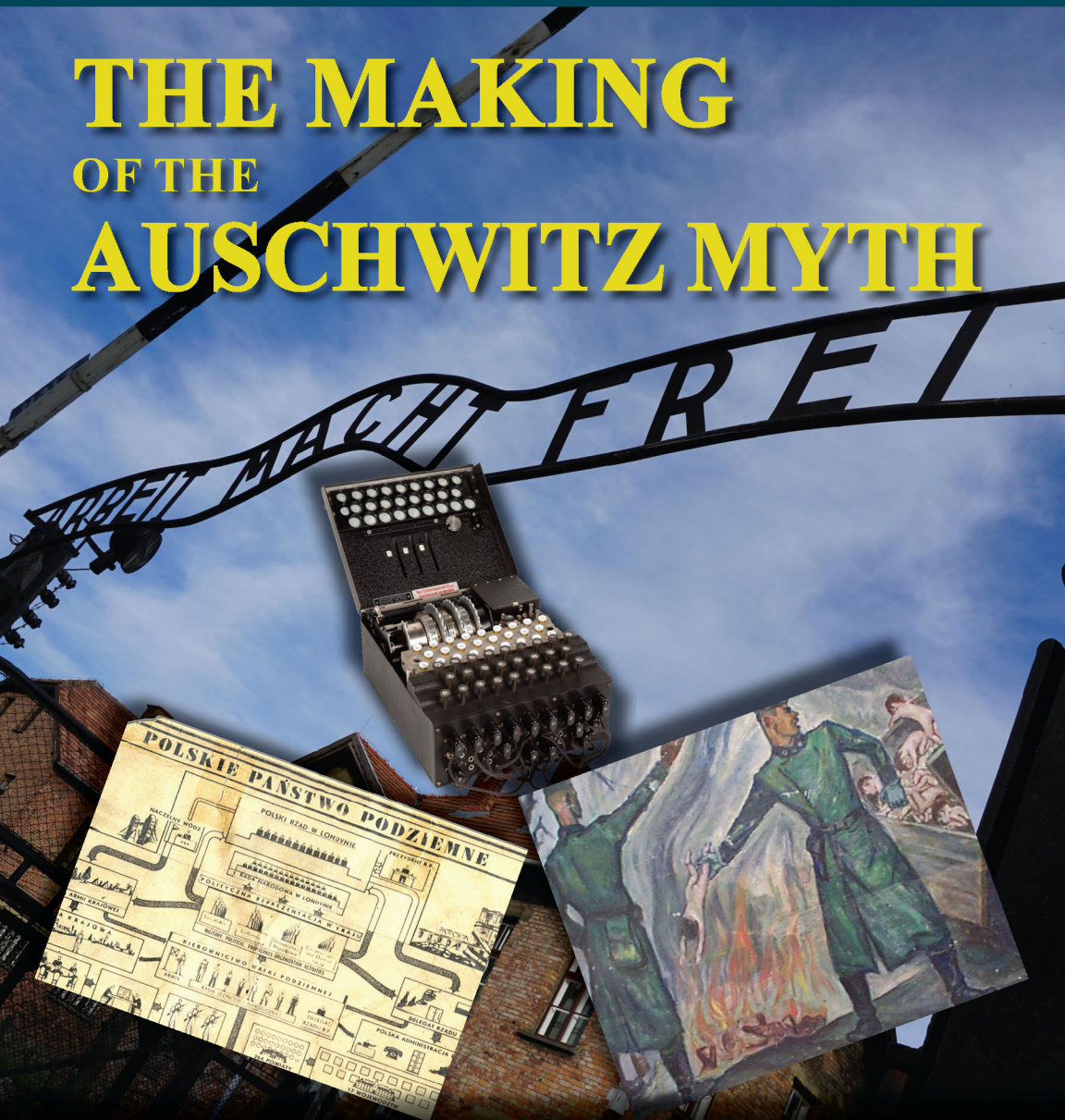


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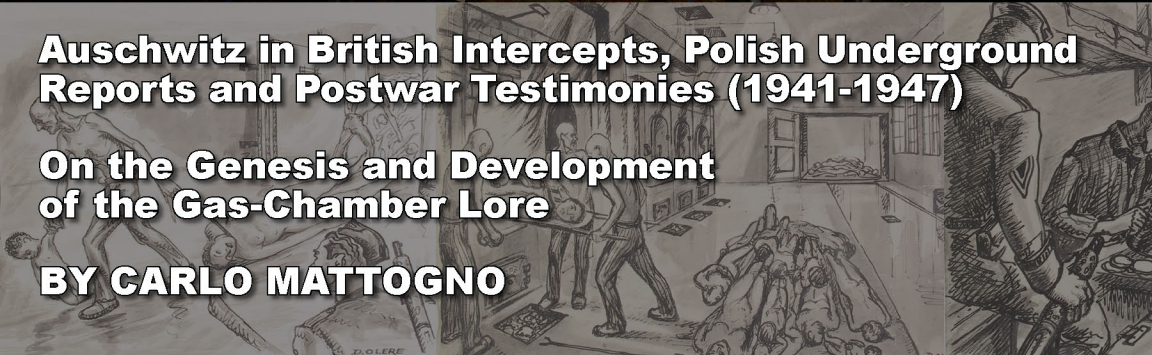
THE MAKING OF THE AUSCHWITZ MYTH



Auschwitz in British Intercepts, Polish Underground Reports and Postwar Testimonies (1941-1947)

On the Genesis and Development of the Gas-Chamber Lore

BY CARLO MATTOGNO



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Carlo Mattogno



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Introduction

Many studies have been dedicated over the decades to the question of what knowledge the Allies and the neutral countries had during the Second World War of alleged exterminations of Jews by the Third Reich in general. What did the Americans know? Or the British? Or the Holy See? What about the International Red Cross?¹ On the “terrible secret” of Auschwitz, however, the literature is rather limited. Except for an excursion by Martin Gilbert (Gilbert 1984), Western historians have only dealt with the question of why the railway lines leading to Auschwitz were not bombed by the Anglo-Americans.² Several Polish historians, on the other hand, especially those of the Auschwitz Museum, have thoroughly expatiated (from a perspective to be explained later) on a topic which is also one of the focal points of the present study: the messages sent out of the camp by the Auschwitz Resistance.³ In this context, the greatest expert is undoubtedly Henryk Świeboccki.⁴

The first resistance groups in Auschwitz were formed in the second half of 1940 and multiplied during subsequent years (see Chapter 2.1). From the outside, they were assisted by the Polish resistance movement, which was fragmented into various competing organizations. In addition to sabotaging the German occupational forces, they helped the camp inmates, providing them with food and medicine. The main organizations operating in the Auschwitz region were the Union of Armed Struggle – National Army (*Związek Walki Zbrodnie – Armia Krajowa*), the Peasants’ Battalions (*Bataliony Chłopskie*), the Polish Socialist Party (*Polska Partia Socjalistyczna*), the Polish Workers’

¹ Among the various published studies, the following may be mentioned as orientation: Laqueur 1980; Wyman 1985; Laqueur/Breitman 1986; Wasserstein 1988; Favez 1988; Ben-Tov 1988. The vexing question of Pope Pius XII’s “silence” was dramatized in Hochhuth 1963. One of the first historians addressing this issue was Friedländer 1964.

² One of the first books on this topic is Lichtenstein 1980.

³ The best work in this regard, though dated, remains Marczevska/Ważniewski 1968.

⁴ Świeboccki 1995 & 1997; “The Resistance Movement,” in: Długoborski/Piper 2000, Vol. IV. Jarosz 1997 is also useful. I draw the following information from these studies.

Party (*Polska Partia Robotnicza*) and the Relief Committee for Concentration Camp Inmates (*Komitet Pomoc Więźniom Obozowów Koncentracyjnych*). These organizations were in contact with Auschwitz detainees through Polish civilian workers who worked in the camp. From the latter, they received messages and information which they forwarded to the *Delegatura*, which was the clandestine representation, in occupied Poland, of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London. The *Delegatura* was organized into twenty offices; the fifth, called “Department of Information and Press” (*Departament Infomacji i Prasy*), whose code name was “Iskra, 600 PP,” was in charge of collecting, processing and transmitting information from the camp to London.

These aspects have been thoroughly investigated by Polish historians, but the fundamental problem remains: what did the prisoners really know about the alleged extermination of Jews? And what really were their sources?

This study aims to answer these questions. After giving a background on the British intercepting and deciphering of encrypted German radio messages on Auschwitz (Part 1), we will explore and discuss the dubious reports of the camp resistance and of escaped prisoners that they issued until the end of 1944 (Part 2). This allows us to reconstruct the origins and contrasting developments of the story of the Auschwitz gas chambers. The sources, mostly in Polish, were usually examined in the original text.

This is followed in Part 3 by an examination of testimonies made within roughly the first three years after the Soviets’ arrival at Auschwitz, hence until and including 1947 (with some necessary exceptions), which is the year in which the Warsaw trial against the former Auschwitz commander Rudolf Höss and the Krakow trial against the former Auschwitz camp garrison took place. Both trials molded the final version of the gas chamber lore that is by and large still in vogue today.

In Chapter 3.1, I will briefly illustrate Soviet contributions to the creation of the orthodox Auschwitz narrative shortly after they occupied the camp. In the next five chapters, I will analyze early witness testimonies. They are ordered in five categories of decreasing historiographical importance:

1. Eyewitness testimonies by *Sonderkommando* members who claim to have worked inside and around the gas chambers.
2. Testimonies by inmates who worked in the crematoria without being members of the *Sonderkommando*.
3. Testimonies of prisoners who claim to have escaped a gassing.
4. Testimonies of prisoners who claim to have witnessed the gas chambers accidentally.
5. Testimonies of prisoners who claimed to have received information directly from *Sonderkommando* members.

Chapter 3.7, “Testimonies of Prisoners Reporting Camp Rumors,” deals with the most important testimonies of this kind recorded in the immediate postwar

period (1945-1947). These rumors developed among former Auschwitz inmates who found themselves outside the sphere of Soviet-Polish influence.

The immediate postwar years also saw the first attempts at making these stories look like history rather than fantasy, a topic examined in Part 4, while Part 5, “The Connivance of Orthodox Historians: Deceptions to Hide the Lies,” exposes the vain attempts of some orthodox Holocaust historians to justify patently false witness statements at all costs.

The present study offers a very large collection of primary sources which includes a significant number of reports and testimonies unknown to mainstream Holocaust historiography.

Part 1:

Auschwitz in British Radio Intercepts

Introduction

It is now a well-known fact that the British, at the beginning of the Second World War, intercepted and deciphered German radio messages at the *Government Communications and Cypher School* at Bletchley Park. The story was conveniently summarized by Christoph M. Wieland in an important article (Wieland 2016a):

“In his book, The Ultra Secret, published in 1974, author Frederick W. Winterbotham revealed, for the first time, that the British Intelligence Service was able to eavesdrop on almost all German military radio communications from a very early date, shortly after the outbreak of World War II. As a captain in the Royal Air Force and officer of the Military Intelligence Service, Winterbotham supervised the work of the Government Code & Cipher School in Bletchley Park, where cryptanalysts cracked the ‘Enigma’ code used in German cipher machines to scramble messages transmitted by the German army, navy and air force.

Seven more years were fated to pass by before the public was permitted to learn that Bletchley Park personnel were capable of far more than simply reading written German military messages. In 1981, cryptanalyst Francis H. Hinsley published the second volume of his book British Intelligence in the Second World War. Hinsley’s book revealed that the British Intelligence Service also eavesdropped on radio signals transmitted by the German police, SD and SS. This enabled the British to obtain not only reliable information on events behind the Russian Front, but on events in the German concentration camps as well.

On 19 May 1997, the British government transferred the decoded documents in Bletchley Park to the Public Records Office in London, thereby making them accessible to the public for research purposes.”

Wieland then reminds us that Hinsley had already admitted that “The decoded messages contain no references to gassings.”

Another valuable article on this topic is “Britain’s Rumour Factory. Origins of the Gas Chamber Story” by Peter Rushton, (2017). David Irving has published a large collection of deciphered German messages, available only online.⁵ Nicholas Kollerstrom, who dedicated a chapter from one of his books to “The Bletchley Park Decrypts” (2014, Chapter 6, pp. 95-107), is also worth mentioning.

Orthodox Holocaust historians who have dealt with this issue, given that they start from the *a priori* “fact” that mass murder of Jews in gas chambers was carried out in Auschwitz, are mainly interested in how the British interpreted the decrypts, that is what they “knew,” often only to accuse them of

⁵ “The Himmler Decodes – a selection of messages passed from 1941 to 1945 between Himmler, his headquarters, and local police and SS commanders”; <http://www.fpp.co.uk/Himmler/decodes/Decodes.pdf>.

complicit silence. Unable to deny, however, that these decrypts contain not the slightest allusion to any homicidal gassings, they are forced to fall back on the black propaganda spread lavishly first of all by the Polish government in exile in London, which these purpose-driven historians claim should have provided them with the interpretative key to the German messages. Richard Breitman and Norman J. W. Goda write, for instance, that

“Information on Auschwitz-Birkenau was received in London and Washington during 1942 and 1943, partly thanks to British intercepts and partly due to the Polish underground. The British picked up a decode in November 1942 indicating that guards at Auschwitz would need six hundred gas masks. In 1942, through intercepted and decoded German radio messages, they were able to follow jumps and falls in the registered Auschwitz Jewish population as well as in the number of Jews deported by rail to Auschwitz, which was a far higher number than registered Jews. Polish underground reports on Jewish extermination activities at Auschwitz also reached London in the fall of 1942, and reports on new crematoria reached London in March 1943. The most famous and most detailed report on Birkenau remains that of escapees Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler, parts of which were available in London and Washington from mid-June 1944 as Hungary’s Jews were transported there.” (Breitman/Goda, p. 31)

Robert J. Hanyok argues along the same line (2005, p. 83):

“One of the most important sources of information about the death camps, specifically Birkenau at the Auschwitz complex, was the Wetzler-Vrba Report of June 1944.”

Nicholas Terry offers a more complex interpretation in the same vein (2004, pp. 388f.):

“The British analysis was a brave attempt to try to understand the causes of the high mortality rate in the camp. The limitations of the analysis, however, should be immediately apparent: the majority of deportees arriving at Auschwitz were gassed on arrival and never were registered in the camp; therefore, they did not show up in the prisoner returns. The information contained in the intercepts from Auschwitz was in many respects too precise for its own good. This point is all the more worth emphasizing in light of other sources of intelligence relating to Auschwitz that were in British possession by the summer of 1942. The first was passed to the British by the Polish Government-in-exile, offering unusually precise intelligence on the gassing experiments carried out against 600 Soviet prisoners of war and 200 Polish political prisoners in 1941, dating the murder to September 5. News of the killing by gas circulated widely, to the point where a backbench Conservative MP could write to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, in March 1942, concerning the fate of Russian prisoners of war in Germany: ‘when these prisoners are sick they are just killed off with gas like rats.’ The British were thus completely aware that gas chambers were in operation within the concentration-camp system, including

in Auschwitz. By early 1942, they were also aware of the Nazi euthanasia program and its use of poison.”

These arguments are longwinded yet threadbare:

1. Even in the hypothetical perspective of the Jewish extermination, if it is obvious that the reports on the strength of registered prisoners could not contain references to the non-registered deportees gassed upon arrival in Auschwitz, this does not explain why the intercepts do not contain any allusion to these alleged gassed.
2. The claimed “gassing experiments” are just one of the many examples of black propaganda cited in the relevant source, which states:⁶

“Here are other examples: In the Oświęcim Camp, on September 5, 1941, the German authorities exterminated more than 800 people by means of asphyxiating gases [au moyen de gaz asphixiants]: about 200 Poles (lawyers, engineers, students), as well as 600 Soviet prisoners of war, mostly officers.”

And this is supposed to be “unusually precise” information? (For details see Mattigno 2016e).

It is worth mentioning that the first reference to a homicidal gassing in Auschwitz, which appeared in a report sent to the information and propaganda office of the *Armia Krajowa* (National Army) dated October 24, 1941, stated (*Obóz...*, p. 11):

“At Oświęcim [Auschwitz], in early October, 850 Soviet officers and noncoms (POWs) that had been taken there were killed by gas as a test of a new type of combat gas, which is to be used on the eastern front.”

As for the news on gassing of POWs in Germany, the fact that it was taken up by a low-ranking parliamentarian helps to understand its origin. Peter Rushton drew attention to the special activity of two British services, the *Special Operations and Intelligence* and the *Political Warfare Executive* in the creation and dissemination of false news called “sibs” – “whispers” (from the Latin “*sibilare*”), which also included atrocity lies about killings with gas. Rushton even gave a number of examples (Rushton 2017, Part II/2018, pp. 172-180). These false news items were spread through compliant foreign media outlets throughout Europe and the U.S., from where they bounced back to the UK with a kind of informational recycling, often with some delusional rewriting. One of the most imaginative fake news items is this:⁷

⁶ TNA, FO [Foreign Office papers] 371-30917. Report titled “Situation dans les pays occupés par l’ennemi” transmitted to London on July 21, 1942, section “Pologne. Communiqué par le Gouvernement polonais,” p. 13.

⁷ TNA, FO 371-26513.

“Basle, 18.IX.41.

A reliable Swiss, who has already furnished useful information, obtained the following from a German railway guard whom he contacted personally:

Guards and superintendents of trains containing wounded soldiers from the eastern front are ordered at certain places to put on their gas-masks. The trains then enter a tunnel where they remain for upwards of half an hour. On leaving the tunnel all of the wounded soldiers are dead. Severely wounded soldiers are disposed of in the same manner in so-called emergency hospitals, of which it is stated there are many. The guard who furnished this information is stated to have been on duty on one of the trains in which wounded soldiers were ‘gassed’. He was sworn to secrecy under penalty of death, but stated he could no longer withhold his secret from the outer world, by reason of conscience and wanted the German people to learn the fate of their wounded soldiers.”

The above item was not the original “sib,” but rather one that had already come back once. Another iteration of this recycling was recorded by the British, who kept specific documentation on such “come-backs” of the false news items they had released:⁸

“LH/WL/48.

SECRET.

4th August, 1942.

to: MR. RAYNER.

From: LIONEL HALE.

Please note the following come-back on R/693:-

Bermuda Intercept, 21.5.42., from Bern to International News, U. S. A.

The witness is a grey-haired old man of thirty years. He drove a locomotive on the Munich-Berlin line.

‘I was mobilised for service to carry heavily-wounded soldiers from the front to Poland... We drove into a tunnel not far from the Polish border. A colonel stepped into my driver’s cabin and ordered me to stop the train and put on my gas mask – at the point of a revolver. Veiled figures with gas masks jumped into the train. In fifteen minutes I was ordered to drive on. Outside the tunnel we stopped again and to my horror I saw the bodies of my charges being tossed out of the window into a large mass grave, which had been dug by Polish slaves. I thought I must be dreaming. ‘Why doesn’t somebody do something?’ I screamed. No use: I realised they had all been gassed. My hair was grey when I looked in the glass again.’”

But there were also other no-less-imaginative variations on the theme, like this one:⁹

“General Information No. 2 (Part 2).

February 16th, 1942.

A TASS report from Geneva, dated February 13th (published in the Moscow papers for February 14), says that a Swede, who arrived in Geneva from Ber-

⁸ TNA, FO 898-71, P.W.E./Sibs (Rumours & whispers campaign). Come-Backs 1940-1943.

⁹ TNA, FO 371-30898, p. 139.

lin late in January, related that there is much talk in Berlin about the fact that severely wounded German soldiers are being killed by gas in special gas chambers, which are provided in almost every German field-ambulance. German doctors and officers, friends of the Swede, have confirmed this fact.”

The following “sib” also contains guidelines on how to use it in France:¹⁰

“SD/19
OCCUPIED COUNTRIES
5.12.41.

Foreign workers should not go to Germany because they are transferred to occupied Poland or blitzed districts, gassed if unfit, sterilised, cheated of their wages, or liable to be treated as hostages.

(N.b. do not use the hostage theme for France.”

Already these few examples show that Terry’s claim – supported by two silly examples – that the British were “completely aware” that gas chambers were operating in the concentration camp system, including Auschwitz, is a stretch, if not to say openly ridiculous.

In Chapter 1.2., I will analyze the interpretations of a worthy colleague of his, Richard Breitman, as they are laid out in a more-detailed paper he has dedicated to this topic.

1.1. The Absence of Clues about “Gas Chambers”

The British compiled summaries of the messages which also include the section “concentration camps,” among which Auschwitz was listed. The first refers to the period from January 1 to August 15, 1942:¹¹

“Strength of Guard: N.C.O.s 108, men unknown. Figure of Prisoners: Jan 6th 9884 Total (presumably, excluding Russian civilians), 191 Jews, 9186 Poles, 2095 Russians (including civilians presumably). Feb. 4th. 10259 Total. 254 Jews, 9506 Poles, 1280 Russians. Again the total presumably excludes Russian civilians and the Russian column includes civilians. March 2nd. 10116. 380 Jews, 9221 Poles, 871 Russians. April 3rd. 10242 Total. 1269 Jews, 8475 Poles, 354 Russians. Here for the first time the Russian column probably contains only prisoners of war. May 5th. 14296. 4010 Jews, 9559 Poles, 182 Russians. June 2nd. 14115 Total. 3466 Jews, 9985 Poles, 153 Russians. July 10th. 16368. 459 Political prisoners, 5998 Jews, 7676 Poles, 153 Russians. ORANIENBURG’s criticism of their return of April 11 (25/22) can unfortunately not be checked as the relevant figures are missing. A message of 8 May refers to taking over 3128 prisoners from Armaments works in LUBLIN (66/14). A Pole escapes on 13 May (60/18). On 15 May HIMMLER expresses

¹⁰ TNA, FO 898-70.

¹¹ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/O.S. 1/21.8.42 (Covering the period Jan. 1 – August 15, 1942), p. 18.

his interest in their tanning experiments (63/17). On 2nd. June AUSCHWITZ complains that the situation is extremely dangerous because the Hungarian replacements for guards given up to Field Units have not arrived (96/39); 90 of the 109 have arrived on 19 June (138/29). On 5 June AUSCHWITZ is told that for political reasons they will not receive 2,000 Jewish workers but on 17 June Jewish transports from Slovakia are announced (104/5; 127/16); their arrival can be seen in the HORHUG reports. A message of June 9th. says that Typhus dominates the camp (113/5): 18 out of 106 cases have died before 15 June (126/4); 22 out of 77 further cases have died before 22nd. June (140/1). On 4 July 100 Schutzhundefuehrer with their dogs are sent to AUSCHWITZ (108/4). On 16 July reference is made to a transport not of Jews but of 'not interned' apparently from PARIS (168/41). AUSCHWITZ is told to hand over useless Jewish clothing to the clothing works at Lublin (168/13)."

"Oranienburg's criticism" is the following message by SS Sturmbannführer Arthur Liebehenschel, back then chief of Office D I of the WVHA:¹²

"Reference: your report from April 11, 1942. In your protective-custody-camp report from April 11, 1942, a departure of 1281 Poles is recorded. How is this number made up? On April 11th, 1942, you report a total of 10,282 prisoners in the daily prisoner-strength report, and only 9044 prisoners in the protective-custody-camp report (excluding Soviet POWs). Please clarify the difference immediately (today) by teletype. sgnd. LIEBEHENSCHEL."

This shows that the WVHA was examining the reports sent from Auschwitz very carefully.

The next summary covers the time from August 3 to September 25, 1942.¹³

"The August figures follow the prescribed form of 7 columns. Compared with camps hitherto examined, two points stand out 1. that the figures for arrivals and departures^[14] are very large every day (see above), 2. that the proportion of Jews is very high and increases from 6241 at the beginning of July to 12011 at the beginning of August. The aggregate of columns 4 to 7 are about 1888 below the total, which includes Russian civilian workers. The movements appear for the most part to be reflected in Columns 4 to 6. In view of the method of reckoning at BUCHENWALD it now appears likely that the large figures for Russians in the January and February returns are all prisoners of war, but that as at BUCHENWALD prisoners of war are not included in the total."

¹² TNA, HW 16-17. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.4.42. ZIP/GPDD25/5.5.42, No. 22/23/24. WVHA stands for *Wirtschaft- und Verwaltungs-Hauptamt*, the SS's Economic and Administrative Main Office.

¹³ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/OS 2/27.9.42. (Covering the period 3rd Aug. 1942 - 25th Sept. 1942), p. 10.

¹⁴ These are "Zugänge" and "Abgänge," newly admitted and departed inmates.

This is followed by a summary covering the time until October 17, 1942. Some information on Auschwitz is already reported in the section containing general considerations on concentration camps:¹⁵

“Some light on conditions in Concentration camps is shown by the instruction that a visiting labour commissions not to be shown either ‘special quarters’ (Sonderunterbringung) or, if it can be avoided, ‘prisoners shot when escaping’ (262b/33). [...] AUSCHWITZ is being used as a training (and testing?) centre for Volksdeutsche from Hungary and the Balkans (see under SS Div. Prinz Eugen).”

The section addressing Auschwitz directly is very detailed:¹⁶

“The total figure falls from 22,355 on 1st Sept. to 17,363 on 30th Sept. and to 16,966 on 20th Oct. The number of German political prisoners varies between 496 and 553; the number of Jews falls from 11,837 on 1st Sept. to 6475 on 22nd Sept., the number of Poles falls from a maximum of 8489 on 2nd Sept. to a minimum of 6470 on 19th Oct. No figures for deaths have been given this month and therefore it cannot be said what proportion of the daily departures, which amount to 2395 on 7th Sept., 1429 on 8th Sept., and otherwise vary between 550 and 47, are due to death: it is however known that at least 11 SS men have been taken into hospital on suspicion of typhus during October (253b/3; 261b/3; 267b/4; 259b/13). As about 2,000 men in the total are always unaccounted for, it is difficult to be certain to what categories the arrivals and departures belong. But on 7th Sept. the numbers of political prisoners, Jews and Poles have fallen by 1, 2020, 284, respectively, a net loss of 2305; the net loss in the total column is 2379; therefore it is clear that the majority of the departures are Jews.

A more difficult question arises in October: 400 Volksdeutsche arrived at AUSCHWITZ on the 12th (264b/15), 500 more were to come soon after the 16th (GPD/1124/19), and during the same period transports of Jews were arriving from Holland, Poland, and Czechoslovakia (259b/1). On the 12th 433 arrive, 248 leave; the figure for Jews is up by 185; on the 14th 401 arrive and 95 leave; the figure of the Jews is up by 269; on the 21st 331 arrive, 116 leave, the figure for the Poles is up by 226. It seems therefore clear both that the Volksdeutsche are not included and that the arrivals and departures in AUSCHWITZ are chiefly Jews but sometimes Poles.

VPA^[17] figures are also available for September and early October. The VPA figures follow the form of the Stutthof returns i.e. the same as the AUSCHWITZ returns but with an extra column for the total of the preceding day. The camp decreases in size from 16649 on 1 Sept. to 6774 on 20th Sept., although the new arrivals total well over 3000[.] the last column, presumably Russians,

¹⁵ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/OS3/29.10.42 (Covering the period up to 17th October, 1942), p. 5.

¹⁶ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/OS 3/29.10.42, p. 7.

¹⁷ Presumably Variation Partitioning Analysis, the analysis of the daily breakdown of variations in camp occupancy.

remains steady at between 1200 and 1300, the Poles increase from 786 to 1011, the decrease therefore lies between the Germans, the Jews and the unrecorded ballance. Internal evidence proves that this camp is near [the city of] AUSCHWITZ; as there is known to be a women's concentration camp at AUSCHWITZ, where 1525 women died in August (223b/24), it is likely that these figures refer to it."

Summary No. 4 covers the period from October 18 to November 25, 1942. The section containing general concentration-camp issues mentions a request by the Auschwitz Camp for 490 rifles for "Bosnians," who were probably the ethnic Germans from that area who had been mentioned in a message of October 29. Changes of the Auschwitz garrison's staff are given for the time period between October 17 and November 20. The general section also highlights the large transfer of Jews to Auschwitz "for the synthetic rubber works," the persistence of typhus in this camp, and the transfer of in-patient and partly fit inmates to Dachau ("stationaerkranken and bedingtauglichen").¹⁸

On Auschwitz itself we read:¹⁹

"For the end of October the total continues to rise until on 20 Nov. It reaches 21650, a figure comparable to the figures of early September. The very large arrivals are mostly Jews and the number of Jews rises from 7500 in the middle of October to 10,000 on 20 Nov. 2000 Jews (272b/10; 287b/17, 290b/16; 302b/5) are known to be employed on the Buna Works. 278 prisoners from AUSCHWITZ are employed on the HOLLESCHAU [Golleschau] Portland cement works (274b/30). There is ample evidence that typhus is still rife (see under medical [situation]) and may account for many of the departures. 200 Russian consumptives [tuberculosis patients] arrive from SACHSENHAUSEN on 27 October (279b/36). The women's camp remains stationary at about 6500 because arrivals balance departures (G.P.C.C: F3)."

The summary that follows covers the period until December 28, 1942.²⁰

"The numbers rise from 20645 on 17 Dec. to 24962 on 15 [sic] Dec; half of these numbers are Jews and large numbers arrive and depart every day. Both AUSCHWITZ and LUBLIN are told to report nos. of escaped Russians, prisoners of war and civilian workers, men and women, on 10 Dec (323b1). The BUNA works return finishes on 2 Dec; over 2500 prisoners are employed there (307b6, 315b8, 21). The figure for the women's camp (F3) falls from over 7000 in the middle of November to 4764 on 9 Dec. and then rises again to 5231 on 14 Dec. Typhus returns for both camps give 9 women dead in the week ending 24 Nov., 27 men and 36 women dead in the week ending 7 Dec. (307b2; 321b18): A few SS cases are reported (328b3, 32)."

¹⁸ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/OS 4/27.11.42 (Covering material received between 18th October and 25th November 1942), p. 4.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁰ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/OS /5 of 28.XII.42 (Covering material received between 25th. November and 25th. December, 1942), p. 5.

Radio messages to and from the German concentration camps could be decrypted consistently until January 1943. In the last summary covering the time period from December 21, 1942 to January 25, 1943, we read:²¹

“(a) the men’s camp increases from 24962 on 15 Dec. to 28350 on 25 Jan. The Jews decrease from 12360 to 11332; the Poles increase from 8904 to 12646; prisoners in preventive custody jump to 1456 on 20 Jan. 6000 Poles are to be quarantined so that they can be sent to other camps early in February (365b5). The Bunawerk is still employing 2210 men of whom 1100 are on the actual work (364b24). Jewish watchmakers are sent to SACHSENHAUSEN where they are urgently needed (359b25; 356b1). Typhus cases continue to be reported although strenuous measures have been adopted and 36 cases were found among the new batch of prisoners on 22 Jan. (360b4; 367b6; 366b34; 363b12). (b) The women’s camp also shows an increase in all its columns raising the total from 5231 to 8255 on 25th Jan.”

After this, only a few isolated messages appear, such as this one:²²

“The Einsatz Reinhardt (see O/S 6,iii.1) is probably referred to again: on 15 Sept. a car is sent from AUSCHWITZ to LITZMANNSTADT to try out the field kitchens for the Aktion REINHARD (237b42).”

Finally, the following message is reported in the summary for the period of February 27 to March 27, 1943:²³

“On 16 Sept. Himmler ordered the arrest of 5000 Frenchmen who were to be confined in the Concentration Camps at AUSCHWITZ and MAUTHAUSEN.”

Here is the text of the intercepted message:²⁴

*“Secret! The Rf. SS a. Ch. of Germ. Pol. has ordered the arrest of 5000 Frenchmen, who are to be transfered instantly to Germany into the conc. camps MAUTHAUSEN and AUSCHWITZ. For now, this message is being made... More detailed provisions by the Reich Security Main Office have to be awaited.
Sgnd. LIEBEHENSCHER.”*

These summaries, as will be seen below, reflect in a very superficial and inadequate way the actual content of the intercepts. In particular, those relating to changes in the Auschwitz Camp’s occupancy were intercepted every day, ranging from January 1942 to January 1943, and starting in September 1942 also for the women’s camp.²⁵

²¹ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/ OS/ 6 of 28.I.43 (Covering material received between 21st. December 1942 and 25th January 1943), p. 5.

²² TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/OS/7 of 27.II.43 (Covering material received between 25th January and 26th February, 1943), p. 4.

²³ TNA, HW 16-65. ZIP/OS/8 of 30.3.43 (Covering material received between 27th February and 27th March 1943), p. 5.

²⁴ TNA, HW 16-21. German Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 238b/12.3.43, No. 19/20.

²⁵ TNA, HW 16-10.

Lieutenant E.D. Phillips summarized the decrypts regarding “Concentration Camps and Atrocities” as follows:²⁶

*“Details concerning concentration camps appeared occasionally in decrypts of police [radio] signals, but the fullest information came from returns which were intercepted during 1942 and 1943, until Feb. 43 when the Germans ceased to send them by wireless. The camps concerned were Dachau, Mauthausen with Guben [Gusen], Buchenwald, Flossenbürg, Auschwitz, Hinzert, Niederhagen, Lublin, Stutthof, and Debica; by no means all of the camps, but a fair proportion. Such foundations as Belsen are too recent to have been included in these returns. The regular method was to head each list with a letter of the alphabet, ‘B’ standing for Dachau and subsequent letters except J being allocated to camps in the order given above. ‘A’ no doubt stood for Oranienburg, the administrative centre of the Amtsgruppe [office group] where SS. Brigadefuehrer Gluecks received the returns; hence its own figures as a camp would not be sent over the wireless. The returns as a daily routine were sent in columns without heading to indicate their meaning, but comparisons with other messages made this fairly clear. The columns stood for total strength of prisoners held, arrivals, departures, and various categories of prisoners, such as politicals, Jews, Poles, other Europeans, and Russians, the last sometimes all together, sometimes divided into civilians and prisoners of war. The largest and most fluctuating figures were those for Auschwitz; at the time typhus and spotted fever were mentioned as the main causes of death, with some references to shootings and hangings; **there were no references at any time in Special Intelligence to gassing.** Auschwitz with a total usually over 20,000 contained the largest number of prisoners, of whom most were Poles and Jews.” (boldface added)*

In fact, the letter “J” was also used in the abbreviations for the camps. The abbreviations, according to a scheme titled “GPCC /WWII Concentration Camps Returns,” were the following:²⁷

OMA: Oranienburg
 OMB: Dachau
 OMC: Mauthausen
 OMD: Buchenwald
 OME: Flossenbürg
 OMF: Auschwitz
 OMG: Hinzert
 OMI: Niederhagen
 OMJ: Lublin
 OMK: Debica

The Stutthof Camp, as shown by the intercepts, had the initials OML.

²⁶ E.D. Phillips, pp. 83f. TNA, HW 16/63; underlined words were added in pencil.

²⁷ TNA HW 16-10.

The daily variations of the number of inmates incarcerated at Auschwitz are of fundamental importance precisely for the study of the camp's occupancy, but since this does not fall within the purview of this study, it will not be addressed here.

1.2. Richard Breitman's Labored Interpretations

The messages regarding Auschwitz, while they in part supplement and highlight that which was already known, very often require explanation in turn, and presuppose preliminary knowledge of this camp, which the major orthodox researchers of the British intercepts do not possess. They are likewise unaware that many of these messages exist in their original form and within their historical and documentary context in the archives of the Auschwitz Central Construction Office. In the Appendix, I provide three examples of original messages and what the British intercepted (Documents 1, 4, 5).

Richard Breitman is a typical case. Breitman even dedicated an entire chapter ("Auschwitz Partially Decoded," 1998, pp. 110-121) to these messages in one of his studies, where he wrote (*ibid.*, pp. 113f.):

"Substantial information about Auschwitz was made available in signal communications in part because it was a collection of camps with different purposes, some less secret than others. Auschwitz had started out as a concentration camp mostly for various categories of Poles; it began a dramatic expansion in 1941. Auschwitz II (Birkenau) became the center of mass extermination in 1942; and an I. G. Farben synthetic-rubber (Buna) factory at Monowitz, Auschwitz III, absorbed many of those prisoners capable of hard labor."

Breitman's labeling of Auschwitz II and III is at least inaccurate, because the division of the local camp complex into the concentration camps Auschwitz I (*Stammlager*, Main Camp), II (Birkenau) and III (*Außenlager*, external camp) was ordered by Himmler and announced with Garrison Order No. 53/43 of November 22, 1943 (Frei *et al.*, pp. 366f.).

Breitman immediately provides a far-more-serious example of his crass ignorance about Auschwitz when writing (1998, p. 114):

"From March 1942 on, trainloads of Slovak Jews were among the first to undergo 'selection' at Auschwitz—the able-bodied spared temporarily for hard labor; the children, elderly, and weak sent to the gas chambers. The transports of June 16-20, however, consisted of adults apparently needed and used as laborers—for the time being."

In reality, the Jews deported from Slovakia who arrived in Auschwitz from March 23 to June 20 were all registered, 11 transports with 10,218 people. Between June 16 and 20, only one transport arrived with 659 people, on the 20th, to be precise. The deportation of these Jews was carried out in the framework

of a request from the Reich authorities, which the Slovak government granted, for “20,000 young and strong Slovak Jews” (“20.000 junge kräftige slowakische Juden”) to be sent to the East (“nach dem Osten”), where there was a need for labor deployment (“wo Arbeitseinsatzbedarf besteht”).²⁸ This fact invalidates Breitman’s claim that these detainees were merely “spared temporarily,” meaning that the primary purpose of their deportation was always their eventual murder. This is because, in his opinion, it was only the shortage of manpower that induced the Germans “to make use of those Jews capable of hard labor or skilled labor, rather than execute them immediately” (p. 111). Breitman suggests that this also jibes with Höss’s protest to Eichmann on October 7, 1942, because “He wanted to make sure that the transports of Dutch Jews would not stop in Cosel, in Silesia, where other authorities might commandeer them for labor,” which perhaps meant that “some of these Jews temporarily were spared from the gas chambers” (p. 112).

The appertaining radio message reads:²⁹

“RSHA IV B 4, BERLIN, to the attention of SS Obersturmbannführer EICHMANN, for information to Office Group D, ORANIENBURG, to the attention of SS Obersturmbannführer LIEBEHENSCHHEL.

Re: Deportation of Jews from Polish-Czech-Dutch areas to AUSCHWITZ. Reference: Your teletype from October 5th, 1942, No. 181212, 1755 o’clock... Secret. Regarding the transports of Jews sent from HOLLAND, we further ask to give the train numbers and the expected arrival times by radio in order to be able to arrange with the National Railway Administration OPPELN, based on these documents, that these transports do not stop in KOSEL but drive through to AUSCHWITZ, to prevent access by those responsible for Operation Schmelt, as agreed.

Signed HOESS, SS Obersturmbannführer.”

Subsequently, in 1947, Höss explained the situation in a writing, supported by other elements, which certainly reflected the reality (see Mattogno 2020, pp. 323-325; quoted text on p. 324):

“In the summer of 1942, on the urging of the Ministry of Armaments, Schmelt had received the permission to extract 10,000 Jews from the transports from the West in order to fill up the labor camps near the most important armaments projects. The sorting was carried out in Cosel (Upper Silesia) by a labor deployment leader of [Office] D II and by an appointee of Schmelt. Later, Schmelt’s appointees repeatedly stopped transport trains on their own accord in Upper Silesia without my knowledge and without permission by the RSHA, and they exchanged Jews unfit for work or even dead Jews for healthy Jews fit for work. There were therefore considerable difficulties, train delays, escapes,

²⁸ For details see Mattogno 2018a, pp. 89f., 101-112.

²⁹ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 7.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 259b/25.10.42, No. 1/4.

etc., until the Higher SS and Police Leader Gruf. Schmauser, subsequent to my complaints, finally put an end to this activity.”

I will return to the question later when dealing with the fate of Jews unfit for labor.

Breitman’s argumentative structure does not scruple to violate logic; to show this, I anticipate his argument upon which his previous interpretations rest, which I will examine below:

“Himmler and his subordinates had a liking for good records and for statistics. In early 1943, the WVHA passed along to the various camps an order from Himmler to compile the prisoner population each year since 1933 by category: political prisoners, criminals, Jews, Poles, Spanish Communists, and Russians. Himmler wanted to know how many each camp had released each year and how many had died. If the returns were sent by radio (which is most unlikely), reports of them have not survived or have not been declassified.” (Breitman 1998, p. 115)

The message in question has its own relevance and deserves to be quoted in full.³⁰

*“Secret! The Rf.SS and Chief of the German Police ordered immediate submission of a compilation of the occupancies of the concentration camps since their existence. The compilation is to contain the following breakdown: 1) How many prisoners have there been in the concentration camps since 1933 (by years)? 2) How many were released each year? 3) How many died each year? The prisoner category is only to be divided as follows: A) political prisoners; B) criminals. Another distinction is to be made between Jews, Poles, Red Spaniards, and Russians. In the documents located there [in the camps], the requested compilations are to be reported immediately by teletype to here. Concentration camps that have already been dissolved (ESTERWEGEN, LICHTENBURG, SACHSENBURG, KOLUMBIA, BAD SALZA) must also be taken into account in the report. At that time, these documents were taken over by the now existing, responsible camps.
Sgnd. LIEBEHENSCHHEL.”*

Therefore, the pertinent reports had to be “sent by teletype” (*mit Fs. = Fernschreiben*), hence Breitman’s comment of that having been “most unlikely” is incomprehensible. On the other hand, he is certainly correct in stating that “Himmler and his subordinates had a liking for good records and for statistics,” but this should be true even more-so for the alleged gassings. Instead, Breitman struggles to evade this essential question (*ibid.*):

“During 1942, however, a number of camps, Auschwitz among them, reported by radio almost daily the number of additions and subtractions to the camp prisoner population. Following instructions, they also broke down their total

³⁰ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 14.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 358b/22.1.43, No. 13/16.

number of prisoners by the main categories—Germans, Jews, Poles, and Russians. With one big exception (explained below), British intelligence could and did, with some delay, track the changing population and mortality of Auschwitz. [...] In August 1942, 6,829 men and 1,525 women died in the camp. From September 1st on, ‘natural’ deaths were no longer to be sent by radio—only in writing.

These statistics covered only the number of prisoners registered at the Auschwitz camps. The death toll included those shot or beaten to death as well as those who died of disease or starvation. They omitted all Jews (and the smaller number of Gypsies) selected for the gas chambers immediately upon arrival. This omission—was it, too, a cloaking device?—might have imposed a critical handicap on interpreting Auschwitz’s role, but other forms of intelligence could and should have compensated for it.”

Inmates “shot,” by the way, were those who had been sentenced to death by the SS court-martial of Kattowitz (*SS-Standgericht*, handling civilians) or by the RSHA (detainees). This was a very small number compared to the total number of deaths. Those “beaten” or starved to death, on the other hand, are part of a somewhat grotesque tale spread by the resistance, as I documented in a separate book (Mattogno 2016a).

This is even confirmed by the intercepts. On September 26, 1942, the British deciphered a message that read:³¹

“To the commandant of the CC, SS Sturmbannführer HOESS, AUSCHWITZ. Rubber truncheons cannot be procured in Breslau. HSSPf. Southeast, p.p. TENGELBRECHT, Police Captain and Adju[tant].”

In Auschwitz, therefore, the use of rubber truncheons was envisaged, which no doubt could be used to beat prisoners “to death,” but they were not exactly the most suitable killing devices.

On September 1, 1942 Glücks reminded the commander of the Hinzert Camp that “executions are carried out only on orders of the Reich Security Main Office.”³² On August 22, 1942, the commandant of Buchenwald Camp informed the WVHA that two inmates who had fled the camp, Alfred Schuler and Walter Schmidt, had been captured. Following the concentration-camp regulations, he turned to the higher authority for punishment:³³

“Permission by telex to administer a 25-stroke flogging sentence in front of the assembled inmates is requested.”

Furthermore, it should be noted that the first Gypsies arrived at the Auschwitz Camp only on February 26, 1943 (Czech 1990, pp. 338f.). It is therefore somewhat unlikely that they were gassed as early as August 1942, as Breitman imputes.

³¹ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 26.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 248a/1.10.42, No. 12.

³² *Ibid.*, Traffic: 1.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 223b/18.8.42 [sic], No. 64.

³³ *Ibid.*, Traffic: 22.8.42. ZIP/GPDD 213b/22.3.43, No. 21/23.

Breitman's claim that the pertinent statistics "omitted all Jews" who had been "selected for the gas chambers immediately upon arrival" requires first of all proving that these allegedly omitted persons really existed and that the correlative facts – the gassings – actually occurred. But there is another, no-less-serious problem. In my study of the statements of Rudolf Höss, I pointed out that Himmler, when he allegedly conveyed to Höss Hitler's alleged extermination order in 1941, made it clear that he wanted to be kept informed on the progress of the plan. On the other hand, Eichmann could only communicate to the *Reichsführer* SS the number of Jews deported to Auschwitz, not those allegedly gassed, because this was a local matter that depended on various factors unknown to Eichmann (Mattogno 2020, pp. 184-186, 289-298). Since the "selection" of those among the deported Jews who were fit for labor was carried at Auschwitz, only the camp authorities could know the number of those allegedly gassed. How was this number communicated to Himmler? In a statement made in September 1945, a former Auschwitz deportee testified about two reports that could have reflected the reality – if the gassings had been real. Here are the contents of these reports as claimed by the witness:³⁴

"Appendix 'A'

The Camp Commandant
Concentration Camp
AUSCHWITZ

FIGURES ACCORDING TO LIST

To

Office D. II
Oranienburg

Age Categories of Jews 'treated in a special way' during the week Oct. 12, 1942 to Oct. 18, 1942.

<i>Total figure</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>10-20</i>	<i>20-30</i>	<i>30-40</i>	<i>40-50</i>	<i>50-60</i>	<i>60-70</i>	<i>70-</i>
<i>54,287</i>	<i>6,285</i>	<i>8,975</i>	<i>6,894</i>	<i>8,764</i>	<i>8,759</i>	<i>7,206</i>	<i>7,118</i>	<i>286</i>

THE CAMP COMMANDANT

I would like to remark that the total figure of 54,287 is absolutely correct, for I remember this figure and I shall never in my life forget it. The figure appertaining to the ages are approximate."

"Appendix 'B'

The Camp Commandant
Concentration Camp
AUSCHWITZ

October 18, 1942

Age categories of deceased prisoners during the week Oct. 12, 1942 to Oct. 18, 1942.

³⁴ Statement by Ochshorn on massacres of Jews in concentrations camps. NO-1934, pp. 7f.

Type of prisoners	Total	-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-
In Protective Custody	2,185	306	388	422	445	510	114
Professional Criminals	4				4		
Foreign Civil Laborers	882	186	175	162	197	162	
Clergymen	14				5	7	
Jews	13,845	3,166	4,984	3,340	2,355		
Prisoners of War	2,144	195	944	186	19		
Asocial Elements	/						
Jehovah's Witnesses	/						
Homosexuals	/						
Para. 176 (Abortus)	/						
Gypsies	17		8	2	7		
Total	19,091	3,853	6,499	4,912	3,032	679	114

THE CAMP COMMANDANT

The total figures are absolutely correct, the age categories are approximate.”

The Jews “treated in a special way” (“sonderbehandelt”) were supposedly gassed. According to Danuta Czech’s *Auschwitz Chronicle* (1990, pp. 252-255), only three Jewish transports arrived at Auschwitz during the week of October 12-18, 1942: one from Belgium, the other two from the Netherlands, one of which is fictitious,³⁵ for a total of 5,095 deportees (in fact only 3,385), 4,443 of whom were allegedly gassed (2,849 without the invented deportees). Therefore, the number of gassing victims given by this witness is 19 times higher than the number of documented unregistered deportees who arrived at Auschwitz.

Appendix “B” has a real basis, but it actually referred to living inmates. The death toll claimed here is absurd, because if it were real, it would mean that of all the inmates that had perished at Auschwitz during the entire year of 1942 – 48,500 – more than a third of them (19,091) would have died in just that one week! (See Mattogno 2003b, Part II; 2004, pp. 27f., 34).

A radio message from Liebehenschel to the camp commandant, dated May 5, 1942 with the subject “Classification into age groups” (“*Unterteilung in Altersstufen*”) complained that, on the 7,426 women included in the report (*Rapportmeldung*) of April 30, no report subdividing them into age groups had been received so far.³⁶

In the “Guidelines to be communicated to the heads of the political department at the meeting on March 23, 1943” (“*Richtlinien zur Bekanntgabe an die Leiter der Politischen Abteilungen bei der Besprechung am 23. März 1943*,” NO-1553, p. 4), Höss, at that time head of Office DI at the WVHA, observed:

³⁵ The transport from the Netherlands of October 18, with 1,710 deportees, to which D. Czech attributes 1,594 gassing victims, did not go to Auschwitz, but to St. Annaberg, Sakrau, Blechhammer, Bismarkhütte, Monowitz, Groß-Rosen. (Het Nederlandsche..., 1952b, p. 13).

³⁶ TNA, HW 16-18. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 5.5.42. ZIP/GPDD 67/20.5.42, No. 8/9.

“The classification into age groups has been drawn up by a few camps for the period from 1 to 15, and from the 16th to the end of the month.”

