy in Bratislava a communication by the Chief of the Security Police and Security Service, Reinhardt Heydrich, about two days prior to the deportation of Jews from Slovakia:

> *"In the course of this operation it is planned to charge Slovakia with the payment to the Reich of an amount of RM 500,-- for each Jew taken over."*

The reasoning was as follows:

> *"The mentioned contribution of RM 500.-- per capita is used to cover the costs which will arise from the lodging, provisioning, clothing and training of these Jews in the near future. It ought to be considered that, according to experience, the productivity of these as yet untrained Jews is very low as such and that the training will have an effect only after some time."*

Since the Jewish wealth in Slovakia amounted to 3 billion Slovak Crowns, the document continues, "it can be assumed, as has already been confirmed, that Slovakia will not only not object to this regulation, but that it will assume responsibility for paying this sum."[255]

On April 25, SS-*Hauptsturmführer* Dieter Wisliceny sent a draft of a verbal note with the following content to the German Embassy in Bratislava:[256]

> *"The Jews taken over from Slovakia to the territory of the Reich are taken to labor camps for business use, while their families are housed in appropriate residential areas. According to experience, however, the productivity of the Jewish workers is initially very low, and there is a need for a thorough re-education and training to prepare them to work*

[253] C. Mattogno, *Special Treatment in Auschwitz, op. cit.* (note 103), pp. 29f.
[254] NG-2586-J, pp. 5f.
[255] T/1080.
[256] T/1084.

in a regulated production. In addition, the housing of family members unfit for labor often requires a considerable expenditure of resources. For this reason it is necessary that the Slovak state pay a resettlement contribution to the German Reich of RM 500 for every Jew. This contribution is calculated on the basis of experience gained so far. The German Embassy requests to be notified whether the Slovak government is willing to make available this respective contribution and awaits proposals about the form in which this contribution will be made available to the German Reich and the period of time within which the payment may be made."

Finally, on 29 April the German embassy at Pressburg sent a verbal note to the Slovak government, which stated:[257]

"The Jews transported or to be transported into the Reich area from Slovakia will be used for work in the General Government and in the occupied eastern territories after preparation and retraining.

Housing, food, clothing and retraining of the Jews including their dependents will require expenses which cannot be recovered from their initially low productivity, as retraining [*will*] *become effective only after some time and as only a part of the Jews transported or to be transported are fit for work."*

To cover these expenses, the Reich government requested the Slovak government for reimbursement of 500 RM per person.

From these irrefutable documentary facts we may conclude unambiguously:

1. From its very beginning the German plan for the deportation of the Slovak Jews provided also for the deportation of physically *unfit* Jews, for, as Luther stated in his memo, "only part of the Jews transported or to be transported are fit for work."
2. The payment of 500 RM for each Jew deported was not a spontaneous offer by the Slovak government but a request by the German government explained by the argument that only a portion of the Jews would be fit for work and that retraining and housing etc. of those fit would initially not be compensated by their low productivity.
3. This request to the Slovak government, which van Pelt considers to be the reason for the erection of "Bunker 1," was made on 28 April, *i.e.* more than a month after the claimed start-up of this "murder station."

Let us now look at this matter from Kammler's point of view. The Birkenau map mentioned by van Pelt, which shows the location of the new crematorium in the north-eastern corner of the camp, was not drawn up

[257] *Riešenie židovskiej otázky na Slovensku (1939-1945).* Edícia Judaica Slovaca. Bratislava 1994, documenty, 2. Časť, p. 105.

"prepared soon after this meeting" (*i.e.* the meeting between Kammler and the camp command on 27 February 1942) but seven weeks earlier. We are dealing here with the "Situation map of the PoW camp Auschwitz-Upper Silesia, Plan No. 885," drawn on 5 January 1942 by SS-WVHA,[258] hence a long time *before* the negotiations between the Slovak and the German government ever began. When Kammler visited Auschwitz on 27 February, he merely gave his blessings to a decision which obviously had been taken before, i.e., he approved a proposal submitted in early January. Hence, the relationship between Kammler's trip to Auschwitz and the idea to erect the new crematorium near "Bunker 1," as construed by van Pelt, is pure imagination.

The fact that van Pelt's assumptions are devoid of any logical cohesion can also be shown in the following manner: As the Birkenau camp was rapidly being enlarged, complete with two Zyklon B disinfestation chambers in building 5a and 5b on the drawing board, the SS – if a project of mass killings by gas had been planned – would surely have built a separate gas chamber along the lines of the disinfestation chambers in buildings 5a and 5b or installed one within the new crematorium (as, supposedly, had already been the case at Auschwitz I), rather than converting an existing, yet poorly suited farmhouse into a gas chamber and setting up the crematorium next door.

In fact, the above-mentioned plan shows the outline of a crematorium which refers unequivocally to the design by architect Werkmann of November 1941, correctly reporting its size (55.50 m × 12 m).[259] The respective cost estimate for a ventilation system (*Kostenanschlag über Be- und Entlüftungs-Anlagen*), written by the Topf company on 4 November 1941, for the ventilation of the *"B"-Raum* (= *belüfteter Raum*: ventilated room), that is, the future Morgue 1 (*Leichenkeller* 1), provided two blowers (one intake, one exhaust fan), each with an hourly capacity of 4,800 m³ of air against a total pressure of 40 mm of water column and driven by a three-phase motor of 2 hp,[260] which was later indeed delivered and installed.[261] Therefore, from the perspective of the orthodox Holocaust version, an option had existed ever since late 1941 to create a "gas chamber" inside the

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[258] RGVA, 502-2-95, p. 7. C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 28), pp. 625-627.

[259] These are two drawings, which were already published by Pressac* and in better quality also by van Pelt,** The outline on the map differs from the blueprints by the chimney tract being located at the top instead of the bottom and by being 10 m wide instead of 7 m.

* J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 202), documents 1-11, unnumbered pages.

** D. Dwork, R. J. van Pelt, *op. cit*. (note 199), document 14f., unnumbered pages.

[260] J.A. Topf & Söhne, *Kostenanschlag über Be- und Entlüftungs-Anlagen*. 4 November 1941. RGVA, 502-1-327, pp. 151-153.

[261] Invoice no. 171 by the Topf firm of 22 February 1943. RGVA, 502-1-327, p. 25.

planned new crematorium, and Michael T. Allen interprets the Werkmann drawings mentioned above precisely in this sense.[262]

Thus, we see that van Pelt's thesis is nothing but a collection of unfounded speculations!

Van Pelt then adds a brief description of "Bunker 1," basing himself on an "eye-witness account provided by Shlomo Dragon in 1945." According to van Pelt, the building consisted of "two rooms with a floor area of 50 square meters, which allowed the killing of between 250 and 500 people, depending on size and age" (p. 207). This data, unfortunately, disagrees with van Pelt's source, because Dragon attributes a total floor area of 80 square meters to the two rooms, asserting that 2,000 victims could have been herded into them (the equivalent of 25 persons per square meter!).[263] Van Pelt writes that this gas chamber "did not possess a mechanical ventilation," but he does not explain why the SS would have foreseen such a device in the disinfestation chambers but not for the homicidal gas chambers. He states that the Bunker went into operation on 20 March 1942 with a group of "Schmelt-Jews" and goes on to say (p. 207):

> *"The following set of victims did not consist of Slovakian Jews, but of 1,000 sick inmates who were gassed on 4 May.* [A total of] *5,200 Jews from the surrounding area were killed here over that month."*

His – unnamed – source for these assertions is the Auschwitz *Kalendarium*. However, as I have shown elsewhere,[264] there is no documentary evidence for the alleged gassing of 1,000 sick detainees, and on the subject of the "5,200 Jews from the surrounding area" nothing shows that they were ever deported to Auschwitz in the first place.[265]

And if the sick inmates were indeed the "following set of victims" after the alleged trial gassing of 20 March, we may conclude that the "Bunker" stood idle for 44 days. But if that facility was indeed rarely used, why, then, did the SS decide to build a second gassing bunker? Van Pelt answers this question in the following manner (p. 207):

> *"As the gas chamber which had originally been set up for the Slovakian Jews was already in full operation even before the first transport*

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[262] Michael T. Allen, "The Devil in the Details: The Gas Chambers of Birkenau, October 1941," in: *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, vol. 16, fall 2002, pp. 189-216. See my critique "Le camere a gas di Birkenau nell'ottobre 1941: Le fantasie storico-tecniche di un 'tecnologo'," in: *Auschwitz: nuove controversie e nuove fantasie storiche. I Quaderni di Auschwitz*, vol. 4, Effepi, Genoa 2004.

[263] In the above-mentioned study on the "Bunkers" I quote Dragon's statement, *op. cit.* (note 246), pp. 71-74.

[264] *Auschwitz: assistenza sanitaria…*, *op. cit.* (note 103), pp. 111f.

[265] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 28), "Number of Deported Jews," pp. 523-527.

of 'unfit' Jews began arriving, the SS decided on the conversion of a second farmhouse into a killing station."

Van Pelt's thesis concerning the genesis of the gas chambers and the extermination of the Jews bursts with absurdities and is devoid of any logic. If we assume that the order Höß claims to have received from Himmler in June 1941 is not a historical fact, the whole story of the alleged extermination of Jews at Auschwitz simply floats in mid-air. Van Pelt asserts that the Auschwitz gas chambers were developed in "1941 to kill Soviet PoWs" (p. 213), but who could have ordered the camp commander to use them later on to kill Jews, if there was no corresponding order from Himmler yet?

Can anyone in his right mind seriously believe that an SS-*Oberführer*[266] could have "persuaded" Höß (to use van Pelt's own expression on p. 204) to carry out limited exterminations at Auschwitz? This idea is all the more outrageous, as the "*Organisation Schmelt*" was under Himmler's command, making him the only person to decide over the fate of the unfit Jews. Van Pelt's other fantastic story, the one of the unfit Slovakian Jews whose alleged killing was the starting point for the systematic extermination of Jews, fails from the very start because no such order was given. Who, in the world, at what point in time and for what reason is alleged to have given such an order?

The traditional story of Auschwitz, illogical and contradictory as it is, becomes even more confusing when we listen to van Pelt. He makes no attempt at explaining the second phase of the evolution of Auschwitz into an "annihilation camp" where "almost all victims were murdered in gas chambers" (p. 205). In connection with Himmler's trip to Auschwitz on 17 and 18 July 1942, van Pelt does not shy away from making historical facts out of Höß's fictional account about this visit, beginning with the presence of the *Reichsführer*-SS at the gassing of a "freshly arrived transport of Jews"[267] (p. 208). Van Pelt quotes the following statement by Höß (p. 209):[268]

"Eichmann's program continues with increasing vigor each month. See to it that you move ahead with the enlargement of Auschwitz. The Gypsies are to be annihilated. Just as remorselessly you will kill the unfit Jews."

This complicates matters even further. According to Höß, Himmler had informed him of Hitler's order of a complete eradication of the Jews in the summer of 1941:[269]

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[266] This rank was between that of a Colonel and of a Brigadier General.

[267] These inventions are refuted by the extant documents, starting with Himmler's journey. See about this my study *Special Treatment in Auschwitz*, *op. cit.* (note 103) pp. 17-29.

[268] M. Broszat (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 212), p. 184.

[269] *Ibid.*, p. 157.

> *"All Jews within our reach are to be annihilated now during the war."*

When he went to Auschwitz in July of 1942, Himmler is said to have softened the earlier order and to have decreed only the killing of the Jews *unfit for work*:[270]

> *"When the RF-SS changed his original order, according to which all Jews without exception were to be destroyed, by ordering that the able-bodied ones were to be used for work in the armament industries, Auschwitz became a camp for Jews, a collection camp for Jews of a dimension heretofore unknown."*

If we follow van Pelt's representation, however, the annihilation of the Jews had begun – more or less by accident – in January 1942, had become standard practice by March 1942, only to be accelerated in June by the completion of the second "gassing bunker" – without Himmler ever having given a corresponding order!

As van Pelt has access to no source except for the declarations by Höß, but is reluctant to make full use of them in view of their numerous absurdities, he gets caught in an inextricable web of contradictions.

If there was no "Führer order" in the summer of 1941, the alleged order issued by Himmler has no basis in reality, being, as it is said, the consequence of that very "Führer order." In an effort to bring at least a minimum of order into this utter chaos, Barbara Schwindt, author of a book about Majdanek, invents the explanation that this "Führer order," while not having led to the alleged mass extermination, had merely caused an "acceleration of the final solution."[271] But if that is so, when was the extermination order issued? Many orthodox Holocaust historians believe that it was issued on 12 December 1941 (cf. chapter 6),[272] but then, why is it that the Auschwitz camp authorities let a full seven months pass before implementing it? And on whose orders did the numerous alleged killings occur which happened before July 1942?

In an earlier work, van Pelt wrote that the second phase of the history of Auschwitz, characterized by systematic exterminations, started in September 1942:[273]

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[270] *Ibid.*, p. 114.
[271] B. Schwindt, *op. cit.* (note 170), p. 122.
[272] According to the "new" orthodox Holocaust historiography, Hitler announced the extermination decision on this day in a meeting with the Gauleiters; see C. Gerlach, "The Wannsee Conference, the Fate of German Jews and Hitler's Decision in Principle to *Exterminate* All European Jews," in: *The Journal of Modern History*, vol. 70, no. 4, December 1998, p. 810.
[273] D. Dwork, R. J. van Pelt, *op. cit.* (note 199), p. 322.

"The final transformation of Auschwitz into a killing site for Jews was confirmed on 26 September 1942, when Höss received explicit instructions from Berlin about the property of gassed victims."

But the go-ahead order for this transformation is said to have been given earlier, when Himmler visited Auschwitz on 17 and 18 July 1942 and is said to have explained, according to Rudolf Höß, "the new role of Auschwitz as the destination for the Jews of Europe."[274]

Van Pelt based his earlier thesis – that the "final transformation" of Auschwitz into an annihilation camp for Jews was decided on 26 September 1942 – on an order issued on that day by SS-*Brigadeführer* August Frank, head of *Amtsgruppe* A of SS-WVHA concerning the utilization of possessions in connection with the settlement and resettlement of Jews." The addressees of this order were the commanders of the SS administration of Lublin and the camp command of Auschwitz.[275]

That these possessions stemmed from "gassed Jews" is therefore nothing but yet another untenable assertion by van Pelt, which moreover contradicts the fact that these instructions also concerned the camp at Lublin-Majdanek where the alleged extermination of Jews in gas chambers is said to have begun only in October 1942 (cf. Chapter 8).

Moving on to the order Höß claims to have received from Himmler concerning the extermination of the Gypsies, we see that, while van Pelt does quote the corresponding sentence, he does not say that, according to Höß, Himmler never ordered the killing of *all* Gypsies. Here is what Höß stated about this:[276]

"The RF-SS insisted on preserving the two major Gypsy tribes by all means – the designation of the tribes is no longer in current use. […] *Those people moved to Auschwitz were to be held in a family camp for the duration of the war."*

Höß adds:

"Then there was the RF-SS visit in July 1942. I took him on a detailed tour of the Gypsy camp."

Himmler paid particular attention to the diseases and epidemics raging in the camp:[277]

"He looked at everything in detail as it really was – and gave us the order to destroy them after selecting the able-bodied, as in the case of the Jews."

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[274] *Ibid.*, p. 320.
[275] NO-724.
[276] M. Broszat (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 212), p. 108.
[277] *Ibid.*, p. 109.

The only thing wrong with this account is that the Gypsy camp (sector BII of Birkenau) did not yet exist in July 1942. There is evidence to show that it was set up only in February 1943.[278] Here we have further proof for the "reliability" of Höß's "autobiographical notes" and of the hypotheses based upon them.

Let us return to the "Bunkers." "Bunker 1," said to have been set up for the annihilation of the unfit Slovakian Jews, allegedly went into operation on 20 March 1942 – but the first transport from Slovakia which also carried Jews of this category reached Auschwitz only on 4 July, or three months later! In the meantime – starting in May – the mass extermination of the Jews from the Upper Silesian ghettos is alleged to have begun. According to Danuta Czech, a total of 10,700 of them were gassed in "Bunker 2" in May and June 1942. But who ordered this mass murder, at what time, and for what reason? Moreover, as "Bunker 1" was needed for killing the Jews from the ghettos of Upper Silesia, if we are to believe van Pelt, the SS erected "Bunker 2" for the gassing of unfit Slovakian Jews – even though the Slovakian Jews began arriving at Auschwitz only after all Upper Silesian Jews are said to have been annihilated, as Danuta Czech tells us! If we follow van Pelt, this "Bunker 2" had "a total floor area of 65 square meters, allowing some 320 to 600 persons to be killed here, depending on age and size" (p. 207), but according to Dragon it measured 100 square meters and could take in 2,500 persons (which means that, again, 25 persons would be compressed into one square meter!).[279] As he did earlier with "Bunker 1," van Pelt improves his source once again without telling his readers!

Let us consider now the Birkenau crematoria. They are said to have undergone some architectural modifications which, for van Pelt, reflected the Himmler order discussed above, because, as he puts it, the "Auschwitz architects went to work" straight away after Himmler's departure (p. 209). I will not go into the details of van Pelt's theses, having already done so elsewhere on 200 pages.[280] Instead, I will examine here the new theses proffered by van Pelt in his 2011 contribution. There he stresses in particular the significance of the (alleged) wire-mesh columns for the introduction of Zyklon B into the gas chambers (p. 210):

> *"These wire-mesh columns allowed not only the easy introduction of the cyanide-bearing cubes of calcium sulfate, but also their quick removal. The cubes continued to give up their hydrogen cyanide even after the poisoning process had ended after 20 minutes and no one was alive any more. The removal of these Erko cubes was essential for the*

[278] D. Czech, *op. cit.* (note 100), p. 423.
[279] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 246), p. 78.
[280] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 28), pp. 441-667.

smooth and continuous operation of the killing station. Zyklon B having been developed as a disinfestation agent, the duration of the evaporation had been fixed at 24 hours. Nits are difficult to get rid of and must be exposed to the cyanide for a long time. People, on the other hand, die quickly. With fresh transports arriving day by day, the SS insisted on the gas chambers being accessible right away after the death of all victims. The architects must have concluded that the removal of the still active Erko cubes would facilitate the cleaning-up operations."

I wish to draw the reader's attention to the fact that these explanations squarely contradict the arguments brought in by Achim Trunk in his polemic against Germar Rudolf (cf. chapter 1)! Only one page further on, when he speaks of crematoria 4 and 5, van Pelt makes a sudden about-face to refute his own arguments in one swoop (p. 211):

"Modeled on the gas chambers in the Bunkers, the appropriate gas chambers of crematoria 4 and 5 were simple spaces, above ground, without the rather complicated equipment for removing the toxic gas, such as the gas columns in the gas chambers of crematoria 2 and 3, and, at least initially, without a mechanical ventilation system."

Hence, on the one hand the wire-mesh columns were "essential for the smooth and continuous operation of the killing station" in crematoria II and III, whereas on the other hand they were completely superfluous, because, in the "appropriate gas chambers" of crematoria IV and V, one could very well manage without them. Regrettably, van Pelt "forgets" to explain to his readers how these Erco cubes were removed from the gas chambers of these crematoria. Here the Zyklon B is said to have been poured directly on the heads of the victims through holes in the walls, with the effect that the hydrogen cyanide would have gone on evaporating during the removal of the corpses. The carrier granules could only have been collected after the corpses had been removed from the chambers. As "the architects" must have concluded this to be the case, their decision not to install a mechanical ventilation system in the gas chambers of these two crematoria[281] to compensate at least partly for the absence of a wire-mesh column would have constituted a shot in the foot of the worst order.

When discussing the deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz in the summer of 1944, van Pelt states on p. 214:

"In the months of May and June, nearly 7,000 Jews from Hungary arrived every day. The crematoria could not cope with the demand, and so there were once again piles of corpses."

Van Pelt does not even waste one word on the cremation trenches described by the Holocaust historians!

[281] In the crematories IV & V ventilation devices had been planned but were never installed.

On the subject of the number of persons gassed, van Pelt has this to say (p. 216):

> *"I should think that it is probable that over 300,000 persons were murdered in crematorium 2 and another 200,000 in crematorium 3, while the gas chambers of crematorium 4 and those of Bunker V brought about the death of at least 100,000 people."*

In one of his earlier books, van Pelt had spoken of 500,000 people murdered in Crematorium II.[282] He provides no explanation for the reduction of this number by 200,000 victims.

Towards the end of his article, van Pelt brings out of the junk closet the tale of the Auschwitz "gas van" and, so to speak, provides it with an official blessing (p. 215):

> *"In September 1944, when the systematic gassings with Zyklon B were slowly ending in the camp, the Polish detainee Stanisław Kłodziński smuggled a message to Teresa Lasocka* [out of the camp] *saying that the SS at Auschwitz had begun using a Saurer gas van with the registration number POL71462. This truck was used for killing people who had been condemned to death by the Gestapo at Kattowitz and whom, so far, the SS had executed in the yard of Block 11 or in the morgue and/or gas chamber of crematorium I. It appears that the gas van was also used in the smaller satellite camps as a 'rolling Kommando of death.' According to Stanisław Kłodziński, exhaust gases were used as the killing means in this case. Until recently no evidence from the archives was known which would have confirmed the use of a gas van at Auschwitz. Recently, however, a researcher found evidence for the existence of a Saurer gas van with the license number POL 71462. It is neither known with certainty when this mobile gas chamber stopped operating nor how many people were killed in it."*

In this case van Pelt's source is a well-known holocaust website (footnote 49 on p. 216), although this claim was first made in the Polish literature as early as 1946.[283]

The document mentioning the "gas van" is the "Activity and Situation Report of Einsatzgruppe B for the period of 16 through 28 February 1942," dated 1st March 1942 which states, *i.a.*:[284]

> *"The gas vans received at Smolensk on 23.2.42 were distributed as follows:*
>
> *EK 8 : Lkw Saurer Pol 71462*

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[282] R. J. van Pelt, *The Case*…, *op. cit.* (note 200), pp. 68, 458, 469.

[283] F. Friedman, T. Hołuj, W. Barcikowski, *Oświęcim*. Spółdzielnia wydawnicza "książka", Warsaw/Bromberg 1946, pp. 81f. The license plate number is given as "Pol. 71-462."

[284] *Der Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen des Sicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen DDR* (BStU) ZUV 9, vol. 31, p. 159.

EK 9: Lkw Saurer Pol 71457.

Both vehicles arrived at Smolensk in need of repair and were distributed to the Einsatzkommandos after reparation.

The two smaller gas vans will be dispatched to SK 7a and 7b after completion of their use with EK 8."

This document proves in no way that the "*Einsatzgruppen*" employed "gas vans" for homicidal purposes. In fact, all Saurer trucks had diesel engines, the exhaust gases of which were totally unsuitable for murder,[285] a fact now even acknowledged by orthodox historians, as we have seen earlier. Although Achim Trunk goes so far as to assert that such mobile gas chambers had killed 250,000 persons in Russia alone (p. 24), the piles of documents[286] which have come down to us contain only a single one speaking of "gas vans" – the one being discussed here – and the text does not prove in any manner that this car was used for homicidal purposes. Hence, the usual explanation of the SS having destroyed all incriminating documents does not apply in this case.

Matthias Beer, who is considered the expert historian on "gas vans," for some strange reason does not mention the document cited by van Pelt in connection with the use of these vehicles at Smolensk. He writes that in the "language of the period," the "mobile gas chambers" were known by such designations as "*Sonderwagen*" (special cars), "*Spezialwagen*" (dto.), "*Sonderfahrzeuge*" (special vehicles) and "*S-Wagen*" (S-cars), which allegedly confirms the thesis of a "coded language" used by the SS (p. 154). But then why was the specific designation "*Gaswagen*" used in this unique document?

The word "*Gaswagen*," in the sense of "mobile homicidal gas chamber" was coined only after the Second World War by the victorious powers. Earlier, a "*Gaswagen*" had simply been an abbreviation for "*Holzgaswagen*" (a vehicle using gas from the gasification of wood). Such a vehicle was also distributed to the Auschwitz motor pool (*Fahrbereitschaft*). In a report dated July 1942, reference is made to "1453 km using wood gas."[287] The report speaks *i.a.* of a "tractor, wood gas."[288] In a document of 22 September 1942, the vehicles of the Auschwitz Central Construction Office are classified according to the type of fuel used: *Benzin* (gasoline), *diesel*,

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[285] S. Alvarez, *op. cit.* (note 120), p. 24.

[286] The "*Ereignismeldungen UdSSR*" (Event Reports USSR) alone encompass more than 2,900 typewritten pages. H. Krausnik, H.H. Wilhelm, *Die Truppe des Weltanschauungskrieges. Die Einsatzgruppen der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD 1938-1942*. Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Stuttgart 1981, p. 333.

[287] "Tätigkeitsbericht der Fahrbereitschaft der Zentral-Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz für den Monat Juli 1942," RGVA, 502-1-181, p. 275.

[288] *Ibid.*, p. 278.

Treibgas (fuel gas) and *Holzgas* (wood gas). There is only one vehicle in this latter category which, in all likelihood, is the "*Gaswagen*" mentioned by van Pelt.[289] In October of 1942 a distance of 662,[290] in November 470[291] and in December another 470[292] kilometers were covered using "wood gas."

In fact, the shortage of fuel had led the German secretary for armament Albert Speer to appeal to vehicle owners on 22 October 1942 to convert their vehicles to operate "with producer gas" on their own initiative.[293]

On 6 September 1944, the head of the Central Construction Office, SS-*Obersturmführer* Werner Jothann, informed the regional counselor of the Bielitz economic authority that the Breslau authorities had supplied him with a generator vehicle:[294]

> *"The vehicle in question is a generator*[-powered] *vehicle. In view of the present difficult supply situation in the domain of liquid fuels, it is irresponsible for generator vehicles to be standing idle for lack of tires in favor of gasoline and diesel vehicles."*

Under these circumstances, the assumption that the alleged "vehicle for homicidal purposes" was, in fact, this very vehicle is absolutely warranted. The assertion that it was a "mobile gas chamber" was made solely by Kłodziński. In the internet source cited by van Pelt the text of this message can be found, but it shows merely that Kłodziński's source[295] was someone who had seen a vehicle with the license number POL 71462. During the trial of the camp staff, Kłodziński declared *i.a.* that in January 1944, "another 7,000 [Polish] officers had been gassed,"[296] something which speaks volumes about the reliability of this witness.

Incidentally, two further witnesses, Bronisław Falborski and Szymon Srebrnik,[297] had identified a perfectly harmless vehicle – a furniture truck stationed in the yard of the Ostrowski factory – as being a "*Gaswagen*."

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[289] "Aufstellung der im Dienste der Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei in Auschwitz stehenden Transportfahrzeuge und Baumaschinen," RGVA, 502-1-181, p. 80.
[290] "Tätigkeitsbericht der Fahrbereitschaft vom 1. bis 31. Oktober 1942," RGVA, 502-1-181, p. 246.
[291] "Tätigkeitsbericht der Fahrbereitschaft vom 1. bis 30. November 1942," RGVA, 502-1-181, 235.
[292] "Tätigkeitsbericht der Fahrbereitschaft der Zentral-Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz O/S für den Monat Dezember 1942," RGVA, 502-1-181, p. 227.
[293] Werner Kroll, *Der Gasgenerator*, Verlag G. Kliemt. Nossen i. Sa. 1943, pp. 14f.
[294] RGVA, 502-1-190, p. 416.
[295] Kłodziński was deported to Auschwitz on 12 August 1941 and stayed there until 19 January 1945. He was initially employed as a nurse and later as a physician in Block 20 of the inmate hospital. Since the "gas van" is said to have been stationed near the camp, he would inevitably have seen and thus mentioned it.
[296] AGK, NTN, 162, p. 136.
[297] S. Alvarez, *op. cit.* (note 120), pp. 147 & 155.

As the structure of a generator vehicle differed greatly from an ordinary truck, especially on account of the pipes feeding the gas from the generator to the engine's cylinders, it was easy to mistake it – innocently or on purpose – for a homicidal "*Gaswagen*." Such gas generators were in use in Italy as early as 1934, by the way.[298]

As far as the alleged use of a "*Gaswagen*" at Auschwitz is concerned, let me finish by saying that it would have spoken volumes about the local SS men's intelligence, had they added such a vehicle to the many killing methods allegedly already practiced in that "extermination camp" (gas chambers, phenol injections, shots in the back of the neck etc.).

8. The Gas Chambers of the Majdanek Camp

Tomasz Kranz, the director of the Majdanek memorial site and author of the chapter "Mass killings with poison gas at the Majdanek concentration camp" of the book discussed here ("Massentötungen durch Giftgas im Konzentrationslager Majdanek"; pp. 219-227), is very familiar with the German edition of the book about that camp written by Jürgen Graf and myself.[299] In a Polish article of 2005, which was translated into German two years later, he summarizes our book as follows:[300]

> *"In connection with the computation of the number of victims for Majdanek, we must mention a revisionist book in which the questions of the deportations and the mortality, along with other topics, take up considerable space. The authors deny*[301] *the gassings and the mass shootings of detainees but do admit that the mortality in the camp was significant on account of the living conditions and typhoid epidemics. Based on an analysis of the available death books, they estimate that a total of 42,200 detainees lost their lives at Majdanek."*

In his contribution to the anthology discussed here, Kranz no longer even mentions this book. He probably was discouraged from doing so by the German editors.

Kranz begins by saying that Odilo Globocnik, head of the SS and police in the district of Lublin, had regarded the Lublin concentration camp as "his own" and had included it into "*Aktion Reinhardt*," which he had orga-

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[298] Serafino de Capitani, *Gli autoveicoli a carburanti nazionali solidi, liquidi, gassosi*. Editore Ulrico Hoepli, Milan, 1940.
[299] *KL Majdanek*, *op. cit.* (note 29).
[300] T. Kranz, *Zur Erfassung der Häftlingssterblichkeit im Konzentrationslager Lublin*. Państwowe Muzeum na Majdanku, Lublin, 2007, p. 54.
[301] The original Polish says "*negują*," which can mean deny or negate.

nized (p. 219). As far as the "use of poison gas for homicidal purposes" is concerned, Kranz continues, the Majdanek camp was a special case (p. 219f.).

> *"Not only were two different gases used here as killing agents in gas chambers – the disinfestation agent Zyklon B (HCN) and carbon monoxide (CO) – but a gas van was used as well. It would appear that the installation of the gassing facilities in this camp was due to the SSPF* [SS and Police Leader, *i.e.* Globocnik] *in Lublin."*

Kranz believes that two "anecdotes" [sic!] indirectly point this out: the report by Kurt Gerstein and the deposition of the head of the camp's technical department, Friedrich W. Ruppert (p. 220). Unfortunately, these two "sources" are not only "indirect" but have no historical value either…

The odd thing about the alleged mass murders at Majdanek is that two entirely different killing agents were supposedly used in parallel, Zyklon B and carbon monoxide in steel bottles. As we have seen earlier, the SS is said to have abandoned the latter agent – allegedly used in the euthanasia centers – in favor of other, more practical methods. But then why was it reintroduced at Majdanek? Kranz answer this question in the following way (pp. 222f.):

> *"Carbon monoxide began to be used in September or October 1942. The experience gathered by the camp personnel during the murder program 'T4' probably played a major role in the decision to use this toxic gas at the Majdanek concentration camp. A large part of this* [T4] *personnel was moved to Lublin in connection with 'Aktion Reinhardt.' The main figure in this context was Christian Wirth, who initially was in command of the Bełżec extermination camp and became inspector of the 'Aktion Reinhardt' Sonderkommando in August 1942, residing at Lublin."*

But this explanation does not remove any problem; it merely creates new ones. In his article which I have already discussed above, Dieter Pohl argues that the alleged order to kill the Jews was given to Globocnik by Hitler on 13 October 1941, and that Globocnik then had the Bełżec camp set up. If this was so, one does not quite understand why Globocnik and Wirth, after Bełżec was in operation, waited for another six or seven months before they began building gas chambers at Majdanek, a camp that, after all, pas part of "*Aktion Reinhardt*." It is even more difficult to understand why the system of using carbon monoxide from steel bottles was thrown out at Bełżec after a few trials, whereas it was re-introduced at Majdanek as late as September or October 1942. As we shall see, the Zyklon B gas chamber would be installed even later than that.

In this connection, another question arises which Kranz does not even mention in passing. Orthodox Holocaust historians maintain that at Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka any and all Jews were murdered, even the ones who would have been able to work, while at Majdanek this fate allegedly awaited only the "unfit" ones. Why this difference in treatment, if all four camps were part of "*Aktion Reinhardt*"?

The purported genesis and design of the gas chambers are dealt with by Kranz as follows (p. 220):

> *"Little is known about the installation of the gas chambers at the Majdanek concentration camp, because there are practically no documents describing their construction or their start-up. The only thing known with certainty is that these gas chambers were built along the lines of the appropriately modified design of a disinfestation plant using the system of disinfestation with hydrogen cyanide (HCN is the active ingredient of Zyklon B)."*

These assertions are absolutely untenable. As I have explained in the study of Majdanek mentioned above, the disinfestation gas chambers of the Majdanek camp were designed exclusively for hygienic reasons and were genuine Zyklon B delousing chambers.

Before going briefly into the genesis of these sanitary installations, I wish to outline the meanderings of orthodox Holocaust historiography on the subject of the homicidal gas chambers of Majdanek.

Between 4 and 23 August 1944, a Polish-Soviet commission investigated the camp, which had been liberated a short time earlier, and wrote a technical and chemical report about the alleged killing installations. The report stated that there had been six homicidal gas chambers at Majdanek. Later on Polish historians added a seventh such chamber. The following table summarizes the characteristics of these chambers:

Table 4: Alleged Homicidal Gas Chambers at the Majdanek Camp

ROOM	LOCATION AND DESIGNATION	SIZE [M]	AREA [M^2]
I	Barrack 41, room in the south-west	4.50 × 3.80	17.1
II	Barrack 41, room in the north-west	4.50 × 3.80	17.1
III	Barrack 41, delousing chamber in the east	9.27 × 3.80	35.2
IV	Barrack 41, gas chamber, next to shower		107.7
V	Barrack 28, drying unit	11.75 × 6	70.5
VI	Barrack 28, drying unit	11.75 × 6	70.5
VII	New crematorium, room between morgue and autopsy room	6.10 × 5.62	34.9

Chambers I, II, III and IV are claimed to have been conceived and built as homicidal gas chambers whereas chambers V and VI, according to the

Polish-Soviet commission, could also be used for disinfestation but were solely used for the disinfestation of the clothes of murdered detainees.

Decades later, orthodox Holocaust historiography cast several of these chambers overboard. The first one to go was the gas chamber in the new crematorium (no. VII), although it would have been most logical to set up such a killing site directly next door to the cremation furnaces – in the same way as orthodox Holocaust historians claim this to have been the case at the crematoria of Auschwitz I and Birkenau. Polish Majdanek literature clung to chambers V and VI of barrack no. 28 (drying unit) into the early 1990s, but then abandoned them. The latest gas chamber given up by orthodox historiography was chamber IV, which was located in barrack no. 41 (bath and disinfection) next to the shower room. As late as 1997, a sign could be seen there saying:

"Experimental gas chamber for killing detainees by means of Zyklon B. It was dumped through openings in the ceiling"

It is likely that this gas chamber was discarded because of the already mentioned study written by J. Graf and myself, which appeared for the first time in German in 1998.[29] In 2000, we enjoyed the support of two orthodox Holocaust historians, Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman, who declared that this room was used "for the disinfestation of clothing and blanket, but not for mass killings."[302] It is slightly ironic to note that this chamber is the only one labelled "gas chamber" in a document.[303]

Thus, we are left solely with the chambers I to III, which were located in a concrete building behind barrack no. 41. Kranz deals exclusively with these.[304] In a book published in 2005,[170] orthodox Holocaust author Barbara Schwindt also considers only these rooms as homicidal chambers.

Let us now examine the genesis of these chambers.

The drawing prepared by the Majdanek Central Construction Office on 31 March 1942 and labelled "Prov.[isional] delousing installation PoW camp Lublin" shows eight small disinfestation chambers lined up in the center of a room labeled "Delousing" and measuring 13.5 m × 4 m. These chambers separate the "clean" side next to the shower room from the "unclean" one toward to the outside. The delousing installation was housed in a building measuring 40.76 m × 9.56 m.

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[302] M. Shermer, A. Grobman, *Negare la storia. L'Olocausto non è mai avvenuto: chi lo dice e perché*. Editori Riuniti, Rome 2002; Engl. edition: *Denying History. Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why Do They Say it?* University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles/London 2000.

[303] WAPL, Zentralbauleitung, 145, p. 14, cost estimate by the Michael Ochnik company of 18. Nov. 1942. Reproduced in J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *op cit.* (note. 64), p. 323.

[304] The *Enzyklopädie des Holocaust* mentions seven gas chambers (I. Gutman *et al.*, *op. cit.* (note 41), vol. II, p. 918).

During delousing, the detainees followed the following sequence of stations: Entrance/registration → undressing room/shearing → showers → dressing room → exit.

The clothes laundry sequence was: clothes reception → delousing (unclean → clean) → clothes hand-out.

There were 40 showers, with the hot water coming from the boiler room.[305]

This layout followed an older plan of 23 March 1942 for a delousing facility which was originally meant to be built outside the camp.[306] From the outside, it can be seen that it was realized, with a few modifications, in barrack 42, building BW XII, inside of which the boiler plant and a chamber made of concrete can still be recognized. Both rooms are considerably larger than originally planned. Today barrack 42 is designated as "Bath and disinfection II."

A report by the Lublin Central Construction Office tells us that by 1 July 1942 BW XII had been 40% completed. The document says *i.a.*:[307]

> *"Building XII Delousing and Bath – meanwhile a second horse stable barrack, with shower facility, has been added"*

This second installation was barrack 41, today called "Bath and disinfection," which was erected to the east of barrack 42.

On 19 June 1942, SS-*Sturmbannführer* Lenzer, head of the Office of Central Construction Inspection of SS-WVHA,[308] forwarded to the Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police General Government a request dated 27 May of that year concerning the erection of a disinfestation plant for the Lublin garment works:[309]

> *"In the aforementioned letter Office BII submitted a request for the construction of a disinfestation facility as per the system of disinfestation with hydrogen cyanide."*

A week later, on 27 June 1942, the head of the Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police General Government advised the Lublin Central Construction Office that the "advance project with cost estimate" for the Lublin garment works would have to be addressed to him as "addendum to the preliminary draft for the construction of the fur and garment workshop by 10 July 1942."[310]

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[305] See J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 64), document 30 on p. 321.
[306] Józef Marszałek, *Geneza i początki budowy obozu koncentracyjnego na Majdanku* (Origin and Early Construction of the Majdanek Concentration Camp). *Zeszyty Majdanka*, I, 1965, plan 5 (unnumbered page).
[307] WAPL, Zentralbauleitung, 8, p. 3.
[308] Amt C/V, Zentralbauinspektion.
[309] WAPL, Zentralbauleitung, 141, p. 5.
[310] *Ibid.*, p. 4.

On 10 July, the head of the Central Construction Office of the Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police General Government forwarded the complete documentation concerning the disinfestation plant: motivations, explanatory note, construction notification, cost estimate, local map as well as the drawing of the disinfestation barrack. In his letter of transmittal he stated:[311]

> *"Enclosed as per the order of 27 June 1942, please find the supplement to the construction proposal for a disinfestation facility as Building XII in the Fur and Garment Works of Lublin, to the amount of RM 70,000, with the request for review and provision of the financial and material means. The Polish contractors' prices were used as basis for the cost estimate."*

Of the documents enclosed with this letter, the explanatory report and the cost estimate are the only ones to have survived; both were drawn up by Chief of the Central Construction Office on 10 July 1942. The first, reproduced in its entirety below, explained the purpose of this facility:[312]

> *"Explanatory Report for the Construction of a Disinfestation Facility for the Fur and Garment Works of Lublin.*
>
> *For purposes of disinfesting the arriving items of fur and clothing, a disinfestation facility as per the diagram provided by the SS Economic-Administrative Main Office is to be built on the grounds of the Fur and Garment Works of Lublin. As the enclosed diagram shows, the disinfestation chamber is to be constructed solidly with a ceiling of reinforced concrete. A so-called pole-support roof must be built above this delousing chamber. This pole-support roof is to be 60.0 x 18.0 m in size to allow the disinfested materials to be spread out and stored. The furnace as well as the remaining equipment is provided by Office BII. Everything else results from the drawing."*

The "Cost Estimate for the Construction of a Disinfestation Barrack for the Fur and Garment Works of Lublin" comprises 27 sections and cites a total cost of 140,000 Złoty. Section 18 reads:[313]

> *"4 air-tight iron* [sic] *doors, delivered by the contractor and installed with the fitter's aid, including all work involved in caulking and plasterwork."*

The original project, of which a subsequent diagram has been preserved—namely, the August 1942 diagram "Prisoner-of-war Camp Lublin. Disinfestation Facility. Building XII^{A}," by the Central Construction Office—shows a rectangular block 10.76 × 8.64 × 2.45 m in size, containing

[311] *Ibid*., p. 2.
[312] *Ibid*., p. 5.
[313] *Ibid*., pp. 7f.

two disinfestation chambers 10 m long, 3.75 m wide and 2 m high. Each chamber has two doors 0.95 m wide and 1.8 m high, located opposite each other in such a way that each of the shorter sides of the chambers included a pair of doors 3 m apart. Above the block with the two disinfestation chambers is a similarly rectangular pole-support roof of 18 × 60 m, which is divided down the middle into two halves of equal size, corresponding to the "contaminated" and the "clean" sections. Between the two doors of the disinfestation chamber on the smaller side of the "clean" sector, a coke-fuelled furnace is installed whose structure resembles the previously described Kori air heaters. The furnace is set 0.66 m onto the ground; its lower part includes a trap door and a stoking door. Four steps lead down to it. Its upper part includes the smoke stack. The furnace is connected to the two disinfestation chambers via two round openings of 35 cm diameter each. The latter are located sideways to the left and right of the wall dividing the two sectors, 33 cm away from this wall and 1.72 m above the floor.[314] Since the disinfestation facility was operated with hydrogen cyanide, this furnace served to heat the air and to accelerate the circulation of the air-gas mixture.

The actual construction of the facility adhered to this plan, with the exception of the heating system:[315] the central furnace described above was replaced by two air heaters manufactured by the Theodor Klein Maschinen- und Apparatebau company, headquartered in Knollstrasse 26 in Ludwigshafen. The Central Construction Office had ordered them on 11 September 1942.[316] One of them was installed in front of the outside wall of the westward-facing delousing chamber described in the Soviet expert report as "Chamber III."

The Klein hot-air device was a coke-fueled air heater. It consisted of a stoking system underneath a heating chamber, within which a recuperator was installed. This recuperator was composed of a number of ridged vertical heating pipes connected to the stoking chamber below and to the air exhaust above. A ventilator was installed in the heating chamber, and underneath the ventilator, beside the heating system, was a chamber out of which the pressurized-air pipe extended. In front of the ventilator was the opening of the ventilation pipe, which was equipped with a flap to regulate the air flow. Both pipes – pressurized-air and ventilation – were 31 cm in

[314] See *Concentration Camp Majdanek*, *op. cit.* (note 64), document 31, p. 322.

[315] The dimensions of the various rooms were also modified slightly: the Commission speaks of 9.70 × 3.70 m, whereas the Polish reports give the measurements as 9.27 × 3.80 m.

[316] J. Marszałek, "Budowa obozu koncentracyjnego na Majdanku w latach 1942-1944." In: *Zeszyty Majdanka*, IV, 1969, p. 53, note 117.

diameter and were connected via two round openings in the wall to the chamber where the air heater was installed.

The system worked as follows: the smoke from the stoking chamber flowed through the recuperator pipes, giving off some of its heat in the process, and then escaped through the chimney. If the ventilator was operating, the air flowing through the ventilation pipe came into contact with the hot recuperator pipes, warmed up, and was pumped by the ventilator through the pressurized-air pipe into the room. In this way a constant circulation of hot air was ensured. The air heater could produce 80,000 Kcal per hour; the air temperature could reach as much as 120° and could be regulated with the air flap as well as with suitably timed additions of fresh outside air into the circulation system.[317]

If the air temperature was kept low, this air heater could serve the same function as the DEGESCH circulation system for delousing with the hydrogen cyanide product Zyklon B. A similar unit was set up in BW 20L of the Auschwitz detention camp in the autumn of 1942.[318]

On 22 October 1942, the Chief of the Lublin Central Construction Office sent the SS-Economist of the Higher SS and Police Leader in the General Government a progress report about the camp's various construction projects. The work in progress for the building project PoW Camp Lublin included the construction of

> *"2 delousing barracks with baths, erected partly on wooden post supports and partly on solid foundations."*

Under the heading of "construction project Lublin fur and garment workshops" the report mentions the "erection of a disinfestation plant,"[319] *i.e.* the unit with the two disinfestation chambers in BW XII[A] next to barrack 41.

There is not even the slightest hint that the technical project of a delousing plant was later modified in any way for criminal reasons, as Kranz asserts.

Kranz then goes on to describe these "modifications" of what he calls the "Bunker." To make matters clearer, I have added to his explanations, in square brackets, the Polish-Soviet designations used in our book on Majdanek mentioned above: the two original gas chambers were designated as III and IIIa in that publication; chamber IIIa was split into two rooms: Room I is the one with the pipe, the other one became room II.

Kranz writes:

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[317] Instytut Techniki Cieplnej. *Ekspertyza dotycząca konstrukcji i przeznaczenia pieców zainstalowanych przy komorach gazowych w Obozie na Majdanku w Lublinie*, Lódż 1968. APMM.

[318] RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 46.

[319] WAPL, Zentralbauleitung, 8, p. 22.

"According to the drawings, two chambers [= III & IIIa] *were originally projected. The chamber in the eastern portion (towards the camp), however, was then divided into two smaller ones* [= I & II], *one of which was then arranged for the use of Zyklon B and carbon monoxide, while the other one* [=II] *apparently remained idle. The first one* [= I], *however, was equipped with a metal pipe which ran along the walls at floor level. The pipe had perforations through which the gas was fed into the chamber. The ceiling also had an opening, used for dumping in Zyklon B. It ended in a shaft mounted on the roof. The chamber was illuminated by two electric lights protected by double iron grids. The larger gas chamber* [= III], *next to the two smaller ones, on the other hand, was equipped solely for the use of carbon monoxide. The metal pipe ran along only one wall. At both ends it had openings allowing the gas to be fed in, protected by cast iron grids set into the wall. In the opposite wall, there were two openings through which hot air could be blown in from a furnace set outside the chamber. The chamber was illuminated by an electric light, arranged in a way similar to the lamp in the small gas chamber. A small room abutted both gas chambers, the so-called cabin of the SS personnel, where two cylinders with carbon monoxide were located. The SS men were able to observe the gassings through a small window in the wall, protected by bars. The light switches were next to it. All gas chambers were equipped with steel doors which could be closed hermetically from the outside; they carried the name of the supplier – 'Auert Berlin.'"*

Towards the end of his text Kranz admits (p. 222):

"As there are no documents concerning the erection of the gas chambers, many essential details cannot be retraced."

This means that there is no documentary evidence for the assertion that the disinfestation plant was modified for criminal purposes, and the origin of the alleged gas chambers for mass homicide remains unexplained.

Kranz asserts that the carbon monoxide gas chambers went into operation in September or October 1942, the ones using Zyklon B in the spring of 1943 (p. 222). He adds that the gas chambers "were in use for one year" and that the "annihilation of human beings by means of poison gas" was stopped in early September 1943 (p. 226). He goes on to say (*ibid.*):

"Furthermore, the carbon monoxide cylinders were dismantled in September. On 21 September, 23 Jewish detainees from the Sonderkommando which had been forced to operate the gas chambers were shot. Later on, garments were disinfested by means of Zyklon B in the larger gas chamber (the one without a shaft for dumping in the Zyklon B), as was the case in the dressing room of the men's bath."

The dates are completely arbitrary, since there is no document confirming any of them. The arbitrariness of the whole reconstruction can be seen from the fact that the chronological sequence of the events as claimed by Kranz is not only not documented in any way, but not even supported by any witness accounts. It is based solely and entirely on my own analysis of the material findings which, needless to say, Kranz never even mentions. In the book I wrote together with J. Graf we mentioned that on the surface of the plaster above the pipe attached to the eastern wall of chamber III there was a clearly visible blue stripe, as if the pipe had been the catalyst for the formation of blue iron cyanides. As against this, no such blue pigments can be seen in chamber I. A few such spots do exist in chamber II, but only on the eastern wall, between the door and the central partition and in the lower portion of the partition itself at places which correspond to their location above the pipe in the adjoining room. This would lead one to assume that hydrogen cyanide was used in chamber III *after* the installation of the pipe, but not at all in chamber IIIa. The blue spots in that chamber are, in fact, too small and can be found only at a few locations **opposite those** of chamber II, which means that their presence can be explained most easily by diffusion of hydrogen cyanide through that wall. This diffusion phenomenon has also caused the appearance of blue cyanide pigment stains on the southern and northern outside walls. Chamber IIIa was split into chamber I and II *before* the disinfestation plant went into operation. This can be shown by the fact that it was never equipped with the air preheater originally projected.