But that was wrong; reports were to be drawn up at the end of the month,

“so that the classification into age groups for deceased and incarcerated inmates agrees with the protective-custody camp report of the same date.”

From Höss’s letter of January 13, 1944 with the subject “Compiling the protective-custody camp report” (*“Erstellung des Schutzhaftlagerrapportes”*), sent to the commandants of all the concentration camps, it is clear that Auschwitz sent reports to the WVHA also on “SB” (*Sonderbehandlung*) on a regular basis. Although the meaning of that term is not explained, the context is non-criminal. To the *Schutzhaftlagerrapport*, an attachment had to be added containing (NO-1548):

- 1.) List of names of prominent persons,
- 2.) Number of executions carried out,
- 3.) Number of prisoners with easing of detention conditions,
- 4.) Breakdown of the transports included under 2 b) and 3 c)
(e.g.: on Apr. 2, [19]43 350 prisoners accepted from CC Neuengamme.
on Apr. 10, [19]43 1,000 prisoners transferred to CC Buchenwald).
- 5.) Report on all satellite labor camps (as previously).
- 6.) CC Auschwitz I-III only: Number of SB (as previously).”

Since the *Schutzhaftlagerrapports* dealt with registered inmates, this “SB” could not refer to unregistered, gassed inmates. On the other hand, the commandant of the Auschwitz III Camp could not mandate “special treatment” in the orthodox, holocaustic sense for his registered inmates. He merely could transfer inmates unfit for labor to the Auschwitz and Birkenau Camps, respectively, as demonstrated by the “Transfer List to Birkenau. List A” (*“Überstellungsliste nach Birkenau. Liste A”*) issued by the Monowitz inmate hospital (HKB [*Häftlingskrankenbau*] Monowitz) dated May 1, 1944 (NI-14997). Whether any of those inmates would have to be subjected to “special treatment” in terms of gas executions would have been decided only after the transfer. Hence, the Monowitz Camp could not possibly communicate lists of inmates that were only later subjected to any holocaustian “special treatment” at Birkenau.

I will explain later the real meaning of the term in question.

Jewish transports arriving at Auschwitz were accompanied by name lists, and deportees admitted to the camp were registered by their names. It follows that the Auschwitz camp administration would have been unable not only to indicate exactly the daily and monthly numbers of those presumably gassed, but even to draw up any kind of lists of names.

Nothing would have prevented the administration from communicating to Berlin, in a completely anonymous way, at least some kind of number, but

there is no mention of it at all in the British intercepts. A message sent by the Flossenbürg Camp mentions an important directive from the WVHA:³⁷

“Subject: Report of unnatural deaths of inmates. Reference: teletype WVHA, Chief of Office Group D CC of July 7, 1942 (D/I VE 14 F/Allg./OT/U).”

The designation “14 f” referred to various categories of mortality (for example, “14 f 13,” which I will discuss below, and “14 f 14,” which were executions).

In this context, fortunately, Breitman did not conjure up the nonsense that other orthodox Holocaust historians occasionally do in this context regarding the radio messages with which the numerical data of the phantom “Operation 1005” were allegedly transmitted (number of exhumed and cremated corpses), which were purportedly disguised as “weather reports” (“*Wettermeldungen*”) and “cloud altitude” (“*Wolkenhöhe*”; see Mattogno 2018, pp. 430-432).

It is known that until early October 1941 the British intercepted radio messages from the Higher SS and Police Leader Central Russia, SS *Obergruppenführer* Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, and South Russia and the Ukraine, SS *Obergruppenführer* Friedrich Jeckeln, which referred to shootings of Jews. A summary selected from the various decrypts contains over thirty of them, with indication of place, date, responsible German unit, type of the execution and the victims.³⁸ On October 9, 1941, the three Higher SS and Police Leaders in Russia received the order, intercepted by the British, not to transmit secret information anymore via radio messages, also including “more-precise numerical data on executions” (“*auch genauere Zahlenangaben über Exekutionen*”), which from then on had to be sent by courier.³⁹

However, as will be seen below, still on July 23, 1942 a message explicitly referred to the shooting of 700 Jews unable to work.

On the other hand, the so-called Höfle Telegram of January 11, 1943, deciphered by the British⁴⁰ and first analyzed by Stephen Tyas and Peter Witte in 2001, is unanimously considered by orthodox Holocaust historiography as a sort of general summary of the victims of the “Operation Reinhardt” camps (Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka and Lublin). The document lists a total of 1,274,166 Jews who were allegedly gassed there (although the intercept only mentions “*Zugang*,” *i.e.* arrival of prisoners). Nothing comparable exists for Auschwitz.

Breitman cannot accept the total absence of the slightest hint as to the alleged gassings, and desperately misrepresents the German messages on the

³⁷ TNA, HW 16-21. German Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 11.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 233b/25.2.43, No. 3-4.

³⁸ TNA, HW 16-63, “Appendix B. Atrocities committed in the field by German units in Russia (Atrocities were most fully reported in Special Intelligence in the first phase of the campaign in Russia).”

³⁹ TNA, HW 16-48.

⁴⁰ TNA, HW 16-52. German Police Decodes No. 3 Traffic: 11.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 355a/15.1.43, No. 13/15.

basis of his illusory “understanding of the true role of Auschwitz,” but he manages to distort only a couple of intercepts. He summarizes the most-important one as follows (Breitman 1998, p. 114):

“Information about Birkenau and the factory-style method of mass murder was more difficult to locate in the decodes, but it was there. In a partially garbled decode in June 1942, SS Brigadeführer Dr. Hans Kammler, the head of construction for the WVHA and the builder of camps and camp installations, alluded to the chimney of the crematorium. At that time additional gas chambers and crematoria were under construction at Birkenau.”

The decode in question states:⁴¹

*“To... goes off... and Head of Office Group D.
Danger exists for the chimney... of the crematorium at... groups missed... If true, start reconstructing instantly... goes off...: report implementation here explaining why I was not informed by the Central Construction Office.
The Head of Office Group C Dr. Ing. Kammler, SS Brigadeführer and Major General of the Waffen SS.”*

Breitman’s linking of this incomplete message to the gas chambers is clearly forced and artificial, already due to the fact that it’s wrong to claim, even from an orthodox point of view, that “at that time” – meaning June 4, 1942 – “additional gas chambers and crematoria were under construction at Birkenau.” The works for the construction excavation (*Baugrube*) of Crematorium II had begun only two days earlier and ended in July.⁴² Breitmann, in his Endnote 33, explicitly refers to Jean-Claude Pressac and Robert Jan van Pelt, but both agree that Crematorium II was designed as a normal sanitary facility, without gas chambers, hence his linking together of “gas chambers and crematoria” is clearly fallacious.⁴³ In his prodigious ignorance of the history of the Auschwitz Camp, he evidently had no idea that the chimney in question was that of the old Crematorium at the Main Camp. SS *Oberscharführer* Josef Pollok had reported the damage to the chimney of this facility as early as May 30, 1942.⁴⁴ On June 1st, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Karl Bischoff, head of the Central Construction Office, sent Kammler a request to have the chimney repaired.⁴⁵ The next day, Kammler sent a telegram to Auschwitz saying: “Construction order issued for reconstructing the Auschwitz crematorium chimney” (“*Baubefehl zur Erneuerung des Schornsteins Krematorium Auschwitz erteilt*”).⁴⁶ On June 4, Kammler reiterated his order with the message intercepted by the British, of

⁴¹ TNA, HW 16-19. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 4.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 109/11.6.42, No. 9/10. See Document 1a.

⁴² “Baubericht für Monat Juni 1942.” RGVA, 502-1-24, p. 224; “Baubericht für Monat Juli 1942.” RGVA, 502-1-24, p. 184.

⁴³ With astonishing arrogance, Breitman presumes to write that Pressac “is unreliable on policy decisions as well as some dates”! *ibid.*, Note 33, pp. 280f.

⁴⁴ RGVA, 502-1-312, p. 62.

⁴⁵ RGVA, 502-1-272, p. 256.

⁴⁶ RGVA, 502-1-312, p. 61.

which the original text exists. This is radio message no. 14 received by the *SS-Standort-Funkstelle* (radio office of the SS garrison) of Auschwitz:⁴⁷

“To Construction Office.

According to the report by the chief of Office Group D, danger exists for the chimney of the crematorium CC Au. to collapse. If true, start reconstructing the chimney immediately. Report implementation afterwards and information as to why I have not been informed by the Central Construction Office.

The Head of Office Group C

Dr. Ing. Kammler,

SS Brigadeführer and Major General of the Waffen SS”

From June 12 to August 8, 1942, the old chimney was demolished and rebuilt. I dealt with this story in detail in my studies of the Auschwitz crematoria (Mattogno/Deana 2015, pp. 222-227; Mattogno 2016b, pp. 46-49).

But Breitman’s meretricious insinuations don’t stop there; he continues as follows (*ibid.*):

“The decodes also picked up reports of a number of meetings between WVHA chief Oswald Pohl and Rudolf Höss and between Kammler and Höss. These meetings apparently were connected with high-level dissatisfaction with the pace of resolving the Jewish question, complications caused by transportation bottlenecks in hindering shipments of Jews, and construction of new extermination facilities.”

In reality, however, no “reports” as such were intercepted, but merely simple references to such meetings, as Breitman himself indicates in a footnote (*ibid.*, p. 281):

“Höss was summoned to a private meeting with Kammler and to a general meeting with all camp commandants led by Oswald Pohl on 25 June 1942. German Police Decodes, 18 June 1942, items 17-18, and 24 June 1942, item 32, PRO HW 16/19.”

In this regard, the following messages are known. The first is dated June 24, 1942:⁴⁸

“To SS Sturmbannführer Hoess.

Meeting desired 25.6.42 1100 hours at [offices of] SS Brigadeführer Dr. Kammler. Signed, Pastoski, SS Obersturmführer and Adju[tant].”

The second message is directly related to the first:⁴⁹

“Regarding Meeting... groups missed... the commandant’s office of Auschwitz concentration camp requests news by radio whether the meeting with the camp commandant on June 25, 1942 will be over until evening, because in this case SS Sturmbannführer Hoess... groups missed... already board the night train

⁴⁷ RGVA, 502-1-312, p. 55. See Document 1.

⁴⁸ TNA, HW 16-19. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 24.6.42ZIP/GPDD 146/1.7.42, No. 32.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, Traffic: 19.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 131/24.6.42, No. 3/4.

for return journey on June 25, 1942. Accommodation for Sturmbannführer Hoess und SS Hauptsturmführer Wagner only desired if continuation of the meeting on June 26, 1942. Signed Hoess."

Breitman's comment is truly incredible and only highlights his ignorance of the history of Auschwitz and the historical context of the messages even from an orthodox point of view.

From June 1 to 8, 1942, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Kurt May made a long business trip to various concentration camps in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, in Upper Silesia, in Galicia and in the Warthegau. May was the head of the Office W IV of the WVHA (*Holzbearbeitungsbetriebe*, woodworking shops), which was part of Office Group W (*Wirtschaftliche Unternehmungen*, economic enterprises). The first subsection of Office W IV concerned the *Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke GmbH* (German Equipment Works LCC), generally known by the acronym DAW.

On June 4, May visited Auschwitz. In his report to Pohl, written on the 11th, he described the findings of his inspection, which at Auschwitz were summarized by SS *Untersturmführer* Fritz Ertl in a file memo dated June 5.⁵⁰ Since the document is practically unknown, I translate the pertinent passage in full:⁵¹

"1) The Auschwitz branch of the German Equipment Works makes a good impression, although it is still largely under construction. 600 inmates are employed there in 2 shifts; these 600 are to be increased to 1,000 following completion of the 4 hangars now being built.

2) During our visit to SS Sturmbannführer Höss, current issues were discussed with the camp commandants and branch manager in the presence of his agent in charge of economic enterprises, SS Obersturmführer Mulka. SS Sturmbannführer Höss assured the German Equipment Works of his full support in every regard.

3) I am satisfied with the performance of SS Obersturmführer [sic] Wagner as branch manager, but he still needs to grow with his increasingly numerous responsibilities. Wagner is extraordinarily punctual, diligent and absolutely reliable; however, he sometimes lacks the necessary foresight and the ability to make the necessary decisions quickly and decisively.

4) Since immediately after completion of the new hangars at the German Equipment Works the takeover of the workshops of the Auschwitz Central Construction Office and of the Auschwitz camp administration is to take place as ordered by SS Obergruppenführer Pohl, a visit was paid to these two factories.

The joinery repair shops located in the leather factory of the Auschwitz camp administration are to be dissolved and relocated directly inside the camp to

⁵⁰ RGVA, 502-1-24, p. 255.

⁵¹ "Bericht über die Dienstreise vom 1.-8.6.42 nach Butschowitz, Auschwitz, Lemberg, Lublin und Posen." Compiled by SS *Hauptsturmführer* Kurt May, June 11, 1942. NO-1216.

avoid lengthy transport distances, if possible under the supervision of the German Equipment Works. Only repair works would be performed there, which would merely disrupt the mass production in the main operation in view of the restricted construction program. SS Hauptsturmführer Wagner also declared that he was in agreement with this solution.

The extended wood-working shops of the Central Construction Office can only be taken over only as of October 1 by SS Hauptsturmführer Bischoff, since the necessary working space is missing at the premises of the German Equipment Works before that date. The relocation will be carried out immediately after completion of the new hangars. I would like to suggest, however, that the workshops be managed, technically and organizationally, by the German Equipment Works already now, as of June 30, 1942. The necessary skilled employees are available, and then the ordered takeover will eventually proceed smoothly.

5) A visit was paid to The 'Deutsche Haus,' largely equipped by the German Equipment Works. A few necessary changes are already being arranged.

6) Negotiations between Dr. Hohberg and the purchasing director of IG Farbenindustrie AG Auschwitz, Dr. Heinz Savelberg, showed that the capacity of the German Equipment Works for the manufacture of the doors and windows for the new hydrogenation and buna works is much too limited. We are talking here about a militarily decisive assignment for the German Equipment Works. The 4 hangars now under construction for the German Equipment Works may under no circumstances be interfered with. The hangars cannot be finished unless SS Brigadeführer Kammler personally takes on this building project. Obergruppenführer, at this point I take the liberty of requesting your personal support."

All three persons mentioned in the British intercepts appear in this report: Kammler, Höss and Wagner.

Hence, if Höss was summoned by Kammler on June 25 and brought along Wagner, it is clear that the subject of the meeting was precisely the company *Deutsche Ausüstungswerke*. Its issues were resolved in August. The *Kommandanturbefehl* (Headquarters Order) No. 15/42 of August 20, 1942 states the following (Frei *et al.*, p. 163):

"Camp metal-working and cabinet-making workshops

Upon order from SS Obergruppenführer Pohl, the local metal-working and cabinet-making workshops were completely dissolved on August 11, 1942 and handed over to the German Equipment Works LCC, Auschwitz branch."

The metal-working and cabinet-making workshops (*Werkstätten*) were part of the Central Construction Office, and employed inmates organized in specialized *Kommandos* (see Mattogno 2015a, pp. 50f.).

A little over a month earlier, from May 11 to 17, 1942, a delegation of Auschwitz big wigs, composed of Bischoff, SS *Untersturmführer* Fritz Ertl, head of the department for above-ground-level construction (*Abteilung Hoch-*

bau) of the Central Construction Office, and SS *Untersturmführer* Paul Wilk, head of the department for raw materials (*Rohstoffstelle*), went to Berlin to the headquarters of the WVHA.⁵² The purpose of the visit was “to determine whether or not the construction sites based on the latest provisions of the G.B.-Bau⁵³ can be reported during the third wartime financial year (April 1 – Dec. 31, 1942).” The delegates were also received by Kammler. The topics covered concerned the entire Auschwitz camp complex, among which the POW camp (*Kriegsgefangenenlager*, KGL), *i.e.* the Birkenau Camp, was only one of eight construction projects (*Bauvorhaben*):

1. Concentration Camp Auschwitz
2. SS Accommodation Auschwitz
3. Industrial Zone Auschwitz (*Deutsche Ausrüstungs-Werke, Deutsche Erde- und Steinwerke*)
4. Auschwitz farms
5. Main Industrial Camp Auschwitz with outpost Oderberg
6. POW camp Auschwitz
7. Estate Partschendorf near Freudenthal
8. Estate Freudenthal”

The Central Construction Office was assigned 250 horse-stable barracks, 77 accommodation barracks, 15 warehouse barracks and 2 family houses, as well as 10 barracks for the Weheoba Company, 10 for the Schenk Company, and 14 for the Albrecht Company. Although on May 16 the delegates had also spoken with civilian employee Werkmann, who in November 1941 had drawn up the first draft of the future Crematorium II (see Pressac 1993, Docs. 10f.), this topic was not even touched upon, let alone that of the alleged gas chambers.

On September 23, 1942, SS *Obergruppenführer* Oswald Pohl, head of the WVHA, inspected the Auschwitz Camp together with SS *Brigadeführer* Kammler; in addition to the camp commandant, the other participants included SS *Hauptsturmführer* Götze, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Schminke, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Sperling, SS *Obersturmführer* Ast, *Gauleiter* Bracht, *Regierungspräsident* Faust, *Regierungspräsident* Springorum, *Regierungsdirektor* Frantz, *Ober-Regierungs- und Baurat* Wittmer, *Regierungsrat* Lohmann, *Amtskommissar* Butz, Architect Stossberg, *Landrat* Ziegler, Professor Konrich from the Department of the Interior, *Stadtbaudirektor* Döscher from the Department of Labor, consulting engineer Kind, *Provinzialbaurat* Kloss, *Ober-*

⁵² “Reisebericht über die Dienstreise nach Berlin vom 11.-17. Mai 1942,” June 3, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-43, pp. 14-18.

⁵³ Reichsminister Speer in his capacity as *Generalbevollmächtigter für die Regelung der Bauwirtschaft* (General Plenipotentiary for the Regulation of the Construction Industry).

baudirektor Müller, Sparingenieur Holthey, as well as the I.G. Farbenindustrie officials Ambros, Faust and Dürrfeld.⁵⁴

The period is precisely when, according to Breitman, the German authorities in Berlin expressed “dissatisfaction with the pace of [the...] construction of new extermination facilities.” Therefore, Pohl must have gone to Auschwitz to resolve the alleged problems that had arisen in the handling of the “Jewish question.” In fact, Pohl talked about everything *but* that. The subjects of the talks were summarized with the following fundamental points:⁵⁵

“Point 1 / definition of the border between the CC Auschwitz area of interest and the city of Auschwitz

Point 2 / irrigation / water withdrawal / of CC Auschwitz

Point 3 / wastewater disposal

Item 4a / relocation of the Auschwitz marshalling yard from the area of CC Auschwitz

Item 4b / relocation of the railway-employee settlement outside the area of interest CC Auschwitz.”

According to an intercept of November 12, 1942, Höss was supposed to be in Oranienburg on November 21 and 22:⁵⁶

“Ref.: Your radio [message] of Nov. 12, 1942. The commandant’s office reports, with regards to the above, that it is desired that accommodation be found for SS Obersturmbannführer Hoesz [sic] on Nov. 21-22, 1942 in Oranienburg. Signed, Hoesz.”

The reason for the meeting is unknown.

When Kammler visited Auschwitz personally on May 7, 1943, he discussed a wide range of topics with camp authorities (SS *Obersturmbannführer* Höss, head of the SS garrison administration SS *Obersturmbannführer* Karl Möckl, SS *Sturmbannführer* Bischoff, head of agricultural enterprises SS *Sturmbannführer* Joachim Caesar, SS garrison physician SS *Hauptsturmführer* Eduard Wirths, and Chief of Construction of the Construction Office Main Camp and Auschwitz Agriculture SS *Untersturmführer* Hans Kirschnek). None of these topics had the vaguest connection with the alleged gas chambers: agricultural buildings, buildings under the authority of the garrison physician (latrine conditions, sewerage system, hospital barracks, washing, bathing and disinfection facilities, drainage, delousing), camp administration buildings.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ “Teilnehmer an der Besprechung anlässlich der Anwesenheit des SS-Obergruppenführers Pohl,” of Sept. 23, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-19, p. 94.

⁵⁵ “Inhalt der Besprechung anlässlich des Besuches des SS-Obergruppenführers Pohl im ‘Haus der Waffen-SS’ in Auschwitz am 23.9.1942.” RGVA, 502-1-19, pp. 97-101.

⁵⁶ TNA, HW 16-19. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 12.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 295b/12.2.43, No. 33.

⁵⁷ *Aktenvermerk* (file memo) by Bischoff of May 9, 1943 with the subject “Besprechung mit dem Amtsgruppenchef C SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Dr. Ing. Kammler.” RGVA, 502-1-117, pp. 4-9.

In this context, Breitman's insinuation thus turns out to be wholly unfounded. He adds (*ibid.*, p. 114):

"Himmler himself went to Auschwitz for a two-day inspection on July 17-18, 1942, and he observed the gassing of one selection of Jews. He then authorized a major expansion and gave commandant Höss a promotion. Following that visit he went straight to Lublin and observed operations in at least one of Globocnik's extermination camps: Sobibór. Neither trip apparently showed up in the decodes."

In the respective endnote (*ibid.*, note 36 on p. 281), Breitman refers to another one of his books, but here he explicitly declares that the only source for his claim that Himmler witnessed a gassing at Auschwitz is a postwar statement by Höss (Breitman 1991, p. 236; note 23f. on p. 306), which itself is a shameless lie, as I have documented more than abundantly elsewhere (Mattogno 2020, pp. 242-250).

As regards Himmler's alleged visit to Sobibór, Breitman likewise refers to his previous book, in which he wrote (*ibid.*, pp. 237):

"Himmler also wanted to see the gas chambers that made use of carbon monoxide. He went straight from Auschwitz to Lublin, where Globocnik held a tea for him."²⁶ [...]

Himmler spent another two days in the Lublin area; plenty of construction and other preparations for Germanization were in progress. This time his appointment book offered a hint of his other interests, recording a visit to an unidentified camp for 'effects' and a treasury.²⁹ By this time the Lublin region had two operating death camps: Belzec and Sobibor. With transports arriving frequently and the gas chambers doing their jobs, the personal effects of the dead Jews were piling up: clothes, shoes, suitcases, jewelry, gold fillings from teeth, even hair, and money.

A survivor of Sobibor later wrote that one day in late July 1942 she saw Himmler, six SS officers, and three civilians arrive there."

Breitman's endnotes 26 and 29 refer to Himmler's diary. From this document it appears that the *Reichsführer* SS, after visiting Auschwitz, flew from Katowitz to Lublin on Saturday, July 18, 1942, where he arrived at 15:15; on July 20, at 12:30, he left for Berlin. The agenda accurately records the people Himmler met and the places he went in the following order (Witte *et al.*, pp. 493-497):

- July 18: Lublin, orchard (*Obstgut*) Zastrow, Lublin.
- July 19: Cholm, Trawniki, Cholm, Germanizable and Germanized farms in the Zamość area, Lublin, at 8 pm dinner at Globocnik's.
- July 20: Lublin (visit to a warehouse for personal effects [*Effektenlager*], a depository for valuables and a barracks), Lublin airport.

The "*Effektenlager*" was probably the warehouse for materials ("*Materiallager*") located in Lublin, Chopinstrasse 27, which is mentioned in a letter by SS

Hauptsturmführer Höfle to the SS and police leaders of Operation Reinhardt dated July 29, 1942 (Kermisz, p. 186).

The warehouses of Operation Reinhardt mainly collected property seized from Jews in the ghettos. In his well-known report of June 30, 1943, SS *Gruppenführer* Fritz Katzmann noted (L-018. IMT, Vol. 37, pp. 401f.):

“Concurrently with the resettlement campaigns, Jewish assets were recorded. Extraordinary values could be secured and made available to the special staff ‘Reinhard’. In addition to the recorded furniture and large quantities of textiles, etc. the following were recorded in detail and transferred to the special staff ‘Reinhard’: [...]”

This is followed by a long and detailed list with the description of the loot. Auschwitz also contributed to these growing assets, as evidenced by a message sent on July 16, 1942 by the WVHA to the Auschwitz camp administration:⁵⁸

“As before, the Jewish clothing that accumulates there and cannot be used must still be handed over to the SS clothing factory in LUBLIN.”

When did Himmler go to Sobibór? It is clear that Breitman’s only source is his “Sobibor survivor,” whose testimony in this regard is categorically refuted by Himmler’s agenda, though.

But here, too, Breitman applies his artifices. The reference he gives is “Miriam Novitch, *Sobibor: Martyrdom and Revolt – Documents and Testimonies*, New York, 1980, pp. 34-35” (Breitman 1998, note 30 on p. 306).

However, no testimony to that effect appears on the cited pages. The anecdote in question was instead told by a different witness, Moshe Bahir, according to whom Himmler’s alleged visit took place “at the end of July 1942,” a period in which

“The camp was operating under an unusually heavy workload. The gas chambers and crematoria were working at full strength. Three transports were arriving each and every day and those who came on them, no matter how many, were liquidated on the same day.”

This witness claims to have seen the following (Novitch, pp. 154f.):

“I saw a train with luxurious cars stopping at the train station. It was eleven o’clock in the morning. From one of the cars came Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler and after him an entourage of six S.S. officers and three in civilian clothes. Among those accompanying him was Adolf Eichmann.”

But such a visit is historically false, as Miriam Novitch implicitly confirms when she declares that Himmler visited Sobibór only once, on February 12, 1943 (*ibid.*, p. 27). Bahir’s anecdote is full of falsehoods also otherwise. Fact is that the camp was inactive from the end of July until October 1942, because the railway tracks leading to it had sunk into the marshy ground (Schelvis, p.

⁵⁸ TNA, HW 16-20. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.7.42. ZIP/GPDD 168/23.7.42, No. 13.

59). It is well-known that the Sobibor Camp did not have any “crematoria.” Moreover, during his stay in the Lublin area, Himmler traveled by car rather than by train, and Eichmann was not among those traveling with him.

Breitman’s bad faith is evident, and this is not even an isolated case. In another study, I brought to light other systematic distortions of his regarding Mogilev’s alleged “death camp” (Mattogno 2018, pp. 664-670).

After this necessary excursus, we return to Auschwitz.

Breitman’s second reference to homicidal gassings is even more tenuous. The text I quoted above continues like this (*ibid.*, pp. 114f.):

“In any case, it would have been very difficult for the British analysts to make a connection in mid-1942 between transports of Jews to Auschwitz and the new installations there from these decoded lines alone, and there is no sign that British intelligence did so. More suggestive was a November message that urgently needed six hundred gas masks to equip its new guards, but that, too, was only one little piece of the picture.”

This comment is rather mischievous, for the message in question says:⁵⁹

“Reference: Your wireless dated Nov. 19, 1942. The commandant’s office at CC Auschwitz reports, with regards to the above mentioned reference, that the following weapons and equipment are urgently needed to equip the recruits: 490 rifles, 490 sidearms, 600 complete gas masks and 960 cleaning devices. Signed by proxy, Aumeier. P.S. Secret.”

What is so “suggestive” in this text? The gas masks were ordinary pieces of equipment issued to all soldiers of all German armed forces, and at Bromberg existed even an “Army School II for Gas Protection” (*Heeresgasschutzschule II*) which held a training course from October 3 to 18, 1942.⁶⁰ Garrison Order No. 46/43 of October 14, 1943 dedicates Point 9 to the labeling of gas masks (“*Beschriftung der Gasmasken*”; Frei *et al.*, p. 353), while Garrison Order No. 19/44 of July 14, 1944 mandates in Point 5 to bring gas masks along even in case of hospitalizations (*ibid.*, p. 469):

“Bringing along gas masks when admitted to the hospital.

Despite repeated orders, gas masks are still not being issued to inpatient SS members of garrison Auschwitz. Hence, it is herewith ordered for the last time that all SS members, prior to admission to the SS sickbay, to the military hospital or to the Auschwitz SS camp hospital, have to be issued gas mask and steel helmet.”

It is truly painful to note the childish self-assurance of the vast majority of orthodox Holocaust historians, that the Auschwitz camp authorities, every moment of every day, thought of nothing else but exterminating Jews. In the doc-

⁵⁹ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 20.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 303b/28.11.42, No. 38/39.

⁶⁰ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 23.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 245a/9.12.42, No. 51/52.

umentation of the Central Construction Office, which contains some 120,000 pages, the documents that, according to J.-C. Pressac and other orthodox historians, contain “criminal traces,” hardly reach 0.05%. This shows how absurd their claims are to find references to gas chambers and exterminations always and everywhere.

Since the decrypts are mute about mass exterminations, Breitman is forced to resort to Polish black propaganda, thereby disclosing that this was the true origin of the Auschwitz gas-chamber story. But the attitude of the British intelligence services was very skeptical. At the end of August 1943, the Polish government transmitted to these Brits a report that spoke of the killing of Poles in gas chambers in Lublin. Roger Allen, a Foreign Office official, considered the idea of the gas chambers absurd. Breitman continues as follows (*ibid.*, pp. 119f.)

“This question elicited a revealing comment from Victor Cavendish-Bentinck, chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, who had access to the German Police and SS decodes. Cavendish-Bentinck first deplored Polish and Jewish information about atrocities: both groups (to a far greater extent, the Jews) sought to ‘stoke us up’ and seemed to have succeeded, he thought. He in effect wrote off information supplied by Polish and Jewish sources. Cavendish-Bentinck then challenged several aspects of this most recent Polish report, particularly of Poles being gassed. There was more evidence, he argued, about Russians murdering Polish officers at Katyn, in the former Soviet-occupied zone of Poland. [...]”

Ultimately, Cavendish-Bentinck conceded British knowledge of the fact that Nazi Germany was out to destroy Jews of any age unless they were capable of manual labor. But he compared some stories about gas chambers to World War I stories about the use of human corpses to manufacture fat, which turned out to be mendacious Allied propaganda.

Cavendish-Bentinck was correct that some Polish and Jewish reports were exaggerated or partly inaccurate; but particularly with regard to the Jews, he acknowledged the essential point: one way or another the Nazis were murdering most Jews. Still, in a handwritten postscript, he added: ‘I feel certain that we are making a mistake in publicly giving credence to this gas chamber story.’ It is not clear whether his skepticism about reports of gas chambers also covered reports of their use to dispose of Jews.”

Given the obvious importance of these statements, I report them in full, starting with Roger Allen’s statement:⁶¹

*“The only two references which I have been able to find in the appendix to this Polish aide-mémoire which deal with this form of execution are as follows:
(1) Telegram of 17th July, 1943 from Poland.*

⁶¹ TNA, FO 371-34551, report by Roger Allen of August 27, 1943.

'Commander-in-Chief armed forces Lublin district informed me that he had evidence that some of these people are being murdered in gas cells there' (Majdanek Camp).

(2) *Telegram of 17th July, 1943, from Poland.*

'It has been ascertained that on July 2nd and 5th 2 transports made of women, children, and old men, consisting of 30 wagons each, have been liquidated in gas cells.'

It will be observed that the first of these reports gives no indication of the date of the occurrence, or the number of people concerned; the second is silent as to the place and the source.

It is true that there have been references to the use of gas chambers in other reports; but these references have usually, if not always, been equally vague, and since they have concerned the extermination of the Jews, have usually emanated from Jewish sources.

Personally, I have never really understood the advantage of the gas chamber over the simpler machine gun, or the equally simple starvation method. These stories may or may not be true, but in any event I submit we are putting out a statement on evidence which is far from [sic] conclusive, and which we have no means of assessing. However, you may not consider this of sufficient importance to warrant any action."

And here is Cavendish-Bentinck's assessment.⁶²

"In my opinion it is incorrect to describe Polish information regarding German atrocities as 'trustworthy'. The Poles, and to a far greater extent the Jews, tend to exaggerate German atrocities in order to stoke us up. They seem to have succeeded.

Mr. Allen and myself have both followed German atrocities quite closely. I do not believe that there is any evidence which would be accepted in a Law Court that Polish children have been killed on the spot by Germans when their parents were being deported to work in Germany, nor that Polish children have been sold to German settlers. As regards putting Poles to death in gas chambers, I do not believe that there is any evidence that this has been done. There have been many stories to this effect, and we have played them up in P.W.E. [Political Warfare Executive⁶³] rumours without believing that they had any foundation. At any rate there is far less evidence than exists for the mass murder of Polish officers by the Russians at Katyn.⁶⁴ On the other hand we do know that the Germans are out to destroy Jews of any age unless they are fit for manual labour.

⁶² TNA, FO 371-34551, report by Victor Cavendish-Bentinck, Aug. 27, 1943.

⁶³ This refers to the "Rumors and Whispers Campaign," hence the "sibs" as discusses earlier.

⁶⁴ Point 14 of a memorandum drawn up on June 22, 1943 by the Press Reading Bureau in Stockholm and transmitted to the Foreign Office on the 28th, states: "The frightful discoveries at Katyn near Smolensk and the ensuing crisis in Soviet-Polish relations has provoked a very strong reaction in Poland. The entire Polish people has condemned the Soviet crime with indignation and has rejected most vigorously the Soviet territorial claims." TNA FO 391-34550.

I think that we weaken our case against the Germans by publicly giving credence to atrocity stories for which we have no evidence. These mass executions in gas chambers remind me of the stories of employment of human corpses during the last war for the manufacture of fat, which was a grotesque lie and led to the true stories of German enormities being brushed aside as being mere propaganda.”

On the same day, August 27, 1943, the Foreign Office sent a telegram to Washington which it had already transmitted to Moscow the day before:⁶⁵

“On further reflection we are not convinced that evidence regarding use of gas chambers is substantial enough to justify inclusion in a public declaration of concluding phrase of paragraph 2 of draft and would prefer if United States Government agree, that sentence in question should end at ‘concentration camps’.”

As for the claim that the Germans were “out to destroy Jews of any age unless they are fit for manual labour,” it was perhaps based on a decrypt to that effect – the only one of this kind to my knowledge. On July 23, 1942 the territorial commander of the police and the SS of Kamenez informed the unit in two places 60 km south-west of Kamenez that a Jewish action (*Judenaktion*) had been carried out during which “700 unfit for work were shot” (“700 *Arbeitsunfähige erschossen*”).⁶⁶ However, this was a local initiative in Ukraine. An intercepted and only partially decrypted message that was sent to the camps of Dachau, Flossenbürg, Auschwitz and Lublin on June 11, 1942, revealed that Himmler had requested explanations regarding the local number of “inmates unable to work” (“*arbeitsunfähige Häftlinge*”).⁶⁷

The question of the gas chambers had presented itself to the British the year before. On September 5, 1942, David Allen, an official in the Central Department of the Foreign Office, filed a memo on “Assertions that the German Government use gas Chambers to murder Jews in Poland.” Frank Savery from the British Embassy in Poland was asked for “a report on the origin and reliability” of the stories that had been the subject of a parliamentary inquiry on August 10.⁶⁸ This inquiry, presented by a certain Mr. Mander to both the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requested⁶⁹

“whether he has any statement to make with reference to the employment by the German Government of gas to murder a large number of Jews in Poland in mobil gas chambers; and if steps will be taken to interview the three men forced to act as gravediggers, who have now escaped, with a view to collecting evidence against the perpetrators against this new outrage.”

⁶⁵ TNA, FO 371-34551, Outward Telegram, No. 5741, Aug. 27, 1943.

⁶⁶ TNA, HW 16-47. German Decodes No. 2. Traffic: 24.7.42. ZIP/G.P.D. 951/26.7.42, No. 6

⁶⁷ TNA, HW 16-195. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 11.6..42. ZIP/GPDD 115/16.6.42, No. 9-12.

⁶⁸ TNA, FO 371-31097, C 8661/954/55, p. 154.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 174f.

The “gravediggers” were three alleged escapees from the Chelmo Camp.

The answer was summarized as follows: Savery had discussed the matter with the Polish Minister of Information and, as it turned out, the story came from the periodic reports that the Polish Minister of the Interior received from his agents in Poland.

“The official of the Polish Ministry of Information to whom Mr. Savery spoke was frankly sceptical of the truth of the story, although he admitted that he had no real means of checking its authenticity.”⁷⁰

On December 5, 1944, the Ministry of Supply transmitted to the Foreign Office the following request:⁷¹

“The Chemical Defense Division of this Ministry is anxious to make technical enquiries on the use by the Germans of Gas Lethal Chambers on prisoners. I am writing to ask if you know of any authenticated case of the use of such lethal chambers in France or other liberated countries.”

On December 20, the Foreign Office sent the aforementioned Ministry a letter that read:⁷²

“In reply to your secret letter of the 5th December, I write to say that the Foreign Office have no record of the use by the Germans of lethal chambers for gassing human beings in France or elsewhere in Western Europe. MP, you refer, however, to ‘other liberated countries’ and if this includes the part of Poland evacuated by the Germans, it was of course near Lublin^[73] that the worst known case of mass killings of the kind occurred. Perhaps you will let me know if you require any information about gas chambers in Eastern Europe of a non technical kind, such as we could supply from the published material available here.”

The Ministry of Supply asked for technical evidence, but the Foreign Office only had propaganda material. This request probably followed the chemical analysis of the contents of Zyklon-B cans which had already been carried out in October 1944 by the “No. 3 Anti-Gas Laboratory,” which ascertained that it

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 155.

⁷¹ TNA, FO 371 39242. Ministry of Supply. No: GERrad 6933. 5 December 1944.

⁷² TNA, FO 371 39242, Foreign Office, S.W. 1. Registry No. C 17549/18, 20 December 1944.

⁷³ On September 21, 1944, the British Ambassador to Moscow had sent to the Foreign Office a translation of the “Declaration of the Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission of Investigation into the German Atrocities Committed in the Majdanek Extermination Camp in the City of Lublin,” which contained a paragraph titled “Gas poisoning.” The claimed number of cremated victims was 1,380,000. The *Moscow News* of September 16, 1944, p. 3, also sent to London, headlined “German fascist demons killed 1,500,000 people at the Majdanek Death Camp in Lublin.” TNA, FO 371-39454. The current official death toll in this camp is 78,000, including 59,000 Jews and 18,000 non-Jews; see Kranz 2007, pp. 61f. On the “gas chambers” at Majdanek see Graf/Mattogno 2016.

was hydrogen cyanide absorbed in blue cubes of calcium sulphate (gypsum),⁷⁴ but without reaching conclusions on its use by the Germans.⁷⁵

* * *

The British intercepts cover a wide variety of topics, which can be categorized by certain themes. Due to their fragmentary nature, however, they must be inserted in their historical context in order to avoid interpretative blunders such as those committed by Breitman.

1.3. The Typhus Epidemics at Auschwitz in 1942-1943

One of the most-frequently recurring themes in the intercepted radio messages is that concerning the health situation in Auschwitz, in particular the typhus epidemics which repeatedly ravaged the camp. Before examining the related messages, a brief presentation of the most-frequently mentioned persons is appropriate.

The SS garrison physician, as an office, consisted of Section V (*Abteilung V*) of the organizational structure of Auschwitz and, for medical aspects, was subordinated directly to Office D III/Healthcare and camp hygiene (*Sanitätswesen und Lagerhygiene*) of the WVHA. This office was headed from March 1942 until the end of the war by SS *Obersturmbannführer* Enno Lolling. Subordinated to the SS garrison physician were the SS troop physicians (*Truppenärzte*) and the camp physicians (*Lagerärzte*), as well as the health-service nurses (*Sanitätsdienstgrade*) and the disinfection units (*Desinfektionskommando*).

SS *Hauptsturmführer* Siegfried Schwela was SS garrison physician from March 21, 1942. A message of May 7 informed that Schwela was ill,⁷⁶ and a subsequent message of May 16 communicated his death on May 10,⁷⁷ which is also confirmed by other sources (Lasik 1995, p. 298; Lasik 2000, p. 249).

His successor was SS *Obersturmführer* Franz von Bodmann, who remained in office until August 16, 1942. The next day, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Kurt Uhlenbrock took over, but he also contracted typhus (Czech 1990, p. 220), and therefore held that position only until September 1, 1942.

⁷⁴ Hence, the inert carrier material was of the “Erco” type; there existed also discoids (wood-fiber discs, mainly for export to the U.S.), and in earlier years “Diagriß” (dried diatomaceous earth).

⁷⁵ TNA, TNA WO 208-2169. Secret. Report on “Zyklon B.” 18 October 1944; Secret. Further report on Zyklon (an unopened tin). 17 December 1944.

⁷⁶ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 7.5.42. ZIP/GPDD 68/20.5.42, No. 5/6.

⁷⁷ TNA, HW 16-18. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.5.42, No. 13.

Eduard Wirths, SS *Obersturmführer* at the time, is the best-known SS garrison physician. He took office on September 4, 1942 and held it until January 1945. A message from Lolling dated September 2, 1942 announced:⁷⁸

“Pending the arrival of the first camp physician, SS Obersturmführer Wirths, on 4.9.42, Hauptsturmführer Uhlenbrock will be his substitute.”

Another physician whose name appears in the intercepts is SS *Obersturmführer* Entress, sometimes spelled Entresz, who was SS camp physician at Auschwitz from December 1941 until October 1943.

Typhus was endemic in the General Government. On June 28, 1941, the German Minister of the Interior sent an express letter to various authorities of the Reich bearing the subject “Epidemic-hygienic surveillance of the camps for the hired Polish workforce,” which opens with the following considerations:

“The number of persons infected with typhus in the General Government has risen considerably over the past few weeks, and in fact has more than doubled. Hence, the danger of the introduction of typhus through the Polish workforce has increased considerably. Quarantine is impossible, both in the General Government and in the Reich, for reasons related to the utilization of labor and as a result of a shortage of personnel and material.”

To ward off the risk of infection, the Reichsminister prescribed that all workers be personally deloused, including their clothing and baggage.⁷⁹

The “Situation Map of Auschwitz POW Camp O.S.” dated October 7, 1941 anticipated a sector referred to as the “Quarantine camp” (future sector B I), equipped with two disinfection facilities (future BW 5a and 5b; see Pressac 1989, p. 185), which no doubt fitted into this context.

On November 20, the Administration of the General Government sent the Reichsminister of the Interior a letter bearing the subject “Jews returning to Vienna from the General Government falling ill to typhus,” which laments the fact that the deported Jews had returned to Vienna carrying typhus.⁸⁰ In October 1939, two Jewish transports from Vienna had reached Nisko and, between February 15 and March 12, 1941, another five had been sent to the area of Lublin (Moser, p. 76).

The detailed instructions headed “Prevention of Typhus” issued by the German High Command of the Army on November 30, 1941 provided for a total delousing of all troops and means of transport.⁸¹

At Auschwitz, the problem became urgent only a few weeks later. On December 11, Höss promulgated a “Typhus Fact Sheet for Soldiers,” which summarized the causes and communication of the disease:⁸²

⁷⁸ TNA. HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 2.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 224b/25.2.43, No. 8.

⁷⁹ APK, OPK 2176, pp. 14-16.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 27.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 20-25.

⁸² RGVA, 502-1-39, p. 10.

“One of the most dangerous and often fatal diseases endangering the lives of both individual soldiers and military units as a whole, particularly during the winter, is typhus, also known as spotted fever. This disease is transmitted exclusively by clothes lice, and occasionally by head lice.

The disease begins 1-2 weeks after the victim is bitten by the contagion-carrying louse, usually suddenly with headache and general feelings of serious illness. Red spots appear on the skin all over the body a few days later, but these symptoms are sometimes hardly visible, and can be missed easily particularly on freckled skin. If such symptoms appear, the troop physician must be informed instantly so that the patient is admitted to a hospital.

The danger of a typhus infection is best fought by preventing louse infestation of the troops. Every soldier who notices even one single louse on himself must report this fact to his unit immediately. It is the duty of every soldier to cooperate in the struggle against typhus by strict compliance with the present fact sheet. All soldiers must be aware that disciplined compliance in this regard can also contribute to ensuring the fighting effectiveness of the army.

All contact with not impeccable, dirty persons, as far as they can be recognized as such (foreign workers), must absolutely be avoided (cinemas, restaurants etc.). Lice can be transmitted already through slight contact with clothing.”

The first signs of typhus appeared in the City of Auschwitz in January 1942, as attested to by Garrison Order No. 2/42 dated January 18 (Frei *et al.*, p. 97):

“Since typhus is raging in the City of Auschwitz, I hereby prohibit all SS members from entering the City of Auschwitz. This also applies to members of SS families who live here.”

In Internal Decree (*Hausverfügung*) No. 12 dated January 20, Höss prohibited visits to the local cinema “due to the danger of typhus,”⁸³ an order repeated in Headquarters’ Order No. 2/42 dated January 22, 1942 (Frei *et al.*, p. 97) and Garrison Order No. 7/42 of January 23 “as an anti-typhus prevention measure” (*ibid.*, p. 101).

The first civilian workers entered Auschwitz with the first private companies. In 1942, civilian personnel already amounted to 800-1,000 workers (see Mattogno 2015a, pp. 56f.). These were lodged for the most part in a special camp called Community Camp (*Gemeinschaftslager*). It was precisely in this camp where the devastating typhus epidemic broke out that ravaged Auschwitz in various waves from July 1942 to the spring of 1943. The first cases were observed at the end of March 1942 in the men’s sector B1B of Birkenau (Czech 1974, pp. 23f.).

In the Main Camp, inmates ill with typhus were housed at that time in Block 20. One of the registers of this Block has survived, and has been analyzed by Stanisław Kłodziński in an interesting article titled “Typhus in

⁸³ RGVA, 502-1-25, p. 6.

Auschwitz I Camp.”⁸⁴ The article says that 4,167 cases of petechial typhus were registered during the period from March 12 to November 30, 1942; the number of deaths registered as caused by the disease was 323. On March 12, the number of those registered in Block 20 was 645 already, and it rose to 717 by March 30, to 867 by April 30, and to 1,162 by May 31; on June 30, the number reached 1,557; the last number mentioned, on November 30, was 4,812 patients.

This document throws new light on the origins of the typhus epidemic which broke out at Birkenau in the summer of 1942 and which even the German sources, as we shall see below, dated back to the first few days of July.

On June 9, von Bodmann, in a message which has only been partially deciphered, communicated that “spotted fever is raging in this camp,” and he spoke of “quarantine.”⁸⁵

On June 15, the “Situation regarding Typhus Cases” was as follows: “No confirmed cases, 150 suspected cases.” As of June 8, there had been “106 admissions, 95 discharged as cured, and 18 losses due to death.”⁸⁶ On June 22, the situation was:⁸⁷

“0 confirmed cases, 152 suspected cases (79 admissions, 55 discharged as cured and 22 losses due to death since June 14, 1942).”

On July 1, the first typhus cases occurred among the civilian workers employed by the Huta company. Upon communication from the Department of Public Health at Bielitz, the *Amtskommissar* ordered the immediate lockdown (*Sperrung*) of the Community Camp at Birkenau and the isolation of all patients and suspected cases:⁸⁸

“According to a communication from the Department of Public Health at Bielitz, typhus has broken out in your Community Camp at Birkenau. To prevent the spread of the disease, the Community Camp is hereby ordered sealed, effective immediately. The patients or persons suspected of having contracted typhus are to be lodged separately in a separate room. The ordered lockdown is to be proclaimed by sign-posting on appropriate boards at the entrance to the Community Camp. Further orders as to the implementation of additional measures will be issued over the course of today.”

This news aroused great excitement among the SS and already in the afternoon of the same day, July 1, the Community Camp was visited by the camp physician SS *Obersturmführer* Entress, accompanied by SS *Untersturmführer*

⁸⁴ Kłodziński, pp. 51f ; cf my study Mattogno 2016a, Chapter 5.4.2.3., pp. 106-109, where I showed, among other things, that the claim of 90 of these patients having been gassed on August 29, 1942 is utterly unfounded.

⁸⁵ TNA, HW 16-19. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 9.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 113/13.6.42, No. 5.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, 16.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 126/19.6.42, No. 4 (von Bodmann).

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 23.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 140/28.6.42, No. 1 (Entress).

⁸⁸ Letter from the *Amtskommissar* to the Huta-Lenz company, dated July 1, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 151.

Ertl and two members of the Department of Public Health at Bielitz.⁸⁹ On July 3, the public-health officer from the Department of Public Health at Bielitz ordered the camp commandant to implement a series of measures to prevent the spread of the disease: suspension of furloughs, and prohibition against leaving the area of the camp for all civilian workers; accommodation in the camp for all workers who returned to their families in the area of the camp after finishing work; creation of a secure disinfestation installation (*Entlausung-sanlage*) for civilian personnel; severe controls over the dormitories in which the three verified cases of typhus had slept: Heinrich Kocinski, Peter Stanclik and Stefan Schropa; creation within the area of the camp of a section in which to isolate patients; lockdown of the Community Camp for 21 days; reopening only after general disinfestation and in absence of any further verified typhus cases.⁹⁰ The source of infection – as verified by the district president of the administrative district of Kattowitz in a report dated July 10, 1942 – were the inmates of Birkenau, with whom the civilian workers were normally in contact, and these, in turn, were spreading the contagion among the civilian population of the surrounding area.⁹¹

“A total of 15 cases of typhus have been verified among the population of the district of Bielitz so far; all of these cases have been traced back to the concentration camp in Auschwitz as the source of infection. We are speaking of the 900 members of the workforce employed in the concentration camp by various construction and installation companies. At this time, it was ascertained that the camp is currently afflicted with a serious typhus epidemic. The number of persons infected amounted to 187, according to information received by telephone on July 4, 1942. 115 additional patients have been admitted since June 27, 1942. Since there have been no typhus cases in the district of Bielitz outside the camp for a long time, there can be no doubt that the infection of the 15 workers occurred inside the camp, since close contact with the inmates on the construction sites is inevitable. The assumption that the source of infection is to be sought inside the camp was not disputed by the camp management either.”

Since the struggle against typhus among the inmates and guard personnel fell under the authority of the SS, the district president could concern himself only with safeguarding the civilian population and the civilian workers employed at Birkenau, issuing “immediate measures” in their behalf consisting of the hospitalization of patients in civilian hospitals, the disinfestation and quarantine of their family members, as well as prevention by means of periodic disinfestation of the civilian workers and appropriate hygienic measures.

⁸⁹ Report by SS *Unterscharführer* Hochscherf of Office of Labor Deployment (community camp) of the Central Construction Office dated July 2, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 153.

⁹⁰ Letter by the public-health officer of the Department of Public Health at Bielitz to the Commandant of the CC at Auschwitz of July 3, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 148f.

⁹¹ APK, RK, 3219, pp. 142-144.

The report concludes with the following words:

“Insofar as possible, no inmates should be released from the concentration camp for as long as the epidemic lasts.

The Attorney General in Kattowitz was notified of the typhus epidemic in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.”

On July 3, 1942, Bischoff informed the WVHA that, by order of the SS garrison physician and the Department of Public Health at Bielitz, “due to the typhus cases that had occurred,” a lockdown of all construction sites of the Central Construction Office which employed civilian workers was announced, starting the next day.⁹² The order came from Höss via the head of administration, SS *Obersturmführer* Ernst Möckel.⁹³ On July 5, Bischoff replied that he had taken steps to execute the order; the civilian workers had been adequately housed and were awaiting “disinfection and gassing” (*“Entlausung und Vergasung”*).⁹⁴

Notwithstanding the immediate precautionary measures, the epidemic spread all over the camp, and in Internal Decree No. 40 (*Hausverfügung* Nr. 40), Bischoff communicated on July 20 the complete camp-lockdown order as issued by Höss:

“By order of the camp commandant, the entire camp is hereby locked down, effective immediately, due to the danger of typhus. As a result, no SS members and no civilian employee of the Central Construction Office is allowed to leave the camp.”

On July 23, Bischoff informed the head of Office CV/Central Construction Inspection of the WVHA, SS *Sturmbannführer* Wilhelm Lenzer, as follows:⁹⁵

“With reference to our letter of July 3, 1942, Reg. No. 10158/42/Bi/Th. the Central Construction Office of the Waffen SS and Police Auschwitz hereby informs you that the camp lockdown due to typhus as imposed by means of Garrison Order No. 19/42 of July 23, 1942 is now expanded to the entire camp.”

Garrison Order No. 19/42 of July 23, 1942 ordered the total lockdown of the camp (*vollständige Lagersperre*) with the following motivation (Frei *et al.*, pp. 155f.):

“Due to renewed cases of typhus in the area of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, the following is mandated in order to fight the epidemic.”

This is followed by eleven general provisions, the first of which says:

“A complete camp lockdown has been imposed. All SS members residing inside the outer chain of guards are prohibited from leaving the camp area.”

In Point 9, the camp commandant ordered:

⁹² RGVA, 502-1-331, p. 144.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 146.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 147.

⁹⁵ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 143.

“The release or transfer of inmates to other camps must be postponed until the lockdown will have been lifted.”

The district president of Kattowitz returned to the question on July 24 by means of a letter bearing as its subject the words “Typhus cases at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp”:

“The typhus epidemic inside the Auschwitz Concentration Camp which became known here on July 6, 1942 has spread even further. Compared to 187 cases on July 4, 1942, the number of suspected typhus cases among the inmates as reported to the Department of Public Health in Bielitz by phone were 260 on July 11, 1942, and 287 on July 18, 1942.”

Among the soldiers, 21 had fallen ill, including an NCO of the SS’s health services. The first case was verified on June 30, the others between July 14 and 23.

“The sick men were hospitalized in the Kattowitz reserve military hospital (acc. to a communication from Chief Staff Physician Dr. Zander, Kattowitz).”

The SS garrison physician had communicated that there were another 11 typhus cases among the civilian workers, bringing the total number up to 24. Two cases of infection, in the counties of Kattowitz-Land and Saybusch, were attributable to “inmates released from the camp.”

Although the camp lockdown had already been proposed during a meeting held at Auschwitz on July 8, the decision was only taken on July 20, lamented the district president.

He proposed an “unconditional camp lockdown” for everyone, SS, civilian workers and inmates; the prohibition against employing inmates outside the camp, especially on the construction sites of I.G. Farbenindustrie; strict quarantine for inmates, and prohibition against employing civilian workers in the area of the camp; finally, “the employment of a skilled hygienist.” A meeting between the health authorities held on July 22 had stressed “that the typhus epidemic in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp represents a great danger to the civilian population and must therefore be fought by all means possible.”⁹⁶

On August 6, the district president, in a letter to the county commissioner of Bielitz County, gave his assent to the implementation, within the area of the camp, of a quarantine affecting approximately 1,000 free civilian workers working at Auschwitz.⁹⁷ Transmitting a copy of this letter to the camp commandant and to the Central Construction Office on August 10 on behalf of the SS garrison physician of Auschwitz, Dr. Entress asked that this provision be implemented scrupulously.⁹⁸

At the time, the physicians upon whom the greatest responsibility for the struggle against the epidemic fell were SS Garrison Physician von Bodmann

⁹⁶ APK, OPK 2156, pp. 107-109.

⁹⁷ Letter of the *Regierungspräsident* to the *Landrat* in Bielitz of August 6, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 139.

⁹⁸ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 139a.

and the Camp Physician Entress. On August 17, Uhlenbrock, who had just taken over from von Bodmann, transmitted to the Auschwitz headquarters a series of proposals “on the safety of the troops and the prevention of further cases of typhus”: all troops were to be disinfested twice, at an interval of four to six days; all underwear was to be disinfested with hydrogen cyanide before being washed; general cleaning of all military barracks twice a week; lice inspections twice a week; strict prohibition of SS members to approach inmates any closer than two meters; provisions intended to prevent contamination of vehicles; instructions for the SS and inmates working in the personal-effects warehouse or in the disinfestation facilities where they handled dirty underwear; leave could only be granted after disinfestation of the person concerned. If these measures were respected for two weeks without any verified new cases of typhus, the camp lockdown could be lifted.⁹⁹

On August 24, Bischoff ordered the disinfestation of all SS members of the Central Construction Office by soaking the skin with petroleum.¹⁰⁰

1,000 inmates were to be transferred from Auschwitz at the beginning of September, but this could only happen “after lifting of the camp lockdown,” as announced by SS *Hauptsturmführer* Karl Sommer, head of Department D II/1 (inmate deployment) of the WVHA, in a message dated September 4.¹⁰¹

A message from SS Garrison Physician Uhlenbrock dated September 2 refers to “additional quantities of typhus vaccine,” which had been promised to his predecessor by the Hygiene Institute of the Waffen SS on August 4.¹⁰²

On September 11, Bischoff asked Office C V of the WVHA for a “Special allocation of cement ration cards for the POW camp” for the following reason:¹⁰³

“Success in stemming the prevailing epidemic urgently requires immediate drainage or melioration.”

On September 16, 1942, the WVHA informed Auschwitz that the “members of the guard-dog unit, after having been deloused and disinfested, while observing the known precautionary measures, are permitted” some thing the decoders didn’t catch.¹⁰⁴

In Internal Decree No. 49 dated September 18, Bischoff conveyed the order, valid for the following day, to all SS NCOs and men of the Central Construction Office to assemble all underwear, uniforms and tools for disinfestation in the disinfestation chamber of Block 3a. On September 20, in the afternoon, the above-mentioned personnel was to gather before the residential bar-

⁹⁹ RGVA, 502-1-266, pp. 18-20.

¹⁰⁰ *Hausverfügung* Nr. 44 of August 24, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-25, p. 65.

¹⁰¹ TNA. HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 4.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 226b/19.9.42, No. 1.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, 2.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 224b/25.2.43, No. 33/34.

¹⁰³ RGVA, 502-1-265, p. 558.

¹⁰⁴ TNA, HW 16-21. German Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 238b/12.3.43, No. 18.

racks of the Construction Office to proceed with body delousing in Block 2, where they were to receive disinfested clothing.¹⁰⁵

Another problem was the lack of a laundry facility inside the camp. In the second half of September, the Central Construction Office had requested the company Gebrüder Poensgen A.G. of Düsseldorf-Bath for “the large machines for the laundry facility currently under construction,” which would not have been available before the end of 1943. Höss, in requesting the company to expedite the delivery, wrote them a letter in which he described the difficulties of washing the underwear of approximately 40,000 men in regional laundry facilities, the closest of which was 40 km away. He then described the situation inside the camp:¹⁰⁶

“Since a variety of epidemic diseases, such as typhus and the like, are currently raging inside the camp, and since a camp lockdown has already been imposed by higher authorities, the cleaning and disinfection of laundry is of decisive importance, since the diseases can only be controlled in this manner. The danger of infection with these diseases exists not just for the military personnel stationed here and the family members resident here, but also for the city of Auschwitz and the workers employed in the new construction projects to be completed there.”

On October 1, the county commissioner of Bielitz County informed Höss that on September 28 he had participated in a meeting, together with other officials, in which SS Garrison Physician Wirths had declared that it was urgently necessary to construct another barracks “to house the remaining civilian workers in the CC,” because it had been ascertained that “the real danger of the further spread of typhus exists only with regards to civilian workers.”¹⁰⁷

On October 4, Wirths notified Office D III that the wife of SS *Sturm-bannführer* Caesar had “fallen ill with typhus and died.”¹⁰⁸ Two days later, all non-commissioned officers were tested for lice (*Läusekontrolle*). On October 9, they had to report to the SS infirmary, probably for a vaccination against typhus.¹⁰⁹

Garrison Order No. 28/42 of October 10, 1942 recalled the danger of the epidemic for the troops (Frei *et al.*, p. 186):

“In view of increasingly common cases of infectious disease, all schools will be shut effective Monday, Oct. 12, 1942.”

Höss was absent at the time – and an intercept explains why: on October 6, he had fallen from his horse and had been hospitalized at the “SS Reserve Infir-

¹⁰⁵ RGVA, 502-1-342, p. 17.

¹⁰⁶ RGVA, 502-1-347, p. 237.

¹⁰⁷ RGVA, 502-2-332, p. 134.

¹⁰⁸ TNA. HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 14.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 266b/11.11.42, No. 9/10.

¹⁰⁹ RGVA, 502-1-342, p. 19. *Hausverfügung* Nr. 59 of Oct. 9, 1942.

mary Nikolai” with “broken ribs.”¹¹⁰ For this reason, the order was signed by proxy by an SS *Hauptsturmführer*. The latter, “to avoid the spread of typhus cases,” issued a series of orders, the last of which read:¹¹¹

“Following the implementation of general delousing, it can be expected that typhus infection as the result of lice bites will cease to appear. But since lice excrement continues to contain typhus pathogens for some time, and the pathogens in lice excrement cannot be killed by hydrogen cyanide, all SS men must be subjected to daily spraying of the body with a 3% solution of Zephirol, pending further orders.”

On October 15, the SS garrison physician ordered the “Carrying out of the delousing of all civilian workers.”¹¹² The order was also published in Internal Decree No. 61 of the same day, which announced a delousing operation of the civilian employees in the Community Camp for Oct. 18,¹¹³ which was carried out as planned, as Bischoff reported.¹¹⁴

On Oct. 17, the district president of Kattowitz sent a letter to the *Reichsminister* for the Interior with the subject “Typhus cases reported in the weekly list of October 4 to 10, 1942”: two civilian workers had contracted typhus in Auschwitz Concentration Camp, in addition to whom “10 typhus cases among SS members and 686 suspected cases among the inmates“ had also been verified. The conclusion was obvious: “The typhus epidemic in Auschwitz Concentration Camp has not, therefore, been extinguished.”¹¹⁵

In a letter dated October 20 addressed to the head of the Central Construction Office, the SS garrison physician complained that the civilian worker Josef Honkisz had been sent on leave to his home on October 13 without having been previously disinfested. “In view of the extremely high risk of spreading typhus especially through the civilian workers,” he ordered for the future not to allow them to leave the camp without having first been subjected to delousing and disinfestation (*Entlausung und Entwesung*).¹¹⁶

On October 29, 1942, Wirths reported five Jewish doctors to the WVHA Office D III, in an unspecified context: Pach Johann (51236), Golstein Horst (49249), Offmann Leo (58141), Mueller Andreas (39626) and Moscovitch [*Moscowitch*] Leo (51250).¹¹⁷

¹¹⁰ TNA, ZIP/GPDD 259b/25.10.42. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 7.10.42, 14-15 and 48f.

¹¹¹ RGVA, 502-1-39, pp. 39f. The text reproduced in Frei *et al.*, p. 186, lacks the last part.

¹¹² RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 66.

¹¹³ RGVA, 502-1-342, p. 20.

¹¹⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 65. Letter by Bischoff to the camp headquarters, Oct. 20, 1942.

¹¹⁵ APK, OPK, 2176, p. 123.

¹¹⁶ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 129.

¹¹⁷ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 29.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 281b/14.11.42, No. 8/9.

On November 2, the head of Department IIIa (labor deployment) informed the Central Construction Office “that the off-limits zone has been marked off by appropriate danger signs since Oct. 31, 1942.”¹¹⁸

To prevent contamination of the protected water-supply area (*Wasserschutzgebiet*), the camp headquarters ordered the Central Construction Office on December 31, 1942 to sign-post the off-limits areas (*Sperrgebiete*), i.e. the areas where the drinking-water wells were located, with special signs.¹¹⁹

Garrison Order No. 3/43 of February 14, 1943, established the precise limits of the off-limits zone (*Sperrgebiet*; Frei *et al.*, p. 221):

“With reference to Garrison Order 2/43,^[120] mentioned in Garrison Order 25/42, the first is hereby amended, so that the following area has been determined to fall under the off-limits zone for the camp lockdown according to annotations in the plan of the sphere of interest of Auschwitz Concentration Camp: The off-limits zone is represented by the sphere of interest of Auschwitz Concentration Camp, delimited by the Vistula and the Sola Rivers, respectively, in the north, west and east. The eastern border is interrupted by the area of the City of Auschwitz, minus a strip of land represented by the road which runs into the sphere of interest immediately opposite the railway station and turns left (east) behind the house occupied by SS Sturmbannführer Cäsar toward the Auschwitz-Raisko road, with the leather factory as the merging point. The railway-station lot, the Waffen-SS house as well as the railway road toward Auschwitz may not be entered without a pass. Layovers in the railway station and Waffen-SS house are prohibited. In the south, the border is represented by the street running south towards Bor and Budy, and a line running westwards to the Vistula River and forming a connection to the Sola River in the east.”

The end of the document makes it clear that the off-limits zone resulted from the typhus epidemic:

“Delousings are carried out in immediate consultation with the SS garrison physician. [...] The orders of the SS garrison physician regarding the disinfection of all [members of] on-call duty for [incoming] transports are to be carried out with great exactitude.”

This historical context shows the inconsistency of J.-C. Pressac’s “criminal trace” relating precisely to the “*Sperrgebiet*,” a term that appears in a topographical drawing dated June 2, 1943 (titled “Overview of Location Survey in the Sphere of Interest of Auschwitz Concentration Camp”). Pressac interpreted this as the area of the phantasmagorical “Bunkers” of Birkenau (Pressac 1993, p. 52 and Doc. 21), a theory which I have already refuted elsewhere (Mattogno 2019, pp. 191-193).

¹¹⁸ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 128.

¹¹⁹ RGVA, 502-1-149, p. 169.

¹²⁰ Error in the text quoted from the document. This is obviously the *Standortbefehl 25/42* cited in *Standortbefehl 2/43*.

The fact is that, in Auschwitz documents, the term “*Sperrgebiet*”/off-limits zone appears only in reference to typhus epidemics.

Even the proposal for an infirmary at the “Buna” satellite camp (Monowitz) advocated by the SS garrison physician took account of the serious health situation at the time. The project sent to Kammler by Lolling on November 5 provided for two barracks out of six to be reserved “for patients suffering of infectious diseases.” In this regard, it was stated:¹²¹

“There is a need for latrines, washing and bathing installations for the infectious-disease barracks. To prevent inmate lice infestation, there is an urgent need for a disinfection and delousing installation.”

In a letter dated November 17 bearing the subject “typhus epidemic,” the county commissioner of Bielitz County notified Höss that there had been no further cases of typhus at the Jawischowitz Camp. He mentioned another two cases of infection: the Polish woman Salomeja Pomietlar, wife of a civilian worker at the Auschwitz Camp, who died on November 3, and Honorata Juszcak, who fell ill on October 24, infected by her 16-year old son, who worked at a worksite of the camp and returned to her house to sleep every night. The county commissioner urged Höss “to carry out most strictly the camp lockdown.” The camp commandant forwarded a copy of the letter to Bischoff, who replied on October 26: the provisions relating to the quarantine were strictly followed by the Central Construction Office; no civilian worker could leave the camp “without the prescribed disinfection and delousing.” Mrs. Pomietlar (misspelled by Bischoff as Pometlak) had not been employed at the Central Construction Office, and Mrs. Juszcak’s son had been housed in the camp for civilian workers.¹²²

November 26 was also the day that Wirths returned to service at Auschwitz after a leave.¹²³ In January 1943, he was again absent from Auschwitz for an unknown reason; Lolling informed Höss and Entress of his return to the camp on Jan. 26.¹²⁴

On December 4, the SS garrison physician participated in a meeting with the county commissioner of Bielitz County together with other officials. In his report to the Auschwitz headquarters, he reported:¹²⁵

“First, the county commissioner provided an overview of the typhus situation in Bielitz County and pointed out that all the individual cases of typhus occurring in Bielitz County allegedly had been attributed to the concentration camp. According to investigations by the public-health officer, typhus had either been spread by civilian workers themselves, after leaving the area of the camp

¹²¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 269-269a.

¹²² RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 124.

¹²³ TNA. HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 26.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 309b/8.2.43, No. 30.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, 21.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 365b/30.1.43, No. 27.

¹²⁵ RGVA, 501-1-332, p. 119.

without permission and by circumventing the camp lockdown so as to visit their relatives, or it was relatives of civilian workers employed in Auschwitz who fell ill. The county commissioner therefore requests a report on the measures taken to prevent the spread of typhus.”

Wirths called attention to the fact that “civilian workers are only permitted to go on furlough after thorough delousing and disinfestation,” but the county commissioner considered these measures insufficient. He moreover noted:

“Apart from that, the delousing and disinfestation of the inmates of Auschwitz Concentration Camp is continuing, so that the typhus epidemic in Auschwitz Concentration Camp can be expected to get extinguished shortly.”

At the time, it was possible to use “3 large disinfestation, shower and sauna facilities,” two for the inmates and one for the troops, with a capacity of 3,000 to 4,000 men per day. With regard to the civilian workers, the following decision was made:

- “1. Accommodation of the civilian workers in Community Camps inside the chain of guards.*
- 2. Construction of quarantine accommodation.*
- 3. Implementation of a 3-week quarantine for all civilian workers to be furloughed.”*

A file memo dated December 5 with the subject “Disinfection and disinfestation equipment delivered and installed” lists the devices “ordered by Berlin and delivered to Auschwitz”:¹²⁶

Hot-air systems already installed:

- 1 for POW camp, Sections I, men’s barracks *BW 5a*
- 1 for POW camp, Sections I, women’s barracks *BW 5b*
- 1 for “provisional troop sauna POW camp. Section III (in existing solid building).”

Hot-air systems pending:

- 3 hot-air systems for the POW camp, Section II

Disinfection devices:

- 1 in *BW 5a* – POW camp – men’s barracks
- 1 in *BW 5b* – POW camp – women’s barracks
- 1 for civilian-workers disinfection barracks *BW 82*.

The following were still required:

- 1 hot-air system for the civilian-workers disinfestation barracks *BW 82*
- 1 for the Italians’ delousing barracks¹²⁷)

¹²⁶ RGVA, 502-1-261, pp. 222f.

¹²⁷ On March 14, 1942, the Italian authorities signed an agreement with the German authorities according to which a consortium of 40 companies agreed to make available to Germany 8,635 con-

- 1 for the troop sauna Section II POW camp
- 2 disinfection devices “for last two buildings.”

The typhus epidemic did not prevent releases of prisoners from Auschwitz, because on December 12 Lolling notified Wirths as follows:¹²⁸

“Releases may only be carried out when the required quarantine time has been observed for the persons concerned.”

One case occurred precisely during those few days. On December 15, Liebhenschel asked the commandant of Auschwitz whether the inmate in protective custody Anna Boehm, according to the order from Office D dated July 20 and communicated to Auschwitz on August 22, “is now to be released.”¹²⁹

The same day, Lolling sent Wirths another message regarding the civilian workers:¹³⁰

“Lifting of the 3-week quarantine for civilian workers can only be permitted through negotiations with the responsible public-health officer. We suggest the creation of a mixed commission in order to establish that the civilian employee is free of lice. This does not relate to foreign and civilian applicants. Success is to be reported to this office by radio.”

Two days afterwards, Bischoff sent a letter to the Bielitz Army Records Office, Section W, stating:¹³¹

“that a lifting of the camp lockdown can probably not be expected within the next 3 months. Although all available resources are being employed to combat the epidemic effectively, it was not yet possible to prevent further cases of infection.”

On the same day, Bischoff notified Höss that:¹³²

“By order of the SS garrison physician, the first delousing or disinfestation of the civilian workers is to be carried out on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1942.”

Judging by the above, the camp’s disinfestation facilities must have been operable.

This context doubtlessly also clarifies the meaning of the “Special action of the Gestapo with all civilian workers,” which began on December 16, 1942, as mentioned in Bischoff’s letter to Kammler on December 18. Bischoff explained:¹³³

struction workers to be deployed in Upper Silesia. These workers were deployed as follows: 3,830 in Heydebreck, 3,609 at Blechhammer, and 1,196 in Auschwitz (Mantelli, p. 312). A file memo of October 26, 1943, mentions the Italian company Giovanni Mazucco: RGVA, 502-1-26, p. 179. An *Italienerlager* (Italians’ Camp) existed at Auschwitz, which consisted of three barracks forming BW 32H; RGVA, 502-1-285, p. 17, “Übergabeverhandlung” (hand-over negotiations) of Feb. 8, 1944.

¹²⁸ TNA. HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 12.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 325b/18.12.42, No. 27.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, 15.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 328b/20.12.42, No. 30/31.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, No. 39/40.

¹³¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 113.

¹³² *Ibid.*, p. 47.

¹³³ APMO, BW30/27, p. 17.

“As a result of the imposed camp lockdown, the civilian workers have been unable to leave the camp for 6 months. Granting a leave of absence between Dec. 23, 1942 and Jan. 4, 1943 is therefore unavoidable.”

On the same day, Bischoff informed Kammler of this provision: a permit to civilian workers for the Christmas period could only be granted under three conditions: immediate delousing of all civilian workers, individual delousing before departure from the camp, and admission to the nearest hospital equipped with an infectious-disease ward in case of the onset of typhus during leave. All construction work was suspended from December 23, 1942 to January 4, 1943.¹³⁴

In this regard, one cannot remain silent concerning John C. Zimmerman’s interpretation, contained in the article “Body Disposal at Auschwitz: The End of Holocaust Denial,”¹³⁵ which amazes with its insipidity and ignorance of the historical context. In his opinion, in fact, the “Special action” in question could have been an execution:

“It is quite possible that the camp administration sought to make an example of some of the civilian workers by executing them. This could explain why the memo is marked ‘secret’.”

When I pointed out that the text says “with *all* civilian workers” and not “with *some* of the civilian workers,” which would have implied the execution of *all* civilian workers, Zimmerman responded pathetically that it could refer to “executions among *all classes* of civilian workers,”¹³⁶ without explaining what these “classes” were, why the executions were carried out, and why Bischoff considered it “unavoidable” to grant the civilian workers (obviously all of them, in turn) a furlough. In reality, the “Special action of the Gestapo” consisted of an interrogation of all civilian workers, which lasted four days, as shown by Bischoff’s letter to the head of Office CV of the WVHA dated December 29, 1942.¹³⁷ The most-plausible motivation, as proffered by Pressac (1993, p. 63), was a protest strike due to the fact that they could not leave the camp because of the camp lockdown.¹³⁸ On October 10, 85 Italian workers who worked at Blechhammer also went on strike (Bermani, p. 185).

This example shows the extent to which certain orthodox Holocaust historians push the misrepresentation of documents in order to serve their determi-

¹³⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 111.

¹³⁵ On the web at various sites, for example, <http://www.phdn.org/archives/holocaust-history.org/Auschwitz/body-disposal/>.

¹³⁶ See my critical analysis of Zimmerman’s Holocaust-related ravings: Mattogno 2017b, esp. p. 188.

¹³⁷ Document in: Bartosik *et al.*, p. 233; discussion in Mattogno 2020b, pp. 143-145.

¹³⁸ A “file memo on inmate deployment at the POW camp” by Bischoff of March 1, 1943 states: “On this occasion it was also stated by Head of Labor Service SS *Uscha* [Unterscharführer] Emmerich that a large number of inmates refuses to work by pretending to be sick when they [the labor units] are marching out [to work], but then they run around again inside the camp.” RGVA, 502-1-67, p. 163.

nation that all terms with the prefix “*sonder-*” always and everywhere have a criminal meaning.

In this context it is worth mentioning an intercept reported in the summary of the period from August 15 to 31, 1941, which refers to a request for RM 30,000 “for a special student action” (“*Studentsonderaktion*”).¹³⁹ Perhaps this referred to “executions among all classes” of students?

A message dated January 13, 1943 stated that “the 18 dentists and dental technicians commanded to the division for a special action” (“*die für eine Sonderaktion zur Div. kommandierten 18 Dentisten und Zahntechniker*”) were to leave immediately for Stettin.¹⁴⁰ Perhaps this referred to them being executed?

But back to Auschwitz. Notwithstanding the preventive measures taken, the epidemic did not cease. On December 28, the garrison physician notified the Central Construction Office, in a letter with the subject “Typhus control,” that the construction worker Michsel Pasterny of Ernsdorf, in Bielitz County, had “fallen ill with typhus.” The information originated from the Bielitz Public Health Department.¹⁴¹ On January 8, 1943, the district president of Kattowitz discusses the news in his report to the Reichsminister for the Interior (“Typhus case reported in the weekly list of December 27 to December 31, 1942”).¹⁴² Pasterny had fallen ill on December 12 and had been hospitalized at the City Hospital of Bielitz on the 22nd. It was ascertained that

“the source of the infection was to be sought on the construction site of Auschwitz Concentration Camp, where P. came into repeated contact with the camp inmates.”

In the letter to Kammler dated January 9, 1943, Bischoff listed the hygienic installations existing at Auschwitz and Birkenau at that time:¹⁴³

CC Auschwitz:

- 1 hot-air system from the Topf Company in *BW 1 L*, in operation since autumn 1940;
- 1 hot-air system in *BW 20 L*, in operation since autumn 1942;
- “A brick chamber for hydrocyanic-acid fumigations has been in operation in the personal-effects warehouse (at DAW) since summer 1942”;
- shower bath, hot-air system and disinfection system in the civilian worker’s transit barracks;
- 2 sauna facilities under construction for the headquarters;

¹³⁹ TNA, HW 16-6. G.P.D.’s Nos. 324-343 (excluding 341 and including 349). (Covering the period 15th-31st August 1941). ZIP/MSGP.28/12.9.41, p. 6.

¹⁴⁰ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 13.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 357d/23.1.43, No. 60.

¹⁴¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 110.

¹⁴² APK, OPK, 2176, p. 139.

¹⁴³ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 46-46a.

POW camp (Birkenau):

- 1 disinfection system, 1 hot-air system, 1 sauna facility, 1 chamber for hydrocyanic-acid fumigations in Construction Sector I, men's camp (*BW 5a*)
- disinfection system, 1 hot-air system, 1 sauna facility, 1 chamber for hydrocyanic-acid fumigations in Construction Sector I, women's camp (*BW 5b*)
- 1 disinfection system, 1 sauna facility “in an existing building in Birkenau, provisionally, for the troops”
- 1 sauna, 1 hot-air system, 1 disinfection facility, to be built “for the guard personnel at Birkenau Camp.”

In January 1943, the hot-air systems were overtaxed to the point where irreparable damage or fires occurred. On January 12, the SS garrison physician notified the Central Construction Office that the disinfestation facility at the Main Camp, “as a result of the constant strain,” was “so seriously damaged that successful long-term repair is not to be expected.”¹⁴⁴

In a letter to Höss dated January 18, Bischoff set forth his thoughts on the “recent repeated fires in the disinfestation barracks”: the hot-air system in Block 1 suffered permanent damage “due to uninterrupted day-and-night operation,” and was disassembled; fires broke out “in the men's and women's disinfestation barracks of the POW camp,” that is, in *BW 5a* and *5b*, and in the troop disinfestation facility.¹⁴⁵ On February 2, the Hans Kori Company in Berlin sent Office C III of the WVHA a description, accompanied by a cost estimate, of a hot-air delousing installation for CC Auschwitz.¹⁴⁶

This context supplies an alternative explanation for the “criminal trace” of the *Vergasungskeller* mentioned in Bischoff's letter to Kammler of January 29, 1943,¹⁴⁷ proposed by myself, in the sense of an emergency Zyklon-B disinfestation chamber to be employed in case of emergency (see Mattogno 2019, pp. 52-65). Such explanation is supported by the fact that the terms “*Vergasung*” and “*vergasen*,” in all the documents in which they appear, always refer to disinfestation gassings exclusively. Here I will limit myself to the cases more directly relevant to the typhus epidemic.

The Zyklon-B fumigation chamber in *BW 5a* and *5b* was also referred to as a “gassing room” (“*Vergasungsraum*”)¹⁴⁸ or, as we have seen above, “chamber for hydrocyanic-acid gassing” (“*Kammer für Blausäurevergasung*”). On July 22, 1942, Glücks authorized a trip to the city of Dessau and back of a 5-ton truck to pick up “Gas for gassing the camp, for combatting the prevailing

¹⁴⁴ RGVA, 502-1-336, p. 109.

¹⁴⁵ RGVA, 502-1-28, pp. 256-258.

¹⁴⁶ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 15-20a.

¹⁴⁷ APMO, BW 30/34, p. 100.

¹⁴⁸ “Erläuterungsbericht zum Vorentwurf für den Neubau des Kriegsgefangenenlagers der Waffen-SS, Auschwitz O/S.” RGVA, 502-1-233, p. 16.

epidemic”¹⁴⁹ and a Special Order of August 12, 1942, speaks of “gassings” (“*Vergasungen*”) in an obvious context of disinfection.¹⁵⁰

At the beginning of January 1943, several cases of “typhus infection” were reported “in the substitute police prison” at Myslowitz, a locality approximately 5 km from Kattowitz. On January 9, the local district president asked Höss to accommodate some of the persons suspected of having contracted typhus, explaining:

“Furthermore, I do not fail to recognize that new typhus cases would potentially be introduced into Auschwitz Camp. Since, on the other hand, typhus has thus far not at all been wiped out in the Auschwitz Camp, and because extensive preventive health and police measures are being taken there,”

he found himself compelled to make that request in order to prevent the spread of the epidemic in that densely populated industrial area.¹⁵¹

On January 11, 1943, Lolling decided to transfer “30 German inmate nurses” (“30 *deutsche Häftlingspfleger*”) from Dachau to Auschwitz.¹⁵²

On January 13, Höss replied to the letter of January 9 as follows:

“Isolated cases of typhus are still occurring in CC Auschwitz, but the danger of a typhus epidemic no longer exists. I therefore consider it inappropriate to transfer the current inmates of the substitute police prison at Myslowitz to CC Auschwitz, because with this, the danger of a renewed typhus epidemic would grow a lot.”

A compromise was devised: the bodies of dead typhus victims were sent to Auschwitz for cremation, as reported by the district president on January 21:¹⁵³

“Transporting the dead.

The bodies of typhus victims are to be treated with a disinfecting and lice-killing fluid and placed in coffins as soon as possible. The coffin must be closed immediately and transferred to a special hall. The bodies are then to be transferred to Auschwitz in a hearse for cremation.”

Two days earlier, SS *Sturmbannführer* Kraus had presented himself before Office Group D of the WVHA to report “that for reasons of combatting the epidemic at Auschwitz,” it had become necessary to move the *TWL* (*Truppenwirtschaftslager*, military equipment warehouse) from Auschwitz to Oderberg, some 72 km away. Liebehenschel requested confirmation from the Auschwitz headquarters. On the same day, Höss replied that he agreed.¹⁵⁴ Typhus patients were also arriving from the outside: on January 22, Dr. Entress

¹⁴⁹ APMO, D-AuI-4/1a, “Fahrgenehmigungen” (travel permits), p. 5.

¹⁵⁰ RGVA, 502-1-32, p. 300.

¹⁵¹ APK, RK 2903, pp. 5-11.

¹⁵² TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 11.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 355b/16.1.43, No. 23.

¹⁵³ APK, RK 2903, p. 22.

¹⁵⁴ TNA. HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 19.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 363b/29.1.43, No. 12/13 and 21.

reported that 36 typhus cases among the new arrivals had reached Auschwitz “from the collection camps at Zabrow and Bogusz.”¹⁵⁵ The last transport from Zambrów had reached Auschwitz three days earlier.

Internal Decree No. 86 of January 25 drew attention to an order from the SS garrison physician according to which all SS men from the Central Construction Office who were living in the Construction Office’s accommodation barracks were to be subjected to a “3-week quarantine.”¹⁵⁶

SS *Hauptsturmführer* Sommer informed the Buchenwald Camp that the inmate Wilhelm Hermann could not be transferred to Auschwitz because “for now, the duration of the lockdown is unknown.”¹⁵⁷

On February 2, 1943, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Kother, head of the WVHA’s Main Department C/VI/2 (business administration), carried out an “Inspection of the disinfection and sauna facilities at CC Auschwitz.” In the related report, SS *Standartenführer* Franz Eirenschmalz, head of Office C/VI of the WVHA, wrote with reference to the “disinfection installations” that the hot-air devices were originally designed for fumigations with hydrogen cyanide, which requires a temperature of 30°C (86°F), but had then been used for hot-air disinfection, which requires a temperature of 95°C (203°F), causing excessive wear and tear on the systems:¹⁵⁸

“The arrival of many prisoners in protective detention every day put increasing stress on the facilities. Wearing out these facilities when used uninterruptedly can be prevented only if adequate coke-fired air heaters are installed. To prevent the expected breakdown of the facilities, from here we have already held out the prospect to the [camp] administration for cast-iron air heaters for the existing disinfection facilities. After inquiries with the supplying company, they will be delivered within three weeks, so that the necessary struggle against parasitic infestation can continue. The fires which have occurred are to be attributed to overheating in the great majority of cases, and it is therefore urgently necessary to scrupulously observe the technical operating instructions during the use of such facilities.”

Meanwhile, the epidemic was intensifying at Myslowitz, and on February 3, the police president of Kattowitz requested, in turn, “that all inmates of the substitute police prison at Myslowitz be evacuated to Auschwitz.”¹⁵⁹

It is not known whether Höss told the truth about the sanitary situation at Auschwitz; it is nevertheless a fact that, starting in the second or third week of February, the camp was the scene of yet another epidemic outbreak.

Garrison Order No. 2/43 of February 8 revealed the following:¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 22.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 366b/1.2.43, No. 34.

¹⁵⁶ RGVA, 502-1-17, p. 98.

¹⁵⁷ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 15.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 359b/28.1.43, No. 28/29.

¹⁵⁸ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 37-37a.

¹⁵⁹ APK, RK 2903, pp. 31f.

¹⁶⁰ APMO, Standortbefehl, D-AUI-1, p. 46. Frei *et al.*, p. 218.

“By order of Chief of Office Group D, SS Brigadeführer and Major General of the Waffen SS Glücks, another complete camp lockdown is imposed on Auschwitz Concentration Camp. The order from the Chief of Office Group, transmitted by radio message, reads as follows, among other things:

‘Relaxations in the granting of furloughs as previously permitted must now be reversed due to the increased incidence of typhus cases among SS members.’”

On February 12, Bischoff sent Kammler a letter with the subject “Increased incidence of typhus cases,” which reported:¹⁶¹

“As a result of the strong increase in typhus cases among the guard detail, a total camp lockdown was imposed on CC Auschwitz by SS Brigadeführer and Major General of the Waffen SS Glücks on February 9, 1943.

In connection with this, all inmates are being disinfested since Feb. 11, 1943, and are not permitted to leave the camp, which has the result that all construction projects where inmates were predominantly employed had to be shut down.”

According to a file memo also of February 12 and written by SS *Unterscharführer* Franz Weislaw, an employee of the camp administration, an “inmate delousing of all units” had begun the day before and was still underway. The plan was to delouse the entire POW camp and the women’s camp in the future.¹⁶²

On February 13, Bischoff wrote to the head of Office C VI with regards to the “increase in typhus cases,” revealing that increasingly large numbers of typhus cases were occurring among civilian workers, as a result of which the SS garrison physician had ordered “a 3-week quarantine.”¹⁶³

On February 18, Bischoff informed Kammler¹⁶⁴

“that the disinfestation of the inmates had been carried out and that the [construction] work was resumed on Feb. 16, 1943.”

On February 25, the SS garrison physician summarized the existing situation in the camp in a letter to the head of office D III of the SS WVHA as follows:¹⁶⁵

“As previously reported, after the near-total cessation of the typhus epidemic in CC Auschwitz in the months of November and December, a renewed increase in typhus cases occurred among both inmates of the CC Auschwitz and among SS troop members due to the arrival of transports from the East. Notwithstanding the immediate implementation of control measures, a complete disappearance of typhus cases could not be achieved to this day.”

¹⁶¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 108.

¹⁶² RGVA, 502-1-26, p. 31.

¹⁶³ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 107.

¹⁶⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 106.

¹⁶⁵ RGVA, 502-1-68, pp. 115f.

The SS garrison physician intended to take drastic measures to wipe out the epidemic once and for all, the most important of which was general disinfestation:

“With the exception of the few groups of vital importance (food plants, agricultural workers handling livestock, and office staff), it would be necessary to suspend all working activity in the big camps at CC Auschwitz for a period of 3 weeks, that is, the Main Camp, the men’s and women’s Concentration Camp at Birkenau and the POW camp, Construction Sector 2. During this period, a thorough delousing and disinfestation of these camps is carried out twice, so that, after this 3-week quarantine period, the camp will no longer be louse-infested, and the danger of further cases of typhus is eliminated.”

From March 8 to 12, all civilian workers who worked for the Central Construction Office were subjected to disinfestation in a special barrack of the Community Camp under the supervision of the disinfectant SS *Rottenführer* Brasch.¹⁶⁶

On March 18, Bischoff informed Höss that the Bielitz public-health office had ordered a three-week quarantine for civilian workers staying in House No. 162, where cases of typhus had been detected.¹⁶⁷

In the month of March, the epidemic was still not eliminated. A letter dated March 10, 1943 by the head of Office C VI to the Central Construction Office regarding “Payment of civilian workers infected by typhus or confined under quarantine” was forwarded by Bischoff to the offices concerned on March 20, 1943.¹⁶⁸ This concerned 32 workers who were listed in a file memo of March 24. For the quarantine they were housed in a shack in the camp for the Italians.¹⁶⁹

On March 20, the garrison physician presented a report on the situation in the hospital barracks at Birkenau. With a population of 45,000 inmates, it was expected that 4,500 would fall ill – 10%. In Construction Sector II, there were seven barracks for sick patients, two of which were for outpatient treatment; they could not provide beds for patients. According to Dr. Wirths’s calculations, another 23 air-force-style barracks were required for bed-ridden patients.¹⁷⁰ He also issued instructions relating to the disposal of the bodies of deceased inmates:¹⁷¹

“Transporting the bodies from the inmate infirmary to the crematorium will require 2 covered hand-drawn carts permitting the transport of 50 corpses each.”

¹⁶⁶ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 236. Letter by Bischoff to the SS garrison physician of March 18, 1943.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 102.

¹⁶⁸ RGVA, 502-1-8, p. 64; 502-1-332, p. 98.

¹⁶⁹ RGVA, 502-1-26, pp. 56f.

¹⁷⁰ Wooden barracks of standard dimensions: 41.39 m × 12.64 m.

¹⁷¹ RGVA, 502-1-261, pp. 111f.

At this point another excursus is necessary. What I have stated above clearly demonstrates the arbitrary and unfounded nature of J.-C. Pressac's interpretation of the telegram of the Central Construction Office of February 26, 1943, filed in the acts of Crematorium II, with which it requested 10 "gas testers" (*"Gasprüfer"*) from the Topf Company,¹⁷² which, if we follow the Topf's reply letter of March 2, were "indicator devices for hydrogen-cyanide residues" (*"Anzeigergeräte für Blausäure-Reste"*).¹⁷³ And this does not even take into account the gross errors it contains (*"Gasprüfer"* was the technical term for devices testing combustion gases for the percentage of certain combustion products such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrogen, while there was no such thing as *"Anzeigergeräte für Blausäure-Reste."* The chemical testing kits for hydrogen-cyanide gas were called *"Gasrestnachweisgerät"* – detection devices for gas residues). As demonstrated elsewhere, the possible request for such detection devices for Crematorium II, where the corpses of camp inmates were brought who had died of typhus, would be explained much more reasonably in the real and documented context of the typhus epidemic raging in the camp at that time (Faurisson, pp. 95f.) rather than with the purely conjectural hypothesis of installing a homicidal gas chamber in the crematorium (see Mattogno 2004b).

Returning to the central topic of this chapter, the SS garrison physician was still struggling with typhus on April 1, 1943:¹⁷⁴

"The recently rising numbers of typhus cases among the civilian workers require the repeated implementation of thorough delousing."

To this end, he issued detailed instructions for general delousing of persons, objects and dwellings.

In reply to a request from the chairman of the board of the Reich railways at Kattowitz dated March 29, 1943, to disinfect their own civilian workers "in the disinfection barracks of the civilian-workers' accommodations at Birkenau,"¹⁷⁵ Bischoff replied on April 9:¹⁷⁶

"Since 1,300 civilian workers are passed through these barracks every day, morning and evening, and even greater numbers are expected to be reached in the near future, delousing as described above can only be performed temporarily, once monthly."

The next day, Bischoff informed the SS garrison physician:¹⁷⁷

"The general delousing of civilian workers, as well as the thorough disinfection and cleansing of all accommodation barracks was carried out, and was finished yesterday."

¹⁷² APMO, BW 30/34, p. 48.

¹⁷³ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 44.

¹⁷⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 228-230.

¹⁷⁵ RGVA, 502-1-178, p. 41.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

¹⁷⁷ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 227.

By May 1943, the epidemic had almost disappeared, but during the month of June, it reappeared in Sector B Ib at Birkenau. The Headquarters Special Order No. 15/43 of July 7 stated that

“two SS members on active duty in the gypsy camp and in Camp BIb, fell ill with typhus in the last two days.” (Frei *et al.*, p. 302)

SS *Hauptsturmführer* Johann Schwarzhuber, in a letter to the camp’s Headquarters of July 22, 1943, filed a detailed report and requested the “installation of a delousing facility in Camp B II d.”¹⁷⁸ On July 25, the camp physician of Camp BIa ordered the delousing of Blocks 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9, “due to increased occurrences of typhus cases.”¹⁷⁹ The next day, the SS garrison physician issued orders for the “quarantine of Block 1 of Camp B I a.”¹⁸⁰

After July 1943, the typhus epidemic died down, but the disinfections continued.

On December 10, 1943, Dr. Wirths informed Bischoff, then head of the Construction Inspection of the Waffen SS and Police Silesia, that a civilian worker had forced open the locked door of an accommodation barracks that had been fumigated, and that he had been saved from certain death from exposure to cyanide at the last moment.¹⁸¹

On February 22, 1944, the new head of the Central Construction Office, SS *Obersturmführer* Werner Jothann, requested from the Construction Inspectorate of the Waffen SS and Police Silesia 500 bales of wood shavings for a major disinfection action that was planned for the spring (*Großentlausungsaktion*), which would also result in the total renewal of the mattress fillings for the civilian workers.¹⁸²

* * *

The disease also spread with increasing virulence to the SS camp garrison after early October 1942. The patients were hospitalized at the Kattowitz *Reserve-Lazarett* (reserve infirmary), where they were registered, among other things, on a “patient sheet” (“*Krankenblatt*”), a module containing all the patient’s personal data, including, obviously, patient name (*Krankenbezeichnung*), admission (*Zugang*) and discharge date from the hospital. Numerical registration was carried out twice, once in general (with the higher main patient-registry number, *Hauptkrankenbuch Nr.*), and once with a lower number of the respective ward’s patient-registration no. (*Abt.-Krankenbuch Nr.*). The patient’s history (*Vorgeschichte*), diagnosis (*Aufnahmebefund*) and progress of the disease (*weiterer Krankheitsverlauf*) appeared on the reverse of the form. Some of these forms regarding SS members at Auschwitz who fell ill with ty-

¹⁷⁸ RGVA, 502-1-336, pp. 108f.

¹⁷⁹ RGVA, 502-1-65, p. 74.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 62-62a.

¹⁸¹ RGVA, 502-1-28, p. 25. Letter by the SS garrison physician of Dec. 10, 1943, with the subject “Fumigation of barracks.”

¹⁸² RGVA, 502-1-229, p. 234.

phus have been conserved. The first refers to SS *Rottenführer* Michael Franzen, hospitalized on July 22 and discharged on August 11, 1942.¹⁸³ This is followed by others, in chronological order:

- SS *Sturmmann* Hans Loboda, admitted July 24, 1942, discharged Aug. 18, 1942 (pp. 176-176a);
- *Schütze* Josef Armbrust, admitted Sept. 7, 1942, discharged Sept. 26, 1942 (pp. 164-164a);
- SS *Sturmmann* Alfred Schniederitsch, admitted Oct. 11, 1942, discharged Nov. 10, 1942 (pp. 188-188a);
- *Schütze* Anton Gunn, admitted Oct. 14, 1942, discharged Nov. 17, 1942 (pp. 150-150a);
- SS *Rottenführer* Walter Hedwig, admitted Oct. 15, 1942, discharged Nov. 10, 1942 (pp. 170-170a);
- *Schütze* Johann Emes, admitted Oct. 16, 1942, discharged Nov. 17, 1942 (pp. 156-156a);
- *Schütze* Georg Kretz, admitted Oct. 16, 1942, discharged Dec. 1, 1942 (pp. 174-174a);
- *Schütze* Ignatz Muschalla, admitted Oct. 20, 1942, discharged Nov. 27, 1942 (pp. 177-177a);
- SS *Sturmmann* Kurt Oehlke, admitted Oct. 27, 1942, discharged Nov. 20, 1942 (pp. 180-180a);
- SS *Sturmmann* Heinz Rohmann, admitted Oct. 30, 1942, discharged Nov. 27, 1942 (pp. 183-183a);
- SS *Sturmmann* Konrad Böhm, admitted Nov. 1, 1942, discharged Nov. 17, 1942 (pp. 163-163a);
- *Schütze* Ewald Engfer, admitted Nov. 3, 1942, discharged Nov. 20, 1942 (pp. 158-158a);
- *Schütze* Franz Sienschkowski, admitted Nov. 13, 1942, discharged Dec. 18, 1942 (pp. 192-192a; see Document 2a).

The messages intercepted by the British contained many references to Reserve-Lazarett Kattowitz. SS *Scharführer* Karl Voss was hospitalized there on September 30, 1942.¹⁸⁴ On October 14, the SS garrison physician informed Office D III

*“that SS Sturmbannführer Dr. Joachim Caesar has fallen ill to paratyphoid fever (clinically and bacteriologically) and was taken to military reserve hospital Kattowitz on Oct. 13, 1942.”*¹⁸⁵

¹⁸³ GARF, 7021-108-54, pp. 155-155a; see Document 2. Subsequent page numbers in the text from there unless stated otherwise.

¹⁸⁴ TNA. HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 1.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 253b/12.10.42, No. 3.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 14.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 266b/11.11.42, No. 8.

Until then, there had been three other cases of this disease among SS family members, but no cases of typhus yet.¹⁸⁶ On October 18, SS *Sturmann* Alfons Ballus and SS *Schütze* Josef Minaega were hospitalized “for suspected typhus.”¹⁸⁷ SS *Sturmmann* Herbert Lecker, SS *Sturmmann* Gerhard Mecka, SS *Schütze* Werner Quirin and SS *Schütze* Ignatz Muschalla were hospitalized on October 20,¹⁸⁸ the latter also being mentioned in the above-quoted “*Krankenblatt*.”

Dr. Wirths informed Office D III of the general situation:¹⁸⁹

“13 cases of suspected typhus and 3 cases of suspected typhoid fever have been admitted to the Kattowitz military reserve hospital since Oct. 12, 1942. Situation as regards typhus cases in the protective-custody camp on Oct. 19, 1942: 0 confirmed cases, 107 suspected cases (13 admissions, 101 discharges, and 4 losses due to deaths since Oct. 12, 1942).”