Hence the SS – although it had two real cyanide gas chambers at its disposal which it could easily have been converted into homicidal gas chambers by opening up holes in the ceiling for the Zyklon B – is said to have set up from the very beginning a plant for killing people by means of bottled carbon monoxide. Why would the SS have done that? If gassings with hydrogen cyanide ran as smoothly at Auschwitz as we have always been told, there would have been no reason for using carbon monoxide at Majdanek!

If the gassing of people had actually been planned, it would have made no technical sense at all to split chamber IIIa into two rooms measuring 4.50 m × 3.80 m each with the result that only one chamber with a floor area of 17.1 square meters would have been available. On the one hand, this would have made chamber II completely redundant and superfluous. Kranz says nothing about that at all. A partition would also have made the natural ventilation of chamber I much more difficult. Without this absurd partition in chamber IIIa, one could easily have ventilated the entire chamber by opening the two opposing doors for cross-ventilation.

The tale of the alleged gassings by means of Zyklon B is even more absurd. Kranz freely admits that the Zyklon B supplied to Majdanek was used for disinfestation – as it was in all other camps. He says (p. 222) that the date on which it was "used for the first time to kill detainees" could not be ascertained. As evidence for such killings, Kranz quotes a brief extract of a statement made on 8 September 1947 by the former SS-*Oberscharführer* Erich Mußfeld,[320] who had earlier served at Auschwitz and was later appointed head of the Majdanek crematorium. A more detailed passage from that statement is given below:[321]

> *"As I have stated previously, I was sent from Majdanek to Auschwitz on 19 February 1943 in order to learn there how to burn corpses in ditches in the open air. On this occasion, I was accompanied to Auschwitz by SDG*[322] *SS-Oberscharführer Entress* [Enders] *who had to familiarize himself with disinfestation units and with the system of killing people by means of gas in homicidal gas chambers."*

After their arrival at Auschwitz, Mußfeldt continues, the two SS NCOs were taken to "Bunker 5" (according to orthodox Holocaust historiography, this building was called that way only from 1944 onwards!), without, however, having been able to witness a gassing for lack of a transport. They were satisfied with a tour of the installation, the Zyklon B introduction holes in particular, but Mußfeldt does not say anything about their design or their location. After his return to Lublin, Mußfeldt is said to have been put in charge of the incineration of corpses in the forest of Krempec, whereas "Entress was employed in the gas chamber of Majdanek."

Hence, the Zyklon B gas chamber at Majdanek must have gone into operation in February 1943 – but which gas chamber was it? Kranz does not provide us with a clear answer – apparently because he realizes the absurdity of it all – but hints that it was chamber I. In fact, today "a hole in the ceiling" allegedly used "for the introduction of Zyklon B" can be seen there (p. 221).

This means in plain English that the SS personnel at Majdanek had at their disposal a genuine cyanide gas chamber measuring a full (9.27 m × 3.80 m =) 35.2 square meters. This room was equipped with an air-heater which could greatly accelerate the vaporization of hydrogen cyanide, allowed the air-gas mixture to be recycled, and facilitated the ventilation of the room. But for killing people, they instead are said to have used the

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[320] This spelling appears in a document about his promotion to this rank; see J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 64), document 26 on p. 317. He signed with Muhsfeldt, though (as such in the Polish interrogation protocols), as he seems to have written all ß as hs.

[321] AGK, NTN, 144, pp. 91f.

[322] Sanitätsdienstgrad, paramedical service rank.

small chamber I with its 17.1 square meters, yet – in spite of its hole in the ceiling – not for Zyklon B, no, they employed carbon monoxide instead!

Kranz furthermore "forgets" to tell his readers that a hole in the ceiling existed not only in chamber I but also in chamber II. The opening in chamber I measures 26 cm × 26 cm,[323] the one in chamber II 29 cm × 33 cm.[324] Both openings, especially the one in chamber II which did not even have a wooden frame, show very crude workmanship. In neither case were the reinforcing steel bars of the ceiling removed, which clearly shows that the holes were opened up in great haste for the benefit of the Polish-Soviet commission. As a matter of fact, Konstantin Simonow, special correspondent for the Soviet army newspaper *Red Star*, who visited the camp immediately after its liberation, does not even mention them, although he certainly would have noticed them, had they existed at that time.[325]

On the alleged gassings with carbon monoxide, Kranz has this to say (p. 233):

> *"There are* […] *no documents referring to the supply of carbon monoxide. After the dissolution of the camp, on the other hand, the Polish-Soviet investigation commission ascertained traces of this gas in five cylinders found in the area* [of the camp]. *If we follow the Russian text of the report by the commission, the cylinders were dark red and bore the numbers 10, 17, 44, 52 and 60. They bore the inscription 'Kohlenmonoxid. Bei 150 Atmosphären abgefüllt. 8. 7. 42, Żeberwajn und Brenen. Berlin B. 9.* [recte: W 9] *Getestet bei 225 Atmosphären. Leergewicht 75,8 kg. Volumen 40,6 Liter' (Carbon monoxide, filled at 150 atmospheres. 8 July 42, Żeberwajn & Brenen, … Tested at 225 atmospheres. Empty weight 75.8 kg, volume 40.6 liters). These markings indicate that the cylinders stemmed from the stores of 'Aktion T4.'"*

In a footnote, Kranz adds that the address was to be read as "Jennerwein und Brenner"; the names used here were allegedly pseudonyms for Victor Brack and Werner Blankenburg (footnote 15 on p. 223).

Quite apart from the fact that the sources used to prop up these arguments are not documents but books by orthodox Holocaust historians, this tale is simply silly: Why for heaven's sake would Victor Brack and Werner Blankenburg have engraved their (alleged) pseudonyms on the steel bottles right next to the technical data – a task that was up to the manufacturer of the cylinders? To show that these bottles were destined for the euthanasia centers? Would the local personnel not have understood anyway what the bottles were for? If euthanasia, at least within Germany, is known to have

[323] J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 64), photo XI, p. 340.
[324] *Ibid.*, photo XII.
[325] *Ibid.*, pp. 142f.

been stopped on 24 August 1941, how can anyone seriously assert that a bottle filled on 8 July 1942 stemmed from "the stores of 'Aktion T4'"?

That this is pure nonsense can also be seen from the fact that the markings on steel bottles were punched in when the bottles were produced and tested. Any aliases of later owners could never have been on them.

Incidentally, J. Graf and I were the first to have dealt with the five steel bottles left behind by the Germans in the area of Majdanek and with the Polish-Soviet commission report.[326] This report had never been mentioned in the Polish literature on Majdanek before the publication of our book, obviously because Polish historians were unfamiliar with it. In this context Kranz consciously hides certain not altogether unimportant facts:

For one thing, the five steel bottles which allegedly contained carbon monoxide have meanwhile disappeared from the camp; nobody seems to know where they are now. It is truly most unusual for a prosecutor to allow the "murder weapon" to disappear – unless he wants to avoid any later scrutiny. For this reason, the report by the Polish-Soviet commission must be handled with extreme caution!

Secondly, the two steel bottles which today are shown in the "cabin" of the "Bunker" do not contain carbon monoxide at all, but carbon *di*oxide. They bear in fact the following inscription:[327]

> *"Dr. Pater Victoria Kohlensäurefabrik Nussdorf Nr. 6196 Füll. 10 kg* […] *und Fluid Warszawa Kohlensäure* […] *Fluid Warszawa Lukowski. Pleschen 10,1 kg CO_2 gepr."*

(Dr Pater Victoria carbonic acid factory Nussdorf no. 6196, fill. 10 kg […] and Fluid Warszawa carbonic acid […] Fluid Warszawa Lukowski. Pleschen 10.1 kg CO_2 test.)

This means that the five alleged carbon monoxide cylinders have disappeared and were replaced by two totally innocuous cylinders of carbon dioxide! It would be nice if Herr Kranz could give us an explanation for this wondrous incident.

On the question of gassings, there are a few – but very vague – witness statements about homicidal gassings with Zyklon B, but there is nothing at all in the copious literature on Majdanek where gassings with carbon dioxide are mentioned.[328]

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[326] *Ibid.*, pp. 121, 126, 143f.

[327] *Ibid.*, pp. 143. Personal inspection by the author of these lines as well as written confirmation by the then director of the Majdanek Museum Archives to me on 30 January 1998. The inscriptions are only partly legible.

[328] A witness quoted by Kranz describes the corpses' hue as "bluish" (p. 225), but as we have seen in chapter 1, people poisoned with hydrogen cyanide or carbon monoxide turn pinkish to cherry-red. According to another source, "the hypostasis has a cherry red discoloration in cases of CO poisoning, bright red in cases of cyanide poisoning." Marco

When K. Simonow investigated the "Bunker," he did not find any steel cylinders in the "cabin" – he found a few cans of Zyklon B. The former inmates who accompanied him explained that the gassings were implemented by dumping the contents of these cans into the pipes,[329] which would have been an entirely senseless procedure, technically speaking.

During the trial of some members of the camp staff at Lublin in December 1944 a single witness, Tadeusz Budzyn, spoke of killings in the chambers that were equipped with pipes:[330]

> *"Presiding judge: Were any murders committed by suffocation?*
>
> *Witness: Let me begin by stating that, when there was* [as yet] *no Zyklon B, there existed a first gas chamber where gassings could be implemented by means of combustion gases. This chamber is arranged in such a way that, on the one hand, it had pipes connected to a diesel engine feeding the gas into the chamber. In the last phase, the Germans at Majdanek hit on the idea to design cars which were gas chambers at the same time. These cars were built in such a manner that, when the driver started out, the gas was fed from the exhaust pipe into the interior of the car, and when the driver had reached his destination, the detainees were already dead."*

There is no reference to carbon monoxide bottles here either, but to the exhaust gas of a diesel engine, as in the camps of "Aktion Reinhardt," at least according to the "old" version of orthodox Holocaust historiography.

It is unbelievable to note that Kranz makes use of the tale of gas vans! On p. 219 he apodictically asserts that "a gas van had also been in operation" at Majdanek. But on p. 225 he has to admit dejectedly that there is only "circumstantial evidence" for this assertion. He does not condescend to tell his readers what kind of "evidence" he refers to.

Incidentally, Barbara Schwindt believes that the tale of the gas vans was based on a "propagation of errors" caused by an insufficient knowledge of the history of the camp.[331]

In the conclusion of his article, Kranz presents a numerical assessment of the alleged gassings at Majdanek (p. 227):

> *"The sources do not allow us to determine exactly how many of the almost 80,000 victims of this camp were murdered in the gas chambers. We only have the statement by Ruppert,*[332] *who estimated the number of people gassed during the last quarter of 1942 to have been some 500 –*

Strano, *Manuale di criminologia clinica*, SEE, Florence 2003, p. 238.

[329] J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 64), p. 178.

[330] *Majdanek. Rozprawa przed Specjalnym Sądem karnym w Lublinie*, Czytelnik. Lublin, 1945, p. 52.

[331] B. Schwindt, *op. cit.* (note 170), p. 13.

[332] Friedrich W. Ruppert, head of the technical department at the Lublin camp.

600 detainees per week and the number of Warsaw Jews murdered in the spring of 1943 to have been 4,000 to 5,000 persons."

This would bring the total number of people allegedly gassed to a maximum of 12,200 persons.

SS-*Obersturmführer* Friedrich Wilhelm Ruppert was transferred from the Dachau concentration camp to the Lublin-Majdanek camp on 18 September 1942, where he supervised the fitters, electricians, carpenters and painters. Hence he must have had an accurate knowledge of the alleged homicidal gas chambers, if they existed, because his office would have been in charge of the alleged adaptation of the disinfestation chambers described above to instruments of mass murder. But he actually knew practically nothing. References to gassings are fleeting and insubstantial in his testimony:[333]

"For the weeks and the months of October to December 1942, I estimate the number of prisoners who died from this disease [typhus] *at 100-120 cases per day and the number of those who perished in the gas chamber at 500-600 every week."*

This means that the maximum number of those who died from typhus ($120 \times 7 = 840$) was higher than that of those allegedly gassed (600)!

The second reference to gassing concerns the so-called "Operation Warsaw," which took place in the months of May, June and July 1943. Inmates fit for labor were registered, while

"the older, the weak and the sick inmates were not admitted into the camp; they had to stay in the bath barrack in the evening hours and were then taken to the gas chamber."

Ruppert added:

"I estimate the number of prisoners who arrived at the Lublin camp as a result of Operation Warsaw at 15,000 and the number of prisoners who perished in the gas chamber at 4,000-5,000."

An observation concerning the Jews from the Warsaw ghetto is due here. On 31 March 1943, the Ostindustrie company sent the following letter to the Lublin Central Construction Office:[334]

"On the basis of the order issued by Reichsführer-SS, the factories located in the Warsaw ghetto which have an importance from the point of view of the armament industry must be moved out as quickly as possible for security reasons and with the aim of increasing the Jewish labor deployment. Relocation will be to Poniatowa, Trawniki and Lublin

[333] Affidavit by F.W. Ruppert of 6 August 1945, document NO-1903. The German text is reproduced in: T. Kranz, "Affidavit Friedricha W. Rupperta z 6 sierpnia 1945 r. na temat obozu koncentracyjnego na Majdanku", in: *Zeszyty Majdanka*, vol. XXIII, 2005, pp. 97-115, German text: pp. 101-107, subsequently quoted: pp. 104f.

[334] APMM, ZBL, 268, p. 1.

into available buildings. These building still require certain additions and changes which must be undertaken soonest."

This letter does not mention any unfit Jews, because they were not part of the persons to be moved: the Jews assigned to the three camps were all skilled workers. After all, Himmler aimed at "increasing the Jewish labor deployment."

According to the Polish historian Zofia Leszczyńska, these Jews numbered 16,000,[335] but this is only an estimate which is not supported by documents.[336] Ruppert mentioned 15,000 deportees. But even if we accept these numbers, can anyone seriously believe that some 4,000 to 5,000 – 27 to 33 % – of them had all of a sudden become unfit and had to be "gassed"?

Ruppert also described "the" gas chamber:[337]

"The gas chamber was a solid brick building of about 6 x 6 meters and about 2 meters high, with two doors, one of which was opened during ventilation.[338] *Outside the building was a small annex where the gas container was held."*

Apart from the clearly erroneous dimensions, this describes the installation of the above-mentioned disinfestation building BW XIIa adjacent to Barrack 41, and the "gas container" could be a circumscription of a steel cylinder with carbon monoxide. This confirms that Ruppert had no knowledge of the alleged homicidal gassings: Neither does he mention anything about the fact that the gas chambers were designed and built as Zyklon B delousing chambers, nor that they were allegedly adapted to homicidal gas chambers, nor that there were two of them; he does not explain how the killings happened and does not even mention the type of gas allegedly used. In practice, he had no direct personal knowledge of homicidal gassings, and his testimony in this regard is a simple repetition of propaganda themes.

But back to Kranz. Viewed from the point of view of orthodox Holocaust historiography, it is not very surprising that Kranz makes use of a mere assertion, substantiated by no supporting document, while ignoring

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[335] Z. Leszczyńska, "Transporty więźniów do obozu na Majdanka," in: *Zeszyty Majdanka*, IV, 1969, p. 194.

[336] In 1991 Z. Leszczyńska still wrote about 11 transports of Jews from Warsaw, although she gave numbers only for five of them (a total of 7,411 inmates; in: T. Mencel (ed.), *Majdanek 1941-1944*. Wydawnictwo Lubelskie, Lublin 1991, pp. 447f.). Hence the total number of Jews transferred to Lublin Jews is unknown. It is thus also unknown, how many of them eventually ended up at Majdanek.

[337] T. Kranz, *op. cit.* (note 333), p. 105.

[338] This does not make sense, because an effective ventilation would have required opening both doors.

the so-called "Höfle radio message." Achim Trunk, on the other hand, does mention this message, commenting it as follows (footnote 6 on p. 25):

> *"What remains unclear is the fraction of the 78,000 victims at Majdanek that was killed by means of carbon monoxide gas. We may assume that the 25,000 persons who were murdered at Majdanek as part of 'Aktion Reinhardt' were killed in this manner: this figure would then constitute a minimum."*

Kranz's silence on this point is all the more surprising in view of the fact that he includes in the (allegedly) 78,000 Majdanek victims also the 24,733 Jews mentioned in the Höfle message.[339] However, the thesis that these Jews died or were even murdered at Majdanek is untenable.[340] This may be the reason why Kranz, in this case, does not want to take any more risks.

On balance, I must say that Kranz's assertions are based on highly dubious sources. His argumentation is not coherent. He is far from refuting the conclusions of our book *Concentration Camp Majdanek* but rather confirms them inadvertently. On the one hand, Kranz accepts the book's genesis of the disinfestation plants at Majdanek, on the other hand he is careful to avoid mentioning the arguments presented in our book against the historical reality of the "gassings." Our book on Majdanek is, in fact, never mentioned even once in the book discussed here.

9. The Gas Chamber of the Mauthausen Camp

The fifth part of the book under scrutiny here is dedicated to the alleged gas chambers said to have existed in some concentration camps on the territory of the German Reich proper as it existed at the time: Mauthausen, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, Neuengamme, Stutthof and Natzweiler.

The series begins with a contribution by Bertrand Perz and Florian Freund and is entitled "Killings by means of poison gas at the Mauthausen concentration camp" ("Tötungen durch Giftgas im Konzentrationslager Mauthausen"; pp. 244-259). The two authors can hardly contain their pride at being able to show that their camp, Mauthausen – apart from Auschwitz – was not only the camp where "Zyklon B was systematically used for

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[339] T. Kranz, *op. cit.* (note 300), p. 61. For some inscrutable reason Kranz also includes in this number the 14,348 Jews (14,217 men and 131 women) who had died at Majdanek as of 31 December 1942 according to the Korherr Report (NO-5194, p. 12), although they belonged to a different category of inmates than the 24,733 inmates mentioned above, who had been deported within the framework of the "evacuation action" and who had not been registered in the camp.

[340] See J. Graf, T. Kues, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 51), pp. 321-326.

homicidal purposes for the first time," but that in this camp "more detainees [were killed] by poison gas than in the other concentration camps on the Reich territory" (p. 244). These murders by Zyklon B are reported to have taken place in a gas chamber as well as in a gas van, and furthermore in another gas chamber in Hartheim castle located not far from Mauthausen.

Bertrand Perz and Florian Freund state that fortunately "the body of source material for these killings […] is relatively good in spite of the destruction of many documents by the SS" (p. 244). This is, however, nothing but hot air, because these sources stem solely from post-war trials. The reliability of the "knowledge" gained from these trials can be judged by what no lesser author than the Jewish Holocaust historian Olga Wormser-Migot wrote on these matters in her 1968 book where she contested (or, to use the argot of the anthology, "denied") the existence of a homicidal gas chamber at Mauthausen and relegated it to the "realm of myths."[341] (Olga Wormser-Migot also regards the gas chamber of Ravensbrück as a myth, see chapter 11.)

Perz and Freund supply some rather useful information on the use of Zyklon B for the purpose of disinfestation at Mauthausen (p. 246):

> *"A special role with respect to the use of Zyklon B at Mauthausen was played by the Linz cleaning and disinfestation company owned by SA-Obersturmführer Anton Slupetzky, which as a well-established company carried out disinfestations with Zyklon B in the barracks of Mauthausen and Gusen.* […]
>
> *No later than the second half of 1941, a Zyklon B delousing chamber for textiles was built at Mauthausen along the lines of the one erected at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp by the Degesch company."*

This delousing chamber, erected in Barrack 25, was a DEGESCH circulation chamber, designed by the Boos company and delivered by the Heerdt-Lingler company.[342] The training of Mauthausen SS staff as disinfectors occurred simultaneously (pp. 246f.). While all of this is properly documented, things change drastically when the homicidal gas chamber comes in, and the two authors have to admit (p. 248):

> *"Nothing is known about the events leading up to the erection of a Zyklon B gas chamber at Mauthausen."*

Perz and Freund construe a link between the erection of the alleged homicidal gas chamber and the arrival of 4,000 Soviet PoWs at Mau-

[341] Olga Wormser-Migot, *Le système concentrationnaire nazi*, Presses universitaires de France, Paris 1968, p. 541.

[342] Already on 26 June 1940 Heerdt-Lingler had been in contact with the Boos company regarding a "*Entlausungsanstalt K.L. Mauthausen*" (delousing installation for the Mauthausen camp). NI-13781.

thausen and Gusen on 20 and 24 October 1941. Then they discuss a mysterious secret meeting said to have taken place at Sachsenhausen in late August of 1941.

We must pause here for an explanation. The story of this "secret meeting" is presented by several authors of the anthology under discussion. The first one to mention it is Robert Jan van Pelt (p. 200) who says:

> *"It is highly likely that this first use of poison gas* [i.e. the alleged first gassing at Auschwitz] *was linked to the search for a suitable mass killing method of Soviet 'political commissars' conducted by the IKL* [concentration camp inspectorate] *during the summer of 1941. A meeting was held at Oranienburg in late August of 1941 at which the commander of SS-Totenkopfdivision, SS-Obergruppenführer Theodor Eicke, the inspector of the concentration camps, SS-Gruppenführer Richard Glücks, and other leading members of the SS participated; Eicke informed the participants about Hitler's order to liquidate the 'commissars.' The participants then discussed the possibilities of implementing these massacres efficiently and in a manner which would not be overly hard on the SS henchmen. After the meeting, the Sachsenhausen SS staff devised an installation for shooting people in the back of the neck, which Eicke demonstrated to the commanders of all concentration camps at Sachsenhausen in September 1941 using several Soviet PoWs."*

The source for these assertions – a book – is given by footnote 12 on page 201:

> *"Reinhard Otto,* Wehrmacht, Gestapo und sowjetische Kriegsgefangene im deutschen Reichsgebiet 1941/42, *Munich 1998, pp. 263ff. Cf. the contribution by Günter Morsch in the present volume."*

A closer look at the date supplied by Reinhard Otto, however, shows that he speaks of "early August" rather than "late August." Furthermore he never mentions the participation of the Institute of Forensic Technology in this matter, as opposed to Morsch (p. 262). Since Otto's book is referred to as a source by all contributors who speak of the "secret meeting," it is worthwhile quoting the corresponding paragraph in full:[343]

> *"In early August 1941 a secret meeting was held at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp attended by the commander of SS-Totenkopfdivision, SS-Obergruppenführer Theodor Eicke, the inspector of the concentration camps, SS-Gruppenführer Richard Glücks, and the head of his intelligence department, SS-Sturmbannführer Arthur Liebehenschel, as well as staff members. Eicke informed the participants that the*

[343] Reinhard Otto, *Wehrmacht, Gestapo und sowjetische Kriegsgefangene im dunklen Reichsgebiet 1941/1942*, Munich 1998, p. 263.

Führer had ordered the liquidation of certain groups of Soviet PoWs and the erection at Sachsenhausen of an installation for shooting [them] *in the back of the neck. Prior to the systematic liquidation of major PoW transports on 31 August 1941 – it concerned 448 Red Army personnel from Stalag 315 at Hammerstein – the camp commander, SS-Oberführer Loritz, ordered two 'test runs' involving small groups of prisoners. Apparently, even the first one turned out to be so 'satisfactory' that all concentration camp commanders were ordered to Sachsenhausen 'to see how the Politruks and the Russian commissars could be liquidated.'"*

Otto's source is not a document, though. He merely refers to literary works on the subject of Sachsenhausen and the Soviet PoWs. The last sentence, however, indicates that the original source was the confession by Franz Ziereis, the Mauthausen commander, who had been fatally wounded by two shots in the stomach at his capture:[344]

"Ziereis goes on to say: I know details of other camps. In 1941, all commanders were ordered to come to Sachsenhausen in order to see the fastest way of liquidating the politruks and the Russian commissars."

Immediately after that, Ziereis goes into the details:

"In a separate barrack, the politruks and the commissars were assembled at one end and then led through a dark corridor to the execution cell while a radio was drowning out all sounds. At the other end of the cell there was a lath with a slit, behind which was a support, moveable [for a gun]. *Using this slit, the execution was carried out by a shot in the back of the neck."*

Günter Morsch reconstructs the history of the "secret meeting" in the following manner:

"In August and September 1941, members of these SS institutions [the Institute of Forensic Technology, as well as the Sachsenhausen camp Kommandantur] *had met in the large conference room with the commanders of other concentration camps for a discussion of suitable methods for murdering Soviet PoWs. Chaired by Theodor Eicke, the roughly 20 SS-leaders spoke about various killing methods: Murder by hanging, by fatal injections, by shooting squad or by an automatic method for shooting them in the back of the neck."*

No source is given for these assertions!

In his article "The Concentration Camp as Sites of Mass Murder" Detlef Garbe accepts this tale at face value ("*Die Konzentrationslager als Stätten des Massenmordes*," here p. 329):

[344] GARF, 7021-115-24, p. 48.

> *"In early August 1941 and in the presence of SS-Gruppenführer Richard Glücks and SS-Sturmbannführer Arthur Liebehenschel as the representative of the IKL, the commander of SS-Totenkopfdivision, SS-Obergruppenführer Theodor Eicke, informed the commander of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, Hans Loritz, and his immediate staff about the 'Führer order' to liquidate, after selection in the PoW camps, the 'partisans of the communist party of the SU,' 'Soviet-Russian intelligentsia,' all Jews and all former 'Polit-commissars' of the Red Army. Eicke went on to say that an installation for shooting* [them] *in the back of the neck was to be set up at Sachsenhausen."*

Again, Garbe quotes the book by Reinhard Otto as his source (footnote 47 on p. 329). It is interesting to note that, without any fuss, the Jews were smuggled in with the alleged intended victims!

It is worthwhile taking a closer look at the blatant manipulations of this topic perpetrated by these orthodox Holocaust historians. The original source – Ziereis's untrustworthy "confession" – vanishes behind a flood of quotations which one author copies from another without mentioning Ziereis in any way. The date given by the latter – 1941 – is so vague that this select group of historians is obliged to invent a more precise date: early or late August 1941. While Ziereis speaks only of one meeting, the historians turn it into two, the first one allegedly having taken place in early August, the second one late that month (or one in August and one in September). It is easy to see the reason for this fraudulent procedure: Ziereis, in fact, knew nothing of an "order from Hitler for the liquidation of the commissars" and says that, when the commanders arrived at Sachsenhausen, the device for shooting the victims in the back of the neck had been in operation for two weeks[344] and could thus be shown to the guests. But since this installation could never have been set up before a corresponding order to kill Soviet commissars had been issued, a second meeting was needed. Another one of Morsch's inventions is his assertions that the SS leaders had discussed "various killing methods." The reason for bringing in the Institute for Forensic Investigations into these alleged murders is that, for the younger generation of orthodox Holocaust historians, this Institute has become, as it were, a *deus ex machina* who crops up everywhere and has an explanation for everything.

Perz and Freund also bring up the story of the meeting at Sachsenhausen, but at least name the direct source, Ziereis (p. 248):

> *"Commander Ziereis – as he stated in May 1945 – had earlier* [before the arrival of the Soviet PoWs] *been summoned to Sachsenhausen, together with other camp commanders, to be shown 'how politruks and*

Russian commissars could be liquidated' by means of the automatic shooting device."

On 15 October 1941, Richard Glücks, "who had participated in the secret meeting held in late August 1941 at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp" (p. 249), visited the Mauthausen camp. Perz and Freund surmise that on this occasion he discussed with the camp commander a method for killing the Russian PoWs whose arrival was imminent. Their source – who would have expected it? – is the article by Morsch as well as the book by Otto (footnote 25 on p. 249). What is really incredible about this incestuous and inextricable tangle of references is that Morsch, while discussing the "secret meeting" without naming his source, does not even mention Otto's book.

The indictment of the Soviet Sachsenhausen trial (to which I return in chapter 10) reads:[345]

"The extermination of Soviet PoWs was implemented in 1941 under the direction of General of the Waffen-SS Eicke, specifically appointed by Himmler, who came to the Sachsenhausen camp in August 1941 and held a secret meeting with the camp's senior staff, during which he gave instructions about the methods and the system of the extermination of Soviet PoWs."

The defendant Gustav Sorge, former *Rapportführer* of the camp, claimed that it had been a local affair without the involvement of Glücks, Liebehenschel and the commanders of other concentration camps:[346]

"Prosecutor: What do you know about the meeting of August 1941 where the extermination of Russian PoWs was discussed?

Sorge: General of the Waffen-SS Eicke, then commander of the Death Head division, arrived at the camp in August 1941 and had a meeting with the individual camp leaders."

Perz and Freund continue (p. 249):

"Before the end of autumn of 1941 and in line with other concentration camps, an execution site equipped with an installation for shooting people in the back of the neck and a gallows was set up, and work on a gas chamber was begun."

Later on this installation is mentioned no more. It should be said in passing that the existence of a neck-shooting device is also mentioned for Buchenwald,[347] but for some strange reason no such device is claimed for Auschwitz. Even though these historians claim that Rudolf Höß was also

[345] Fritz Sigl (ed.), *Todeslager Sachsenhausen. Eine Dokumentation vom Sachsenhausen-Prozeß*. SWA-Verlag, Berlin 1948, p. 29.
[346] *Ibid*., p. 99.
[347] Eugen Kogon even furnishes a sketch of this alleged device: *Der SS-Staat. Das System der deutschen Konzentrationslager*, Verlag Karl Alber, Munich 1946, p. 344.

present at this phantom meeting, the latter does not devote even a single word to such a contraption in his copious notes.

A little further along, Perz and Freund return to Ziereis, who is said to have asserted "when he was interrogated in May 1945" that the Mauthausen gas chamber was due to a decision by Glücks (p. 249). The quotation is as follows:[348]

> *"Basically, the gassing installation at Mauthausen was built on the orders of SS-Obergruppenführer Glücks, because the latter thought that it was more humane to gas detainees rather than to shoot them."*

At this point Perz and Freund proffer a hypothesis which, a little further along, they designate as being not entirely defensible (p. 249):

> *"A possible indication for an order to build a gas chamber could be a note, dated 8 October 1941, in the activity report of the administrative head of the Mauthausen concentration camp which mentions an order received from Reichsführer-SS (RFSS) concerning the erection of a 'special building in the detention camp KLM.' The camp drawings from this period designate as 'special building' the area of the crematorium where the execution site and the gas chamber would eventually be set up. On the other hand, the designation could also refer to the installation of a brothel for the detainees which is referred to as 'inmate special building' in the same drawings."*

Immediately after this the authors refute their own initial thesis on the subject of the relationship between the erection of the gas chamber and the arrival of Soviet PoWs when they write that the latter "were intended for employment as workers, and not for execution" (p. 249). Seen in this light, the tale of the secret meeting at Sachsenhausen loses any significance for the argumentative structure of the article.

After dealing with more such useless speculations, the authors approach the core of the question (p. 251):

> *"On the subject of the construction of the gas chamber at Mauthausen and the process of killing with poison gas, we have a number of statements made by SS personnel involved* [in these matters] *and by former detainees which stem in particular from the trial at the Hagen* [Germany] *district court against Fassel and Roth.*
>
> [… The alleged gas chamber was] *a windowless room some 3.80 m in length and 3.50 m wide, partly tiled, having two air-tight doors, a heating device, operational shower heads and a ventilation device, the closure of which could be operated from the outside. From a small adjacent room called 'gas cell,' which contained a sealable gas feed device and a blower, the gas was fed in through a pipe sporting a slit*

[348] PS-3870. IMT, vol. XXXIII, p. 282.

about one meter long pointing toward the wall in such a way as to be invisible."

Document 1 shows a floor plan of the basement of the infirmary said to have housed the alleged gas chamber (the room labelled no. 5). Photographs 1 to 7 show its state in December 1990. When the gas chamber is said to have been built, the Boos company, which specialized in the construction of hydrogen cyanide disinfestation plants, is claimed to probably have been involved as well (p. 252).

Then, Perz and Freund go on to quote a long passage from the verdict of the Hagen court which spoke of the gassing technology. The important parts are quoted here (pp. 252f.):

"[Prior to of a gassing], *Roth ordered a detainee from the crematorium squad, usually witness Kanduth, to heat a brick in the furnace of the crematorium. Then Roth transferred the brick into the gas cell by means of a shovel* [sic!] *and placed it into the gas feed device; the latter consisted of a box with a removable lid which could be made airtight by means of wing nuts and a seal. By increasing the temperature, the brick was to serve later to hasten the release of gas from the paper shreds to which it was bound.* […] *Depending on the size of the group of detainees to be gassed, one or two cans* [of Zyklon B] *were opened in the gas cell, and the gas contained in paper shreds or felt pads was poured into the gas feed device, which had been pre-heated by the brick placed there earlier. When the lid had been bolted down, a ventilator, also located in the gas cell, was switched on, feeding the gas into the gas chamber through a feeding pipe."*

According to the verdict of the Hagen court, the gassing phase lasted about 5 minutes. Some 15 minutes after feeding in the gas, "defendant Roth, by looking through the peep-hole of a door, made sure that no victim in the gas chamber was moving any longer." He then switched on

"the ventilator located in the space between the dressing room and the tool room, which removed the gas from the gas chamber to the outside by way of a chimney. This ventilation process took about two to three hours. Then Roth opened the two doors of the gas chamber, cautiously introducing a specially prepared strip of paper to test whether the room was free of gas, and then ordered the detainees under his command to move the corpses to the refrigerated space of the crematorium."

Before the corpses were incinerated,

"female victims had their long hair shorn off, and gold teeth were removed by the SS camp physicians from the corpses marked with a colored cross." (pp. 253f.)

Perz and Freund inform their readers that "the ventilator is now held at the Terezin memorial site, the original gas chamber doors and the feeding device have disappeared for the time being." They add that the gas chamber had been "reconstructed during the transformation of Mauthausen into a memorial site in 1948/49 by the addition of non-original doors and the rebuilding of the walls of the adjacent gas cell. These changes are "not precisely documented," as the aim had not been a "scientific documentation" but a "dignified memorial" (p. 259).

Whatever the case may be, up to December 1990, when I visited the camp, there was not the slightest indication in the sense that there had been a reconstruction. Quite to the contrary, the gas chamber was implicitly presented to be "in its original state." A few years earlier, Pierre Serge Choumoff, a historian specialized in the history of this camp, had published the photograph of one of these reconstructed doors with the following caption:[349]

> *"One of the two armored doors of the gas chamber. One can see the hermetic seal (which has nothing to do with a shower room) and the peep-hole."*

Actually, the doors of the alleged gas chamber are ordinary steel doors like those for an air-raid shelter.[350] Nonetheless, Perz and Freund blithely attack those revisionists who, in the 1980s, referred to the alleged gas chamber as a "fake" and a "reconstruction by the Allies"! (p. 259)

Before we go into a closer examination of the whole installation, let us look at how the gassings are said to have been carried out by the two authors (p. 254):

> *"After the completion of the gas chamber, a 'test gassing' involving rats is said to have been carried out in March 1942"*

No comment.

> *"Then, for a further 'test,' 15 probably seriously ill detainees were smothered in this gas chamber. Slupetzki is said to have been present, according to some witness statements."*

To use the term employed by the two authors, this "probable" gassing rests entirely on witness statements, with the names of the witnesses not even mentioned. We are thus dealing here with a mere assertion, which cannot be examined objectively. Perz and Freund then continue (*ibid.*):

> *"After these 'tests,' 231 Soviet PoWs were murdered in the gas chamber during the night of 9/10 May 1942; they had been moved to*

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[349] P.S. Choumoff, *Les assassinats par gaz à Mauthausen et Gusen Camps de concentration nazis en territoire autrichien*. Amicale de Déportés de Mauthausen, Paris 1987, p. 63.

[350] Among others, these steel doors were manufactured and promoted by the company Firma Fr. Richardt, Eisenbau, Hameln/Westfalen; see *Gasschutz und Luftschutz*, vol. 14., No. 1, January 1944, p. 2.

Mauthausen shortly before that in order to be executed on the orders of Sipo [security police] *and the SD."*

Perz and Freund use as a source the verdict by the Hagen court (footnote 39 on p. 254). They could just as well and more appropriately have used the Nuremberg document PS-495. The latter is an excerpt from the death book of PoWs at Mauthausen which lists the names of these 231 persons together with the date, the hour and the reason of their execution (an order given by Heydrich on 30 April 1942). Nothing indicates that these PoWs were gassed. In fact, the details of the document exclude this explicitly. The first 21 delinquents were executed at 23:35 hours on 9 May, the remaining 210 on 10 May at 0:15 hours.

If we keep in mind that the first group of 21 prisoners all died at the same hour and that this is also true for the second group of 210 prisoners, one could believe that we are dealing here with two mass killings in the alleged gas chamber.

On the other hand, Perz and Freund say that the gas chamber had a maximum capacity of 100 people (p. 252), an exceedingly high number for a room having a floor area of just [3.50 m × 3.80 m =] 13.3 square meters, because it would have involved 7.5 persons per square meter (all adults). Furthermore, we have been told that a gassing took 15 minutes, followed by a ventilation phase of three hours. This means first of all that 210 persons could not have been gassed at one time, and also that a second gassing could not have been conducted for at least 40 minutes after the gassing of the first 21 victims.

In this case the promoters of orthodox history cannot even hide behind the argument that the entries in the death book were falsified, because we are dealing here with an execution explicitly carried out upon the orders of a superior, which means that, technically speaking, the operation was legal. If a homicidal gas chamber had existed, it would even have been legal to use it because, if we follow Ziereis, it had been set up on the orders of Glücks. Hence, from the point of view of orthodox historiography there was no reason at all for any "camouflage."

Also the further gassing of 261 Czech detainees on 24 October 1942, which is claimed by the verdict of the Hagen court, may be considered as "legally proven" due to this court verdict, but this does not mean that it must be regarded as a historical fact.

"In spite of all the secrecy surrounding the killings by poison gas," Perz and Freund tell us that soon rumors were spreading even outside of the camp (p. 255):

"Thus, the exile journal Der Aufbau *published an article on 12 June 1942 with the title 'American official confirms Mauthausen crimes'*

which spoke about the murder of Dutch and Czech Jews by means of 'gas experiments.'"

Unfortunately the two authors forget to inform their readers about the fact that *Der Aufbau*, in its edition of 5 December 1941, had already published two letters to the editor on the subject of "The Mauthausen Secret." The first one, signed by a "Carl von Hester," spoke of Dutch Jews who "died from poison gas," the other one, signed "R. Pisk (New York City)" asserted that the Dutch Jews had been "subjected to experiments with poison gas."[351]

In its edition of 12 June 1942, cited by Perz and Freund, *Der Aufbau* wrote that a high American official had "confirmed the events concerning poison gas at the Mauthausen concentration camp, which *Der Aufbau* had brought to the attention of a shocked world," *i.e.* the fact that "hundreds of Dutch Jews rounded up in Holland had been killed in these gas experiments at Mauthausen."[352]

This would mean that in June 1942 *Der Aufbau* confirmed the gassing experiments which allegedly took place in that camp in *November 1941*, *i.e.* at a time when there was as yet no gas chamber at Mauthausen according to orthodox historiography. If Perz and Freund use this propagandistic assertion as proof for the existence of a gas chamber at Mauthausen, in spite of the fact that according to their own account such a gas chamber did not yet exist at Mauthausen at the time, then this demonstrates merely what kind of "scientific ethics" these two gentlemen subscribe to.

Thomas Kues, who has investigated the pertinent sources, stresses that the first propaganda reports about a gas chamber at Mauthausen began to circulate precisely in November 1941.[353]

Perz and Freund claim that, in the spring of 1945, "the gas chamber was first used also for murders of sick detainees" (p. 255). Prior to that date, Soviet PoWs were allegedly predominantly murdered there (p. 254). Altogether 1,400 sick persons are said to have been gassed there (p. 256). In this case, the source used by the two authors is the article by Choumoff on Mauthausen in the German edition of the anthology *Nazi Mass Murder*.

On the subject of the technical characteristics of the gas chamber, Perz and Freund say that it was "a simplified form of the cyanide disinfestation chamber with circulation equipment" designed by Degesch. They go on to say:

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[351] *Der Aufbau*, 5 December 1941, p. 6.
[352] *Ibid.*, 12 June 1942, p. 5.
[353] T. Kues, "More on Mauthausen and the Genesis of the Mass Gassings Allegation," in: *Smith's Report*, No. 177, December 2010, pp. 4-8.

"This technology could be used by the SS only with the assistance of qualified companies like Slupetzky and Boos and by replacing the technically complicated Degesch design by simpler means. A metal box, probably manufactured in the camp, with a screwed-down lid and two pipe connections was used for the gas feed; instead of a heating element, a pre-heated brick would have to do for the acceleration of the gas release, the integrated gas circulation system with its four-way switch for changing the gas flows was replaced by two ventilators, one for the air feed, the other for air removal."

Finally, the steel doors used by Degesch for their delousing chambers are said to have been replaced by gas-tight wooden doors (p. 253).

At this point, we must stop briefly for a description of the design and operation of the Degesch disinfestation chamber with circulation. In it the Zyklon B can was opened from the outside with a four-way switch, equipped with a can opener. This device could be adjusted to two positions: "ventilation" – with the air entering the gas chamber from the outside by way of this valve – and "circulation," with the air circulating within the chamber. When the can was opened, the contents dropped into the "Zyklon catchment basket" placed in front of the heater and struck by the circulating current of warm air, driven via the circulation pipe by a fan designed for 72 air exchanges per hour and located on the other side of the chamber. Through the pressure pipe, the air re-entered the circulation device and struck the Zyklon B granules anew. After the disinfestation was complete, the gases were removed from the chamber through the ventilation pipe by the fan. Normal operating temperature was 35 to 40°C. An average disinfestation would require 70 to 75 minutes.[354] In the Degesch disinfestation chambers with recirculation operating at Buchenwald, the duration of one fumigation varied between one and twelve hours, with an average of three and a half hours.[355] Document 2 shows a typical Degesch circulation plant for delousing by Zyklon B hydrogen cyanide.

Let us now return to the alleged homicidal gas chambers of Mauthausen. The technology described in the verdict of the Hagen trial would have been primitive, dangerous and inefficient. Emptying a can of Zyklon B onto a hot brick would immediately have released clouds of cyanide vapors, like water hitting a hot surface.[356] These vapors would have spread

[354] G. Peters, E. Wüstinger, "Entlausung mit Zyklon Blausäure in Kreislauf-Begasungskammern. Sach-Entlausung in Blausäure-Kammern," *Zeitschrift für hygienische Zoologie und Schädlingsbekämpfung*, No. 10/11 (1940), pp. 193-196; *Degesch-Kreislauf-Anlage für Entlausung mit Zyklon Blausäure*. APMM, VI, 9a, vol. 2, pp. 1-4.

[355] Letter by Weimar Central Construction Office to the Auschwitz Central Construction Office dated 4 July 1944. RGVA, 502-1-333, p. 17.

[356] One has to keep in mind that the boiling point of hydrogen cyanide (25,7°C) is much

throughout the basement of the infirmary where the alleged gas chamber was located, and removal of the vapors would have been impossible for lack of ventilation. Moreover, this procedure would have been dangerous as well on account of a possible explosion. The explosive limits of HCN in air lie between 5.4% (= 60 g/m^3) und 46.6% (= 520 g/m^3).[357] If the brick had been hot enough, a conflagration in the metal box could not have been prevented.

We are told that the gas chamber was not designed for mass killings, but for the execution of a limited number of persons at a time, and so it is difficult to understand why the hot brick was needed at all, because the room itself could have been heated, so that the radiator there could have been used for accelerating the release of the hydrogen cyanide vapors.

A fundamental question addressed neither by Perz and Freund nor by any other orthodox Holocaust historian is the following: Why was an operational shower system needed for this gas chamber, or an operational radiator? There is another absurd aspect of the official version: For standard clothes disinfestations Richard Glücks approved a regular Degesch circulation system, but for the homicidal chamber which, as Ziereis tells us, he himself had ordered, he could apparently not provide the necessary funding, forcing the camp authorities to piece together a dangerous makeshift replacement.

A published photo of this device,[358] if it is that device to begin with, can actually be interpreted in a completely different way. It shows a metal box open at the top, with a lid leaning on its right rear corner. The box sports four visible bolts with wing nuts (one on each side, two at the front; two more are probably at the back) used to firmly (hermetically) seal it with the lid. A person is holding two cans over it – probably of Zyklon B – each of which has a large hole in its bottom. At the bottom left side the box is connected via a pipe to a circular device which is undoubtedly a fan. The pipe can be closed with a hand wheel valve (pointing to the rear). At the top right side of the box another pipe enters, which also sports a hand wheel valve (pointing upward). No mechanism is clearly visible to open a Zyklon B can located in the sealed box – unless the feature running vertically through the center of the box is such a mechanism. Or such a mechanism may simply not be visible on that photo, if it was located at the back of the box on this photo. It is also possible that the Zyklon B can was opened outside the box and merely its contents poured into the box – a risky albeit

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lower than that of water (100°C).

[357] Berufgenossenschaft der chemischen Industrie (ed.), *Cyanwasserstoff. Blausäure. Merkblatt M 002 12/89*. Jedermann-Verlag, Heidelberg, p. 6.

[358] Bundesministerium für Inneres (ed.), *KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen. Forschung, Dokumentation, Information*, Vienna 2008, p. 44. See Document 9.

possible procedure requiring the operator to wear a gas mask and the room where this happens to be equipped with some sort of ventilation. But since the box had to be opened after completion of the procedure anyway in order to remove the Zyklon B can and/or loose granules, working with a gas mask in an area that can be ventilated would have been necessary anyway.

The similarities between the gas chambers at Sachsenhausen and Mauthausen are so evident that they cannot be accidental. In both cases, an existing room was possibly converted into a disinfestation chamber which could also serve as a shower room. The Mauthausen chamber was certainly using a modified Degesch circulation system, similar to the one used at Sachsenhausen. This procedure was linked to the fact that the ceiling of the room was below the surface of the surrounding area. The structure of the system can be inferred from the sources available for the Sachsenhausen device (see Documents 4f.). The container for holding and opening the Zyklon B cans (the above-mentioned metal box [Doc. 5, no. 1]) was located in an adjoining room (called "gas cell" today). Inside the disinfestation chamber, attached to the opening device, stood a circulation blower [no. 7], while the bent tube to the right of the device went back through the wall into the disinfestation chamber at a short distance and thus constituted the suction pipe [10-12]. The ventilation fan was mounted in the opposite corner, under the ceiling, where the opening for it can still be seen [9]. The opening could be closed by means of a round lid and was connected to a chimney above the ceiling, through which the hydrogen cyanide vapors could be removed without endangering anyone (the Sachsenhausen device will be described in more detail in the next chapter, p. 178).

As if the "evidence" for the presence of a homicidal gas chamber at Mauthausen was not dubious enough, the story of the homicidal gassings at the Gusen camp, a sub-camp of Mauthausen, is even more absurd. Perz and Freund tell us (p. 256):

> *"In this phase* [spring 1945]*, sick inmates were also killed at Gusen by means of Zyklon B. As had been the case before, in 1942 this poison gas was used in a barrack; some 600 persons of various nationalities lost their lives in the process."*

The source for this assertion (footnote 45 on p. 256) is a witness statement of 1968! It also crops up in Choumoff's work, who dealt with these alleged gassings in 1987 and also makes use exclusively of witness statements.[359] Perz and Freund add that "executions in the gas chamber continued to be carried out" (p. 256), *i.e.* in the Zyklon B disinfestation chamber mentioned by them on p. 248. According to Choumoff, incidentally, it had

[359] P.S. Choumoff, *op. cit.* (note 349), pp. 31-36.

a volume of some 100 cubic meters,[360] more than three times the size of the homicidal chamber at Mauthausen, something which would have rendered the latter completely superfluous!

On the subject of the Gusen delousing chamber, there are detailed operating instructions. We can see that the room had doors (two, no doubt, one for the "clean" side and another for the "unclean" side), that it had windows and a ventilator connected to a gas removal opening. The document, drawn up by SS-Hauptsturmführer Eduard Krebsbach, the Mauthausen camp physician, begins with the following words:

> *"The work near and inside the hydrogen cyanide disinfestation chamber is life-threatening if the following instructions are not respected to the letter."*

The service instructions specified *i.a.* that a gas test was performed, after at least one and a half hours of ventilation, from the outside through an open window and by someone wearing a gas mask.[361] This gas test was a legal requirement and was standard practice also in the case of disinfesting dwellings. It gave rise, no doubt, to the passage of the Hagen verdict quoted above, which said that, in the case of the homicidal gas chamber at Mauthausen, defendant Roth had "cautiously introduc[ed] a specially prepared strip of paper to test whether the room was free of gas." Such gas indicator strips were part of the standard gas testing kit.[362]

Towards the end of their article, Perz and Freund discuss the alleged gas van of Mauthausen and Gusen, cautioning that the details of its use are "not clear" (p. 257). They continue (*ibid.*):

> *"Apparently the Mauthausen camp physician, Eduard Krebsbach, had heard about this new killing method soon after the tests of a gas van at Sachsenhausen, because in early August he asked Berlin for such a gas van."*

In order to be allotted the vehicle, the head of Department II D of RSHA, SS-*Obersturmbannführer* Walter Rauff, is said to have approached the omnipotent Institute for Forensic Investigations (*ibid.*).