SS *Obersturmführer* Paul Mueller was hospitalized on October 21.¹⁹⁰ Over this period, the British observed, “further SS men at Auschwitz are typhus suspects,”¹⁹¹ and at the beginning of November, “typhus is spreading among the SS. guards in Auschwitz.”¹⁹²

On November 9, the situation was as follows:¹⁹³

“Among military personnel, 4 SS members have been admitted to the Kattowitz military reserve hospital for suspected typhus since Nov. 2, 1942, while there have been 37 suspected cases of typhus in the men’s camp (2 admissions, 9 discharges, 1 death since Nov. 2, 42.)”

In the second week of November, the British intercepted a message that appeared to give grounds for possible alarm:¹⁹⁴

“Typhus is spreading from the prisoners and SS. Guard of Auschwitz to the families of SS men. Jews are being transferred from their camps ‘to the East,’ in fact to Auschwitz at Himmler’s orders. Sick prisoners are being sent ‘from all camps’ to Dachau for ‘Aktion 14F13’.”

In this regard, several messages were intercepted on October 29, 1942. On that date, SS *Standartenführer* Gerhard Maurer, chief of Office DII, labor deployment (*Arbeitseinsatz*) of the WVHA, informed the commandants of all concentration camps:¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, No. 9/10.

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 19.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 271b/2.12.42, No. 7/8.

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 21.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 273b/19.11.42, No. 11/13.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, No. 14/15.

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 22.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 274b/23.11.42, No. 1.

¹⁹¹ TNA, HW 16-68. Notes on decodes: Week ending 24.10.42.

¹⁹² *Ibid.*, Notes on decodes: Week ending 7 Nov. [1942].

¹⁹³ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 9.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 292b/1.12.42, No. 41/42.

¹⁹⁴ TNA, HW 16-68. Notes on decodes: Week ending 14 Nov. [1942].

¹⁹⁵ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 29.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 281b/14.11.42, No. 62.

“I intend to have most of the inpatients from all camps transported to Dachau for Operation 14 F 13. I would therefore ask you to inform me which numbers of this type can be accommodated there immediately and possibly later. I expect to be notified by radio message as soon as possible.”

The Buchenwald Camp contacted Dachau directly:¹⁹⁶

“To Office Group D and CC Dachau.

Subject: Transfer of partly capable and disabled inmates to DACHAU. The transport with 181 inmates departs from WEIMAR on Thursday Oct. 29, 1942 at 9:30. Arrival at Dachau expected at noon on Friday.

sgnd.: PISTER.”

Buchenwald announced again the arrival of the 181 detainees at Dachau for Friday October 30, around noon.¹⁹⁷

“Aktion 14f13,” as is well known, is considered to have been the euthanasia of camp inmates unable to work, and it initially had a basis in fact (see Mattogno 2016a, pp. 87-91). This practice is referred to undoubtedly in an intercept of May 12, 1942:¹⁹⁸

“209 prisoners – special treatment – were transferred today on May 12th, 1942 at 6:00 a.m. from Flossenbürg to Bernburg/Saale, train station Koethen ANH by means of collective transport. Kuenstler.”

Bernburg was in fact one of the euthanasia centers.

In a preceding message, dated April 16, 1942, which was only partially deciphered, Liebehenschel drew attention to the fact that “the express letters and procedures under file reference 14 f 13 are to be submitted here.”¹⁹⁹

However, on June 24, 1942, Maurer himself had promulgated the order to establish in all concentration camps the category of “inmates unable to work and not deployable,” and to register not only the outpatients and the inpatients, but even the disabled (*Invaliden*), who since then appeared regularly in reports on the strength of the Auschwitz Camp until January 16, 1945, hence only two days before the Germans evacuated the camp (see Mattogno 2016a, pp. 72-85).

Therefore, Maurer’s order of October 29, 1942, does not jibe with the claimed practice of mass murder of those unfit for labor. These murders, moreover, are said to have been perpetrated in Hartheim Castle (International Dachau Committee, p. 165), but in this case it would have been more rational to transfer the invalids to Mauthausen, which is only about 40 km away from Hartheim, while Dachau is 250 km away. Furthermore, at the beginning of 1944, inmate invalids were transferred from various concentration camps to Majdanek, for a total of 20,800 inmates, including 1,000 mental patients from

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, No. 3/4.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, No. 18/20.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 12.5.42. ZIP/GPDD 54/16.5.42, No. 3.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 16.4.42. ZIP/GPDD 25/5.42, No. 15/16.

Dachau (Leszczyńska, pp. 116f.), so that it may be assumed that “Aktion 14f13” no longer possessed the initial meaning.

Of course, orthodox Holocaust scholars maintain that all these cases also referred to mass killings of these invalid prisoners, but that does nothing more than highlight the total absence of any indication of the claimed mass gassing of non-registered prisoners in the intercepts: if the Reich authorities did not hesitate to keep statistics of the data relating to these mass killings and to broadcast them by radio, why should they not have done the same in relation to the mass gassing of unregistered detainees? It would have been just as easy to disguise the number of deaths of those presumably gassed, communicating it, for example, as “14 f 15” or any other abbreviation.

A couple of weeks earlier, on October 27, a message was intercepted in which Liebehenschel referred to a teletype message dated 26 which said: “The camp commandant of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp transfers immediately the 200 Soviet POWs infected with TB to CC Auschwitz.”²⁰⁰ These inmates, from the point of view of orthodox Holocaust historiography, should have been part of “Aktion 14f13,” but then why were they transferred to Auschwitz instead of Dachau?

But if well-organized killing centers were readily available at Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Majdanek and elsewhere, as the orthodoxy claims, why was there any need to bother the euthanasia institutions to gas a few thousand inmates?²⁰¹

But there is an even more important problem: where is the proof that the tuberculosis patients at Auschwitz were killed? In my study of Miklós Nyiszli, I summarized a document introduced into evidence by the defense at the IG-Farben Trial and referred to as the “Hoerlein Document No. 215.”²⁰² This is a compendium of clinical files relating to ten inmates, four of them Jews, hospitalized at the inmate infirmary for tuberculosis at Auschwitz. They all died there after weeks or months of treatment. The documentation includes lung x-ray photographs, clinical files with daily progress charts of the disease, and, in five cases, autopsy reports. The hospitalization times, from admission to death, of the four Jewish inmates were as follows (see Mattogno 2020a, pp. 293f.):

- July 2, 1943 – November 9, 1943 (Michael Awerbuch, no. 99214, Polish Jew);
- May 22, 1943 – February 25, 1944 (Isaak Attas, no. 115899, Greek Jew);
- July 6, 1942 – April 3, 1944 (Benjamin Beressy, no. 114941, Greek Jew);

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 27.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 279b/19.11.42, No. 34/36.

²⁰¹ The total figure does not even reach 6,000. See Ley 2011; see also my review in Mattogno 2016c, p. 53.

²⁰² NARA. Microfilm Publication M892. Records of the United States. Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. United States of America v. Carl Krauch et al. (Case VI). August 14, 1947 – July 30, 1948. Roll 68. Defense Exhibits. Washington, 1976.

– July 12, 1943 – January 12, 1944 (Lejzor Weinblum, no. 124262, Polish Jew).

430 cases of tuberculosis were treated between September 20, 1943 and November 1, 1944 at the hospital of the Quarantine Camp BIIa at Birkenau's men's camp.²⁰³

A letter from the SS garrison physician to the Central Construction Office of April 25, 1944 informs that Block 17 of the BIIf Hospital Camp at Birkenau served as a station for inmates suffering from tuberculosis (*Tuberkulosestation*).²⁰⁴

Things are not as simple as Holocaust historians would have us believe.

3 SS members were hospitalized at the military reserve hospital between November 17 and 23; there were 15 cases of suspected typhus in the men's camp, and "9 losses due to deaths" in the women's camp.²⁰⁵

On November 30, Wirths informed Office D III of the death of SS *Schütze* Ernst Eberle from typhus on November 28.²⁰⁶

11 cases of suspected typhus and 36 deaths were recorded in the men's camp between December 1 and 8.²⁰⁷ On the same day, SS *Obersturmführer* Helmut Vetter, SS troop and camp physician, presented himself before Wirths complaining of "nervous exhaustion." The SS garrison physician was expecting a prompt recovery.²⁰⁸

In the meantime, hospitalizations continued at the reserve hospital. SS *Schütze* Mathias Lang fell ill on December 12,²⁰⁹ followed by SS *Sturmmann* Franz Straub on December 14.²¹⁰

In the first week of December, "54 concentration camp prisoners died of typhus at Auschwitz," and there were other cases of contagion among the SS guards.²¹¹

On January 4, 1943, Wirths informed Lolling that "the camp lockdown at CC AU.[schwitz] remains in effect as before" and added that "the relaxation in the granting of furloughs ordered at Christmas can be kept in effect on an experimental basis if all the preventive restrictions are also kept in effect."²¹² This radio message was reproduced in Garrison Order No. 1/43 dated January

²⁰³ AGK, NTN, 88, p. 67. Statistics from ex-inmate Otto Wolken, based on original documents.

²⁰⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 174.

²⁰⁵ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 24.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 307b/27.11.42, No. 2/4. This decryption is fragmentary.

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, 30.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 313b/8.2.43, No. 39.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, 8.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 321b/24.12.42, No. 8/9.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, No. 14.

²⁰⁹ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 15.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 328b/20.12.42, No. 3.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*, No. 32.

²¹¹ TNA, HW 16-68. Notes on decodes: Week ending 19 Dec. [1942].

²¹² TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 4.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 348b/24.1.43, No. 23/24.

8, 1943, in which Höss supplied detailed instructions regarding the persons to be granted furlough (Frei *et al.*, pp. 208f.).

Another three SS members, SS *Schütze* Adam Witunchek, SS *Schütze* Ludwig Hansek and SS *Schütze* Ferdinand Brauner were hospitalized at the Kattowitz Reserve Hospital on January 16,²¹³ while another four – SS *Schütze* Heinrich Finker, SS *Oberscharführer* Otto Kaper, SS *Schütze* Rudolf Lempowitz and SS *Unterscharführer* Adolf Schindler – were hospitalized between January 4 and 22.²¹⁴

Dr. Otto Schuman also fell ill with typhus on January 24 and was hospitalized in a private clinic at Bogoschitz,²¹⁵ while SS *Schütze* Georg Schlenhadt died the next day “of circulatory collapse caused by typhus.”²¹⁶

The intercepts relating to this topic end here.

1.4. The Typhus Epidemic and Zyklon-B Deliveries

In the paragraph above, I showed that the context depicted explains the “criminal traces” of the “*Sperrgebiet*,” the “*Sonderaktion der Gestapo bei sämtlichen Zivilarbeitern*” and the “*Vergasungskeller*.” But this supplies discerning criteria with regard to the presumed “criminal traces” which require further discussion.

Pressac writes (1993, pp. 46f.):

“It appears that Höss succeeded in concealing the real sanitary state of the camp from Himmler. But as the typhus epidemic continues its ravages in an increasingly serious way and the situation became catastrophic, the total isolation of the camp was ordered on July 23.”

Since combating the epidemic required tons of Zyklon B, Pressac explains:

“To obtain large quantities of gas quickly, only the SS WVHA could intervene. The pretext advanced by the SS at Auschwitz was that the epidemic had just broken out, when it was in full swing.

On July 22, the SS WVHA authorized the dispatch of a truck to travel directly to the Zyklon-B producer firm at Dessau to take delivery of approximately 2 to 2.5 tons of product ‘to combat the epidemic which had just broken out.’ On July 29, a second authorization was granted to take delivery at Dessau of an identical quantity of Zyklon-B ‘for camp disinfection’. On August 12, during the fumigation of a building, one person was slightly affected. [...] Toward August 20, stocks of Zyklon-B were practically exhausted, and the epidemic was still raging. Renewed demand for the product would have forced the SS at

²¹³ TNA. HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 360b/22.1.43, No. 4/5.

²¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 23.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 367b/3.2.43, No. 6/7.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 28.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 372b/11.2.43, No. 14/15, No. 17.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 27.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 371b/12.2.43, No. 31/34.

Auschwitz to confess that they were still not in control of the situation. A stratagem was devised: blame the Jews for the horrifying quantities of gas employed. The transport authorization granted on August 26 was for 'special treatment'."

To my comment, which I have already presented elsewhere (Mattogno 2019, pp. 193-197), I wish to add a few other considerations. At the time, the bureaucratic procedure involved in obtaining Zyklon B was as follows: the SS garrison physician filed the related application with Office D III of the WVHA, which, having approved it, forwarded it to Office D IV (Concentration Camp Administration); here, Department D IV/5 (Legal, Tax and Contractual Matters) provided the financial coverage, allocating the necessary sum of money, while payment was effected by Department D IV/1 (Budget, Funds and Wage Payments). The head of Office Group D, SS *Brigadeführer* Richard Glücks, or his adjutant, SS *Sturmbannführer* Arthur Liebehenschel, transmitted the travel permit to Auschwitz allowing them to travel to the manufacturer in order to pick up the Zyklon B.

Office D III, as shown by the documentation, was kept constantly informed by the SS garrison physician on the progress of the epidemic, and could not have been unaware of the real sanitary situation of the camp. This was not, as Pressac seemed to believe, a local and internal affair between the Auschwitz camp administration and Office Group D of the WVHA, but involved other external institutions: the district president of the Kattowitz District, which regularly informed the *Reichsminister* for the Interior; the public-health office of Bielitz County, the county commissioner of Bielitz County, and the *Amtskommissar* for the city of Auschwitz.

It follows that Liebehenschel's authorization of August 26, 1942 "for a truck to travel to Dessau to pick up material for special treatment"²¹⁷ was part of the struggle against the typhus epidemic, such as that of July 22, 1942, mentioned earlier, to collect "Gas for fumigating the camp and for the prevention of the threat of epidemics" and that of July 29 "for the collection of the gas urgently needed for the disinfestation of the camp."²¹⁸

In this context, it should be kept in mind that the cost estimate for the construction project of the Birkenau Camp (*Kostenüberschlag für das Bauvorhaben Kriegsgefangenenlager Auschwitz (Durchführung der Sonderbehandlung)*), drawn up by Bischoff on October 29, 1942, hence during the peak of the typhus epidemic, mentions as Item No. 16a a "Disinfestation Facility 1 for Special Treatment" ("*Entwesungsanlage 1. für Sonderbehandlung*") – the second disinfestation facility was "for the guard untis" – designated in the "construction description" ("*Baubeschreibung*") as "Entlausungsanl.[age]," hence a delousing facility. This was the famous *Zentralsauna*, the central disinfect-

²¹⁷ APMO, D-AuI-4/1a, "Fahrgenehmigungen," p. 8.

²¹⁸ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 168.

tion and disinfection facility for the inmates at Birkenau.²¹⁹ Who could possibly believe that, since the *Zentralsauna*, designated “for special treatment” as it was (“für Sonderbehandlung”), was an extermination plant with homicidal gas chambers?

The aforementioned “cost estimate” also records the estimated costs for “Crematoria I & II” and “Crematoria III & IV” as well as for “4 morgues” (“4 *Leichenhallen*”) with a total area of 1,566.72 square meters, but without the designation “for special treatment,” which appears exclusively in reference to the “disinfection facility” for inmates.²²⁰

The documentation of this construction project – “Project: Auschwitz POW Camp (implementation of special treatment)” – moreover contains the project of two disinfection facilities, I and II, for the Civilian Worker’s Camps I and II.²²¹

Interpreting the authorization of August 26, 1942 based on the term “*Sonderbehandlung*” – understood, in turn, in an arbitrary and distorted manner – is methodically incorrect: As in the case of the term “gassing” (“*Vergasung*”), “special treatment” (“*Sonderbehandlung*”) never had a criminal meaning when appearing in Auschwitz documents (see Mattogno 2016d).

1.5. The Typhus Epidemic and the “*Ostwanderung*”

At this point, it might be appropriate to raise an objection which has never been raised before, as far as I know: if a total camp lockdown had been proclaimed at Auschwitz, how could transports of non-able-bodied inmates have left the camp, according to the revisionist point of view, and been sent East?

Regardless of the fact that all the known Auschwitz documents are preselected, that is, they are documents which the Soviets and Poles wished to publicize to shore up the theory that Auschwitz was an extermination camp, it is nevertheless possible to proffer an answer.

An intercept dated October 27, 1942, not mentioned by Breitman, reproduces a message from SS *Obersturmführer* Sommer to the Auschwitz headquarters. On October 28, “an urgent meeting” had been held “at Reich Minister Speer’s,” in which Höss “absolutely” had to participate, for which purpose he was supposed to travel to Berlin and get into touch with *Hauptsturmführer* Sperling, who would supply him with all the necessary information.²²²

²¹⁹ Mattogno 2016d, pp. 39-42, and Docs. 11 & 12, pp. 132-134.

²²⁰ This context also explains the name “SS Sonderlager Auschwitz” which appears in an intercept of December 8, 1942, which also speaks of a “SS Sonderlager Landberge.” TNA. HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 8.12.42. GPDD 321/24.12.42, No. 43/44.

²²¹ VHA, Fond OT 31 (2)/8.

²²² TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 27.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 279b/19.11.42, No. 31/33.

This meeting was followed by a meeting organized by Speer on September 15, whose participants, among others, were Pohl and Kammler. Point 1 concerned the “expansion of the Auschwitz Barracks Camp due to migration to the East.” The next day, Pohl drew up a report for Himmler in which he communicated Speer’s decisions.²²³

“Reichsminister Prof. Speer has approved the expansion of the Auschwitz Barracks Camp in its entirety, and has allocated an additional construction volume for Auschwitz in the amount in 13.7 million Reichsmarks.

This construction volume includes the erection of some 300 barracks with the necessary supply and auxiliary installations.

The necessary raw materials will be allocated in the 4th quarter of 1942 as well as in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters of 1943.

When this additional construction program is completed, it will be possible to house at all times a total of 132,000 inmates.”

On September 15, Kammler, with reference to this meeting, informed Speer as the plenipotentiary for the regulation of the construction industry about “the additional construction volume for the special program at CC Auschwitz” with a letter bearing the subject “Special construction projects for CC Auschwitz.” The construction work had to be carried out mainly by the inmates, and was expected to take 50 working weeks.²²⁴

The result of the meeting on September 15 was the redesigning of the POW camp, effected by Bischoff between October 26 and 28, 1942. This was the already-mentioned “Project: Auschwitz POW Camp (implementation of special treatment)” bearing the stamp “Central Construction Office der Waffen-SS u. Pol. Auschwitz O/S.” and the initials “VIII Up a 2,” which was the code number for this project in Reichsminister Speer’s list of construction projects. The project was broken down into 12 points:

“1) Accommodation, personal effects, washing, toilet and housekeeping barracks, laundry and garrison headquarters, warehouse, disinfestation installation, wire fence, crematoria and morgues, heating and cooking installations

2) Water-supply system

3) Drainage system

4) Rail connection

5) Electric lighting system

6) Alarm and telephone system

7) Emergency generator

8) Transformer station

9) Bakery

10) Workshop, 3 storage barracks and 1 housing block for guard personnel

11) Disinfestation Installation I and 4 accommodation barracks for Civilian Worker Camp I

²²³ BAK, NS 18/14, fol. 131a.

²²⁴ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 43.

12) *Disinfestation Installation II, 2 washing and 2 toilet barracks for Civilian Worker Camp II.*”

The total estimated cost was 13,760,000 RM,²²⁵ or 13.7 million Reichsmarks, made available by Speer. In this context, the “implementation of special treatment” has nothing to do with the presumed extermination of the Jews. The crematoria have no importance, and the only installation explicitly related to “special treatment,” as explained earlier, was the *Zentralsauna*.

The key to understanding the significance of such an expression is that the “expansion of Auschwitz Barracks Camp” occurred as a “result of the migration to the East.” Pohl’s report dated September 16 explains that Speer wished to guarantee the employment of 50,000 Jews within a very short period of time, stating:²²⁶

“The manpower required for this purpose at Auschwitz will be derived mainly from the migration to the East, to prevent our existing operational systems from being disrupted in terms of performance and makeup by a constant turnover in the work force.

Jews fit for labor destined for the migration to the East must therefore interrupt their journey and work in the armaments industry.”

Therefore, within the framework of “*Ostwanderung*,” which was Deportation to the East, Jews fit for labor interrupted their journey at Auschwitz (and, in part, at Cosel), while Jews unfit for labor continued on their way, as I will explain below.

In those days, on October 29, 1942, the commandant of Buchenwald recalled the *Reichsführer* order relating to “the Deportation of Jewish inmates to the East,”²²⁷ which was exactly the “*Ostwanderung*.”

A memo dated July 20, 1942 from Department D III of the German Foreign Office concerning the deportation of the Dutch Jews states:²²⁸

“The Deportation is usually directed towards eastern territories not belonging to the Reich.”

From a German point of view, however, the territory around Auschwitz, including the camp, was part of the Reich. The document continues as follows:

“With reference to a possible subsequent engagement of the protective power in individual cases, the following is to be noted:

a) that the protective power has as little jurisdiction in the Eastern territories in question as in the Netherlands itself. [...]

²²⁵ “Zusammenstellung des Bauvorhaben Kriegsgefangenenlager Auschwitz (Durchführung der Sonderbehandlung),” October 28, 1942. VHA, Fond OT 31(2)8.

²²⁶ BAK, NS 18/14, fol. 132.

²²⁷ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 29.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 281b/14.11.42, No. 35/36.

²²⁸ TNA, Serial 702.

c) that in general the police do not release any information anymore to the outside about persons deported to the Eastern territories. Camp visits and so on are therefore out of the question from the outset."

As early as November 15, 1941, Martin Luther, an official of the German Foreign Office, sent a teletype to the German embassy in Bratislava reading:²²⁹

"Jews of other European nationalities are also to be included in the Deportation of the Jews from Germany,"

stating that the destination was "the ghettos in the East."

A telegram from Office D III dated December 4, 1941 reported that the Slovakian government was theoretically in agreement "with the deportation of Jews of Slovakian nationality into the Eastern ghettos."²²⁹

A circular letter of January 12, 1942 by the Higher SS and Police Leader Russia South at the Reich Commissioner for the Ukraine, directed to the general commissioners of Brest, Shitomir, Nikolayev, Dnepropetrovsk and Kiev, states (Hoppe, Doc. 53, pp. 182f.):

"Re: establishment of ghettos.

Until an ordinance on the establishment of ghettos is issued, I would ask you already now to ensure that preparations are started immediately. As far as possible, the ghettos are to be established in such a way that Jews from the Old Reich can be accommodated already in the course of 1942. In addition to clearly demarcated ghettos, military barracks and the like can also be considered for housing the Jews.

Reporting date [is] February 10, 1942. Each district commissioner has to indicate where in his area and how many Jews can be accommodated. Primarily such places are to be chosen which have rail connections."

In his speech on the occasion of Kammler's visit to Auschwitz on May 22, 1943, Höss explained the meaning of the phrase "solution to the Jewish question" at Auschwitz as follows:²³⁰

"Recently, the solution of the Jewish question was added to this, for which the conditions had to be created for accommodating initially 60,000 inmates, which increased to 100,000 within a short time. The camp inmates are for the most part expected to end up working in the heavy industry growing in the vicinity. The camp's sphere of interest is home to various armaments industries, for which manpower is to be made available on a regular basis."

Therefore, "expansion of the Auschwitz Barracks Camp due to migration to the East," "migration to the East," "implementation of special treatment" and "solution of the Jewish question" were related concepts, and all formed part of the same milieu, in which "special treatment" was synonymous with "migration to the East," and referred specifically to the extraction of manpower at

²²⁹ TNA, Serial 703.

²³⁰ File memo dated May 22, 1943 without letterhead and without signature, probably drawn up by Bischoff. RGVA, 502-1-26, pp. 85-87.

Auschwitz from the Jewish transports and all the related operations and structures (special construction projects), beginning with those for disinfection and disinfestation; this was the “special program at CC Auschwitz.”

The “migration to the East” was therefore synonymous with “resettlement of Jews,” which explains the significance of the already-mentioned travel permit issued by Liebehenschel for the Auschwitz Camp on August 26 “for the collection of material for special treatment”²¹⁷ and another on issued on October 2, 1942 for another trip to Dessau “for the collection of materials for resettlement of Jews.”²³¹ That the “material” is a reference to Zyklon B is certain, but the context of the typhus epidemic indicates that it was used for disinfestation.

On September 23, 1942 Pohl inspected the “disinfestation and personal-effects depot (resettlement of Jews)” (“*Entwesung und Effektenkammer (Judenumsiedlung)*”) at Auschwitz,²³² which in another report of that trip is called “disinfestation and personal-effects depot /Operation Reinhard/” (“*Entwesung -u. Effektenkammer /Aktion Reinhard/*”).²³³ This was the complex “disinfestation and personal-effects barracks” (“*Entlausungs- und Effektenbaracken*”) which constituted BW 28 and was also called Kanada I.

Until March 31, 1942, plans existed for a *Bauwerk* 58, consisting of 4 barracks for “special treatment,”²³⁴ whose function is explained in a letter from Bischoff to Office C V of the WVHA dated June 9, 1942:²³⁵

“For the special treatment of the Jews, the camp commandant of CC Auschwitz, SS Stubaf. Höss, has applied orally for the erection of 4 horse-stable barracks for the accommodation of personal effects. It is asked that the application be approved, since the matter is extremely urgent and the effects must absolutely be brought under shelter.”

These personal effects consisted of the “inventory from the resettlement of Jews” mentioned in an intercept dated December 18, 1942,²³⁶ or of “inventory of the special actions.”²³⁷

For more in-depth treatment of this topic, please see other studies.²³⁸

In the months of July-September 1942, the majority of Jewish transports reaching Auschwitz carried persons unable to work, and originating from France, Belgium and the Netherlands. A report from the French embassy in Rumania to the French head of state, Pierre Laval, dated “Bucharest, June 22,

²³¹ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 172. I published a copy of the original text of these two documents in Mattoigno 2015, Docs. 11 and 12, pp. 165f.

²³² RGVA, 502-1-19, p. 102.

²³³ “Bericht über die Besichtigung des Konzentrationslager Auschwitz durch SS-Obergruppenführer Pohl am 23.9.1942.” RGVA, 502-1-19, p. 86.

²³⁴ RGVA, 502-1-267, pp. 8, 13.

²³⁵ RGVA, 502-1-275, p. 56.

²³⁶ TNA. HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 18.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 331b/22.12.42, No. 28/30.

²³⁷ RGVA, 501-1345, p. 69.

²³⁸ Mattoigno 2016d, pp. 47-52; 2019, pp. 180-205.

1942,” provided detailed information on the topic of “Deportation to Transnistria of Jews from Western Europe and Rumania” (Ancel, pp. 26f.):

“According to information supplied by Colonel Lungu, commandant of the concentration camps in Transnistria, the number of Jewish families from Western Europe sent into this region by the Germans amount to 8,600 for Holland, 11,600 for France and 7,000 for Belgium. The transport is said to have been carried out under horrifying conditions, and neither the children, nor the elderly, nor the women were spared. These Israelites were housed in ruined barracks which had previously been occupied by German troops. Their situation was the most miserable imaginable. They were not allowed to carry more than 50 kilos of baggage and 10 marks in cash.”

All these people were malnourished and compelled to work, including children 8 years old or over.

This information is also confirmed by other sources, in particular, bulletins from the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*. As early as July 27, 1942, the agency announced:²³⁹

“Large-scale mass-deportations of Jews from Holland to Poland and occupied sections of Russia began this week, according to reports reaching here today. Special trains each carrying six hundred Jews are reported to be leaving Amsterdam daily for Eastern Europe.”

On October 8, 1942, a document was drawn up at Geneva titled “Report of a Jewish Refugee,” which recounted the following. The witness, a Polish Jew who lived in Brussels, was arrested on August 12, 1942 and interned in a camp at Malines; after three days, he was embarked on a train consisting of 12 freight cars, each carrying 70 persons, most of them young people. After two and half days of travelling, the train arrived at the station of Königshütte in Upper Silesia, and the deportees were able to get off the train and have a brief rest; they also received some hot soup distributed by a field kitchen displaying the Red Cross. We read there:²⁴⁰

“After this short rest, about half of the deportees, namely the younger boys between the age of 14 and 20, were taken away. It was said that these younger people would have to work in the coal and iron industry in Königshütte and the neighboring places. (Note: this information is in accordance with other news we have received about young Jewish boys working in Upper-Silesia.) The others had again to enter the train where there was now a little more space and then they were again transported eastwards. The train passed through Lemberg (Lvov), a place which was known to our informer, and through Rava-Russka[ya] and the regions of the Ukraine. Our witness cannot

²³⁹ JTA, “Nazis Begin Large-Scale Deportations of Dutch Jews to Poland and Occupied Russia,” July 27, 1942.

²⁴⁰ *Report of a Jewish Refugee*, Geneva, October 8, 1942. TNA, 1447 (“From the Archives of the World Jewish Congress, General Secretariat”).

remember how long he was en route because by then he was very tired. Finally the train stopped somewhere in Russia. The arrested men had to line up at the station and were asked whether they felt able to work. About half of them, some 150, mostly between the age of 20 and 35, said that they were able to work while the other half declared themselves unfit. The latter were taken away while the men ready to work were again loaded into the train and had to travel again for several hours.

Our witness cannot say in what region he was. The only thing he knows is that it was some remote place somewhere in Russia, and some time later he saw a road-sign bearing the inscription 'Stalingrad - 50 km'. He also says that during his stay in this region heavy bombardments and artillery-fire could be heard 3 or 4 times a week. From all this he gathered that they must have been not very far from the battle-line."

The deportees were housed in a barracks of Organization Todt, where they were supposed to build fortifications. After eight days, the witness became a truck driver, a task which he performed for two weeks.

This testimony is in stark contradiction to the relevant orthodox Holocaust literature. The witness, in fact, formed part of the transport which left Malines on August 15, 1942, but according to the *Memorial of the Deportation of the Jews from Belgium*, which follows Danuta Czech's *Auschwitz Chronicle*, this transport arrived at Auschwitz on August 17: 362 inmates were registered, 638 were gassed.²⁴¹ The witness stated, however, that the transport passed through Königshütte, Rava-Russkaya, Lvov (it therefore also passed within one hundred meters of the Belżec Camp!), through the Ukraine and entered Russia, close to the front.

In the bulletin of October 6, 1942, The *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* published the following information under the headline "Trains with Jewish Deportees Leave Belgium for Nazi-held Ukraine":

"A special train crowded with Jews deported from the province of Limbourg in Belgium left during the week-end for the Nazi-occupied Ukraine, according to information reaching the Belgian Government here today.

Trains crowded with deported Jews have also departed from Liege and Antwerp, the report stated. The deportees were instructed to take along food to last a fort-night. The Polish Government here today received a report stating that nine Jews were sentenced to death in the city of Piotrkow, Poland, for leaving the ghetto without permission."

On October 30, the bulletin of the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* wrote:²⁴²

"Underground information reaching the Belgian Government states that the Jews are being deported from Belgium to two destinations. Certain groups are

²⁴¹ Klarsfeld/Steinberg, pp. 21f. There were seven survivors of the transport on May 8, 1945.

²⁴² JTA, "Nazis Deport Jewish Women from Belgium; Many Sent to Coal Mines in Silesia," October 30, 1942.

being sent to work in the coal mines in Silesia, while others are transported to the Nazi-occupied Ukraine for hard labor there."

The next day, it published the following news item:²⁴³

"Freight trains crowded with Jews deported from France, Holland and Belgium continue to reach the city of Jassy [Iasi], Rumania, on route to Transnistria, the Axis-occupied part of the Ukraine administered by Rumanian authorities, it was reliably reported here today from Bucharest. The trains arrive with many Jews dead from starvation as the result of travelling for several weeks without any food. The dead are removed from the cars when the trains reach Jassy, while the other victims are sent on to Transnistria. Upon reaching their destination, they are isolated in camps where, together with Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina, they are virtually condemned to a slow death because they are not in a position to secure any food."

The above-mentioned report from the French embassy in Romania was therefore credible as to its content, but the date could not be correct, because only three Jewish transports had departed France by June 22, 1942, carrying a total of 3,112 persons, all of whom were registered at Auschwitz. Deportation of the Jews from the Netherlands began on July 15, and from Belgium on August 4. The data supplied in the report are by contrast fully compatible with a date of September 22. Until that time, inmates unable to work or presumed gassed at Auschwitz from the transports originating in France, the Netherlands and Belgium amounted to ca. 15,600 (in the report: 11,600), ca. 6,700 (8,600) and 6,500 (ca. 7,000), respectively.

In this context, the news broadcast by Radio Moscow as reported in the April 1944 issue of the underground Hebrew newspaper *Notre Voix* is a confirmation of deportations of Jews to the East:²⁴⁴

"Thank you! A news item that will delight all Jews of France was broadcast by Radio Moscow. Which of us does not have a brother, a sister, or relatives among those deported from Paris? And who will not feel profound joy when he thinks about the fact that 8,000 Parisian Jews have been rescued from death by the glorious Red Army! One of them told Radio Moscow how he had been saved from death, and likewise 8,000 other Parisian Jews. They were all in the Ukraine when the last Soviet offensive began, and the SS bandits wanted to shoot them before they left the country. But since they knew what fate was in store for them and since they had learned that the Soviet troops were no longer far away, the deported Jews decided to escape. They were immediately welcomed by the Red Army and are presently all in the Soviet Union. The heroic Red Army has thus once again earned a claim on the gratitude of the Jewish community of France."

²⁴³ JTA, "Trains with Jewish Deportees from France, Belgium Holland Continue to Reach Rumania," November 1, 1942.

²⁴⁴ Reproduced in *Union des juifs...*, p. 179.

Orthodox historians who have wanted to investigate what the British “knew” have always overlooked information that does not quite fit their preconceived notions. Some I have already mentioned above, but there are others as well.

On January 15, 1942, the British intercepted the following message:²⁴⁵

“To Higher SS and Police Leader, Russia North. Secret.

Führer has ordered that groups of Jewish forced laborers can be used more quickly in the Russian combat area to carry out important construction work. From January 18, 1942, special transports will leave for the construction area in the Daugava area assigned to the Silesian task force. Medical examination and provisioning are required. The Jews wear black work clothes with green armbands. Work assignment: Reichsautobahn. Organization Todt provides security. Please arrange that the inventory of forced labor[ers] is not reduced. Higher SS and Police Leader, Southeast”

On March 11, 1942, the British Foreign Office received a long report, drawn up on March 5, bearing the heading “Postal & Telegraphic Censorship. Report on Germany (NO.3).” The paragraph “Forced labor at the front” informs us as follows:²⁴⁶

“The ghettos are raided at regular intervals to supply forced labour on the roads and on the eastern front. The Germans do not seem to take into consideration the fact that these people are unable to work due to the fact that they are sick and emaciated from lack of food and thousands die while they toil under whips’. (7.12.41. BER/NAV/60927).

To this may be added the testimony of a J.T.A. report datelined from a ‘German frontier’ which says that, according to information disclosed by a neutral diplomat, who arrived there from Germany after a visit to Cracow and other large Polich [sic] cities, the Nazi retreat on the Soviet front is having its repercussions in the Jewish ghettos in Poland. The German authorities in Poland are now mobilising Jewish youths in ghettos and transporting them to the Soviet front to clear the snow which is impeding the Nazi troop movements. Aged Jews are also being driven to forced labour, clearing the roads and railway lines of snow, but these are working in the rear of the armies and on Polish soil only. The neutral observer estimated that approximately 20,000 Jews have been sent in labour gangs from Lublin and the surrounding townships alone. The Jewish community in the Lublin ghetto was ordered to supply within three days 2,000 sets of warm clothing for a Jewish labour gang being sent from there to Belzyce, where the German army is building fortifications. At the same time, anxious to reduce the ever-increasing sabotage against the German army in occupied Poland, Nazi authorities there are now placing groups of Jews and Poles on trains carrying troops and war material, in the hope that this will prevent Jewish and Polish guerillas from blowing them up.”

²⁴⁵ TNA, HW 16-53, Teleprinter Message.

²⁴⁶ TNA, FO 371-30898, p. 20 of the report.

A memo on “The Ghettos in Nazi Poland” broadcast on June 22, 1942 by The Joint Foreign Committee of London to H. Stannard at the Offices of the War Cabinet states:²⁴⁷

“About 10,000 Jews from Belgium were recently driven into Lodz to join in the manufacture of uniforms for the German troops. [...] In addition to the above ways in which Jews can keep body and soul together by working there are the compulsory labour camps, 48 in all, situated all over the Eastern part of Poland. Exact numbers are not known, but private reports, hardly exaggerated, speak of nearly 100,000 Jews so placed. These Jews clear debris, build roads, drain marshes, cut timber, load and unload military supplies and generally work in very bad conditions of semi-starvation and physical neglect.”

In August 1942 a German POW named August Weilemann declared the following:

“In 1942 I was sent to a Landesschuetzen-Bataillon in the Ukraine. The Company I was posted to was a Guard Company for the Concentration Camp Kriwoy Rog. There were 80,000 people in this camp. The conditions for the prisoners were terrible. They died by the hundred through illness, starvation and cold.

In the camp there was a special section for Jews of all countries, mostly from Poland; men, women, children and babies. The treatment of them was inhuman.”

This is followed by a description of sadistic crimes committed by German guards.²⁴⁸

A lieutenant of the air force reported on October 27, 1943 to the British that he had been sent “in a punishment camp, which contained eight hundred Jews”; the commander was a Viennese Jew and the other Jews were also all Viennese.²⁴⁹

After this brief exposition on the flow of Jewish transport east of Auschwitz, I return to the original question. Strictly speaking, one cannot even say with certainty that non-able-bodied persons transferred to the East evaded the camp lockdown, because at the time the Jewish transports were unloaded on the so-called “old ramp,” which was located outside the Birkenau Camp at a distance of some 500 meters. After the “selection,” deportees unfit for labor entered the camp and were thus subjected to the camp lockdown, if we follow the orthodox narrative; however, it is perfectly possible that they never entered the camp in the first place but were loaded back on the train straight away and were sent to the East, or, as suggested by the statement of “one of the repatriated deportees” from the transport from Westerbork on October 9,

²⁴⁷ TNA, FO-30885, pp. 57f.

²⁴⁸ TNA, WO 311-792. Report P.O.W. B241745 Uffz. Weilemann August: Camp No. 19.

²⁴⁹ TNA, WO 208-4131. C.S.D.I.C. (U.K.) S.R. Report.

1942, they continued their journey east after passing through the Main Camp. (According to that statement, a group of young women were selected for work on the ramp, while “the group of women and children and old men were loaded onto three large trucks with a trailer, and departed in the direction of Auschwitz I”; *Het Nederlandsche...* 1952b, p. 72).

It is also possible that not only inmates fit for labor were unloaded already at Cosel – now Kędzierzyn-Koźle, a town located some 40 km west of Gleiwitz – but inmates unfit for work as well, at least in part, since some 29,000 “Jews from Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, the Netherlands, including women and children,” passed through the nearby Blechhammer Camp (Główna Komisja..., p. 225), or that unfit inmates continued on their journey without passing through Auschwitz – like the train of our Polish-Jewish witness who was deported from Malines on August 15, 1942. In fact, each and any of these procedures may have been adopted, depending on the circumstances.

The radio messages from SS *Obersturmführer* Heinrich Schwarz, head of Department IIIa/Labor Deployment at Auschwitz, to Maurer in February and March 1943 also form part of this context. In a radio message dated February 20, 1943 with regards to the Jewish transports from Theresienstadt of January 21, 24 and 27, Schwarz reported the number of Jews selected for labor purposes (“*ausgesucht zum Arbeitseinsatz*”) and those “lodged separately” (“*gesondert untergebracht*”) and explained:²⁵⁰

“Special accommodation for the men was provided due to excessive weakness, while for the women because most of them were [had] children.”

Another report, dated March 8, 1943, stated (Blumental, p. 110):

“Concerning: Deportation of Jewish armaments workers.

The following Jewish inmate transports arrived on March 5 and 7.

Transport from Berlin, arrival March 5, 1943, total number 1,128 Jews. 389 men were put to work (at the Buna Works) and 96 women. 151 men and 492 women and children were treated specially.

Transport from Breslau, arrival March 5, 1943, total number 1,405 Jews. 406 Jews and 190 women were put to work (at the Buna Works). 125 men and 684 women were treated specially.

Transport from Berlin, arrival March 7, 1943, total number 690 including 25 inmates in protective custody. 153 men and 25 inmates in protective custody and 65 women were put to work (in the Buna Works). 39 men and 417 women and children were treated specially.”

The radio message dated March 15, 1943 reported:²⁵¹

“Subject: Jewish transports from Berlin. Auschwitz Concentration Camp reports [the arrival of a] Jewish transport from Berlin. Arrival March 13, 1943. Total number 964 Jews. 218 men and 147 women put to work. The men were

²⁵⁰ APMO, D-AuI-3a/65, nr. inw. 32119.

²⁵¹ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 174.

transferred to Buna [Monowitz]. 126 men and 473 women were lodged separately.”

Admitting for the sake of argument that the expressions “special accommodation” and “lodged separately” were cryptonyms referring to gassings, it would nevertheless still be clear that the primary purpose of the transports was the procurement and utilization of labor, and that the presumed gassings were a secondary consequence of an inability to work.

But such a hypothesis is unfounded (see Mattogno 2016d, pp. 54-60), as confirmed by an intercept dated October 10, 1942:²⁵²

“Secret! Confidentially: SS Hauptsturmführer Aumeier.

In the coming week, from Monday to Thursday, a French construction committee will inspect labor installations at Auschwitz. Inspecting the camp is not planned. Special camp installations (special accommodation) are not to be shown. If possible, no shootings of prisoners attempting to escape should be carried out on outside work sites of Auschwitz. Signed Liebehenschel.”

“Installations” therefore existed, for “special accommodation,” just as “special inmates” also existed who were not slated for killing, as shown by another intercept dated December 15, 1942:²⁵³

“The headquarters CC Au[schwitz] report, for the guarding of special inmates, SS Rottenführer Mattner, born Sept. 4, 1902. Signed Hoesz.”

Already on March 11, 1942, the commandant had ordered the Central Construction Office to erect a fence around Block 12 “because special inmates are to be lodged here (Secret Reich Matter).”²⁵⁴

Finally, it should be kept in mind that these messages originated from the head of Department IIIa of Auschwitz and were addressed to the head of Office DII of the WVHA, both of which were responsible for inmate deployment, whereas any communication about the number of inmates alleged gassings would have concerned the RSHA.

From an orthodox perspective, only two homicidal gassing facilities existed in Birkenau in late 1942, the two claimed “Bunkers” of Birkenau, which, moreover, were located outside the fences of the camp. Since, by definition, the alleged Jewish extermination was covered by strict secrecy, Liebehenschel’s insistence that any presumed extermination facility was not to be shown to the French construction committee should have been utterly self-evident. On the other hand, the “special accommodation” was evidently an explanation of what he meant with “camp installations,” an expression that is difficult to attribute to the two “Bunkers.”

²⁵² TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 10.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 262b/25.10.42, No. 33/34.

²⁵³ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 15.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 328b/20.12.42, No. 38.

²⁵⁴ RGVA, 502-1-85, p. 34.

1.6. The Typhus Epidemic and the Genesis of the Birkenau Crematoria

One last question that the historical context of the typhus epidemic helps to clarify is that of the origins of the crematoria at Birkenau. It is a fact that the new crematorium, the future Crematorium II, was designed for a POW camp at Birkenau initially planned to contain 120,000 Soviet POWs.²⁵⁵

On June 29, 1942, when “*Bunker 1*” was presumably already active and the inauguration of “*Bunker 2*” was approaching very closely (it was said to have been activated the next day), only one crematorium was being planned, always, and solely, for the POW camp, which was, by Himmler’s order, to house 150,000 POWs instead of 125,000.²⁵⁶ On July 1, SS *Sturmbannführer* Wilhelm Lenzer, head of Office C V, with reference to a teletype from Bischoff dated June 23, addressed the allocation to Auschwitz of barracks “to accommodate 125,000 POWs.”²⁵⁷

On July 30, 1942, Bischoff compiled an “Overview of all buildings that were ordered by the SS WVHA Berlin to be built in the area of CC Auschwitz or in the service area of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen SS and Police Auschwitz during the third fiscal year of the war.”²⁵⁸ It contains 24 construction sites (*Bauwerke*) for the Auschwitz Camp, 6 for the “agricultural enterprises Auschwitz,” and 30 for the “POW camp of the Waffen SS.” Among the projects approved by the plenipotentiary for wooden constructions, we find under Point 10 the crematorium, without any emphasis, whose estimated expenditure represents merely approximately 3% of the total (see Document 3). This document (along with many others of the same type) eradicates the whims of those Breitman-like orthodox Holocaust historians who naively or maliciously reduce the entire Auschwitz Camp to crematoria and gas chambers, as if these were the absolutely fundamental installations around which the whole history of the camp revolved.

On August 3, Bischoff sent Lenzer “the new situation map of Auschwitz POW camp” according to the new, increased occupancy planned for the camp. At that time, there were only plans for one single crematorium, to which the following definitive location was attributed:²⁵⁹

²⁵⁵ Letter from Bischoff to the Rüstungskommando at Weimar dated November 12, 1941. RGVA, 502-1-314, pp. 8-8a.

²⁵⁶ Letter from Bischoff to the Leiter of Amt C V of the WVHA dated June 29, 1942. GARF, 7021-108-32, pp. 34f.

²⁵⁷ Letter from Lenzer to Bischoff dated July 1, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-273, p. 27.

²⁵⁸ “Übersicht über sämtliche Bauwerke, die auf Anordnung des SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt Berlin, im Bereiche des KL.-Auschwitz, bezw. im Dienstbereiche der Zentral-Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz im dritten Kriegswirtschaftsjahr zu errichten sind.” July 30, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-275, pp. 33-36.

²⁵⁹ Letter from Bischoff to Lenzer dated August 3, 1942. GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 37.

“Moreover, the location for the new crematorium was established next to the quarantine camp.”

On August 19, 1942, as I will explain below, the future Crematorium III was already under discussion, and on the 26th the decision for the construction of Crematoria IV and V was made, as shown in Bischoff’s telegram to the Topf Company stating:²⁶⁰

“Building plan for 8-muffle cremation furnace urgently required, since construction work must begin immediately.”

With a letter dated August 26, 1942, Bischoff sent Lenzer the map of Auschwitz POW Camp for “a total number of prisoners of 200,000 men,”²⁶¹ but the decision to expand the camp had already been made by Himmler during his visit to Auschwitz on July 17 and 18, 1942, formalized in the “situation map of Auschwitz POW Camp,” dated August 15, 1942, which shows four sectors, three for 60,000 inmates and one for 20,000, hence a total of 200,000, but it contains only the future Crematoria II and III (Pressac 1989, p. 203).

In August 1942, mortality at Auschwitz was extremely high, due in particular to the typhus epidemic. The British intercepted messages that said:²⁶²

“Auschwitz lost 6,889 men and 1,525 women (probably from typhus) in August; nevertheless men and women were being sent in at a rate which balanced the losses.”

The total number of casualties in August 1942 was 8,414, an average of 271 per day.

If we consider the expansion project for the Birkenau Camp to 200,000 inmates, it appears obvious that Crematoria III, IV and V were built precisely to deal with the raging typhus epidemic, and all the more so, since there is nothing to link them with the alleged extermination of the Jews, not even the very few documents invariably adduced by orthodox Holocaust historiography:

I) First, we have Bischoff’s letter to Lenzer dated October 13, 1942, in which he notes that “the construction of the new crematorium had to be initiated already in July 1942 due to the situation created by the special actions.”²⁶³ The “suspicious” nature of the document obviously consists in the presence of the magic word “special actions,” but a criminal interpretation of the word, as I shall show below, is in contradiction with the cornerstones of orthodox Holocaust historiography. To avoid falling into this trap, Pressac was forced to provide a nonsensical explanation (Pressac 1993, p. 47):

“This mention formally confirms the essential role played by the crematorium in choosing Auschwitz as the site of the mass annihilation of the Jews. De-

²⁶⁰ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 155.

²⁶¹ Letter from Bischoff to Lenzer of August 27, 1942. GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 41.

²⁶² TNA. HW 16-68. Notes on decodes. Received 13-20 September 1942.

²⁶³ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 47.

signed as a normal sanitary instrument for a prisoner-of-war camp, this crematorium became, under the combined effects of Prüfer's commercial persuasion, his creative genius and the cordiality of his relations with Bischoff, a powerful Moloch. This stupefying incineration installation had to be noticed by the SS officials in Berlin and subsequently associated by them with the 'final solution' to the Jewish problem."

Leaving aside Prüfer's presumed art of persuasion, which is simply a figment of Pressac's without any documentary confirmation, his theory introduces another blatant contradiction: the "SS officials in Berlin," in his words, are supposed to have noticed the (alleged) extraordinary cremation capacity of the new crematorium, which thus led to their decision to use Auschwitz as the site at which to carry out the extermination of the Jews! In order to make this work, however, he has to postpone by one year, to June 1942, the phantom extermination order allegedly given by Himmler to Höss (*ibid*, p. 41), but by so doing, he shatters the chain of events which, although fictitious, at least had its own internal logic: after the "first gassing" of inmates and Soviet POWs, which Pressac sets "between December 5 and the end of the month of December" 1941 (*ibid*, p. 34), the gassing activity was moved to the crematorium of the Main Camp and continued there for four months, until May 1942, although "very few gassings took place in this crematorium" (*ibid*.). It was then "decided at the end of April to transfer this type of activity to Birkenau" (*ibid*, p. 35) when "Bunker 1" was made operational, which happened "at the end of May 1942" (*ibid*, p. 39). But if Himmler communicated the *Führerbefehl* to Höss only in June 1942, on whose order were the gassings carried out in the crematorium and in "Bunker 1"?

Pressac does not even ask himself the question. But there is another problem.

The hand-waving expression "SS officials in Berlin" actually points to Himmler, who, therefore, is said to have selected Auschwitz as the Jewish extermination center due to the presence of a Moloch-style crematorium. In reality, however, this crematorium did not yet exist in June 1942, and the related project, as I have shown above, was linked to the POW camp. Since Himmler had ordered the expansion of this camp to accommodate 200,000 prisoners after his visit to Auschwitz on July 17-18, and only one single crematorium was still planned for this expanded camp on August 3, it follows that this crematorium, according to Pressac's theory, would have been intended at the same time for the extermination of the Jews and for the expected natural mortality among 200,000 Soviet POWs!

Nor does Pressac explain the relationship between the "construction of the new crematorium" and the "special actions": if this term is interpreted as referring to gassings, the sense of the document is that, because of the situation created by the gassings in "Bunker 1," it was necessary to begin immediately with the construction of the future Crematorium II. The construction work, as

I have noted above, began on June 2, 1942, yet according to orthodox Holocaust historiography, the cremation of the presumed Bunker-1 gassing victims buried in mass graves was decided by Himmler only during his visit on July 17 and 18. Shortly afterwards, SS *Standartenführer* Paul Blobel brought Höss the *Reichsführer's* exhumation-cremation order, and “as early as September 1942, unearthing of the mass graves at Birkenau commenced” (Piper 1994, p. 163). On September 16, Höss is said to have visited Chełmno to study Blobel’s experimental cremation technique, and the systematic cremation in trenches outdoors is said to have begun only after his return, according to D. Czech on September 21 (1990, p. 242). But if the cremation decision was taken in July, it is clear that the “construction of the new crematorium” notwithstanding the “special actions,” could not refer to the victims of the presumed gassings in “Bunker 1,” but, rather, to deceased inmates registered in the camp.

II) In a file memo of August 21, 1942, SS *Untersturmführer* Fritz Ertl mentions a visit to Auschwitz by the Topf engineer Kurt Prüfer two days earlier and relates the following about the relative discussions:²⁶⁴

“2) Regarding the installation of 2 three-muffle furnaces each at the ‘bathing facilities for special actions’ it was proposed by engineer Prüfer that the furnaces be diverted from an already completed shipment to Mogilev [in White Russia], and the administrative director, who was at the SS Main Office of Economic Administration in Berlin, was immediately informed of this by telephone and asked to make further arrangements.

3) Concerning the erection of a 2nd crematorium with 5 triple-muffle furnaces as well as aeration and de-aeration installations, results of the negotiations on assignment of materials, already under way with Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA), must first be waited for.”

I repeat and re-emphasize what I have explained in other studies.²⁶⁵ The current interpretation of the Auschwitz Museum is as follows:

“During the discussion it was decided to build a second crematorium based on the system of five three-retort furnaces (the future crematorium III) and the installing of crematorium furnaces next to bunkers I and II. They are defined in this document as ‘bathhouses for special operations’ (*Badeanstalten für Sonderaktionen*). The decision to build new furnaces adjacent to the bunkers was revised several weeks later, and it was determined that the equipment for burning corpses would be placed in newly designed facilities (later crematoria IV and V).” (Bartosik *et al.*, p. 70)

Any analysis of the aforementioned document cannot ignore the following indisputable facts:

²⁶⁴ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 159.

²⁶⁵ Mattigno 2019, pp. 186-190; 2020b, pp. 65f., 181-184.

1. The documentation of the Central Construction Office of Auschwitz does not contain the slightest trace hinting at the existence of the alleged gassing “bunkers.”
2. In August 1942, no construction site named “bathing facilities for special actions” existed (“*Badeanstalten für Sonderaktionen*”); none of the object built or under construction had any connection with these “bathing facilities,” although, for this month, we know exactly all the construction sites existing in Birkenau, when their construction was ordered, when construction began, what their ID number and name was, to what they were completed, and where they were located. This information is mainly contained in the “Construction deadline schedule 1942. Reporting month of August” (“*Baufristenplan 1942. Berichtsmonat August*”)²⁶⁶ and in the plan of Birkenau dated August 15, 1942.²⁶⁷ It goes without saying that the phantom “bunkers” of Birkenau are not mentioned in any of these documents either.
3. On August 14, 1942, the Central Construction Office issued Plan 1678 of Crematoria IV/V (reproduced in Pressac 1989, p. 393).

Ertl’s file memo contains a handwritten note by Bischoff saying:²⁶⁸

“On Aug. 24, 1942, informed Herr Prüfer by phone that 2 pieces 8-muffle furnaces can be diverted from shipment to Mogilev. Herr Prüfer stated that he had been told so already by SS Stubaf. Lenzer.”

Hence, if Prüfer had proposed to divert two 8-muffle-furnaces from the Mogilev shipment for the “bathing facilities for special actions,” a proposal that was accepted within a few days, and if already on August 14 a plan of the Crematorium IV/V provided for the installation of a furnace with 8 muffles, the most logical thing²⁶⁹ is that “bathing facilities for special actions” was referring to the future Crematoria IV and V, which were equipped with these kinds of furnaces. As I have shown elsewhere, “water installations” (“*Wasserinstallations*”) were indeed installed in these crematoria, which were undoubtedly two shower systems operating with water heated by stoves, for example by means of a heating coil inside them. This means that these buildings were sanitary rather than extermination facilities (Mattogno 2019, pp. 158-162). In this context, “special actions” referred to the activities involved in receiving and accommodating incoming transports of deported Jews.

The orthodox Holocaust thesis contains yet another nonsensical inconsistency. In the orthodox perspective as represented by Pressac, when “the construction of the four Birkenau crematoria was finally fixed” on August 19, these facilities were “planned at the time without homicidal gas chambers” (Pressac 1993, p. 53). This means that the SS assigned two “powerful Mo-

²⁶⁶ RGVA, 502-1-22, pp. 40f.

²⁶⁷ “Lageplan des Kriegsgefangenenlagers in Auschwitz O/S”; see Pressac 1989, p. 209.

²⁶⁸ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 160.

²⁶⁹ The alternative is that it was a project of an unknown facility that was never realized.

loch” crematoria (II and III) plus two slightly smaller ones (IV and V) with a total of 46 cremation muffles for the expected “natural” mortality of the camp, yet originally only “2 three-muffle furnaces each at the [two] ‘bathing facilities for special actions’” [= bunkers], hence a total of 12 muffles, for the extermination of the Jews, if we were to follow the orthodox logic!

But that’s still not the end of absurdities: If the construction of the new crematorium had to be started immediately because of the situation created by the “special actions,” that is, according to the orthodox interpretation, due to mass killings, these mass killings should have been moved to the new crematoria right from the start of their conception. Yet instead they were designed as simple hygienic-sanitary facilities!

Subsequently, the project to expand the POW camp to a capacity of 200,000 inmates was drastically and realistically downsized. The plan of September 22 already considered the reduction, as it envisaged an occupancy of 140,000 inmates (Pressac 1989, p. 209). Plan No. 1776 of October 6 reflects the same projected occupancy (20,000 inmates in Construction Sector I, 60,000 in Construction Sector II, and another 60,000 in Construction Sector III), but it also contains the warehouse area (*Effektenlager*) with the *Zentral-sauna* and Crematoria IV and V.²⁷⁰

This downsizing of the planned inmate population did not mean that the four crematoria were disproportionate to it. A letter from Bischoff to the construction office of the Stutthof Camp near Danzig unequivocally clarifies that a crematorium with five 3-muffle furnaces (Crematorium II/III) served 30,000 inmates,²⁷¹ so that the muffle/prisoner ratio was 1:2,000, meaning that the 140,000 anticipated inmates at the Auschwitz POW Camp would have required 70 muffles rather than the 46 present actually installed in the four crematoria.

This shows to what degree the new Birkenau crematorium was a “powerful Moloch”!

III) On September 17, 1942, *SS Untersturmführer* Walter Dejaco drew up a “Travel report on the business trip to Litzmannstadt” relating to a visit to a “special facility” (“*Sonderanlage*”) which he, Höss and *SS Untersturmführer* Franz Hössler had undertaken the day before. The related “travel permit,” issued by Glücks the day before, indicated as the reason for the trip “inspecting the test station for field incinerators Aktion Reinhard.”²⁷² The message was intercepted by the British and deciphered correctly (some slight discrepancies from the original are in parentheses).²⁷³

²⁷⁰ VHA, Fond OT 31(2)8.

²⁷¹ RGVA, 502-1-272, p. 168. Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. II, Doc. 263, p. 422.

²⁷² AGK, NTN, 94, p. 170. See Document 4.

²⁷³ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 15.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 237b/28.2.43, No. 42/43. See Document 4a.

“Betr. Fahrgenehmigung. Bezu: dort. Antrag vom 14.9.42. (Dort. Antrag v. 14.9.42).

Fahrgenehmigung (Fahrgen.) für einen Pkw. (PKW.) von Au. nach Litzmannstadt und zurück, zwecks Besichtigung der Versuchstation für Feldöfen Aktion ‘Reinhard’ wird hiermit für den 16.9.42 erteilt... remainder missed.

[continuation of the original:]

Die Fahrgen. ist dem Kraftfahrer mitzugeben.

Der Chef der Amtsgr. D gez. Glücks SS-Brigadef. u. Generalmajor der Waffen-SS, Leiter der Dienstst. im Range eines Generalleutnants der Waffen-SS.

F.d.R. gez. Selle, Funkenstellenleiter”

Translation of the original:

“Re: Travel permit. Ref.: Your application of 14.9.42.

Travel permit for car from Auschwitz to Litzmannstadt and back, for the purpose of inspecting the test station for field incinerators Aktion ‘Reinhard’ is hereby granted for 16.9.42. The travel permit is to be given to the driver to take with him.

Head of Office Group D

signed Glücks

SS Brigadef. and Major General in the Waffen SS

Chief of the agency with the rank of a lieutenant general of the Waffen SS

Certified true copy, signed Selle, chief of radio station.”

This is followed by the signature of the Adjutant to Auschwitz Headquarters, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Robert Mulka. As I have explained elsewhere,²⁷⁴ Chełmno (or Kulmhof) is nowhere mentioned, and the visit in question had nothing to do with the cremation of bodies. Interestingly, the British misinterpreted the term *Feldöfen* (field incinerators/furnaces) as field kitchens.

The orthodox interpretation of these documents is nonsense, as shown by three very simple facts:

1. The “travel permit” was only valid “from Auschwitz to Litzmannstadt and back.” Chełmno is approximately 60 km away from Litzmannstadt (Łódź).
2. The question of cremation at Auschwitz was discussed during engineer Kurt Prüfer’s visit to Auschwitz less than a month earlier, on August 18, and was resolved during the following days. Only a lunatic would have turned to Blobel to solve the problem of open-air cremations, who had no qualifications and no experience in this field whatsoever, when at the same time the Auschwitz camp authorities were in close contacts with the company manufacturing the largest cremation installations in Germany, as well as with one of the most experienced and qualified engineers in this field.
3. Although Höss had presumably visited the “field incinerators” for the cremation of bodies, and, as stated in the “travel report,” the relative “con-

²⁷⁴ Mattoigno/Kues/Graf 2014, Vol. II, pp. 918-937; 2015, Vol. II, pp. 1203-1210.

struction material” ordered by Blobel from the Ostdeutsche Baustoffwerke Company at Posen (which did not build cremation furnaces) were to be delivered to Auschwitz “immediately,” Höss later claimed that he carried out the outdoor cremation of bodies upon his return to the camp as follows:

“at first on wood pyres bearing some 2,000 corpses, and later in pits together with bodies previously buried.” (Höss 1959, p. 210)

Hence, no trace of the use of any constructed “field incinerators.”

In conclusion, the context of the typhus epidemic is clearly indispensable for any understanding of the origins of the crematoria at Birkenau.

1.7. General Information on Auschwitz Camp

Several intercepts deal with the most varied aspects of life in the camp; these intercepts provide information which was previously unknown or which clarifies or supplements aspects already known. My discussion of them here is based upon the topics referred to.

1.7.1. Jews, Jewish Transports and Inmate Transfers

On May 3, 1942 Liebehenschel sent Höss the following message:²⁷⁵

“Secret! Ref.: Internment of Jews. As communicated by the RSHA by telegraph, for domestic political reasons, it is currently impossible to carry out as scheduled for July 3 and 4, 1942 the deportation of 1,000 Jews fit for labor to Auschwitz. It was nevertheless assured to process both these two transports and the other 5 scheduled for your camp already in June. The new dates will be announced in due course.”

The message most likely referred to the deportation of Jews from Slovakia. On May 11, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Dieter Wisliceny, Eichmann’s representative in Slovakia, wrote as follows to the Slovakian minister for domestic affairs (*Riešenie židovskej...*, pp. 108f.):

“As the Reichssicherheitshauptamt Berlin notified me by telegraph on 9.5.1942, the possibility exists to accelerate the deportation of the Jews from Slovakia by sending additional transports to Auschwitz. However, the transports may only carry Jews and Jewesses fit for labor, no children. It would then be possible to increase the transport quota by 5 trains per month.” (Emphasis in the original.)

But this project was never realized.

On June 17, the British almost-completely deciphered an enigmatic teletype from Liebehenschel:²⁷⁶

²⁷⁵ TNA, HW 16-19. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 3.5.42. ZIP/GPDD 105, No. 5/6.

“Re.: Labor deployment of Slovakian Jews. Reference: our teletype of June 16, 1942, 13:41 o’clock. Subsequent to the above-mentioned radio message I inform you that the processing of one transport per week from Slovakia to there will not begin on June 17, 1942 as planned but June 16, 1942. Until further notice, the transports will arrive at the border railway station Zwardon on Friday... of week, where they will be handed over and passed on to Auschwitz.”

The transport plan for the deportation of Slovakian Jews to Auschwitz and Lublin was drawn up by the Oppeln head office of the German National Railway on March 16, 1942, and arranged for eight transports between March 26 and April 7-8, referred to as Da 66 through 73. Four of these trains travelled via Zwardon, where they were taken over by the Germans.²⁷⁷ In June 1942, however, only one single transport of Jews from Slovakia reached Auschwitz – on June 20, to be precise.

On June 30, Franz Ziereis, commandant of Mauthausen Camp, asked Höss to make freight cars available “for the transport of 710 inmates” for transfer to Mauthausen.²⁷⁸ According to the Auschwitz inmate registry (*Stärkebuch*), 700 “transferred inmates” were missing from the morning roll call on July 7.²⁷⁹

On October 17, Hermann Pister, commandant of Buchenwald Camp, gave Höss advance notice of an inmate transport:²⁸⁰

“The transport of 405 Jewish inmates will depart from Weimar on Saturday, Oct. 17, 1942, around 11:59 h, to CC Auschwitz.”

The inmates reached Auschwitz on the 19th of October, where 404 of them were registered with the numbers 68340 to 68743 (Czech 1990, p. 255).

Another message from Pister of November 27 with the subject “inmate transfers to CC Auschwitz” reported the departure from Weimar of a transport “with 150 deployable inmates in addition to 13 Jews.”²⁸¹ These inmates arrived at Auschwitz two days later and were registered under the numbers 78577 to 78739 (Czech 1990, p. 274). On December 5, the Auschwitz camp physician drew up a report for the camp headquarters showing that the transport contained only 72 deployable inmates.²⁸²

A message of January 12, 1943 by SS *Standartenführer* Maurer, the WVHA’s department chief for labor deployment, revealed a little-known aspect of the history of Auschwitz:²⁸³

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 17.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 127/20.6.42, No. 15/16.

²⁷⁷ Document reproduced in Tóth, p. 161.

²⁷⁸ TNA, HW 16-20. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 30.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 179/28.7.42, No. 1.

²⁷⁹ *Stärkebuch*. Statistical elaboration by Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, p. 62.

²⁸⁰ TNA, HW 16-20. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 17.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 269b/21.11.42, No. 23.

²⁸¹ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 27.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 310b/11.2.43, No. 5/5.

²⁸² RGVA, 502-1-68, pp. 100-103. Cf. Mattogno 2016a, pp. 80f., and Doc. 42, pp. 356f.

²⁸³ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 12.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 356b/27.1.43, No. 5/6.

“Regarding: Transfer of 6,000 Polish inmates from CC Au. In agreement with the head of Office D III, SS Obersturmbannführer Lolling, the approximately 6,000 Polish inmates scheduled for transfer are to be placed in quarantine for 3 weeks in CC Au. until their transfer. I ask to begin this instantly in order that inmates can be gradually withdrawn for projects in other camps. The draw-down [of inmates] would therefore commence in the first few days of the month of February at the latest. I request a brief confirmation of the matter.”

An explicit reference to this may be found in Bischoff’s letter to Höss from January 20, 1943 with the subject “withdrawal of Polish inmates”:²⁸⁴

“The Central Construction Office was informed that all Polish inmates are to be withdrawn from here in the near future.”

He requested the exemption for 685 Polish prisoners working for the Central Construction Office whom he considered irreplaceable specialists.

In a letter of February 16, Bischoff reduced the number of these inmates to 379.²⁸⁵

On January 15, 1943, Liebehenschel ordered the transfer to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp of 11 “inmate specialist workers” on February 8, who were to be immediately placed in quarantine.²⁸⁶

A message of August 5, 1944 sheds light on a Jewish transport from Sárvár, Hungary. Randolph L. Braham wrote that, according to a report from the Hungarian gendarmerie dated June 30, 1944, there were 3,521 Jews in this town, 2,204 of whom were deported to Auschwitz on July 7, 1944.²⁸⁷ He then spoke of the deportation from Sárvár on August 5, without supplying any details. The above-mentioned message radio stated in this regard.²⁸⁸

“Re.: Deportation of Jews. Ref.: known. Special train underway. Journey no. 6320410 left Sarvar on Aug. 4, 1944 at 22:30 h toward Auschwitz. Transport occupancy: 1,296. Transport leader SS Untersturmführer Hartenberger, B d S Hungary Sek.”

The order of magnitude corresponds rather well: $3,521 - 2,204 = 1,317$, compared to 1,296 actual deportees. The “List of transports of Jews” records the registration of 25 Jews (numbers 5569-5593) and 1,414 Hungarian Jews as of August 8,²⁸⁹ who Danuta Czech considers to have been transferred over from the Birkenau Transit Camp (Czech 1990, p. 682), but it is clear that these registrations must include some or all of those deported from Sárvár.

On December 22, 1942 Liebehenschel communicated to Auschwitz and Majdanek that, starting from December 31, they had to send a list of all the

²⁸⁴ RGVA, 502-1-60, pp. 44f.

²⁸⁵ RGVA, 502-1-256, pp. 169f.

²⁸⁶ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 15.1.43 ZIP/GPDD 359b/28.1.43, No. 23/24.

²⁸⁷ Braham 1981, pp. 667, 669; 1988, p. 515.

²⁸⁸ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 1 Traffic: 5.8.44. CIRO/PEARL/ZIP/GPD 2918/GG, HH 17.8.44, No. 5.

²⁸⁹ APMO, Ruch Oporu, t. XXc, D-RO/123, pp. 18, 21.

inmates who had escaped, giving their first and last name, date and place of birth, and the day of their escape. By the 26th, they had to communicate how many detainees, divided into men and women, had escaped in the period from Oct. 1 through Dec. 25, 1942, and how many of them had been apprehended.²⁹⁰

1.7.2. The Use of Inmate Hair

On August 8, 1942, Glücks transmitted Pohl's order to gather and deliver inmate hair for industrial use to the commandants of all concentration camps. Inmate hair was to be cut and conserved "after disinfection"; provision was made for a minimum hair length of 20 mm. The quantities gathered were to be communicated to Glücks on a monthly basis starting on September 5 (USSR-511).

A message from the Dachau Camp of September 19, 1942 with the subject "Use of cut hair" ("*Verwendung der abgeschnittenen Haare*") explicitly referred to this order.²⁹¹

On September 15, Office Group D reminded the Auschwitz, Dachau and Lublin Camps of the order dated August 8 and of the 5th of every month being the due date for the related reports (Facsimile in Strzelecki, p. 126). On October 7, this notice was sent to the Mauthausen, Buchenwald, Hinzert Camps, and, once again, to Auschwitz.²⁹² The same day, Flossenbürg informed this office group that the "report on the utilization of cut hair" had been submitted on September 23 and had been confirmed by a receipt dated October 1.²⁹³

At least two companies were located in the Breslau region (present-day Wrocław) which dealt with recycling human hair: The Paul Reimann Company and the Held Company, both located at Friedland in the Breslau District (present-day Mieroszów). The first of them collected the supplies originating from the Majdanek Camp, among others, in relation to which there is copious documentation (see Dziadosz). For Auschwitz, on the other hand, the only known document is a travel permit by Glücks dated September 30, 1942, intercepted and almost-completely deciphered by the British,²⁹⁴ which states:²⁹⁵

²⁹⁰ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 22.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 335b/30.12.42, No. 17, 18/19.

²⁹¹ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 19.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 241b/26.2.43, No. 1.

²⁹² *Ibid.*, 7.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 259b/25.10.42, No. 47.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*, No. 57/58.

²⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 30.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 239b/3.12.42, No. 10/11.

²⁹⁵ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 171, see Document 5.

“To camp headq

Breslau.

Ref.: your teletype of Sept. 29

I hereby approve the trip by passenger car of SS Obersturmf. Schwarz from Auschwitz to Friedland to inspect the hair-recycling enterprise Held in Friedland, Breslau District.”

On November 9, Höss asked Office Group D for another permit:²⁹⁶

“Re.: Visit to hair-recycling enterprise, Held company, in Friedland, Breslau District. Ref.: your radio message dated Sept. 30, 1942. The headquarters CC Auschwitz request another travel permit for SS Untersturmführer Hoessler and SS Untersturmführer Sell by passenger car or rail to Friedland to inspect hair-recycling enterprise in Friedland, Breslau District.”

The same day, Liebehenschel, as Glücks’s deputy, issued the permit, specifying that the journey had to take place “by rail.”²⁹⁷

There is no reference to the hair of the presumed gassing victims, which would have been an enormous quantity.

In an intercept of September 30, 1942, Glücks informed Höss of the next-day arrival of “SS *Sturmbannführer* Hartenstein,”²⁹⁸ meaning Friedrich Hartenstein, who took over the office of “commander of the deathhead guard unit CC Auschwitz” as announced in the Headquarters Order of October 6, 1942 (Frei *et al.*, p. 183).

Another intercept of October 29, 1942 mentions SS *Obersturmführer* Richard Baer, who, coming from the Neuengamme Camp, had been “assigned as an adjutant to the headquarters staff CC Auschwitz.”²⁹⁹

1.7.3. The Jewish Watch-Maker Inmates at Majdanek

On November 7, 1942, the POW camp of the Waffen SS at Lublin (Majdanek) sent a teletype to the Auschwitz headquarters with the subject “transfer of Jewish-inmate watchmakers” stating that on September 9 an order had been issued to transfer 48 inmates, but that 23 of them had died in the meantime, so that only 25 were left. Their transfer was anticipated for November 7.³⁰⁰ They were to be retransferred from Auschwitz to Sachsenhausen, but this was not possible due to the typhus epidemic which was still a problem at Auschwitz. On December 1, SS *Hauptsturmführer* August Harbaum, who was Glücks’s adjutant at Office D of the WVHA, notified the Auschwitz headquarters that “as long as the camp lockdown remains in effect for Auschwitz, the transfer of

²⁹⁶ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 9.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 291b/1.12.42, No. 10/11, see Document 5a.

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, No. 55.

²⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 30.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 239b/3.12.42, No. 18.

²⁹⁹ TNA, HW-16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 29.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 281b/14.11.42, No. 31.

³⁰⁰ AGK, NTN, 99, p. 162. Cf. Blumental, p. 111.

the 25 inmate watchmakers cannot take place” (Blumental, p. 112). A message dated January 12 sent by Maurer to the Auschwitz headquarters and intercepted by the British said that there was no objection against the transfer of the inmate watchmakers “once the 3-week quarantine period has passed.”³⁰¹

A message from Liebehenschel intercepted on January 15 disclosed that the transfer of the 25 inmate watchmakers to Sachsenhausen from Lublin was scheduled for February 8, 1943. They were allegedly picked up by guards sent specifically to Auschwitz from Sachsenhausen. Sachsenhausen was to notify Office DI by phone of the admission, Auschwitz by teletype of the departure of these inmates.³⁰² In another message intercepted on January 19, the text of which has survived (Blumental, p. 112), SS *Obersturmführer* Schwarz advised Office DII that 12 of the 25 inmate in question had died in the meantime, and he requested that they be replaced.³⁰³

1.7.4. Dandelions

In 1932 the Soviets discovered that rubber could be extracted from *kok sagis*, a type of dandelion native to Kazakhstan, and they cultivated it for this purpose. In 1941, the German task forces (*Einsatzgruppen*), whose primary purpose according to the orthodox Holocaust narrative was the mass murder of Jews, discovered the first plantations and immediately reported about it. Event Report (*Ereignismeldung*) No. 60 of August 22, 1941 elaborated on a plantation found in the area of Uman in a special paragraph titled “Koksagis” (Mallmann *et al.*, p. 338).

In this regard as well, the British intercepted a few messages.

On October 11, 1941, the Higher SS and Police Leader North communicated:³⁰⁴

“1. Today, SS Brig. seized rubber plants with seeds grown in Russia. Cultivation possibility exists in Germany. Request decision what is to be done with plants and Russian agronomists educated about cultivation. Suggestion: fast-est transfer, possibly by plane to Germany (SS herb garden DACHAU).”

A message sent on November 14, 1941 to the SS Main Office Budget and Construction informed that cultivation plans and seeds had been found, specifying:³⁰⁵

“Technical center for rubber culture and specialists available in Kiev.”

³⁰¹ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 12.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 356b/27.1.43, No. 1/4.

³⁰² *Ibid.*, 15.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 359b/28.1.43, No. 25/27.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*, 19.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 363b/29.1.43, No. 10.

³⁰⁴ TNA, HW 16-32. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 11.10.41. ZIP/G.P.D. 411/29.10.41, No. 6.

³⁰⁵ TNA, HW 16-32. German Police Decodes Nr. 2 Traffic: 14.11.41. ZIP/G.P.D. 458/22.11.41, No. 41.

The experimental cultivation of this plant was then practiced near Auschwitz: SS *Sturmbannführer* Joachim Caesar (or Cäsar) was commissioned to create an experimental station for the cultivation of kok-sagys at Raisko.³⁰⁶

On May 1, 1942, Maurer informed Caesar that he could provide him with three plant growers and two Polish botanists or biologists from the Ravensbrück Camp who spoke German. Maurer asked whether the transfer could happen right away or whether Caesar wanted to examine these inmates' skills first.³⁰⁷

A message dated September 16, 1942 explicitly refers to the beginnings of these experiments:³⁰⁸

“SS Sturmbannführer DR. CAESAR.

Subject: The SS's work with rubber plants. Reference: your teletype no. 27075 of Aug. 13, 1942. Marched off MESCHETSCHOK early today at 05:10 from MINSK. M. received a travel advance of 25 Rm, the reimbursement of which is requested.

The SS and Police Leader in Belorussia, MINSK.”

The person in charge of the cultivation of *kok sagis* at Raisko was a certain Thies Christophersen (Christophersen, pp. 23-26).

1.7.5. Barbed Wire to Fence the Camp

On January 18, 1943, Maurer wrote to Höss (“Hoesz” in the text) that after long efforts he had succeeded in obtaining 20 tons of barbed wire, but they still needed to be paid. Hence, he asked the head of the construction office (Bischoff) whether he could pay it directly or whether he needed Kammler's prior authorization:³⁰⁹

“However, the wire must be used for the purpose discussed in Auschwitz, that is, for the erection of the 9-km-long ring fence.”

The question of the barbed wire for the Birkenau Camp had already been raised on August 11, 1942 by SS *Unterscharführer* Paul Wilk, who directed the raw-materials division of the Central Construction Office. In a file memo with the subject “on the provision of reference numbers from a special contingency,” we read under Point 6, “barbed wire for POW camp” that he had already asked the procurement office (SS *Oberscharführer* Krogmann) for 100-150 tons of barbed wire, 30 of which were on their way.³¹⁰

³⁰⁶ Zięba, esp. pp. 83-103, with reproductions of various documents.

³⁰⁷ TNA, HW 16-18. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 1.5.42. ZIP/GPDD 85/28.5.42, No. 12/13.

³⁰⁸ TNA, 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 238b/12.3.43, No. 3/4.

³⁰⁹ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 18.1.43, ZIP/GPDD 362b/4.3.43, No. 6/8.

³¹⁰ RGVA, 502-1-320, p. 28.

On March 14, 1943, Bischoff asked “the contingency office of the plenipotentiary for the regulation of the construction industry in Military District VIII” for 226,235 kg of barbed wire for “barbed-wire obstacle Construction Sectors 1, 2 and 3.”³¹¹ At Birkenau, this work was part of *BW 25*, “barbed wire inside the camp.”

Therefore, the British intercepts do not provide the slightest clue in favor of the idea that an extermination by means of gas chambers was being perpetrated at Auschwitz.

This idea, as Breitman perfectly understood, came exclusively from Polish black propaganda, which will be the subject of the second part of this study.

³¹¹ RGVA, 502-1-319, p. 15.

Part 2:

Auschwitz in Polish-Underground Reports

(1941-1944)

2.1. Sources of Information on Auschwitz

Pierre Vidal-Naquet wrote that “[i]n the flow of information coming from the occupied territories were to be found the true, the less-true, and the false.” This less-than-true and false information consisted of inaccuracies of all kinds as well as of fantasies and myths which, however, “did not exist in isolation, like some creation *suo generis* or ‘rumor,’ a hoax hatched by a specific milieu, such as the New York Zionists. They existed as the shadow projected by—or prolonging—reality” (Vidal-Naquet, pp. 83f.).

Regarding Auschwitz, “reality” refers to the version of history elaborated by the Soviet Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes, perfected by the Poles during Rudolf Höss’s famous trial at Warsaw between March 11 and 29, 1947, and during the Krakow trial against 40 former members of the Auschwitz camp garrison between November 25 and December 16, 1947.

Vidal-Naquet’s interpretation presupposes first of all that there was a well-defined “reality” (the extermination of the Jews in gas chambers), but this is an aprioristic assumption which remains to be proven.

There surely was a well-defined “reality” that can be considered “true,” but with the clarification that this “reality” consisted of installations and actions totally unrelated to any extermination program, which were intentionally distorted and deformed by the resistance groups, creating a shadow of fantasies and myths, promoted to the rank of “reality” thanks to indefatigable repetition, as I shall explain in this part of this study.

This is precisely the most-plausible explanation, because Richard Breitman’s claim that “the Polish underground reports were an important complement to, and confirmation of, British signals intelligence” (Breitman 1998, p. 116) is false and pretentious, as I have explained in Part One of the present study. In fact, the British intercepts do *not* contain the *slightest* allusion to any extermination of Jews, so that the reports of the Polish resistance are neither a “complement” nor a “confirmation” of those intercepts, but are the *source* of the above-mentioned fantasies and myths.

A fundamental problem is taking shape here, which, strange enough, has never aroused interest among orthodox Holocaust historians: since such reports originated from within the Auschwitz Camp, hence right from the scene of the claimed crimes, how is it possible that they could contain fantasies and myths? Or more precisely, what was the source for the claims made?

Breitman says that the reports “contained hearsay as well as eyewitness testimony” (*ibid.*), but this only kicks the can down the road: what was the source for the “hearsay” inside the camp? Obviously, precisely the “eyewitness testimony.” But the “eyewitnesses” par excellence were members of the so-called “*Sonderkommando*,” the bearers of the presumed “terrible secret” of

Auschwitz. The most-complete list of inmates having belonged to this *Kommando* published up to now consists of a little less than 390 names (Friedler *et al.*, pp. 371-391). Now, it is a fact that not a single one of the many reports on Auschwitz originating from the camp resistance up to January 27, 1945, when the Soviets entered through the camp gates,³¹² can be attributed to any of these inmates, either directly or indirectly,³¹³ who are supposed to have constituted the primary source of all the information on the presumed extermination going around the camp, including “hearsay.” To compensate for this inexplicable absence of an identifiable source, someone had recourse to a pathetic lie, as we shall see below.

One could reply that the members of the “*Sonderkommando*” were segregated and could not supply information to the other inmates, but this is refuted by the persons directly concerned, as we shall see in Chapter 2.4.

It is necessary at this point to refer to the comments I made in another study (Mattogno 2019). Polish resistance groups arose at Auschwitz from the very outset; other national resistance groups arose starting in 1942: Austrian, French, Belgian, Russian, German, Czech, Yugoslavian. At the beginning of May 1943, these groups were subordinate to a central administration which assumed the name *Kampfgruppe Auschwitz* (Auschwitz Combat Group), which also had contacts with the so-called *Sonderkommando* resistance group.

The resistance members, as I revealed in my Introduction to this study, benefited from a dense network of complicit contacts outside the camp, with the Polish populace and various clandestine institutions reporting to the *Delegatura*.

Barbara Jarosz, a researcher at the Auschwitz Museum, describes the manner in which the information was gathered and caused to circulate outside the camp (Jarosz, pp. 203f.):

“Another important activity of the resistance movement was the gathering of evidence of crimes committed by the SS and its transmission outside the camp. Among the most important documents smuggled out of the camp should be included: [...]

4. The plans for the crematoria and gas chambers stolen from the offices of the SS Construction Office of Birkenau in 1944 by three inmates, the Pole Krystyna Horczak and the Czechs Vera Foltynova and Valeria Valova. [...]

6. Three photographs taken secretly in the camp in the summer of 1944 by the Sonderkommando of Crematorium V: Alex the Greek (last name unknown),

³¹² It makes no sense to speak of the “Liberation” of Auschwitz, because the camp had already been abandoned by the SS, leaving approximately 7,000 sick people in the entire complex, who were unable to walk. Strzelecki 1974, p. 34.

³¹³ I am referring to reports which originated in the camp and were published before January 27, 1945. For the reasons mentioned in Chapter 2.5., I take no account of “manuscripts” allegedly written by inmate members of the “*Sonderkommando*”.

Szlojme Dragon and his brother Josel, Alter Szmul Fajnzylberg (Stanisław Jankowski in the camp) and Dawid Szmulowski.

7. *The lists of convoys of men and women deported to the camp and of Jews with A and B serial numbers, drawn up in September 1944 by the inmates Kazimierz Smoleń, Ludwik Rajewski, Tadeusz Szymański, Tadeusz Wąsowicz, Jan Trębaczewski, employed in the admissions office (Aufnahme). They contain the date of arrival of the transport, the numbers assigned to the inmates and the point of origin of the convoy.*

Besides the documents, reports in the form of messages were smuggled out, providing the exact inmate figures, the numbers of the transports, both incoming and outgoing, the last names of all inmates condemned to death by the Gestapo court at Kattowitz, the last names of the SS men in the camp garrison; they also described the living conditions and established the dates and routes of escapes. [...]

The data contained in the reports were gathered by the prisoners employed in the administrative sections of the camp, in the main typewriting office, the hospital, the offices of the political department, the admissions department, where, at the risk of their lives, they copied documents, plans and reports. [...] Like the secret messages, the documents were forwarded through proven contacts. Civilian workers employed in various German companies were often the intermediaries between the camp organization and the surrounding areas: Stanisław Mordarski, Józef Cholewa, Franciszek Walisko and Helena Datoń, shop employee for the SS (at the so-called Haus 7). The prisoners transmitted the messages and materials to the couriers, who delivered them to Brzeszcze. From there, through the Kornaś family in Spytkowice or Aniela Kieres in Chrzanów, they forwarded it to Krakow.

In 1944, the organization acquired another contact in the person of the Austrian nurse Maria Stromberger, known as Sister Maria, who worked in the SS hospital.”

In effect, at Auschwitz, every single department operated with inmate labor, and there was not a single inmate unit where resistance members did not work directly or indirectly; this was all in fulfillment of premeditated tactics, as Hermann Langbein declared (1962, p. 233):

“Initially, the combat group followed the tactic, insofar as possible, of installing at least one trusted agent in each major squad.”

Former inmate Otto Wolken compiled a list of over 100 *Kommandos* (labor units) at Auschwitz, which is worth reproducing in full in order to demonstrate the capillary diffusion of these groups throughout the camp:³¹⁴

³¹⁴ AGK, NTN, 149, pp. 7-11.

<i>ARBEITSKOMMANDO</i> / LABOR UNIT	<i>ARBEITSPLATZ</i> / WORKPLACE
<i>Abbruchkommando Bauleitung</i> / <i>Bauleitung</i> Demolition squad	At the DAW
<i>Arbeitseinsatz</i> / Labor deployment	Barracks Section III
<i>Aufräumungskommando DEST</i> / DEST clearance squad	At railway bridge
<i>Baubüro</i> / Design office	<i>Bauleitung</i> barracks
<i>Bauhof</i> / Construction materials warehouse	Construction-materials warehouse
BBD [?]	BBD
<i>Bekleidungswerkstätten</i> / Garments workshops	Camp expansion
<i>Betonkolonne Huta</i> / Huta concrete gang	Auschwitz
<i>Brotauflader</i> / Bread loaders	Camp bakery
<i>Brunnenbohrer Spiar</i> [<i>Spirra</i>] / Drill rig for Spirra wells	Broschkowitz
<i>Brunnenbohrer Wodak</i> / Drill rig for Wodak wells	behind TWL/Military camp warehouse
<i>DAW. - Hallen</i> / DAW hangars	At the DAW
<i>DAW/Deutsche Ausrichtung Werke</i> ³¹⁵ / German armaments works	DAW
<i>DAW-Werkstätten</i> / DAW workshops	At the DAW offices
<i>Druckerei</i> / Typography	Camp expansion
<i>Elektriker Verwaltung</i> / Electrician's administration	BBD
<i>Entseuchungskommando</i> / Disinfestation squad	Camp area
<i>Entwesungskammer</i> / Disinfestation chamber	At the DAW
<i>Erweiterungsarbeiten</i> / Expansion work	At House VII
<i>Essenfahrer</i> / Drivers for food	Inside and outside
<i>Fa. Boos Aufnahmegebäude</i> / Boos Company reception building	Military infirmary
<i>Fa. Boos Transportkommando</i> / Boos Company transport squad	<i>Werkhalle</i> (office)
<i>Fa. Industrie Bau A.G.</i> / Industrie Bau A.G.	Security offices
<i>Fa. Niegel Ofenbau</i> / Niegel furnace construction company	Camp expansion
<i>Fa. Petersen</i> / Petersen Company	Behind the <i>Bauleitung</i> barracks
<i>Fa. Wagner</i> / Wagner Company	New laundry
<i>Fahrbereitschaft Bauleitung</i> / <i>Bauleitung</i> motor pool	Building materials warehouse
<i>Fahrbereitschaft Kommandantur</i> /Kommandantur motor pool	Camp area
<i>Faulgasanlage</i> / Sewer gas installation	Auschwitz
<i>Feuerlöschteich</i> / Fire-prevention basin	At the Lenz security offices
<i>Feuerlöschteich</i> / Fire-prevention basin	Rajsko
<i>Flusskies</i> / River gravel	Rajsko

³¹⁵ *Recte*: Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke.

<i>ARBEITSKOMMANDO</i> / LABOR UNIT	<i>ARBEITSPLATZ</i> / WORKPLACE
<i>Flusskies DEST</i> / DEST river gravel	At the Sola River
<i>Fourier</i> / Quartermasters'	Commando
<i>Fourier Baubüro</i> / Quartermasters' design office	<i>Bauleitung</i> barracks
<i>Garagen Praga-Halle</i> / Praga-Halle garages	Prague hangar
<i>Gärtner Aussen</i> / Outside gardeners	SS settlement
<i>Gärtner Bauleitung</i> / <i>Bauleitung</i> gardeners	<i>Bauleitung</i> barracks
<i>Gärtner Haus Höss</i> / Höss house gardeners	Höss house
<i>Gärtnerei Rajsko</i> / Horticulture Rajsko	Rajsko
<i>Gemeinschaft Schuhe</i> / Shoe collective	At the monopoly building
<i>Gemeinschaftsküche</i> / Common kitchen	DAW. – Dwelling houses
<i>Gemeinschaftslager</i> / Common camp	At the offices (<i>Werkhalle</i>)
<i>Getreidespeicher</i> / Granaries	Monopoly building
<i>Grasmäher Bauleitung</i> / <i>Bauleitung</i> moving machine	At the <i>Bauleitung</i> offices
<i>Haus 157</i> / House 157	House 157
<i>Holzhof</i> / Wood warehouse	Wood warehouse
<i>Hygiene Institut Rajsko</i> /Rajsko Institute of Hygiene	Rajsko
<i>Kantine Wirtschaftsbaracke</i> / Warehouse barracks shop	Warehouse barracks
<i>Kantinenverwaltung</i> / Shop administration	House VII
<i>Kartoffelfahrer</i> / Drivers for potatoes	Potato bunker
<i>Kartoffelschäler</i> / Potato peelers	SS kitchen
<i>Kohlenplatz</i> / Cool warehouse	Coal warehouse
<i>Koksablander und Heizer</i> / Coke unloaders and stokers	Monopoly building
<i>Kurzwellenentwesung</i> / Short-wave disinfection	New laundry
<i>Lagerbäckerei Tagschicht-Nachtschicht</i> / Camp bakery day-night shift	Camp bakery
<i>Lederfabrik</i> / Leather workshop	Auschwitz
<i>Luftschutz</i> / Anti-aircraft protection	Section III barracks
<i>Luftwaffenbaracke Rajsko</i> /Barracks <i>Luftwaffe</i> Rajsko	Rajsko
<i>Materialschuppen</i> /Materials warehouse	New building materials warehouse
<i>Mehlfahrer</i> / Driver for flour	At Auschwitz mill
<i>Melioration Bauleitung</i> /Building administration improvements	<i>Bauleitung</i> barracks
<i>Molkerei</i> / Dairy	At the slaughterhouse
<i>Mühle Auschwitz</i> / Auschwitz mill	Auschwitz
<i>MühhFahrer Landwirtschaft</i> / Drivers for flour <i>Landwirtschaft</i> (agriculture)	Rajsko
<i>Neuer Bauhof</i> / New building materials warehouse	New building materials warehouse
<i>Pferdestall-Baracken Bauleitung</i> / Horse stable barracks <i>Bauleitung</i>	At the common camp
<i>Pferdestall-[Baracken] Landwirtschaft</i> / Horse sta-	New stall

ARBEITSKOMMANDO / LABOR UNIT	ARBEITSPLATZ / WORKPLACE
ble barracks agriculture	
Planierungskommando DLGM [?] / Levelling squad DLGM	DAW – dwelling houses
Politische Abteilung I / Political section I	Commando
Politische Abteilung II / Political section II	Blockführerstube (Blockführer's room)
Poststelle / Post office	Blockführerstube
Provisorische Bäckerei / Provisional bakery	Camp bakery
Reiniger Kommandantur / Cleanup squad	Commando
Reiniger Truppe / Military cleanup squad	Camp area
Roll[wagen]kommando / Trolley pulling squad	Wood warehouse
Sandgrube Haus Palitsch / Palitsch house sand pit	Palitsch house
Sandgrube Haus VII / House VII sand pit	House VII
Schädlingsbekämpfung / Disinfestation	Camp expansion
Schlachthaus / Slaughterhouse	Camp area
Schmiede Landwirtschaft / forge agriculture	Forge
Splittergraben / Anti-shrapnel trench	Auschwitz
SS-Apotheke / SS pharmacy	SS infirmary
SS-Bekleidungskammer / SS changing room	Camp expansion
SS-Friseure / SS barber shop	SS infirmary
SS-Küche / SS kitchen	Warehouse barracks
SS warehouse	Warehouse barracks
SS infirmary	SS infirmary
SS-Unterkunftskammer / SS living quarters	Camp expansion
SS-Zahnstation / SS dental station	SS infirmary
Strasse zum Bahnhof / Road to rail station	At the Officers' Club
Strassenbau Lagererweiterung / Camp expansion road construction	Camp expansion
Strassenbau u. Kanalisation / Road and sewer con- struction	Behind the building materials warehouse
Truppenwirtschaftslager / Military camp warehouse	Military camp warehouse
Übergabestation Kluge / Kluge transfer station	Building materials warehouse
Waffenmeisterei / Arsenal	At the offices
Warenlager / Goods warehouse	Theater building
Wasserturm Riedel / Riedel water tower	Building materials warehouse
Wasserversorgung / Water supply	Behind the bakery
Werkhalle Union	Union offices
Werkstätten Bauleitung / Bauleitung offices	Offices
Wirtschaftshof / Agribusiness	Camp area
Wohnhäuserausbau Rajsko / Dwelling house expan- sion Rajsko	Rajsko
Zivilarbeiterwerkstätten / Civilian workers' offices	At the common camp

It is also interesting to keep in mind that, in 1944, the inmate units working inside the crematoria of Birkenau were first called 206-B, 207-B, then 57-B/61-B.

All these units were constantly monitoring the entire camp, and were aware of everything that happened.

Particularly important, from our point of view, were the units working at the Central Construction Office. In February 1943, the Construction Office employed 96 inmates, most of them Polish (85), as well as two Jews: Mordcha Gothein (inmate registration number 64034) and Ernst Kohn (no. 71134).³¹⁶ Among other things, these inmates were the actual creators of several crematory plans, such as Plan No. 1300 dated June 18, 1942 of Crematorium II (inmate no. 17133); Plan No. 2136 dated February 22, 1943 of Crematorium III (inmate no. 538, Leo Sawka); Plan No. 2197 dated March 19, 1943 (Ernst Kohn); Plan No. 2036 dated January 11, 1943, of Crematorium IV/V (inmate no. 127, Josef Sikora), and the plan of Crematorium I No. 1241 dated April 10, 1942 (inmate no. 20033, Stefan Swiszcowski).

During the Höss Trial, an inmate from this office (not included in the above-mentioned list) declared that he had had in his hands “the plans of all the crematoria” (“*plany wszystkich krematoriów*”).³¹⁷

Other units from the Central Construction Office enjoyed full freedom of movement at Auschwitz due to the nature of activities they carried out.

Some of the inmates from the *Kommando* Construction Office were employed in the offices of the Central Construction Office; the others worked outside the camp and enjoyed broad freedom of movement. A “List of inmates employed outside the chain of sentries” (“*Liste der ausserhalb der Postenkette beschäftigten Häftlingen*”) dated August 26, 1943 lists 52 of them, distributed among the following *Kommandos*:

- *Bauleitung Melioration* / soil improvements (draining) (16 inmates)
- *Abteilung Vermessung* / surveying department (8)
- *Wasserversorgung, Kanalisation* / water supply, sewerage (9)
- *Bauleitung KGL* / Construction Office POW Camp (10)
- *Planungsabteilung* / Planning department (3)
- *Bauleitung KL* / Construction Office Main Camp (3)
- *Bauleitung Industriegelände* / Construction Office industrial area (2)
- *Abteilung Buchhaltung* / accounting department (1).

The Jewish inmate Hersz Kurzweig, no. 65655, was a member of the first unit.³¹⁸

³¹⁶ RGVA, 502-1-256, “Kommando: Baubüro der Zentralbauleitung,” names list dated February 16, 1943.

³¹⁷ *United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program*, 1988, Reel No. 62. Höss Trial, 8th hearing, p. 829.

³¹⁸ RGVA, 502-1-26, p. 150.

In May 1943, the surveying department consisted of 29 inmates. On May 21, 1943, three land surveyors of this unit managed to escape,³¹⁹ which confirms their freedom of movement. One of the inmates belonging to this unit, Wilhelm Wohlfahrt, declared during the Höss Trial that he had been present at a homicidal gassing in one of the so-called bunkers (Mattogno 2016g, pp. 106-108).