Rauff's letter has undergone a critical analysis by the French researcher Pierre Marais and by Santiago Alvarez. Both of them came to the conclusion that the document is a fabrication prepared during the run-up to the Nuremberg trials and intended to lend credence to the assertions by Hans

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[360] *Ibid.*, p. 31.

[361] "Dienstanweisung für die Bedienung der Blausäure-Entwesungskammer im K.L.M. Unterkunft Gusen," ÖDMM, Archiv, M 9a/1.

[362] See the chapter "Auschwitz: 'Gas Testers' and Gas Residue Test Kits," in my article "The 'Gas Testers' of Auschwitz," *The Revisionist*, 7 2(2) (2004), pp. 150-154, where I describe the common standards for delousing measures and where I reproduce the original text of the service instructions mentioned (pp. 63-67).

Maršálek and especially to those of Franz Ziereis on the subject of the Mauthausen gas vans.[363]

As a matter of fact, the letter – published earlier by Choumoff[364] – exhibits a number of points which give rise to doubts about its authenticity. Let me stress that, in addition to the analyses carried out by Marais and Alvarez, the letter, based on its letterhead ("II D Rf/Hb"), would have come from Walter Rauff ("Rf")[365] who held the rank of an SS-*Obersturmführer* and the position of head of group II D 3 (Technical matters) of RSHA. Subsection II D 3a (Security police vehicles) was headed by SS-*Hauptsturmführer* Friedrich Pradel. Nonetheless, at the bottom of the document we have Rauff's signature, preceded by "*i.A.*" (*im Auftrag*, by order). Contrary to normal practice, the typed name of the author of the letter is missing, as are his name and rank. Item 2 of that letter lists the name of a second addressee, "II D 3 a – Major Pradel," but Pradel was not a "Major" in any way; his SS-rank of *Hauptsturmführer* corresponded to that of a captain.

The first addressee, the Institute of Forensic Technology in Berlin, is mentioned under item 1, below the word "*Schreiben*" (letter). An analysis of the contents reveals the following peculiarities:

a) "Attached I return the file of the garrison physician concentration camp Mauthausen."

Returning such "files" (apparently referring to a documentation) was not standard practice.

b) "The special vehicles manufactured by us are currently all in use according to the order of the head of the Security Police and the SD."

This is apparently intended to create the impression that there was an order from Heydrich for the use of these vans, although no such order exists.

c) "More vehicles are on order, whose delivery, however, depends on the availability of the chassis by the Plenipotentiary of motor vehicles. It is not yet known when the allocation will be made by the GBK, and it has to be reckoned that after the allocation an additional time for conversion of ca. 8 to 14 days will be needed for the individual vehicles"

As Matthias Beer tells us in his article discussed above, the Gaubschat company at Berlin-Neuköllln "had received the order to equip six chassis of gasoline powered 3.5 ton vehicles of two different brands (Diamond and Opel-Blitz with an airtight cargo box, p. 160). A letter from Section II D 3 of RSHA, addressed to this company, spoke of "10 Saurer chassis already

[363] S. Alvarez, *op. cit.* (note 120), pp. 297f.
[364] P.S. Choumoff, *op. cit.* (note 349), p. 40.
[365] "Hb", acc. to Marais, was the initial of Rauff's secretary.

supplied."[366] All this favors the interpretation that the story about the "availability of the chassis" is based on the correspondence between RSHA and the Gaubschat company.

d) "After this point in time I would be prepared to place such a special vehicle at the disposal of the concentration camp Mauthausen for a certain period of time. At a given time I will apprise you, as soon as the vehicle can be deployed.

Since I assume that the concentration camp Mauthausen cannot wait for an undetermined amount of time for the allocation, I ask to initiate from there the acquisition of steel bottles with carbon oxide or other auxiliary agents for the implementation."

The use of the senseless term "implementation" without its object, *i.e.* without stating who or what was to be implemented, can only stem from an error in translation. It seems that the letter was drawn up in English and that on translation into German the English word "execution" was rendered as "*Durchführung*" = implementation rather than as "*Hinrichtung*" or "*Exekution*" in the sense of capital punishment. Choumoff, for instances, translated it as "*exécution*,"[367] which can mean both in French as well: implementation or capital punishment. The proposal to supply Mauthausen with "steel bottles with carbon oxide or other auxiliary agents" (what agents?) is nothing but yet another attempt to produce a document using this infamous term which otherwise does not appear in any document.

Perz and Freund, in turn, have to admit that the content of this letter is highly dubious even in the light of orthodox Holocaust historiography (p. 258):

"Why the camp physician at Mauthausen would have requested a gas van around the turn of the year 1941/42, at a time when sick or unfit detainees were shipped to Hartheim to be killed and a gas chamber was under construction with the active participation of Krebsbach himself, cannot be explained unambiguously on the basis of the existing sources."

Referring to the statement of a witness, the two authors come up with the hypothesis that the gas van was "intended for killing detainees who suffered from an epidemic" which one did not want to ship to Hartheim because of the preventive measures in connection with epidemics (*ibid.*). But why use a gas van if a Zyklon B gas chamber was available in the camp?

There is no documentary evidence for any actual use of a gas van at Mauthausen. Perz and Freund admit that it is not clear "if and when the Mauthausen camp physician received the requested gas van" (p. 257) and

[366] S. Alvarez, *op. cit.* (note 120), pp. 323-325, where the original document is reproduced.
[367] P.S. Choumoff, *op. cit.* (note 349), p. 41.

that "nothing is known about what became of a gas van" at Mauthausen (p. 258)

The only basis for assuming the presence of such a vehicle in this camp consists in the statements made by former SS personnel and detainees who differ, however, about the way the vehicle is said to have operated. According to the U.S. detainee Jack H. Taylor, there was a "gas van with Zyklon B utilization" [sic] in which, "some 3,300 detainees are said to have been killed between March and October of 1943" (p. 257). This contrasts with the interrogation of SS-*Hauptsturmführer* Adolf Zutter, camp commander Ziereis's deputy, during a 1967 trial at Cologne:[368]

Prosecutor: Were you responsible for the trucks called 'gas mobiles' in the same way as for the car pool as a whole?

Zutter: 'Gas mobile'? This is the first time that I hear such a word. We had two motor vehicles for transporting people. They were called 'Minas' and were used both for transporting soldiers and for detainees.

Prosecutor: Do you want to tell the court that you knew nothing of the existence of two vehicles converted to gas chambers? And that you did not know they were being used for gassing prisoners?

Zutter: That is impossible. There were two vehicles for disinfestation, used by the laundry department. I was not responsible for any 'gas cars.'

Prosecutor: And you never heard anyone talking about them?

Zutter: It is here that I have heard for the first time any mention of 'gas mobiles.'

We hardly need to tell our readers that Zutter is never even alluded to by Perz and Freund!

In the alleged confession by Franz Ziereis, he is reported to have said on this subject:[369]

"Furthermore, a car of a special type shuttled between Mauthausen and Gusen, in which detainees were gassed during the ride. The idea for the design of this car originally came from the pharmacist SS-Untersturmführer Dr. Wasicki. I have never put gas into that car, I have only driven it, but I knew that detainees were being gassed."

The story which Maršálek ascribes to Ziereis was, at that time, still in an embryonic state, because the former detainees had not yet reached agreement on how this mobile gas chamber operated, but the story was, as it were, officially consecrated in this manner.

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[368] Vincenzo & Luigi Pappalettera, *La parola agli aguzzini*. Mursia, Milan 1979, p. 161. Since I do not have access to the court files, I had to retranslate this from the Italian.

[369] PS-3870. IMT, vol. XXXIII, pp. 281f.

In any case, it is totally absurd to imagine that the camp commander himself would have driven the shuttle van between Mauthausen and Gusen.

At this point I would like to show the incredible negligence exhibited by orthodox Holocaust historians when it comes to witness statements. Axiomatically and without any kind of critical analysis they assume them to be correct, carefully leaving out any passages which might expose them as unreliable. Here I am talking about Franz Ziereis's alleged deposition made during his interrogation (Perz and Freund on pp. 248f.). The two authors pass in silence over the fact that this document was qualified as "worthless" by the Cologne court,[370] simply because it is *not* a "deposition" made up during an "interrogation." Perz and Freund also keep silent about the fact that one of the two versions of this "confession" – the one presented at Nuremberg and accepted as document PS-3870 – is nothing but a sworn statement by the former Mauthausen detainee Hans Maršálek who asserted:[371]

> *"On 22 May 1945, the Commander of the Concentration Camp Mauthausen, Franz Ziereis, was shot by American soldiers while escaping and was taken to the branch camp of Gusen. Franz Ziereis was interrogated by me in the presence of the Commander of the 11th Armored Division (American Armored Division) Seibel; the former prisoner and physician Dr. Koszeinski; and in the presence of another Polish citizen, name unknown, for a period of six to eight hours. The interrogation was carried out in the night from 22 May to 23 May 1945. Franz Ziereis was seriously wounded – his body had been penetrated by three bullets – and he knew that he would die shortly and told me the following:"*

The alleged statement by Ziereis is written throughout in the first person singular, which is to create the impression that Maršálek limited himself to writing down the words of the former Mauthausen commander.

The second version is a document entitled *Protokol* (sic) *des Kommandanten Ziereis Franz aus Mauthausen*, and is dated "Gusen, 24 May 1945." The circumstances of its origin are summarized in a final note, written in Polish:[372]

> *"The above declarations were written during the night of 23/24 May 1945 and were closed at 6 a.m. in the presence of the head physician of the Gusen hospital, Dr. Anton Goscinski, as well as the director of the hospital Kosmal Roman."*

For one thing, the date does not agree with the one given by Maršálek, and secondly, neither he nor Seibel is mentioned. The text is longer than

[370] V. & L. Pappalettera, *op. cit.* (note 368), p. 140.
[371] PS-3870. IMT, vol. XXXIII, p. 280.
[372] GARF, 7021-115-24, pp. 43-50; the quote is on p. 50.

the one presented by Maršálek. In addition to the alleged statements by Ziereis, it also contains comments by the Polish originators as well as certain passages missing in the other version (*e.g.* a letter dated 24 May 1945 written by Ziereis to his wife[373]) and various rather fanciful stories about other concentration camps, beginning with the mysterious meeting of camp commanders at Sachsenhausen where they were shown the "installation" for neck-shooting people. Both documents burst with obvious absurdities. For example, one or one and a half million people are claimed to have been murdered at Hartheim Castle[374] – a figure which appears twice, for good measure.[348] Elsewhere there is even talk of a figure as high as four million[375] – while literally ten million victims are ascribed to the area of Warsaw, Kaunas (Kowno) and Libau.[376] According to his "confessions," Ziereis claims to have *personally* shot 4,000 detainees![377]

The document prepared by the two Poles also contains the story adopted by Perz and Freund about the gassings at Gusen:[378]

> *"Slupetzky is famous for having gassed at Gusen I on 13 March 1942 some 170 Russian PoWs in Block 16 under orders from SS-Hauptstf.* [sic] *Krebsbach together with the former head of the protective custody camp Hauptstuf. Karl Chmielewski with the gas Zyklon B."*

I will not go into the claimed extermination orders Ziereis is alleged to have received from his superiors, but one of the stories is worth recording here. On 31 May 1943 Himmler honored Mauthausen with his visit. True to his reputation as an innate sadist, he ordered the detainees working in the quarry to carry rocks weighing more than 50 kg up the steep hill. Three months later (*i.e.* in August 1943) 1,000 Czech Jews arrived:[379]

> *"At the time, mortality was less than 3%. For the superiors in Berlin this was too low. They therefore summoned Ziereis asking him why the mortality in his camp was so low."*

Just like the whole remainder of Ziereis's "confession," such horror stories, while showing the hatred and revengefulness of the former detainees who wanted to crush their former oppressors, are not confirmed in any manner by contemporary documents. As early as 28 December 1942, Oswald Pohl had, in fact, informed the commanders of all concentration camps including Mauthausen of an order by Himmler according to which

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[373] *Ibid.*, pp. 47f.
[374] In a concluding comment Maršálek writes that ghe considers this number to be exaggerated. I explain the reason for this remark further below.
[375] GARF, 7021-115-24, p. 48.
[376] *Ibid.*, p. 49.
[377] PS-3870. IMG, vol. XXXIII, p. 281.
[378] GARF, 7021-115-24, p. 47.
[379] *Ibid.*, p. 49.

mortality in the camps was to be *lowered* by all means, and Glücks himself repeated this order on 20 January 1943.[380] Thus, it is clear that Ziereis's "confession" was essentially written by the detainees who "interrogated" the dying commander. Besides many other oddities, this is shown by the fact that the document lists no less than 33 camps (Mauthausen and 32 satellite camps) with their precise camp strength.[381] A man dying from three shots in the abdomen would certainly not have been capable of such mathematical showmanship. When Maršálek wrote that he considered the death toll figures for Hartheim mentioned by Ziereis to be too high, he merely wanted to underline the "critical attitude" with which he regarded the "voluntary" statement in question.

It must be said that the U.S.-Americans were no less eager to spread mere propaganda. In the official report by the Prosecutor of the Third Army about Mauthausen and its subcamps, date 17 June 1945, one reads:[382]

> *"The total count of victims is impossible to estimate, but with HARTHEIM Castle (a building used for mysterious disposal of people), (See Exhibit 213,) almost 2,000,000 are counted from the German Records themselves."*

10. The Gas Chamber of the Sachsenhausen Camp

The article on this topic, written by Hajo Funke and bearing the title "The 'gas chamber lie' in the revisionist propaganda in Germany and Austria" ("*Die 'Gaskammerlüge' in der revisionistischen Propaganda in Deutschland und Österreich*"; pp. 382-393), is so pitiful that it is not really worthwhile discussing it in detail. The author writes on pp. 390f.:

> *"As early as 2003, the revisionist journal* Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung *– which often denies the Holocaust outright – published an article by Carlo Mattogno about the Sachsenhausen concentration camp: 'Sachsenhausen. Occupancy reports and 'exterminations' 1940 through 1945.' The introduction clearly presents the revisionist purpose; it says i.a. that the 'case of Sachsenhausen is highly revealing as to the methods used by the Allies, in this case specifically by the Soviet black propaganda in the immediate post-war period.' It is claimed, writes Mattogno, that 'in this camp, numerous detainees were killed by poison gas, and that, furthermore, the Germans had murdered*

[380] See on this my study *Auschwitz: assistenza sanitaria…*, *op. cit.* (note 103), chapter I, "Le condizioni di vita dei detenuti," pp. 15-23.
[381] PS-3870. IMT, vol. XXXIII, pp. 283f.
[382] PS-2176. IMT, vol. XXIX, p. 314.

thousands of Soviet PoWs in a shooting installation.' The author asserts that such claims are without any historical substance and uses revisionist literature in doing so."

I will begin with a correction: first of all, the introduction was not written by me but by the editor of the journal. Secondly, the introduction does not merely "present[s] the revisionist purpose," in fact it begins with these words:[383]

"The Sachsenhausen concentration camp, located in the Berlin vicinity and often referred to as Oranienburg [a nearby town] *hardly plays a role in the 'Holocaust' discussion. If Carlo Mattogno deals with this camp in the following article, the reasons are twofold: On the one hand, the documents retrieved by him and by Jürgen Graf in the State Archive of the Russian Federation in Moscow permit a very precise determination of the camp strength and the mortality in this camp during the war years. The publication of these data is an act of positive historiography which does not want to merely refute historical lies and myths but rather wants to determine as clearly as possible what really happened. On the other hand, the case of Sachsenhausen is highly revealing…"*

We can see that Funke's arguments do not burst with excessive precision.

If one of the authors of the anthology under scrutiny here could be expected to present a scientific refutation of my article on Sachsenhausen, then it would be Günter Morsch, the author of the paper "Killings by poison gas in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp" ("*Tötungen durch Giftgas im Konzentrationslager Sachsenhausen*"; pp. 260-276). The sad fact is, though, that Morsch, while ending his article with a grandiloquent paragraph about "revisionist strategies of denial," is too much of a prude too mention even the title of my article!

Morsch's main topic is the recent research into the alleged gas chamber at Sachsenhausen. From the mid-1990s onwards, orthodox Holocaust historiography seized upon newly discovered sources which, according to Morsch, supply us with a "considerably more precise vision of the use of poison gas for homicidal purposes in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp," even though "important questions, unfortunately, still remain unresolved" (p. 260). We shall discuss these "important questions" as we go along.

Despite these advances of orthodox historiography, its way of "demonstrating" the alleged homicidal gassings still follows essentially the script of Soviet postwar propaganda. In this regard, clarification is needed. Any

[383] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 38), p. 173.

historiographical assessment of the declarations about the gas chamber and the "gas van" as made by the camp commander and other members of the garrison cannot be considered outside the procedural framework in which they were made. The Sachsenhausen trial, which was staged in Berlin from 23 October to 1 November 1947, was a typical Stalinist show trial. All the defendants were accused – and sentenced guilty – of the most diverse and atrocious crimes. Going way over the top with their zeal to prosecute, the prosecution indicted 16 defendants, including the last camp commander Anton Kaindl, and charged them with all kinds of crimes, even at the cost of incurring blatant contradictions. The indictment stated, for example, that, "in order to conceal the number of people killed in Sachsenhausen, in early 1945 the ashes that had been gathered from the cremation of these bodies in the crematory furnaces were destroyed at the order of Kaindl" (p. S53).[384] Yet "the inspection of the camp area near the crematorium revealed two pits with a total content of about 27 cubic meters; they contained human bones and ashes, which, according to the statements by former crematorium workers – Sakowski and Zander – were remainders from the cremation of prisoners killed at the camp" (p. S21, cf. p. S133).

According to a statement by Heinrich Fresemann, former branch manager of a brick manufacturer, 8-9 tons of ashes are said to have been "sunk at the Hohenzollerndamm" (p. S92). The witness probably didn't know – or he fooled the prosecutor interrogating him – that the Hohenzollerndamm was not a reservoir dam, as the German name suggests, but the name of a main traffic road in Berlin. If we take that figure of 8-9 tons seriously anyway, and assuming an ash density of half a ton per cubic meter,[385] in total there would have been some [27+(16-18)≈] 44 cubic meters of ash. This translates to approximately 22 tons of ash corresponding to some 7,300 corpses,[386] a figure more consistent with the actual deaths (less than 20,000) than with those put forward by Soviet propaganda (about 100,000).

In addition, inmates unfit for labor were allegedly killed on a regular basis, possibly sent to other "extermination camps" for this purpose, but on the other hand the SS is said to have exploited the detainees for labor regardless of their age, and among these were also "Jewish children between 6 and 12 years old" (p. S44), although it is unclear what kind of work they

[384] All subsequent page numbers in this chapter initialed with S refer to Fritz Sigl, *op. cit.* (note 345).

[385] Douglas J. Davies, Lewis H. Mates (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Cremation*, Ashgate, London 2005, p. 134.

[386] Assuming an average weight of 3 kg of ashes from the cremation of an emaciated corpse, with an ash density of 0.5 g/cm³. C. Mattogno, *I forni crematori di Auschwitz. Studio storico-tecnico con la collaborazione del dott. ing. Franco Deana*. Effepi, Genoa, 2012, vol. I, p. 30.

could have performed. This is all the more incomprehensible because at the same time it was claimed that "the Sachsenhausen camp was a place of mass extermination of the Jews" (p. S40).

The trial setup (and its preliminary investigation) left no escape for the defendants, because the Soviets presupposed that the "fascists", ever since their assumption of power, had carefully worked out "a plan for the mass extermination of political opponents of Nazism"; they then are said to have set up the entire network of concentration camps "for the mass destruction of men," and "the mass extermination was implemented mainly through the system of concentration camps of the SS." In this context, Sachsenhausen was allegedly merely one among many camps "in which the plan of the Hitlerite government for the extermination of men was carried out" (pp. S17f.). The defendants' lawyers were five Soviet attorneys who were at least as hostile and prejudiced against them as the Public Prosecutor. The lawyer S.K. Kasnatschejew for instance, who defended Kaindl and another defendant, stated in his speech (p. S142):

> *"This trial has revealed the monstrous mechanism of organized crimes and has called back into the memory of the people recently experienced pages in the history of the Hitler regime, of that regime which has contrived and encouraged atrocities never before seen in the history of mankind, such as those perpetrated in the Sachsenhausen camp."*

Needless to say that the verdict could not be appealed (p. S215). The defendants conformed fully to the charges, completely embracing the Soviet theory of Sachsenhausen as a "death camp" and, consequently, the myth of the gas chamber, which had a semblance of logic only in this context. This legal framework necessarily entailed a systematic distortion of facts and documents, as is evident from Kaindl's statements (pp. S65f.):

> *"Prosecutor: What orders are you familiar with regarding the treatment of prisoners of war?*
>
> *Kaindl: Three days before the aggression* [sic] *against the Soviet Union, a Führer order was issued to the division and regiment commanders according to which all the commissars had to be isolated and delivered to the SD for extermination.*
>
> *Prosecutor: What types of extermination happened in your camp?*
>
> *Kaindl: In Sachsenhausen mass killings were carried out by shootings and hangings until the autumn of 1943. For the shooting of Russian prisoners, a special room had been disguised as a medical room. It was equipped with a device for measuring the body height, a table to test the visual acuity and also SS men dressed as doctors in white coats. While apparently measuring the height, the detainee was liquidated with a blow to the neck from behind through an opening in the meas-*

urement stick. In the adjoining room, from which the shot was fired, a gramophone played music to drown out the shots.

Prosecutor: So while you were the camp commander, did you devise an elaborate extermination technique?

Kaindl: Yessir! In addition to the medical room there was also an execution site, a portable gallows and a mechanized gallows, where 3 or 4 prisoners could be hung together.

Prosecutor: You made some changes to this extermination technique, didn't you?

Kaindl: In mid-March 1943 I introduced the gas chambers as a mass extermination site.

Prosecutor: On your initiative?

Kaindl: In part, yes. Since the existing facilities were no longer adequate for the envisioned extermination, I organized a meeting, also attended by the chief medical office Baumkötter, and he told me that the poisoning of persons with hydrogen cyanide in special rooms would result in their instant death. So I considered the construction of gas chambers for mass extermination to be appropriate and also more humane.

Prosecutor: Who was responsible for the mass killings?

Kaindl: The camp commander personally.

Prosecutor: So you?

Kaindl: Yessir!"

These claims about "gas chambers" (in the plural!) must be seen against the background of Soviet propaganda, which led to Kaindl's following, no less brazen "confessions" (p. S67):

"Prosecutor: How many prisoners were exterminated in Sachsenhausen during your activity as camp commander, hence during two years and eight months?

Kaindl: (bows his head for a moment's reflection, then turns to the interpreter, his voice clear and firm): All things considered, under my responsibility about 42,000 were exterminated, including about 18,000 directly in the camp itself.

Prosecutor: And how many died of starvation during your time?

Kaindl: During this time, according to my assessment, about 8,000 prisoners died of starvation."

Apart from the fact that all these figures are contradicted by documents, as we will see later, if 42,000 prisoners had indeed been exterminated under Kaindl's command, *i.e.* from August 1942 until April 1945, it follows that even more would have been murdered prior to August 1942 – at least 58,000 in order to reach the total death toll of 100,000 as claimed. Yet the

Soviets did not bother at all to determine whom such an alleged extermination would have to be attributed to.

The assumption of such an enormity, which was of value only in the aberrant logic of the show trial, was a historical fraud crafted for the following purpose (pp. S67f.):

> *"Prosecutor: Defendant Kaindl, did you receive the order to blow up the camp in order to erase the traces of the crimes committed?*
>
> *Kaindl: Yessir. On 1 February 1945, I had a conversation with the head of the Gestapo, Müller. On that occasion he conveyed to me the order to destroy the camp by artillery fire and air attack or by gassing. The execution of this order, however, which came from Himmler, was technically impossible.*
>
> *Prosecutor: Would you have followed the order if it had been technically possible?*
>
> *Kaindl: Of course. But it was not possible. In case of artillery fire or air attack the surrounding population would have noticed this. In the case of gassing, this would not only have endangered the civilians, but also my SS staff.*
>
> *Prosecutor: What did you do then?*
>
> *Kaindl: I spoke with Höhn and others, and then gave the order to exterminate all sick inmates, those unable to work and above all the political prisoners who were to be exterminated.*
>
> *Prosecutor: Were they* [exterminated]*?*
>
> *Kaindl: It was begun. On the night of February 2, the first inmates were shot, about 150. Until the end of March it was possible to exterminate around 5,000.*
>
> *Prosecutor: Who directed this mass extermination?*
>
> *Kaindl: The defendant Höhn on my orders."*

It should be noted that the idea of gassing the entire camp (with what gas?) was not just technically impossible, but the idea as such was utterly insane and would not even have occurred to a fool.

This contrived and phony logic of extermination was pushed to the ridiculous by the Soviets: if all concentration camps were death camps, and if Himmler had explicitly ordered the extermination of all Sachsenhausen prisoners, all transports that departed from this camp to any others camp would also have been slated for extermination, "*zur Vernichtung*," as was explicitly and repeatedly stated (pp. S54f., S58, S86 *et passim*). And not only Auschwitz and Majdanek (often accompanied by "Lublin," as if it were another camp) counted as "extermination camps," but also Mauthausen, Dachau, Bergen-Belsen and Nordhausen! The interrogation of the

former SS-*Untersturmführer* Ludwig Rehn, who was in charge of the inmates' labor deployment, is emblematic in this regard (p. S90):

"Prosecutor: How many [inmates] *were transferred by you in the first period?*

Rehn: 6,000 to Auschwitz, including those interned in September 1944.

Prosecutor: How many to Majdanek?

Rehn: 3,000!

Prosecutor: To Dachau?

Rehn: 2,000!

Prosecutor: To Bergen-Belsen?

Rehn: 2,500!

Prosecutor: And during the second period?

Rehn: 5,000 people to Bergen-Belsen.

Prosecutor: And how many were transferred from the Heinkel auxiliary camp to Nordhausen?

Rehn: Around 7,000!

Prosecutor: So during the two periods together around 26,000 people were transferred to other camps for extermination?

Rehn: Approximately 26,000, yessir!"

Although Rehn knew that these had been perfectly normal transfers or evacuation transports, he fully accepted the Soviet propaganda and was therefore found guilty of sending 26,000 prisoners to their extermination! (The sum actually resulted in 25,500.)

Two Jewish transports were mentioned in particular: one comprising 1,094 individuals went to Dachau on 14 November 1944, the other with 300 people was sent to Auschwitz on 30 August 1944 (p. S42). The first was regularly registered at Dachau: the 1,094 Jews were given the serial numbers 126919-128012.[387] The transport to Auschwitz is not mentioned in Czech's *Kalendarium*.

Rehn also made other statements which were just as foolish (p. S89):

"Prosecutor: Where did the prisoners go who were unable to work, exhausted?

Rehn: To other extermination camps.

Prosecutor: Are you convinced that the prisoners in the other camps were actually exterminated?

Rehn: Based on my activities at Majdanek and Lublin [sic] *I certainly assume this.*

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[387] Het Nederlandsche Roode Kruis, *Auschwitz, Deel VI: De afvoertransporten uit Auschwitz en omgeving naar het noorden en het Westen en de grote evacuatietransporten*. 's-Gravenhage, 1953, p. 54

Prosecutor: So according to your experience at Majdanek and Lublin you confirmed to the court that all the prisoners who were transported from Sachsenhausen to other camps were transferred only in order to be exterminated?

Rehn: Absolutely. [...]

Judge: Why were people, who were unable to work, transported from the Sachsenhausen camp to other camps for extermination?

Rehn: Because the capacity of the crematorium at Sachsenhausen was insufficient for their envisioned extermination."

The last response was also in flagrant contrast to the "findings" of the Soviet "experts" about the cremation capacity of the camp's six cremation furnaces (two mobile oil-fired and four stationary coke-fired furnaces, all built by Hans Kori): 864 corpses per day,[388] which – if true (which it wasn't) – would have meant that 30 days would have sufficed to cremate the bodies of the 26,000 prisoners transferred to other camps for their alleged extermination.

"Prosecutor: At that time, how many detainees were still in the camp?

Kaindl: 40,000-45,000. On April 18, I received orders to load them on barges and bring them along the channel of the river Spree into the Baltic Sea or the North Sea and to scuttle them there in the open sea. But even that was impossible, because procuring barges for so many prisoners would have been time-consuming, and the Red Army was advancing rapidly.

Prosecutor: What happened then?

Kaindl: I made the detainees march first toward Wittstock, then to Lübeck in order to load them onto ships and to scuttle them as ordered." (p. S68)

The defendant August Höhn, who had been the second camp commander, was coaxed into making this absurd "confession" (p. S73):

"Höhn: I have heard personally from the camp commander of Neuengamme, Pauli, that two large ships with camp inmates were sunk at sea.

Prosecutor: So there was already a method of exterminating prisoners by sinking inmates into the sea?

Höhn: Yessir, there was.

Prosecutor: And this criminal plan was not carried out with Sachsenhausen detainees because it was beyond the control of the camp authorities?

[388] C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 386), vol. I, p. 384

Höhn: Yessir. That the remaining 45,000 prisoners of our camp were not drowned was not due to the fact that the camp authorities did not want it, but because it was prevented by the rapid advance of the Red Army."

With utmost hypocrisy, the Soviets attributed to the Germans crimes which had actually been committed by the Allies. It is known that on 3 May 1945 the Royal Air Force sank the luxury ocean liner *Cap Arcona* and the freighter *Thielbek*, carrying altogether about 8,000 inmates mostly from the Neuengamme camp, only 200 of which survived the attack.[389]

Due to this farce the Soviets could present themselves in the guise of "saviors." The trial verdict in fact sanctioned this (p. S203):

"With the rapid advance of the Soviet troops some 45,000 prisoners of various nationalities were rescued in the Sachsenhausen camp who had been sentenced to death by Himmler's order."

In the context of this trial, Kaindl's "confession" about the alleged gas chambers (which he mentioned in the plural!) demonstrates its utter inconsistency: their construction in March 1943 is said to have been part of an alleged extermination practice which did not exist at all, in order to carry out a "mass" murder, although its surface area, a little more than 8 square meters, makes such an assumption simply ridiculous, as is the claimed use of Zyklon "A" instead of Zyklon B, which was confirmed during the trial (pp. S24f., S203).

Earlier, on 16 July 1946, Kaindl had made an affidavit while in Nuremberg which had an altogether different thrust and is far more consistent with reality. It does not contain any of the enormities he "confessed" later while in Soviet custody and also fails to mention any extermination order of detainees:[390]

"In the last phase of the war, at the beginning of February 1945, I also verbally suggested to MUELLER that the German prisoners should be enlisted in the Wehrmacht, while the foreign prisoners should be assigned to the labor service. This unfortunately was refused.

On 4 April 1945 I suggested to HIMMLER in Rheinsberg that at the enemy's approach the Sachsenhausen concentration camp should be handed over to the International Red Cross. This suggestion was also turned down.

On 18 April 1945 I received the verbal order from the Chief of Office Group D (Economic Administrative Main Office) Gluecks to requisition

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[389] Pit Pietersen, *Kriegsverbrechen der alliierten Siegermächte.* Books on Demand GmbH, Norderstedt 2006, p. 559

[390] From the website *Holocaust Texts*, http://madness-visible.blogspot.it/2011/05/anton-kaindl-commandant-of.html. Last accessed on 16 April 2014.

the ships, lying in the West Harbor of Berlin, to take them to the Lohnits Lake via the Hohenzollern Canal and to ship the Sachsenhausen prisoners through the canals to the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. I refused to carry out this order and suggested once more that the camp should be handed over to the International Red Cross; Gluecke [sic] *was furious about my refusal and threatened to report me to HIMMLER. I did not carry out the requisition of the ships, thus this mad scheme was not carried out.*

In conclusion I wish to state that three members of the staff of the camp headquarters Sachsenhausen were shot in Sachsenhausen on 22 December 1944 in the presence of the assembled troop, after having been sentenced by an SS and Police Court for the theft of prisoner's property and Reich property."

At the Sachsenhausen trial the prosecutors declared with satisfaction that the Soviet Union had abolished the death penalty on 18 October 1947 (p. S62), but Kaindl and the other defendants had been interrogated the year before during the preliminary investigations (e.g. Sakowski on 21 Dec. 1946, Sorge on 19 Dec.; pp. S174, S148). It is therefore very likely that they made their aberrant "confessions," which they then "confirmed" during the trial, under the threat of a death sentence.

I will now analyze Morsch's paper.

Morsch stresses that the department "Sanitation and Camp Hygiene" of the Concentration Camp Inspectorate was housed on the edge of the camp, an institution which controlled all disinfestation plants as well as the disinfestation school of the Waffen-SS where SS personnel were instructed in the use of these plants. Morsch then goes on to say (pp. 216f.):

"It must, therefore, be assumed that the Sachsenhausen concentration camp also served as a kind of model and guide for the use of poison gas throughout the camp system as a whole. This function can also be shown by the objective figures of the Zyklon B suppliers. Thus, the majority of orders for Zyklon B, which the pertinent SS officer in the hygiene institute of the SS supreme headquarters, Kurt Gerstein, placed with the Degesch company, were supplied to Oranienburg. The metal cans with the red and yellow labels and a warning skull were then forwarded to all other camps. On their business trips, the agents of that company most frequently called on and visited this camp in the vicinity of the Reich capital. The only other camp to rival with it was Auschwitz, incidentally."

In his footnote 4, Morsch mentions a book by Saul Friedländer about Kurt Gerstein,[391] which mentions 12 invoices for Zyklon B shipments to

[391] Saul Friedländer, *Kurt Gerstein oder die Zwiespältigkeit des Guten*, Beck, Munich,

Table 5: Zyklon B Shipments to Auschwitz and Oranienburg

CAMP	SHIPMENT DATE	INVOICE DATE	NUMBER OF CANS	WEIGHT [KG]
Auschwitz	14 Feb 1944	14 Feb 1944	390	195
	8 Mar 1944	13 Mar 1944	420	210
	20 Mar 1944	30 Apr 1944	390	195
	11 Apr 944	30 Apr 1944	390	195
	27 Apr 1944	30 Apr 1944	390	195
	31 May 1944	31 May 1944	390	195
		Total:	2,370	1,185
Oranienburg	16 Feb 1944	16 Feb 1944	390	195
	8 Mar 1944	13 Mar 1944	420	210
	20 Mar 1944	30 Apr 1944	390	195
	11 Apr 1944	30 Apr 1944	390	195
	12 May 1944	18 May 1944	390	195
	26 May 1944	31 May 1944	390	195
		Total:	2,370	1,185

Auschwitz and Oranienburg and which were addressed by Degesch to Gerstein. The pesticide was supplied in 500 gram cans. Table 5 provides details on the total volume of these shipments.[392]

Nothing speaks against the assumption that the Zyklon B supplied to Oranienburg was destined for the Sachsenhausen camp which was also called Oranienburg. The fact that shipments to Auschwitz went directly to that camp clearly support this assumption because if Oranienburg had really been a hub for the distribution of Zyklon B to the other concentration camps, Auschwitz would likewise have received its shipments from Oranienburg.

There is no doubt that Sachsenhausen did indeed serve "as a kind of model and guide for the use of poison gas," but the gas was used for disinfestations. This is borne out by the simple fact that the department "Sanitation and Camp Hygiene" was located at the edge of the camp and also housed the disinfestation school of the Waffen-SS. Morsch, however, assumes that the poison gas was used for homicidal purposes. In the section "The first homicides by means of poison gas in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp" ("*Die ersten Menschentötungen durch Giftgas im Konzentrationslager Sachsenhausen*") he tells us the following well-known story:

> *"In the fall of 1941, probably in early October, the concentration camp near the Reich capital would once again play the role as an experimental station and forerunner. The process for killing people with*

2007, pp. 158ff.

[392] PS-1553, pp. 15-26. Note the identical shipments to both camps!

carbon monoxide in a truck converted into a gas van, ordered by Arthur Nebe, the head of the criminal investigation department of the police, and elaborated by the Institute of Forensic Technology (KTI) headed by Dr. Albert Widmann, was tested on some 30 Soviet PoWs in the presence of high-ranking technicians of the KTI." (p. 262, my emphasis)

Mathias Beer maintains that the test gassing occurred on 3 November 1941.[393] The "proof" for this experiment rests solely on post-war witness statements, unsupported by any documentary or forensic evidence, and thus constitutes nothing but assertions totally devoid of any historical value.

The gas vans entered the Holocaust myth only after the Sachsenhausen trial had been celebrated by the Soviets in 1947. Hence the use of two "gas vans" was claimed during this trial for a point in time when the first models are said to have only been tested (pp. S30f.):

"According to the statements of the former camp inmate Lothar Blank, questioned as a witness, it is established that in the fall of 1941, as a result of overloading the local shooting ranges, the extermination of Soviet prisoners of war was carried out in special gas vans. He declared:

'I learned from Franz Schimalla that the Soviet prisoners of war were also exterminated in two gas vans and that their bodies were cremated in the same crematorium. I myself saw that the gas van described to me by Franz Schimalla made two trips from the barracks in the 'Industriehof,' where the Russian PoWs were, to the crematorium.'"

The defendant Paul Sakowski, the "executioner," declared in this regard (pp. S121f.):

"Prosecutor: I am interested in mobile gas chambers. What do you know about them?

Sakowski: The Gasautos?[394] *I learned of these Gasautos in October 1941, during the action against the Russians. They were tall, closed vehicles; in each there were about 50 Russian prisoners of war, completely undressed, but still alive. They came to us at the crematorium and then the tube was connected to the cargo space and the exhaust gas was piped inside. When we opened the doors after about 20 minutes, the corpses fell towards us."*

Morsch then tells us that these gas vans were "not used systematically and permanently for the assassination of the more than 13,000 Soviet PoWs" (p. 263). This means that the Sachsenhausen camp authorities gen-

[393] M. Beer, *op. cit.* (note 77), p. 417.

[394] The defendant was still unfamiliar with the term "*Gaswagen*", as it was introduced only later during the course of the trial.

erously allowed others to use their "inventions" without themselves making any proper use of them. Morsch ignores just as generously all the absurdities and contradictions of this trial.

There is first of all the number of Soviet prisoners of war allegedly killed. The Soviet indictment and verdict put the number at 18,000 (pp. S30, S202), but the former *Blockführer* Klittner Martin spoke of 12,000 deaths, of which about one-third had died of hunger in the months of September, October and November 1941 (pp. S108f.).

Sakowski stated that the detainee Franz Schimalla

> *"kept statistics about the fuel consumption of the furnaces and came to the conclusion that the total number of cremated prisoners of war must amount to 20,000-25,000."* (p. S121)

If assuming the figure of 18,000 killings within three months (90 days), this would amount to 200 prisoners killed per day. Since the neck shooting device is said to have allowed the killing of a prisoner in 1½ minutes (p. S131), and because on the first day of operation, on 3 September 1941, 465 prisoners were killed and then 250 per day, as Sakowski stated (p. S121), there would have been no practical need for a "gas-van," if we follow the logic of the case, because the neck shooting device was by no means "overloaded." In fact, it would have worked at merely ([250÷465]×100=]) 54% of its potential maximum capacity according to Sakowski (250 per day), or at ([200÷465]×100=] 43%, if filling a need to kill 200 prisoners per day.

On the subject of the legend concerning the 13,000 allegedly murdered Soviet PoWs (or 12,000 or 18,000 or 20-25,000), it is worth repeating what I have written in my article on Sachsenhausen already mentioned.

The *Enyklopädie des Holocaust* says in this connection:[395]

> *"Probably in early August 1941, the camp command had a mass shooting installation set up, camouflaged as a* [medical] *examination room, in which during the following months 13,000 to 18,000 Soviet PoWs were murdered who had not even been registered in the camp."*

At first sight, these assertions seem to be corroborated at least in part by a hand-written entry in the change reports of 1941, which says:

> *"On 23 October 1941 2,436 Russ. PoWs removed fr. camp strength, i.e. liquidated in the crematorium."*

The clause "*i.e.* liquidated in the crematorium" however, does not agree with the facts and was undoubtedly added later, probably by the three former detainees who summarized the strength reports after the liberation of the camp. In fact, there is an original document which provides us with details on the numerical changes of Soviet PoWs for the period between 18

[395] I. Gutman *et al.* (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 41), vol. III, p. 1270.

October 1941 (the arrival of the first transport of such prisoners) and 30 December 1941.[396] Under the date of 23 October, when 2,436 Soviet PoWs were housed in the camp, there is a typewritten entry "*v. 23. 10. 41 nicht mehr in der Lagerstärke*" (no longer in camp strength from 23 October 1941). As this document keeps on recording the numerical changes of Soviet PoWs housed in the camp – from 2,423 on 24 October to 1,360 on 30 December – it is obvious that the 2,436 PoWs were not murdered but rather moved elsewhere. They belong, in fact, to the 2,814 detainees who are listed in the change report of October in the category "transfer." From 24 October onwards, the Soviet PoWs were counted separately.

700 prisoners were admitted to the camp on 18 October 1941, 1,796 more the next day, and 12 during the following few days, so that a total of 2,508 prisoners were interned during that time. Only 1,360 of them were still alive on 30 December 1941, so that the mortality was 1,148 in 73 days, or on average about 16 per day (with peaks of 51 deaths and lows of 2 deaths in one day). Mortality, however, was in general very high: about 45.8% of the total number of inmates during those 70+ days. It is possible that some of these prisoners were executed as Soviet political commissars, but the story reported by *Enzyklopädie des Holocaust* is still wrong on two counts. First of all, it is not true that Soviet PoWs were interned but not registered at Sachsenhausen, and secondly it is not true that, after August 1941, 13,000 to 18,000 of them were murdered.

Morsch then discusses the "stationary gas chamber in the so-called 'Station Z'" and pretends to reconstruct its "origins and erection." He begins his demonstration by inventing the following:

> *"In May of 1942, the camp command began operating the new and factory-like extermination facility with a major mass murder operation."*

The victims involved in this "operation" supposedly were 250 Jews, but no source for this assertion is provided for the interested reader!

Morsch then goes on to the "confession" of the camp commander of Sachsenhausen, Anton Kaindl, which I have analyzed in my article mentioned above. Kaindl's statement to the effect that he himself had decided to build a gas chamber for mass killings of detainees is commented by Morsch as follows (p. 265):

> *"While Kaindl's assertion is not totally implausible, it appears dubious for good reasons, not least because the Soviet Secret Police conducted the interrogations by applying mental and physical violence, which means that its value as a source is very uncertain. Moreover, the chief camp physician at the time, Dr. Heinz Baumkötter, when brought*

[396] This document is reproduced in my article, *op. cit.* (note 38), p. 179.

face-to-face with his former commander, denied having discussed this project with him. Lastly, an order from IKL concerning the use of gas chambers in the camps is neither known so far nor is it even highly probable on account of the unsystematic or – in the case of Buchenwald and Flossenbürg – even largely absent use of poison gas."

Morsch's overly tortuous phrasing cannot hide the fact that he fully confirms the essence of my criticism of Anton Kaindl's confession! In this respect, he raises the following question (p. 266):

"If […] *the commander had merely wanted a gas chamber for mass killings also in 'his' concentration camp, why did he not make use of the crystalline Zyklon B available at Sachsenhausen in large quantities, whose effect was well-known by the SS camp staff?"*

My summary of the deliveries of Zyklon B to Oranienburg as shown in the above table underline the validity of this argument. In doing so, however, Morsch completely demolishes the entire line of argument of the article on Sachsenhausen contained in the anthology *Nazi Mass Murder*, because it rests almost entirely on Kaindl's confession!

When seen in this light, it becomes most obvious that the alleged gas chamber at Sachsenhausen must have had an entirely different function from that ascribed to it by Morsch and his cronies. I will return to this point below.

Now, when is this gas chamber supposed to have been built? Morsch says (p. 266):

"According to coinciding statements by Kaindl and those of other contemporary witnesses, the gas chamber began operating in the autumn of 1943 at the latest. Since Paul Sakowski was relieved of his function in the crematorium in September 1943 but is known to have been present at the first 'test gassing,' the gas chamber was probably built during the summer of 1943."

This date is pure imagination. If we follow the Soviet "experts" who drew up a report about the camp after its liberation, "Station Z," the building which housed the crematorium and the alleged gas chamber as well as an installation for neck-shooting people, had been completed in March 1943, because their computations of the corpses allegedly incinerated in the stationary furnaces of the crematorium begin with that month:[397]

"In the stationary crematorium, 432,000 corpses were incinerated between March 1943 and April 1945."

This figure is simply ludicrous,[398] and it becomes evident why the Soviets forced Kaindl to "confess" the following:

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[397] GARF 7021-104-2, pp. 5f.

[398] According to the Soviet "experts," 492,480 more corpses had been cremated in the mo-

"In mid-March 1943 I introduced the gas chambers [plural!] *as a mass extermination site."*

The Soviets had decided that the "gas chamber(s)" had operated from the moment of the completion of "Station Z" onwards; this also provides us with an explanation for the "coinciding statements by Kaindl and those of other contemporary witnesses" which Morsch refers to.

Just as untenable are the following propositions which are supposed to support Morsch's dates (p. 266):

"A few months earlier, in early June, Dr. Kurt Gerstein and Dr. Gerhard Peters had met in Berlin. During that meeting which is mentioned both in the famous Gerstein memorandum and by Peters in his various [post-war] *trials, the department head of the Waffen-SS hygienic institute who was in charge of these matters asked the Degesch manager for the supply of liquid hydrogen cyanide, as he regarded the use of Zyklon B to be overly cruel* [for homicidal purposes] *on account of the irritant contained in Zyklon B as a warning agent.* […] *Could it be that the Sachsenhausen concentration camp was once more turned into a field of experiments for a new technology of mass killings with poison gas, in this case a liquid cyanide preparation?"*

Morsch's date of the meeting (early June 1943) is not borne out in any manner by the source he cites in footnote 12 on p. 266. This source is the verdict reached by a court on 27 May 1955 in the trial against Gerhard Peters, mentioned in volume 13 of the series *Justiz und NS-Verbrechen* on p. 113. The text of the verdict refers to a meeting of a commission which took place in early 1943 at the Degesch headquarters. It has this to say about the discussion between Peters und Gerstein:[399]

"The defendant [Peters] *often went to Berlin at that time and on the occasion of one of his visits he was told by Prof. Mrugowski that Gerstein wanted to see him. He therefore called on Gerstein at the latter's office in Berlin."*

Then the verdict summarizes Gerstein's request:

"Gerstein allegedly then told him [Peters] *that he had the most secret order to obtain hydrogen cyanide for killing people and therefore needed the defendant's advice on these matters.* […] *Gerstein then informed him that this was not the point, but that Himmler's request concerned the use of hydrogen cyanide for executions. He was to supervise the procedure and to obtain the substance. He himself, though, took the use of Zyklon B for this purpose to be overly cruel in view of the unnec-*

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bile crematories of Sachsenhausen, so that the total number of cremated corpses in that camp would have amounted to 924,480! *Ibid.*

[399] C. F. Rüter, D. W. de Mildt (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 105), vol. XIII, p. 113.

essary pain caused by the irritant added and regarded liquid hydrogen cyanide to be more useful."

According to the court, Peters then "advised Gerstein of the dangers presented by the use of liquid hydrogen cyanide, e.g. in connection with its transportation" and refused his request (*ibid.*).

During his interrogation on 27 October 1947, Peters had already referred to his meeting with Gerstein without, however, giving the year the meeting took place:

"As I could see no way to provide pure liquid hydrogen cyanide, there was only the possibility to produce Zyklon B without an irritant. Gerstein requested the supply of such Zyklon without the involvement of Tesch & Stabenow or Heli."

Under a pretext, Peters allegedly managed to have Zyklon B manufactured without an irritant. He then allegedly convinced Gerstein to order a large amount of the material to avoid suspicion – the very quantity which is mentioned in the invoices for Auschwitz and Oranienburg sent to Gerstein.[400]

The credibility of this story is zero. The irritant added to Zyklon B is the methyl ester of bromo-acetic acid, an agent for chemical warfare which is described thus in an Italian reference book:[401]

"An important chemical warfare agent which acts both as a tear gas and as a poison gas. Its primary effect, however, resides in its lachrymatory effect."

In the manufacture of Zyklon B, this agent was added routinely.[402] On the other hand, it was legally required only in the case of the gassing of buildings which were part of a block of houses.[403]

A test on animals, conducted in 1943, proves the fact that this irritant would not have caused excessive pain to the victims of a hypothetical homicidal gassing:

"Practical work with standard Zyklon B and with Zyklon B lacking this irritant shows no differences in the gassing process. In cases of a leaking gas mask as well as during ventilation the characteristic odor of hydrogen cyanide was also present, yet basically never the piercing lachrymatory effect of bromo-acetic acid methyl ester. Animals showed

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[400] NI-12111.