The role of the civilian workers in gathering and disseminating information was no doubt much greater than described above. At least 46 civilian firms worked at Auschwitz, employing some 1,300 civilian workers in 1943, almost all of them Polish (Mattogno 2015a, pp. 53-58). A letter sent to the Central Construction Office on April 14, 1944 by SS *Sturmbannführer* Friedrich Hartjenstein, at that time commandant of the Auschwitz II/Birkenau Camp, shows the freedom of movement enjoyed by these civilian workers. On the evening of April 12, 1944, a Polish civilian worker named Wilhelm Lorenz was stopped on the railway bridge of Auschwitz-Birkenau. He showed a pass issued by the Lenz Company on March 23, 1944 stating that “this man is authorized to access the work sites after the withdrawal of the main cordon of sentinels,” something which Hartjenstein considered impermissible and which he prohibited for security reasons.³²⁰

There were many civilian construction sites scattered all over the Birkenau Camp. The series of daily labor-deployment reports mentions 20 of them as “companies commissioned by the Construction Office”:

- 351-B: Knauth Kanalisation BII (sewers at Construction Sector II)
- 352-B: Strassenbau b.d. Kartoffellager (road works near potato storage)
- 353-B: Lenz Truppen-Kommandantur (troop headquarters)
- 359-B: Lenz Lebensmittelmagazin (food storage)
- 354-B: Riedel Strassenbau KL. II (road works at camp II)
- 361-B: Riedel Strassenbau FL. (road works at women’s camp)
- 372-B: Riedel Strassenbau BI/b FL. (road works at Construction Sector I/b, women’s camp)
- 355-B: Brandt Kanalisation BII (sewers at Construction Sector II)
- 356-B: Deutsche Bau AG b. Kläranlage II (at sewage plant)
- 357-B: Richter Brunnenbau (well drilling)
- 358-B: Keil Splittergrabenkommando (air-raid trench detail)
- 360-B: Anhalt Barackenausbau BII (indoor work on barracks at Construction Sector II)
- 373-B: Anhalt Gleisanschluss (railway spur)
- 362-B: Hirt Kanalisation (sewers)
- 363-B: Huta Barackenausbau BII (indoor work on barracks at BII)

³¹⁹ File memo dated May 21, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-60, p. 67.

³²⁰ RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 18.

- 364-B: Conti Wasserwerksgesellschaft (water works)
- 365-B: Wagner Strassenbau BII (road works at BII)
- 368-B: Spirra Brunnenbau (well drilling)
- 372-B: Spirra Brunnenbau (well drilling)
- 370-B: Falk Barackeninstallation (piping in barracks).

The presence of these companies in the surviving documentation (which is full of gaps) was attested to for the time span from April 20 to October 3, 1944.³²¹

The company Continentale Wasserwerks-Gesellschaft m.b.H. of Berlin-Charlottenburg was involved in pumping off excess groundwater at least from February 6 to August 7, 1943 in the vicinity of Crematoria II and III (*Krem. 2./3. Grundwasser*). In this regard, the following documents have been preserved:³²²

- Crematorium II: February 15 and 18, March 17 and 22-27, April 5-9: 269.5 hours of work;
- Crematorium III: March 6 and 29, April 12-16 and 18-19, June 29-30, July 1-3, 8, 12-17, 19-21 and 23-24, August 6: 259 hours of work.

There were 20 companies working in the Birkenau area on June 1, 1944, eight of which are not mentioned above: Josef Kluge, Richard Reckmann, Industriebau Zöllner, Wodak, Köhler, Bälz, Wedag, and Süddeutsche Abwasserreinigung A.G.³²³

Another category of civilians moving about the Auschwitz camps were the relatives of SS men on active duty there. Their visit was permitted by camp regulations and announced in garrison orders. For example, Garrison Order No. 40/43 of November 2, 1943 mentions ten of them under the heading “residence permits.” Here is the text of the first of them:³²⁴

“SS *Sturmmann*^[325] Josef Beitzel, family visit from October 29 to November 30, 1943. Residence: Babitz No. 27 at Flegel’s.”

Garrison Order No. 51/43 of November 16, 1943 contains the following notice as Point 4:³²⁶

“*Civilians inside the camp area.*

Signs bearing the following text in German and Polish will be posted at all access points to the camp area over the next few days:

³²¹ APMO, D-AuI-3/1; D-AuII-3a/16; D-AuII-3a/25-49.

³²² Continentale Wasserwerks-Ges. Tagelohn-(Neben)Arbeiten am 6.2.-17.2.1943; 18.2.-20.3.1943; 22.3.-31.3.1943; RGVA, 502-1-157, pp. 4-6. Aufstellung über in der Woche vom 21.3.-27.3.43 [28.3.-3.4.43; 4.4.-10.4.43; 11.4.-18.4.43; 18.[sic].4.-8.5.43; 28 Juni-10 Juli 1943; 12.7.-24.7.43; 26.7.-7.8.43] im Kgl. geleisteten Pumpenstunden mittels Handpumpen. The work site was “Krem. 2. Grundwasser.” RGVA, 502-1-157, pp. 54-42 (retrograde numbering).

³²³ Letter from Construction Office of CC Auschwitz II to all companies operating in the area of Concentration Camp II, Birkenau. RGVA, 502-2-83, p. 368.

³²⁴ GARF, 7021-108-54, p. 54a.

³²⁵ The rank of a SS *Sturmmann* corresponded roughly to that of a corporal.

³²⁶ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 72.

*“Camp area. Access only for civilians with stamped arm band and related permit from garrison elder. Civilians found without permits will be arrested.”
All SS members are ordered to ensure enforcement of this order.”*

Garrison Order No. 16/43 of April 22, 1943 lists 18 visits (Frei *et al.*, pp. 258f.). Garrison Order No. 22/44 of August 18, 1944 mandated that no more residence permits could be granted because the influx of SS members had increased too much (*ibid.*, p. 482). An approximate total of 270 visits are attested to by documents.

The problem of civilians walking throughout the camp became so serious that Höss was compelled to issue a specific Special Order on June 10, 1944 opening with the following words:³²⁷

“In order to finally prevent civilians from roving about the area of the Birkenau Camp, I have deployed with immediate effect an intensified patrol service by the local police company.

Its task is to closely check all civilians, including women who are accompanied by SS men, for their identity cards. Suspicious individuals are to be arrested and brought to the political department.”

There were numerous prisoner escapes at Auschwitz, often prepared by the resistance movement. The files of the trial against the Auschwitz camp staff include a certainly incomplete list of names of 144 inmates who fled the camp between the end of 1942 and early 1944. It contains 17 names for 1942, 114 for 1943, 8 for 1944, and 5 without any indication of dates.³²⁸ According to Tadeusz Iwaszko, at least 667 inmates escaped from the Auschwitz complex, at least 120 of them in 1942, 310 in 1943, and 209 in 1944. Inmates recaptured after escaping amounted to approximately 41% of known cases. At least 105 inmates escaped from Birkenau (Iwaszko, pp. 49-51).

Let's now consider inmates who were released. The *Auschwitz Chronicle* reports a total of 1,255 releases, broken down as follows: 575 re-educational inmates, 465 inmates in protective custody, 167 female inmates, 47 Jewish inmates, one Soviet POW. Regarding the chronology, the releases span from January 19 to July 27, 1942, and from November 4, 1944 to January 17, 1945. But other inmate releases appear in the strength reports of the women's camp at Birkenau from October 1944, or, more precisely: nine on October 7, ten on October 12, and 38 on October 13.³²⁹ Another 23 released inmates, including seven Jews, were registered in the *Kommandobuch* (Kommando registry). Another registry attesting to numerous releases is the “*Nummernbuch 150000-200000*,”³³⁰ containing annotations relating to 168 male-inmate releases out of the first 30,000 inmate numbers between September 1943 and November

³²⁷ AGK, TNT, 121, p. 129.

³²⁸ AGK, NTN, 155, pp. 292-296.

³²⁹ Series of reports on manpower variations in the women's camp between October 1 and December 1, 1944; APMO, AuII-3a, FKL, pp. 56, 61a, 62a.

³³⁰ Registry of registration numbers assigned to the inmates.

1944. In the series of reports titled “Overview of the number and deployment of female inmates of Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Upper Silesia” (“Übersicht über Anzahl und Einsatz der weiblichen Häftlinge des Konzentrationslagers Auschwitz O/S”), a few of which have survived, 83 inmates are listed as having been released between April 2 and June 30, 1944.³³¹

Between 1943 and 1944, many persons were interned in the so-called “Birkenau worker-re-education camp” (“*Arbeitserziehungslager Birkenau*”), at that time referred to as “Auschwitz I workers-re-education camp” (“*Arbeitserziehungslager Auschwitz I*”). These persons were civilian workers who had violated the terms of their labor contracts. After serving their sentences, they were sent to the Bielitz employment agency, Auschwitz branch, whence they were either sent back to the company they had been working for before, or assigned to another job. These inmates were not registered, hence were not listed in the “E” series of re-educational inmates (*Erziehungshäftlinge*). According to the surviving documents, at least 304 inmates in this category, 205 men and 99 women, were arrested and then released a short while later. In the following table, I give the chronological breakdown of these releases:

July 1943	2	January 1944	1	September 1944	50
August 1943	3	April 1944	4	October 1944	29
September 1943	3	May 1944	27	November 1944	2
October 1943	7	June 1944	57	December 1944	1
November 1943	3	July 1944	67	Total	304
December 1943	11	August 1944	37		

These figures are incomplete. In July 1944, 71 inmates, 33 men and 38 women were released and sent to the Bielitz employment agency;³³² in August 1944, 84 inmates, 43 men and 41 women, were released,³³³ bringing the number of inmates released that way up to at least 355.

Finally, no fewer than 192,300 inmates were transferred to other camps in 1944, not counting approximately 67,000 inmates present at the camp on January 17, 1945 who were later evacuated. Among these 192,300 transferees were at least 98,600 unregistered Jews (Mattogno 2005).

To sum up, the Auschwitz resistance movement, through its dense network of connections, was closely monitoring all the nerve centers of the camp and had access to all the important documents, including the crematoria’s construction blueprints. The civilian workers, most of them Polish, were another precious source of information, and at the same time a primary link to the outside world. The escaped inmates and those who had been released represented another direct source of information for the *Delegatura*.

³³¹ GARF, 7021-108-33, pp. 160-162, 144-147, 148-151, 152-155, 156-159.

³³² RGVA, 502-1-437, p. 24.

³³³ RGVA, 502-1-437, p. 62.

In practice, everybody knew everything at Auschwitz, and it is obvious that the SS's policy of granting visits to the camp by civilians and of releasing and transferring inmates cannot be reconciled with the story of a mass extermination camp whose "terrible secret" had to be covered up with the utmost secrecy.

From the very outset, the resistance movement was therefore in possession of all the information and had a wide range of opportunities when it came to exposing the "reality" or "true" version of history, including any mass gasings, but instead of doing so, it exclusively fabricated fantasies and myths. This fact confirms that the presumed existence of homicidal gas chambers was not a hidden truth which came to light gradually, a shadow which gradually assumed the distinguishing marks of a projected "reality," but is a creation of atrocity propaganda³³⁴ that gradually transformed itself into "truth" and "reality."

The best collection of clandestine messages from Auschwitz is the work "CC Auschwitz in the light of Documents of the Delegation of the Polish Republic's Government inside the Country" (*Obóz...*), from which I have taken the following reports, supplemented by additional sources. The letters sent secretly to the outside world by inmates were known as "grypsy" (plural of "gryps") in camp slang ("Kassiber" in German).

2.2. The "First Gassing"

The first mention of any homicidal gassing appeared in a report transmitted to the information and propaganda office of the Polish *Armia Krajowa* (National Army) dated October 24, 1941 (*Obóz...*, p. 11):

"at the beginning of October [w początkach października], 850 Russian officers and non-commissioned officers (prisoners [of war?]) were taken and killed with gas at Auschwitz^[335] to experiment with a new type of war gas to be used on the Eastern front [jako próbe nowego typu gazu bojowego, który ma być użyty na froncie wschodnim]."

The news item was copied into the "Situation report on the period from August 15 to November 15, 1941" (*ibid.*, p. 14):

"The camp was the theater of an abominable crime, when, during the night of September 5-6, approximately 600 Soviet inmates, including army's 'politruks' [political commissars], and approximately 200 Poles were crammed into the bunker [do bunkra^[336]] – after which the bunker was hermetically sealed and

³³⁴ At the time, the German term for this was "*Greuelpropaganda*." To avoid misunderstandings, I wish to clarify that in the present study the terms "propaganda" and "propagandistic" are used in this sense.

³³⁵ I usually render "Oświęcim" as "Auschwitz" and "Brzezinka" as "Birkenau."

³³⁶ This "bunker" referred to the basement of Block 11 at the Main Camp.

they were poisoned with a gas [gazem] and the bodies were taken to the crematorium and burned.”

On November 17, 1941, Issue No. 21 of the Polish underground bulletin *Informacja Bieżąca* (Current Information) reported the following (*ibid.*):

“Auschwitz. News of the horrid crime committed at the camp are confirmed. During the night of September 5-6, 1941, approximately 600 Soviet civilian deportee prisoners [cywilnych], were crammed into the bunker [do bunkra] at Auschwitz, breaking their arms and legs. All apertures in the bunker were hermetically sealed and the inmates locked in there were then poisoned with gas (gazami). The bodies of the poisoned inmates were taken to the crematoria on 80 carts during the night, where they were burned.”

In the “Appendix to Annex No. 21 covering the Period from December 1-15, 1941” we read (*ibid.*, p. 16):

“Inside the concrete shelter [w betonowym schronie³³⁷] approximately 500 prisoners of war were poisoned using a war gas [za pomocą gazu bojowego].”

The last reference to this presumed gassing event is found in the *Informacja Bieżąca* No. 39 of October 23, 1942, where it says that the 60,000 Soviet POWs who presumably arrived at Auschwitz in 1941 had been the subjects of “experimentation to determine the effectiveness of war gases” (see Subchapter 2.3.1.)

The *Polish Fortnightly Review* reported about Auschwitz as early as November 15, 1941 in a long article, but it contained no reference to this claimed event.³³⁸ However, a reworking of the propaganda themes contained in the above-mentioned reports appeared in the July 1, 1942 issue.³³⁹

“Among the other experiments being tried on the prisoners is the use of poison gas. It is generally known that during the night of September 5th to 6th last year about a thousand people were driven down to the underground shelter in Oświęcim, among them seven hundred Bolsheviks prisoners of war and three hundred Poles. As the shelter was too small to hold this large number, the living bodies were simply forced in, regardless of broken bones. When the shelter was full gas was injected into it, and all the prisoners died during the night. All night the rest of the camp was kept awake by the groans and howls coming from the shelter. Next day other prisoners had to carry out the bodies, a task which took all day. One hand-cart on which the bodies were being removed broke down under the weight.”

³³⁷ The term “*schron*” designates a shelter, for example, “*przeciwlotniczy schron*” is an air-raid shelter. It is not appropriate for either the basement of Block 11 (for Polish inmates of Auschwitz “*bunkier*”), or the location of a crematorium, regularly referred to as “*krematorium*.”

³³⁸ “Oświęcim Concentration Camp,” *Polish Fortnightly Review*, No. 32, November 15, 1941, pp. 5f.

³³⁹ “Documents from Poland. German Attempt to Murder a Nation. (2) Pawiak Prison in Warsaw and Oswiecim Concentration Camp,” *ibid.*, No. 47, July 1, 1942, p. 2.

An echo of this story also appeared in a Czechoslovakian governmental report dated June 13, 1942:³⁴⁰

“The worst reputation is enjoyed by the concentration camp at Oswiecim near Cracow. Not only are the victims of German cruelty tortured and mishandled in the usual fashion, but the efficacy of German poison gases are even tried out on them and other experiments are made with them.”

The presumed victims were “Czech men and women.”

In July 1942, nine European governments, including the Polish government-in-exile, drew up a joint “report” on the situation in the German-occupied countries, which was transmitted to the British government on July 21. This contained a colorful version of the story that maintained the date, September 5, 1941, and the type of gases (that is, war gases), but changed the presumed victims:³⁴¹

“In the Oświęcim Camp, on September 5, 1941, the German authorities exterminated more than 800 people by means of asphyxiating gases [au moyen de gaz asphixiants]: about 200 Poles (lawyers, engineers, students), as well as 600 Soviet prisoners of war, mostly officers.”

In the booklet *Obóz śmierci (Death Camp)*, written by Natalia Zarembina and published at London in August 1943, the presumed event is narrated in a fictionalized style without even indicating the date (Zarembina 1943, pp. 14-16).

The fantastic and contradictory nature of the gassing accounts is obvious. The date, which was originally the beginning of October, stabilized at September 5-6, 1941; the victims, originally 850 Russian officers and noncoms, became, in this order, 600 Soviet POWs and 200 Polish inmates, 600 Soviet civilian prisoners, 600 POWs and 300 Polish inmates, and finally Soviet officers and 200 Polish intellectuals. The story of experimenting with war gases was completely forgotten in the post-war period.

Unlike other Holocaust-related themes, this story failed to coalesce into a coherent, definitive version in the post-war period, and the version we encounter today is simply the fruit of shameless manipulations by Danuta Czech; in fact, she sets forth a forced and fictitious reconstruction of the presumed event by selecting the very few generic elements common to the testimonies, while ignoring that they contradict each other on all essential points (see Mattogno 2016e).

³⁴⁰ TNA, FO 371/30837 5365, “Conditions in Czechoslovakia,” pp. 157f.

³⁴¹ “Situation dans les pays occupés par l’ennemi,” July 21, 1942. TNA FO 371-30917.

2.3. The Genesis of the “Gas-Chamber” Lore

2.3.1. The Reports of 1942

Issue No. 23 of *Informacja Bieżąca* dated June 22, 1942 published the following news items:

“At the end of May, there were 14,000 men at the camp, including 500 Germans and approximately 3,000 Czechs. The buildings formerly used to accommodate Soviet prisoners of war (who were since shot or poisoned with gases [gazami]) also contained a women’s section.” (Obóz..., p. 29)

“Near Auschwitz, the Germans set up another enormous concentration camp at Raicza, for 250,000 persons, intended to accommodate inmates from all the German camps.” (ibid., p. 30)

A Polish town named Raicza is located in southern Poland, near the Slovakian border, but here this name is evidently a distortion of the Polish name “Rajsko,” which was located some two miles south of Birkenau as the crow flies.

A letter sent to London on September 4, 1942 by a courier via Budapest recalled (*ibid.*, pp. 31-33):

“1) According to the card file, the [numerical] situation of the women’s camp was 8,620 on June 1, 1942, including 150 Poles, 850 Germans, 300 of various nationalities, while the rest were Jews, 7,320 of them in number. The effective situation on June 1 was 7,740, including 148 Polish women, 835 German women, 292 of various nationalities, and 6,455 Jewesses. The population of the camp had fallen by 880 persons between the founding of the camp and June 1 [1942].

2) The [numerical] situation of the male camp, according to the card file, was 38,720 inmates on June 1 [1942], including: 27,860 Poles, 8,170 Jews (1,100 Frenchmen, 5,000 Czechs and Slovaks, 2,070 Poles), 1,100 Czechs, 890 Germans, 690 inmates of various nationalities (431 Ukrainians, 142 Russians, 47 U.S.A. [sic], 58 Yugoslavs, and 12 others).

The effective situation on June 1 [1942] was as follows: total population 15,340, including: 9,245 Poles, 4,120 Jews, 740 Czechs, 750 Germans, 485 of various nationalities.

3) Boys below the age of 12 are housed together in one single block, as are girls and the elderly. Children below the age of 12 were not admitted to the camp, but are immediately killed.

4) In total, based on the card file, 38,720 male inmates + 13,000 Bolsheviks + 3,000 temporary inmates sentenced to a few weeks’ imprisonment + 8,620 women passed through the men’s camp, for a total of 63,340.

5) Approximately 22,500 inmates passed through the camp, but were not included in the card-file; it is difficult to determine this figure, but it cannot be greatly wrong. [The total breaks down to] approximately 4,000 Poles, 8,500 Bolsheviks, and 10,000 Jews.

Summarizing the figures mentioned above, we have: 63,340 + 22,500 = 85,840. Approximately 5,000 were liberated or transferred, 23,080 (men and women) were still alive, meaning that 57,800 persons were swallowed up by the camp.^[342]

6) *The average monthly mortality rate (this refers only to those who died in the camp, not counting 'Brzezinka,' where people are killed en masse) is 250 persons, 10% of whom die from old age or disease. The rest die of blows and weakness.*

7) *There are many methods of killing, to be exact, shooting by an honor squad [sic], killing with a pneumatic hammer (Hammerluft)^[343] and recently [ostatnio] gassing in gas chambers. Inmates under sentence of death handed down by the Gestapo are killed with the first two methods, inmates unable to work are killed with the third, as well as incoming transports slated for the same fate (Bolsheviks and the most recent Jewish transports [ostatnie transporty Żydów]).*

8) *The most zealous SS men, the so-called Blockführer [block-führerzy], varying in number from 20 to 30 persons, among them a few officers, were selected for the killings with the various methods.*

9) *The bodies of those who died at the camp were taken to the crematorium, which could, however, only cremate approximately 200 bodies in 24 hours, while the rest were taken to 'Brzezinka' and buried in suitably excavated graves. The bodies of those who were gassed were also buried there.*

Warning: not all the numerical data is entirely accurate, in part because it is difficult to verify, and because the numerical strength of the persons changes every day. I have nonetheless attempted to transmit the most reliable data."

The number 8620 was assigned in the women's camp on July 11, 1942,³⁴⁴ while number 38720 was assigned in the men's camp on June 7.³⁴⁵ From the British intercepts on camp manpower, it is known that on June 2, there were 14,155 inmates in the men's camp (in the letter, 15,340), including 3,466 Jews (4,120) and 9,985 Poles (9,245). The figure of 14,115 inmates is confirmed by the inmate registry (*Stärkebuch*), which also indicates the number of Russians: 153.³⁴⁶

The total number of Soviet prisoners of war at Auschwitz was 11,957, 9,178 of whom died between October 7, 1941 and August 17, 1942 (Brandhuber, pp. 41, 45); since only 35 prisoners arrived between June 2 and August

³⁴² These data were repeated by Count Edward Bernard Raczynski, ambassador of the Polish government in exile at London, in a report to the British government dated January 23, 1943 and registered on the 28th. Here, the number of persons having "perished in the camp at Oświęcim" is rounded off to 58,000. *Poland Confidential. January 28, 1943. Count Raczynski to Mr. Eden. - (Received January 23). TNA, FO 371-34549.*

³⁴³ German in the text.

³⁴⁴ Transports list, NOKW-2824, p. 2 (*Frauenlager*).

³⁴⁵ Statistical compilation of the *Transportlisten* by Judge Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 95, p. 40 (the relevant page is missing in Document NOKW-2824).

³⁴⁶ Statistical elaboration of the "*Stärkebuch*" by Judge Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, p. 50.

17,³⁴⁷ those registered up to June 1 totalled 9,175 inmates; the figure of 13,000 is therefore inexact.

The “temporary inmates sentenced to a few weeks” were the so-called *Erziehungshäftlinge*, inmates confined to the camp for “re-education,” generally foreign civilian workers who had violated their labor contracts and who were sent to Auschwitz to serve a maximum sentence of 56 days, after which they were released and sent back to work.³⁴⁸ According to a list prepared in secrecy, 2,503 re-education inmates were registered between July 16, 1941 and May 30, 1942, 928 of whom died.³⁴⁹ This death-toll figure cannot be verified and seems rather high, hence might be exaggerated; at any rate, in the letter, the figure is 3,000.

37,246 male inmates had been interned at Auschwitz by June 1, 1942, plus 7,585 female inmates³⁵⁰ (7,740 in the letter), 9,175 Soviet prisoners and 2,503 re-education inmates, for a total of 56,509, not 63,340. If total manpower was (14,155 + 7,740 =) 21,895 on June 1, then 34,614 inmates were missing, 5,000 of whom had been released or transferred. There were therefore 29,614 deaths. Based on the *Totenbuch* (*Death Book*) and the inmate registry (*Stärkebuch*), 19,660 inmates and Soviet POWs died at Auschwitz between October 7, 1941 and May 31, 1942. The morgue registry (*Leichenhallenbuch*) for Block 28 in the Main Camp, from which the bodies of the deceased were taken to the crematorium, shows 2,915 deaths between October 7 and December 31, 1941,³⁵¹ bringing the total up to 22,575.

The death toll among male and female inmates up to October 7, 1941 is unknown, but the difference between the two figures from this set of statistics would be (29,614 – 22,575 =) 7,039.

The letter moreover mentions more than approximately 22,500 unregistered inmates, broken down as follows: 4,000 Poles, 8,500 Bolsheviks and 10,000 Jews. Since they are considered to be missing, they are included among the figures for those murdered. But nothing is known of these 4,000 Poles, while the Bolsheviks allegedly interned at the camp and then killed without being registered would officially amount to only “a group of a few hundred prisoners” (Brandhuber, p. 15), but there is little proof in this regard. This is obviously equally true for the 10,000 Jews whose national origins were not even known to the unknown writer of the letter. According to Danuta Czech, approximately 5,200 Jews from the ghettos of Dombrowa, Bendsburg, Warthenau and Gleiwitz were transported to Auschwitz between May 5 and 11, 1942 and later gassed in “Bunker 1.” Another 1,500 Jews from Sosnowitz are said to have been deported and gassed on May 12 (Czech 1990, pp.

³⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 95f.

³⁴⁸ See in this regard my studies Mattogno 2019, pp. 572f.; and 2016a, pp. 38-42.

³⁴⁹ AGK, NTN, 155, pp. 290-291.

³⁵⁰ Transports list, NOKW-2824, p. 9 (*Männerlager*) and 1 (*Frauenlager*).

³⁵¹ Statistical elaboration of the “*Leichenhallenbuch*” by Judge Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, pp. 140f.

165f.). The source, incredibly, is a simple map by Martin Gilbert, in which he indicated these presumed transports without giving any source.³⁵² This means that there is no trace of them – not even any eyewitness testimony – in the archives of the Auschwitz Museum.

The mortality of 250 inmates per day, obviously referring to May 1942, is very much exaggerated; the *Stärkebuch* shows that the average mortality in the camp was approximately 108 inmates per day; mortality in the women's camp was much lower, considering that 1,525 inmates died (an average of 49 per day) during the month with the highest mortality, August 1942, according to an already-examined British intercept.³⁵³

The cremation capacity of the crematorium in the Main Camp, at that time already equipped with three Topf double-muffle cremation furnaces – 200 bodies a day – is exaggerated, as their *theoretical* capacity in 24 hours was only 144 bodies (Mattogno/Deana 2015, pp. 337-341).

Although speaking of gassings, the author of the letter knew nothing about the phantasmagorical “Bunker 1.” The inmates at Auschwitz only knew of one “Bunker,” which is described in the “Memorandum on the Situation of the Country over the Period from June 1 – July 15, 1942” (*Obóz...*, p. 35):

“New types of ordinary punishment, that is, confinement to a bunker, were introduced at the Auschwitz Camp. This bunker [bunkier] is a windowless cement cell only 90 centimeters high, so that the prisoner cannot sit down even for a moment.”

The term “Bunker” for the Auschwitz camp brig was commonly used by the camp SS, as shown by a letter by Liebehenschel dated December 10, 1945, when he was still a prisoner of the Americans at Dachau, to Dr. Dortheimer. Among the improvements to the lives of Auschwitz inmates for which he claimed credit was in fact the following:³⁵⁴

“I immediately emptied the bunker overcrowded by the Political Department, in most cases for no real reason, and allowed at least the most miserable men [detained there] to return to their comrades.”

The “Memorandum on the Situation in the Country over the Period from July 16 to August 25, 1942” reports (*Obóz...*, p. 37):

“a few dozen of the most-physically fit inmates are selected from each group of new arrivals. These inmates formed a special unit [kompania specjalna] who dug graves and buried the dead, at night. This unit – which was strictly isolated – was exterminated after a certain time in the gas chamber [w komorze gazowej] and replaced by another unit. Some of the dead inmates were burnt in the crematorium.”

³⁵² Gilbert 1995, Map 122, p. 100. Czech is referring to the 1982 edition.

³⁵³ TNA. HW 16-68. Notes on decodes. Received 13-20 September 1942.

³⁵⁴ AGK, NTN, 99, p. 38.

Danuta Czech claims that “Bunker 2” became operational on June 30, but the only source cited by her consists of statements by Rudolf Höss, incredibly distorted by Czech herself. For example, she transformed Höss’s words “during the summer” into June 30, 1942! (See Mattogno 2020, pp. 232f.)

With reference to the “Memorandum” passage just quoted, but again inventing the date (July 4, 1942), the editor of the *Auschwitz Chronicle* writes (Czech 1990, p. 192; emphases added):

“The so-called Sonderkommando (Special Squad) is formed, consisting of several dozen Jewish prisoners. They must dig pits near the bunker and bury those who are killed in the gas chambers.”

The words underlined by me are distortions invented by Czech and do not appear in the source text. The extraordinary fact is that the author of the report was aware of the “Sonderkommando,” which allegedly worked in the “bunker,” but knew nothing about the “bunker” itself. And this is true for *all* the resistance messages from Auschwitz. One wonders who carried out the activities at “Bunker 1” (which presumably entered into operation on March 20, 1942³⁵⁵), if the first *Sonderkommando* was only formed on July 4...

A bit further on, the report says (*Obóz...*, pp. 37f.):

“Every once in a while, the patients were examined, and some of them were sent to the gas chamber [do komory gazowej].”

On June 20, 1942, four inmates escaped from Auschwitz. One of them, who had spent 22 months there, wrote a detailed report which was published in Issue No. 31 of the *Informacja Bieżąca* on August 26, 1942. It also repeats almost word for word the two stories reproduced earlier (*ibid.*, pp. 39f.):

“The 100 physically strongest persons were selected from groups of new arrivals. They formed a special unit which dug graves and buried the dead at night. This unit was strictly isolated and was exterminated in the gas chamber after a short time, after which it was replaced by another unit. [...] Every once in a while, the patients are examined, and some of them are sent to the gas chamber.”

A “Letter written from Auschwitz Camp” dated August 29, 1942 reports (*ibid.*, p. 42):

“Every day, two full carts, [each] carrying about 150 persons [bodies], left for the crematorium, which had been expanded and restructured so as to be able to destroy 200 persons in 24 hours. A rather high percentage are swallowed [sic] by the executions. Many methods of killing are devised. From the most primitive, based on bludgeoning, to the most modern, using gas [gazu].”

This report returns to the “*Hammerluft*,” this time indicated by the related Polish expression, “*młot powietrzny*” (*ibid.*, p. 43):

³⁵⁵ Czech 1990, pp. 146. This date, too, is purely imaginary, like the “bunkers” themselves. See Mattogno 2020, pp. 225-242.

“The condemned men are taken outside to the courtyard, where the executioner, referred to by us as the shooter-rifleman, places a pneumatic hammer on the person’s head, and death ensues. The posterior part of the head is smashed.”

From the context, the murder weapon must have been a compressed-air rifle – rather an odd weapon for execution purposes – but the Polish term for this weapon is “wiatrówka,” in German “Luftgewehr,” “air rifle,” so that the references to “Hammerluft” and “młot powietrzny” are meaningless and inexplicable.

Another letter of November 1, 1942, which I will discuss later, returns to this phantasmagorical instrument of death, but calls it a “Lufthammer.”

The August letter then speaks of lethal injections and other methods of killing (*ibid.*):

“The most terrible are the mass executions using gas [przy pomocy gazu] in chambers especially built for the purpose [w komorach specjalnie na ten cel pobudowanych]. There are two of them, and they can contain 1,200 persons. They contain baths with showers, which unfortunately produce gas instead of water [zamiast wody wydobywa gaz]. In this way, above all, entire transports of persons are killed who are not prepared to die. They are told that they are to take a shower, and they are even issued hand towels – 300,000 people have already died in this way. At one time, they were buried in a mass grave, but now they are burned in the open in suitably excavated mass graves. Death was caused by suffocation, because of profuse bleeding from the nose and mouth. Every once in a while, 750 typhus patients or convalescents are taken from the camp and taken to the chambers.”

These two “gas chambers” are interpreted by historians at the Auschwitz Museum as Bunkers 1 and 2, but apart from the fact that Bunker 1 was supposed to have had two gas chambers and Bunker 2 four such chambers (Piper 2000, pp. 135, 139), even if we understand this to imply two gassing facilities rather than chambers, the fact remains that the story, which is otherwise rich in detail, does not use the presumably official terms “Bunker” or the and unofficial terms “czerwony domek” (small red house) and “biały domek” (small white house).

The figure of 300,000 victims is complete nonsense even from an orthodox perspective. According to data from the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, approximately 50,000 persons had presumably been gassed by August 29, 1942, a figure which includes 35,130 fictitious deportees/gassing victims from invented transports (see Mattogno 2019, pp. 461-465). To this must be added the fact that, based on the “Report on the situation in the country over the period August 26 – October 10, 1942,” which I will discuss in more detail shortly, the number of gassing victims was 60,200 by July 15,³⁵⁶ therefore, 239,800 in-

³⁵⁶ The claimed gassing victims were: 1,700 sick inmates in 1941; in 1942: 38,500 male and female Jews, 8,000 non-Jewish inmates, 12,000 Bolsheviks (Soviet POWs).

mates were said to have been gassed in just one month and a half, an average of over approximately 5,300 per day. Since the batch capacity of the two gas chambers was 1,200 persons, this would have required 200 gassings, 100 gassings in each chamber!

This figure of 1,200 persons then became canonical, and was adopted even by Höss, but only for “Bunker 2” (Mattogno 2020, pp. 237-242).

The cause of death is equally fantastic, and the killing system described – gas coming out of real showers leading to bleeding noses and mouths, evidently resulting from destroyed lungs – instead of Zyklon B that has no such effects and cannot be fed through pipes – is pure fiction which was later borrowed by various other witnesses, as we shall see.

The extermination of typhus patients is another simple-minded fairy tale. Of the 4,167 typhus cases registered between March 12, 1942 and November 30, 1942 in Block 20 of the Main Camp, only 90 patients were allegedly gassed, but this gassing is pure fiction (Mattogno 2016a, pp. 106-109).

The mention of shower baths, by contrast, provides an important insight into the origins of the story of the two gas chambers, to be discussed later.

Issue No. 33 of *Informacja Bieżąca* of September 18, 1942 supplies a significant example of fantasies and myths (*Obóz...*, p. 44):

“The camp has approximately 100,000 inmates at the present time, including approximately 70,000 Jews from all over Europe. Typhus cases are so numerous in the camp that not even the guards can leave the camp. At present, not even the inmates are sent out to work on any job. Individual blocks have been isolated.

Over the past few months, the following preparations have been made in the territory of the camp: 1) gas chambers [komory gazowe] have been installed in which the Jews are poisoned (1,000 persons per day on average). 2) The bacteriological institute, where experiments are performed on Poles – dozens of persons perish every day. 3) The biological institute, which carries out complicated research on Germans and Poles.

The result of all these practices is the placement in operation of 3 crematoria [3 krematoriów], which now work 24 hours a day.”

The “Summary of total labor deployment” dated September 22, 1942 recorded a total camp manpower at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp of 28,207 inmates.³⁵⁷

The report speaks generically of “*komory gazowe*” without any allusion to the presumed “bunker.” The “bacteriological institute” was the Hygienic-Bacteriological Research Center of the Waffen SS Southeast (*Hygienisch-Bakteriologische Untersuchungsstelle der Waffen-SS, Südost*), also known as the Hygiene Institute of the Waffen SS and Police Auschwitz (*Hygiene-Institut der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz*), headquartered in Rajsko. The institute

³⁵⁷ “Übersicht über den Gesamtarbeitseinsatz,” RGVA, 502-1-19, p. 20.

was located in a private two-story house owned by a Polish evacuee (Kieta, p. 213), which was remodeled accordingly. In an “Overview” of the structures to be built by the Central Construction Office during the third *Kriegswirtschaftsjahr* (fiscal year of the war), dated July 30, 1942, we find listed an “Upgrading of the building shell in Raisko to a laboratory.”³⁵⁸ Initially, this laboratory was listed as BW 68, but then as 68a (68b was an “agricultural laboratory in Raisko”). Construction work began on August 17, 1942.³⁵⁹ The “Construction report for the month of December 1942” describes the progress made on the project:³⁶⁰

“BW 68A hygiene laboratory in Raisko. Septic tank ready. Windows installed. Finishing of top floor progressing.”

According to the construction deadline schedule for September 1943, dated October 2, the work was completed at the end of June 1943.³⁶¹ It is therefore obvious that the “bacteriological institute” did not yet exist on September 18, 1942, and that the associated account is false.

As regards “the placement in operation of 3 crematoria,” this should be understood to refer to crematoria rather than furnaces (in Polish “*piece*”), which is how the editors at the Auschwitz Museum understood it, who observed in a note that the new crematoria were put into operation only during the first half of 1943 (*Obóz...*, FN 3, p. 45), meaning they did not yet exist on September 18, 1942.

The “Report on the situation in the country over the period August 26 – October 10, 1942” attempts to account for the variations in camp manpower in greater detail than in the letter of June 1942 cited earlier. But it also includes the fantastic stories which we just finished discussing (*ibid.*, p. 45):

“Bacteriological and biological research laboratories have been set up and placed in operation in the area of the camp, performing experiments on inmates; dozens of inmates die every day as a result of these experiments.”

Shortly afterwards, the same report dishes up some other fantasies, involving Soviet prisoners of war (*ibid.*, p. 46):

“Starting in July 1941, Bolshevik prisoners of war were brought to the camp, where almost all of them – several tens of thousands [w liczbie kilkudziesięciu tysięcy] of them – were poisoned in gas chambers.”

The report then dwells upon statistics at great length. The editors at the Auschwitz Museum published another facsimile of the original (page 2 only), typewritten and titled “*Oświęcim obóz śmierci*” (“Auschwitz Death Camp”; *Obóz...*, p. 47), which to some extent contains similar data that I will compare

³⁵⁸ RGVA, 502-1-275, p. 34.

³⁵⁹ *Baufristenplan* for the month of August 1942. RGVA, 502-1-22, p. 43.

³⁶⁰ RGVA, 502-1-214, p. 6.

³⁶¹ RGVA, 502-1-320, p. 8.

where appropriate. This report was published under the same title in Issue No. 39 of the *Biuletyn Informacyjny* dated October 8, 1942 (pp. 1098-1100):

“Towards January 1 [1942], approximately 2,000 Jews arrived at the camp; over the course of 1942, approximately 30,000 Jews and 150 [in the typewritten document: 15,000] Jewesses and Jewish children. Of this figure, 3,000 Jews and 7,000 Jewesses were entered in the list of old [registered] inmates, while the rest, including all the children, were sent to the gas chambers.”

On July 15, 1942, the last registration number assigned in the men’s camp alone was 46,960.³⁶²

Then follows a detailed list of deaths, broken down by cause:

- typhus: approximately 2,000
- wasting away of bodily organs: 4,000
- dysentery: 4,000
- pulmonitis and tuberculosis: 1,500
- meningitis: 200
- other deaths: 800
- killed by injections of phenol: 2,000
- shooting: 4,000
- gassing: 2,900
- killed in the bunker³⁶³ in the penal company (beatings, stake [*kara słupka*]³⁶⁴): 1,200
- killed at work: 800
- suicide: 390
- Total: 23,790.

“In total, 228,000³⁶⁵ inmates died over the course of two years (from June 1940, when the camp was opened, to June 1942).”

The report then attempts to provide an accounting of this figure, first by listing all the deportees to the camp:

- inmates in the protective-custody camp (*Schutzhaftlager*): 44,000; re-educational inmates: 2,900; “miscellaneous non-registered inmates (sent to the gas chambers directly from the trains)”: 8,000; “Bolshevik prisoners in this category,” that is, gassed immediately: 12,000;³⁶⁶ registered Bolshevik prisoners of war: 14,000; registered women: 9,600; “non-registered Jews and Jewesses”: 3,500 [in the typewritten document: 35,000]. Total on July 1, 1942: 125,500.

³⁶² NOKW-2824, p. 23 (*Männerlager*).

³⁶³ The 90-centimeter-high windowless punishment cells are described in the “Memorandum on the Situation in the Country over the Period from June 1 – July 15, 1942.”

³⁶⁴ The punishment of the stake consisted of tying the inmate to a stake with his arms pulled up upwards, behind the back.

³⁶⁵ This figure makes no sense and is doubtless an error in transcription.

³⁶⁶ Datum totally without basis in fact even from an orthodox point of view, as noted earlier.

Then follows a list of inmates who left the camp alive:

- released: 2,030, including 1,500 Poles
- transferred to other camps: 4,858
- escaped and not recaptured: 12
- Total: 6,900

On July 1, 1942, the population of the camp was broken down as follows:

- protective custody camp: 14,500
- re-education camp: 300
- women's camp: 9,600
- Bolshevik POWs: 60
- Total: 24,460

Based on extant documents, the men's camp actually contained 15,025 inmates on July 1, 1942, including 154 Soviets.³⁶⁷ In the women's camp, the last number assigned on that date was 8,183,³⁶⁸ therefore the presence of 9,600 registered inmates is impossible. The conclusion of the report is as follows:

"94,140 persons were therefore killed or died at Auschwitz over the period of approximately two years." (Obóz..., p. 46)

This figure is the result of the following act of subtraction: (125,500 – 6,900 – 24,460) = 94,140, but the calculation is incorrect, because the report lists the deaths (23,790) and gassings (60,200)³⁵⁶ in a detailed manner, for a total of 83,990.

The letter of June 1942 indicated 57,800 deaths up to the first day of the month, so that in the month of June alone, according to this data, there would have been 36,340 deaths, which is impossible, since only four transports were allegedly gassed (from Ilkenau, Sosnowitz and Kobierzyn), but all these transports are fictitious.

Regarding Jewish transports, the report mentions 2,000 deportees arriving on January 1, 1942 – a purely imaginary transport – and 45,000 (30,000 men and 15,000 women) "over the course of 1942," but the report takes July 1st as its point of final reference, hence only half of 1942. Of these deportees, 10,000 (3,000 men and 7,000 women) were registered, so that there were 35,000 presumed gassing victims. But the Jewish transports that arrived at Auschwitz began to be subjected to "selections" only on July 4, as deduced from the registration numbers assigned based on the strength of the transports. It follows that 35,000 people are claimed to have already been gassed at Auschwitz when the presumed mass extermination of Jews had not even begun! To this we must add 8,000 non-registered inmates (presumably non-Jews, since Jews are counted separately) and 12,000 unregistered Soviet POWs, for a total of 55,000 gassed persons.

³⁶⁷ Statistical elaboration of the "Stärkebuch" by Judge Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, p. 60.

³⁶⁸ NOKW-2824, p. 2 (*Frauenlager*).

But these are not the only fantasies contained in the report. In fact, it also contains a very detailed account of the “gas chambers” (*ibid.*, p. 48):

“The first use of gas chambers was in June 1941. A transport of 1,700 incurably ill inmates was put together and ‘officially’ sent to the sanatorium at Dresden; but in reality, it was sent to the building converted into a gas chamber [do budynku, przebudowanego na komorę gazową]. The building nevertheless proved too small and impractical. It was decided to build 5 new chambers at Brzezinka [Birkenau], 7 km from the camp. [In the typewritten document: “5 new chambers were recently built at Brzezinka, 3 km from the camp”]. The building was finished in April 1942 [w kwietniu 1942 r.]. These 5 chambers were built without windows, with double doors, fixed with bolts and with gas supply and ventilation [instalacjami do doprowadzenia gazu i wentylacji]; every building [budynek] is designed for 700 persons. Rail lines were laid between the buildings, by means of which the bodies were transported to the mass graves in the nearby woods. The gassing of 3,500 persons, including all the preliminary operations, lasted 2 hours. The gassing victims were mostly Bolsheviks and Jews. Among the Poles, particularly the Poles, most of the victims were incurably ill. There is no indication of the numbers of gassing victims in the reports sent to Berlin from the camp. Gassing victims not entered in the list, ‘non-registered,’ are listed under the heading for typhus and pneumonia fatalities, etc., into which these ‘deceased’ were entered in large numbers for a certain number of days before and after the execution. Every person executed in the [gas] chamber has a fictitious ‘natural-death card,’ made up in advance that gives a description of the type of disease alleged to have caused the death. These death cards are signed by the camp physician.”

This report contradicts and destroys the very basis of the current orthodox Holocaust narrative with regards to the “bunkers” of Birkenau. The first gassing was allegedly carried out in June 1941, at which time there was a “building transformed into a gas chamber.” Then, in April 1942, five other gassing installations were built. The text clearly uses the terms “gas chambers” and “buildings” interchangeably. Hence, in addition to the first gassing facility, five more were built, each with a capacity of 700 people. Hence, there were altogether six such facilities, which were all interconnected with rail lines!

A parallel account may also be found in Issue No. 36 of *Informacja Bieżąca* of September 28, 1942, not reproduced in the book published by the Auschwitz Museum, which contains two more details of relevance. After mentioning the arrival at Auschwitz of 14,000 registered Soviet prisoners of war, it states:

“To this number must be added approximately 12,000 prisoners who were not registered in the numerical list, but were sent directly from the railway to the Degasungskammer.”

A little further along, the story of the gas chambers was repeated using the same words, with this addition:

“The first use of gas chambers / Degasungskammer/ took place in June 1941.”

I shall return to this mangled German term “*Degasungskammer*” later.

The “Report on the Situation in the Country over the Period August 26 – October 10, 1942” moreover contains a report on Auschwitz by an inmate who had been released from the camp, making indirect mention of a gassing (*ibid.*, p. 49):

“Over the past two years, at the beginning of spring, the Blockschonung³⁶⁹ was eliminated in a barbarous manner. In 1941, an unknown number of inmates who had been living in this block and of patients from the hospital, in 1942, all the patients and convalescents, approximately 1,300 persons, were sent to Rajsko Camp, of which I shall speak next.”

The presumed 1941 poisoning is an obvious reworking of the presumed gassing of 1,700 incurably ill patients in June 1941 mentioned earlier. The anonymous witness then returns to the “hell of Rajsko,” confusing Rajsko with Birkenau. He claims that, of the 1,300 inmates who had been sent to Rajsko, only 140 remained after four weeks, and that, of 12,000 POWs, fewer than 200 remained. “These persons, in 99% of all cases, perished as the result of beatings, immersion in mud and excrement” (*ibid.*, p. 50).

There is no mention of gas chambers at Birkenau.

Issue No. 37 of the *Biuletyn Informacyjny* (*Information Bulletin*) dated September 17, 1942 dedicates a few lines to Auschwitz, reworking the information discussed above. At the camp, typhus cases were so common that not even the SS could exit the camp grounds, and individual blocks were in isolation.

“In the area of the camp, a bacteriological and biological research laboratory was opened, which performed experiments on inmates. The result of this activity was a strong increase in mortality.”

The report then reproduces a new item in direct conflict with the cornerstone of orthodox Holocaust historiography (*Biuletyn Informacyjny*, p. 1086):

“The Jewish sector of the camp had 70,000 Jews [70 tysięcy Żydów], transported there from all over Europe. Gas chambers [komory gazowe] were installed for them in which an average of 1,000 Jews per day were poisoned. The bodies were burned in 3 crematoria.”

Therefore, Jews unfit for labor were not gassed immediately upon arrival, as the current narrative has it, but they were interned in a special sector of the camp, which could accommodate 70,000 of them. At the rate of 1,000 per day, exterminating them all in “gas chambers” would have required 70 days, but in

³⁶⁹ Correct: *Schonungsblock*; block for convalescing inmates.

the meantime, “the Jewish sector” would have had to accommodate the subsequent transports.

Issue No. 39 of *Informacja Bieżąca* of October 23, 1942 offers more information on Auschwitz (*Obóz...*, p. 52):

“According to a German source, the monthly number of cremated victims in the camp was approximately 2,500. Up until August 15, the official ‘Death Book’ recorded 18,800 cremated inmates. But in addition to this official figure (inmates from Poland and the Reich), thousands of Jews from Poland, France, Holland and Germany, in addition to Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians and even Italians, plus a certain number of Polish ‘evacuatees’ and even Soviet POWs; in 1941, approximately 60,000 [ok. 60 tys.] and not one survivor: experiments with war gases had been performed on these prisoners. The valuables confiscated from French and Dutch Jews at the camp exceeded the value of 60 million pre-war Reichsmarks in gold and jewels. According to the report of an SS man employed at the electrical chambers [przy komorach elektr.], the daily number of these victims officially amounted to 2,500 every night. They are killed in an electrical bath [w łaźni elektrycznej] and in gas chambers [w komorach gazowych].”

The “Death Book” actually associated with cremations was called the *Leichenhallenbuch* (morgue registry), as I have explained earlier, but up until mid-August, only a few less than 10,000 deaths were recorded in it.³⁷⁰ However, the number given is compatible with those entered in the “*Sterbebuch*” No. 13 of 1942, in which the number 18,800 was assigned to inmate Jozef Marcian on August 8, 1942 (*Staatlichen Museum...*, Vol. 3, p. 776). In a specific study, I demonstrated that the coke supplies for the crematorium in the Main Camp are perfectly consistent with the number of deaths registered in the morgue registry (Mattogno 2015, pp. 9-51).

The figure of 60,000 Soviet POWs is absurd, while the claim about an “electric bath” falls squarely into the category of fiction.

A letter dated November 1, 1942 originating from the camp attempts to rationalize the “*Hammerluft*” story in the preceding reports, now called “*Lufthammer*.” The context is “the execution of 240 inmates from 3 transports from Lublin” which had “recently” (*ostatnio*) arrived. A note by the editors refers to the presumed shooting in reprisal of 280 Polish inmates which, according to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, is supposed to have occurred on October 28 (Czech 1990, p. 259), but there is no documentary evidence in support of this claim.

The 240 inmates, the letter reports,

“were transferred to the courtyard of the penal company, where execution was carried out by means of ‘Lufthammern’ (pneumatic hammers [młota powietrznego]). The inmates’ hands were tied together behind their backs, and they were taken out into the courtyard one by one after stripping naked. There, the

³⁷⁰ Statistical analysis of the “*Leichenhallenbuch*” by Judge Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, pp. 140-142.

barrel of this compressed-air rifle [tej powietrznej strzelby] was pointed at them from behind and fired without detonation. The hammer [młot] struck them on the base of the head, and the compressed air shattered the brain.” (*Obóz...*, p. 54)

The term “*Lufthammer*” has never been explained, and the weapon in question presupposes that compressed air, instead of firing a bullet, pushed some metallic bolt or striker which projected from the barrel, a kind of pneumatic cattle gun – a rather unusual weapon!

The letter moreover mentions “the escape of 70 Bolsheviks who had probably been condemned to be gassed for having witnessed the murder of 5,000 prisoners killed in this or some other way” (*ibid.*). The escape of 70 Soviet prisoners of war is pure fantasy. The documents in the archives of the Auschwitz State Museum show five escapes in October 1942, another five in the month of September, three in the month of August (Iwaszko, p. 45). The murder of 15,000 Soviet prisoners of war, as I noted above, is another fantasy.

A message dated November 2, 1942 takes up the presumed execution of Poles, stating that there were 260 victims, “exclusively intellectuals,” and that this took place on October 26 in reprisal for the explosion of a bomb in Warsaw. These data are in conflict with those contained in the letter of a few days earlier, as well as with those given by Danuta Czech.

Another bit of invented information is the arrival at Auschwitz of 180 Soviet POWs on November 3, most of whom “were made to enter the gas chamber and were poisoned there, while the remainder was shot.”

The following unique news item is linked to the item contained in Issue No. 37 of *Biuletyn Informacyjny* dated September 17, 1942 (*Obóz...*, p. 55):

“The effective manpower of Auschwitz concentration camp on October 31 was 75,000 persons, including Jewish arrivals.”

The “Memorandum on the Situation in the Country over the Period October 11 – November 15, 1942” includes the information from *Informacja Bieżąca* of October 23, 1942 regarding the number of cremated inmates:

“The official registry of cremated inmates up until the present time in the crematoria [w krematoriach] at Auschwitz numbered approximately 18,000 surnames³⁷¹ of Auschwitz camp martyrs up until August 15. The registry in question does not list the tens of thousands of persons sent to Auschwitz for the sole purpose of their extermination in the gas chambers [w komorach gazowych].”

It bears repeating that on October 31, the inmate population of the Auschwitz Camp was said to have amounted to 75,000, including Jews transported to the camp (*Obóz...*, p. 56).

³⁷¹ The *Leichenhallebuch* only lists the registration numbers of deceased inmates, not their names.

A very long report from November 1942 reveals the extent to which the extermination of the Jews has simply been invented. Auschwitz was the camp of martyrdom of the Polish people, but the Allies cared very little about that. The involvement of the Jews was intended to sensitize their consciences, drawing attention to the sufferings of the Poles, who had suffered the “first gassing” as early as June 1941!

This perspective appears from the very beginning of the report, and is repeated several times (*ibid.*, pp. 58f.):

“The Auschwitz penal camp, in which tens of thousands [dziesiątki tysięcy] of Poles have already been killed over the past two years, and where they have also begun to kill women starting this year, no doubt constitutes the greatest dishonor to the German people and the profound demonstration of its moral degradation. [...]

It is necessary to shout out-loud to the world our opinion on Auschwitz, on an unprecedented crime perpetrated against the Polish nation. [...]

Here, it is not solely a question of sparing tens or even hundreds of thousands of persons, condemned to the agony of the most-atrocious torments, but of preserving first and foremost the intellectual class of the Polish people from total extermination, for which Auschwitz is primarily designed.”

Here, the information on the “*Degasungskammer*” from the preceding reports is warmed up and dished out again with a variation. Approximately 12,000 Soviet POWs were allegedly gassed in the “*Degasungskammer*,” in addition to the more than 35,000 Jews mentioned above (the presumed 45,000 deportees minus the 10,000 registered inmates). On this “first gassing” at Birkenau, the report says (*ibid.*, p. 60):

“The first use of gas chambers (Degasungskammer) took place in June 1941. A transport of 1,700 persons (incurably ill, venereal-disease patients, patients suffering from Körperschwache [sic; physical weakness], organ failure, minors having undergone resection of the ribs, meningitis patients) was sent to the sanatorium at Dresden (according to an official communication). In reality, they were transported to the building transformed into a gas chamber [do budynku przebudowanego na komorę gazową]. The building was found to be too small and not very practical. Five [pięciu] modern chambers [nowoczesnych komór] were [then] built at Brzezinka (Birkenau), 7 km from the camp. Construction was completed in April 1942. These were 6 blocks [6 bloków] (without windows, with bolted double doors, modern [nowoczesne] gas supply [doprowadzające gaz] and ventilation installations, each for 700 persons. Between the blocks ran a little narrow-gauge railway which carried the bodies to the mass graves, each located 4 km away in the nearby woods. Another little train carried the lime to cover up the bodies. The entire area of the D-Kammer is a closed area; all unauthorized persons found in the area are subject to capital punishment (this also includes the SS, Wehrmacht, civilians and inmates). The gassing of 3,500 persons takes 2 hours.”

A list of presumed gassings is then proposed (*ibid.*, p. 61):

“1,700 sick inmates were gassed in June 1941,
 2,800 Bolshevik prisoners [were gassed] in July,
 1,200 sick inmates [were gassed] in August.
 Entire groups of prisoners were gassed later. In May and June 1942, Jewish transports carrying 800-2,000 persons were gassed every two days.
 Many transports were sent directly from the rail line to the D-Kammer, that is:
 Bolshevik prisoners ca. 12,000
 Poles ca. 8,000
 Jews and Jewesses ca. 35,000
 All these persons were unregistered in the numerical list, and do not appear in the official camp statistics.”

When killing registered inmates, the report continues, they appeared in the documents as having died of natural causes, while in the death registries they were entered over a period of several days. Since the killings were legal according to the logic attributed to the camp, it is hard to grasp the reasons for this subterfuge.

The report moreover says that 1,500 Poles, 150 Germans, one Jew and 180 Czechs had been released from the camp, which is hard to reconcile with the secrecy which allegedly veiled the claimed executions.

The death statistics for the period leading up to July 1, 1942 are dished up again with a few variations (*ibid.*, pp. 62f.):

- typhus: approximately 2,000
- “allgemeine Körperschwäche” (general systemic wasting syndrome): 4,000
- dysentery: 3,000 (instead of 4,000)
- pneumonia and tuberculosis: 1,500
- meningitis: 200
- other deaths: 800
- killed by injections of phenol: 2,000
- shot: 4,000
- gassed: 2,900
- “killed in the bunker [*w bunkrze*]”: 1,200
- killed at work: 800
- suicides on the electric fence: 390
- “asphyxiated in bunker (*w bunkrze*) in which they are [compelled to remain] standing (the night of May 6, 1942): 32.”
- Total: 22,822 deaths, as against 23,790 in the preceding report.

The number of alleged unregistered gassing victims were as follows:

- 8,000 inmates
- 14,000 prisoners of war
- 35,000 Jews and Jewesses.

The total number of deaths on July 1 was 94,139 (as against 94,140 in the preceding report).

The report by the anonymous inmate released from Auschwitz and examined earlier is then reproduced in full. A description of the “bunker” (*bunkier*) also appears in the context of the camp’s penal system (*ibid.*, p. 68):

“Another punishment is the so-called bunker. The condemned man goes to work normally, but at night he is locked into an underground cell measuring 1 m x 1 m, and spends the night there, on his feet, in the company of another 3 condemned men. This punishment lasted perhaps a few weeks.”

This was the “standing cell” (“*Stehzelle*”) of Block 11, “which was bricked up inside the usual Cell No. 22. In size, it was the same as a normal telephone booth. This cell could only be entered through a small opening in the floor” (Brol/Pilecki, p. 7).

A letter from another anonymous Auschwitz inmate provides information on the Jewish transports (*Obóz...*, p. 69):

“Every week an average of two transports from Slovakia, France, the [Ruhr] Basin or the General Government. The Jews from the Basin and the General Government are poisoned en masse; it is difficult for us to establish their numbers, but it is enormous, to such an extent that it is not possible to carry away their clothing after [the deportees] have been poisoned. Near the gas chambers [koło komór gazowych] are approximately 15,000 [articles of clothing], notwithstanding the fact that they are carried away by the cartload every day. There are two poisoning locations [dwa miejsca trucia]: in the camp crematorium (capacity 400 persons) and at Brzezinka, where a few cottages with considerably greater holding capacity were set up near the forest. The gassing victims are buried in large mass graves after being transported to the graves by a small train especially built to facilitate the transport. The Jewish civilians employed to fill in the graves are poisoned after a certain period of time, and are replaced by others. Among the garments, after the elimination of the people, is an enormous percentage of women’s and children’s clothing. With the last Jewish transport from Slovakia (200 persons) approximately 80 children arrived (it seems that the families were committed to their work); the children were poisoned at Brzezinka together with their mothers.”

The fragment of a letter from another inmate speaks of the typhus epidemic and describes the presumed cure as per the SS: “the transport of the patients to the gas chamber or their poisoning with injections (this was recently used for the first time in dealing with the Jews).” The inmate was a self-proclaimed witness of the presumed gassing of typhus patients on August 29, 1942, but there were not 90 victims, as claimed by Stanisław Kłodziński,³⁷² but 746:

³⁷² Kłodziński 1965, pp. 51f. See in this regard Mattogno 2016a, Chapter 5.4.2.3, pp. 106-109.

“On August 29, I survived the day when 746 typhus patients were poisoned (I am referring to 1942). I was among the sick – only destiny gave me the chance of escaping death.” (ibid, p. 70)

The presumed event is completely invented, like the presumed gassing of the 90 patients, which is based on a distortion of the data contained in the registry of Room No. 3 of *Block 20*.

These reports require a rather more extensive comment.

First of all, it should be noted that 5,700 persons are claimed to have been gassed already by August 1941, but it is known that, according to the Auschwitz Museum, the first homicidal gassing was carried out at Auschwitz most definitely on September 3-5, 1941 (Czech 1990, 85-87). One cannot therefore call this a “shadow projected by reality,” but rather pure invention.

The last transport from Slovakia before November 15, 1942 arrived at Auschwitz on October 21; a total of 199 Jews from this transport were registered (*ibid.*, p. 256). Hence, if there were 200 deportees on this transport, as stated in the report, then only one single person was gassed...

With this report, the literary saga of the gas chambers is enriched by two significant elements. The first is the “poisoning location” of the crematorium in the Main Camp. In this regard, Franciszek Piper wrote (Piper 2000, p. 133):

“Filip Müller, a member of the Sonderkommando and the author of a well-known memoir of his stay in the camp, was employed among the personnel at crematorium I from May 1942 to July 1943. He stated that he had seen with his own eyes the killing there of several scores of thousands of Jews from Upper Silesia, Slovakia, France, Holland, Yugoslavia, and the ghettos of Theresienstadt, Ciechanów and Grodno.”

According to Höss, in this crematorium “only [wylącznie] these Russian prisoners were gassed”³⁷³ who, as we have seen, the clandestine reports manage to inflate to at least 12,000. Various inmates signed statements after the end of the war concerning the presumed gas chamber in the crematorium at the Main Camp – the already-quoted Filip Müller in addition to Michał Kula, Stanisław Jankowski, Erwin Bartel, Jan Krokowski, Michał Hałgas, Władysław Kluczny, Kazimierz Kumala, Tadeusz Pietrzykowski, Stefan Boratyński, Zdzisław Mikołajski, Władysław Girsza, Ludwik Bas, Edward Pyś, but the list is certainly not complete; those who “knew” must have been a good deal more numerous, since the crematorium was right next to the camp fence. One therefore wonders why Filip Müller or the other self-proclaimed eyewitnesses did not immediately transmit this extremely important information to the outside world, but instead waited 14 months³⁷⁴ before anyone could hear that there was a “poisoning location” in the crematorium!

³⁷³ *United Nations...*, 10th hearing, p. 1070.

³⁷⁴ The first gassing of Soviet prisoners of war in the crematorium of the Main Camp is said to have occurred on September 16, 1941. Czech 1990, p. 90.

The second element is the mention of “a few cottages near the forest,” (“*kilka domków pod lasem*”).

Here too, almost eight months after the claimed entry into operation of the elusive “Bunker 1” (March 20, 1942), after having invented the “*Degasungskammer*,” the building transformed into a gas chamber in June 1941, then the new construction of “five modern chambers,” which later became six blocks, in April 1942 (although “Bunker 2” is supposed to have entered into operation on June 30), while completely ignoring the term presumably in use – “bunker” – finally the Auschwitz resistance learned that the structures in question were “a few” (!) “cottages” (*domki*, plural of *domek*). This literary invention may seem irrelevant, but, as we shall see below, it is very important, since it contained the canonical term “*domki*,” which, by means of an additional exercise in fantasy, became transmogrified into the denominations of “*czerwony domek*” (little red house) and “*biały domek*” (little white house).

“Annex No. 44 for the period December 16-31, 1942” presents a statistic on camp manpower and mortality. On December 1, the men’s camp had 22,391 inmates, of whom the Auschwitz Main Camp housed 17,672 and Birkenau had 4,719. There were 7,743 Poles, 305 Germans, 3,216 Czechs and 150 Soviet prisoners of war, in addition to 8,588 Jews. There were 2,000 sick inmates; natural mortality averaged 30 deaths a day. 30-40 sick inmates per day were euthanized with injections of phenol. The increased mortality was due to abdominal diseases, such as typhus. A total of 158 inmates had died by December 1, and the average mortality rate was 120-180 deaths per day, presumably referring to the month of November. There were 8,232 inmates in the women’s camp (*Obóz...*, p. 75).

The camp population of 22,391 inmates is perfectly consistent with that contained in the official German report for the month of December, which was intercepted and deciphered by the British; the number of prisoners of war – 150 – is identical. The figures for the Poles and Jews, by contrast, are divergent, *i.e.*, 10,291 Poles according to the decrypts (instead of 7,743) and 8,394 Jews (instead of 8,588).³⁷⁵

The women’s camp had 6,549 inmates on December 1, 1942, not 8,232.³⁷⁶

There were 91 *Abgänge* (losses due to releases, transfers and deaths) that day in the men’s camp, and 43 in the women’s camp, for a total of 134, while the resistance report speaks of 158 *deaths*. This proves that the resistance could get quite close to the truth in their reports if only they wanted to.

³⁷⁵ TNA, HW 16/10. G.P.C.C. F: December 1942. ZIP/GPCC97/7.1.43.

³⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, ZIP/GPCC101/7.1.43.

2.3.2. The 1943 Reports

A very detailed set of statistics, which also includes the claimed gassing victims, is set forth in a report from the “State Security Service of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Delegatura” dated January 1943; it runs from the opening of the camp until December 15, 1942, and is subdivided by nationality/category:

Poles

released:	1,200
living:	17,300
transferred to other camps:	4,500
shot:	5,000
gassed (<i>zagazowanych</i>):	16,000
killed by injections:	8,000
killed by torture and starvation:	3,000
died of disease:	22,000
gassed and shot without being registered:	12,000

Soviet POWS

living:	100
shot:	12,000
killed without being registered:	14,000

Jews

gassed (<i>zagazowanych</i>), from France, Belgium, Holland:	502,000
gassed, from Poland:	20,000

Women, mostly from Poland

living:	6,800
shot:	2,800
gassed:	8,500
died of diseases:	18,000

Total inmates

living:	29,000
dead:	642,700

Finally, it is stated that 16 trains with Jews arrived at Auschwitz from Grodno between January 12 and 28, 1943, each train consisting of 26 cars (*Obóz...*, pp. 79f.). According to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, however, only five Jewish transports reached Auschwitz from Grodno during the entire month of January 1943 (Czech 1990, pp. 309-312).

This statistic shows that the Auschwitz resistance movement and the *Delegatura* were beginning to extend their propagandistic horizons, as shown by the following table of the killings claimed:

Point in time	Jews	Soviet POWs	Poles	Inmates	Total
June 1	10,000	8,500	4,000	/	22,500
July 1	35,000	12,000	8,000	/	55,000
End of August	300,000	?	?	/	300,000
December 15	522,000	?	16,000	8,500	546,500

The data relating to the Poles are quite nonsensical: the report attributes 66,000 deaths to this group, including 16,000 (!) “gassing victims” plus an unknown share of the 12,000 persons “gassed and shot” without ever being registered. F. Piper states that at least 10,000 Polish inmates were killed (not “gassed”) at Auschwitz without being registered, but the documentation in this regard is so risible that he has to resort to materials from the resistance movement – including the above-mentioned report! (Piper 1993, pp. 144, 149)

The figure is therefore purely conjectural. It nevertheless includes between 3,000 and 4,500 Poles (another conjectural figure) sentenced to death by the summary court martial of Kattowitz and executed at Auschwitz, hence the category of “persons shot,” although this category alone has 5,000 persons in the report. The other death categories (lethal injections, torture, starvation) are pure invention; the figure of 22,000 deaths among Polish inmates due to diseases could be the only credible datum, if it relates to natural deaths. During the years 1940 and 1941, we have documentation for the death of some 18,700 inmates, among them some 6,900 Soviet POWs (Mattogno 2019a, p. 276). The inmate registry (*Stärkebuch*) records the deaths of 6,803 Poles since January 19, 1942,³⁷⁷ so that the order of magnitude for the time span from the opening of the camp until mid-December 1942 does not seem far-fetched (18,700 – 6,900 + 6,800 = 18,600 Poles, compared to the claimed 22,000).

According to this report, there are supposed to have been 26,100 Soviet POWs interned at Auschwitz. Piper asserts that there were in total 11,964 registered POWs and at least 3,000 who were killed without being registered, but he gives an account of little more than half of them: 300 for July 1941, 600 on September 3, approximately 900 in September 1941, and 18 on February 26, 1944, for a total of 1,818. He produces no documentary evidence in this regard, and even here he refers to material from the resistance movement (*ibid.*, p. 150).

The report claims that 14,000 Soviet POWs were left unregistered. In earlier reports, these POWs were claimed to have been gassed in the “*Degasungskammer*,” but here they were simply killed without any further details.

The report asserts that 522,000 Jews had been gassed by mid-December 1942, plus another 24,500 non-Jews. Such an enormous figure, equivalent to

³⁷⁷ Statistical elaboration of the “*Stärkebuch*” by Judge Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, p. 110.

400 transports,³⁷⁸ would have required a serious, accurate and more-detailed report on these extraordinary “gas chambers” – much more detailed than the scanty and imaginative assertions which appeared so far:

- one “*Degasungskammer*” in operation starting in June 1941;
- two gas chambers with a capacity of 1,200 persons;
- five or six gassing structures with a capacity of 700 persons each;
- “a few little houses” for gassing people;

not to mention the “electrical chambers” and “electric bath.”

To the resistance members, by contrast, the magic words “*komory gazowe*” and “*zagazowany*” were enough; what was evidently important to them was to fire off figures which were as horrifying as they are absurd.

Finally, regarding female inmates, the killing of 11,300 women is pure fantasy, and this is also true for the 5,812 women who were presumably “selected and killed in the gas chamber” during the first three days of October 1942 according to the *Auschwitz Chronicle* (Czech 1990, pp. 247f.; see Mattogno 2016a, p. 110).

The term “*Degasungskammer*,” as I have noted elsewhere (2016g, pp. 56-59), is a corruption of the German word “*Begasungskammer*” (fumigation chamber) featuring an air-circulation system patented by the German pest-control company *Degesch* (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schädlingbekämpfung, German Corporation for Pest Control): *Degesch Besagungskammer* → *Degasungskammer*. No installation of this type existed at Auschwitz, although 19 disinfestation chambers using such a system were planned for the Main Camp’s reception building (*Aufnahmegebäude*).

Now, whereas a *Gaskammer* could have referred among other things to a homicidal gas chamber, a *Begasungskammer* could mean only a gas chamber for disinfestation. But then, where did the term *Begasungskammer* – corrupted into “*Degasungskammer*” – originate? It came, no doubt, from an article by Gerhard Peters and Emil Wüstinger titled “*Entlausung mit Zyklon-Blausäure in Kreislauf-Begasungskammern*” (“Delousing with Zyklon-Hydrogen Cyanide in Circulatory Fumigation Chambers”).³⁷⁹ This article had been requested as technical background information from the HELI company (Heerd-ling GmbH), the main representative of DEGESCH, by the Friedrich Boos Company, which had received the order to build the 19 Auschwitz disinfestation chambers mentioned above; it was received by the then SS New Construction Office at Auschwitz on July 3, 1941. After having been kept in the archives for a year, it was dusted off by the civilian engineer Rudolf Jährling, who worked in the technical department of the Central Construction Office and su-

³⁷⁸ The average number of persons carried by Jewish transports up to December 15, 1942 was approximately 1,200 deportees.

³⁷⁹ The subtitle of the article is “*Sach-Entlausung in Blausäure-Kammern*” (“Delousing of Objects in Hydrogen-Cyanide Chambers”).

pervised the construction of the disinfection installations in the admissions building.³⁸⁰

The admissions building project was the subject of specific discussions at that time; on July 31, 1941, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Karl Bischoff, at that time head of the Central Construction Office, drew up a “first cost estimate regarding new construction of the laundry and admissions building with delousing and bath for detainees in Concentration Camp Auschwitz O/S” and the corresponding site plan.³⁸¹ Therefore, only a detainee who worked at the planning office (*Baubüro*) of the Central Construction Office could have had any knowledge of *Begasungskammern* at that time. This office, as I remarked earlier, employed 96 inmates in February 1943, scattered over the various sections of the Central Construction Office, who had access to classified documents. The various Auschwitz resistance groups had members or sympathizers even in the *Baubüro*. In August 1944, for instance, three inmates who worked in this office, Vera Foltynova, Valeria Valova and Krystyna Horczak secretly prepared “two photocopies of the plans of the crematorium, with gas chambers”; Foltynova also made “supplementary drawings showing the cross-section of two types of crematoria.” These documents were then smuggled out of the camp (Świebocki 1995, fn 276, p. 152), but the sources contradict each other as to how this was done. I will discuss this in greater detail in Chapter 2.4.

One of these drawings is clearly a *collage* of two plans, Plan No. 1311 on the sub-division of former Morgue #3 into three small rooms (Pressac 1989, pp. 294f.), and Plan No. 1300 on the furnace room that also includes the smoke ducts of the five triple-muffle furnaces (*ibid.*, p. 297). The names of the two large morgues were switched, though: Morgue #1 is called “L.K. 2,” while Morgue #2 is “L.K. 1.”³⁸²

Other important details in the above-mentioned report confirm the correctness of the inference of the origins of the gas-chamber propaganda described above.

1. The mention of “modern gas-supply and ventilation installations.” None of the hydrogen-cyanide gas chambers in existence at Auschwitz at that time had both “gas-supply and ventilation installations.” Since the fumigation chambers then in existence were all merely improvised (“*behelfsmässig*”), meaning that they did not conform to the standard *Degesch-Kreislauf* design, they were equipped with ventilators, but had no means of introducing Zyklon B: the Zyklon pellets were simply dumped on the floor inside the disinfection

³⁸⁰ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 87 (cover letter from the Heli Company dated July 1, 1941) and 88-90 (article “*Entlausung mit Zyklon-Blausäure in Kreislauf-Begasungskammern*”). Both documents bear the stamp of the SS-*Neubauleitung* with receipt date (*Eingang*) July 3, 1941 and Jährling’s signature with date July 21, 1942.

³⁸¹ “Kostenüberschlag zum Neubau des Wäscherei- und Aufnahmegebäudes mit Entlausungsanlage und Häftlingsbad im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz O/S.” RGVA, 502-1-319, pp. 129f.

³⁸² APMO, microfilm no. 6220. See Document 6.

tion chambers. Only the *Degesch-Kreislauf*-“*Begasungskammern*” were also equipped with a device permitting the introduction of a sealed can of Zyklon B into the gas chamber, after which the can could be opened from outside the chamber: the content of the opened can of Zyklon B fell onto a wire basket, where it was hit by a current of recirculating air heated up by a hot-air fan. This caused the hydrogen cyanide to evaporate and disseminate rapidly, creating a sort of “gas supply” (Peters/Wüstinger, p. 69). These devices were therefore called “*Vergaser-Geräte*” – gasification or gassing devices. According to orthodox historiography, the alleged homicidal gas chambers in the “bunkers” possessed neither any “gas-supply” installations nor any ventilation equipment.

2. The fact that the presumed homicidal “*Degasungskammern*” were equipped with double doors, exactly like the disinfestation “*Begasungskammern*,”³⁸³ and had no windows, which are quite superfluous in disinfestation gas chambers but absolutely necessary in the presumed homicidal gas chambers.³⁸⁴

3. The combination of gas chambers with shower-bath installations, which appeared in the letter dated August 29, 1942 and became a recurrent motif of later propaganda, was derived from the fact that the plans for the Auschwitz admissions building included 19 “*Begasungskammern*” plus a shower-bath installation for inmates, all under the same roof. Moreover, at that time, the two mirror-image disinfestation installations denominated *BW 5a* and *5b* were both concurrently under construction at Birkenau. These buildings featured a hydrogen-cyanide fumigation chamber for clothing and a washing and shower area, referred to in the associated plans as “gas chamber” (“*Gaskammer*”) and “wash and shower room” (“*Wasch- und Brauseraum*”), respectively. This shower room with 50 showers was located immediately opposite the fumigation gas chamber, 5.52 meters away, separated from it by an air lock (“*Schleuse*”) and an antechamber (“*Vorraum*”).³⁸⁵ It is therefore highly probable that the idea of shower installations located inside the presumed homicidal gas chamber was suggested in the minds of the early inventors of this propaganda by the presence of these disinfestation installations under construction or already during their design stage.

³⁸³ To avoid recontamination of disinfested objects, the disinfestation chamber was equipped with a set of double doors: all objects to be disinfested were introduced into the chamber through doors on the so-called “unclean side” (*unreine Seite*), and extracted through doors on the so-called “clean side” (*reine Seite*).

³⁸⁴ I am referring to the presumed Zyklon-B-introduction windows, which, during this early literary phase of orthodox Holocaust historiography, would have been superfluous, because the gas allegedly entered the death chamber through shower heads!

³⁸⁵ Plans No. 801, dated November 8, 1941; No. 1293, May 9, 1942; and No. 1715, September 25, 1942. Pressac 1989, pp. 55-57. The plans were drawn, in this order, by the “*Baubüro*” inmate employees Josef Sikora (reg. no. 127), Stefan Busch (reg. no. 18356) and Leo Sawka (reg. no. 538).

4. The “Polish major” (Jerzy Tabeau), as I shall demonstrate shortly, was inspired even more directly in his description of the presumed homicidal gas chambers by the layout of the disinfestation and disinfection installations BW 5a and 5b, elaborating upon the account of an anonymous inmate, the author of a clandestine report drawn up in December 1942 or January 1943. After mentioning the executions “by means of pneumatic hammers” (“*Lufthammern*”), this report says:³⁸⁶

*“The second killing center was the camp hospital. All patients considered so enfeebled by disease as to be no longer fit for work, in the opinion of the camp commandant, were killed. Every once in a while, a German doctor examined the patients and noted down a few [inmate] numbers. Early the next day, they were called in and killed by injection. If there were too many of them, they were loaded onto a truck and taken to Birkenau, to the gas chamber. There are two of them. Each chamber can hold 1,000 persons at a time. They are two residential houses from which the internal walls^[387] and windows have been removed. Only large hermetically sealed doors and small ventilation openings were left in the walls. The inside of the chambers was laid out so as to resemble a shower bath. They only differed from real shower baths in that poison gas came out of the shower heads instead of water [*miast wody, z pryszniców wydobywa się trujący gaz*]. A railroad track comes right inside [the gas chamber] and removes the bodies. A barracks has been built between the two chambers, and divided in half, one half for women and children, and the other half for men. The drawing explains the rest.”*

The drawing (Document 7) indeed shows a hut divided into two parts (“*Dla mężczyzn,*” for men, and “*Dla kobiet,*” for women). It is linked by means of a corridor enclosed by walls (“*mur parkan*”) to the two gas chambers (“*I komora,*” “*II komora*”) located one in front of the other. A railroad track runs out of the gas chambers and runs around the building; the track from Gas Chamber II [“*II komora*”] runs in the space between the two buildings, after which the two tracks merge into one. This kind of detail obviously implies an “eyewitness testimony.”

That which will later come to be known as the “*Sonderkommando*” is known here as the “elite” (*elita*), a group of 30 persons. And this is the description of the gassing:³⁸⁸

*“Inside the barracks, all the people must undress immediately, because they must go and take a shower. They are even given hand towels and soap. After the shower, they are supposed to receive [clean] underwear and clothes. When the chamber is full, the doors are closed, and the gas is released through apertures in the form of shower heads [*przez otwory w formie pryszniców wydob**

³⁸⁶ AGK, NTN, 155, p. 299.

³⁸⁷ As I have noted earlier, the current orthodox lore has it that “Bunker 1” contained two gas chambers, while “Bunker 2” had four gas chambers.

³⁸⁸ AGK, NTN, 155, pp. 299f.

się gaz]. What happens next happens inside, and is difficult to known. After half an hour, the fans [wentylatory] are turned on, and after 45 minutes the bodies are loaded onto iron trolleys and taken away. Death probably occurs as a result of asphyxia, because all victims bleed from the mouth. Before the bodies are buried, they dig enormous graves, containing approximately 200,000 persons [sic]. At the present time, they are burned in ditches dug especially for the purpose.”

In the drawing, the two gas chambers are located facing each other, in the same positions as *BW 5a* and *5b*. This tale’s most important contribution to the literary version is the number of gas chambers: the “*komora I*” and “*komora II*,” through the Soviet denomination of “*gazokamera*” (газокамера) or “*gazovaya kamera*” (газовая камера) Nos. 1 and 2, became, after a labored literary elaboration, “Bunkers” 1 and 2 (Mattoigno 2016g, pp. 77-79). Of course, these presumed gassing installations, according to the final version, were located at a distance of approximately 1,100 meters from each other, as the crow flies, but there was still time to separate them. In the meantime, the “official” number had been established: two, which had already been anticipated in the letter of November 1, 1942, where the gas chambers were also equipped with gas showers.

These stories, as I have mentioned earlier, were later reworked by the Pole Jerzy Tabeau, born at Zabłotów on December 8, 1918, who was interned at Auschwitz on March 26, 1942 under the name Jerzy Wesołoski, and was registered under number 27273. On November 19, 1943, he claims to have escaped the camp, and between December 1943 and the beginning of 1944 he wrote a report on his experiences at Auschwitz which was published in mimeographed form in August 1944 by Abraham Silberschein and later, in November 1944, by the U.S. *War Refugee Board* (Executive Office...). As the author of the report, an anonymous “Polish major” was mentioned, who was identified as Jerzy Tabeau only a few years after the end of the war. The fragment cited here is taken from the handwritten report in Polish attributed to Tabeau, only three pages of which have survived, and from the German translation by Abraham Silberschein:³⁸⁹

“The gas chambers.

To carry out these executions, special gas chambers were built in the little forest at B.[irkenau]. These were places which, apart from valves [wentylami] (Ventilen)^[390] which could open or close hermetically according to necessity, had no openings in the walls. They were built to resemble bath installations, to deceive the victims upon entering. The executions took place in the following manner: prisoners slated for the gas chamber were examined one more time,

³⁸⁹ APMO, D-RO/88, Vol. Va, pp. 322b-323a. *Das Lager Oswiecim (Auschwitz)*; Silberschein, pp. 67f.

³⁹⁰ The English text says “ventilators,” Executive Office..., p. 11.

and divided into fit and unfit to work, after which they were loaded onto trucks. Such a convoy consisted of 8-10 well-loaded trucks. The doomed men travelled without escort, because everything took place within the camp. The truck was followed only by a medical vehicle, because the camp physician had to be present at every execution. Upon arrival in the area of the [gas] chamber, which was surrounded by barbed wire, the doomed men had to strip naked, men, women and children, all together, and everyone received a hand towel and a piece of soap. They were then pushed into the chamber, not without blows and mistreatment. The chambers were filled to full capacity, after which the doors were shut, and specially trained SS men threw bombs [sic] filled with hydrogen cyanide [bomby z kwasem pruskim] through the valves [przez wentyle] in the walls. After 10 minutes, the doors were opened and a special Kommando [specjalne komando] (always made up of Jews) carried away the bodies and made way for another convoy.

At that time, the crematoria were still under construction, so that the small crematorium, which was, after all, located at Auschwitz, could not be used for the elimination of bodies. Therefore, enormous ditches were excavated, and all the bodies were buried there, one on top of another. This situation lasted until approximately the fall of 1942. Since the gassing of the Jews was being carried out with great intensity at that time, vast fields of bodies were formed, in which masses of bodies lay barely covered by a thin layer of earth. Since the bodies were decomposing, vapors from the bodies created an intolerable stench. As a result, in the fall of 1942, it became necessary to reopen all the graves, exhume the decomposed remains, and burn them in the crematoria (four of which had already been completed by that time), or collect them in enormous piles, which were then drenched with gasoline and burnt in this way. The resulting large quantities of ash were taken away and scattered on the fields like fertilizer. When the crematoria were built, the bodies were cremated in the crematorium, but even then, recourse was often had to the old method of piles of bodies, since the crematoria were insufficient.”

This description was clearly inspired by the disinfestation installations in BW 5a and 5b. As I mentioned earlier, these buildings had a room with 50 showers (*Wasch- und Brauseraum*) and one hydrogen-cyanide gas chamber (*Gaskammer*) measuring approximately 105.7 square meters.

The gas chamber was equipped with two ventilators, which were installed in two round openings in the wall opposite the two access doors to the chamber. Outside, two short sheet-metal tubes were inserted into the two openings (see Mattogno 2016g, Photos 1 & 2, p. 240). The tubes could be closed by means of a round sheet metal cover fixed to a hinge, welded to the upper part of the tube, as may still be seen in the external walls of the gas chamber located on the first floor of *Block 3* of the Main Camp (*ibid.*, Photo 3, p. 241). During the fumigation, the cover remained closed by force of gravity; before placing the ventilators in operation, the cover was opened by means of a metallic

wire linked to a small pulley fixed to the wall above the cover. These devices were transformed, in the propaganda of the clandestine resistance, into “valves.” The use of the Polish term “wentyl,” which means precisely “valve,” can only be explained in this way. *BW* 5a and 5b therefore had all the features that also defined the presumed homicidal gas chambers in the “bunkers”: they possessed a “bathing installation” and “special gas chambers” for disinfection, which were equipped with “valves” which could open or close as needed, and, apart from these, “there were no openings in the walls.” Moreover, all this took place “within the camp,” but the same thing cannot be said, of course, of the so-called “bunkers,” which are both said to have been located outside the camp (another Freudian slip!).

The “bombs³⁹¹ filled with hydrogen cyanide” gave rise, in successive accounts, to various other, equally incredible variants, while the literary motif of the “medical vehicle” transporting the physician on duty later developed into the “Sanker,” the Red Cross vehicle allegedly used to transport Zyklon B.

The story of the pyres or cremation ditches was also the distortion of a real fact, as I shall explain momentarily.

The morgue registry (*Leichenhallenbuch*), instituted on October 7, 1941, was the registry of the morgue of Block 28, which in practice was the antechamber to the crematorium. 2,915 deaths were entered in it by December 31, 1941.

The *Totenbuch*, the registry of deaths of Soviet prisoners of war, was also instituted on October 7, 1941, and was kept until February 28, 1942. The number of deaths recorded in it added up to a total of 8,320. The *Sterbebücher*, which list the deaths of inmates and detainees other than Soviet POWs, show approximately 13,400 deaths for the first half-year of 1942, to which must be added 800 deaths of Soviet POWs registered between March 1 and June 30, 1942 in the *Stärkebuch*, the occupancy registry for the men’s camp, which was started on January 19, 1942. In total, therefore, 25,400 people died at Auschwitz between October 7, 1941 and June 30, 1942.³⁹²

From the coke supplies to the crematorium between January 29 and June 30, 1942 – approximately 200 tons (see Mattogno 2015, Table I, pp. 121-125) – we can deduce the number of bodies cremated. If assuming an average coke consumption per cremated body equal to that of the identical Topf double-muffle furnace at the Gusen Camp – ca. 37 kg of coke at a rate of 26 cremations per day (*ibid.*, pp. 30-33) – the number of cremated bodies was approximately 5,400. For the months of October through December 1941, extrapolating from the data for February through June 1942 and considering that the crematorium was equipped with two double-muffle furnaces, we may assume

³⁹¹ Zyklon B was, as is well known, delivered in cans (*Dosen*), in Polish “puszki.”

³⁹² Statistical elaboration by Jan Sehn of the *Leichenhallenbuch* (AGK, NTN, 92, pp. 140f.), of the *Totenbuch* (*ibid.*, pp. 113-139), of the *Stärkebuch* (*ibid.*, pp. 1-117); my statistical analysis of data contained in Brandhuber 1961.

a minimum of 2,000 cremations. In practice, over the time period in question, there was an excess of approximately 18,000 bodies which could not be cremated and were therefore buried in mass graves at Birkenau. The reports which speak of mass graves, as explicitly asserted in the letter dated September 4, 1942 mentioned earlier, should be interpreted in this sense:

“The bodies of those who died at the camp were taken to the crematorium, which could, however, only cremate approximately 200 bodies in 24 hours, while the rest were taken to ‘Brzezinka’ and buried in suitably excavated graves.”

This is also the real meaning of the eyewitness testimony relating to the excavation of mass graves, such as that by Rosin (see Subchapter 3.2.9.). No documents have been conserved in this regard. On the aerial photographs of Birkenau taken in 1944, in particular those taken on May 31, it is nevertheless possible to identify an area north of Crematorium V which contains traces of four mass graves, two of which were approximately 100 meters long, while the other two were approximately 130 meters long, and approximately 10 meters wide (see Mattogno 2016f, p. 56; Doc. 29, p. 173). The dimensions were justified by the fact that the graves could not be very deep, since the water table was only 1.2 meters below the surface (*ibid.*, p. 39).

One of the few true statements made by Rudolf Höss is that made by him on April 15, 1946 at Nuremberg stating (*IMT*, Vol. XI, p. 420):

“when the crematoria had not yet been built we burned in large pits a large part of those who had died and who could not be cremated in the provisional crematoria of the camp; a large number – I do not recall the figure anymore – were placed in mass graves and later also cremated in these graves.”

At the Warsaw Trial he declared on March 11, 1947 (Mattogno 2020, p. 160):

“The first crematorium was not enough for the number of corpses in the camp, and for this reason all those who died at Birkenau were buried in mass graves.”

Former SS *Hauptscharführer* Otto Moll’s statement in his confrontation with Höss on April 16, 1946 that he was “used in work in connection with the excavation of the mass graves” (*ibid.*, p. 93) is a step in the same direction.

The more-recent historiographical updates by the Auschwitz Museum, particularly those by Piotr Setkiewicz, assert that the need to cremate exhumed bodies in the mass graves arose over the course of 1942 with the approach of the summer season, as the products of putrefaction from the bodies were starting to pollute the groundwater. The cremations are said to have begun as early as September 7 (Mattogno 2015, pp. 53-66). But the decomposition was said to be intensifying as early as the beginning of May, so that it is difficult to believe that the SS garrison physician would have waited at least three months before taking any steps to remedy the situation. If we consider, moreover, that the typhus epidemic at Birkenau got out of control in early June of 1942, SS

Hauptsturmführer Hans Aumeier's declaration is much more plausible; in his interrogation on July 25, 1945, Aumeier stated the following:³⁹³

"In the fall [recte: summer], typhus broke out in both camps, which was followed by an outbreak of paratyphoid fever in the spring of 1943. The mortality rate increased dramatically. Until that time, for as long as the camp had existed, all deceased inmates had been buried near Birkenau; only dead German and Polish inmates were cremated in a crematorium (with 2 furnaces),^[394] located in Camp Area I. As the camp commandant told me, an order from the Reichsarzt-SS [SS Surgeon General] came from Berlin that all buried inmates were to be exhumed and burned."³⁹⁵

On June 29, 1945, Aumeier stated that the bodies of the inmates who had died of disease "were exhumed and cremated between early summer of 1942 until the spring of 1943."³⁹⁶

The beginning of the exhumation and cremation of the bodies therefore probably began already towards the end of June ("early summer").

The gruesome work of exhuming and cremating these decomposing victims of the epidemic, with many inmates working on this every day for many months, must have kindled the fantasy of the Auschwitz inmates. It was precisely this "eternal flame" that inspired the resistance members: since there were thousands of bodies outside the camp that were being burnt, then there must have been a mass extermination, so then there must have been "gas chambers," naturally with "showers" and installations similar to those of the fumigation gas chambers inside *BW* 5a and 5b. Thus the circle was closed: the distortion of the clothes-disinfection facilities created the "gas chambers," the distortion of the exhumations and open-air cremations became "proof" of the reality of the "gas chambers."

The "eternal flame," initially constituted by the pyres or "cremation pits," transmogrified into the crematoria at Birkenau, and then again into pyres and "cremation ditches." The cremation of the bodies, due to the pressure of black propaganda, became the literary motif of persons burnt "alive" or "semi-conscious," which later became "children thrown directly into the fire."

In the summer of 1944, the minuscule cremation site in the northern courtyard of Crematorium V, estimated as measuring approximately 50 m² (see Mattogno 2016f, pp. 65-77), gave a new impetus to the fairy tale of the enormous cremation pyres or ditches, invariably described by the witnesses in the most contradictory manner with regards to numbers, dimensions, capacity and location (*ibid.*, pp. 17-28).

³⁹³ TNA, WO 208/4661. Report by H. Aumeier dated July 25, 1945, pp. 3f.

³⁹⁴ In the summer of 1942, Crematorium I had three double-muffle furnaces.

³⁹⁵ There follows a reference to a visit to Birkenau by "Bloml oder Plobel [*Blobel*]" who is supposed to have directly issued "instructions on the cremation of bodies in pyres and ditches," a fantastic story which Aumeier probably heard from the British investigators who interrogated him.

³⁹⁶ TNA, WO 208/4461, statement by H. Aumeier dated June 29, 1945, p. 4.

Having provided the above indispensable clarification, I shall now resume the thread of my exposition.

A long “Report supplementary to the first 933,”³⁹⁷ drawn up by a certain “Stanisław” on February 14, 1943 contains generic references to “poisonings in gas chambers” and tortures in the punishment “bunker” (*bunkrach*), as well as a mention of the arrival of “Jews and French people.” Above all, it expresses recriminations and disappointment about the fact that the sufferings of the Poles at the camp were of no interest to anyone. At the end, there is a list of 22 names of Poles who were condemned to death by the police court martial of Kattowitz on January 25, 1943 and who were “poisoned in the gas chambers” (“w komorach gazowych”; *Obóz...*, pp. 81-85).

These condemned men are well-known to have been shot. Danuta Czech asserts with specific reference to this report that on that same date 22 members of the Armia Krajowa were taken from Myslowitz prison to Auschwitz and “shot”; she explains that “the shooting probably occurs in the gas chamber of Crematorium I, since according to a report from the information service of the Silesia District of the AK, the executed were poisoned in the gas chambers” (Czech 1990, p. 313, fn). It is true that another report, which I shall cite later, mentions a gas chamber in the singular, but even this one explicitly speaks of poisoning, not shooting.

Danuta Czech therefore interprets a presumed *poisoning* in the gas chambers as a *shooting* in the gas chamber!

“Report no. 2/43 on the situation in the western territories (1.1.-15.2.1943)” makes no reference to gas chambers or gassings, but takes up the story of the Poles sentenced to death (*Obóz...*, p. 87):

“On January 25, at 11:30 h, 45 inmates (including 6 women) were taken to Auschwitz Camp from Myslowic political prison, and by 16:30 their bodies had already been burned in the crematorium.”

Here, the only confirmation of the presumed execution (not attested to by any document) regards the date; the number of presumed victims is 45 (instead of 22) and the type of killing is not indicated.

A “dispatch” dated February 19, 1943 provides information on the transports from the General Government and reports (*ibid.*):

“At Auschwitz, at the present time [obecnie], there are six large cremation furnaces [sześć wielkich piecy krematoryjnych].”

But at that time, apart from the old crematorium in the Main Camp, there was only Crematorium II, which officially entered into operation on February 20, 1943.³⁹⁸

³⁹⁷ A note from the editors of the book (see next footnote) explains that “933” means 1943; one must therefore understand “Supplementary report to the first [*I-szy = pierwszy*] report of 1943.”

³⁹⁸ RGVA, 502-1-26, p. 61.

This information was repeated in another message, drawn up on February 22 by Jan Piekalkiewicz and Stefan Rowecki (*Obóz...*, p. 88):

“There are six large cremation furnaces at Auschwitz at the present time. A few dozen Poles sentenced to death by the Extraordinary Tribunal of Kattowitz for pro-independence activities were poisoned in the gas chamber [w komorze gazowej] and burned in the crematorium.”

The “Memorandum on the Situation of the General Government over the Period 24.1.-24.2.1943” repeated the story of the 640,000 persons who died or had been killed by December 15, 1942, including 66,000 Poles. There allegedly were 52,000 gassed Jews (522,000 in the preceding report), 20,000 of whom were from Poland, while the rest were from France, Holland, Belgium, Yugoslavia and other countries (*ibid.*, p. 89).

Much of the above-mentioned contents, with slight differences, appears in a report from “Sobol” (Stanisław Jankowski) and “Kalina” (Stefan Rowecki) transmitted by “Wanda” to London on March 4, 1943.³⁹⁹

“Annex no. 48 for the Period February 16-28, 1943” repeats the usual mortality and killing statistics and mentions a total of 642,100 victims (*Obóz...*, pp. 89f.).

A report signed by “Tadeusz” dating back to February 1943 reports:

“Between February 7 and 14, the camp population was decimated – the sick were taken for so-called ‘delousing’ (gassing) [do zagazowania], every day, six truckloads of people were sent to be gassed. Every day, new transports [arrive] continually from all over Europe. – Sometimes, they carry only dead or dying people, who are immediately gassed and burnt. At the present time, the transports are arriving mainly from Yugoslavia. During the week of February 7 to 14, the average mortality rate has been 500-600 persons [daily]. The transports usually arrive during the night, so that nobody knows what is going on – the total manpower currently exceeds 120,000. Approximately 500,000 registered and unregistered inmates have died since the beginning, mostly Jews, the elderly, women and infants.” (*ibid.*, p. 91)

The *Auschwitz Chronicle* has no entry about this presumed “decimation,” and even the consequent mortality of 500-600 inmates a day is highly dubious. In February 1943, not one single transport arrived from Yugoslavia, and the manpower figure of 120,000 inmates is very much exaggerated: on February 28, 1943, there were 28,732 male and 10,031 female inmates at the camp,⁴⁰⁰ for a total of 38,763.

These figures were in part repeated in the “Report on the Situation in the Eastern territories no. 4”: decimation in the gas chamber between February 7

³⁹⁹ SPP, 3.16.

⁴⁰⁰ AGK, NTN, 134. Statistical study by Jan Sehn from the monthly series, “Übersicht über den Häftlingseinsatz,” pp. 280, 283.

and 14, arrival of transports from Yugoslavia, a mortality rate of 500 deaths a day (*Obóz...*, p. 92).

The No. 9 issue of *Informacja Bieżąca* dated March 4, 1943 carried the “secret message from an inmate whose name and identity are known,” with an appeal to the British (*ibid.*, p. 93):

“The new crematorium [nowe krematorium] is in operation, [with] 3,000 [victims] per day (the figure is indistinctly written: it may be 4,000 or 5,000)^[401] – most of them Jews, although there are also Polish transports... and it is feared that no one will get out here alive. To be published in London – with a request for immediate reprisals against these territories.”

As I have mentioned above, Crematorium II officially entered into operation on February 20, 1943, and was officially consigned by the Central Construction Office to the camp administration on March 31, 1943. The Auschwitz Museum’s *Auschwitz Chronicle* claims that the first gassing of Jews was carried out in that building on March 13, allegedly resulting in 1,492 victims (Czech 1990, p. 352). Hence, if this “secret message” was truthful, it follows that the presumed extermination of the Jews in Crematorium II was already being carried out for nine days before it actually began! The mendacious nature of this message is obvious, but it nonetheless contributed to the creation of the story of exterminations inside the crematorium. This false information was borrowed and repeated in other reports.

The “Review of the most important events in the Country over the period from February 26 – March 5, 1943 no. 9/43” reported as follows:

“The huge new crematorium, which had recently been put into operation, burned approximately 3,000 persons [sic] per day. At the present time, the overwhelming majority of cremated persons are Jews. Desperation is widespread among the inmates.” (*Obóz...*, p. 94)

And an encrypted message of March 23, 1943 stated:⁴⁰²

“At Auschwitz sterilization experiments on women, new crematorium for 3,000 persons [sic] per day, mostly Jews.”