[401] M. Giua, C. Giua-Lollini, *op. cit.* (note 80), keyword "*Aggressivi chimici di guerra*," p. 321.

[402] G. Peters, *Blausäure zur Schädlingsbekämpfung*, Verlag von Ferdinand Enke, Stuttgart, 1933, pp. 61-63.

[403] "Verordnung zur Ausführung der Verordnung über die Schädlingsbekämpfung mit hochgiftigen Stoffen. Vom 25. März 1931," *Reichsgesetzblatt*, 1931, no. 12, part I, § 10, p. 84.

no change in their behavior when exposed to Zyklon B with or without the warning agent. It has been observed on the basis of the behavior of cats and dog that [the animals] *did not notice the* [presence or absence] *of the warning agent."*

The reason for the absence of such an effect was due to the high boiling point of the irritant: 144°C as opposed to 25.7°C for hydrogen cyanide,[404] which means in practice that HCN evaporates and dissipates much faster than the tear gas, hence killing the victims before any noticeable lachrymatory effect can be produced.

The verdict concerning Peters mentions explicitly that Degesch has always also supplied commercial Zyklon B *without* the irritant for the gassing of delicate substances (food, tobacco, etc.), which could be learned from the information on the labels of the cans. It stated furthermore that the amount of irritant was *reduced* during the war on account of its scarcity, that Tesch & Stabenow also furnished the hygienic section of the German military barracks at Berlin-Lichterfelde with Zyklon B containing *no* irritant, and that the Zyklon B supplied by Degesch to Oranienburg, "where no killings with Zyklon B occurred" did *not contain* the irritant either.[405]

Let me stress finally that the supplies of Zyklon B which I have summarized in the table above and which are borne out by the invoices sent to Gerstein, carried the mention "Zyklon B hydrogen cyanide without irritant" also in the case of the Auschwitz camp.[406] This should take care of Morsch's hallucination according to which "the Sachsenhausen concentration camp was once more turned into a field of experiments for a new technology of mass killings with poison gas, in this case a liquid cyanide preparation."

Gerstein's own account of the matter reads as follows:[407]

"The director of Degesch [Peters], *who had made out this invoice, told me that he had supplied hydrogen cyanide in vials for the killing of people."*

Once again we have no indication of a date. Thus, the date given by Morsch for the meeting is pure invention, which evidently was meant to provide at least some credence for his assertion that the alleged gas chamber at Sachsenhausen was built in the summer of 1943.

Quite apart from the fact that the accounts of Peters and Gerstein do not allow any conclusion to be made with respect to the date of their meeting,

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[404] R. Queisner, "Erfahrungen mit Filtereinsätzen und Gasmasken für hochgiftige Gase zur Schädlingsbekämpfung," in: *Zeitschrift für hygienische Zoologie und Schädlingsbekämpfung*, 1943, pp. 190f.

[405] C.F. Rüter, D.W. de Mildt (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 105), vol. XIII, pp. 108, 122, 123.

[406] PS-1553.

[407] *Ibid*., p. 6 des "Gerstein-Berichts."

they contradict each other squarely and are utterly absurd as far as Gerstein is concerned. Limiting myself to the topic of hydrogen cyanide, I will quote only one sentence from Gerstein's "report" (*ibid.*):

> *"The method for killing children* [at Auschwitz and Mauthausen] *consisted in placing under their noses a cotton pad soaked with hydrogen cyanide."*

It is easy to see why Morsch refrains from quoting the Gerstein report or from at least mentioning it in a footnote!

Morsch's hypothesis that the Sachsenhausen camp may have been "turned into a field of experiments for a new technology of mass killings with poison gas, in this case a liquid cyanide preparation" is in contradiction with Himmler's order to simply use liquid hydrogen cyanide. By speaking of a "liquid cyanide preparation" Morsch wants to eliminate an additional contradiction which results from the alleged use of a mysterious "Zyklon A" in the Sachsenhausen gas chamber. I will deal with this question below.

Realizing that his speculations are untenable not least due to their mutual contradictions, Morsch writes (p. 266):

> *"The chronological coincidence between the construction of the Sachsenhausen gas chamber and the often-cited meeting of Gerstein and Peters is certainly not sufficient to substantiate such a hypothesis. What is surprising, though, is that a new and largely unknown technical method for killing people was used at Sachsenhausen, for which, so far, no precedents are known."*

Before quoting more text, allow me to stress that this paragraph stems from a section entitled "The technical procedure" ("Das technische Verfahren") which shows that Morsch's claim to demonstrate "genesis and construction" of the alleged gas chamber was somewhat reckless. His "findings" in this respect can be summarized in a single sentence: "The gas chamber was *probably* built during the summer of 1943."

This is what Morsch has to say about the technical details of the alleged gas chamber (p. 267):

> *"The aim of the numerous technical innovations was the replacement of the crystalline Zyklon B by a liquid cyanide preparation which the sources, however, refer to alternatively as liquid hydrogen cyanide, liquid Zyklon B or Zyklon A."*

Morsch does not cite any sources for the first two designations, quite apart from the fact that it makes no sense to speak of "liquid Zyklon B" because Zyklon B, in chemical terms, is a porous carrier soaked with liquid hydrogen cyanide. The witness statements known to me in this respect[408]

[408] E. Kogon *et al.* (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 39), pp. 255f.

speak only of "Blausäure" *i.e.* hydrogen cyanide (Kaindl) or of "a capsule" with "liquefied poison gas" (witness Höhn[409]), which would make "Zyklon A" the only designation to be substantiated, albeit in a rather unconvincing manner:

According to Morsch, the Soviets, on 31 May 1945, discovered a strongbox in the underground morgue of the camp containing seven small flasks sealed with paraffin wax and holding a light-colored fluid. On 14 June of that year a chemical analysis is said to have been made showing that the fluid was "a preparation of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) containing 25 g HCN in 100 g of fluid." In the analysis the preparation was designated as "Zyklon A" said to contain a mixture of 90% "cyano-carbon ether" and 10% "chloro-carbon ether" (p. 267). Morsch then describes the technical procedure used in the gassings:

> *"Previously, liquid hydrogen cyanide had been used mainly by placing the strong poison in an unprotected manner in the room to be gassed and letting it evaporate or by spraying it. As this way of operation was not applicable to the planned homicides, a specifically invented or adapted device had to be developed. As substantiated by drawings, photographs, and descriptions it consisted of a ventilator in pressure and one in suction, an electric heater, a bottle-like container which could be closed and into which the glass flasks with the hydrogen cyanide preparation were placed; they could be shattered from the outside by means of a prick. There was also a system of tubes through which the pre-heated gas could be pressure-fed into the gas chamber. This device was attached to the outside of the wall which separated the gas chamber from the adjacent room, right next to the door leading into the gas chamber."*

Such a way of operation, however, was possible only with liquid hydrogen cyanide but not with Zyklon A, as described by Achim Trunk in his chapter entitled "Mass murder with other preparations of hydrogen cyanide" of his paper "The deadly gases," which I have discussed elsewhere. Trunk writes (pp. 43f.):

> *"The Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the model for the whole camp system, also had a gas chamber of its own in which prisoners were murdered with hydrogen cyanide or a similar poison: the total number of victims is as yet unknown. The murders by poison gas, however, were not committed with Zyklon B; the sources mention the use of a liquid poison, not a solid substance. The deadly fluid was, in fact, discovered after the liberation of the camp; it was contained in small flasks held in a strongbox. The military laboratory of the Red Army subjected*

[409] Declaration by August Höhn according to the verdict against him of 15 October 1960.

them to a chemical analysis. It was found that the poison was probably the liquid preparation Zyklon A. […] *Zyklon A is composed of 90 % cyanoformic acid methyl ester, toxic when inhaled, and 10% chloroformic acid methyl ester, an irritant. The mixture has a boiling point of 96°C; for use at room temperature it was sprayed under pressure and thus finely distributed."*

Achim Trunk points out that the use of Zyklon A for homicidal purposes was basically possible (which is quite correct) and continues (p. 44):

"[…] *in case the Zyklon A hypothesis* [sic!] *is correct,* [we also have] *a simple explanation for the installation of operational showers in the Sachsenhausen gas chamber (not fake showers as in other gas chambers): water will in fact quickly destroy the components of Zyklon A; running the showers could quite possibly quicken the removal of the poison from the gas chamber after the deed was done – and at the same time take care of any body secretions left behind by the victims."*

If we follow Morsch, however, the showers had an entirely different function (p. 268):

"The showers were not only used for camouflage, they accelerated the action of the hydrogen cyanide gas."

We see that the showers were good for many applications except for taking showers…

Let us return to Zyklon A. Once Trunk has expressed his doubts on the subject of the "Zyklon A hypothesis" in the manner shown, he explains in detail the reasons for his reticence (p. 44):

"The source of Zyklon A, however, is uncertain. At the time, it did not constitute a normal commercial product, as Zyklon B or Calcid would have been. Its place in disinfestation had been taken over completely by its successor, Zyklon B, both because of the ban imposed by the Versailles treaty and for economic reasons. Furthermore, the way it was used has yet to be ascertained with respect to the boiling point of this preparation, which was considerably higher than that of hydrogen cyanide. One of the technical particularities of the Sachsenhausen gas chamber – apparently derived from the more modern disinfestation chambers for goods – was the possibility to allow a stream of preheated air to strike the poison before it entered the murder chamber. It has yet to be determined to which degree the indications given by the sources about the way the murders were performed are compatible with these technical and toxicological conditions."

These explanations show Trunk's uneasiness. He does not want to go so far as to say that gassing with Zyklon A would not have been possible using that device. Zyklon A, in fact, requires a device which would resemble

a sprayer for plants operating under 5 to 10 atmospheres pressure. Although technically speaking it was more toxic than hydrogen cyanide, this preparation required a higher dosage on account of its high molecular weight – 2 g per cubic meter.[410]

For that reason, Trunk posits the "hypothesis" of liquid hydrogen cyanide usage (p. 45):

> *"The majority of the indications provided by the sources are more easily compatible with the hypothesis that the deadly poison was liquid hydrogen cyanide."*

This hypothesis, however, contradicts the Soviet account, which causes Trunk to question its validity. The analysis stated that almost 30% of the fluid was cyanide; the conclusion of the Soviet experts is based

> *"primarily on this value – Zyklon A was, after all, a substance containing hydrogen cyanide and had a cyanide content of nearly 30%. The expertise does not provide any other data which could help to determine the nature of the fluid."* (p. 45)

Among other things, the expertise said neither anything about the specific gravity of the fluid nor about its boiling point (p. 45, footnote 81). But if the result of the chemical analysis is questionable, there is no longer any reason to accept at face value the story about the flasks said to have contained a fluid with 30% of hydrogen cyanide. This is a very significant point, because the Soviets spoke of the investigated "Zyklon A" having contained up to 30% of hydrogen cyanide [*sinil'noj kisloty*]; the weight of the contents of one bottle is given as 150 grams.[411] Now, if the fluid was not Zyklon A, what was it? And why would pure hydrogen cyanide be mixed with 70% of something else? One thing is certain: the flasks did not contain pure hydrogen cyanide – which causes Trunk's hypothesis to crumble. He obviously realizes this and is thus forced to make the following logical somersault (p. 45):

> *"In any case, regardless of whether the substance employed at Sachsenhausen was pure hydrogen cyanide, Zyklon A or yet another preparation – one thing is certain: once the National Socialist homicide machine had poisoned people with pure carbon monoxide, with engine exhaust gases and with Zyklon B, it devised, at Natzweiler and Sachsenhausen, a fourth and then a fifth method for killing masses of people by means of toxic gases."*

These assertions are in total disagreement with the chronology used by orthodox Holocaust historiography. This timetable states that, at the time the Sachsenhausen gas chamber was being erected (summer of 1943), mass

[410] G. Peters, *op. cit.* (note 402), p. 57.
[411] Soviet report on the Sachsenhausen camp, 10-22 June 1945. GARF, 7021-104-3, p. 4.

killings with engine exhaust gases in the camps of the "*Aktion Reinhardt*" were coming to an end (Treblinka, Sobibór) or had already been terminated (Bełżec), whereas the murders with Zyklon B at Auschwitz were moving along at full speed. What would have prompted the SS at this point in time to devise a "new" method "for killing masses of people by means of toxic gases"?

On this point, Morsch agrees with Trunk. He, too, asserts that, at Sachsenhausen, the SS wanted to devise a "new, more perfect killing technology" (p. 269) which would possibly have involved the use of liquid hydrogen cyanide.

In addition to my own serious arguments already laid out against this thesis, the thesis is contradicted also by Gerstein's and Peters's statements on the contents of their conversation as cited above. If we follow these witnesses, the search for a new killing agent could have had no reason other than the one given by Gerstein: the use of Zyklon B for killing people was too cruel, because the irritant it contained would have caused unnecessary pain to the victims (which is untrue). For that reason, Gerstein took liquid hydrogen cyanide to be more suitable. Based on these two testimonies, false as they are, there could simply not have been any other reason for the search for a new killing agent. However, as Peters did not supply the SS with liquid hydrogen cyanide, the hypothesis propounded by Messrs. Trunk and Morsch collapses like a house of cards. After the invention of this "new, more perfect killing technology," the gassings in the second and third Reinhardt camps, Treblinka and Sobibór, were stopped, whereas murders with Zyklon B would go on unaltered and unimpeded at Auschwitz – what in the world was the use of a "new, more perfect killing technology"?

Apparently without realizing what he is doing, Morsch takes up here one of the most absurd aspects of the tale of homicidal gassings with Zyklon B, and his hypothesis provides an indirect confirmation of its erroneous character. It is well-known that the "newest and most perfect technology" in the field of disinfestations was the Degesch circulation system. It could have been applied to human beings without any essential modifications. Such an operation would have entailed all the advantages which Morsch ascribes to the "new method" developed at Sachsenhausen. As Morsch himself explains, the Degesch system was first used at Sachsenhausen. On 25 October 1940 technicians from the "Sanitation and Camp Hygiene" of the Inspectorate of Concentration Camps and from Degesch introduced this method at Sachsenhausen. On the same day the head of the department *Haushalt und Bauten* (budgeting and buildings) ordered all

concentration camps to use this method in the future. Morsch comments this order as follows (p. 262):

> *"This decree assigned a model character to the delousing station of Sachsenhausen, introduced Zyklon B as the poison gas preferred by the SS, and* [imposed] *the technical process of the circulation chambers officially on all camps."*

This means that, in spite of the fact that from late October 1940 onwards the SS disposed of the most highly developed delousing system of the time employing hydrogen cyanide (which could theoretically also be used for killing people), the SS opted for the use of liquid hydrogen cyanide or "Zyklon" A three years later, regardless of the fact that Zyklon B had been especially developed to reduce the risks and drawbacks associated with the use of these two products! But there is more: at the same time the SS began using a device for feeding the poison gas into the chamber, which, as Morsch tells us, resembled the circulation chambers (p. 268). Why in the world did they not simply use the Degesch system right away for their homicidal projects?[412]

When it comes to the gassings and the number of victims, Morsch limits himself to the terse statement that "the sources concerning the murder actions carried out in the gas chamber are rather sparse." At least, he says, the fact that people were murdered in the gas chamber is borne out by "many witness statements, both by former SS personnel and by erstwhile detainees" (p. 269). The fact remains, however, that there is not even the shadow of documentary evidence for homicidal gassings at Sachsenhausen, but merely witness statements. Morsch himself concedes that "the Soviet Secret Police conducted the interrogations by applying mental and physical violence" and that the value of the confessions is therefore "very uncertain" (p. 269). Surely, the erstwhile detainees did not have to suffer violence in order to toe the Soviet propaganda line – on the contrary. Not one of them would contradict the crazy assertions dished out by the Soviet "experts." These statements are nothing but very general declarations for whose accuracy we have no objective proof. To become convinced of this state of things, we only have to read Morsch's summary of the statements provided by these eye-witnesses. Once Morsch has claimed that "in the course of a number of investigations and criminal proceedings in the old Federal Republic" of Germany several gassing actions have been "ascertained beyond any doubt," he goes on to say (p. 270):

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[412] A thorough discussion of this issue can be found in my study on the Auschwitz gas chambers, *op. cit.* (note 28), chapter 6.2., "Why Not Use *Degesch* Gas Chambers for Homicides?," pp. 185-188.

"In the summer and early fall of 1943, the camp commander ran at least three 'test gassings' in the gas chamber that had just been completed. The victims were small groups of Soviet PoWs, between two and five persons each."

Then, according to Morsch, in the summer of 1944, after the 20th of July (the attempt on Hitler's life) "eight to ten civilian workers" were gassed, and, "in early 1945, probably in February," "a group of female forced laborers from eastern Europe" was taken "directly into the gas chamber." Morsch says that, at an unknown point in time, twelve persons suffering from syphilis as well as three Wehrmacht soldiers were gassed as well! Finally, "several major murder actions" are said to have taken place from December 1944 onwards "in connection with the evacuation of the camp." According to Morsch, as before, the victims included "hundreds of Jews," aside from "sick persons or people unable to walk and other specially selected groupings." Altogether, Morsch tells us, "several thousand detainees" ended up as victims of "the mass murders ordered directly by Himmler, by Kaltenbrunner, the head of the RSHA, by Heinrich Müller ("Gestapo-Müller"), head of the Gestapo, and by the Inspector of the Concentration Camps, Glücks" (p. 271).

These alleged massacres are categorically refuted by a contemporary document about changes in the camp strength which I have mentioned in my article cited above. It is summarized in the table below:

Table 6: Changes of Detainee Numbers at Sachsenhausen Camp

Year	*Entries*	*Departures*	*Releases*	*Transfers*	†	*Executed*	*Escapes*	*Missing*	*Unspecified departures*
1940	18,555	18,402	2,064	11,425	3,788	–	–	–	1,125
1941	8,662	8,531	1,153	6,191	1,187	–	–	–	–
1942	16,590	10,747	1,663	4,701	4,175	208	–	–	–
1943	20,011	8,334	1,064	3,387	3,563	320	–	–	–
1944	50,565	31,100	2,349	25,129	2,366	136	96	1,024	–
1945	17,813	22,721	278	17,251	4,821	11	295	65	–
Σ	132,196	99,835	8,571	68,084	19,900	675	391	1,089	1,125

On 1 January 1940 the camp held 12,187 detainees. Between January 1940 and April 1945 (132,196 – 12,187 =) 120,009 detainees were admitted. Over the same period, 8,571 detainees were released, 68,084 were transferred elsewhere, 19,900 died, 675 were executed, 391 escaped, 1,089 were probably removed from the camp by the local police authorities, and 1,125 were transferred to unspecified destinations. These numbers concern only male detainees, but we must underline that the camp was set up on 12

July 1936 as a camp for male inmates only. The presence of female detainees has only been shown for the time after 15 March 1945.[413]

During the Nuremberg trial, the Soviet prosecutor Smirnov declared during the session of 19 February 1946:[414]

> *"I shall now present to the Tribunal evidence of the fact that besides the stationary crematoria, there existed also movable crematoria. The Tribunal already knows about the movable gas chambers. These were 'murder vans.' There were also created transportable crematoria. An SS member, Paul Waldmann, testifies to their existence. He was one of the participants in the crime perpetrated by the German fascists when 840,000 Russian prisoners of war in Sachsenhausen were annihilated at one time."*

This figure is yet another striking proof for the "reliability" of the famous Soviet "expertises."

Continuing with Morsch's summary of the gassings, we learn that "many sick, burdensome and Jewish victims were smothered in the gas chamber just before the end of the war" and that, in 1968, the former SS man Paul Breckenfelder was found guilty by a court of the communist East-German "Democratic Republic" of "having participated in the gassing of some 400 old and sick detainees in February/March 1945" (p. 271).

When reading Morsch's listing of alleged gassings, one is struck by the fact that he does not indicate a precise date for any of these events and that he never provides us with an accurate number of victims either. Still, in the end he goes as far as to say that

> *"Mass killings by means of poison gas in a stationary gas chamber at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp can be substantiated beyond doubt."*

Apparently Mr. Morsch has his own special ideas about the meaning of the term "beyond doubt." Hence Achim Trunk, when referring to Morsch's article about the Sachsenhausen gas chamber, is perfectly right when speaking about the "difficulty of ascribing a precise number of victims to the gas murder carried out there" (p. 25, footnote 7).

Morsch believes that the gas chamber was used "for homicides rather in exceptional cases, sporadically and selectively." The victims were for the most part persons "who were shipped to Sachsenhausen specifically to be killed, often by superior authorities of the SS state, be they Soviet PoWs, women, civilians or so-called looters." But even for these doomed persons the gassing was "rather an exception"; normally they were shot (p. 272).

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[413] Gudrun Schwarz, *Die nationalsozialistischen Lager*. Campus Verlag, Frankfurt/New York 1990, p. 189.

[414] IMT, vol. VII, p. 586.

When trying to answer the question why the gassings occurred only sporadically, Morsch goes back to his untenable thesis set out above that gassing techniques were being perfected at Sachsenhausen (p. 273).

> *"The chemical technology* […] *was probably conceived rather more as an improvement of the existing ways of killing people with poison gas: faster, better camouflaged, and easier and less complicated for the SS operators. At Sachsenhausen the gas chamber of the future, as it were, was being tested."*

As I have stated before, this thesis makes no sense at all. The "gas chamber of the future" was the one based on the Degesch circulation model which was indeed tested at Sachsenhausen but was never used for homicidal purposes according to the opinion of orthodox Holocaust historians.

In a final paragraph, Morsch takes on the "revisionist denial strategies" (p. 274):

> *"Over the last few years, leading revisionists, in their journals such as the 'Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung' and elsewhere, above all on the world-wide web, have tried to refute the existence of a gas chamber in the concentration camp. In doing so, the authors use pseudoscientific arguments, by analyzing the contents of Russian archives as well as those of the Memorial site over an extended period of time and then going into an extended and detailed discussion of the value of these sources. Often these attempts at denial are in no way simple, clumsy and transparent, but consist of chains of apparently objective arguments and denial strategies which even historians not conversant with these matters cannot easily refute. In my opinion, these revisionist attempts at denial must therefore be taken most seriously, particularly so as they find a large audience by means of the Internet and have even made a foray into the British Irving trial."* (Emph. added)

Morsch then criticizes various revisionist arguments but without ever even mentioning, let alone discussing, my above-mentioned article on Sachsenhausen. Instead, he merely informs his readers that "Station Z" was blown up in two major steps in 1952 and 1955 by the East German paramilitary "*Volkspolizei*" (people's police). But why would they have done that, if they contained "traces of the extermination plants" which the SS had unsuccessfully tried to hide (p. 276)? According to Morsch, the SS had "considered a possible re-activation of the gas chamber in the case of a possible re-occupation of the camp, otherwise they would probably have destroyed the equipment" (p. 275) – a truly unusually ridiculous argument! Would it not be much more logical to assume that this "equipment" had nothing to do with a *homicidal* gas chamber and that the German com-

munists therefore, after the war, thought it better to do away with this exonerating evidence?

I will conclude this chapter by examining the value of the Soviet "technical expertise" concerning the Sachsenhausen camp. Let us first consider the cremation furnaces. The Soviet "experts" claimed that the four coke-fired Kori furnaces could have incinerated 575 corpses in 24 hours, a figure five times higher than the maximum theoretical capacity.[415] The total number of persons cremated is given as 924,480 – a truly grotesque figure.

In my above-mentioned article on Sachsenhausen I have already discussed the equally outrageous figure of 840,000 murdered Soviet PoWs. According to Messrs. Trunk and Morsch, the flasks with the mysterious fluid were found in a strongbox, but the Soviet report says that they had been discovered "in a recess of the morgue." As we have seen, even Achim Trunk has his doubts about the character of the analysis of this fluid (if it ever existed). It is an unsupported assumption that the flasks contained 30% hydrogen cyanide and were used for the alleged homicidal gas chamber. When the Soviet "specialists" inspected the alleged homicidal gas chamber, it was empty. The technical equipment was found "in the rechargeable battery building of the industry yard" (p. 275).

"Station Z," as I have already pointed out, does no longer exist. But this is not due to the SS (which would have had good reasons for the demolition, *if* the place had really been an extermination site) but due to the "People's Police" of the obediently communist, anti-fascist "German Democratic Republic." Thus, for better or for worse, we must rely on the Soviet "expertises."

The conclusion is now very easy: the tale of the Sachsenhausen gas chamber is nothing but Soviet propaganda. Historiography is unable to determine today at what time, for what reason and on whose orders the alleged chamber was erected, what kind of poison was used there, how many victims any gassing actions caused, if any, or when such actions were carried out, if at all. So much for what Morsch and his friends have "substantiated beyond doubt."

It is highly likely that the small room in question was a gas chamber indeed, but one for the destruction of insects and not people.

Between 10 and 22 June 1945 a commission of Soviet experts, consisting of Colonel Vlochin and the engineers Teljaner and Grigorev, inspected the Sachsenhausen crematorium and the alleged adjacent execution sites (gas chamber and shooting installation). The group then wrote a report

[415] See C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 88), vol. I, second part, chapter IX, 3.2, "La perizia sovietica sui forni crematori Kori del KL Sachsenhausen," pp. 382-384 as well as IX.4, "Discussione sulle perizie tecniche sovietiche sui forni crematori Kori," pp. 385-389.

with several additional drawings. On the subject of the alleged homicidal gas chamber, the report states:[416]

> *"Gas chamber.*[417] *This is a rectangular room, 2.75 by 3 m, with two entry doors: one from the garage* [no. 1]*, the other from the undressing room* [no. 4]. *At a level of 1.5 m above the floor the northwestern wall had a window 75 by 100 cm with an armored glass pane and a metal grid.*
>
> *At a level of 2.20 m above the floor, the northeastern wall had a ventilator for the aeration of the room as well as a window with an armored glass pane and a metal grid. All four walls are tiled up to a level of one and a half meter. On the wall and the ceiling there is a water pipe with six shower heads. The floor is made of concrete. The floor has a drainage channel.*
>
> *Closer inspection of the gas chamber wall adjacent to the garage* [no. 1] *revealed traces of an opening which was closed later on and which had held the device for the evaporation of the hydrogen cyanide, examined during the technical investigation. This device consisted of a hermetical*[ly closed] *chamber, an electrical mechanism for heating the air, a blower for feeding hot air, and a connecting tube. The feed of the hydrogen cyanide vapors into the gas chamber was accomplished in the following manner: a flask of Zyklon 'A' containing 30% hydrogen cyanide was placed in the chamber. The contents of the flask weighed 150 grams.*
>
> *Note: Seven flasks with hydrogen cyanide – the preparation Zyklon 'A' – were found within the confines of the crematorium in a recess in the morgue, next to the shooting installation. At the same spot, a large number of broken Zyklon 'A' flasks was also found.*
>
> *The flask would be broken by a pressure screw, and by heating the air with the mechanical mechanism the vapors of hydrogen cyanide were blown into the gas chamber through a wire-mesh…* [illegible word]*."*

It can be said with certainty that the installation described and drawn by the Soviet experts was a modified version of the Degesch circulation system, adapted to this room. This is clearly borne out by a comparison of the Soviet drawing (document 4) and the diagram of the operating manner of the mechanism (document 5), on the one hand, with a drawing showing the Degesch device (document 2), on the other.

As the ventilator could not be mounted above the ceiling, the Degesch standard design was modified in such a way that two ventilators were in-

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[416] Soviet report on the Sachsenhausen camp, 10-22 June 1945. GARF, 7021-104-3, pp. 2-4.
[417] Appears as no. 2 on the drawing of the crematory; see document 3.

stalled for the ventilation of the room. The first one, effecting the circulation (cf. no. 7 in document 5) was mounted on the floor and opened into an open distribution tube (no. 8), the second one, for ventilation, was set on the ceiling and connected to a chimney (no. 9). The Zyklon B can was placed into the – gastight – opening mechanism (no. 1) which had an opening lever (no. 2) and a hermetically sealing lid (no. 3). The Zyklon B granules dropped into a wire-mesh basket (no. 4) below. Underneath the latter was an electric heater (no. 5) for the vaporization of the hydrogen cyanide. The ventilator on the floor (no. 7) fed the gas mixture into the room through the distribution tube (no. 6). In the opposite corner was the opening of the circulation tube which was connected to the device for opening the Zyklon B cans (no. 1). On each passage, the gas mixture was heated so that the hydrogen cyanide would evaporate more quickly. This system assured the circulation of the gas mixture, which was the underlying principle of the Degesch circulation system. When the disinfestation had ended, the lid was opened, the Zyklon B can was removed, the connection between the vertical suction tube and the mechanism was closed, and both ventilators were switched on. The circulating ventilator blew in fresh air from the outside while the ventilation fan (no. 9) removed the air from the room.

A contemporary photograph of the gassing device confirms that it was designed to hold a can of Zyklon B.[418] The alleged bottles of Zyklon A actually had a capacity of merely 150 grams, or not more than fits into an ordinary small beverage glass, but the seat of the device has a much larger diameter. Moreover, since the alleged Zyklon A bottles were made of glass, recovery of the glass fragments after the bottle's rupture would have been at least inconvenient.

Even though this disinfestation chamber – just as any other such chamber in any other concentration camp – could theoretically have been used for homicidal purposes, its very size – 2.75 m × 3 m = 8.25 square meters – renders Kaindl's "confession" absurd that it had been built "as a mass killing station."[419]

As I have explained elsewhere (chapter 9) this gas chamber operated in the same way as the one at Mauthausen. The design of both chambers was very similar as well. Both had two doors, one for the "unclean" side through which the garments to be disinfested were carried into the room, and another for the "clean" side used for removing the garments after treatment.

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[418] See Document 10, taken from *Filmblatt*, vol. 11, winter 2006, p. 22.
[419] E. Kogon *et al.* (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 39), p. 322.

The Sachsenhausen gas chamber had a genuine water pipe with six genuine shower heads. A gutter in the floor ensured the draining of the water. The walls were tiled up to a level of a meter and a half.

At Mauthausen, the gas chamber located in the vicinity of the crematorium[420] has two gas-tight doors (photographs 1 – 3), a genuine water pipe with 15 genuine shower heads (photograph 5); its walls are tiled with fine tiles up to a level of one meter and a half. It is relatively small, having a floor area of 3.59 m × 3.87 m = 13.89 square meters and a height of 2.42 meters.[421] It is equipped with a heating radiator consisting of five horizontal tubes (photograph 6). A round metal lid in the ceiling closed off the opening which had held the ventilation fan (photograph 7). Both rooms served undoubtedly alternately as shower rooms and disinfestation chambers for the crematorium personnel who were constantly handling corpses.

Just like most revisionist studies, my article on the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, which raised serious arguments against the existence of homicidal gas chambers at Sachsenhausen[383] was received with icy silence by Messrs. Morsch, Perz and Freund, as well as by the other participants of the Oranienburg meeting. The gentlemen, once again, failed to counter the revisionists and their "denial strategies" with concrete arguments.

11. The Gas Chamber of the Ravensbrück Camp

At the beginning of his article "The gas chamber in the Ravensbrück concentration camp, early 1945" ("Die Gaskammer im Konzentrationslager Ravensbrück Anfang 1945"; pp. 277-287), Bernard Strebel writes that the history of the investigations into the gas chamber at Ravensbrück was "closely linked with its denial" (p. 277). Strebel himself admits that the first "denier" (the correct term would of course be contester or person to contest) of this gas chamber was, ironically, not a revisionist but the French historian Olga Wormser-Migot, a woman of Jewish descent (*ibid.*).

The strangest aspect of this alleged gas chamber is that it is said to have gone into operation only "in the final phase of the camp history" (*ibid.*) or more precisely in February 1945 (p. 282). In view of this odd timing, the question as to who ordered the killing station to be built, why, and for what reason is of utmost importance.

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[420] Just like the Topf double muffle furnace, it is located in the basement of the camp hospital. See document 5.

[421] Measured by me *in loco*.

In the second half of 1944, Bernard Strebel says, 52,000 detainees were moved to Ravensbrück who ran the risk of "being [considered] superfluous from the start" (p. 278). He goes on to say (p. 280):

> *"It is no longer possible to say without ambiguity who initiated the installation of a gas chamber. Commandant Suhren and the Head of the Protective Custody Camp, SS-Obersturmführer Johann Schwarzhuber, independently declared that in early 1945 the camp command had received an order from their superior authorities to kill all sick inmates as well as those unable to walk."*

This order is said to have come from Himmler, Richard Glücks and August Heißmeyer, the Higher SS and Police Leader in military district VIII (Berlin; pp. 280f.). On 15 August 1946 Schwarzhuber made the following deposition:[422]

> *"9. GASSING.*[423] *End of February 1945 I was summoned, together with Dr. TROMMER, to the camp commander Sturmbannführer SUHREN. SUHREN informed us that he had received an order from Reichsführer HIMMLER to the effect that all women who were ill or unable to march were to be killed. Before he told us this, he asked us, how many sick women there are in the camp. I told the camp commander that I was glad to have gotten away from Auschwitz and that I didn't want to do this a second time. He then told me that the deputy camp commander SAUER was charged with carrying out this order. During the subsequent days selections were carried out in various blocks by Dr. TROMMER, on which occasion he selected more than 2,300 women. First they started to shoot these women. These shootings were performed by Hauptscharführer MOLL. He had 8 inmates assisting him. This method didn't seem to be fast enough for the camp commander. He said in my presence, 'this is not fast enough; we have to use other methods.' Subsequently Sturmbannführer SAUER ordered the installation of a gas chamber in a barrack next to the crematorium. I was present during one gassing. Always 150 women were forced into the gas chamber at a time. Hauptscharführer MOLL ordered the women to undress and told them that they were about to be deloused. Then they were led into the gas room and the door was closed. A male inmate wearing a gas mask climbed onto the roof and from the top threw a gas can into the room through an opening, which he closed again immediately. I heard moaning and wailing in the room. After two to three minutes it*

[422] Deposition by J. Schwarzhuber of 15 August 1946. TNA, WO 235-309, pp. 4f. of the statement.

[423] The German term used twice by Schwarzhuber in his deposition – "*Gasen*" – is unheard of. It should be "*Vergasung*." Translator's note.

became quiet in the room. I cannot say whether the women were dead or stunned. I was not present when the room was emptied. I was merely told (by MOLL) that the corpses were brought into the crematorium instantly. Sturmbannführer SAUER, Dr. TROMMER and Hauptscharführer MOLL were in charge of the entire implementation of this operation, and they were always present during the gassing. The whole work was done by inmates who had been commandeered from the male camp."

A while earlier, on 30 December 1945, commander Suhren said the following on the same subject:[424]

"Gas Chamber:

I was occupied with the dissolution of various subcamps in March 1945, and for this reason I was absent from my main camp Ravensbrueck. When I returned, this was roughly in mid-March, I found a so-called Sturmbannfuehrer Sauer to be camp commander. Sauer was the former commander of the Riga camp. I took over the command again – but Sauer stayed in the camp and negotiated with the Higher SS and Police Leader in Berlin, defense district III, named Heiszmeyer.

I was informed by Sauer that he had received the order from Heiszmeyer to build a gas chamber. As far as I know, the gas chamber already began to operate at this point in time for some three weeks, that is [it was] *in operation until early April. The inmates destined for the gas chamber were selected by the camp physicians. The head physician was Dr. Trommer, and I found out through him that some 1,500 women were gassed, namely those suffering incurably from tuberculosis and consumption* [which is the same thing]. *I cannot tell with certainty which physicians were involved in the selection of those destined for the gas chamber, but I consider it almost certain that Dr. Winkelmann was involved in it. Other camp physicians were probably involved in it as well. The names of the physicians I can remember are:*

Dr. Trommer, Dr. Treite, Dr. Winkelmann, Dr. Lukas, Dr. Rosenthal, Dr. Oberhauser, Dr. Schietlauski, Dr. Trommer's predecessor."

These "confessions" are squarely opposed by two substantiated facts:

First of all, in late 1944 the Bergen-Belsen camp was turned into a collection camp for sick detainees from other camps,[425] which means that there could not have been an order from Himmler to kill all unfit detainees. Secondly, as Strebel himself explains,

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[424] Statement by Fritz Suhren of 30 December 1945. TNA, WO 235-310. p. 1. Strebel quotes a part of it on p. 282.

[425] R. Phillips (ed.), *Trial of Josef Kramer and Forty-Four Others (The Belsen Trial).* William Hodge and Company, London/Edinburgh/Glasgow, 1949, pp. XXIX, 515.

> *"there were ever more concrete negotiations of high-ranking SS officers with representatives of the Swedish Red Cross and the World Jewish Congress. In this way, Himmler hoped to negotiate a separate peace with the Western Allies behind Hitler's back and against his explicit will. Among other things, the negotiations resulted in the liberation of 7,800 female detainees from Ravensbrück before the end of the war – in particular through the 'Aktion Bernadotte.'"* (p. 279)

This was a gesture of good will by Himmler who tried to score bonus points with the Allies. It is therefore simply nonsensical to ascribe to him a simultaneous order to have all unfit detainees killed.

Seen from the viewpoint of orthodox Holocaust historians, such theories are particularly foolish, because these same historians have been asserting that in October 1944 Himmler ordered "the gassing at Auschwitz to be stopped and the gas chambers and furnaces in the crematoria to be dismantled" (van Pelt, p. 215). Before abandoning the Auschwitz camp, all detainees were moved to other camps, Ravensbrück included, except for 7,000 sick inmates who were unable to march and whom the SS left at Auschwitz I, Birkenau and Monowitz where they would soon be found by the Soviets.[426] This means that the physically unfit of an alleged extermination camp were spared – at the risk of allowing them to tell the Russians about all the unbelievable things that had happened in that camp – whereas the unfit detainees of an "ordinary" camp like Ravensbrück would have been gassed a few weeks later! All this reveals the lack of plausibility of Strebel's argument that the SS had "truly attempted […] not to let any inmates fall alive into the hands of the Allies" and had therefore planned to annihilate them (p. 286). The whole argumentation thus assumes an utterly fictitious character.

It is easy to retrace the way in which the legend of the Ravensbrück gas chamber took shape. Over the last few months of 1944, the conditions prevailing in all the remaining camps had taken a catastrophic turn for the worse – not only because the epidemics raging there had gone completely out of control, but also on account of the ever worsening hygienic and sanitary situation and the lack of food, provoked by the collapse of the German infrastructure which had been completely destroyed by Allied bombing. These consequences of the war led to the death of thousands of inmates. The mortality in the camps was to reach its peak only *after* the end of the claimed program of mass extermination.

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[426] A. Strzelecki, *Endphase des KL Auschwitz*. Verlag Staatliches Museum in Oświęcim-Brzezinka, 1995, p. 256. Of these ca. 7,000 inmates, 536 died; their corpses were subjected to an autopsy by the Soviets. GARF, 7021-108-21.

A number of terse statistical data demonstrates this:[427]

- At Buchenwald, no fewer than 12,595 out of the total of 32,878 deaths registered in the statistics of the infirmary occurred in the first three and a half months of 1945 (as compared to 20,283 deaths in the preceding six years!)
- At Dachau, 15,385 detainees, more than half of the total of 27,839 deaths registered there, died between the beginning of January and the end of April of 1945 (as compared to 12,455 detainees who died in the earlier four years!)
- At Mauthausen, a total of 86,026 deaths have been registered, 36,043 of which belong to the period of January through May 1945.
- At Sachsenhausen, a total of 19,900 deaths were registered in the years of 1940 through 1945; a quarter of them – 4,821 – occurred in the first four months of 1945.

When British and American troops reached these camps, they considered the horrifying scenes they saw in the camps as a confirmation of the intensive propaganda they had been subjected to over the years. They believed that the National Socialists had exterminated entire groups of people, Jews in particular, and ascribed the extreme mortality to an intentional policy of killing the inmates, which, in their opinion, had also been accomplished by means of gas chambers. During the Nuremberg trial, the British chief prosecutor, Sir Hartley Shawcross, went so far as to declare:[428]

> *"Two-thirds of the Jews in Europe exterminated, more than 6 million of them on the killers' own figures. Murder conducted like some mass production industry in the gas chambers and the ovens of Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, Buchenwald, Mauthausen, Maidanek, and Oranienburg."*

This charge is echoed in a quotation taken from the works of the British-Jewish Holocaust historian Gerald Reitlinger:[429]

> *"In this way, over time, every single one of the concentration camps was given its own gas chamber, of one type or another, even though its use did not always turn out to be feasible."*

It goes without saying that "witness statements" were available for every camp, including Buchenwald[430] and Groß-Rosen.[431] It would be quite in-

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[427] Cf. C. Mattogno, *Negare la storia? Olocausto: la falsa convergenza di prove*. Effedieffe Edizioni, Milan, 2006, pp. 74f.; Engl.: "Denying Evidence," in: G. Rudolf, C. Mattogno, *op. cit.* (note 208), p. 242.

[428] IMT, Vol. XIX, p. 434.

[429] G. Reitlinger, *op. cit.* (note 79), p. 166.

[430] Reverend Georges Hénocque has described this camp's "gas chamber" in detail. A reproduction of his eyewitness statement can be found in R. Faurisson, *Mémoire en défense contre ceux qui m'accusent de falsifier l'histoire*. La Vieille Taupe, Paris 1980, pp.

teresting to find out why the historical legend of the gas chambers took hold for some camps, but not for others, as was the case for Buchenwald and Groß-Rosen.

While the legend of the gas chambers was being promoted, the Allies knew no bounds in increasing the numbers of victims. Thus, Ravensbrück was assigned 92,000 deaths whereas the "true" figure – according to Strebel – amounted to 28,000 (p. 287), for Dachau Allied propaganda touted a figure of 238,000 victims (B. Distel on p. 340), although available documents prove that the actual figure was 27,839.[432] Soviet exaggerations of the number of victims in the camps they had occupied, such as Majdanek and Auschwitz, though, were even more blatant.

The existence of gas chambers immediately became a dogma which the SS defendants could not question without risking to get entangled in a hopeless situation. Hence they – and their lawyers – almost invariably opted for an opportunistic defense strategy. The circumstances in which the witness statements of former detainees took shape have been described most succinctly by Olga Wormser-Migot for the case of Ravensbrück:[433]

> *"It is striking that assertions as to the existence of gas chambers began to be made at Ravensbrück in February 1945, hence after the arrival of inmates evacuated from Auschwitz, when the prisoners at Ravensbrück learned about the* [alleged] *existence of gas chambers at Auschwitz."*

A transport of 4,782 detainees from Auschwitz did indeed arrive at Ravensbrück on 29 January 1945.[434] Members of the Auschwitz camp staff had also been moved to Ravensbrück, among them Schwarzhuber himself and SS-Hauptscharführer Otto Moll, who is said to have been the head of the Auschwitz "murder squad" (p. 284). Under these circumstances the local detainees became convinced that there *had* to be a gas chamber at the Ravensbrück camp as well!

If we follow the French author Germaine Tillion, who was herself interned at Ravensbrück, Suhren, when questioned about the existence of a

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191f.

[431] In one of the most important Polish books about this camp, *Gross Rosen. Obóz koncentracyjny na Śląsku,* Wydawnictwo Bellona, Warsaw 1990, the author Mieczysław Mołdawa dedicates several pages to the room "for killing people with gas." The former inmate of Groß-Rosen Isaak Egon Ochshorn stated about it: "Between October 1941 and August 1942, 500 to 600 Russian PoWs were killed with poison or gas every day. I myself was present, because I had to write down the respective numbers." NO-1934, p. 3.

[432] G. Neuhäusler, *Wie war das im KZ Dachau?* Karmel Heilig Blut Dachau, Munich, 1961, p. 27.

[433] Quoted according to G. Tillion, *Ravensbrück*, Éditions du Seuil, Paris, 1973, p. 240.

[434] Het Nederlandsche Roode Kruis, Auschwitz. Deel VI. 's-Gravenhage, 1953, p. 107.

gas chamber, had initially denied it, but later on he accepted it with the proviso that it had not been under his command.[435] Strebel notes (p. 281):

> *"Not one of the defendants of the Ravensbrück trials has denied the existence of a gas chamber. Schwarzhuber and Suhren merely claimed that they were not yet present at Ravensbrück, or stationed elsewhere, at the time of installation and start-up (late January/early February). Both of them named SS-Sturmbannführer Albert Sauer, the erstwhile commander of the concentration camp at Riga-Kaiserwald, as the one who had been put in charge of the installation of a gas chamber."*

In view of the defense strategy adopted by nearly all defendants at such trials, such protective statements are quite understandable.

Strebel describes the alleged gas chamber as

> *"a wooden barrack in the immediate vicinity of the crematorium which, until then, had been used for the storage of materials. We may be certain that this gas chamber operated from 8 February until 30 March 1945 (Good Friday)."* (p. 282)

We will soon show the degree of "certainty" of this assertion. First, it behooves us to examine the testimonies. On 30 August 1946 Schwarzhuber declared:[436]

> *"Between 150 and 200 inmates were shot by MOLL. After these executions VON ZUREN was told that this is too slow, that the rest had to be gassed now. Sturmbannführer SAUER was told about that, who in turn told me about it. Between 2300 and 2400 persons were gassed at RAVENBRUECK* [sic]. *The gas chamber measured some 9 by 4.5 meters and could take in 150 people. The gas chamber was about 5 meters away from the crematorium. The prisoners had to undress in a small shed some 3 meters from the gas chamber and were then led into the gas room through a small chamber."*

As we have already seen, the "gassing" (*Gasen*) was carried out as follows:

> *"A male inmate wearing a gas mask climbed onto the roof and from the top threw a gas can into the room through an opening, which he closed again immediately."*

Strebel states that it is rather unlikely that this task was entrusted to an inmate (note 24 on p. 282). This is his only criticism of Schwarzhuber's and Suhren's testimonies. The least one can say is that his critical sense is extremely weak.

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[435] G. Tillion, *op. cit.* (note 433), p. 175.

[436] Statement by J. Schwarzhuber of 30 August 1946. TNA, WO 235-310 (only one page). Strebel quotes from it on p. 283, omitting the initial part.

If the "gas chamber" measured 9 m × 4.5 m = 40.5 m², it could have accommodated more than 150 inmates, or about 4 per square meter. Given that the "gas chamber" had allegedly been built because killing by shooting into the neck was too slow, it does not make much sense that it was used only at more or less half its potential maximum capacity (8 inmates per square meter would have been a reasonable maximum packing density).

On the other hand, the number of alleged victims provided by the two witnesses is not only contradictory (2,300-2,400 versus 1,500), but also at odds with their assumptions.

The "gas chamber" is said to have been in operation for 3 weeks (21 days), during which it could have "processed" at least (21 × 150 =) 3,150 inmates. Conversely, if there were 2,400 or 1,500 gassing victims, they could have been killed within 16 or 10 days, respectively. Hence, the whole story seems to be utterly inconsistent.

The witnesses talk about the "gas chamber" as if it were a common facility known to everybody, like for instance a storage hut, and all the technical problems involved are therefore totally ignored by both witnesses. The description of this room is rather superficial. It is not even specified what kind of "gas" this installation used. Schwarzhuber merely hints at it when he speaks of a "gas can" – presumably of Zyklon B. The inmate carrying out the gassing had to "climb" onto the roof of the chamber, and there the contents of the "gas can" were thrown – obviously on the heads of the victims – through an "opening" that could be closed (it is not specified how). How was the "gas chamber" ventilated? Schwarzhuber mentions only one door. The structure of the extermination facility defies our imagination: the "gas chamber" was "in a barrack" (*in einer Baracke*) 5 meters away from the crematorium, but the prisoners had to undress "in a small shed" (*in einem kleinen Schuppen*) which was 3 meters away from the "gas chamber," and the gas chamber was accessed by walking "through a small room" (*durch ein kleines Zimmer*): So there were at least two buildings: "*Baracke*" and "*Schuppen*." How do you reconcile this description with the official version, according to which the "gas chamber" was in a barrack? And what kind of barrack was it? There were indeed many standard models of barracks, for example the "*Pferdestallbaracke Typ 260/9*" (horse stable barrack) measuring 40.76 m × 9.56 m; the "*RAD-Baracke*" (barracks of the Reich Labor Service), 69.70 m × 8.14 m; the barrack "RAD IV/3" (19.95 m × 8.14 m); and the "*Schweizer-Baracke*" (Swiss barrack, 28 m × 6 m). None of them fits Schwarzhuber's description, though ("9 by 4.5 meters").

Since the buildings in question no longer exist (if they ever did), the evidence for the existence of a homicidal gas chamber is reduced to mere testimonies and a few transport lists.

Before we examine them, it is worthwhile taking a closer look at the alleged strange procedure of the "extermination scenario" supposedly implemented at Ravensbrück. Strebel says that "no precedence of any racist criteria used in the selection" has been determined (p. 286 – as if the SS guards had mutated overnight into staunch anti-racists) and that the male and female detainees selected in the camp for being killed were taken to the so-called "youth protective camp" at Uckermark, a mile away from Ravensbrück. There they were allegedly subjected to another selection, sent back to Ravensbrück and gassed there (p. 280). Not really the most efficient procedure, in my opinion.

Among the female guards allegedly involved in this operation was commander of the Uckermark camp, Ruth Neudeck. Tillion provides us with a longer excerpt of one of her statements:[437]

> *"Every day some 50 to 60 women were put onto the list by me, who, it was said, were to be moved to the Mittweida camp. This camp never existed; it was an invention by Schwarzhuber to avoid telling the inmates that they were to be gassed. The selected women were taken by us into an empty barrack which we called the gym. Around 6pm, still on the same day, a truck arrived which took the detainees to the gas chamber at Ravensbrück in 2 runs."*

3,000 women were gassed according to Ruth Neudeck (*ibid.*). In other words, the truck had to make 100 round trips to take the intended victims to Uckermark and back to Ravensbrück, covering some 600 kilometers in the process. Apparently there was a surplus of fuel at the Ravensbrück camp in the spring of 1945…

The insanity of this procedure becomes even more apparent if we imagine that something like that would have taken place at Auschwitz. In that case the intended, pre-selected victims from the Birkenau camp would have been moved to the Auschwitz main camp in order to be "selected" there once again and then taken back to Birkenau to be gassed![438]

What Ruth Neudeck had to say about the gas chamber of Ravensbrück is much more important, though:[439]

> *"After I had been at Uckermark for 3 or 4 days, Rapp told me that the women we had selected were taken to be gassed in the Ravensbrück*

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[437] G. Tillion, *op. cit.* (note 422), p. 260.

[438] The difference is that the distance between Birkenau and Auschwitz I is a little longer than that between Ravensbrück and Uckermark.

[439] *Ibid.*, p. 261.

crematorium. The car always stopped at 50 meters from the crematorium. Rapp and his friend then took 2 women at a time from the car and led them into the crematorium. I and the other female guards stayed near the car until the last detainees had been taken into the crematorium."

This statement clearly says that the gas chamber was not at all in a barrack next to the crematorium but in the crematorium itself! We see once again that the myth of the Ravensbrück gas chamber had its roots in the Auschwitz myth. Since the Auschwitz gas chambers are said to have been located in the crematoria, this also had to apply to Ravensbrück.

In a later interrogation Ruth Neudeck "improved" her first confession. In a short excerpt from this interrogation quoted by Tillion in her book it is said three times that the alleged gas chamber was located in a "barn."[439]

According to Suhren, the total number of persons gassed amounted to 1,500.[440] According to Schwarzhuber there were 2,300 to 2,400 victims (p. 283). The former detainee secretaries who had worked in the office of the labor command claimed 3,660 (p. 285). Yet if we follow Strebel, then we get 5,000-6,000 (p. 286). Needless to say that there is no trace of any evidence for these alleged gassings.

Such eye-witness accounts – illogical even from the point of view of orthodox historiography – are not supported even by a single document. The key witnesses are not even in agreement as to whether the gas chamber was located in the crematorium or in a nearby building. Seen in this light, the weight of such accounts is zero.

Aside from witness accounts, orthodox historians present us with further proof for the existence of the Ravensbrück gas chamber in the form of some transport lists which have the name of a "Recovery camp Mittwerda" in Silesia as their place of destination. As we have seen, this "recovery camp" was labelled in Ruth Neudeck's confession as an invention by Schwarzhuber. As in other such cases, the SS is painted as incredibly stupid, because if Schwarzhuber had wanted to allay suspicion among the detainees to be moved, he would obviously have spoken of a real camp, such as Bergen-Belsen, which was a true collection camp for sick detainees.

Strebel writes (p. 285):

"The secretaries in the youth camp soon suspected that these indications were fakes. In the 'labor command' group as well, the detainees working there became suspicious of the Mittwerda transports, as these were handled in a manner very different from the usual procedure. Only one of these 'Mittwerda-lists' – the one dated 6 April – could be hidden by the detainees. It contained the names and the ID numbers of 496 fe-

[440] *Ibid.*, p. 175.

male prisoners who, in all likelihood, were murdered on 30 March in the last gassings; it is signed by Commandant Suhren."

Tillion, too, mentions this document and adds that there had also been "other vanished lists with the spelling Mittweida."[441] "Mittweida," however, which differs from "Mittwerda" by only one letter, was a satellite camp of Ravensbrück,[442] which means that it could hardly have been an accidental error. Tillion, in fact, writes:[443]

"The female detainees who had to keep the Mittwerda lists up to date had never any doubt about the identity of the gas chamber and Mittweida, recording, as they did, the names and the ID numbers of the inmates at the very moment they saw them being moved away."

This was the case for any kind of detainee transports. The need to identify "Mittwerda" with the alleged gas chamber was an indispensable part of the gas chamber story. If such a killing site did exist, it had to have its victims, and in view of the documents the detainees clearly concluded that they were being taken to an imaginary camp – Mittwerda in this case.

The orthodox Ravensbrück historians did not hesitate to consider such a fable, born out of the propaganda of the immediate post-war period, as a "historical fact." They were guided not by scientific but by "moral" principles. After all, each memorial site was in need of a gas chamber as a permanent reminder of "Nazi barbarity"! Furthermore, there were personal motivations. Without any gas chamber to boast of, these narrow-minded historians feel excluded: their camp would no longer have anything to do with the Holocaust, and thus the historian of a second-rate camp automatically becomes a second-rate historian. This is why it is so important for these people to pride themselves on a gas chamber "of their own." Quite apart from the fact that the only things tourists, when visiting the camp, are really interested in are the gruesome gas chambers. Without a gas chamber, there is no public attention, and without attention there is no funding, and without any funding there is no job and no justification for Holocaust dogmatists.

Still, all this should not distract us from the fact that the story of the Ravensbrück gas chamber has always been absurd. Even Strebel recognizes that "during the last few months of the war, more detainees fell victim to the catastrophic conditions […] than were murdered in the makeshift gas chamber" (p. 286).

If we keep in mind that the Ravensbrück gas chamber is said to have been erected at a time when the mortality in all camps, including Ravens-

[441] *Ibid.*, p. 170.
[442] G. Schwarz, *op. cit.* (note 413), p. 162.
[443] G. Tillion, *op. cit.* (note 433), p. 170.

brück, reached astronomical heights and struck, first of all, the weakest of the inmates, one wonders why anyone would have gone to the trouble of setting up such an installation at that point in time in the first place.

Due to its content and its early date (5 May 1945), the statement by Dr. Percival Karl Treite, one of the physicians at Ravensbrück, helps to understand the genesis of the legend of the "gas chambers" of this camp. He actually told the tale of the Ravensbrück camp's final months quite differently than the version which prevailed later on:[444]

> *"In early 1945 the camp's overcrowding got extraordinarily severe, and since the camp's evacuation had to be anticipated, all inmates unable to walk were to be eliminated. Being the camp physician, I was to medic out these inmates. But since the allotted time did not suffice, I refused to carry out this selection, because I knew its meaning. – This selection was then carried out in a very superficial way by the garrison physician Dr. Richard Trommer, Ravensbrück (Hauptsturmführer). Some 5,000 female inmates were separated to the 'Uckermark' camp. As far as I know, SS-Obersturmbannführer Höß, former camp commander of Auschwitz, and SS-Sturmbannführer Sauer, former commander of the Riga camp, were in charge of eliminating these inmates. Initially 50 inmates were finished off every day in front of the crematorium by shooting them into the neck, after I had refused to kill these inmates by injections. As a camp physician I had to be present during the first shooting (ca. 50 inmates), which was necessary because a shot did not always kill the inmate at once.*
>
> *Because I refused any further such work, it had to be taken over by SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Lucas, who after one day also refused to continue doing this task and who had by then also deserted from the SS.*
>
> *It needs to be emphasized that these were not merely old and ailing persons, but that also young women fit for labor were shot due to the superficial examination. The shootings were subsequently carried out without the presence of a physician under the direction of the head of the protective custody camp* [*Schutzhaftlagerführer*], *SS-Obersturmführer Schwarzhuber.*
>
> *The women who were still alive in the 'Uckermark' camp were put on half food rations and had to stand 5-6 hours in the open every day; these measure evidently were also meant to let perish a major part of these inmates. At times as many as 50 persons died every day in this camp.*
>
> *Neither the camp physicians nor the national socialist nurses were permitted to serve this 'Uckermark' camp in sanitary terms.*

[444] Statement by P.K. Treite of 5 May 1945. TNA, WO 235-309, pp. 2f.

Of the ca. 1,500 sick inmates of the Ravensbrück camp, several hundred long-term patients were transferred to the 'Uckermark' camp. Since the daily shootings lasted too long, a gas chamber was built, in which the inmates could be killed faster and in larger numbers; a camp physician was never consulted for this.

I refused to carry out the order by garrison physician Dr. Trommer to issue death certificates giving [false] *natural causes of death. Subsequently he personally issued such fabricated death certificates for all inmates who had died or had been killed there.*

After this operation had been finished, the gas chamber was completely eradicated."

On 14 August 1946 Dr. Treite returned to the issue at hand in another interrogation:[445]

"As far as I have heard,[446] *the mass executions by shooting were stopped in January/February 1945, and the executions were* [then] *carried out by gassings. I received the order from Dr. TROMMER to examine inmates regarding their ability to work. I knew what that meant and replied that this would take a very long time. I then was to conduct an expedited examination, but as this was impossible, I refused to do it. Later I heard that the Schutzhaftlagerführer SCHWARZHUBER had instructed the female guards to do the selections themselves. All inmates unfit for labor from all blocks were separated and later transported to the youth camp, ~~where they were executed~~*[447]*."*

It is interesting to note that Dr. Treite, after reading the protocol of this interrogation, evidently made changes to it which indicate that he had a change of mind and that his knowledge of executions was based merely on hearsay. This impression is confirmed by statements Dr. Treite made during an interrogation on 3 October 1946:[448]

"In 1944 a transport of inmates unable to work was transferred to the Bergen-Belsen camp. As I heard from my superior, this camp was designated only for sick inmates unfit for labor. I was present during the evacuation of the inmates; it happened in closed freight cars, their floors lined with straw and which had a bucket inside. Medicine was handed out, and I saw also that food had been given to the inmates. I can no longer say how many inmates were in each car.

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445 Statement by P.K. Treite of 14 August 1946. TNA, WO 235-309, p. 2.
446 This handwritten phrase was added at the margin.
447 This phrase is struck out in the original.
448 Statement by P.K. Treite of 3 October 1946. TNA, WO 235-309, p. 4.

13. In 1945 I heard from inmates that a gas chamber is said to have been built at RAVENSBRUECK. I have never seen it myself and I have never been present during such executions."

It is thus clear that Dr. Treite knew only from hearsay about the alleged "gas chamber" and did not even know where it was located, since he apparently attributed it to the youth protective camp. And how can the extermination in the "gas chamber" of prisoners unfit for labor be reconciled with the transport of other prisoners to the Bergen-Belsen camp, who were just as unfit for labor? The absurd claim that Rudolf Höß, the former Auschwitz commander, was responsible for the alleged extermination clearly indicates that Olga Wormser-Migot's interpretation is well justified.

In conclusion, the more believable story of events evolving during the months of March and April 1945 was told by Suhren in his affidavit of 22 July 1946 concerning the evacuations from the subcamps and the main camp Ravensbrück. Under point II he mentioned the evacuation order (*Verlagerungsbefehl*):[449]

"End of February 1945 I received the order from the Higher SS and Police Leader, defense district III, SS-Obergruppenführer Heissmeyer, who has been authorized for this since early February according to a decree by the Reichsführer-SS in cases of emergencies, to first transfer the subcamps Kallies, Stargard, Koenigsberg, Pinow, Eberswalde and Grüneberg to Ravensbrueck."

He gave guidelines for the transfer, including this one:

"The old and sick inmates and those unable to walk as well as food and clothing supplies and items owned by the SS which are to be removed will be picked up by trucks from the main camp."

Suhren personally participated in the evacuation of the subcamps Kallies and Stargard:

"The evacuation of Kallies and Stargard took 2 to 3 days. After my return I was informed that, during my absence from Ravensbrueck, the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office, Office Group D, had appointed the former camp commander of Riga, SS-Sturmbannführer Sauer, as commander of Ravensbrueck."

Sauer arranged for the evacuation of the Koenigsberg camp: within a few days 550 men were taken by train to Ravensbrück; 250 men had fled.

In point IV Suhren describes the evacuation of the Ravensbrück camp:

"Roughly toward the end of March, after the [inmates of the] *subcamps had been transferred back to the main camp Ravensbrueck, I received the special order* [*Sonderauftrag*] *from SS-Obergruppenführer*

[449] Unsigned(!) affidavit by F. Suhren of 22 July 1946. TNA, WO 235-310, pp. 1-6.

Heissmeyer as well as from SS-Gruppenführer Glücks to evacuate the inmates of the main camp.

The order stated that all inmates had to be set in motion immediately toward the Mecklenburg Gau, that barns and pit-dwellings had to serve as accommodations and that food had to be provisioned by farmers. Including the persons transferred from the subcamps to Ravensbrueck, the total to be transferred was:

24,500 female and 3,100 male inmates, plus some 800 guards."

Of these 27,600 inmates, 5,000 were evacuated to Neustadt-Glewe, Malchow and Rechlin. In late April the evacuation of the remaining 22,600 inmates began, which took place as follows:

"A. Handover to the Intern. Red Cross *7,000 persons*
B. Releases from custody [*Haftentlassungen*] *2,500 persons*
C. Non-transferrable sick/old and unable to walk *3,500 persons*
[*Nichverlagerungsfähige Kranke/Alte und Nicht-Gehfähige*]
D. Designated for the trek *9,600 persons."*

Suhren then explains:

"The handover of the inmates to the International Red Cross occurred after March 1945. According to the order by the Reichsführer-SS, all [inmates of] *the western and Scandinavian peoples, all Poles and Hungarian Jewesses were to be placed at the disposal of the I.R.C. Based on this order, some 18 to 20,000 persons of the entire camp should have been handed over. But since the I.R.C. could not provide a sufficient fleet of vehicles, only 7,000 persons from the main camp were handed over.* [...]

Some 3,500 male and female inmates who were sick and unable to walk, plus those who were old, did not qualify for the foot march und remained in the Ravensbrueck main camp."

As logic demands, Himmler's order therefore concerned the general evacuation, not the extermination of inmates who were sick, unfit for labor or unable to walk. These were actually left behind in the main camp as had happened before at Auschwitz-Birkenau. In this context, all the other characters implicated in this Holocaust tale – Glücks, Heißmeyer, Sauer – appear in a much more believable light.

In view of the policy to hand over the inmates to the International Red Cross, the extermination of some of them would have been a form of schizophrenia, but this seems so only because it is filtered through the respective schizophrenia of orthodox Holocaustology.

Before proceeding, it is appropriate to look into this a little deeper, which will fully confirm the conclusions I have drawn above.

In her doctoral dissertation, Silke Schäfer deals specifically with the "gas chamber" at Ravensbrück. I omit her discussion of the "evidence" which I have already discussed earlier and will instead focus on a few new elements. She traces the alleged gassings to a general policy allegedly implemented in October 1944, of all things:[450]

> *"When the daily 'normal' mortality and the executions did not 'yield' enough murdered persons in the eyes of the camp's leadership, the construction of a provisional gas chamber was commenced in late 1944 or in February 1945. Camp commander Suhren is said to have received the order from Himmler in October 1944 that, 'with a retroactive effect of 6 months, 2,000 persons had to die each month'."*

This phrase, taken from the statement of the former inmate Anni Rudroff of 11 March 1948, is given as such in a note by Strebel, who comments: "Dating and content of this order are doubtful" (note 17, p. 281).

Schäfer then expounds an utterly far-fetched theory of a double "gas chamber":[451]

> *"Starting in early 1945, the second, technically improved gas chamber was also erected by male inmates using rocks. Due to inclement weather and lack of supplies, but also due to the way the inmates worked, who had figured out what they were expected to build, the completion was repeatedly delayed. The gas chamber was finished shortly before the evacuation, but it was not used, and it was destroyed prior to the liberation."*

Having even less of a critical mind than Strebel, the dissertation's author refers to a number of testimonies which show the fairytale-like character of the "gas chamber." The former inmate Irma Trksakova, for instance, provided the following hearsay description based on the lore of an inmate who allegedly "was able to escape" (presumably from the "gas chamber"):[452]

> *"It was a rather small room, whose cracks were plugged with blankets. The SS men threw gas bombs* [*Gasbomben*] *into the chamber; some women were only stunned; they were then cremated in this condition."*

Similar statements were made by Michalina Woźniakówna in 1946, who described the alleged gas chamber as follows:[453]

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[450] Silke Schäfer, *Zum Selbstverständnis von Frauen im Konzentrationslager. Das Lager Ravensbrück.* Dissertation, Technische Universität Berlin, 6 Feb. 2002, p. 199.
[451] *Ibid.*, p. 200.
[452] *Ibid.*, p. 201.
[453] M. Woźniakówna, *Obóz koncentracyjny dla kobiet Ravensbrück*, Nakladem Związek B. Wiezniow Politycznych, Poznań 1946, pp. 96f.

"It was a small room into which the women meant to die were locked up and into which gas was released. The room designed for 'gassings' was not very gas tight, and the women were mostly stunned, but not dead. But no one cared, nor did they check. The partially poisoned women were taken half alive from the gas chamber to the crematorium."

And the legendary "gas vans" aren't missing either:[454]

"There are also some statements of survivors who speak of killing with carbon monoxide. This is probably due to the fact that car engines were run to drown out the people's screams. Another method of gassing also repeatedly referred to by surviving female inmates is the conversion of ambulance vehicles to a mobile gas chamber. In this regard, however, it is doubtful whether these mobile gassing installations were ever used at Ravensbrück. Information on this method presumably came to Ravensbrück during the evacuation of the eastern concentration camps. It is conspicuous that the defendants in the Ravensbrück trials at Hamburg report in detail about the stationary gas chamber, but do not mention a mobile gassing device."

Hence the "gas vans" were even more imaginary than the "gas chambers."

George Clutton, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Great Britain in Stockholm, wrote a report on 20 June 1945 which summarized the statements of former Ravensbrück inmates who had been evacuated to Sweden:[455]

"There seem to have been two gas chambers at Ravensbruck. [One] *was situated next to the crematorium outside the boundary of the camp and was a small brick building with the appearance of a washroom with showers. It took one hundred victims at a time. The existence of the second gas chamber was widely believed, but no one had ever seen it. It was said to have been brought to Ravensbruck at the end of 1944 by S.S. Obersturmführer* [sic] *Brauning from Auschwitz where he had been in charge of gassing methods. It consisted of what appeared to be two covered railway wagons attached together and connected with two railway tankers containing the gas. The women put into the trucks were unaware of the fate in store for them and were generally under the impression that they were to be removed to another camp. The doors of the wagons were shut and the gas pumped in at either end from the tankers. Death was stated to have taken two hours. The victims to be taken to the gas chambers were given old clothes, stripped of everything except*

[454] S. Schäfer, *op. cit.* (note 450), p. 202.
[455] TNA, FO-371-50982, pp. 20f.

chemise and frock and taken away in lorries. Camp numbers were at the beginning written on the back or chest of those stripped for post mortem examination but latterly this was given up. The bodies of those gassed were later brought back to the morgues, piled in lots of three and counted. Any victim not yet dead was usually finished off by an S.S. man with a club or else taken still living to the crematorium. The refugees estimated that over 5,000 persons were gassed in Ravensbruck. The last gassing at Ravensbruck took place 30th March and on April 2nd, the chamber was demolished, the prisoners employed on the work never being seen again."

It is needless to say that Schäfer fails to raise the imperative question whether the story of the stationary "gas chamber(s)" at Ravensbrück, just like the tale about the Ravensbrück gas vans, has its origin also in "information," that is to say propaganda, spread by inmates transferred from Auschwitz to Ravensbrück – as is Olga Wormser-Migot's well-founded theory.

12. The Gassings at the Neuengamme Camp

It is hardly worthwhile to look at Reimer Möllers's article "The two murder actions with Zyklon B at the Neuengamme concentration camp in 1942," ("Die beiden 'Zyklon B'-Mordaktionen im Konzentrationslager Neuengamme 1942"; pp. 288-293). The text merely testifies to the fact that the orthodox Neuengamme historians have the insane feeling that they should add a gas chamber to "their" camp as well. Reimer Möllers begins his paper as follows (p. 288):

"In October 1942 accredited tradesmen were given the order to carry out certain structural modifications on the stockade of the Neuengamme concentration camp. They replaced the wooden shutters on the window with steel plates and attached steel bars with bolts on the entrance door of the stockade. In the building itself they installed an electric cable which was connected to a heating coil and a ventilator. Six tubes, each one having a length of half a meter and a diameter of 80 mm, were sunk into the roof, and a catchment plate was attached at the lower opening."

The source for this assertion is a witness statement dating back to 1967 (footnote 1 on p. 288). We will now move on to the brief description of the two (!) gassings said to have led to the death of a total of 197 Soviet soldiers (p. 290):

> *"The two SS men poured the 'Zyklon B' crystals into the tubes. At the outlet of the tubes, the crystals fell upon the metal plates which were warmed by the heating coil. The heat accelerated the liberation of the hydrogen cyanide gas which was quickly fed into the room by the fan."*

The source is different from the first but is also a witness statement dating back to 1967 (footnote 5 on p. 290). According to another witness, "the bunker door was opened 5 or 6 minutes after the introduction [of the Zyklon B]" (footnote 6 p. 290). According to Reimer Möller, the first gassing took place "probably in October 1942" (p. 289). Möller hardly tells us anything about the second and final gassing (p. 292):

> *"A second gassing took place four weeks after the first. This time, the victims were 251 Soviet PoWs, among them considerably more wounded than in the first group."*

In this case no source at all is given, not even a witness statement.

The "gas chamber" is said to have had a floor area of 35 square meters (p. 290), which means that for the first gassing six persons were squeezed onto one square meter, and seven in the second case. As usual in those cases, the henchmen lured their victims into the gas chamber by an evil deception ("The Soviets had towels in their hands, the SS seem to have told them that they were going to take a shower," p. 290), but such an attempt at deception would have been particularly ridiculous and unsuccessful in this case, because this room had neither real nor fake showerheads. How on earth could the SS men hope to deceive the delinquents in such a case?

One does not quite understand why the SS should have gone to the trouble of setting up a gas chamber for two gassings, wasting manpower and materials, even less so as a delousing chamber already existed at Neuengamme according to Möllers (p. 288), which probably operated along the lines of the Degesch circulation system. The camp administration could have made use of the experience gathered there, but is said to have decided to proceed in an absolutely amateurish way when they allegedly built this homicidal gas chamber. A space of 35 square meters with an overkill of six Zyklon B feed openings would have caused all alarm bells to sound with the victims, inducing desperate reactions. The device for accelerating the vaporization of the cyanide was complicated, useless and easy to sabotage by the victims. Even when viewed from the point of view of orthodox Holocaust historiography, it makes no sense at all. If gassings could be carried out continuously in the large gas chambers of Auschwitz without such a device, as is claimed, why was it necessary on a much smaller scale for minor gassings? Achim Trunk correctly says in connection with the alleged gas chambers at Auschwitz that "the body heat released by a large group of people herded into a [small] space will quickly heat it" (footnote 85 on p.

46) – why then would metal plates heated by a heating coil have been needed at Neuengamme?

Möller's "evidence" for the two gassings he postulates is so meager that, in order to beef up his article a little more, he feels compelled to add a section on "Sources and Literature" (pp. 292f.). These sources, however, consist entirely of witness statements and confessions made at post-war show trials. Among other things, he mentions Fritz Bringmann's article on Neuengamme in the anthology *Nazi Mass Murder*. This text of a little more than four pages consists almost entirely of an excerpt from the interrogation of SS-*Unterscharführer* Willi Bahr during a British show trial in Hamburg, dated 22 April 1946. Defendant Bahr made the following deposition, *i.a.*:[456]

> *"A tube was installed on the roof and an artificial hot-air ventilation unit with an electric coil."*

Bahr went on to say that he had brought five cans of Zyklon B for a gassing of 180 to 200 persons and that the camp physician had instructed him to pour half a can into each tube.[457] The most important point of this confession, which Möller is careful to not even mention, is that "in this bunker the individual cells were very small" and that the cells had doors.[458]

If there really had been six tubes in the roof of this stockade, it would logically have consisted of six cells, each one measuring (35÷6 =) 5.8 square meters. In such a case, though, Möller's device for heating the air and for ventilation would only have served one cell, but not the others, and it would have made no sense at all to build such a device individually for a 6 sqm cell. This illustrates the credibility of the tale about a homicidal gas chamber at the Neuengamme camp.

13. The Gas Chamber at the Stutthof Camp

The Polish historian Józef Orski writes in his article "The annihilation of detainees of the Stutthof camp by the poison gas Zyklon B" ("Die Vernichtung von Häftlingen des Konzentrationslagers Stutthof durch das Giftgas Zyklon B"; pp. 294-303) about the alleged homicidal gas chamber at Stutthof. As early as 1999, Jürgen Graf and I had published a book about this camp in German,[68] in which Orski's arguments had already been comprehensively refuted. His arguments are, in fact, nothing but a mere rehash

[456] E. Kogon *et al.* (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 39), p. 267.
[457] *Ibid.*, p. 268.
[458] *Ibid.*, pp. 269f.

of the arguments which the Polish Stutthof historians have been proffering for decades.

Orski, who could have been expected to make an attempt at refuting the "deniers," passes over our study in complete silence, just like most of the other authors of this anthology who act as if revisionist research did not exist.

At the beginning of his text, Orski writes that the camp administration, faced with the peak of an epidemic, had decided to build a disinfestation chamber inside the camp near the crematorium. Earlier, he says, the garments to be treated were taken to a delousing station in the city of Danzig (p. 294). Orski writes explicitly that the Stutthof gas chamber had at least initially been used as a "disinfestation chamber for detainee garments," (p. 295) but then he brings up a totally incredible story about how a delousing chamber allegedly became a homicidal gas chamber: the paramedic of the infirmary, *SS-Untersturmführer* Otto Karl Knott, was sent to Oranienburg "on a special course for disinfectors lasting several weeks" during which, however, the participants were also informed that "mass killings of people in eastern camps were being carried out by means of the gas" (*ibid.*). I do not have to stress that the source for this statement is not a document but – in the usual manner – a witness statement made during a show trial.

After the course, Orski continues, Knott was sent to Lublin where he stayed until 20 August 1943. During that time "he underwent practical instruction in how gas chambers could be used for killing people" (p. 296). Undoubtedly, the mythical Zyklon B homicidal gas chambers at Majdanek were used for demonstrations of the procedure.

It is needless to say that all this is mere speculation on the part of the author. It may well be that Knott was sent back to Stutthof after his stay at Majdanek and was assigned there to the staff of Department V (camp physician) and that the delousing chamber was under the direct authority of the latter (p. 296), but in line with the invented background of Knott's reassignment, Orski evidently takes this reassignment to be a proof for the assertion that the delousing chamber at Stutthof was henceforth used to kill people. He goes on to say (*ibid.*):

> *"The mass murder of prisoners in the gas chamber began in June 1944 under the code name of 'special treatment.'"*

This too is completely unfounded, because the orthodox Stutthof historians have never presented a document which mentions a special treatment of detainees.

Orski then goes into the details of the alleged murders by poison gas. The starting point is said to have been the gassing of 100 Polish partisans on 22 June 1944 (p. 297), but on p. 301 he postulates a total of 70 gassings

for the whole month, and he thus contradicts his own previous assertion. On 26 July 1944, 12 Poles are said to have been murdered in the gas chamber. Orski does not claim any other gassings for July, but for some mysterious reason, the 12 Poles killed during that month grow into 400 persons! I shall return later to the alleged murder by gas of 77 wounded Soviet PoWs – the only one for which there is an apparent documentary reference.

Orski believes that most of the victims of the gassings at Stutthof were "detainees of Jewish origin" and continues (p. 299):

> *"The murder of Jewish inmates at Stutthof was carried out pursuant to the orders of the Head of Office Group D (concentration camps) of SS-WVHA. In this way, the camp was integrated into the 'Final solution of the Jewish question.' The immediate cause was the arrival of 49,000 Jews, 38,000 of whom remained at Stutthof. Initially only those Jewish inmates who were unfit for work were murdered* […]. *At Stutthof, the decrees for the implementation of the 'final solution' caused far fewer victims than in other concentration camps."*

Here, Orski becomes very sloppy with his use of terms, because the term "final solution" does not appear in any of the documents concerning the transfer of Jews to Stutthof. Even a cursory glance at the list of Jewish transports which reached Stutthof in the second half of 1944 shows the absurdity of Orski's thesis – and thus, in a more general way, the absurdity of Polish Stutthof historiography, in that it classifies this camp as some kind of "auxiliary extermination camp" besides Auschwitz:

Table 7: Deportations of Inmates from Auschwitz to Stutthof in 1944[459]

DATE	NUMBER	DATE	NUMBER
29 June	2,502	3 September	2,405
20 July	2,500	10 September	668
14 August	2,800	10 September	1,082
16 August	2,800	27 September	4,501
28 August	2,800	28 October	1,500
31 August	8	Total:	23,566

All these detainees were duly registered as camp inmates. The thesis concerning the "Auschwitz auxiliary extermination camp" fails, if only because on 25 July 1944 a total of 1,423 Jews were shipped from Stutthof to Auschwitz, followed by another 575 on 10 September 1944.[460] Thus, Orski and his cronies assert that Auschwitz sent unfit Jews to Stutthof to be

[459] C. Mattogno, J. Graf, *op. cit.* (note 68), p. 28.
[460] *Ibid*., p. 109.

gassed, while Stutthof in turn packed off its own unfit Jews to Auschwitz to be gassed there?

Orski sets the total number of Jews allegedly murdered in the Stutthof gas chamber at 1,150 (p. 301) but mentions only one specific gassing of Jews in which "in the summer of 1944" (not even the month seems to be known) between 70 and 200 Dutch Jews were killed. These people, he claims of course, were not "registered in the camp book" (p. 300), which precludes any possibility of an objective verification. The source for this assertion is a "witness account," as usual.

In an effort to provide his claims with at least the semblance of credibility, Orski imbeds them into a fictional historical context: According to this, in late July or early August 1944 camp commander Hoppe is said to have travelled to Oranienburg where he was told what was to be done with the deportees. A few weeks later, so Orski tells us (pp. 299f.),

> *"a first meeting took place at Oranienburg during which Richard Glücks, the head of IKL, decreed to begin with the annihilation of the unfit Jews (mostly women who constituted the majority) and to use Zyklon B for this purpose. The gassings in the gas chamber were probably stopped in late October or early November 1944, after a corresponding order from Oranienburg had been received."*

Do I have to make a special point by underlining that Orski is unable to give a source for these freely invented stories? From the viewpoint of orthodox Holocaust historiography, these claims are nothing but an unnecessary complication, as they have already enough problems to explain the genesis of the alleged order concerning the extermination of the Jews. Initially, Himmler is said to have transmitted to the Auschwitz commander Höß an order from Hitler decreeing the total annihilation of the Jews, but later this order is said to have been modified by Himmler himself in the sense that only unfit Jews were to be killed. For unknown reasons this second order was not applied to the camps of "*Aktion Reinhardt*," as opposed to those at Chełmno and Majdanek. Later on even this order was softened by Glücks who prohibited even the killing of unfit persons – except for mental patients which would be selected by medical commissions within the framework of "Aktion 14f13."[461] Finally, Himmler is said to have ordered the gassing actions to be stopped. There is not even the shadow of any documentary evidence for any of this!

As I have already mentioned, there is a document which seems to confirm one of the alleged gassings at Stutthof, at least at first sight. Orski writes (pp. 297f.):

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[461] Letter by Glücks of 27 April 1943. PS-1933.

"Another gassing which created a strong resonance in the camp concerned the murder of 77 Russian detainees in the gas chamber; they were PoWs who had been moved to Stutthof by the Security Police (Sipo) at Riga. The camp documentation on this event is complete. A detailed account of these gassings has been given by Aldo Coradello, former vice-consul of the Kingdom of Italy at Danzig and a key witness in the trial of 1946. […] *During the session of 21 May 1946, sixty pages of Aldo Coradello's written eye-witness report, translated into German, were read."*

On the subject of the documentation of this case, Orski writes (p. 298):

"The transfer of the Soviet prisoners by the Sipo at Riga on 15 August 1944 is documented by an entry in the camp register. Out of this group, 77 wounded were given the same date of death, 22 August 1944. It was the first time that the dates were already entered into the camp register. As neither the letter 'E' nor the numbers of the death certificates appear in the death book of the registrar's office (the file for 1944 has not survived), it is warranted to assume that these men who were unfit because of their injuries died in the gas chamber."

This is a question which I have dealt with at length in our book on Stutthof.[462] If these Soviet PoWs were killed, the reason cannot have been the one given by Orski (the fact that they were unfit for work), because at Stutthof a policy of annihilation of unfit detainees can be shown not to have been practiced. Even Orski himself has reported elsewhere that a "cripple company" existed at Stutthof consisting of men who "were so emaciated as to be unfit for any kind of work."[463]

It would even be improper to argue that the National Socialists had systematically killed disabled Soviet PoWs, for at Majdanek a "Soviet-Russian infirmary for disabled soldiers" existed.[464] The first transport of 299 disabled PoWs arrived at the Lublin camp on 21 May 1943; on 22 August the infirmary housed 1,742 inmates, and 2,573 on 14 December.[465] The disabled were registered in a special register which listed *i.a.* "details of the kind of wound (injury by combat agent, body part, weapon) or disease." The last entry, number 2,886, is dated 29 February 1944.[466]

In case the 77 Soviet invalids were indeed murdered at Stutthof, it must be due to a local initiative, and the only plausible motive was euthanasia. The fact that the letter 'E' is missing in column "deceased" of the arrival registry below the stamped-in date of death excludes a regular execution

[462] C. Mattogno, J. Graf, *op. cit.* (note 68), pp. 88-96.
[463] *Ibid.*, p. 93.
[464] *Ibid.*, p. 92.
[465] T. Kranz, *op. cit.* (note 300), p. 16.
[466] GARF, 7021-107-6, pp. 1-294.

(*i.e.* an execution ordered by a special SS court) whereas a missing number for the death certificate as such is not significant. In an analysis I carried out on the names of 1,850 Jewish detainees who were registered between 19 July and 15 August 1944, I showed that 273 of them died and that for 37 of these deaths no number of the death certificate had been given.[467]

The camp registry and the personal registration cards for these Soviet PoWs thus merely indicate that all of them died on 22 August 1944. The strange circumstances of the discovery of this document, however, cast doubts on the assumption that the men were actually murdered. It is also strange that the entries in the registry of detainees containing these inmates' death dates were discovered only in 1987 (by the Polish historian Maria Elżbieta Jezierska), although the documents in the Stutthof museum had, at that time, been available to the public for decades! We must remember that these entries for the 77 Soviet soldiers with their identical dates of arrival (15 August 1944) and of death (22 August 1944) cover eight successive pages and are most apparent.[468] Hence, something seems to be fishy about this case.

Orski's hypothesis that these invalids were gassed is based solely on the statements by Aldo Coradello, which, however, are unreliable.[469] Coradello declared that he had merely seen the prisoners when they were still alive, whereas he only knew from hearsay that they had been gassed. Moreover, he explicitly noted: "On 26 August [1944] I was once again interned at Stutthof" and said that he saw the Soviet invalids on the same day,[470] but how could this be if they had been killed four days earlier?

On the subject of the gas chamber at Stutthof, I refer the reader to the above-mentioned study written by Jürgen Graf and myself.[471] It should be kept in mind that there is no documentary evidence for its use as a homicidal gas chamber.

Orski himself supplies us with an involuntary indication on the origin of the fable about homicidal gassings at Stutthof. He quotes the statement by a witness, the Polish engineer Wacław Lewandowski, who had jokingly asked SS-*Unterscharführer* J. Paul what would happen if he ever forgot to get a person out of the chamber before starting a disinfestation (p. 295):

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[467] C. Mattogno, J. *Graf, KL Stutthof. Il campo di concentramento di Stutthof e la sua funzione nella politica ebraica nazionalsocialista*. Effepi, Genoa, 2002, pp. 98f. This paragraph is missing in the 2003/2004 English editions, as it was added to the later Italian edition. (A new, scheduled English edition will include it, though.)

[468] AMS, I-IIE-12, pp. 304-311. Each page contains 10 registrations.

[469] C. Mattogno, J. Graf, *op. cit.* (note 68), pp. 67-73.

[470] Witness statement by A. Coradello in: Hermann Kuhn (ed.), *Stutthof. Ein Konzentrationslager vor den Toren Danzigs*. Edition Temmen, Danzig 1990, pp. 126f.

[471] C. Mattogno, J. Graf, *op. cit.* (note 68), pp. 62-69.

> *"*[Paul was] *very surprised at this question. We, the prisoners, had heard about the gas chambers at Auschwitz etc. from friends. Actually, here, garments were disinfected from time to time, but later on* […], *people began to say that in the chamber detainees were being killed by gas."*

Just as in the case of Ravensbrück, the propagandistic rumors spread by detainees arriving from Auschwitz were at the origin of the legend of homicidal gassings at Stutthof as well!

14. The Gas Chamber at the Natzweiler Camp

Florian Schmaltz, author of the article "The gas chamber at the Natzweiler concentration camp" ("Die Gaskammer im Konzentrationslager Natzweiler"; pp. 304-315), believes that this gas chamber was "an exception" in that "scientific-medical research into the use of chemical weapons for military use were being carried out there" (p. 304). With that statement Schmaltz moves away from the traditional meaning attributed to the function of this chamber. He writes (p. 314):

> *"As opposed to what has been assumed in the literature for a long time, the gas chamber at Natzweiler was not originally set up to gas the victims which the SS physician August Hirt had caused to be murdered in August of 1943 for his collection of skeletons."*

Schmaltz believes instead that the gas chamber was needed "solely for experiments with the gaseous pulmonary agent phosgene" which Otto Bickenbach, the head of the biological section of the medical department at the Reichsuniversität Straßburg had undertaken (p. 314). According to a witness, these experiments involved "exposing between 90 and 150 inmates to phosgene, 50 to 60 of whom died painfully by suffocation" (p. 310).

Schmaltz notes that the gas chamber at Natzweiler was the only gas chamber in a German camp to have been equipped with "measuring devices" which "permitted to measure the concentration of phosgene in order to determine the dosage of this life-threatening poison gas" (p. 314). According to Schmaltz, this chamber was built between the autumn 1942 and April 1943 (p. 309).

One of the most prominent proponents of the thesis that the Natzweiler gas chamber was built on account of establishing a collection of skeletons is Jean-Claude Pressac, who has written a well-documented book about

this question. It is worthwhile to consider and examine his arguments. He starts out by giving very interesting details:[472]

> *"The gas chamber at Struthof, which was located outside the camp in a building designated by the SS work management as 'building 10,' was originally a cold storage room; this explains why it was lined with white tiles. Blocks of ice were used to keep the temperature low for the conservation of easily rotting food. The room – in line with all cold storage rooms – was relatively air-tight and was therefore used as a gas chamber in which SS recruits acquainted themselves with the use of gas-masks and where teargas was used for training purposes (in the French army, benzyl bromide is normally used for this purpose). Because this basic training was carried out in view of a possible chemical warfare,* [camp commander] *Kramer immediately thought of this training chamber when he was approached by SS-Professor Hirt of the anatomical institute of Reichsuniversität Strasburg who wanted him to gas a group of Jewish detainees from Auschwitz; he thought about the modifications which would have to be implemented before he would be able to use the cyanide salts which Hirt had provided. The modifications were finished between 3 and 12 August* [of 1943]*."*

Before we look at the document itself where the modifications are described, we must take note of a letter written by Kramer to the SS institution "*Ahnenerbe*" on 12 April 1943 in which he writes that "The G-cell here has been finished and has a volume of 20 cubic meters." The designation "G-cell" undoubtedly refers to a "gas cell."[473]

Although the first document concerning the skeleton collection dates from 9 February 1942,[474] and the issue was raised again in early November,[475] it remained dormant for several more months. On 21 June 1943 *SS-Standartenführer* Wolfram Sievers wrote a letter to Adolf Eichmann, saying that *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Dr. Bruno Beger had stopped his work at Auschwitz because of the risk of an epidemic and that he had selected 115 detainees – 79 Jews, 2 Poles, 4 Asians and 30 Jewesses – which were now in quarantine. Sievers stressed that, for the further treatment of the persons selected, they had to be transferred to Natzweiler immediately on account of the risk of the epidemic at Auschwitz. In order to prevent the typhus epidemic raging at Auschwitz from being transmitted to Natzweiler, Sievers demanded that the Natzweiler command ship immediately clean and deloused clothing for 80 men and 30 women to Auschwitz. At the same time

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[472] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), p. 6.
[473] *Ibid.*, p. 10. This document is also mentioned by Schmaltz (p. 309).
[474] *Ibid.*, p. 18, NO-085.
[475] *Ibid.*, pp. 20f., CXXXIII-52 (Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine) and NO-089.

it would be necessary to provide temporary housing for 30 women at Natzweiler.[476]

Since this letter is dated 21 June 1943, there cannot have been any need for a homicidal gas chamber at Natzweiler before this date. This means that the gas chamber mentioned by Kramer in his letter of 12 April 1943 was necessarily related to the experiments with phosgene. There is yet another document which refutes Pressac's thesis. It is a letter written by Hirt to "*Ahnenerbe*" on 14 July 1943 saying:[477]

> *"Having read the contents of the letter, I impart that, according to information from the camp commander, a difficulty has arisen in that the material for gassing is not available. I ask you to prompt the authorities concerned to provide the corresponding substances, because otherwise the matter cannot be implemented."*

This letter confirms that the gas chamber as such already existed and only the "material for gassing" was missing. It is therefore incorrect to say that the gas chamber was modified between 3 and 12 August 1943. Pressac (or his translator/editor) was apparently aware of this contradiction, because the expressions used in the document – "material for gassing" and "the corresponding substances" – are translated as "gassing equipment" and "the necessary equipment", respectively,[477] in order to create the impression that it was not the *toxic substance* which was missing but the *equipment* of the gas chamber.

This signifies that the entries which Pressac found in the "Construction report for the new construction of concentration camp Natzweiler, Alsace" cannot have referred to the modification of a cold storage room or a training gas chamber into a homicidal chamber. The entry for 3 August 1943 reads:[478]

> *"– Mason / 10 working hours / work in gas room*
>
> *– Roofer / 5 hours / gas chamber / lengthen exhaust tube 1 tube clamp*
>
> *– Painter / 60 working hours incl. physical plant / work in gas room*
>
> *– Mason / 40 hours /work in the gas room."*

The roster concerns the period between 20 May and 28 August 1943. The mentioned entries for 3 August are apparently the only ones related to the gas chamber, which means that Schmaltz is correct when he writes:

> *"The construction reports for the new construction of the Natzweiler concentration camp contain entries for 3 August 1943 which substantiate masonry, roofing and painting work in the 'gas room.' These modifi-*

[476] *Ibid*., p. 22, NO-087.
[477] *Ibid*., p. 11.
[478] *Ibid*., p. 69. Pressac reproduced it in his book *Auschwitz: …*, *op. cit.* (note 204), pp. 448f.

cations were closely related to the impending murder of a group of Jewish detainees for Hirt's skeleton collection."

Hence, we are dealing here with the modification of an existing gas chamber. It is, after all, a natural thing that a room which is converted into a gas chamber cannot have been one before the conversion. If the entry of 3 August suddenly speaks of a "gas chamber" it must have existed before and must have been serviceable.

This brings us to the central point of the question. The conversion of the chamber, in fact, is said to have involved the laying of a pipe "which ended in a hole in the floor of the gas chamber" and was "equipped with a closeable faucet and a funnel," to "feed liquids into the gas chamber" (p. 310). This is a very vague description and nearly unintelligible.

The former Natzweiler detainee Georg Weydert has described the conversion in detail:[479]

"He [SS-Mann Schondelmaier] *ordered me to fashion a funnel from sheet metal which was mounted on the outer wall of the gas chamber, very close to the opening towards the chamber. At the narrow end of the funnel was a pipe which went into the chamber and ended in a hole that had been broken into the concrete floor. In this hole was a porcelain vessel of 1 or 2 liters capacity. In the pipe just below the funnel, there was a faucet. The objective of this device was to allow a liquid, unknown to me, to be poured into the funnel when the faucet was closed and then, at a certain moment, to cause the liquid to flow into the porcelain vessel in the gas chamber. Another liquid had been filled into the porcelain vessel beforehand. The chemical reaction of the two liquids was intended to produce a toxic gas, destined to cause the prisoners locked up in the chamber to suffocate."*

The former SS-*Hauptsturmführer* Josef Kramer, commander of the camp, made the following deposition during an interrogation by a French military court on 26 July 1945:[480]

"In August 1943 I received the order from the Oranienburg camp, or more precisely from the SS high command in Berlin that contacted me via the commander of the Oranienburg camp, to receive some 80 detainees from Auschwitz. The accompanying letter specified that I was to get in touch immediately with Prof. Hirt. The latter explained to me that a transport of detainees from Auschwitz to Struthof was planned. These people, he added, were to be suffocated by gas in the Struthof gas

[479] Jean-Pierre Faye, "Natzweiler: Eine Skelettesammlung wird angelegt," in: E. Kogon *et al.* (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 39), p. 273.

[480] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), pp. 72f.: from the French translation of Kramer's statement. I do not have access to the original German wording of Kramer's statement.

chamber and the corpses were to be taken to the anatomical institute for his attention. After this conversation he handed me a flask having a volume of about one quarter of a liter, which contained salts. In my opinion they were cyanide salts. The professor indicated the approximate dosage I was to use to kill the detainees from Auschwitz myself.

So, in early August 1943 I received the 80 detainees to be put down by means of gas which had been put at my disposal by Hirt. One night, around 9 o'clock, I began to take them to the gas chamber by truck, some 15 women initially. I told them that they would have to enter a disinfection chamber, hiding from them the fact that they were to be killed. With the help of a few SS men, I ordered them to undress completely, and when they were completely naked, I pushed them into the gas chamber.

As I closed the door, they started screaming.

After I had closed the door, I poured a certain amount of salt into the funnel which was on the right, directly above the peep-hole. At the same time, I added a certain amount of water which, just like the salts, fell into a pit which was located inside the gas chamber below the peep-hole.

Then I closed the opening of the funnel by means of a faucet which was connected to the end of this funnel and continued into a pipe. Through this metal pipe, the salts and the water reached the pit inside the chamber which I just mentioned.

I lit up the inside of the chamber by means of a switch located next to the funnel and observed through the peep-hole what was going on in the chamber. I saw that the women continued breathing for about half a minute and then collapsed. As I opened the door after having switched on the ventilator below the aeration duct, I saw that these women were lifeless and had released excrements before dying.

The next morning, I ordered two male SS nurses to load these corpses on a truck and to take them to the anatomical institute, in line with what Professor Hirt had told me.

A few days later, I took a certain number of women to the gas chamber in the same way as before, who were killed there in the same manner; another few days later, I had some 50 men taken there in two or three trips who were once again liquidated by means of the salts put at my disposal by Professor Hirt.

In answer to a question: I don't know what Hirt did with the corpses of these murdered detainees, I think they came from southeast Europe, but I don't know from which country.

The representative of the French military court: We showed the witness the album containing photographs of the gas chamber.

The witness: I recognize on these photographs the Struthof gas chamber which was built in mid-1943 for the purpose of killing the inmates destined for Professor Hirt.

In answer to a question: The gas chamber was modified by inmates according to my order. Some time earlier, it had been erected as a cold room.

In answer to a question: As far as I know, nobody was killed in this manner aside from the 80 detainees shipped from Auschwitz

In answer to a question: As far as I know, no vial was ever thrown into the gas chamber to kill inmates. I do not know the purpose of the iron pipe that was mounted in the entry door of the gas chamber."

For a better understanding of this deposition, I should like to stress that the device described by Kramer serving for the introduction of the salts and the water is said to have been identical to the one of which Pressac published a photograph.[481] It consists of a vertical faucet having at its upper end a funnel. The device is said to have been on an outside wall of the gas chamber building. At the lower end, a 90-degree elbow had to be attached which led into the gas chamber through a specific hole in the wall, where another 90 degree elbow led downwards along the wall, ending in a pit, 60 cm × 60 cm, which had been opened up in the floor of the chamber. This is shown in a drawing by Pressac (cf. document 7).

According to Pressac, the device is held in the Besançon citadel, but there is no evidence to show that it actually came from the Natzweiler gas chamber. Pressac writes that, after the liberation of the camp, the device was removed for a toxicological analysis,[482] but in the contemporaneous drawing of the gas chamber the funnel and its pipe are not included. One has trouble believing that the French military authorities dismantled the funnel and the pipe before having a drawing of the room prepared! In fact, the "French specialists" who "inspected and described the chamber in detail" after the war mentioned neither the funnel nor the pipe.[483]

Moreover, the construction reports for the period of 20 May through 28 August 1943, mentioned above, yield no information concerning the installation of a funnel or a tube (the indispensable ventilator, which was apparently installed earlier in connection with the phosgene experiments, is not mentioned either). Furthermore, two photographs published by Robert

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[481] *Ibid.*, p. 66. See also J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 478), p. 15. See document 6. The French text published by Pressac is incomplete; certain passages are missing, although they are included in the English translation added by Pressac himself. The latter corresponds to the French version published by Faurisson, so that we are dealing with two French versions, one abridged, the other complete.

[482] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), p. 12.

[483] Jean-Pierre Faye, *op. cit.* (note 479), p. 274.

Faurisson show that the hole broken through the wall for the passage of the pipe was fashioned in a very coarse manner on both sides of the wall. On the inside, no fewer than five small bricks were damaged for piercing a hole a couple of centimeters in diameter.[484] This could indicate that the device was invented only after the liberation of the camp. It is also possible that the funnel was indeed manufactured in the camp but that it served an entirely different purpose than we are told. Pressac himself notes, in his commentary on the witness Weydert, that the latter could not have known that the funnel was to serve a criminal purpose.[485]

The killing process described by Kramer sounds ponderous and inefficient. The women could have blocked the lower end of the pipe with one hand, thus preventing the water from reaching the pit and making a gassing impossible. Men could even have bent the pipe itself. A smooth operation was possible only if the victims cooperated.

Then there is the riddle of the cyanide salts. What did Kramer mean? He may have been talking about potassium cyanide (KCN) or sodium cyanide (NaCN). On contact with stronger acids, such as sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4), these salts release gaseous hydrogen cyanide according to the reaction:

$$2\ NaCN + H_2SO_4 \rightarrow 2\ HCN + Na_2SO_4$$

Concentrated sulfuric acid is diluted with a double amount of water, and the necessary amount of sodium cyanide is added. The first cyanide disinfestations operated according to this so-called "vat process."[486] The same method used to be applied in the U.S. execution gas chambers.

On the subject of Kramer's deposition, Pressac notes categorically:[487]

> *"The manner how he* [Kramer], *in his confession made on 26 July 1945 in front of Major Jadin, claims to have gassed a certain number of people, cannot be considered credible. He would have gassed himself."*

The gassing described by Kramer, Pressac argues, would have involved a "chemically impossible" reaction. He continues:[487]

> *"On account of the absurdity of this modus operandi and his* [Kramer's] *ignorance concerning the substances used, legitimate doubts about this gassing procedure and even concerning the gas chamber itself have been raised."*

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[484] Serge Thion, *Vérité historique ou vérité politique. Le dossier de l'affaire Faurisson. La question des chambres à gaz.* La Vieille Taupe, Paris 1980, p. 313.

[485] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), p. 29.

[486] Otto Lenz, Ludwig Gassner, *Schädlingsbekämpfung mit hochgiftigen Stoffen. Heft 1: Blausäure*. Verlagsbuchhandlung von Richard Schoetz, Berlin, 1934, p. 9; G. Peters, *op. cit.* (note 402), pp. 45-47.

[487] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), p. 5.

Since Kramer claims that the liquid was not sulfuric acid but plain water, no considerable amount of hydrogen cyanide could have been released. If some acid had been used, it would have been completely irresponsible to mix the two substances outside the chamber, because the release of HCN would have begun right then and there.

The above-mentioned deposition by Kramer is far from being his only one. On 26 July 1945, at Celle, he handed over a typewritten declaration which, however, does not bear his signature. It says *i.a.*:[488]

> *"I declare the following to the French lieutenant Paul Heiker: in July 1943, executing an order received from Berlin, I caused 30 women and 50 men (Jews from the east), who were between 20 and 55 years of age, to be treated with gas in the camp at Nutzweiler*[sic]*, Alsace. The corpses were taken to the hospital in Strasburg. I declare that there was a gas chamber in the Nutzweiler* [sic] *camp."*

In his first declaration made during the Belsen trial, Kramer spoke at length about his activities at Natzweiler, but he did not mention any gassings.[489] On the other hand, in his second statement he declared the following:[490]

> *"On the subject of the orders I received to gas a certain number of women and to send* [their corpses] *to the University of Strasburg, as I have declared under oath to Major Jadin of the French army, I will provide the following details: the orders I received were put down in writing and signed by Gruppenführer Glücks by order of Reichsführer Himmler. As far as I can remember, they specified that a special transport would arrive from Auschwitz, that the persons making up this transport were to be killed, and that their corpses were to be shipped to Professor Hirt at Strasburg. It also said that I was to get in touch with Professor Hirt in connection with the killing method. I did this, and Hirt gave me a container with crystal gas as well as instructions for its use. At Struthof no regular gas chamber existed, but he advised me how I could use it in a normal room. I know nothing more about the professors who were connected to Hirt, but I do know that in one of the departments there was a professor Bickerbach."*

During the proceedings, Kramer committed a strange *lapsus liguae* by confusing the names Hirt and Höß. He added some more details:[491]

> *"Was there a gas chamber before you arrived? – No.*

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[488] R. Faurisson, "Sur la prétendue 'chambre à gaz' homicide du Struthof, les trois confessions successives et contradictoires de Josef Kramer", in. *Ecrits révisionnistes (1974-1998)*, private edition 1999, vol. I, pp. 247-255.
[489] R. Phillips (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 425), pp. 725-729.
[490] *Ibid.*, p. 738.
[491] *Ibid.*, p. 174.

Did you consciously order 80 female detainees to be gassed? – Yes, on the orders of Reichsführer Himmler […].

Did you personally feed in the gas and did you then observe through the peep-hole what you had done? – No.

Did you not state that the women went on breathing for another half minute? – One could hear that. There was no need to look."

Kramer's last declaration dates from 6 December 1945:[492]

"In mid-May of 1943 I received from Berlin the written order to kill the persons that had been sent to us from Auschwitz and to send their remains to the anatomical institute at the Strasburg hospital. As to the killing method, according to the written order I had to get in touch with Hirt, professor of anatomy. I called on the professor and informed him about the orders I had received.

Hirt advised me to kill the people with gas. I answered that there was as yet no gas chamber in the camp. Thereupon Hirt gave me a glass bottle closed with wax. Inside there was a substance consisting of small white particles, similar to soda. Hirt said to me, if I poured water on it, I would get a toxic gas. He also instructed me in detail about the dosage. I told him that I was being assisted by the civil engineer Untersturmführer Heider who had been delegated by Oranienburg to help me. So I had the gas chamber built by detainees.

After some time, the first transport arrived, consisting of 26 women aged between 20 and 50. They stayed in the camp for eight days. They were not ill-treated and were fed better than the other detainees. I had received no special instructions concerning these persons. After having waited for eight days, in mid-August of 1943, I had these women taken to the gas chamber at eight o'clock at night. They had to undress in the adjacent room. I then poured a handful of the substance into the hole in the floor. I had the women enter the gas chamber and closed the door. The women started crying and screaming. From the outside, I poured water into the funnel provided [for this purpose]. *The water flowed through a pipe that could be closed by a faucet into the hole where the granules were. Half a minute later, the cries in the chamber stopped.*

I declare that I did not observe their death through the peep-hole. I only listened. As nothing could be heard and nothing moved, I switched on the ventilator. During that time, I was outside and I neither sensed nor felt the gas. After a quarter of an hour, I opened the door. It seemed that death had occurred normally. Only three or four had not been able to retain their excrements. It was around 9:30.

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[492] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), pp. 35f. The French text of this quote is on pp. 258f. of Faurisson's article, *op. cit.* (note 488).

The next morning, around 5:30, I had the corpses taken to Strasburg by means of a truck covered by a tarpaulin. This system was chosen so that nobody would know what had happened. I had, in fact, been sworn to absolute secrecy. I affirm that I did not shoot any of these detainees. Four SS men were present at the gassing, but I can remember only one of them by name, Lagerführer Zeus [Wolfgang Seuss]. *Stabscharführer Jung did not participate. I deny that I gave a speech* [on that occasion].

Hirt was not present. He came to Struthof two or three times for a personal visit, unrelated to any executions. Some time later, another transport from Auschwitz arrived at Struthof, consisting only of men. Eight days later they were killed in the same manner. [Another] *two or three weeks later, a transport of 30 men arrived who stayed in the camp for 10 days and were killed likewise with gas. I deny that the SS men drank after the execution. The same SS men were always present at the executions.*

The professor had told me the name of the gas, but I forgot it. But I could recognize the granules if they were shown to me. […] *The 86 corpses that were taken to the Strasburg hospital were all Jewish. I could verify this by means of a list of names. They all came from south-eastern Europe."*

The following "correction" was added later on a separate sheet:[493]

"There was a single transport, consisting of 26 women and 60 men. They were all Jewish. Within ten days, they were all killed in the manner described."

The contradictions between these declarations are obvious. Robert Faurisson has presented them in an excellent article, the English title of which is "The three successive confessions and contradictions of Josef Kramer about the alleged homicidal 'gas chamber' at Struthof." In this article, he quotes and analyzes the three declarations made by Josef Kramer to the French military court.[494] I will summarize only the most obvious of them:

- At times the gas chamber existed already when Kramer received the order from Berlin, at times it did not.
- At times, Kramer observed the killing process through the peep-hole, at times he was content with only "listening."
- The number of women murdered in the first gassing was both 15 and 26, and the "correction" added later devastates Kramer's chronology completely. It furthermore contradicts his statement of 26 July 1945 where he said that the 80 detainees arrived in a single transport.

[493] R. Faurisson, *op. cit.* (note 488), p. 257.
[494] *Ibid.*, pp. 247-259.

- Kramer asserts to have poured the "salts" into a pit inside the gas chamber ("I then poured a handful of the substance into the hole in the floor") and then says that from "the outside, I poured water into the funnel provided." On the other hand, he claims to have poured both the "salts" and the water into the funnel on the outside ("After I had closed the door, I poured a certain amount of salt into the funnel which was on the right, directly above the peep-hole. At the same time, I added a certain amount of water which, just like the salts, fell into a pit which was located inside the gas chamber below the peep-hole.")
- Kramer declared that, after the death of the people inside, he had opened the door to the gas chamber while switching on the ventilator. That would have been a logical thing to do, but if Kramer had entered the gas chamber without a gas mask, he would have met his death. Then, elsewhere, he said that he had switched on the ventilator and opened the door fifteen minutes later. This, however, would have been illogical on two counts, for no air could have been removed from the gas chamber without a fresh-air feed, and in this case Kramer would have been poisoned as well. The fact that he did not wear a gas mask can be seen from his own statement that he "did not breathe" the whole time.

At this point I must call the reader's attention to the fact that the "glass bottle" with the "substance consisting of small white particles" logically had to contain potassium or sodium cyanide, but in this case, no poison gas would have been released on addition of water (instead of sulfuric acid)!

The chronology of the alleged gassings is vague, even contradictory. According to Schmaltz, the first one took place on 11 August 1943 and involved 15 Jewish women (p. 312). It was followed by three more gassings, "probably" on 13, 17 and 19 August (p. 313), but if we follow the only witness, Josef Kramer, the dates were as follows:

Declaration of 26 July 1945

- In early August of 1943 (no precise date is indicated) 15 women were gassed.
- A few days later, an unknown number of women were murdered in the gas chamber.
- A few days after that, some 50 or 55 men were gassed in two or three turns.

As the total number of persons gassed was 86, the number of women gassed on the second occasion must have been between 16 and 21.

Declaration of 6 December 1945

- 26 women were gassed in mid-August of 1943.

- A second transport, consisting of men, arrived some time after that and was gassed 8 days after its arrival.
- Two to three weeks later, 30 men arrived who were killed 10 days later in the gas chamber.

It is difficult to understand why Pressac, who discards Kramer's statement of 26 July 1945 on account of an "obvious physical impossibility," would judge the statement made on 6 December of the same year to be credible. He explains:[495]

> *"Kramer proceeded as he related on 6 December 1945 in his second statement. There was, in fact, no other way in which the operation could have been carried out. The water poured into the funnel flowed upon a substance which had earlier been placed into the basin, and provoked the liberation of the 'hydrogen cyanide gas.'"*

The reason why Pressac speaks of "hydrogen cyanide gas" [*Gas Blausäure*] is that the SS-*Mann* Volkmar, who was on duty at Natzweiler, noted in his diary the entry "Gas Blausäure Prof. Hirt." Pressac presents photocopies of four pages of this diary, the entries on which have mostly been crossed out by ink or by pencil. No. 43 clearly has "Gas Blausäure," followed by two illegible words. No. 42 clearly shows the words "Prof. Hirt," but this obviously refers to a different entry. Moreover, these entries are undated. Thus they do not prove the gassings allegedly carried out by Kramer.

In the crematorium at the Natzweiler camp, there was a small chamber with two doors, which was incorrectly labelled "disinfection" by the French when they drew the plan of the crematorium in 1945. It was, no doubt, a Zyklon B disinfestation chamber.[496] The sequence of operations there was the same as in the Birkenau buildings 5a and 5b. Coming from the undressing room, the detainees entered a vestibule ("unclean" side), placed their garments there, entered the shower room next to the delousing chamber ("clean" side), scrubbed themselves, took back the disinfested garments, entered the dressing room and got dressed there. In the meantime, the garments were taken to the gas chamber by the "unclean" side, and after disinfestation they were removed from it from the "clean" side. The plan indicates that the chamber had two chimneys, one for the fresh-air feed from the outside, the other for the removal of the gas. The entry "Gas Blausäure" thus could easily have referred to this installation.

In an effort to provide a chemical explanation for the gassing mode he believes to be credible, Pressac refers to Georges Wellers. Schmaltz also refers to Wellers when writing that

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[495] Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), p. 6.
[496] *Ibid.*, p. 53.

> *"chemically speaking, two possibilities might be considered. Either the substance used at Natzweiler was potassium or sodium cyanide (KCN or NaCN) which reacts with water (H_2O) to yield hydrogen cyanide (HCN), or it was the calcium salt of hydrogen cyanide which is used in agriculture as a disinfestation agent under the name of 'Cyanogas.'"* (p. 313)

Wellers' assertion that KCN or NaCN reacts with water to release hydrogen cyanide is incorrect. These salts are soluble in water but dissociate only to a very limited degree, *i.e.* the solutions smell of hydrogen cyanide but the vapor pressure is too low to affect human beings.

Pressac[497] thinks that the flask with the salts

> *"could have been an inert combination of potassium cyanide, carefully mixed with a crystallized acid such as citric, oxalic, or tartaric acid, two substances which react only in an aqueous environment, or else the flask contained calcium cyanide which dissolves in water liberating hydrogen cyanide."*

If a dry and solid strong organic acid such as oxalic, citric or tartaric acid is mixed with an absolutely dry cyanide (such as KCN), nothing much will happen initially, except possibly a slow decomposition. A reaction will start only after an addition of water or under the influence of humidity in the air, *i.e.* the cyanide will be decomposed slowly and hydrogen cyanide will be released. In that case the victims could not have died after "about half a minute."

Of these substances, only "Cyanogas" was normally used as a disinfestation agent. It was the trade name of a product used by the Germans in the 1930s and 1940s. It was based on calcium cyanide which generates HCN gas when in contact with water according to the following reaction:[498]

$$Ca(CN)_2 + 2\ H_2O \rightarrow 2\ HCN + Ca(OH)_2$$

Calcium cyanide was produced in the form of 20 gram disks which were pulverized into particles 0.001 to 0.01 mm in size by means of a special device, whereupon they yielded hydrogen cyanide under the influence of the humidity of the air.[499] The alleged device at Natzweiler would have been unsuitable for this product, though.

The other substances would surely have yielded hydrogen cyanide gas, but it is highly improbable that the vapors would have developed fast enough to be fatal within half a minute.

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[497] *Ibid.*, p. 7.
[498] G. Peters, *op. cit.* (note 402), p. 66.
[499] *Ibid.*, pp. 67-70.

On the other hand, the pit in the floor of the gas chamber shows no outlet duct. It would have had to contain a porcelain vessel which Kramer, however, never mentions. How would the liquid substance which formed during the reaction have been disposed of? Would it really have been so difficult to connect the pit to the drain in the middle of the room, which was protected by a drain cover?

The question as to the substance used for the gassings is an essential one for a reason I shall explain below. Even if we assume that the killing system described by Kramer in his statement of 6 December 1945 was operational, it does not necessarily mean that the statements of the Natzweiler commander are credible, let alone true. For one thing, as I have already pointed out, he would have killed himself in this case as well on opening the door. In addition, this declaration is in contrast to the dates accepted by orthodox Holocaust historiography. In fact, Schmaltz writes that the 86 delinquents arrived at Natzweiler as a single group, on 2 August 1943 (p. 312), and not in several transports spaced out over several days.

Last but not least, the beginning of Kramer's declaration contradicts the contents of Hirt's letter of 14 July 1943, which says that "according to information from the camp commander [Kramer], a difficulty has arisen in that the material for gassing is not available." As I have pointed out earlier, there was a gas chamber at Natzweiler at that time, but according to Kramer the "material for gassing" was missing.

Yet according to Kramer's post-war declaration, the gas chamber did *not* yet exist a month later – in mid-August – so that Hirt "advised" Kramer to use toxic gas, and he even gave him the material!

Pressac has published two weekly reports concerning the camp strength, the first one covering the period of 7 through 14 August, the second one the period of 15 through 21 August. On 7 August, the column "Jews" has 90 persons, 30 of whom were registered as "deceased," with another 57 deceased Jews for the following period, which means that between 7 and 21 August 87 Jews died.[500] It would be extremely difficult to attribute these sudden deaths to a cause other than intentional killing, all the more so as this explanation agrees with the other documents cited.

As we have seen, the letter from *SS-Standartenführer* Sievers to Eichmann dated 21 June 1943 states that *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Dr. Bruno Beger had to stop his work on 15 June on account of the danger of an epidemic, after having selected 115 detainees – 79 Jews, two Poles, four Asians and 30 Jewish women at that time housed in quarantine.

The letter goes on to say that, for the further treatment of these persons, their immediate transfer to Natzweiler was imperative without any delay

[500] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), p. 70.

on account of the threat of an epidemic at Auschwitz. In order to prevent the typhus epidemic raging at Auschwitz from contaminating Natzweiler as well, clean and deloused garments for 80 men and 30 women would have to be shipped to Auschwitz immediately. At the same time, temporary housing for 30 women had to be arranged at Natzweiler.[476]

On 5 September 1944 Sievers wrote to Brandt in connection with the collection of Jewish skeletons:[501]

> *"In accordance with the proposal of 9 February 1942 and approval dated 23 February 1942 ref. 23.2.42 AR/493/37, the corresponding and so far missing selection of skeletons has been assembled by SS-Sturmbannführer professor Hirt."*

Now why did Kramer make such diverging statements? Pressac tried to answer this question as follows:[502]

> *"Early into his detention, Kramer felt that he was still bound to his superiors such as SS-Obergruppenführer Oswald Pohl by his oath of obedience and thought that it was his duty not to betray anything he might know. This would also explain why he gave to Major Jadin a false description of the gassing procedure during the Struthof trial. He did this on purpose because he believed that the gassing technique and the substances used in this connection actually were 'secrets' of the medical 'science' of the Third Reich. But later, having seen how his former superiors behaved in front of the Allied tribunals – some of them even committed suicide – he felt that he had been relieved from his oath, 'put his cards on the table' and gave quite honest replies. This is how the 'second versions' originated."* [It would be correct to say: "This is how the second version originated," *i.e*. the statement of 6 December 1945.]

To me this explanation seems a little laborious, because Kramer's declaration of 6 December 1945 is just as unreliable as the one given on 26 July of that year. It would seem that Kramer did not know anything about the gassing of these people and yielded to the pressure of the prosecution who was out to show that a special gas chamber had been built for the purpose of killing these Jews. It is inconceivable that such a primitive technique would indeed be considered a "secret." Moreover, even after "repenting," Kramer did not divulge the name of the substance used for the gassings. What is even less convincing, however, is the fact that the camp commander himself claims to have carried out the gassings!

As there was a gas chamber at the Natzweiler camp, with "measuring devices" which "permitted to measure the concentration of phosgene" (p. 314) and as the first experiments took place in June 1943 – according to

[501] *Ibid*., p. 24.
[502] *Ibid*., p. 8.

Schmaltz (p. 310) – the detainees selected for the skeleton collection could have been gassed there without any major problem. But then, why was it necessary to install a funnel and a pipe for the introduction of an unknown substance? As mentioned earlier, phosgene has a toxicity index of 450, in contrast to 1,000-4,000 for hydrogen cyanide. This means that it was considered to be roughly two to nine times more toxic than the latter, and the SS were certainly well familiar with this.

Faurisson mentions an "expertise by professor René Fabre, which said that he had not found any trace of cyanide, neither in the corpses [found at the anatomical institute at Strasburg] nor in the samples of the brickwork taken from the gas chamber or in their plasterwork."[503] Pressac confirms this at least partly:[504]

> *"At Struthof, the results were negative, something that was rather embarrassing."*

Referring to the letter of 14 July 1943 mentioned above, Schmaltz writes (p. 312):

> *"At the end of July 1943 'the corresponding substances' were handed over by the secretary of SS-Ahnenerbe, SS-Obersturmbannführer Wolf-Dietrich Wolff, to Hirt personally in Strasburg."*

In a footnote he adds that this letter is dated 30 July 1943, but quotes only the words "*die entsprechenden Stoffe*" (the corresponding substances).

My conclusion, therefore, is that the 86 Jews were indeed murdered at Natzweiler, most probably by means of gas, but in an existing gas chamber that had been built for experiments with phosgene gas.

Still, much remains mysterious. For one thing, one does not know when the 90 Jews who were interned at Natzweiler on 7 August 1943 had arrived there. It is unlikely that, of all the camp strength reports, the only two to have survived would be the ones mentioned by Pressac!

The Auschwitz *Kalendarium* mentions Professor Hirt for the last time under the date of 15 June 1943 in connection with the contents of the letter which Sievers wrote him on 21 June. No further documents exist on the subject of the transfer of the 86 or 87 Jews to Natzweiler (it is not clear why only 86 or 87 Jews out of those selected were sent to Natzweiler). This means that one can only surmise that they came from Auschwitz. This is corroborated at first sight by the fact that one of the corpses found towards the end of the Second World War at the anatomical institute of Strasburg university bore the number 107969 on its lower left arm. At Auschwitz, this number had been assigned to the detainee Menachem Taf-

[503] R. Faurisson, *op. cit.* (note 488), p. 253.
[504] J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 74), p. 12.

fel.[505] But if the photograph of this number is compared with an undoubtedly genuine Auschwitz tattoo,[506] one can see that it was inscribed in ink or indelible pencil rather than as a tattoo.

On the subject of the work carried out in the gas chamber according to the construction reports, it is probable that their purpose was to modify the chamber from one for non-fatal phosgene tests to one in which the victims could be killed. The only specific job mentioned concerns the lengthening of the chimney duct and its fixation by means of a clamp.

Towards the end of his article, Schmaltz writes that, while the gas chamber at Natzweiler was linked "to criminal scientific purposes," it had not served the same purpose as the "gas chambers in the extermination camps at Kulmhof, Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka, Majdanek or Auschwitz-Birkenau, in which thousands of inmates were murdered" (p. 315).

If taken seriously, the history of the gassings at Natzweiler – by means of those unknown compounds (letters of 14 and 30 July 1943) or the alleged use of this mysterious substance (claimed by Kramer) as well as the gas chamber's claimed primitive equipment – shows merely that the Natzweiler SS guards knew nothing about mass murders by gas in other camps. From the viewpoint of orthodox Holocaust historiography, this is all the more astonishing as the victims came from Auschwitz, the purported model of all "extermination camps." The correspondence preceding the Natzweiler killings contains no indications concerning the Auschwitz gassing procedure which, logically, should have been applied also at Natzweiler – if orthodox Holocaust historiography were really based on facts. The letters do not speak of Zyklon B; they don't mention the assignment of an Auschwitz "specialist" to Natzweiler; or the dispatch of a Natzweiler guard to Auschwitz so that he may familiarize himself with the alleged gas chambers there (such as SS-*Oberscharführer* Anton Enders was allegedly sent from Majdanek to Auschwitz to learn there how to gas human beings). This is all the more remarkable as the Natzweiler gas chamber could easily have been used with Zyklon B, possessing, as it did, a small window below the chimney, which merely would have had to be furnished with a hermetic shutter to obtain a perfect orifice for feeding Zyklon B granules.

Without the need of breaking any holes into the walls, the room could also have been turned into a gas chamber of the type allegedly used in the euthanasia centers. It would have sufficed to hook up a pipe to the slightly enlarged peep-hole and connect the pipe to a cylinder of carbon monoxide. Another possible way would have been to connect it to the exhaust pipe of a gasoline engine, such as was allegedly the case in some of the "Aktion

[505] *Ibid*., pp. 16 & 77 (photos 5 & 6).
[506] See document 8.

Reinhardt" camps, or to set up a gas generator using wood as a fuel. In any case, it would have been possible to bring in one of those gas vans which were ubiquitous, if we are to believe the authors of this collective volume.

So why didn't the SS guards use any of those techniques, well-tested as they allegedly were by gigantic mass killings?

It is possible that the murders were committed by means of phosgene. The fact that experiments with this chemical warfare agent were secret could also explain the cautious formulations found in the two letters. The contradictions and absurdities in Kramer's declarations indicate that he was not present during the killings. If he did say so later on, he must have acted under pressure.

15. The Mysterious Gas Chamber at Dachau

The last part of the anthology discussed here exhibits a specifically anti-revisionist tendency and claims to refute the revisionists. This results already from the title "The 'gas chamber lie' in the international revisionist propaganda" ("Die 'Gaskammer-Lüge' in der internationalen revisionistischen Propaganda") which is meant to discredit revisionist research as mere "propaganda."

The first contribution of this part of the series comes from Barbara Distel and is entitled "The gas chamber in 'Baracke X' of the Dachau concentration camp and the 'Dachau lie'," ("Die Gaskammer in der 'Baracke X' des Konzentrationslagers Dachau und die 'Dachau-Lüge'"; pp. 337-342). It begins as follows (p. 337):

> *"In the spring of 1942, the construction of a new crematory in line with the plans of the SS was started at Dachau – designated as 'Baracke X' by the SS, because the capacity of the crematorium erected in 1940 was no longer sufficient in view of the high mortality in the camp, caused in particular by the execution of thousands of Soviet PoWs. The new crematorium was equipped with a gas chamber."*

Distel continues (p. 338):

> *"The question of whether people were actually murdered by poison gas in the gas chamber installed in this crematorium has not yet been answered with certainty; the sources in this respect are poor, and this has not changed in the 25 years which have passed since the first scientific inventory on 'Nazi Mass Murders.'"*

For this reason, Distel tells us, the "date of the termination and/or the start-up of the gas chamber is still unclear" (footnote 8 on p. 338), in spite of the fact that, at Dachau, "in the early 1960s an intensive search for relia-

ble sources was carried out in the area of the former camp as part of the creation of a memorial" (footnote 6 on p. 338).

The author tells us that, in the opinion of some orthodox historians, the alleged gas chamber was built in connection with the execution of Soviet PoWs, but adds (p. 339):

> *"The question as to why the gas chamber, presumably erected in the spring of 1943, was not used for executions according to what we know today must remain unresolved just like the question whether the gas chamber was possibly used for individual killing actions."*

While evidence is said to exist to the effect that "during the construction of Baracke X" the infamous Dr. Siegmund Rascher considered using "the gas chamber for the testing of deadly combat gases," this has "not been ascertained unambiguously to the present day," although it "could not be excluded" either (p. 339). This is really beating about the bush in the true sense of the word.

Distel refers to the well-known statement of the former detainee Franz Bláha dated 3 May 1945 (PS-3249), in which he claimed personally to have seen gassed victims, but she then admits that "evidence for the killing of people in the Dachau gas chamber does not exist in this case either." Just as unresolved, in her opinion, is the question why the alleged gas chamber "was not used during the last months of the war for the murder of the sick and the weak, as was the case in other camps which possessed such killing installations."

In what way Distel's article is aimed at the revisionists is made clear only on p. 341. She writes that, in the early 1960s, the *Deutsche Soldaten-Zeitung und National-Zeitung* "again and again reported extensively about the alleged 'gas chamber lie' at Dachau." Over and over again new witnesses had appeared "who claimed that, after the liberation of the concentration camp, they had been forced by the American military authorities to set up a gas chamber in the existing crematorium of the camp." She also states that, according to these claims, the furnaces of the crematorium had been faked after the war and that the furnaces in the crematorium and the gas chamber had been blended into the expression 'gas ovens.'

Distel then writes about Martin Broszat's much-cited letter to the editor of the German weekly *Die Zeit*, published on 19 August 1960 under the title "No gassing at Dachau" ("Keine Vergasung in Dachau") and adds that "the revisionists" (it would have been better to say "*some* revisionists") had distorted its contents and had claimed falsely that Martin Broszat had contested in a general way the existence of gas chambers on the territory of the *Altreich*, *i.e.* Germany in the borders of 1937 (which, in fact, he did not do).

All this is well known. What is less well known is that Martin Broszat wrote his letter in reply to a front page article in *Die Zeit* by Robert Strobel, in which he "implicitly painted as a fact the assertion that mass killings by poison gas had been carried out in the Dachau gas chamber and moreover created the impression that the victims had been Jewish" (p. 314). In this article, Robert Strobel had attacked the former Wehrmacht general Martin Unrein, a "proto-denier" who had labeled the gas chamber as an ordinary shower room. The meaningless notion of "gas ovens" was introduced into the discussion by Robert Strobel himself:[507]

> *"For him* [General Unrein]*, it was not Hitler's victims who were burned in the Dachau gas ovens but the corpses of the German SS-soldiers who had died at Dachau."*

The article mentioned by Distel actually appeared only on 7 January 1966 (since 1963 the title of the newspaper has simply been *Deutsche Nationalzeitung*). It was written by H. Berger and was entitled "Rumors about Dachau." It said that the SS guards, interned at Dachau, had been forced by the Americans to build "new and larger gas ovens" – which, of course, is incorrect.

Distel indicates that, in 1945, the local U.S. military authorities had erected a sign in front of the crematorium which spoke of 238,000 victims having been incinerated in this building (p. 340). Paul Rassinier, who published a photograph of this sign, wrote:[508]

> *"In a lecture presented on 3 January 1946 and published in Stuttgart by Franz M. Hellbach under the title 'The road to freedom,' Pastor Niemöller asserted that '238,756 people were burnt' at Dachau, more than had ever been interned there."*

Although this claim was actually not made by Pastor Niemöller, the poster outside of the crematorium did indeed say:[509]

> *"In the years between 1933 and 1945, 238,756 people were burnt here."*

Let me remind my readers that the correct figure is 27,839 (cf. chapter 11).

At this point, it is interesting to read what is asserted in the first official American report about Dachau – prepared in May of 1945 by Colonel William W. Quinn of the 7th Army – in the section entitled "Executions":[510]

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[507] R. Strobel, "Weg mit ihm!" in *Die Zeit*, no. 33, 12 August 1960; see www.zeit.de/1960/33/weg-mit-ihm.

[508] P. Rassinier, *La menzogna di Ulisse*, Le Rune, Milan 1961, p. 334.

[509] M. Niemöller, *Der Weg ins Freie*. Stuttgart 1946, p. 19.

[510] Brochure with the title "Dachau." GARF, 7021-115.17, p. 33; cf. www.scribd.com/doc/36088795/Dachau.

"GAS CHAMBERS: The internees who were brought to Camp Dachau for the sole purpose of being executed were in most cases Jews and Russians. They were brought into the compound, lined up near the gas chambers, and were screened in a similar manner as internees who came to Dachau for imprisonment. Then they were marched to a room and told to undress. Everyone was given a towel and a piece of soap, as though they were about to take a shower. During this whole screening process, no hint was ever given that they were to be executed, for the routine was similar upon the arrival of all internees at the camp.

Then they entered the gas chamber. Over the entrance, in large black letters, was written 'Brause Bad' (showers). There were about 15 shower faucets suspended from the ceiling from which gas was then released. There was one large chamber, capacity of which was 200, and five smaller gas chambers, capacity of each being 50. It took approximately 10 minutes for the execution. From the gas chamber, the door led to the Krematory[sic] *to which the bodies were removed by internees who were selected for the job. The dead bodies were then placed in 5 furnaces, two to three bodies at a time."*

Numerous other statements by witnesses on the subject of the alleged gas chamber have been collected by Robert Faurisson.[511]

In the same way as in all other camps, the story of the Dachau gas chambers was a reaction to the harrowing scenes the Americans and the British saw and recorded on film on their arrival. Distel writes (p. 337):

"In front of the [crematorium] *building, as well as in the so-called morgue, there were piles of naked corpses that it had been impossible to throw into the mass grave near-by. That is where the dead had been taken in the last weeks before the liberation, as there was no longer any fuel for the incineration of the corpses in the cremation furnaces."*

It was clear to the U.S. propaganda staff that these poor people must have been murdered in a gas chamber. This version was all the easier to sell as there existed – in front of the crematorium – four genuine Zyklon B circulation disinfestation chambers (plus an empty one, without any equipment, which was probably used for the storage of the Zyklon B cans). As we have seen, these chambers would be presented as homicidal gas chambers in the official American report on Dachau prepared in May of 1945.

During the Dachau trial (15 November through 13 December 1945) it was explicitly recorded:[512]

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[511] F.A. Leuchter *et al.*, *op cit.* (note 21), pp. 149-158.

[512] *Law Reports of Trials of War Criminals*. Published for the United Nations War Crimes Commission by His Majesty's Stationery Office. London 1949, vol. 11, p. 5;

> *"A typhus epidemic was raging at the camp from December, 1944, until the liberation of the camp by American troops in April, 1945. Approximately 15,000 prisoners died of typhus during this period."*

Hence, Distel's "refutation" of the revisionists rests on very shaky ground and is most confused. On the one hand, she hints – without explaining for what reason – that the room in question had actually been a homicidal gas chamber, on the other hand she admits four times (pp. 338, 338f., 340, 341) that there is no evidence showing that killings were actually carried out in these chambers. Does this not entitle a person to accuse those who present the alleged gassings at Dachau as established historical facts of "fraud" and "cheating"?

The unreliability of witness statements is clearly shown by the statements of the former Dachau detainee Eugen Seibold, who declared the following on 10 November 1945:[513]

> *"Gaskammer. I have never seen a person gassed in the gas chamber. Initially, the gas chamber was arranged differently from the way it looks today. Rows* [of showers] *running parallel to the floor, as in a shower room; it is assumed that they sprayed gas. It was only later, roughly a year ago, that the ceiling with the fake shower heads was put in. The reason was that the gas used arrived in the form of granules. It was thought that the entry of the steam heated by the furnaces took place above the false ceiling where the granules were dissolved by the steam, upon which they left through the shower heads and killed the people."*

The false ceiling with the fake shower heads, however, could not have been installed a year earlier – *i.e.* in late 1944. In fact, Fred Leuchter has stressed that the alleged gas chamber, according to a document presented by the U.S. prosecutors at Nuremberg, had a height of "10 feet," a little over three meters, whereas its present height is about 2.15 meters. The document in question states that the gas "was fed into the chamber through perforated pipes attached to the ceiling, which ended in brass fittings."[514]

If this Nuremberg document does indeed describe the state of the room at the time, it is clear that the false ceiling with the fake shower heads was put in only after the end of the war. The historian Hellmut Diwald, mentioned by Distel towards the end of her article, was therefore absolutely right when he talked about "*Attrappen*" (mockups) which were fabricated by the Americans. It would be nice if Mrs. Distel would explain why they did this.

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www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/Law-Reports_Vol-11.pdf.

[513] AKfSD, 767, p. 87.

[514] "Atrocities and other conditions in concentration camps in Germany." Report to the U.S. Congress of 15 May 1945; L-159; IMT, vol. XXXVII, p. 621.

Photographs 8 – 12 show the state of the crematorium in December of 1990. The arcade in front of the crematorium contains four Degesch circulation disinfestation chambers (photograph 8). The entrance to the alleged gas chamber shows the famous inscription "*Brausebad*" (shower room, photograph 9). As can also be seen from the inside (photograph 10), the steel door is the standard air-raid shelter door, just as the door of the alleged gas chamber at Mauthausen, with the minor difference that the door at Dachau did not have a peep-hole. Photograph 11 shows the false ceiling with the fake shower heads. From the time this building had been accessible after the former camp's conversion to a museum up to the 1990s, a sign was standing in that room announcing in five languages "Gas chamber – camouflaged as a shower room – was never in operation" (photograph 12).

On a more detailed critical analysis of the alleged gas chamber of Dachau see the most recent edition of *The Leuchter Reports: Critical Edition* as well as Thomas Dalton's paper "Reexamining the 'Gas Chamber' of Dachau".[515]

16. Holocaust-Propaganda against Revisionism

On the subject of Robert Jan van Pelt's article "For want of a nail, or considerations on how history must not be rewritten" ("Weil ein Nagel fehlte oder Überlegungen, wie Geschichte nicht umgeschrieben werden darf"; pp. 343-354) I have already laid down my reservations in chapter 7. The subsequent contribution by Brigitte Bailer-Galanda, "Holocaust denial in Austria. On the history of right-wing extremism in Austria" ("Holocaust-Leugnung in Österreich. Zur Geschichte des Rechtsextremismus in Österreich") discusses briefly the main representatives of revisionism in Austria (Franz Scheidl, Gerd Honsik, Walter Lüftl, Wolfgang Fröhlich), limiting herself by and large to the latest repressive measures taken against them by the authorities and without in the least trying to sum up their arguments, let alone attempting to refute them.

The article "Negationism as a pseudoscientific cloak for anti-Semitism" ("Negationismus als pseudowissenschaftliche Tarnung des Antisemitismus"; pp. 366-381) by a certain Jean-Yves Camus was apparently planned as a comprehensive refutation of "negationism," but its very title announces that the reader will encounter nothing but a political polemic. As a matter of fact, this contribution turns out to be nothing but a rehashed version

[515] Thomas Dalton, "Reexamining the 'Gas Chamber' of Dachau," *Inconvenient History*, 3(4) (2011), http://www.inconvenienthistory.com/3/4/3162.

of the traditional anti-revisionist propaganda along the lines of the late French-Jewish historian Pierre Vidal-Naquet.

If one listens to Camus, negationism "takes recourse to conspiracy theories," which makes it "inherently anti-Semitic." I do not have to stress that the mandatory reference to the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" also figures here; after all, Deborah Lipstadt herself had construed a fictional relationship between this pamphlet and revisionism, a mirage later on perfected by Valentina Pisanty in Italy.[516]

The alleged "conspiracy theory" seems to have become the true obsession of poor Mister Camus, as he always returns to this topic (pp. 367-370). The main characteristic of this propaganda is a most interesting psychological phenomenon: People like Camus assign to revisionism the very methods they themselves are employing and the blind dogmatism which shapes their own patterns of reasoning. Camus deplores the fact that the revisionists are acting in a universe "largely removed from reality and based on a quasi-theological conviction." Ever since the 1980s, he says, they have appeared "as a genuine sect, with their own dogmas, high priests and faithful believers" (p. 373). Actually, it is just the other way around: the "quasi-theological" dogmatism of which Camus accuses the revisionists found its most poignant expression in the famous declaration by 34 leading French intellectuals of 1979:[517]

> *"One must not ask how such a mass murder was technically possible. It was technically possible because it took place. This is the mandatory starting point of any historical approach to this question. We must underline this simple truth: there is no debate about the existence of the gas chambers and there must not be one."*

Several authors, especially the Italian writer Gianantonio Valli,[518] have underlined that the present belief in the Holocaust is, in effect, a secular religion or "superstition." This belief has its own

- Crucifixion (the Jewish people as a collective Messiah),
- Lamb of God (the victims slaughtered by the Nazis),
- Priests (the Holocaust historians),
- Cathedrals and Churches (Holocaust Museums and Memorials),
- Holy Days (the "Day of Remembrance," 27 January),
- Saints (like Elie Wiesel and Yisrael Meir Lau)

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[516] See my study *Teoria e prassi del anti-"Negazionismo." Da Pierre Vidal-Naquet a Valentina Pisanty*, Effepi, Genoa 2011.

[517] P. Vidal-Naquet *et al.*, "La politique hitlérienne d'extermination: une déclaration d'historiens," in: *Le Monde*, 21 February 1979, p. 23.

[518] See Gianantonio Valli, *Holocaustica Religio. Fondamenti di un paradigma*. Effepi, Genoa 2007.

- Prophets (the eye-witnesses whose statements of what they saw cannot be questioned),
- Pilgrimages (to the former German concentration camps)
- Inquisition (the media that enforces Holocaust orthodoxy),
- Excommunication (anathema will be pronounced against revisionist heretics)
- Prosecutorial Arm (secular laws and law-courts that punish revisionist utterances),
- Zealots (like French existential writer Albert Camus, and Abe Foxman), and
- The Faithful (the unquestioning believers of Holocaust propaganda).

Another standard feature of this crude propaganda is the assertion that all revisionists are poorly-camouflaged anti-Semites or Nazis whose only objective is the "rehabilitation of Nazism" (p. 373). This fictional notion goes back to Vidal-Naquet, and its only aim is to discredit revisionism. Near the end of his text, Camus blames the revisionists for harboring an "extreme, almost obscene hatred" (p. 381) – the very quality which he himself exhibits towards his opponents.

With respect to revisionist websites, Camus notes with obvious displeasure (p. 376) that in the USA, "the legal situation is complicated [sic] by the freedom of opinion guaranteed by the First Amendment." In line with all dogmatists of his ilk, Mr. Camus feels that the principle of freedom of opinion is just an unnecessary complication of the matter.

Even orthodox Holocaust propaganda is projected onto revisionism. According to Camus, the latter puts on a "pseudo-academic cloak" and acts behind a "pseudo-scientific façade" (p. 367); its representatives are "pseudo-scientists" (p. 373) – boomerang arguments which backfire onto their originators.

Perhaps the most descriptive example of the fraudulent methods used by Camus is his assertion on page 367:

> *"Trying to maintain respectability and to hide their true intentions, many negationists call themselves 'revisionists.' As opposed to this, the 'genuine revisionists' do not doubt the Nazi genocide as such, but only the number of victims claimed."*

Among the "genuine revisionists," Camus counts people like Ernst Nolte, who were labeled as such during the west-German "Historians' Dispute" of 1986/87. Camus knows perfectly well that, at that time, *genuine* revisionists had existed for at least a decade. If anyone is trying to "hide their true intentions," it was the historians of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is well-known that silly expressions like "negationists" or "Holo-

caust deniers" were coined later – not to distinguish the genuine revisionists from the others, but to discredit them.

Camus presents a brief account of the history of revisionism, claiming – like another Holocaust propagandist, Deborah Lipstadt,[519] before him – that the founder of "negationism" was the French writer Maurice Bardèche (p. 368). It is an established fact, however, that Bardèche, an avowed fascist, while severely criticizing the Nuremberg Trial, explicitly recognized the veracity of the extermination of the Jews.[520] It is also well known that the first revisionist was in fact Paul Rassinier, a socialist and member of the French *Résistance* interned at the Buchenwald camp during the war, but he does not fit very well into the dogma that revisionism has "anti-Semitic" and "Nazi" origins. In such a situation it is easier to nominate the fascist Bardèche to the post of Ancestor of Revisionism.

At least Camus calls some revisionist authors by their names, but cheats here and there in doing so. Following in the footsteps of Deborah Lipstadt, he does not shy away from listing the alleged "eight theses of negationist doctrine" as formulated by a practically unknown American author, Austin App. He devotes more than half a page to this nonsense, while consecrating barely a few lines to Germar Rudolf, one of the key figures of revisionism: On p. 367, the reader learns that Rudolf is a chemist, and on p. 373 that he lived in the U.S. until 2005 and was then deported. Not a word about the fact that, at that time, he was deported to Germany where he was sentenced to further 30 months in prison on 15 March 2007 on account of renewed infringements of the Holocaust dogma.[521]

Camus consecrates three lines to the Swiss revisionist Jürgen Graf (p. 375). I myself am mentioned on the same page, together with Claudio Moffa, as representatives of Italian revisionism. Here, too, Camus plays with a stacked deck: Claudio Moffa, professor at the University of Teramo, is not a revisionist researcher, not even a self-confessed revisionist. He is merely a "heretic," courageous enough to classify the Holocaust as a historical topic like so many others, which can be debated and critically questioned.

Cheating reaches its peak when David Irving is called "without doubt the most famous revisionist in Europe" (p. 375). It is well-known that all serious revisionists regard David Irving merely as a pseudo-revisionist. This is particularly true after David Irving's pronouncement regarding the

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[519] Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust*, Free Press, New York 1994, p. 49.
[520] Maurice Bardèche, *Nuremberg et la Terre Promise*, Les sept couleurs, Paris 1948, p. 187.
[521] Already in 1995 Rudolf had been sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment for his chemical research in Auschwitz, but he had to serve this time only after his deportation from the U.S. in 2005. On 5 July 2009 Germar Rudolf was released from prison.

alleged "eastern extermination camps."[522] Moreover, Irving has never even published a single article dealing with the persecution of the Jews, let alone written a book about this matter. But because of his rather overt sympathy for National Socialism and of the libel suit he filed – and lost – against Deborah Lipstadt in 2000, Irving is a convenient bogeyman for propagandists like Camus, against whom they can vent their wrath.

The pseudo-scientific and clumsily propagandistic nature of Camus's article becomes also apparent in that he makes no attempt whatsoever at presenting a critical analysis of revisionism. He does mention the occasional revisionist title, but never wastes even a single word on the arguments presented in these texts. Without giving any evidence, he declares that revisionism is "pseudo-scientific" in a way used to pronounce an anathema. In other words, it is he, Jean-Yves Camus, who claims to be the guardian of absolute truth, thus assuming the right to prohibit any discussion *a priori* and deciding *ex cathedra* that anyone who does not believe whole-heartedly in the dogmas of the Holocaust religion is automatically wrong. He uses this dogmatic approach as an excuse to not even read the most important revisionist works, let alone to analyze them – after all, the high priests of the Holocaust creed, Pierre Vidal-Naquet in particular, have set down the truth, once and for all. Since the latter and most reverend of the lot published his Papal Bull against revisionism as early as 1987,[523] his followers refuse to say anything about the revisionist texts which have appeared later, in spite of the enormous surge which scientific revisionism has experienced after the mid-1990s.

This can easily be documented. In his first footnote on p. 366, Camus presents a "general bibliography on negationism" prepared by John A. Drobnicki. It lists 37 revisionist books, articles and journals from the following periods:

1950-1959: 1
1960-1969: 1
1970-1979: 16
1980-1989: 15
1990-1999: 2

In addition, there is the undated "Letter to the Pope" by Léon Degrelle (written in 1979), as well as the U.S. newspaper "*The Spotlight*" (1975 – 2002). Among the authors mentioned, one finds totally or relatively unknown names such as Alfred Eris, Benjamin H. Freedman, Joseph Halow und Malcolm Ross as well as some second-order revisionists of the

[522] J. Graf, "David Irving and the *Aktion Reinhardt* Camps," in: *Inconvenient History*, vol. I, 2009, pp. 149-175.
[523] Pierre Vidal-Naquet, *Les assassins de la mémoire*, La Découverte, Paris 1987.

1970s.[524] Aside from three titles in French, only English language literature is considered (even the writings of the four German authors mentioned are listed in their English translation). Drobnicki's article appeared in 1998, but Camus mentions an internet version (footnote 1 on p. 366) which ends on 16 August 2006 and does not mention in any way the most important revisionist works which have appeared since the 1990s. Does anyone need more evidence for the propagandistic and unscientific mentality of the anti-revisionists?

Let us review briefly the lies used by Holocaust propagandists in their fight against revisionism. According to Camus, this revisionist view

- is by nature anti-Semitic and attempts to rehabilitate National Socialism;
- is nothing but camouflaged anti-Semitism;
- is a false and consequently pseudo-scientific doctrine.

This means that revisionism is heresy and thus does not have the right to exist. It goes without saying that Camus and his cronies have never presented any proof for their assertions in this respect! They have never tried to critically analyze and refute the most important revisionist texts. As opposed to this, revisionist authors have on several occasion discussed in detail the most important books published by their antagonists.[525]

It is quite obvious that Camus and his ilk want to hide their inability to face revisionists – at least the most important of them – at eye-level. The more helpless they feel in this regard, the more they resort to invectives and the louder they call for the police in an effort to silence their accursed opponents. They are careful to avoid any debate and hence cannot even refer to certain anti-revisionist internet bloggers who are at least trying to refute what the revisionists have to say. The fact is that the arguments of

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[524] On Eris see his book *Lucy Dawidowicz and the "Holocaust Industry."* Dawn Publishing, Dollared des Ormeaux, Quebec, 1984; on Freedman see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_H._Freedman as well as his article "Six Million Jew Hoax" in: *Common Sense*, 1 May 1959, p. 4; on Halow see his book on the U.S. show trials at Dachau during the immediate postwar years: *Innocent at Dachau*, Institute for Historical Review, Newport Beach, CA, 1993; on Ross see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_Ross_(school_teacher) as well as his book *Web of Deceit*, Stronghold Publishing, Moncton, New Brunswick, 1978.

[525] For instance: G. Rudolf (ed.), *Auschwitz: Plain Facts. A Response to Jean-Claude Pressac*, reprint, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010 (the first, German edition appeared in 1996); J. Graf, *The Giant with Feet of Clay—Raul Hilberg and His Standard Work on the "Holocaust,"* Theses & Dissertations Press, Capshaw, AL, 2001 (the first German edition appeared in 1999); G. Rudolf, C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz Lies: Legends, Lies, and Prejudices on the Holocaust*, 2nd ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011 (the first German edition appeared in 2005); C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: The Case for Sanity. A Historical and Technical Study of Jean-Claude Pressac's 'Criminal Traces' and Robert Jan van Pelt's 'Convergence of Evidence,'* The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.

these bloggers are so poorly put together that not even the participants of the Oranienburg meeting take them seriously, even though these participants are quite willing to use internet sources. In a huge two-volume tome we recently finished off those bloggers – who are more accurately called Holoplagiarizers – by teaching them a harsh lesson in historical methods which encompasses the entire Holocaust historiography.[526]

Hajo Funke's article "The gas chamber lie in the revisionist propaganda in Germany and Austria" ("Die 'Gaskammer-Lüge' in der revisionistischen Propaganda in Deutschland und Österreich"; pp. 329-393) contains a remark on one of my articles which I have already addressed in chapter 10. The contents of Funke's paper as such are of such deplorable quality that I shall refrain from answering it.

Therkel Stræde's contribution "Lone wolves against the Holocaust. The gas chamber denial in Denmark" ("Einzelkämpfer gegen den Holocaust. Gaskammer-Leugnung in Dänemark"; pp. 394-402) is in no way better, although it does mention a few persons who are more or less inclined towards revisionism but who are totally unknown outside of Denmark. When reading the article, though, it becomes apparent that the Danes are vastly more tolerant towards their own dissidents than the French, the Germans and the Austrians are towards theirs, and that in Denmark freedom of opinion exists even for avowed National Socialists.

Just as devoid of any significance is the article written by Thomas Skelton-Robinson, "New tendencies of Holocaust denial in North America" ("Neue Tendenzen der Holocaust-Leugnung in Nordamerika"; pp. 403-411). In line with Camus, Skelton-Robinson makes no bones about his contempt for free speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. constitution (p. 404). He dismisses the revisionists' defense of this general principle as a kind of abuse (p. 405):

> *"The wide-spread inclination to defend the unrestricted right of free speech has been periodically appropriated and used by the agitators of Holocaust denial."*

In order to deny the revisionists their right to free speech, Skelton-Robinson employs the usual slogans of orthodox Holocaust propaganda (p. 412):

> *"The denial of the Holocaust is, in its essence, nothing but yet another variant of anti-Semitism."*

It follows, quite naturally, that the true objective of the revisionists is the "rehabilitation of the Third Reich and National Socialism" (p. 411). As I have already pointed out, this is nothing but a threadbare excuse to avoid

[526] I refer to the 1500+ pages of Mattogno, Graf, Kues, *op. cit.* (note 40), long PDF version online, see www.holocausthandbooks.com/dl/28-tecoar-long.pdf.

a discussion of the revisionist arguments, against which the orthodox Holocaust ideologues seem to be powerless.

Nobody will argue against Skelton-Robinson's assertion that the revisionist movement, numerically speaking, is "minute" – but why is it necessary to organize an international meeting and to publish the proceedings in a heavy anthology in order to fight it? Why are laws needed to suppress it? Why do orthodox historians have to make use of the most blatant distortions and to project onto the revisionists the most sinister motives?

The last chapter of this anthology is an article by Matthias Heyl with the title "Denial of National Socialist crimes as an educational problem for memorial sites" ("Leugnung der nationalsozialistischen Verbrechen als gedenkstättenpädagogisches Problem"; pp. 415-424) which is not any more significant than the preceding chapters. One can only marvel at the way these "scientists" are beating about the bush and fire away with empty slogans without ever even touching on the really important issues. Who are the most important representatives of revisionism today? What do they have to say? Are their arguments well-founded or not? If they are unfounded, how can they be refuted? All these questions are disarmingly simple, but these splendid scientists do not have the guts to ask them. When seen in this light, the claim "to develop strategies against denial" (p. 415f.) is nothing but hot air.

Even if Matthias Heyl's article consists mainly of meaningless cant, it does entail an important piece of information: On 22 August 2002 a man was sentenced to six months in prison for having "denied," *i.e.* contested, the existence of the gas chamber at Ravensbrück (p. 418). As we have seen, there is not a single document lending credence to the existence of this alleged gas chamber. There are no photographs or material remains. For this reason, the French historian Olga Wormser-Migot, a writer of Jewish descent, declared this gas chamber to be a myth as early as 1968. But, hold it – there are the "witnesses," those prophets of the Holocaust religion, who do not describe but invent the erstwhile "reality." For the followers of the Holocaust religion, any heretic who is insolent enough to cast a critical light on the assertions of these saintly "witnesses" must indeed be put behind bars!

17. Conclusion

The anthology *Neue Studien zu nationalsozialistischen Massentötungen durch Giftgas* claims to refute revisionism. In doing so, it repeats the orthodox Holocaust dogmas about the Holocaust as handed down by their

predecessors and at once attempts to reinforce these dogmas by claiming to refute revisionism. Both aspects are present in some of the articles, whereas towards its end the book specifically aims at confronting revisionism.

Let us first consider the second aspect, *i.e.* the evidence that the authors of the book present to support the officially sanctioned version of history. In spite of the fact that in a number of cases they were able to use sources which were made available only recently, they have not succeeded in presenting a scientifically sound demonstration of their theses. Instead of such a demonstration, they offer the credo of a new and dogmatic historiography which no longer has to be proved because, according to the unfathomable mysteries of this creed, everything has already been shown to be true. Questions which are absolutely fundamental remain unanswered, for example the manner in which the alleged gas chambers using engine exhaust gases or Zyklon B evolved from the alleged carbon monoxide chambers in the euthanasia centers, or the genesis and the evolution of the "gas vans" of the first and the second generation. Instead, the authors arbitrarily link fictitious events created by the congress participants, which are based exclusively on contradictory witness statements that have been cleaned of their most blatant absurdities.

Another fundamental problem which the participants of the Oranienburg meeting have not even touched upon is the mythical "Führer order" to eradicate the Jews. The existence of such an order is tacitly – or shall we say, dogmatically – assumed. The gas chambers, whose existence remains to be demonstrated, are said to have been used in order to carry out an industrialized genocide, but nobody can say who ordered it at what time and for what reason.

Just as unexplored is a third question of equal importance: the choice of the various killing methods allegedly employed when implementing such a policy. In the euthanasia centers, carbon monoxide in steel cylinders is claimed to have been used; in some of the "*Aktion Reinhardt*" camps it was exhaust gas from gasoline and/or diesel engines; in Auschwitz and a few other camps it was Zyklon B, as against gas vans in Chełmno, in Serbia and behind the Russian front; and a hodge-podge of means is claimed for Majdanek. In spite of all the frantic efforts of the authors of the anthology to come up with a virtual relationship between all these widely diverging killing methods, recurring to the German Institute of Forensic Investigation as a kind of *deus ex machina*, or by conjuring up a fictitious meeting of concentration camp commanders at Sachsenhausen, the critical reader ends up having the impression that the implementation of the alleged genocide had been left to the discretion of the local SS staff who, though acting

without overall coordination, were still linked by means of three different chains of command, which were all independent of one another.

These orthodox historians attempt to demonstrate a horrifying mass murder carried out in chemical slaughterhouses in spite of the total lack of documentary proof and, for many camps, even the lack of any circumstantial evidence. This clearly demonstrates both their credulity and ideological blindness as well as their resounding disregard for elementary scientific principles. Exemplary in this regard is the way in which they rely exclusively on witness statements which they have selected and cleaned of the most nonsensical passages.

Even those chapters which at least merit discussion are superficially and hastily written; sources are often not indicated, with many cross-references among the authors, leading to a sterile vicious circle.

I have summarized the situation regarding the source material for the existence of the alleged homicidal gas chambers and "gas van" in Table 8.

Table 8: Locations Where Poison Gases Were Allegedly Used for Homicides, Types of Gas Used and Number of Victims

LOCATION	TYPE OF CHAMBER	POISON†	VICTIMS	DOCUMENTS	MATERIAL TRACES*
USSR	≥ 30 "Gas vans"	Engine exhaust	250,000 (p. 24)	None	None
Chełmno	2 or 3 "Gas vans"	Engine exhaust	152,477 (p. 183)	None	None
Other sites‡	≥ 1 "Gas van"	Engine exhaust	97,500	None	None
Bełżec	3, later 6 gas chambers	Engine exhaust	435,000 (p. 24)	None	None
Sobibór	3, later 6 gas chambers	Engine exhaust	150,000-250,000 (p. 24)	None	None
Treblinka	3, later 6 or 10 gas chambers	Engine exhaust	800,000-1,100,000 (p. 24)	None	None
Euthanasia centers	6 centers	CO	70,273 (p. 84)	None	None
Lublin-Majdanek	3 gas chambers	CO & HCN	12,200 (p. 227)	None	Present
Mauthausen	Gas chamber(s)	HCN	3,500 (p. 25)	None	Present
Sachsenhausen	1 gas chamber	Zyklon A (?)	Thousands (pp. 271f.)	None	None
Ravensbrück	1 gas chamber	HCN	5-6,000 (p. 25)	None	None
Neuengamme	1 (6?) gas chamber(s)	HCN	448 (pp. 289, 292)	None	None
Stutthof	1 gas chamber	HCN	1,150 (p. 25)	None	Present
Dachau	1 gas chamber	(HCN)	0	None	Present

† Exhaust gases from gasoline or diesel engines; CO: from steel cylinders; HCN: from Zyklon B.
‡ Serbia (Semlin), Majdanek, Auschwitz, Mauthausen; Number of victims is the difference between the two figures directly above.
* Buildings, rooms, equipment or parts thereof, with no opinion on their genuine character or their use.

If we are to believe Achim Trunk, the mythical gas vans caused no fewer than 500,000 victims altogether, 250,000 in the Soviet Union, 152,477 at Chełmno, and consequently 97,500 at all the other sites where they were reportedly used. However, not a single such vehicle has ever been found or photographed. I have already expressed myself clearly on the subject of the sparse documents relating to this matter.

Between 1,385,000 and 1,785,000 persons are reported to have perished in the alleged gas chambers of "*Aktion Reinhardt*," without any documentary or material evidence for such a claim. These are the fragile foundation of the Holocaust religion! The same is true for the alleged gas chambers at Ravensbrück and Neuengamme.

Table 9: Evidence for Auschwitz: Crematory I and Bunkers

BUILDING	NUMBER OF GAS CHAMBERS	DOCUMENTS	"CRIMINAL TRACES"
Block 11	("First gassing")	None	None
Crematory I	1	None	None
"Bunker 1"	2	None	None
"Bunker 2"	4	None	None

At Majdanek and Stutthof, buildings which obviously were delousing chambers are presented as homicidal gas chambers, even though any evidence to support such assertions is lacking. The same goes for the corresponding localities at Mauthausen and Sachsenhausen.

In the case of Auschwitz, the situation is rather complex and somewhat different. I will therefore discuss it separately below. Here, too, there is a complete absence of documentary evidence for the existence of homicidal gas chambers, but at least we have more than a dozen alleged "criminal traces" (an expression coined by J.-C. Pressac), although if investigated in their context, they have no probative value either.

Again, in the case of Auschwitz the orthodox Holocaust historians are unable to tell us who ordered the construction of these gas chambers, at what point in time and under what circumstances. Table 9 summarizes the data regarding the alleged murders with Zyklon B at the Auschwitz main camp and the two "Bunkers" of Birkenau.

For the Birkenau crematoria II to V there are alleged "criminal traces," but their number reflects in no way the alleged duration of the operation or the number of victims who allegedly perished in the gas chambers installed there. (We must remember that van Pelt affirms that at least 550,000 persons were gassed in the crematoria II and III alone, p. 216). Each one of the 15 so-called "criminal traces" can be explained in a completely innocuous way. All of them concern only the period of planning and erection of these crematoria. Not a single one of these "traces" dates from the time these facilities were in operation (whatever operation this might have been). Moreover, van Pelt's contribution is of an even poorer quality than the others and has little more to offer than unproven apodictic assertions and fanciful hypotheses.

Still, the last part of the anthology is its absolute nadir. It is pompously titled "The "gas chamber lie" in international revisionist propaganda" ("Die 'Gaskammer-Lüge' in der internationalen revisionistischen Propaganda"), and its objective is to refute revisionism. Yet the authors have not a single argument to offer. One cannot but feel that it was written to fulfill an unpleasant duty – after all, one of the stated aims of the Oranienburg meeting was the refutation of revisionism, even though not a single one of the participants was in a position to do so even in a rudimentary way. The

editors may have felt the need to publish these latter contributions in an attempt to make the book more voluminous and thus give it a more impressive appearance. The same goes for those articles which are so devoid of significance or that are unrelated to the meeting's topic that I have felt no urge to discuss them.

When compared to the preceding work, *Nazi Mass Murder*, the present volume offers hardly any new ideas. Although many of the "at least 60 pertinent articles and monographs […] published since 1983" have been considered (p. XVII), the quality has in no way been improved, because the sources are mentioned haphazardly in footnotes and merely serve to hide the lack of watertight documentary or material evidence.

On balance, the results of the Oranienburg meeting are devastating for orthodox Holocaust historiography. The meeting has not succeeded in presenting a documented and coherent analysis of the genesis of the alleged industrial homicidal gas chambers and has failed spectacularly in its attempt to refute revisionism. This kind of pseudo-scientific historiography can only survive thanks to propaganda and government repression.

* * *

In conclusion I wish to point out the most important revisionist studies that have been published over the last two decades and which deal with various aspects of the "National Socialist mass killings by poison gas." The better part of these studies is available in two or more languages. To the extent that they exist in German or English, I shall merely refer to them and omit any other language editions.

If the participants of the Oranienburg meeting had sincerely wished to fulfill their duty as historians, they would have had to take these studies into account and refute them, but, except for one or two instances, they have not even mentioned them.

General Studies

– Ernst Gauss (ed. = Germar Rudolf), *Grundlagen zur Zeitgeschichte*. Grabert Verlag, Tübingen 1994; Engl.: Germar Rudolf (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust. The Growing Critique of "Truth" and "Memory."* Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, 2000; 2nd, exp. ed., 2003.
– Germar Rudolf, *Vorlesungen über den Holocaust*. Castle Hill Publishers, 2nd, rev. ed., Uckfield 2012; Engl.: *Lectures on the Holocaust.* Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2005; 2nd, rev. ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.
– J. Graf, *Riese auf tönernen Füßen: Raul Hilberg und sein Standardwerk über den "Holocaust,"* Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 1999; Engl.: *The*

Giant With Feet of Clay: Raul Hilberg and his Standard Work on the "Holocaust," Theses & Dissertations Press, Capshaw, AL, 2001.

On the Camps of the "Aktion Reinhardt"

– Carlo Mattogno, Jürgen Graf, *Treblinka: Vernichtungslager oder Durchgangslager?* Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings, 2002; Engl.: *Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?* Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004; 2nd ed. 2005; reprint of 2nd ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.
– Carlo Mattogno, *Bełżec. Propaganda, Zeugenaussagen, archäologische Untersuchungen, historische Fakten*. Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings, 2004; Engl.: *Bełżec in Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research, and History*. Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004; reprint, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011.
– Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, Carlo Mattogno, *Sobibór. Holocaust-Propaganda und Wirklichkeit*. Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield, 2010; Engl.: *Sobibór. Holocaust Propaganda and Reality*. The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.
– Carlo Mattogno, Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, *The "Extermination Camps" of "Aktion Reinhardt": An Analysis and Refutation of Factitious "Evidence," Deceptions and Flawed Argumentation of the "Holocaust Controversies" Bloggers*. The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2013

On the "Gas Vans"

– Santiago Alvarez, *The Gas Vans: A Critical Investigation*. The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011.

On the Chełmno Camp

– Carlo Mattogno, *Il campo di Chełmno tra storia e propaganda*. Effepi, Genoa 2009: Engl.: *The Chełmno Camp in History and Propaganda.* The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011; German: *Chełmno: Ein deutsches Lager in Geschichte und Propaganda*. Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2014.

On the Majdanek Camp

– Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *KL Majdanek. Eine historische und technische Studie*. Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings, 1998; 2nd, corr. ed. 2003; Engl.: *Concentration Camp Majdanek: A Historical and Technical Study*. Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2003; 2nd rev. ed. 2004; 3rd, exp. ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2012.

On the Stutthof Camp

– Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Das Konzentrationslager Stutthof und seine Funktion in der nationalsozialistischen Judenpolitik*. Castle Hill Pub-

lishers, Hastings, 1999; Engl.: *Concentration Camp Stutthof*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2003; 2nd ed. 2004.

On the Camps in the 'Old Reich' and in Austria

– Fred A. Leuchter, Robert Faurisson, *The Second Leuchter Report: Dachau, Mauthausen, Hartheim*. Samisdat Publishers, Toronto 1989; German: *Der zweite Leuchter Report*. Reporter Press, Decatur, AL, 1989; more recent: Fred A. Leuchter, Robert Faurisson, Germar Rudolf, *The Leuchter Reports. Critical Edition*. Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, 2005; 2nd, rev. ed. 2005; 3rd, rev. ed. The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2012; German: *Die Leuchter-Gutachten: Kritische Ausgabe*, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2014.
– Carlo Mattogno, "KL Sachsenhausen. Stärkemeldung und 'Vernichtungsaktionen' 1940 bis 1945" in: *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung*, vol. 7, no. 2, July 2003.

On the Auschwitz Camp

– Germar Rudolf, *Das Rudolf-Gutachten. Gutachten über chemische und technische Aspekte der "Gaskammern" von Auschwitz*. Cromwell Press, London 1993; 2nd ed., Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings, 2001; 3rd rev. & exp. ed. together with Wolfgang Lambrecht, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2015 (in press); Engl.: Germar Rudolf, *The Rudolf Report. Expert Report on Chemical and Technical Aspects of the "Gas Chambers" of Auschwitz*. Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2003; 2nd, rev. ed. together with Wolfgang Lambrecht, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011.
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– Carlo Mattogno, *The Bunkers of Auschwitz. Black Propaganda versus History.* Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, 2004; German: *Die Bunker von Auschwitz: Greuelpropaganda versus Geschichte*, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2014 (in press).
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die angeblichen Menschenvergasungen, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2014.
– Carlo Mattogno, *The Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, 2005; German: *Die Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz: Organisation, Zuständigkeiten, Aktivitäten*, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2014.
– Carlo Mattogno, *Open Air Incinerations*, reprint, The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011 German: *Freiluftverbrennungen in Auschwitz*, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2014.
– Germar Rudolf, Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz Lies: Legends, Lies, and Prejudices on the Holocaust*, 2nd, rev. ed., The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2011; the German edition has a different content tailored toward German language "refutations" of revisionism: *Auschwitz-Lügen, Legenden, Lügen, Vorurteile von Medien, Politikern und Wissenschaftlern über den Holocaust*, Castle Hill Publishers, Hastings 2005; 2nd rev. ed., Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2012.
– Fred A. Leuchter, Robert Faurisson, Germar Rudolf, *The Leuchter Reports. Critical Edition*. Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, 2005; 2nd, rev. ed. 2005; 3rd, rev. ed. The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2012; German: *Die Leuchter-Gutachten: Kritische Ausgabe*, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2014 (in press).
– Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz: assistenza sanitaria, "selezione" e "Sonderbehandlung" dei detenuti immatricolati*. Effepi, Genoa 2010 (Engl. edition as part of a new edition of *Special Treatment in Auschwitz* in preparation).
– Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz: The Case for Sanity. A Historical & Technical Study of Jean-Claude Pressac's Criminal Traces and Robert Jan van Pelt's Convergence of Evidence*. The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010.
– Carlo Mattogno, *I forni crematori di Auschwitz. Studio storico-tecnico con la collaborazione del dott. Ing. Franco Deana*. Effepi, Genoa 2011 (Engl.: *The Cremation Furnaces of Auschwitz: A Technical and Historical Study*, Castle Hill Publishers, Uckfield 2015).

<u>*Some of My Other Works on the Holocaust*</u>

– *La Risiera di San Sabba: un falso grossolano*. Sentinella d'Italia, 1985.
– *Wellers e i "gasati" di Auschwitz*. La Sfinge, Parma, 1987.
– *Come si falsifica la storia: Saul Friedländer e il "rapporto" Gerstein*. La Sfinge, Parma 1988.
– *Auschwitz: Fine di una leggenda*. Edizioni di Ar, Padua, 1994; Engl. as part of G. Rudolf (ed.), *Auschwitz: Plain Facts. A Response to Jean-Claude Pressac*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2005; reprint,

The Barnes Review, Washington, DC, 2010; German: Herbert Verbeke (ed,), *Auschwitz: Nackte Fakten. Eine Antwort an Jean-Claude Pressac*. Vrij Historisch Onderzoek, Berchem 1996.
– *Olocausto: Dilettanti allo sbaraglio. Pierre Vidal-Naquet, Georges Wellers, Deborah Lipstadt, Till Bastian, Florent Brayard et alii contro il revisionismo storico*. Edizioni di Ar, Padua, 1996.
– *L'"irritante questione" delle camere a gas ovvero da Cappuccetto Rosso ad Auschwitz. Risposta a Valentina Pisanty*. Graphos, Genoa, 1998
– *Olocausto: dilettanti a convegno*. Effepi Edizioni, Genoa, 2002.
– *Olocausto: dilettanti nel web*. Effepi, Genoa, 2005.
– *Ritorno dalla luna di miele ad Auschwitz. Risposte ai veri dilettanti e ai finti specialisti dell'anti-"negazionismo."* Effepi, Genoa, 2006.
– *Un nuovo libro olocaustico su Bełżec e la sua fonte. Considerazioni storico-critiche*. Effepi, Genoa, 2007.
– *Raul Hilberg e i "centri di sterminio" nazionalsocialisti. Fonti e metodologia*. Effepi, Genoa, 2011.

Altogether these works comprise more than 10,000 pages, and one cannot endlessly pretend that they don't exist. This is all the more true, since a synthesizing and objective compilation of the revisionist position has been available since 2009: Thomas Dalton, *Debating the Holocaust. A New Look at Both Sides* (Theses & Dissertations Press, New York, 2009). How many international conferences of historians are still required before these ladies and gentlemen finally condescend to address the revisionist arguments on a scholarly level?

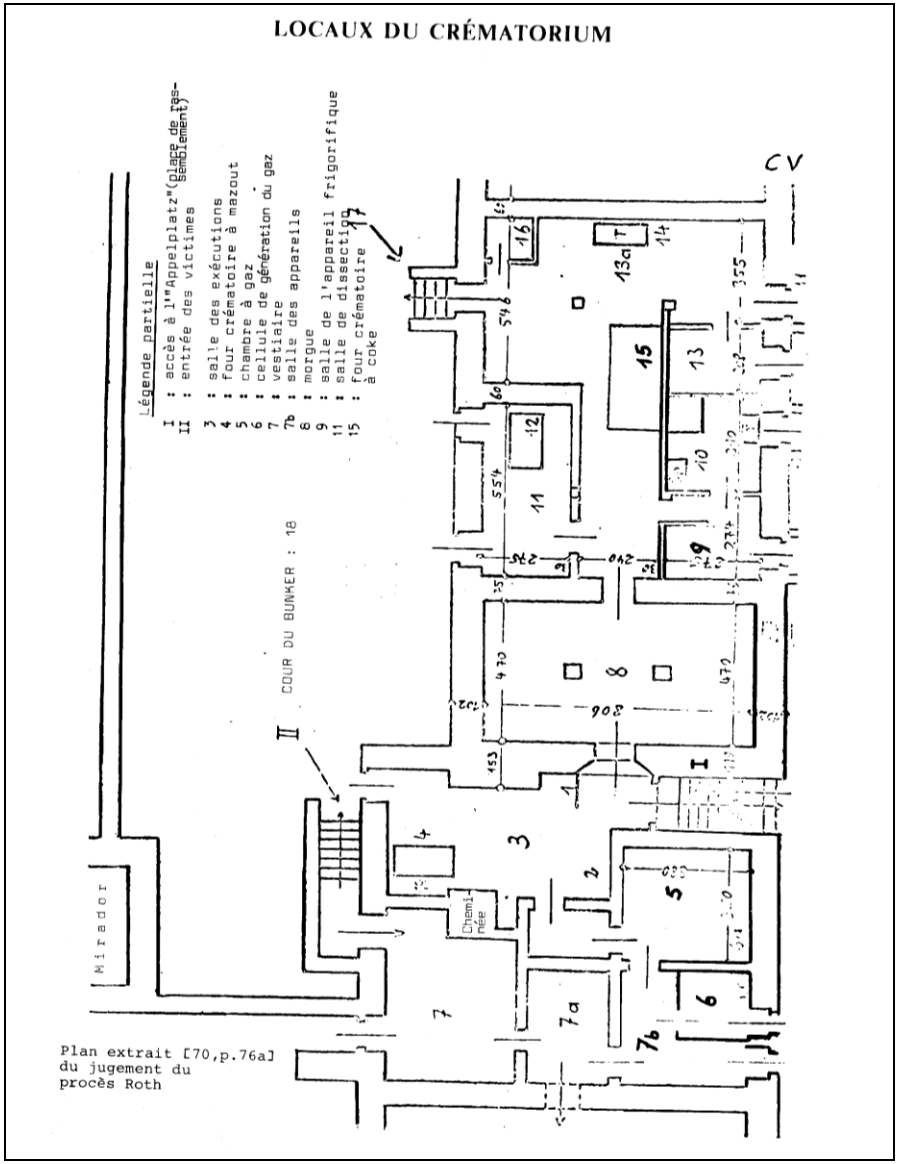
18. Appendix

18.1. Abbreviations

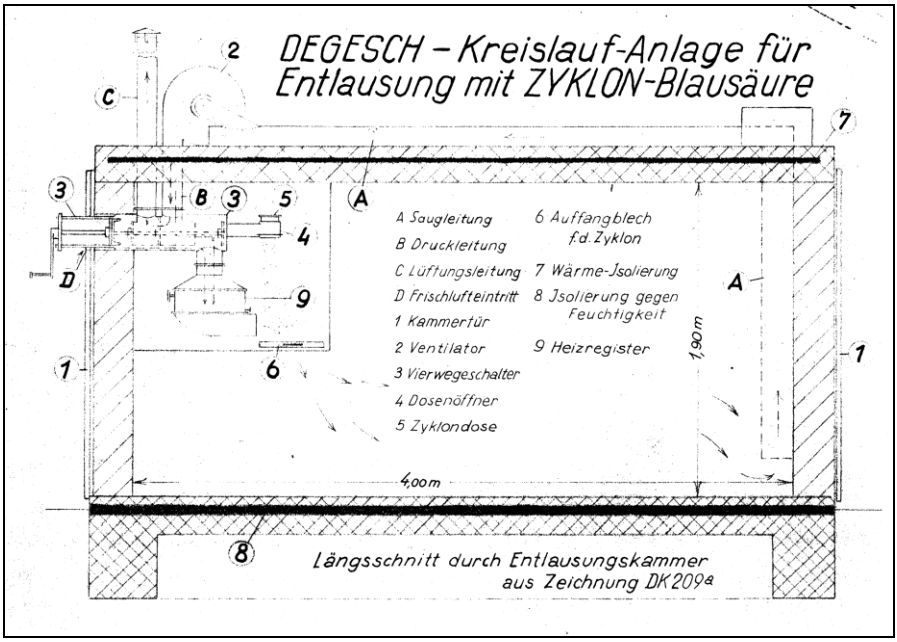
AGK	Archiwum Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni w Polsce, currently called Główna Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu – Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej, Warsaw, Poland
AKfSD	Archiv des Kuratoriums für das Sühnemal KZ Dachau, Germany
APMM	Archiwum Państwowego Muzeum na Majdanku, Lublin, Poland
BAK	Bundesarchiv Koblenz, Germany
GARF	Gosudarstvenni Archiv Rossiiskoi Federatsii, Moscow, Russia
IMG	Internationaler Militärgerichtshof, Nuremberg, Germany
IMT	International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg, Germany
ÖDMM	Öffentliches Denkmal und Museum Mauthausen, Austria
TNA	The National Archives, Kew Richmond, Great Britain, formerly Public Record Office.
RGVA	Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennii Vojennii Archiv, Mocow, Russia
WAPL	Wojewódzkie Archiwum Państwowe w Lublinie, Lublin, Poland
ZStL	Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen, Ludwigsburg, Germany

18.2. List of Tables

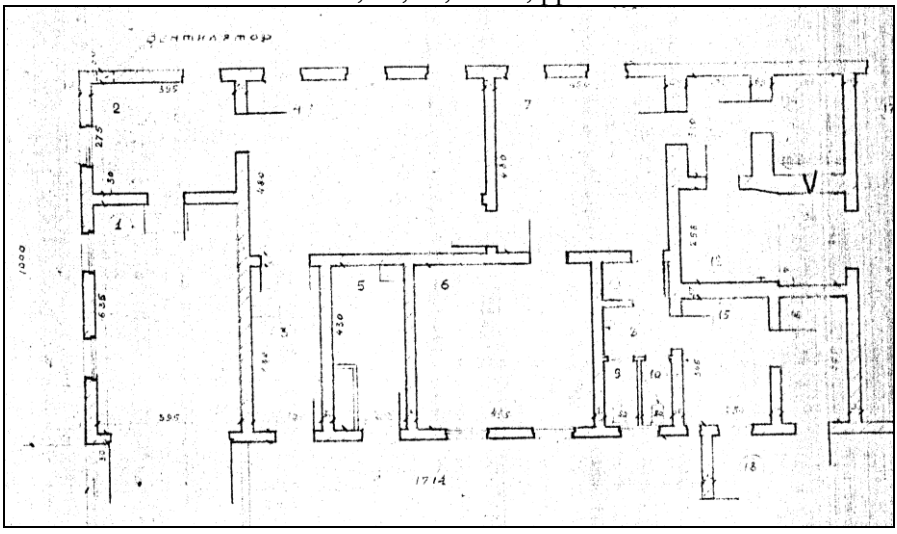
18.3. Documents and Photos



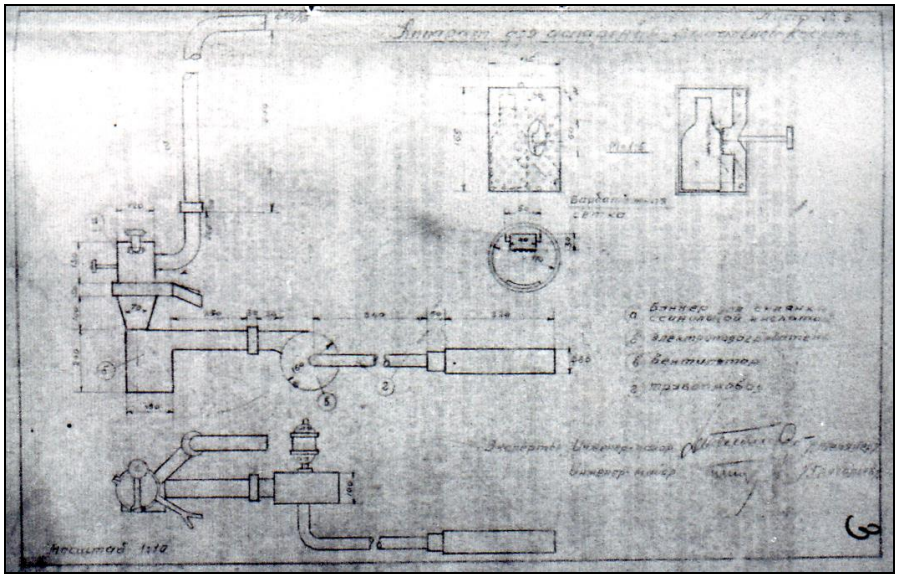
Document 1: Basement plan of the Mauthausen camp hospital. Taken from: P. S. Choumoff, *Les assassinats par gaz à Mauthausen et Gusen Camps de concentration nazis en territoire autrichien.* Amicale de Déportés de Mauthausen, Paris, 1987.



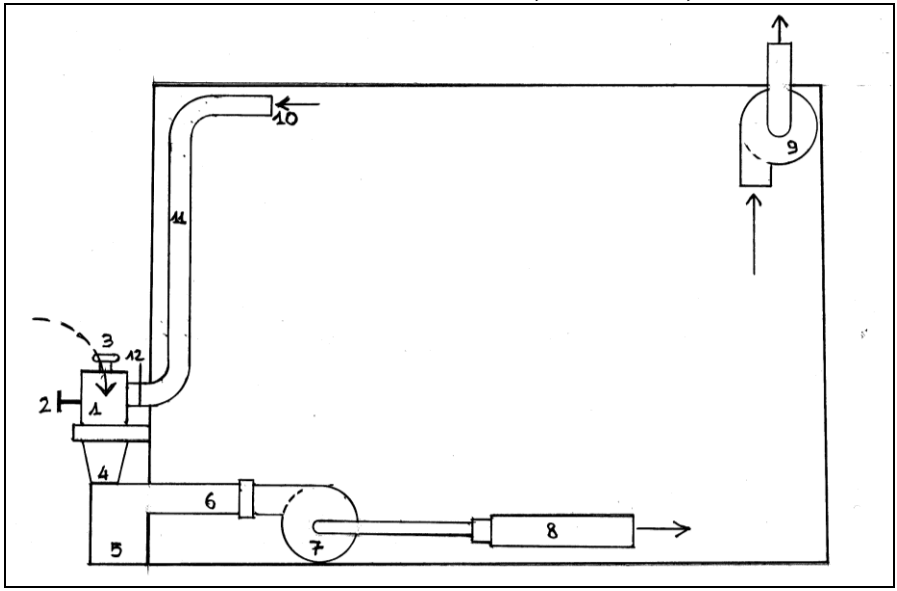
Document 2: Degesch circulation device for disinfestation with Zyklon B. APMM, VI, 9a, vol. 2, pp. 1-4.



Document 3: Floor plan of the Sachsenhausen crematory. Room no. 2 (top left) was the delousing chamber. GARF, 7021-104-3, p. 7.

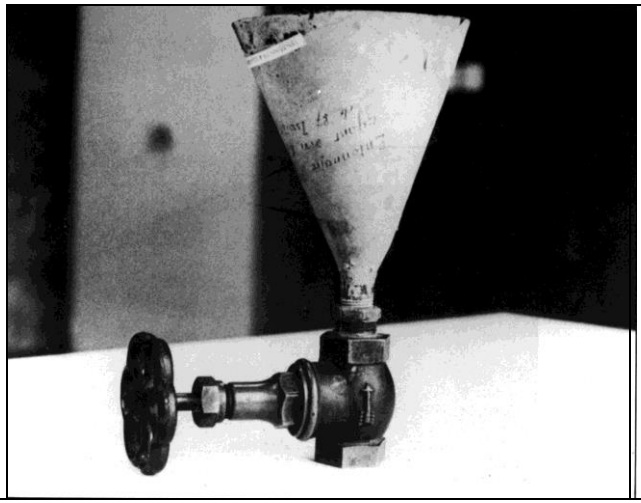


Document 4: Soviet drawing of the technical equipment of the delousing chamber at Sachsenhausen. GARF, 7021-104-3, S. 21.

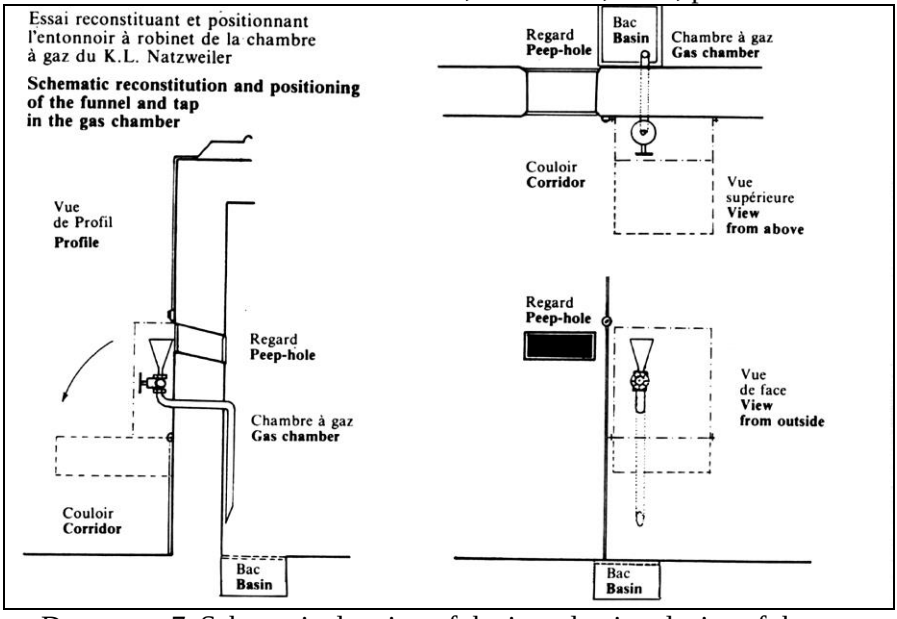


Document 5: Functional schematic of the technical equipment of the delousing chamber at Sachsenhausen. © Carlo Mattogno.

1: box to hold the Zyklon B can; 2: lever to puncture the can; 3: lid; 4: funnel; 5: box to catch falling Zyklon B granules; 6: feeder pipe from can opener to fan; 7: circulation fan; 8: circulation exit pipe; 9: exhaust fan; 10-12: circulation entry pipe



Document 6: Alleged introduction device of the gas chamber at Natzweiler-Struthof. From: Jean-Claude Pressac, *The Struthof Album*. The Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York, 1985, p. 66.



Document 7: Schematic drawing of the introduction device of the gas chamber at Natzweiler-Struthof. From: J.-C. Pressac, *ibid.*, p. 66.

Document 8: Comparison of the fictitious inmate number 107969 and the actual inmate number 182727. The former was allegedly found on the lower arm of a corpse at the Institute for Anatomy in Strasbourg (*ibid.*, p. 77). The latter is tattooed onto the lower arm of Shlomo Venezia. (http://memoria.comune.rimini.it/foto_video/pagina3-201.html).

Document 9: Zyklon B gassing device allegedly used at the Mauthausen camp; taken from: Bundesministerium für Inneres (ed.), *KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen. Forschung, Dokumentation, Information*, Vienna 2008, p. 44.

Document 10: Zyklon B gassing device allegedly located at the disinfestation chamber ("gas chamber") at the Sachsenhausen camp; taken from *Filmblatt*, vol. 11, winter 2006, p. 22.

Photo 1: "Gas chamber" of Mauthausen: one of the two doors, seen from the outside. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 2: "Gas chamber" of Mauthausen: one of the two doors, seen from the inside. Dec. 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 3: "Gas chamber" of Mauthausen: the other of the two doors, seen from the inside. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 4: "Gas chamber" of Mauthausen: The shower heads at the ceiling. © 1990 Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 5: "Gas chamber" of Mauthausen: The floor drain. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

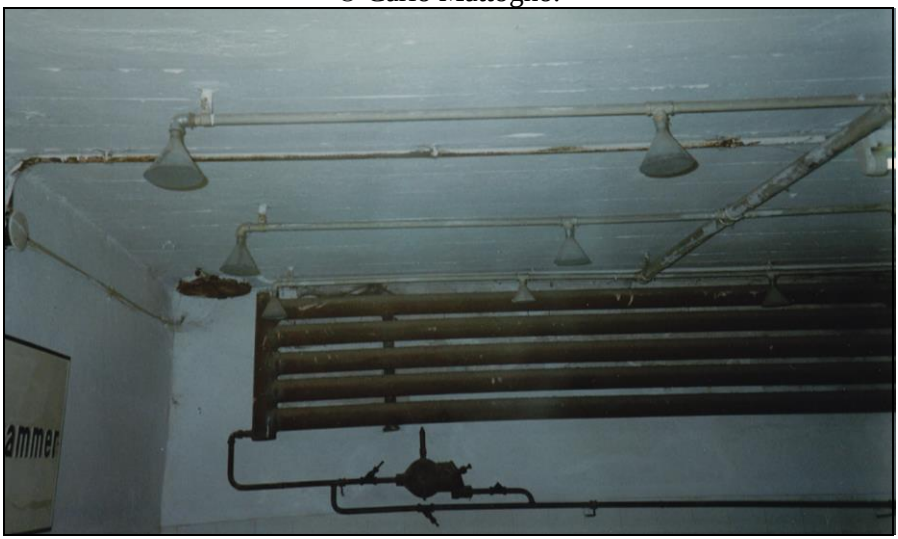


Photo 6: "Gas chamber" of Mauthausen: Showers and radiator with five pipes. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 7: "Gas chamber" at Mauthausen: Lid of the ventilation opening and part of the radiator. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 8: The four Zyklon B disinfestation chambers with Degesch circulation system in the Dachau crematory. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photos 9 & 10: Entry- (left) and exit door of the alleged gas chamber at Dachau. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 11: The interior of the alleged gas chamber at Dachau: The ceiling with the phony shower heads. December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

Photo 12: The interior of the alleged gas chamber at Dachau. Sign in five languages: "Gas Chamber disguised as a 'shower room' – never used as a gas chamber." December 1990. © Carlo Mattogno.

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18.5. Index of Names

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HOLOCAUST HANDBOOKS

This ambitious, growing series addresses various aspects of the "Holocaust" of the WWII era. Most of them are based on decades of research from archives all over the world. They are heavily referenced. In contrast to most other works on this issue, the tomes of this series approach its topic with profound academic scrutiny and a critical attitude. Any Holocaust researcher ignoring this series will remain oblivious to some of the most important research in the field. These books are designed to both convince the common reader as well as academics. The following books have appeared so far, or are about to be released. Compare hardcopy and eBook prices at www.findbookprices.com.

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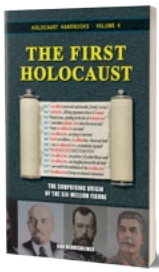
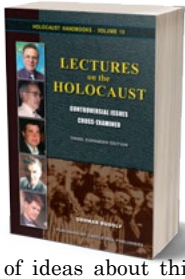
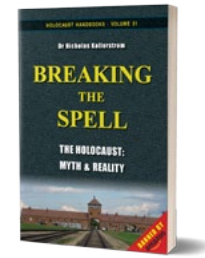


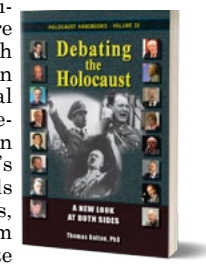
Lectures on the Holocaust. Controversial Issues Cross Examined. By Germar Rudolf. This book first explains why "the Holocaust" is an important topic, and that it is well to keep an open mind about it. It then tells how many mainstream scholars expressed doubts and subsequently fell from grace. Next, the physical traces and documents about the various claimed crime scenes and murder weapons are discussed. After that, the reliability of witness testimony is examined. Finally, the author lobbies for a free exchange of ideas about this topic. This book gives the most-comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the critical research into the Holocaust. With its dialog style, it is pleasant to read, and it can even be used as an encyclopedic compendium. 3rd ed., 596 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index.(#15)



Breaking the Spell. The Holocaust, Myth & Reality. By Nicholas Kollerstrom. In 1941, British Intelligence analysts cracked the German "Enigma" code. Hence, in 1942 and 1943, encrypted radio communications between German concentration camps and the Berlin headquarters were decrypted. The intercepted data refutes the orthodox "Holocaust" narrative. It reveals that the Germans were desperate to reduce the death rate in their labor camps, which was caused by catastrophic typhus epidemics. Dr. Kollerstrom, a science historian, has taken these intercepts and a wide array of mostly unchallenged corroborating evidence to show that "witness statements" supporting the human gas chamber narrative clearly clash with the available scientific data. Kollerstrom concludes that the history of the Nazi "Holocaust" has been written by the victors with ulterior motives. It is distorted, exaggerated and largely wrong. With a foreword by Prof. Dr. James Fetzer. 5th ed., 282 pages, b&w ill., bibl., index. (#31)



Debating the Holocaust. A New Look at Both Sides. By Thomas Dalton. Mainstream historians insist that there cannot be, may not be a debate about the Holocaust. But ignoring it does not make this controversy go away. Traditional scholars admit that there was neither a budget, a plan, nor an order for the Holocaust; that the key camps have all but vanished, and so have any human remains; that material and unequivocal documentary evidence is absent; and that there are serious problems with survivor testimonies. Dalton juxtaposes the traditional Holocaust narrative with revisionist challenges and then analyzes the mainstream's responses to them. He reveals the weaknesses of both sides, while declaring revisionism the winner of the current state



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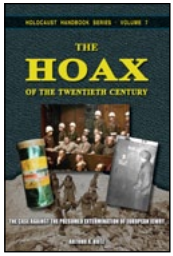
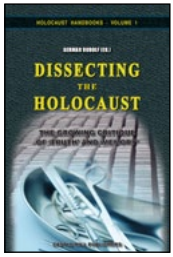
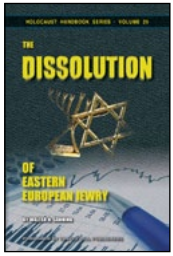
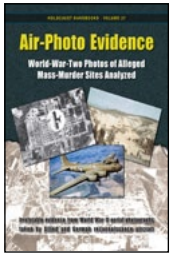
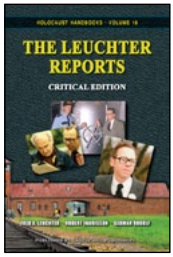
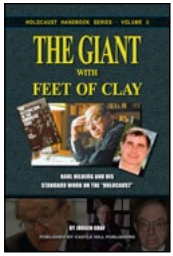












of the debate. 4th ed., 342 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#32)

The Hoax of the Twentieth Century. The Case against the Presumed Extermination of European Jewry. By Arthur R. Butz. The first writer to analyze the entire Holocaust complex in a precise scientific manner. This book exhibits the overwhelming force of arguments accumulated by the mid-1970s. Butz's two main arguments are: 1. All major entities hostile to Germany must have known what was happening to the Jews under German authority. They acted during the war as if no mass slaughter was occurring. 2. All the evidence adduced to proof any mass slaughter has a dual interpretation, while only the innocuous one can be proven to be correct. This book continues to be a major historical reference work, frequently cited by prominent personalities. This edition has numerous supplements with new information gathered over the last 35 years. 4th ed., 524 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#7)

Dissecting the Holocaust. The Growing Critique of 'Truth' and 'Memory.' Edited by Germar Rudolf. *Dissecting the Holocaust* applies state-of-the-art scientific technique and classic methods of detection to investigate the alleged murder of millions of Jews by Germans during World War II. In 22 contributions—each of some 30 pages—the 17 authors dissect generally accepted paradigms of the "Holocaust." It reads as exciting as a crime novel: so many lies, forgeries and deceptions by politicians, historians and scientists are proven. This is the intellectual adventure of the 21st century. Be part of it! 3rd ed., 635 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#1)

The Dissolution of Eastern European Jewry. By Walter N. Sanning. Six Million Jews died in the Holocaust. Sanning did not take that number at face value, but thoroughly explored European population developments and shifts mainly caused by emigration as well as deportations and evacuations conducted by both Nazis and the Soviets, among other things. The book is based mainly on Jewish, Zionist and mainstream sources. It concludes that a sizeable share of the Jews found missing during local censuses after the Second World War, which were so far counted as "Holocaust victims," had either emigrated (mainly to Israel or the U.S.) or had been deported by Stalin to Siberian labor camps. 2nd ed., foreword by A.R. Butz, epilogue by Germar Rudolf containing important updates; 224 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography (#29).

Air Photo Evidence: World War Two Photos of Alleged Mass Murder Sites Analyzed. By Germar Rudolf (editor). During World War Two both German and Allied reconnaissance aircraft took countless air photos of places of tactical and strategic interest in Europe. These photos are prime evidence for the investigation of the Holocaust. Air photos of locations like Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka, Babi Yar etc. permit an insight into what did or did not happen there. The author has unearthed many pertinent photos and has thoroughly analyzed them. This book is full of air photo reproductions and schematic drawings explaining them. According to the author, these images refute many of the atrocity claims made by witnesses in connection with events in the German sphere of influence. 5th edition; with a contribution by Carlo Mattogno. 168 pages, 8.5"×11", b&w illustrations, bibliography, index (#27).

The Leuchter Reports: Critical Edition. By Fred Leuchter, Robert Faurisson and Germar Rudolf. Between 1988 and 1991, U.S. expert on execution technologies Fred Leuchter wrote four detailed reports addressing whether the Third Reich operated homicidal gas chambers. The first report on Auschwitz and Majdanek became world famous. Based on chemical analyses and various technical arguments, Leuchter concluded that the locations investigated "could not have then been, or now be, utilized or seriously considered to function as execution gas chambers." The second report deals with gas-chamber claims for the camps Dachau, Mauthausen and Hartheim, while the third reviews design criteria and operation procedures of execution gas chambers in the U.S. The fourth report reviews Pressac's 1989 tome *Auschwitz*. 4th ed., 252 pages, b&w illustrations. (#16)

The Giant with Feet of Clay: Raul Hilberg and His Standard Work on the "Holocaust." By Jürgen Graf. Raul Hilberg's major work *The Destruction of European Jewry* is an orthodox standard work on the Holocaust. But what evidence does Hilberg provide to back his thesis that there was a German plan to exterminate Jews, carried out mainly in gas chambers? Jürgen Graf applies the methods of critical analysis to Hilberg's evidence and examines the results in light of modern historiography. The results of Graf's critical analysis are devastating for Hilberg.

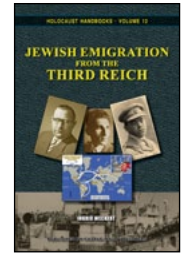
2nd, corrected edition, 139 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#3)

Jewish Emigration from the Third Reich. By Ingrid Weckert. Current historical writings about the Third Reich claim state it was difficult for Jews to flee from Nazi persecution. The truth is that Jewish emigration was welcomed by the German authorities. Emigration was not some kind of wild flight, but rather a lawfully determined and regulated matter. Weckert's booklet elucidates the emigration process in law and policy. She shows that German and Jewish authorities worked closely together. Jews interested in emigrating received detailed advice and offers of help from both sides. 2nd ed., 130 pages, index. (#12)

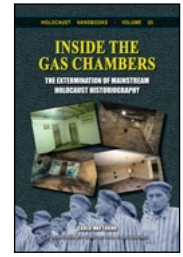
Inside the Gas Chambers: The Extermination of Mainstream Holocaust Historiography. By Carlo Mattogno. Neither increased media propaganda or political pressure nor judicial persecution can stifle revisionism. Hence, in early 2011, the Holocaust Orthodoxy published a 400 pp. book (in German) claiming to refute "revisionist propaganda," trying again to prove "once and for all" that there were homicidal gas chambers at the camps of Dachau, Natzweiler, Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, Ravensbrück, Neuengamme, Stutthof… you name them. Mattogno shows with his detailed analysis of this work of propaganda that mainstream Holocaust hagiography is beating around the bush rather than addressing revisionist research results. He exposes their myths, distortions and lies. 2nd ed., 280 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#25)

SECTION TWO:
Specific non-Auschwitz Studies

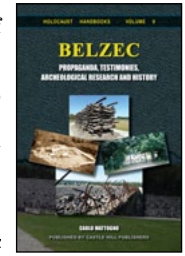
Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp? By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. It is alleged that at Treblinka in East Poland between 700,000 and 3,000,000 persons were murdered in 1942 and 1943. The weapons used were said to have been stationary and/or mobile gas chambers, fast-acting or slow-acting poison gas, unslaked lime, superheated steam, electricity, diesel exhaust fumes etc. Holocaust historians alleged that bodies were piled as high as multi-storied buildings and burned without a trace, using little or no fuel at all. Graf and Mattogno have now analyzed the origins, logic and technical feasibility of the official version of Treblinka. On the basis of numerous documents they reveal Treblinka's true identity as a mere transit camp. 2nd ed., 372 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#8)



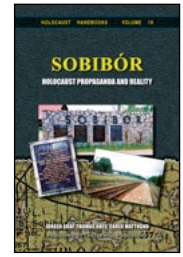
Belzec in Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research and History. By Carlo Mattogno. Witnesses report that between 600,000 and 3 million Jews were murdered in the Belzec camp, located in Poland. Various murder weapons are claimed to have been used: diesel gas; unslaked lime in trains; high voltage; vacuum chambers; etc. The corpses were incinerated on huge pyres without leaving a trace. For those who know the stories about Treblinka this sounds familiar. Thus the author has restricted this study to the aspects which are new compared to Treblinka. In contrast to Treblinka, forensic drillings and excavations were performed at Belzec, the results of which are critically reviewed. 142 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#9)

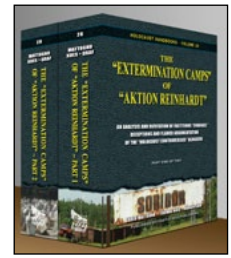


Sobibor: Holocaust Propaganda and Reality. By Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues and Carlo Mattogno. Between 25,000 and 2 million Jews are said to have been killed in gas chambers in the Sobibór camp in Poland. The corpses were allegedly buried in mass graves and later incinerated on pyres. This book investigates these claims and shows that they are based on the selective use of contradictory eyewitness testimony. Archeological surveys of the camp in 2000-2001 are analyzed, with fatal results for the extermination camp hypothesis. The book also documents the general National Socialist policy toward Jews, which never included a genocidal "final solution." 442 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#19)



The "Extermination Camps" of "Aktion Reinhardt". By Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues and Carlo Mattogno. In late 2011, several members of the exterminationist *Holocaust Controversies* blog posted a study online which claims to refute three of our authors' monographs on the camps Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka (see previous three entries). This tome is their point-by-point response, which makes "mincemeat" out of the bloggers' attempt at refutation. Caution: The two volumes of this work are an intellectual overkill for most people. They are recommended only for collectors, connoisseurs and professionals. These two books require familiarity with the above-mentioned books, of which they are a comprehensive update and expansion. 2nd ed., two volumes, total of 1396 pages, illustrations, bibliography. (#28)





Chelmno: A Camp in History & Propaganda. By Carlo Mattogno. At Chelmno, huge masses of Jewish prisoners are said to have been gassed in "gas vans" or shot (claims vary from 10,000 to 1.3 million victims). This study covers the subject from every angle, undermining the orthodox claims about the camp with an overwhelmingly effective body of evidence. Eyewitness statements, gas wagons as extermination weapons, forensics reports and excavations, German documents—all come under Mattogno's scrutiny. Here are the uncensored facts about Chelmno, not the propaganda. 2nd ed., 188 pages, indexed, illustrated, bibliography. (#23)

The Gas Vans: A Critical Investigation. By Santiago Alvarez and Pierre Marais. It is alleged that the Nazis used mobile gas chambers to exterminate 700,000 people. Up until 2011, no thorough monograph had appeared on the topic. Santiago Alvarez has remedied the situation. Are witness statements reliable? Are documents genuine? Where are the murder weapons? Could they have operated as claimed? Where are the corpses? In order to get to the truth of the matter, Alvarez has scrutinized all known wartime documents and photos about this topic; he has analyzed a huge amount of witness statements as published in the literature and as presented in more than 30 trials held over the decades in Germany, Poland and Israel; and he has examined the claims made in the pertinent mainstream literature. The result of his research is mind-boggling. Note: This book and Mattogno's book on Chelmno were edited in parallel to make sure they are consistent and not repetitive. 398 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#26)

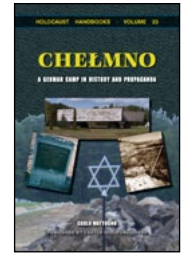
The Einsatzgruppen in the Occupied Eastern Territories: Genesis, Missions and Actions. By C. Mattogno. Before invading the Soviet Union, the German authorities set up special units meant to secure the area behind the German front. Orthodox historians claim that these unites called *Einsatzgruppen* primarily engaged in rounding up and mass-murdering Jews. This study sheds a critical light into this topic by reviewing all the pertinent sources as well as material traces. It reveals on the one hand that original war-time documents do not fully support the orthodox genocidal narrative, and on the other that most post-"liberation" sources such as testimonies and forensic reports are steeped in Soviet atrocity propaganda and are thus utterly unreliable. In addition, material traces of the claimed massacres are rare due to an attitude of collusion by governments and Jewish lobby groups. 830 pp., b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#39)

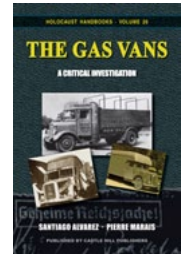
Concentration Camp Majdanek. A Historical and Technical Study. By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. At war's end, the Soviets claimed that up to two million Jews were murdered at the Majdanek Camp in seven gas chambers. Over the decades, however, the Majdanek Museum reduced the death toll three times to currently 78,000, and admitted that there were "only" two gas chambers. By exhaustively researching primary sources, the authors expertly dissect and repudiate the myth of homicidal gas chambers at that camp. They also critically investigated the legend of mass executions of Jews in tank trenches and prove them groundless. Again they have produced a standard work of methodical investigation which authentic historiography cannot ignore. 3rd ed., 358 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#5)

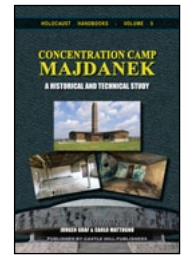
Concentration Camp Stutthof and Its Function in National Socialist Jewish Policy. By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. Orthodox historians claim that the Stutthof Camp served as a "makeshift" extermination camp in 1944. Based mainly on archival resources, this study thoroughly debunks this view and shows that Stutthof was in fact a center for the organization of German forced labor toward the end of World War II. 4th ed., 170 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#4)

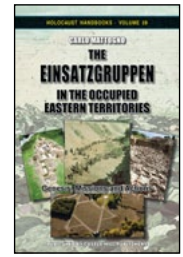
SECTION THREE:
Auschwitz Studies

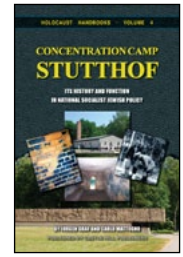
The Making of the Auschwitz Myth: Auschwitz in British Intercepts, Polish Underground Reports and Postwar Testimonies (1941-1947). By Carlo Mattogno. Using messages sent by the Polish underground to London, SS radio messages send to and from Auschwitz that were intercepted and decrypted by the British, and a plethora of witness statements made during the war and in the immediate postwar period, the author shows how exactly the myth of mass murder in Auschwitz gas chambers was created, and how it was turned subsequently into "history" by intellectually corrupt scholars who cherry-picked claims that fit into their agenda and ignored or actively covered up literally thousands of lies of "witnesses" to make their narrative look credible. Ca. 300

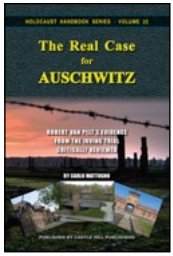


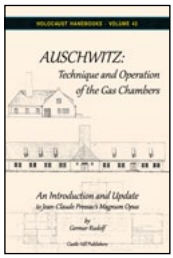


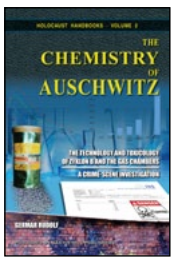


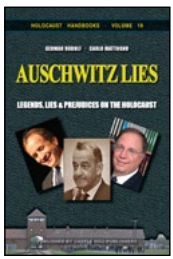


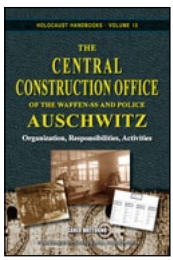












pp., b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (Scheduled for mid-2020; #41)

The Real Case of Auschwitz: Robert van Pelt's Evidence from the Irving Trial Critically Reviewed. By Carlo Mattogno. Prof. Robert van Pelt is considered one of the best mainstream experts on Auschwitz. He became famous when appearing as an expert during the London libel trial of David Irving against Deborah Lipstadt. From it resulted a book titled *The Case for Auschwitz*, in which van Pelt laid out his case for the existence of homicidal gas chambers at that camp. This book is a scholarly response to Prof. van Pelt—and Jean-Claude Pressac, upon whose books van Pelt's study is largely based. Mattogno lists all the evidence van Pelt adduces, and shows one by one that van Pelt misrepresented and misinterpreted each single one of them. This is a book of prime political and scholarly importance to those looking for the truth about Auschwitz. 3rd ed., 692 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary, bibliography, index. (#22)

Auschwitz: Plain Facts: A Response to Jean-Claude Pressac. Edited by Germar Rudolf, with contributions by Serge Thion, Robert Faurisson and Carlo Mattogno. French pharmacist Jean-Claude Pressac tried to refute revisionist findings with the "technical" method. For this he was praised by the mainstream, and they proclaimed victory over the "revisionists." In his book, Pressac's works and claims are shown to be unscientific in nature, as he never substantiate what he claims, and historically false, because he systematically misrepresents, misinterprets and misunderstands German wartime documents. 2nd ed., 226 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary bibliography, index. (#14)

Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers: An Introduction and Update. By Germar Rudolf. Pressac's 1989 oversize book of the same title was a trail blazer. Its many document reproductions are still valuable, but after decades of additional research, Pressac's annotations are outdated. This book summarizes the most pertinent research results on Auschwitz gained during the past 30 years. With many references to Pressac's epic tome, it serves as an update and correction to it, whether you own an original hard copy of it, read it online, borrow it from a library, purchase a reprint, or are just interested in such a summary in general. 144 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography. (#42)

The Chemistry of Auschwitz: The Technology and Toxicology of Zyklon B and the Gas Chambers – A Crime Scene Investigation. By Germar Rudolf. This study documents forensic research on Auschwitz, where material traces and their interpretation reign supreme. Most of the claimed crime scenes – the claimed homicidal gas chambers – are still accessible to forensic examination to some degree. This book addresses questions such as: What did these gas chambers look like? How did they operate? In addition, the infamous Zyklon B can also be examined. What exactly was it? How does it kill? Does it leave traces in masonry that can be found still today? The author also discusses in depth similar forensic research concuted by other authors. 4th ed., 454 pages, more than 120 color and over 100 b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#2)

Auschwitz Lies: Legends, Lies and Prejudices on the Holocaust. By C. Mattogno and G. Rudolf. The fallacious research and alleged "refutation" of Revisionist scholars by French biochemist G. Wellers (attacking Leuchter's famous report), Polish chemist Dr. J. Markiewicz and U.S. chemist Dr. Richard Green (taking on Rudolf's chemical research), Dr. John Zimmerman (tackling Mattogno on cremation issues), Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman (trying to prove it all), as well as researchers Keren, McCarthy and Mazal (how turned cracks into architectural features), are exposed for what they are: blatant and easily exposed political lies created to ostracize dissident historians. 3rd ed., 398 pages, b&w illustrations, index. (#18)

Auschwitz: The Central Construction Office. By C. Mattogno. Based upon mostly unpublished German wartime documents, this study describes the history, organization, tasks and procedures of the one office which was responsible for the planning and construction of the Auschwitz camp complex, including the crematories which are said to have contained the "gas chambers." 2nd ed., 188 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary, index. (#13)

Garrison and Headquarters Orders of the Auschwitz Camp. By G. Rudolf and E. Böhm. A large number of all the orders ever issued by the various commanders of the infamous Auschwitz camp have been preserved. They reveal the true nature of the camp with all its daily events. There is not a trace in these orders pointing at anything sinister going on in this camp.

Quite to the contrary, many orders are in clear and insurmountable contradiction to claims that prisoners were mass murdered. This is a selection of the most pertinent of these orders together with comments putting them into their proper historical context. 185 pages, b&w ill., bibl., index (#34)

Special Treatment in Auschwitz: Origin and Meaning of a Term. By C. Mattogno. When appearing in German wartime documents, terms like "special treatment," "special action," and others have been interpreted as code words for mass murder. But that is not always true. This study focuses on documents about Auschwitz, showing that, while "special" had many different meanings, not a single one meant "execution." Hence the practice of deciphering an alleged "code language" by assigning homicidal meaning to harmless documents – a key component of mainstream historiography – is untenable. 2nd ed., 166 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#10)

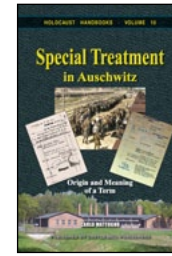
Healthcare at Auschwitz. By C. Mattogno. In extension of the above study on *Special Treatment in Auschwitz*, this study proves the extent to which the German authorities at Auschwitz tried to provide health care for the inmates. Part 1 of this book analyzes the inmates' living conditions and the various sanitary and medical measures implemented. Part 2 explores what happened to registered inmates who were "selected" or subject to "special treatment" while disabled or sick. This study shows that a lot was tried to cure these inmates, especially under the aegis of Garrison Physician Dr. Wirths. Part 3 is dedicated to Dr. this very Wirths. His reality refutes the current stereotype of SS officers. 398 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#33)

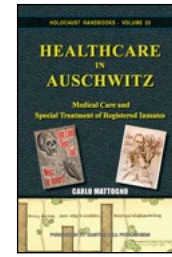
Debunking the Bunkers of Auschwitz: Black Propaganda vs. History. By Carlo Mattogno. The bunkers at Auschwitz, two former farmhouses just outside the camp's perimeter, are claimed to have been the first homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz specifically equipped for this purpose. With the help of original German wartime files as well as revealing air photos taken by Allied reconnaissance aircraft in 1944, this study shows that these homicidal "bunkers" never existed, how the rumors about them evolved as black propaganda created by resistance groups in the camp, and how this propaganda was transformed into a false reality. 2nd ed., 292 pages, b&w ill., bibliography, index. (#11)

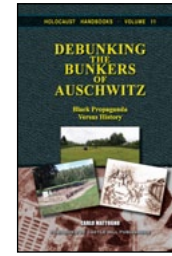
Auschwitz: The First Gassing. Rumor and Reality. By C. Mattogno. The first gassing in Auschwitz is claimed to have occurred on Sept. 3, 1941, in a basement room. The accounts reporting it are the archetypes for all later gassing accounts. This study analyzes all available sources about this alleged event. It shows that these sources contradict each other in location, date, victims etc, rendering it impossible to extract a consistent story. Original wartime documents inflict a final blow to this legend and prove without a shadow of a doubt that this legendary event never happened. 3rd ed., 190 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#20)

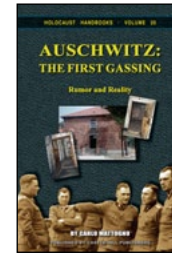
Auschwitz: Crematorium I and the Alleged Homicidal Gassings. By C. Mattogno. The morgue of Crematorium I in Auschwitz is said to be the first homicidal gas chamber there. This study investigates all statements by witnesses and analyzes hundreds of wartime documents to accurately write a history of that building. Where witnesses speak of gassings, they are either very vague or, if specific, contradict one another and are refuted by documented and material facts. The author also exposes the fraudulent attempts of mainstream historians to convert the witnesses' black propaganda into "truth" by means of selective quotes, omissions, and distortions. Mattogno proves that this building's morgue was never a homicidal gas chamber, nor could it have worked as such. 2nd ed., 152 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#21)

Auschwitz: Open Air Incinerations. By C. Mattogno. In spring and summer of 1944, 400,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz and allegedly murdered there in gas chambers. The Auschwitz crematoria are said to have been unable to cope with so many corpses. Therefore, every single day thousands of corpses are claimed to have been incinerated on huge pyres lit in deep trenches. The sky over Auschwitz was covered in thick smoke. This is what some witnesses want us to believe. This book examines the many testimonies regarding these incinerations and establishes whether these claims were even possible. Using air photos, physical evidence and wartime documents, the author shows that these claims are fiction. A new Appendix contains 3 papers on groundwater levels and cattle mass burnings. 2nd ed., 202 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#17)





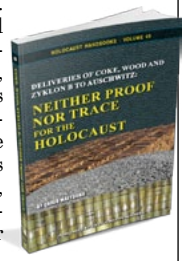




The Cremation Furnaces of Auschwitz. By Carlo Mattogno & Franco Deana. An exhaustive study of the history and technology of cremation in general and of the cremation furnaces of Auschwitz in particular. On a vast base of technical literature, extant wartime documents and material traces, the authors can establish the true nature and capacity of the Auschwitz cremation furnaces. They show that these devices were inferior make-shift versions of what was usually produced, and that their capacity to cremate corpses was lower than normal, too. 3 vols., 1198 pages, b&w and color illustrations (vols 2 & 3), bibliography, index, glossary. (#24)

Curated Lies: The Auschwitz Museum's Misrepresentations, Distortions and Deceptions. By Carlo Mattogno. Revisionist research results have put the Polish Auschwitz Museum under pressure to answer this challenge. They've answered. This book analyzes their answer and reveals the appallingly mendacious attitude of the Auschwitz Museum authorities when presenting documents from their archives. 248 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#38)

Deliveries of Coke, Wood and Zyklon B to Auschwitz: Neither Proof Nor Trace for the Holocaust. By Carlo Mattogno. Researchers from the Auschwitz Museum tried to prove the reality of mass extermination by pointing to documents about deliveries of wood and coke as well as Zyklon B to the Auschwitz Camp.
If put into the actual historical and technical context, however, these documents prove the exact opposite of what these orthodox researchers claim. Ca. 250 pages, b&w illust., bibl., index. (Scheduled for 2021; #40)



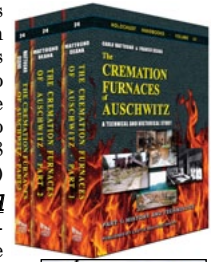
SECTION FOUR: Witness Critique

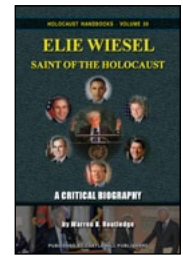
Elie Wiesel, Saint of the Holocaust: A Critical Biography. By Warren B. Routledge. The first unauthorized biography of Wiesel exposes both his personal deceits and the whole myth of "the six million." It shows how Zionist control has allowed Wiesel and his fellow extremists to force leaders of many nations, the U.N. and even popes to genuflect before Wiesel as symbolic acts of subordination to World Jewry, while at the same time forcing school children to submit to Holocaust brainwashing. 3rd ed., 458 pp., b&w illust., bibliography, index. (#30)

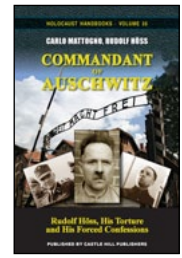
Auschwitz: Eyewitness Reports and Perpetrator Confessions. By Jürgen Graf. The traditional narrative of what transpired at the infamous Auschwitz Camp during WWII rests almost exclusively on witness testimony. This study critically scrutinizes the 30 most important of them by checking them for internal coherence, and by comparing them with one another as well as with other evidence such as wartime documents, air photos, forensic research results, and material traces. The result is devastating for the traditional narrative. 372 pages, b&w illust., bibl., index. (#36)

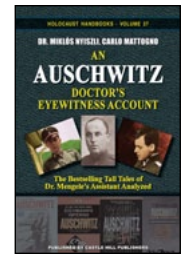
Commandant of Auschwitz: Rudolf Höss, His Torture and His Forced Confessions. By Carlo Mattogno & Rudolf Höss. From 1940 to 1943, Rudolf Höss was the commandant of the infamous Auschwitz Camp. After the war, he was captured by the British. In the following 13 months until his execution, he made 85 depositions of various kinds in which he confessed his involvement in the "Holocaust." This study first reveals how the British tortured him to extract various "confessions." Next, all of Höss's depositions are analyzed by checking his claims for internal consistency and comparing them with established historical facts. The results are eye-opening… 2nd ed., 411 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#35)

An Auschwitz Doctor's Eyewitness Account: The Tall Tales of Dr. Mengele's Assistant Analyzed. By Miklos Nyiszli & Carlo Mattogno. Nyiszli, a Hungarian physician, ended up at Auschwitz in 1944 as Dr. Mengele's assistant. After the war he wrote a book and several other writings describing what he claimed to have experienced. To this day some traditional historians take his accounts seriously, while others reject them as grotesque lies and exaggerations. This study presents and analyzes Nyiszli's writings and skillfully separates truth from fabulous fabrication. 484 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#37)





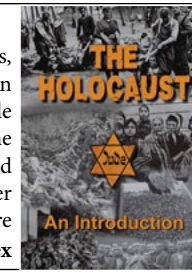




Books by and from Castle Hill Publishers

Below please find some of the books published or distributed by Castle Hill Publishers in the United Kingdom. For our current and complete range of products visit our web store at shop.codoh.com.

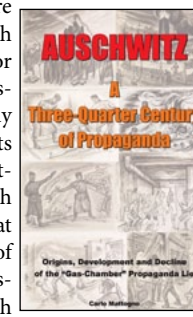
Thomas Dalton, *The Holocaust: An Introduction*



The Holocaust was perhaps the greatest crime of the 20th century. Six million Jews, we are told, died by gassing, shooting, and deprivation. But: Where did the six million figure come from? How, exactly, did the gas chambers work? Why do we have so little physical evidence from major death camps? Why haven't we found even a fraction of the six million bodies, or their ashes? Why has there been so much media suppression and governmental censorship on this topic? In a sense, the Holocaust is the greatest murder mystery in history. It is a topic of greatest importance for the present day. Let's explore the evidence, and see where it leads.

128 pp. pb, 5"×8", ill., bibl., index

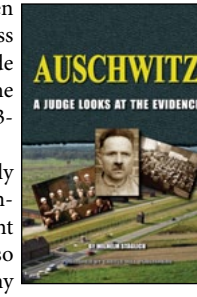
Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz: A Three-Quarter Century of Propaganda: Origins, Development and Decline of the "Gas Chamber" Propaganda Lie*



During the war, wild rumors were circulating about Auschwitz: that the Germans were testing new war gases; that inmates were murdered in electrocution chambers, with gas showers or pneumatic hammer systems; that living people were sent on conveyor belts directly into cremation furnaces; that oils, grease and soap were made of the mass-murder victims. Nothing of it was true. When the Soviets captured Auschwitz in early 1945, they reported that 4 million inmates were killed on electrocution conveyor belts discharging their load directly into furnaces. That wasn't true either. After the war, "witnesses" and "experts" repeated these things and added more fantasies: mass murder with gas bombs, gas chambers made of canvas; carts driving living people into furnaces; that the crematoria of Auschwitz could have cremated 400 million victims… Again, none of it was true. This book gives an overview of the many rumors, myths and lies about Auschwitz which mainstream historians today reject as untrue. It then explains by which ridiculous methods some claims about Auschwitz were accepted as true and turned into "history," although they are just as untrue.

125 pp. pb, 5"×8", ill., bibl., index, b&w ill.

Wilhelm Stäglich, *Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence*



Auschwitz is the epicenter of the Holocaust, where more people are said to have been murdered than anywhere else. At this detention camp the industrialized Nazi mass murder is said to have reached its demonic pinnacle. This narrative is based on a wide range of evidence, the most important of which was presented during two trials: the International Military Tribunal of 1945/46, and the German Auschwitz Trial of 1963-1965 in Frankfurt.

The late Wilhelm Stäglich, until the mid-1970s a German judge, has so far been the only legal expert to critically analyze this evidence. His research reveals the incredibly scandalous way in which the Allied victors and later the German judicial authorities bent and broke the law in order to come to politically foregone conclusions. Stäglich also exposes the shockingly superficial way in which historians are dealing with the many incongruities and discrepancies of the historical record.

3rd edition 2015, 422 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

Gerard Menuhin: *Tell the Truth & Shame the Devil*

A prominent Jew from a famous family says the "Holocaust" is a wartime propaganda myth which has turned into an extortion racket. Far from bearing the sole guilt for starting WWII as alleged at Nuremberg (for which many of the surviving German leaders were hanged) Germany is mostly innocent in this respect and made numerous attempts to avoid and later to end the confrontation. During the 1930s Germany was confronted by a powerful Jewish-dominated world plutocracy out to destroy it… Yes, a prominent Jew says all this. Accept it or reject it, but be sure to read it and judge for yourself!

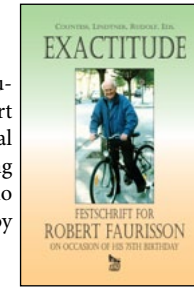
The author is the son of the great American-born violinist Yehudi Menuhin, who, though from a long line of rabbinical ancestors, fiercely criticized the foreign policy of the state of Israel and its repression of the Palestinians in the Holy Land.

4th edition 2017, 432 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Robert H. Countess, Christian Lindtner, Germar Rudolf (eds.),

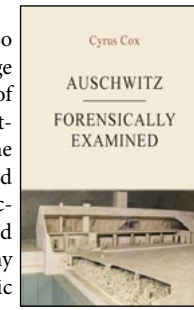
Exactitude: ***Festschrift for Prof. Dr. Robert Faurisson***



On January 25, 1929, a man was born who probably deserves the title of the most courageous intellectual of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century: Robert Faurisson. With bravery and steadfastness, he challenged the dark forces of historical and political fraud with his unrelenting exposure of their lies and hoaxes surrounding the orthodox Holocaust narrative. This book describes and celebrates the man, who passed away on October 21, 2018, and his work dedicated to accuracy and marked by insubmission.

146 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

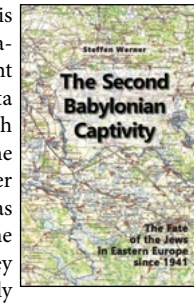
Cyrus Cox, ***Auschwitz – Forensically Examined***



It is amazing what modern forensic crime-scene investigations can find out. This is also true for the Holocaust. There are many big tomes about this, such as Rudolf's 400+ page book on the *Chemistry of Auschwitz*, or Mattogno's 1200-page work on the crematoria of Auschwitz. But who reads those doorstops? Here is a booklet that condenses the most-important findings of Auschwitz forensics into a nutshell, quick and easy to read. In the first section, the forensic investigations conducted so far are reviewed. In the second section, the most-important results of these studies are summarized, making them accessible to everyone. The main arguments focus on two topics. The first centers around the poison allegedly used at Auschwitz for mass murder: Zyklon B. Did it leave any traces in masonry where it was used? Can it be detected to this day? The second topic deals with mass cremations. Did the crematoria of Auschwitz have the claimed huge capacity claimed for them? Do air photos taken during the war confirm witness statements on huge smoking pyres? Find the answers to these questions in this booklet, together with many references to source material and further reading. The third section reports on how the establishment has reacted to these research results.

124 pp. pb., 5"×8", b&w ill., bibl., index

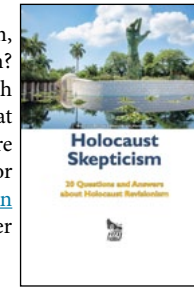
Steffen Werner, ***The Second Babylonian Captivity:*** ***The Fate of the Jews in Eastern Europe since 1941***



"But if they were not murdered, where did the six million deported Jews end up?" This is a standard objection to the revisionist thesis that the Jews were not killed in extermination camps. It demands a well-founded response. While researching an entirely different topic, Steffen Werner accidentally stumbled upon the most-peculiar demographic data of Byelorussia. Years of research subsequently revealed more and more evidence which eventually allowed him to substantiate a breathtaking and sensational proposition: The Third Reich did indeed deport many of the Jews of Europe to Eastern Europe in order to settle them there "in the swamp." This book, first published in German in 1990, was the first well-founded work showing what really happened to the Jews deported to the East by the National Socialists, how they have fared since, and who, what and where they are "now" (1990). It provides context and purpose for hitherto-obscure and seemingly arbitrary historical events and quite obviates all need for paranormal events such as genocide, gas chambers, and all their attendant horrifics. With a preface by Germar Rudolf with references to more-recent research results in this field of study confirming Werner's thesis.

190 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill., bibl., index

Germar Rudolf, ***Holocaust Skepticism:*** ***20 Questions and Answers about Holocaust Revisionism***

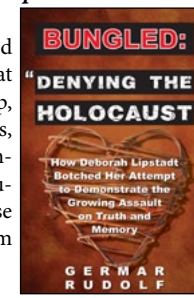


This 15-page brochure introduces the novice to the concept of Holocaust revisionism, and answers 20 tough questions, among them: What does Holocaust revisionism claim? Why should I take Holocaust revisionism more seriously than the claim that the earth is flat? How about the testimonies by survivors and confessions by perpetrators? What about the pictures of corpse piles in the camps? Why does it matter how many Jews were killed by the Nazis, since even 1,000 would have been too many? … Glossy full-color brochure. PDF file free of charge available at www.HolocaustHandbooks.com, Option "Promotion". This item is *not* copyright-protected. Hence, you can do with it whatever you want: download, post, email, print, multiply, hand out, sell…

15 pp., stapled, 8.5"×11", full-color throughout

For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Germar Rudolf, ***Bungled: "Denying the Holocaust"*** ***How Deborah Lipstadt Botched Her Attempt to Demonstrate the Growing Assault on Truth and Memory***



With her book *Denying the Holocaust*, Deborah Lipstadt tried to show the flawed methods and extremist motives of "Holocaust deniers." This book demonstrates that Dr. Lipstadt clearly has neither understood the principles of science and scholarship, nor has she any clue about the historical topics she is writing about. She misquotes, mistranslates, misrepresents, misinterprets, and makes a plethora of wild claims without backing them up with anything. Rather than dealing thoroughly with factual arguments, Lipstadt's book is full of *ad hominem* attacks on her opponents. It is an exercise in anti-intellectual pseudo-scientific arguments, an exhibition of ideological radicalism that rejects anything which contradicts its preset conclusions. **F for FAIL**

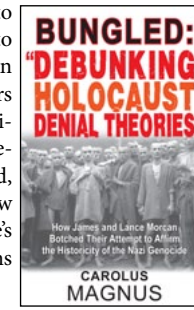
2nd ed., 224 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Carolus Magnus, ***Bungled: "Denying History".*** ***How Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman Botched Their Attempt to Refute Those Who Say the Holocaust Never Happened***

Skeptic Magazine editor Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman from the Simon Wiesenthal Center wrote a book in 2000 which they claim is "a thorough and thoughtful answer to all the claims of the Holocaust deniers." In 2009, a new "updated" edition appeared with the same ambitious goal. In the meantime, revisionists had published some 10,000 pages of archival and forensic research results. Would their updated edition indeed answer all the revisionist claims? In fact, Shermer and Grobman completely ignored the vast amount of recent scholarly studies and piled up a heap of falsifications, contortions, omissions, and fallacious interpretations of the evidence. Finally, what the authors claim to have demolished is not revisionism but a ridiculous parody of it. They ignored the known unreliability of their cherry-picked selection of evidence, utilizing unverified and incestuous sources, and obscuring the massive body of research and all the evidence that dooms their project to failure. **F for FAIL**

162 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Carolus Magnus, ***Bungled: "Debunking Holocaust Denial Theories".*** ***How James and Lance Morcan Botched Their Attempt to Affirm the Historicity of the Nazi Genocide***



The novelists and movie-makers James and Lance Morcan have produced a book "to end [Holocaust] denial once and for all." To do this, "no stone was left unturned" to verify historical assertions by presenting "a wide array of sources" meant "to shut down the debate deniers wish to create. One by one, the various arguments Holocaust deniers use to try to discredit wartime records are carefully scrutinized and then systematically disproven." It's a lie. First, the Morcans completely ignored the vast amount of recent scholarly studies published by revisionists; they didn't even identify them. Instead, they engaged in shadowboxing, creating some imaginary, bogus "revisionist" scarecrow which they then tore to pieces. In addition, their knowledge even of their own side's source material was dismal, and the way they backed up their misleading or false claims was pitifully inadequate. **F for FAIL.**

144 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

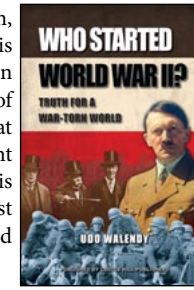
Joachim Hoffmann, ***Stalin's War of Extermination 1941-1945***

A German government historian documents Stalin's murderous war against the German army and the German people. Based on the author's lifelong study of German and Russian military records, this book reveals the Red Army's grisly record of atrocities against soldiers and civilians, as ordered by Stalin. Since the 1920s, Stalin planned to invade Western Europe to initiate the "World Revolution." He prepared an attack which was unparalleled in history. The Germans noticed Stalin's aggressive intentions, but they underestimated the strength of the Red Army. What unfolded was the most-cruel war in history. This book shows how Stalin and his Bolshevik henchman used unimaginable violence and atrocities to break any resistance in the Red Army and to force their unwilling soldiers to fight against the Germans. The book explains how Soviet propagandists incited their soldiers to unlimited hatred against everything German, and he gives the reader a short but extremely unpleasant glimpse into what happened when these Soviet soldiers finally reached German soil in 1945: A gigantic wave of looting, arson, rape, torture, and mass murder…

428 pp. pb, 6"×9", bibl., index, b&w ill.

For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Udo Walendy, ***Who Started World War II:*** *Truth for a War-Torn World*



For seven decades, mainstream historians have insisted that Germany was the main, if not the sole culprit for unleashing World War II in Europe. In the present book this myth is refuted. There is available to the public today a great number of documents on the foreign policies of the Great Powers before September 1939 as well as a wealth of literature in the form of memoirs of the persons directly involved in the decisions that led to the outbreak of World War II. Together, they made possible Walendy's present mosaic-like reconstruction of the events before the outbreak of the war in 1939. This book has been published only after an intensive study of sources, taking the greatest care to minimize speculation and inference. The present edition has been translated completely anew from the German original and has been slightly revised.

500 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl., b&w ill.

Germar Rudolf: ***Resistance is Obligatory!***

In 2005 Rudolf, a peaceful dissident and publisher of revisionist literature, was kidnapped by the U.S. government and deported to Germany. There the local lackey regime staged a show trial against him for his historical writings. Rudolf was not permitted to defend his historical opinions, as the German penal law prohibits this. Yet he defended himself anyway: 7 days long Rudolf held a speech in the court room, during which he proved systematically that only the revisionists are scholarly in their attitude, whereas the Holocaust orthodoxy is merely pseudo-scientific. He then explained in detail why it is everyone's obligation to resist, without violence, a government which throws peaceful dissident into dungeons. When Rudolf tried to publish his public defence speech as a book from his prison cell, the public prosecutor initiated a new criminal investigation against him. After his probation time ended in 2011, he dared publish this speech anyway…

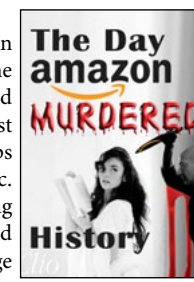
2nd ed. 2016, 378 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

Germar Rudolf, ***Hunting Germar Rudolf:*** *Essays on a Modern-Day Witch Hunt*

German-born revisionist activist, author and publisher Germar Rudolf describes which events made him convert from a Holocaust believer to a Holocaust skeptic, quickly rising to a leading personality within the revisionist movement. This in turn unleashed a tsunami of persecution against him: loss of his job, denied PhD exam, destruction of his family, driven into exile, slandered by the mass media, literally hunted, caught, put on a show trial where filing motions to introduce evidence is illegal under the threat of further proseuction, and finally locked up in prison for years for nothing else than his peaceful yet controversial scholarly writings. In several essays, Rudolf takes the reader on a journey through an absurd world of government and societal persecution which most of us could never even fathom actually exists.…

304 pp. pb, 6"×9", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Germar Rudolf, ***The Day Amazon Murdered History***



Amazon is the world's biggest book retailer. They dominate the U.S. and several foreign markets. Pursuant to the 1998 declaration of Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos to offer "the good, the bad and the ugly," customers once could buy every book that was in print and was legal to sell. However, in early 2017, a series of anonymous bomb threats against Jewish community centers occurred in the U.S., fueling a campaign by Jewish groups to coax Amazon into banning revisionist writings, false portraing them as anti-Semitic. On March 6, 2017, Amazon caved in and banned more than 100 books with dissenting viewpoints on the Holocaust. In April 2017, an Israeli Jew was arrested for having placed the fake bomb threats, a paid "service" he had offered for years. But that did not change Amazon's mind. Its stores remain closed for history books Jewish lobby groups disapprove of. This book accompanies the documentary of the same title. Both reveal how revisionist publications had become so powerfully convincing that the powers that be resorted to what looks like a dirty false-flag operation in order to get these books banned from Amazon…

128 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., b&w ill.

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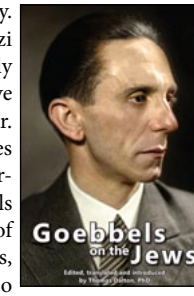
Thomas Dalton, ***Hitler on the Jews***

That Adolf Hitler spoke out against the Jews is beyond obvious. But of the thousands of books and articles written on Hitler, virtually none quotes Hitler's exact words on the Jews. The reason for this is clear: Those in positions of influence have incentives to present a simplistic picture of Hitler as a blood-thirsty tyrant. However, Hitler's take on the Jews is far more complex and sophisticated. In this book, for the first time, you can make up your own mind by reading nearly every idea that Hitler put forth about the Jews, in considerable detail and in full context. This is the first book ever to compile his remarks on the Jews. As you will discover, Hitler's analysis of the Jews, though hostile, is erudite, detailed, and – surprise, surprise – largely aligns with events of recent decades. There are many lessons here for the modern-day world to learn.

200 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***Goebbels on the Jews***



From the age of 26 until his death in 1945, Joseph Goebbels kept a near-daily diary. From it, we get a detailed look at the attitudes of one of the highest-ranking men in Nazi Germany. Goebbels shared Hitler's dislike of the Jews, and likewise wanted them totally removed from the Reich territory. Ultimately, Goebbels and others sought to remove the Jews completely from the Eurasian land mass—perhaps to the island of Madagascar. This would be the "final solution" to the Jewish Question. Nowhere in the diary does Goebbels discuss any Hitler order to kill the Jews, nor is there any reference to extermination camps, gas chambers, or any methods of systematic mass-murder. Goebbels acknowledges that Jews did indeed die by the thousands; but the range and scope of killings evidently fall far short of the claimed figure of 6 million. This book contains, for the first time, every significant diary entry relating to the Jews or Jewish policy. Also included are partial or full citations of 10 major essays by Goebbels on the Jews.

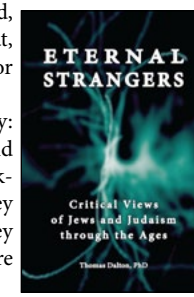
274 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***The Jewish Hand in the World Wars***

For many centuries, Jews have had a negative reputation in many countries. The reasons given are plentiful, but less well known is their involvement in war. When we examine the causal factors for war, and look at its primary beneficiaries, we repeatedly find a Jewish presence. Throughout history, Jews have played an exceptionally active role in promoting and inciting war. With their long-notorious influence in government, we find recurrent instances of Jews promoting hardline stances, being uncompromising, and actively inciting people to hatred. Jewish misanthropy, rooted in Old Testament mandates, and combined with a ruthless materialism, has led them, time and again, to instigate warfare if it served their larger interests. This fact explains much about the present-day world. In this book, Thomas Dalton examines in detail the Jewish hand in the two world wars. Along the way, he dissects Jewish motives and Jewish strategies for maximizing gain amidst warfare, reaching back centuries.

197 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***Eternal Strangers:*** *Critical Views of Jews and Judaism Through the Ages*



It is common knowledge that Jews have been disliked for centuries—sometimes loathed, sometimes hated. But why? The standard reply is that anti-Semitism is a "disease" that, for some strange reason, has afflicted non-Jews for ages. But this makes little sense. Nor can it be an "irrational" reaction. Such things must have real, physical causal factors.

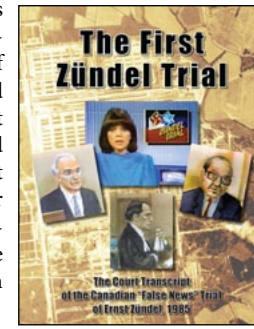
Our best hope for understanding this recurrent 'anti-Semitism' is to study the history: to look at the actual words written by prominent critics of the Jews, in context, and with an eye to any common patterns that might emerge. Such a study reveals strikingly consistent observations: Jews are seen as pernicious, conniving, shifty liars; they harbor a deep-seated hatred of humanity; they are at once foolish and arrogant; they are socially disruptive and rebellious; they are ruthless exploiters and parasites; they are master criminals—the list goes on.

The persistence of such comments is remarkable and strongly suggests that the cause for such animosity resides in the Jews themselves—in their attitudes, their values, their ethnic traits and their beliefs. It is hard to come to any other conclusion than that Jews are inclined toward actions that trigger a

revulsion in non-Jews. Jews have always been, and will always be, eternal strangers.
Given this fact, we have a difficult path forward. One lesson of history is that Jews will not change; if anything, they will become better at hiding their real motives and intents. Under such conditions, many great thinkers have come to the conclusion that Jews must be separated from the rest of humanity.
Eternal Strangers is a profoundly important book. It addresses the modern-day "Jewish problem" in all its depth—something which is arguably at the root of many of the world's social, political and economic problems. The matter is urgent; we haven't a moment to lose.

186 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

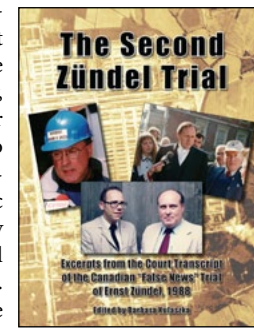
The Queen versus Zündel: ***The First Zündel Trial:*** *The Transcript*



In the early 1980s, Ernst Zündel, a German immigrant living in Toronto, was indicted for allegedly spreading "false news" by selling copies of Richard Harwood's brochure *Did Six Million Really Die?,* which challenged the accuracy of the orthodox Holocaust narrative. When the case went to court in 1985, so-called Holocaust experts and "eyewitnesses" of the alleged homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz were cross-examined for the first time in history by a competent and skeptical legal team. The results were absolutely devastating for the Holocaust orthodoxy. Even the prosecutor, who had summoned these witnesses to bolster the mainstream Holocaust narrative, became at times annoyed by their incompetence and mendacity. For decades, these mind-boggling trial transcripts were hidden from public view. Now, for the first time, they have been published in print in this new book – unabridged and unedited.

ca. 820 pp. pb, 8.5"×11"

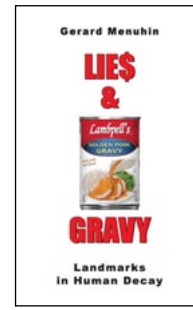
Barbara Kulaszka (ed.), ***The Second Zündel Trial:*** *Excerpts from the Transcript*



In 1988. German-Canadian Ernst Zündel was for on trial a second time for allegedly spreading "false news" about the Holocaust. Zündel staged a magnificent defense in an attempt to prove that revisionist concepts of "the Holocaust" are essentially correct. Although many of the key players have since passed away, including Zündel, this historic trial keeps having an impact. It inspired major research efforts as expounded in the series *Holocaust Handbooks*. In contrast to the First Zündel Trial of 1985, the second trial had a much greater impact internationally, mainly due to the ***Leuchter Report***, the first independent forensic research performed on Auschwitz, which was endorsed on the witness stand by British bestselling historian David Irving. The present book features the essential contents of this landmark trial with all the gripping, at-times-dramatic details. When Amazon.com decided to ban this 1992 book on a landmark trial about the "Holocaust", we decided to put it back in print, lest censorship prevail…

498 pp. pb, 8.5"×11", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Gerard Menuhin: ***Lies & Gravy:*** *Landmarks in Human Decay – Two Plays*



A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, the hallucination of global supremacy was born. Few paid it any attention. After centuries of interference, when the end is in sight, we're more inclined to take it seriously. But now, we have only a few years of comparative freedom left before serfdom submerges us all. So it's time to summarize our fall and to name the guilty, or, as some have it, to spot the loony. Sometimes the message is so dire that the only way to get it across is with humor – to act out our predicament and its causes. No amount of expert testimony can match the power of spectacle. Here, at times through the grotesque violence typical of Grand Guignol, at times through the milder but no-less-horrifying conspiracies of men incited by a congenital disorder to fulfill their drive for world domination, are a few of the most-telling stages in their crusade against humanity, and their consequences, as imagined by the author.
We wonder whether these two consecutive plays will ever be performed onstage…

112 pp. pb, 5"×8"

HOLOCAUST HANDBOOKS · VOLUME 25

INSIDE THE GAS CHAMBERS

Since the early 1990s, critical historians have published a steadily growing number of carefully investigated studies on the so-called "Holocaust." Hence the orthodox historians, usually paid by the government, were compelled to do something against the rising tide of revisionist arguments. Therefore, after a conference had been held in Germany to discuss the matter, an anthology appeared in early 2011 under the aegis of the German historians Günter Morsch and Bertrand Perz. It claims to refute the arguments of critical historians. Indicative for this study is, however, that revisionist arguments are basically ignored. Hardly any of the many revisionist works which have appeared over the past 20 years is even mentioned.

In this book, Italian scholar Carlo Mattogno mercilessly exposes the egregious superficiality and dogmatic ignorance of these historians. Over and over it becomes clear that their claims are in part utterly unfounded or are frequently based on the distorted and disfigured use of sources. Based on his unparalleled knowledge of the source material, Mattogno aptly reduces the theses of the court historians to absurdity. This book summarizes the arguments for and against every single gas chamber claim made for any of the German wartime camps: Auschwitz, Belzec, Chelmno, Dachau, Majdanek, Mauthausen, Natzweiler, Neuengamme, Ravensbrück, Sachsenhausen, Sobibor, Stutthof and Treblinka. Even the mystical "Gas Vans" are covered plus the euthanasia centers at Bernburg, Brandenburg, Grafeneck, Hadamar, Hartheim and Sonnenstein. This is the most comprehensive and up-to-date summary of revisionist knowledge.

By means of this book, mainstream Holocaust historiography has suffered a defeat which comes close to its intellectual extermination—literally every alleged "homicidal gas chamber" is shown to be a fraud!

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