Breitman cites it from an indirect source, with this delusional comment:

“This report (sic!) was very close to what postwar reconstruction would establish as the actual situation at the time. Crematorium IV had begun to operate on March 22 – one day earlier – and crematorium V started up about two weeks later. Together they had the capacity to deal with three thousand bodies per day.” (Breitman 1998, pp. 116f.)

Apart from the fact that these claims were already in circulation on March 4, 1943, prior to the beginning of the presumed extermination of Jews in Crematorium II – a fact unknown to Breitman but which at nevertheless invalidates

⁴⁰¹ The correct figure is 3,000, as deduced from subsequent reports.

⁴⁰² APMO, Au-D-RO/192, Vol. XXX, p. 12.

his explanation – if Crematorium IV “had begun to operate on March 22,” which is incorrect,⁴⁰³ how is it possible that the author of the message knew the cremation capacity already the day after the first cremations? The capacity indicated by Breitman, 1,500 bodies per day per crematorium, is refuted even by the letter from the Central Construction Office dated June 28, 1943, where Crematoria IV and V are credited with a capacity of 768 bodies daily each.⁴⁰⁴ But even if the madcap capacity of 1,500 bodies per day per crematorium were true, how could the capacity of 3,000 bodies per day be mentioned in the message – in relation to just one single crematorium: Crematorium IV – if Crematorium V was handed over to the camp administration only on April 4? (Czech 1990, p. 368)?

According to Breitman’s logic, Crematorium IV alone could cremate 1,500 bodies per day, therefore, the figure alleged in the message for “[t]he new crematorium” (singular!) does not at all correspond “to what postwar reconstruction would establish as the actual situation at the time.”

But even the capacity of 768 bodies per day mentioned in the letter of June 28, 1943 is thermotechnically absurd, since the theoretical figure for 24 hours of continual operation was 192 bodies, while the actual figure realized was 160 for 24 hours’ continual operation (Mattogno/Deana 2015, pp. 312-346, esp. p. 337).

A report dated March 7, 1943 dwells at length on the various types of assistance rendered by the population to the inmates at Auschwitz, and in this context repeats that the camp’s occupancy was 120,000 inmates (*Obóz...*, p. 94).

Issue No. 12 of *Informacja Bieżąca* of March 26, 1943 outlines a concise set of statistics on the living and dead: there were approximately 33,000 [living] inmates and 57,000 dead ones:

“Mortality exceeds 10,000 persons per month, 130 [sic] persons per day on average. The transports to the gas [transporty na gaz], particularly, Jews, over 500,000, are not registered.” (ibid., p. 97)

The “Review of the Most Important Events in the Country over the Period March 28 to April 2 1943” repeated the same information with a few variations, while also revealing the source:

“Please find attached the data gathered from a series of secret messages from inmates of the camp and verbal reports of a few people who had been released. The figures indicated by them comprise the period from the founding of the camp until January 1 of this year.”

⁴⁰³ On that date, Crematorium IV was handed over by the Central Construction Office to the Auschwitz headquarters, as shown by the related “*Übergabeverhandlung*.” RGVA, 502-2-54, p. 25. According to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, the crematorium entered into service on March 23, the same date as that of the message! Czech 1990, p. 358.

⁴⁰⁴ RGVA, 502-1-314, p. 14a.

This is followed by the same figures: manpower 33,000 inmates, 57,000 killed, average mortality 130 per day. It is then stated (*ibid.*, p. 100):

“The above data do not comprise the transports sent to the gas chambers, which are numbered separately [osobną numerację]. Here, the numbering already exceeds 500,000 persons, mainly Jews.”

Therefore, even inmates presumed gassed were registered and numbered!

Breitman cites a report written on April 18, 1943 by a Polish underground courier who was interned at Auschwitz for a few weeks until September 1942. In this regard, he recalled (Breitman 1998, p. 117):⁴⁰⁵

“Based on the certain information I obtained on the spot, I can assert that the Germans used the following killing systems:

a/ gas chambers. The victims have to strip naked, then they are jammed into the chambers and poisoned; b/ electric chambers: These chambers had metal walls; the victims were led in, and they were exposed to high voltage; c/ the system of the so-called Hammerluft [German in original]: This is an air hammer. There were special chambers where the hammer drops down from the ceiling, and where the victims were killed by the air pressure by means of a special device. d/ shootings: This is mainly used as a form of collective punishment in cases of disobedience, with one in ten being shot.”

The report elaborated on the fantasies of the “electrical chambers” and the “electric bath” already set forth in Issue No. 39 of *Informacja Bieżąca*, including the fabrication of the “*Hammerluft*.” The author of the report also dished up a few additional fantasies of his own:

“The Gestapo men, with gas masks donned, stood in a place higher than the gas chambers, cynically reveling in the mass killing of the victims.”

This means that they were inside the gas chamber during the gassings!

“The Germans loaded the bodies [on vehicles] and took them away; outside of Auschwitz, they excavated graves and pits with the aid of gigantic excavators and sprinkled lime on the bodies.”

This description, enriched with gigantic excavators, is actually a simulacrum of the reality of mass graves, but in the sense which I have explained earlier.

“Cremation of the victims by means of electric furnaces is practiced less often because only 250 bodies could be burned in these furnaces within 24 hours.” (*ibid.*, p. 118)

The “electric ovens” were just as real as the “electrical chambers,” and the cremation capacity of 250 bodies per day (200 in the preceding reports) referred to the three Topf double-muffle cremation furnaces at the Main Camp. This latter information highlights Breitman’s total lack of critical sense: if six

⁴⁰⁵ Here quoted from the original document: YVA, M-2/261.

muffles could cremate 250 bodies per day, how is it possible for eight such muffles (those of Crematorium IV and V) to cremate 1,500 per day?

The report, as mentioned earlier, dates back to April 18, 1943, but already on April 14, *Pravda* had published the following “news”:

“In London, the communiqué was received that the Hitlerites had begun the ‘liquidation’ of the Jewish ghetto in Krakow. Over the course of three days, Gestapo agents killed over a thousand Jews in Krakow, and sent the rest to Auschwitz Concentration Camp, where they kill them with gases [gazov, plural] and electricity [eljektričeskogo toka]” (“Zverstva ghitlerovskikh...”)

Another report of April 1943, written by a member of the Auschwitz clandestine resistance movement under the pseudonym “Tadeusz,” reads (*Obóz...*, pp. 100f.):

“At Auschwitz Camp, there is a shortage of gas to poison the inmates, to save gas, the people are only been semi-poisoned [pólzatrute], and are later burned. The walls in the crematorium [furnaces] are blood-stained – because the persons stunned by the gas regain consciousness in the furnace – they scratch the concrete [beton] with their fingernails to defend themselves before dying. The same thing also occurs during the open-air cremations, where the poisoned victims remain conscious for a little while in the cremation pits. Legends are going around concerning these burning pits – they are known as the ‘Eternal Flame’ [‘Wieczne ognie’] because they burn day and night.”

Apart from the fact that the interior brickwork in the furnaces were of refractory brick, not concrete, since the furnace’s temperature at introduction of the bodies was 800°C, it is absurd that to imagine that persons placed inside such a glowing furnace could have “scratched” the walls of the muffles, let alone that any traces of blood could have survived 800°C. This is just another fairy tale, older than the later one of victims burned alive without even being “semi-poisoned” beforehand. Calling the stories about the burning pits “legends” is an obvious Freudian slip.

Although Crematoria II, IV and V were in operation in April 1943, the report speaks of the “crematorium,” singular.

The “Tadeusz” report also conveys another piece of “information” (*ibid.*, p. 100):

“80 persons were arrested on April 14 at Chelmek, Libiąż and in the immediate vicinity of Auschwitz. They were immediately taken to the crematorium and burned without delay.”

The news item, which is completely invented, was taken up by a “dispatch” dated May 14 and further elaborated upon (*ibid.*, p. 104):

“Approximately 80 persons were arrested on April 14 of this year, at Chelmek, Libiąż and in the immediate vicinity of Auschwitz. They were immediately sent to Auschwitz, where they were sent to the crematorium [do crematorium]

without delay and burned, after being poisoned with gases [po zatruciu gazami].”

Here as well, the singular term “crematorium” is used rather than the plural for Crematoria II, IV and V, and the word “gases” is in plural (Zyklon B itself was never mentioned before the end of May 1944).

On June 9, 1943, Issue No. 22 of *Informacja Bieżąca* misreported the number of active crematoria as follows (*ibid.*, p. 105):

“Two recently built crematoria were handed over for operation during the month of April. At least two were needed, because until that time, Jews were burned on pyres [na stosach], arranging the bodies in layers and sprinkling them with flammable substances. The stench of the burning could be smelled for several kilometers.”

Resistance members’ knowledge of the crematoria therefore left much to be desired.

“Annex no. 54 for the Period June 1 – 15, 1943” reports that 500 persons arrested at Zagłębie Dąbrowskie in early March were taken to Auschwitz at the beginning of March and killed “in the gas chamber” (*w komorze gazowej*). This was a literary embellishment of a story which had already appeared in a report by “Tadeusz” in February 1943, which stated that mass arrests had been made in Silesia between February 9 and 12, 1943, as a result of which 3,000 persons were sent to Auschwitz. Taking her inspiration from these and other sources, Czech wrote that the arrestees, 800 for her, were sent to Auschwitz on February 12, where some of them were shot, while others were properly registered on April 12 (Czech 1961, p. 73). Under this date, the “Kalendarium” reports the registration of 182 of these presumed arrestees (numbers 114635-114816; *ibid.*, p. 90), but the list of transports explicitly states that these numbers were assigned to inmates from a transport from Kattowitz.⁴⁰⁶ The arrival of these persons at Auschwitz is not attested to by any document, and the killing of some of them “in the gas chamber” is a fabrication, even for D. Czech.

The “Annex” discussed states that “76,721 persons were killed or died, while 1,117 were released from the camp between June 1940 and March 1943” (*Obóz...*, p. 105). However, as we have seen earlier, for the resistance members, 94,139 persons had been killed or had died by July 1, 1942. As for the 1,117 inmates who had been released, such a course of action seems highly dubious as a method intended to preserve the “terrible secret” of Auschwitz, since every one of these could have – and should have – revealed it to the outside world!

Finally, the same statements relating to the two crematoria are dished up in almost the same words (*ibid.*, p. 106):

⁴⁰⁶ NOKW-2824, p. 31 (*Männerlager*).

“Over the course of April, 2 new crematoria were consigned. Until that time, the Jews had been burned on pyres [na stosach], arranging the bodies in layers and sprinkling them with flammable materials – this produced a stench which could be smelled for kilometers around.”

The report speaks of burning Jews on pyres, but without the slightest mention of where and how the Jews were killed.

The “Memorandum on the Situation of the Country, the General Government and the Eastern Territories over the period between April 24 –May 21, 1943 no. 20” dated May 22, 1943 reports (Gmitruk, p. 368):

“Large transports of Jews from the west continue to arrive constantly, and more recently from the Netherlands above all; these Jews are poisoned in gas chambers soon after their arrival at the camp.”

Another report summarized by Breitman, dated May 18, 1943, is worthy of mention, not so much for any value of its own, but for the U.S. historian’s comments (Breitman 1998, pp. 118f.):

“In May 1943, the Polish embassy in London gave the British Foreign Office another firsthand (largely accurate) account of the killing process at Treblinka, which the author thought was the center for the extermination of Europe’s Jews. Nonetheless, the report mentioned other such killing centers, and Auschwitz (Oswiecim) was listed.”

Here, Breitman resorts to a nefarious omission, because compared to what the orthodoxy currently claims for Treblinka – gassing with engine-exhaust gases – the killing process claimed for that camp by that report was anything else but “largely accurate”.⁴⁰⁷

“When the chambers are filled, the doors are shut hermetically and slow asphyxiation by means of steam let into the chamber by a number of pipes begins. At first, muffled cries of the victims can be heard for a time, but after 15 minutes the execution is completed.”

Thus, the killing was performed by means of water vapor! This fantasy had already been elaborated in the report from the Polish resistance dated November 15, 1942, transmitted to the Polish government in exile at London on January 6, 1943, of which this was simply a readaptation. This mentioned a “house of death, no. 2” (“*dom śmierci Nr. 2*”) which was a masonry structure 40 meters long and 15 meters wide. According to the report of an eyewitness testimony (*wg relacji naocznego świadka*), it contained ten chambers, arranged on both sides of a corridor running the entire length of the building. Inside the chambers, tubes had been installed through which the water vapor passed (*para wodna*). The “house of death no. 1” (*dom śmierci Nr. 1*) consisted of three chambers and one boiler room (“*Likwidacja żydowskiej...*,” p. 95):

⁴⁰⁷ “Extermination of the Jews in Poland.” TNA, FO 371-34550, p. 6 of the report.

“Inside the boiler room – the report continues – is a large boiler for the production of aqueous vapor, and, through tubes running through the death chambers and which are equipped with an appropriate number of holes, the overheated vapor is discharged into the interior of the chambers.”

The victims were locked up in the above described chambers and killed with steam!

“In this way, the execution chambers were completely filled, then the doors were hermetically sealed and the long asphyxiation of the victims began by means of aqueous vapor discharged through the numerous holes in the tubes. Initially, strangled screams could be heard; these screams dissipated slowly and after 15 minutes the execution was over.” (ibid., p. 99)

And this, for Breitman, is a “first-hand (largely accurate) account of the killing process at Treblinka”!

In the report of May 18, 1943, Auschwitz (Oświęcim) is hardly even mentioned.⁴⁰⁸

“It should be noted that conditions similar to those existing in Treblinka prevail in other concentration camps established by the Germans in Poland, both for Poles and Jews, – to name only the most notorious, such as Oświęcim, Sobibór and Majdanek.”

It therefore makes no sense to cite this report as “confirmation” of the existence of gas chambers at Auschwitz.

An anonymous report titled “Death Camp at Oswiecim” reports about the presumed events at the camp in the spring of 1943. It speaks of gassings at both Auschwitz and Birkenau.⁴⁰⁹

“Strafkompanie S.K. [penal unit S.K....] On the turn of 1941/42 over 1,000 Soviet POWs and a large number of ailing men from the hospital /Krankenbau/ were gassed in the S.K. Bunker and their bodies covertly carted away by night, probably to the crematorium. According to informant this was the only occasion on which the Bunker was used for gassing.

Gas Chambers. These were called ‘Brzezinka’ and were situated some 500 yards on the other side of Birkenau.

Autumn 1941 –. The first transport went to the gas chambers consisting of weak and ailing men. This was just a trial. From 1942 onwards, transports of 500 or 600 men went to the gas chambers, both from Oświęcim and from Birkenau regularly once per week and sometimes twice per week. The victims were usually taken from the Krankenbau or Schonungsblock where they were kept in isolation since they were too weak to work.

Besides the regular inmates of Oświęcim, huge transports of Poles, Czechs and even Germans but mainly Jews, arrived from the outside world and went direct to the gas chamber.

⁴⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 7 of the report.

⁴⁰⁹ “Death Camp at Oswiecim.” FDRL, WRB, Box no. 61, Report 3.

Informant remembers the arrival of transports of old men, women and children, these being Poles unfit for heavy labour who had been expropriated and intended for Deportation, mainly from the Lubelskie district.

It was apparently estimated in the spring of 1943 that the total number of victims who met their death in the gas chambers amounted to 800,000.

Oświęcim crematorium.

This is on the site of the powder magazine of the old Polish military camp. The chimney was constructed in December 1940/ January 194[1], being visible from the camp as it rises to a height of 15 - 20 meters. The crematorium is underground and just outside the camp to the left of the entrance.

In the autumn of 1941 informant recollects witnessing the arrival of two transports of Soviet POWs amounting to about 1,00[0] men who were marched naked from the trucks halted outside the camp, direct to the crematorium where they were gassed.

In 1942/43 a number of Jews who had been quartered at Birkenau whilst working in the Sonderkommande [sic] manning the Brzezinka gas chambers, were brought to the Oświęcim crematorium and there gassed."

Attached to the report is a "Topographical Sketch of the Concentration Camp Oświęcim /Auschwitz/ /Drawn according to the description of a former prisoner of the camp/" (see Documents 8, 8a), which was transmitted by the Jewish Agency for Palestine to the Foreign Office on August 18, 1944. This shows the complete Auschwitz Camp, in addition to the Birkenau Camp, in which, however, only Sector BI is visible (Sector BIa is called simply "A," while Sector BIb is called "B"). All the rest of the camp, Sectors BII and BIII, is subdivided into two columns of five empty rectangular sections each, separated by roads; in the pair of these sections closest to Sector BI, the word "Rajsko" appears. None of the crematoria are shown; west of Sectors A-B is a wooded area labeled "D" which is explained as "gas chambers in a wood west of Brzezinki/Birkenau/." Beyond the north-west corner of the camp is another wooded area drawn in, labeled "C" with this caption: "crematorium, in a woods probably west of the barracks."⁴¹⁰

Area "D" should correspond to "Bunker 2," but the "former prisoner of the camp," like all his companions, attributed this term exclusively to the Auschwitz camp prison: "Block N.12: lodgings and arrest /bunkers/." The "bunker" in which 1,000 Soviet prisoners of war were supposedly gassed is in fact the basement of Block 11 in the Main Camp. It should also be noted that the unknown witness placed a crematorium in the area where "Bunker 1" should have been located: based on rather distorted second- or third-hand information, this crematorium could only refer to Crematoria IV and V, which were under construction in that area in the second half of 1942 and early 1943.

⁴¹⁰ TNA, FO 371-42806. See Document 8b. This diagram, unlike Document 8, is accompanied by a sheet of "Explanations" relating mainly to the Auschwitz Camp (Points 1-30 and Block 1-28) with only a few entries about Birkenau (letters A, B, C, D).

The text in no way explains the sketch of Birkenau, of which the author of the report possessed only very approximate knowledge, so much so that he asserts that the “gas chambers” [...] were called “Brzezinka”! These gas chambers, in the plural, were presumably already in operation in 1941, and 500-600 camp inmates were allegedly gassed there once or twice a week, starting in 1942. Not content with such lunacy, the author adds that “huge transports of Poles, Czechs and even Germans”[!] were destroyed in the chambers. 800,000 people are said to have been exterminated by the spring of 1943, but the author of the report, apart from his familiarity with the term “gas chambers,” actually knew nothing about them, least of all that they were supposed to have been two farmhouses or “bunkers.”

The fable of the killing of inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” in the Auschwitz crematorium in 1942-1943 was subsequently taken up and embroidered by other “witnesses.” One of them is Witold Pilecki. In 1940, Pilecki, a lieutenant in the Polish army reserve, was inspector of the *Tajna Armia Polska*, the Polish Clandestine Army. In the summer of that year, if we believe him, he presented himself to his superior and informed him that he was prepared to enter the recently established Auschwitz Camp in order to organize a resistance group there. On September 19, he was arrested in Warsaw during a German round-up, and on the night of September 21-22, 1940 he was interned at Auschwitz under the name of Tadeusz Serafiński, and registered as inmate number 4859. Pilecki formed an early resistance group there called Union of the Military Organization (*Związek Organizacji Wojskowej*), which later merged with the Union of Armed Struggle (*Związek Walki Zbrojnie*) into a political committee chaired by Roman Rybarski. This committee directed and coordinated the operations of all resistance groups at Auschwitz (Świeboccki 2000, pp. 65-67, 80f.).

After his escape from the camp, which he says took place on April 27, 1943, he drafted the so-called “Report W” the following autumn. I translate the parts relating to the alleged extermination (Pawłowicz, p. 92):

“The following is to commemorate the facts and names of the Auschwitz inmates working there in the Military Organization – after the successful arbitrary abandonment of [escape from] the camp on the night of April 26-27, 1943, and after 31 months of incarceration there, where from the beginning [of the camp’s existence] until March 1943, 11,200 inmates were shot, about 34,000 were gassed, about 41,000 inmates died – killed on the spot, from disease and other conditions – about 6,000 were transferred to other camps (as of March 1943), 1,115 prisoners were transferred and released. In March 1943, there were approximately 29,000 [inmates] alive in the camp; the current number exceeding 121,000. The above figures refer to the ‘Häftlinge’ [Häftlingów, inmates] – normally registered after internment and identified with a consecutive inmate number. [They] on the other hand do not include the huge amount of people deported there to immediately deprive them of their

lives, which happened at a distance of a couple of kilometers from the camp – in Brzezinka – near a branch [satellite] in Oświęcim – at the Rajsko Camp, where entire transports of people were gassed, brought there by trains and trucks – sometimes a couple of thousand a day, whose number calculated in round figures in August 1942 exceeded 800,000 people, and in March 1943 amounted to over a million and a half [ponad półtora miliona ludzi]. Jews were prevalent, but there were also Czechs, Germans and others. But it grieved us in a particular way when, in the enormous heaps of clothes and objects belonging to the gassed, we found, between shoes and prams, rosaries and prayer books in Polish. In this monstrous massacre, among other things, the population of some towns in the Lublin region perished. In addition, at the same time, 11,400 prisoners of war – Bolsheviks – were killed in various ways in our camp and its branches.”

Pilecki therefore claimed that among the registered inmates there had been:

- 11,200 shot, which is pure fantasy,
- 34,000 gassed, which is false even from the orthodox perspective,
- 41,000 deaths (“natural” mortality), which is much lower than the actual figure,⁴¹¹
- 11,400 murdered POWs, which is untrue.

Adding these four numbers results in 97,600, and adding the other two (6,000 and 1,115), we arrive at approximately 104,715. If the number of surviving inmates amounted to 29,000, the total sum (133,715) far exceeds that of the “current” number of inmates claimed (121,000). In fact, on March 31, 1943, the registration number 112,107 was assigned,⁴¹² so that even the claimed “current” number of 121,000 is incorrect. Moreover, Pilecki’s statistics completely ignore female prisoners.

The claimed gassing of 800,000 unregistered deportees upon arrival until August 1942 is pure folly, as is the figure of 1,500,000 gassed until March 1943.

Then Pilecki reports on the typhus epidemic of the summer of 1942 (Pawłowicz, pp. 95f.):

“In August 1942, during the typhus epidemic, the authorities, under the pretext of ‘delousing,’ gassed many inmates, even those who had already recovered but were still in the typhus block (20) for convalescence. They went into the gas [do gazu] in full awareness that they owed their deaths to the fact that they were still at the typhus block on the very day of the gassing. The block was closed and all, with the exception of the doctors and nurses, were taken by trucks into the gas [do gazu]. There, Captain Dr. Władysław Dering managed to save over 20 Poles by disguising them as nurses. I fell ill with typhus six

⁴¹¹ From July 1941 to March 1943, over 79,000 registered inmates died, including Soviet POWs.

⁴¹² Transport lists, NOKW-2824, p. 9 (*Männerlager*), p. 18.

weeks after this mass gassing, and luckily I got over this disease. Almost all the 'old numbers' had to suffer through the disease."

This claimed mass gassing is another figment of resistance propaganda, as I documented in Chapter 1.3. of the present study, where I exposed the real measures taken by the German authorities to eradicate the epidemic.

Later, Pilecki returns to the theme of the alleged extermination (Pawłowicz, p. 96):

"As in Katyn, at first the bodies of the killed (gassed) were buried in large pits in Brzezinka, a task assigned a special 'Kommando' [specjalne 'Komando'] exclusively composed of Jews who remained alive for just two weeks, and then they were gassed. Later it turned out that this system was not good, because the water around it began to smell, well... traces remained. Corpses were dug up and burned on pyres [na stosach]. At the beginning, this was done by hand, but then cranes were used [dźwigi]. One could not speak of cremation in the crematorium [w krematorium], because the crematoria [krematoria] could not handle it. The gassing of healthy people made a greater impression only the first time. A couple of months after the start of the war with the Bolsheviks, the camp authorities received several hundred of the first prisoners, of which seven hundred, in the presence of a certain commission, were forced into one cell in Block 11 [do jednej celi w bloku 11] (the gas chambers were not yet ready for use [komory gazowe nie były jeszcze gotowe do użytku]). They were crammed in such a way that there was no [more] room, [every crack of] the whole room [całą sale] was sealed, and they were gassed in the presence of the procession [the aforementioned commission] equipped with gas masks [w maskach gazowych]. Those who could enter there after airing the room said that they had brought back Dante impressions. Judging by the uniforms worn by those gassed, they must have been from the entire Bolshevik hierarchy of various units. Apparently this was a gas test."

One of Pilecki's main tasks was to gather information about Auschwitz and transmit it outside the camp, a task facilitated by his position in the camp's resistance movement, but even here he only reported simple propaganda nonsense: although he had remained in Auschwitz until the end of April 1943, he knew nothing of the orthodox narrative that was subsequently imposed: nothing of the alleged gassings in the Main Camp's crematorium; nothing about the "gas chambers" (how many there were, their design, with what substance they operated, or where exactly they they were located – in this regard he limited himself to saying that they were "at the Rajsko Camp"!); nothing about any of the three crematoria that had come into operation in Birkenau by that time (Crematoria II, IV and V); he speaks of "crematorium" and "crematoria," as if there was no difference.

Pilecki had evidently heard the story of the mass graves of Birkenau and the special unit that was attached to it, with the lie that they lived only for two weeks before being summarily killed, but he was completely unaware of the

presence of the two presumed gassing “bunkers”; he was aware of the cremation of corpses (“on pyres,” not in cremation pits), but he did not know when it began and how long it lasted, nor approximately how many corpses had been exhumed and cremated. Here he invents a device not found anywhere else: the “cranes.” The “gassing of healthy people,” therefore fit for work, is unreasonable and in open contrast to the canons of orthodox Holocaust historiography.

Pilecki finally reworked the story of the “first gassing,” turning it into an even-more-imaginative version. The “commission” he mentioned was the one presided over by Rudolf Mildner, head of the Gestapo of Kattowitz, who in November 1941 went to Auschwitz and examined Soviet POWs, classifying them into three categories, of which only 300 were considered fanatical communists and doomed to death, 700 were deemed politically compromised, 8,000 politically nonsuspect and 30 “fit for reconstruction” (Mattogno 2016e, pp. 114-119). On November 15, Himmler ordered that the condemned, if they were physically robust, could avoid execution and be sent to work in a stone quarry, and two days later the head of the Political Department of Auschwitz prepared the first list of exempted prisoners (*ibid.*, pp. 123f., 145f.). The actual number of executed Soviet POWs, for which no documents exist, were therefore less than 300. The execution did not take place before mid-November 1941 (so the date of the “first gassing” at the beginning of September 1941 is anachronistic), and finally there is no evidence that the execution was carried out by gassing.

According to Pilecki, the alleged gassing took place in one cell of the basement of Block 11, which is blatant nonsense, because the largest cell in that basement, No. 22, had an area of merely 12.3 square meters (132 sq ft, *ibid.*, p. 33), so the SS would have crammed 57 people onto each square meter! Despite this, the commission is said to have witnessed the gassing with gas masks, evidently inside the cell! By asserting that “the gas chambers were not yet ready for use,” Pilecki suggests that “gas chambers” already were under construction at the time, which is another nonsense, and perhaps this “gas test” was needed precisely to make them ready for use. Pilecki’s report therefore unequivocally confirms that the camp’s resistance groups were true breeding grounds for propaganda lies.

The “Memorandum on the Situation in the Country, General Government and Eastern Territories over the period May 22 – June 19, 1943” reports laconically:

“*The crematorium is working full steam [Krematorium pracuje pełną parą].*”

A “Description of Auschwitz Concentration Camp” dated “Auschwitz, July 10, 1943” (“*Oświęcim 10 VII 1943 r.*”) dwells upon the Jews in detail.⁴¹³

⁴¹³ APMO, Au D-RO/192, Vol. XXX, p. 53.

“468,000 unregistered Jews had been gassed at Auschwitz by September 1942. Approximately 60,000 Jews arrived from Greece (Salonica, Athens), Slovakia and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia between September 1942 and the beginning of June 1943, in addition to 50,000 from the Netherlands, Belgium and France and approximately 60,000 from Chrzanów, 6,000 from Kęty, Żywiec, Sucha, Ślemień and 5,000 from the surrounding region. Only 2% of these persons are still alive today. 98% of these [were sent] to the gas [do gazu], most of them young people in good health who were burned to death while still half-alive. Every transport that arrives at Auschwitz is unloaded, after which the men are separated from the women and then, en masse, after which 98% of them (particularly the women and children) are loaded onto trucks without selection and taken to the gas chamber at Birkenau [do komory gazowej w Brzezince]; after horrible torments (asphyxia) lasting 10-15 minutes, the bodies are thrown through holes [przez otwór] and burnt on a pyre [na stosie]. It should be noted that, before entering the gas chamber, they were compelled to take a shower [kąpiel]. Due to the shortage of toxic gas [gazów trujących], they also burned people who were half-alive. Three large crematoria with a capacity of 10,000 bodies per day have now been built at Birkenau,^[414] which burn bodies continually and are called the ‘Eternal Flame’ by the local population [wieczym ogniem]. The remaining 2% of the transport is divided up between the women’s camp at Birkenau, and the Auschwitz men’s camp at Birkenau.”

The data relating to the Jews deported over the period indicated are all erroneous. Approximately 46,700 Jews were deported from Greece, approximately 10,700 from Slovakia and the Protectorate, and over 67,000 from Belgium, the Netherlands and France. A total number of 246,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz (as against 181,000 in the report), but approximately 49,700 of them, or 20% of the total, were registered, ten times as many as this report claims; the fictitious 2% of registered Jews corresponds to approximately 3,600 persons, so that there would have been approximately 177,400 presumed gassing victims.

The mention of persons burned while still half-alive forms part of the litany of imaginary atrocities. *The* gas chamber at Birkenau – singular – remains absolutely undescribed, but the fairy tale of how ingenuously it was camouflaged is explained: before being gassed, the victims had to take a real shower! We do not even understand how this could have occurred, but it is a rather strange fact that, although the Germans had three crematoria with a daily capacity of 10,000 bodies, they still burned the corpses “on a pyre,” after throwing them “through holes,” all of which is incompatible with the current orthodox narrative of both the crematoria and the “bunkers.”

⁴¹⁴ This fantasy was repeated in an article published in *Pravda* of March 24, 1944, p. 4, titled “*Germański ‘lager smerti’ v Polsce*” (“German ‘Death Camp’ in Poland”).

The cremation capacity claimed for the three crematoria is simply absurd and not even commensurate with the equally fictitious capacity of 3,000 bodies per day for one single crematorium, as claimed in the preceding messages.

Approximately 10,000 Gypsies had been taken to Birkenau, the report continues, “but they, too, were all gassed *en masse* a couple of days ago”; according to the Auschwitz Museum, no Gypsies were gassed between July 15 and August 8; to the contrary, 47 children were born in the associated camp in July (Parcer, Vol. 2, pp. 1555f.).

The description’s paragraph “Oświęcim” contains other fantastic claims:

“Transports en masse started arriving at Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Birkenau) on June 20, that is: 1 transport carrying 870 people from Nice (southern France), 1 transport carrying over 500 persons from Berlin, 1 transport carrying 900 persons from Salonica, 2 transports carrying 1,600 persons from Bendsburg, 1 transport from Sosnowitz and 1 transport from Lublin, carrying 391 persons. 80% of the persons traveling on these transports were Jews, while 20% were Gypsies from Greece and southern France. Perhaps 10% of these people remained alive, while the remaining 90% were immediately taken to the gas chamber [do komory gazowej] and gassed.”

The fact is that not one single transport from Nice arrived at Auschwitz between June 20 and July 16, 1943 (although there was one from Drancy on June 26), nor were there any transports from Berlin, Salonica, Sosnowitz or Lublin. Only 69 Gypsies were interned over this period (*ibid.*, p. 1555).

This is followed by information on the phantasmagorical gassings of Poles:⁴¹⁵

“Since that time [June 20], there have been a great many transports arriving with numerous Poles (women, children and the elderly). In the end, they were killed, or most of them, but by decapitation. The gassing of Poles was very widespread in the camp. Many inmates who had already been there for 3-4 years and who had suffered the most terrible privations, tolerating them for so long, were gassed although they were perfectly healthy, simply because they belonged to the intelligentsia. There are no rules for the gassings, people were gassed more or less at random, without selection.”

A “Radio dispatch for the BBC and the world”⁴¹⁶ dated July 15, 1943 provides very detailed information in this connection (*Obóz...*, p. 107.):

“The ghetto of Będzin was liquidated in the days between June 24 and 27. 2,500 Jews were taken to Auschwitz camp in a heavily guarded transport.”

But the first transport resulting from the dissolution of the Będzin Ghetto (in German: Bendsburg; English: Bendin) arrived at the camp only on August 1, 1943 (Czech 1990, p. 452).

⁴¹⁵ APMO, Au D-RO/192, Vol. XXX, p. 54.

⁴¹⁶ In the text, erroneously, “*świtu*,” while, instead “*światu*,” world.

This is followed by the fictitious figures relating to the number of deportees, registered inmates, and presumed gassing victims as already discussed earlier:

“468,000 Jews not included in the general registration were poisoned with gas [zatruto gazem] at Auschwitz Camp by the end of 1942. This is an officially verified figure. The average figure for deaths for Polish inmates fluctuated between 80 and 130 per day during the winter periods between the very creation of Auschwitz Camp and the end of 1942. 181,000 Jews from Poland, Greece, France, Belgium, Holland and Czechoslovakia were transported to Auschwitz between September of last year and June of this year. 177,000 of this figure were executed by poisoning with gas [przez zatrucie gazem]. Only 2 % are still alive.”

The dispatch then reiterates the baseless data set forth in the report dated July 10, 1943 (*Obóz...*, p. 107):

“Transports full of people arrived at Auschwitz between June 25 [in the preceding report: June 20] of this year [and July 15]: 870 from Nice (France), over 500 from Berlin, 900 from Salonica, 1,600 from Sosnowiec, 391 from Lublin, and two transports from Będzin. 80% of them were Jews, 20% were Gypsies. At the present time, approximately 10% are still alive.”

A note from the editors of the book warns us that “these transports were not included in the transport lists for this period. They were probably sent directly to be exterminated as RSHA transports” (*ibid.*, fn 4, p. 108). As if to say that all information received from members of the resistance necessarily had to be true.

The report closes with another fabrication. It notes that a typhus epidemic was raging in the women’s camp at the time (which is true), and that “inmate residents of blocks suspected of being infected are immediately killed by poisoning them in the gas chamber [*przez zatrucie w komorze gazowej*]” (*ibid.*, p. 107).

A “Report from the Territory of July 22, 1943” reports the observations of a civilian worker who had spent five months in the Main Camp. At Auschwitz there were “swimming pools for bathing [*baseny kąpielowe*], groups of inmates play soccer with the SS.” Moreover, the Jewish transports from the Netherlands and Belgium were welcomed by an orchestra which played while they were sent to their execution (*na stracenie; ibid.*, pp. 108f.).

“Annex no. 57 for the period from July 16 to 31, 1943” says that the population of the camp was 37,000 inmates. “The number of Jews is considerably lessened due to the mass extermination in the gas chambers [*w komorach gazowych*].” The Germans had also begun to gas the Gypsies, among whom a typhus epidemic had broken out. And here is the final item of deliciousness (*ibid.*, pp. 109f.):

“Transports of Poles arriving from Radom, Lublin, Tarnobrzeg and Sandomierz were sent directly to the gas chambers.”

These transports are evidently completely invented.

“Annex no. 1 to the *I.[nformacja] B.[ieżąca]*” dated August 18, 1943 contains a long “Letter from an Auschwitz inmate.” By means of a crude and hare-brained calculation, the document claims that the current registration number was 90,000 and that the effective camp manpower was 33,000 inmates; minus approximately 3,000 inmates transferred to other camps or discharged, this means that 57,000 inmates had been murdered.⁴¹⁷ “Mortality exceeds 10,000 [deaths] per month, an average of 130 [recte: 330] persons per day.” The letter rehashes the preceding information with the addition of the author’s following personal information (*ibid.*, pp. 111f.):

“Entire transports are sent directly to the gas [na gaz], without any numbering (registration). The number of victims already exceeds 500,000, mostly Jews. Recent transports of Poles from the region of Lublin are sent directly to the gas [na gaz] (men and women). The children are thrown directly into the fire. Outside Birkenau burns the so-called ‘Eternal Flame’ [wieczny ogień] – a pile of bodies in the open air – since the crematorium [krematorium] is unable to deal with them all. At the present time, gassing experiments are being conducted in the open air instead of in the chamber [próby z gazowaniem na wolnym powietrzu, zamiast w komorze] for military purposes.”

Shortly after the above, the author clarifies:

“The new crematorium [nowe krematorium] burns 5,000 persons per day, mostly Jews.”

There is no need to comment on such absurdities.

Under the heading “5 - IV.43,” the letter speaks of the Gypsies. Here, the author again mentions the gassings:⁴¹⁸

“The gassing of sick people and the weak [takes place] as if it were perfectly normal, that is, it happens all the time. Approximately 5,000 Greek Jews were recently taken away. Some of them went directly to the gas chamber, some were sent to work. The ones that got sent directly to the gas were not included in any numbering [system] (registration). In addition, another 100 people were recently gassed after sentencing [by SS courts].”

The expression “go to the gas [na gaz]” is repeated several times without any further explanation.

Under the date May 3 appears another version of the population and mortality statistics: until March 1, 1943, the current registration number was 113,272, while effective manpower was 29,415 inmates. Between June 14,

⁴¹⁷ Minus the 3,000 transferees, there would have been 54,000 deaths.

⁴¹⁸ “Auschwitz. Annotated Letters from an Auschwitz Inmate /April-June 1943/.” Hoover Institution, Sprawozdanie, Box 3, p. 20, p. 112.

1940 and March 1, 1943, there were 76,721 inmates (that should be 76,244); 1,117 had been released, while 6,496 had been transferred to other camps. The deaths were broken down as follows: natural death: 31,524; shot: 11,274; “deprived of life in the gas chamber [w komorze gazowej], 33,923” (*Obóz...*, p. 113). These data are purely fantastic as well.

The letter dwells on the Soviet POWs. They were sent to Auschwitz starting in September 1941, and amounted to a total of 11,572, a figure which was very close to the correct figure of 11,939 by April 15, 1942, upon which date there were only 161 of them left, according to the letter, instead of the true figure of 262;⁴¹⁹ of these, the letter continues, 6,314 were shot, the others died of starvation and mistreatment. This figure is wrong, but at least the author eschewed the fairy tale of the gassings of the Soviet POWs. Further along in his letter, after indicating the manpower at Birkenau on April 25, 1943, we read (*Obóz...*, p. 115):

“At Birkenau, they are hurriedly re-opening the mass graves of 11,000 Soviet POWs who died over the period of the two winter months of 1942 – the bodies were burnt to destroy all traces. The gassings and [lethal] injections were suspended 14 days ago.”

According to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, all the mass graves of Birkenau, including those containing the bodies of Soviet POWs, were emptied by December 3, 1942 (Czech 1990, pp. 277f.), while the letter claims that the work was still underway on April 25, 1943; this is, however, in accordance with the statements of Hans Aumeier as quoted earlier, according to which the exhumation-cremation lasted “until the spring of 1943.” Orthodox Holocaust historiography is entirely silent as to any suspension of gassings and lethal injections. In the month of April, the *Auschwitz Chronicle* records the gassing, after “selection,” of 11 transports, at maximum intervals of six days (April 3 and 9; Czech 1990, pp. 365-387).

The letter then speaks of a name change for the camp, from “extermination camp” (“*Vernichtungslager*”) to “labor camp” (“*Arbeitslager*”; *Obóz...*, p. 115), which is another myth.

Next follows a list of leading SS staff members, almost all of them with garbled names and ranks:

- *Hauptführer* Hess, instead of *Obersturmbannführer* Höss;
- *Lagerführer Hauptsturmführer* Aufmeger, instead of *Schutzhaftlagerführer Hauptsturmführer* Aumeier;
- *Lagerkommandant* Schwarz; Höss was the *Lagerkommandant*; Schwarz was head of Department IIIa at the time;
- *Standortarzt* Würtz, instead of Wirths;
- *Politischeabteilung* (sic) Jubner instead of Grabner;

⁴¹⁹ Statistical elaboration of the “*Stärkebuch*” by Judge Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, p. 35.

– *Transportführer* Stienitz, instead of Stiewitz (*ibid.*).

One must wonder as to the source of the letter writer's information.

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country, General Government and Eastern Territories over the Period of July 26 –August 26, 1943" contains the same fictitious statistics already disseminated before, with additional fantasies; the effective camp manpower was 37,000, and "643,000 inmates [więźniów] had already been killed by the end of 1942, including [w tym] approximately 95,000 Polish men and women"! The year 1943 had brought "a new large quantity of victims," and that was all! (*Obóz...*, pp. 118f.)

However, there are other brief news items not reported in the book *Obóz...* (Gmitruk *et al.*, pp. 436f.):

"According to information recently received from Auschwitz, up to the end of 1942, 468,000 Jews were killed in gas chambers, while in the first half of 1943 about 180,000 Jews were killed. A number of particularly healthy Jews in good shape have been sent to Auschwitz for experiments in the fields of fertilization, sterilization and castration."

A report titled "Mass Executions between July 15 and August 8, 1943" states that, after July 15, "mass transports of Polish hostages" arrived at Auschwitz, including transports from Tarnów, Krakow, Lublin, Radom and Warsaw, and that "all these persons were immediately executed." Furthermore, "approximately 2-43 [no doubt 2 to 3] transports" of Poles arrived every week and were also executed – fictions invented, as I have pointed out earlier, to stress the sufferings of the Polish people. One paragraph is dedicated to the Jews:⁴²⁰

"Sporadic transports of Jews arrived on July 15 and August 1 from various labor camps in Germany. These people were more dead than alive. They were completely exhausted and could no longer stand up due to [excessive] manual labor and deprivation. They could not even climb from the railway car into the trucks, and were unceremoniously picked up and thrown into the trucks like blocks of wood. They were then immediately taken to Birkenau, where they were gassed."

These transports are all completely fictional. Next we read that a general delousing of the men's camp and women's camp was carried out on August 1, 2 and 3 – evidently nothing less than a "mass gassing." The *Auschwitz Chronicle* contains no mention of this. We furthermore read:

"The resettlement of all the Jews from Sosnowiec and Będzin was being carried out at the same time as the delousing. 15 fully loaded trains arrived, carrying about 15,000 people. In addition, trucks spent entire nights making return trips. [...] Since the crematoria could not deal with so many people, the bodies were usually cremated in the open, and for 3 days nothing but inexorable flames could be seen in which the bodies were burned. Transports from

⁴²⁰ APMO, Au D-RO/192, Vol. XXX, p. 56.

France also arrived and were disposed of in the same way. Birkenau set a record for gassing 30,000 people over the course of a single day.”

At this point, there is a need for a more in-depth examination of the deportation of Jews from Sosnowiec (Sosnowitz) and Będzin (Bendsburg) to Auschwitz. According to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, 14 Jewish transports reached Auschwitz from these two localities between August 1 and 14 carrying 32,000 deportees. Another two transports from Bendsburg arrived on June 24 carrying 1,600 deportees, including six women and 19 men (who were registered with the nos. 125419-125437), while the remaining 1,575 were gassed.

As sources for this last transport, Czech cites a book by Natan Elias Szternfinkiel published in 1946, and an underground report no doubt repeating the information from the “Description of Auschwitz Concentration Camp” of July 10, 1943, which does indeed mention the arrival of “2 transports carrying 1,600 people from Bendsburg” after June 20, without indicating any precise date. These transports are all purely fictitious. The report from the Auschwitz camp physician (*Lagerarzt*) to the camp headquarters dated June 28, 1943 on the inmates registered between June 21 and 25 explicitly states that the numbers 125385-125437, including those for the presumed deportees from Bendsburg, were assigned to the deportees on a transport from Kattowitz.⁴²¹

As for the 32,000 Jews deported from Sosnowitz and Bendsburg, only the registrations are documented. The lists of male and female transports, compiled surreptitiously by Kazimierz Smoleń and other inmates working in the Political Department, contain the date, registration numbers and origins of the transports, but for these Jews, the origin is never given. A total of 6,367 Jews – 3,380 men and 2,987 women, including 466 Belgian Jews and 273 French Jewesses – were registered between August 1 and 12, 1943.

There are 14 sets of registration numbers for the above-mentioned Polish Jews, and if each one of them corresponded to a separate transport, there were indeed 14 of them, but there is no certainty in this regard. The number of deportees on each transport and their origins indicated in the *Auschitz Chronicle* are, however, completely invented, because nothing is known in this regard, and in fact, Czech does not even attempt to justify her conjectures in any way. From a letter from the police superintendent of Sosnowitz to the chief of staff of the regular police force of Military District VIII headquartered in Breslau, we learn that approximately 30,000 Jews from the Jewish ghettos at Sosnowitz and Bendsburg had been deported between August 1 and 7, but the operation was not over yet.⁴²² The transport’s destination is not indicated, and there is no certainty that these Jews were all deported to Auschwitz; that they were, was a claim made by another resistance report, as we shall see later, but the Polish Jewish historian Artur Eisenbach wrote that approximately 20,000

⁴²¹ RGVA, 502-1-71, p. 71.

⁴²² YVA, O.53-10, pp. 367f.

Jews were sent to Auschwitz, while a few other groups were transferred to the Annaberg Labor Camp and assigned to the Schmelt Organization (Eisenbach, p. 540).

Czech mentions a total number of 2,000 deportees each in six transports, 3,000 each in another six, and 1,000 each for two more, but this contradicts the data contained in the report, which speaks of about 15,000 persons in 15 trains; therefore, these trains carried 1,000 people each, on average. If those transports had about 1,000 deportees each, Czech's 14 transports would result in ca. 14,000 people reaching Auschwitz from those two ghettos. The tale of 30,000 persons gassed on a single day anticipated the 1944 figure relating to the period of arrival of Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz.

A "Review of the Most Important Events in the Country. Month Communication dated August 27, 1943" sets forth the statistics of the living and dead. For the period leading up to March 1, 1943, it regurgitates numbers already mentioned earlier: effective camp manpower: 29,415 inmates; deaths: 76,721, including 33,923 poisoned "in the gas chamber." On April 25, the census was 34,055 inmates, with a monthly mortality rate of 10,000! "Apart from these, transports of Jews (carrying half a million people up to the present time) have been killed in the gas chambers (*w komorach gazowych*), without being included in the registration." This is followed by the anachronistic yarn of the cremation of the bodies of Soviet POWs and the horror story of children burnt alive (*Obóz...*, pp. 119f.):

"The bodies of 11,000 Bolshevik prisoners murdered during the winter of this year were disinterred. The bodies have been burned. 5,000 bodies per day are burned in the crematorium [w krematorium], while the rest, since there are more [than 5,000 a day], are burned alive in the 'eternal flame' in the open air at Birkenau⁴²³ – the children are thrown into the fire while still alive."

Finally, the fable of the "eternal flame" reaches its atrocious apex: children are being burned alive in it!

"Annex no. 58 for the Period of August 1-31, 1943," apart from the odd idea that there was a crematorium at Rajsko, offers nothing new:

"468,000 Jews had been gassed at Auschwitz without general registration by the end of 1943 [sic]. Of the 60,000 foreign Jews who arrived at Auschwitz by September 1942, barely 2% are currently still alive, while the rest have been gassed. Most of them [przeważnie] were gassed in gas chambers [w komorach gazowych] at Brzezinka (Birkenau). There is also a crematorium at Rajsko, where the bodies of those who have died or were gassed are burned."

This is followed by a repetition of the fictitious transports list from Nice, Salonica etc., with the variation that the 1,600 deportees from the two transports from Będzin are attributed to Sosnowitz instead with the following comment:

⁴²³ In German in the text.

“Almost not a single person from these transports, or from the subsequent Polish transports, is still alive – all were gassed.”

At that time, the report concludes, a typhus epidemic was raging in the women’s camp at Birkenau, therefore the SS authorities “closed entire blocks, liquidated the[ir] inhabitants with gas [*gazem*] – because they were suspected of carrying typhus” (*ibid.*, pp. 121f.), in other words, they gassed them inside their housing blocks!

A “Dispatch for the BBC and for the World” dated August 31 supplies further information on the deportation from the ghettos of Bendsburg and Sosnowitz (*ibid.*, p. 122):

“A liquidation action of the Jewish ghettos was carried out in the territory of Silesia over the course of August. The ghettos in the territory of Zagłębie Dąbrowskie, particularly, the cities of Sosnowiec, Będzin and Dąbrowa Górnicza, were liquidated between August 1 and 4; all the Jews were sent to Auschwitz. – Those remaining, that is, 5,000 Jews from Chrzanów, were sent to the camp on August 19.”

The transport from Chrzanów (a locality approximately 20 km north-east of Auschwitz) is pure fantasy.

The *Informacja Bieżąca* no. 37 dated September 22, 1943 says that 249 German citizens were transported to Auschwitz in the month of July, after which “they were chased straight from the train into the gas chamber (*z pociągu do komory gazowej*) under a hail of gunfire – the reason is unknown.” This transport is also completely imaginary.

The first attempt at a coherent, documented description of the presumed gassings in the crematoria at Birkenau dates back to the summer of 1943. After his escape from Auschwitz on May 20, 1943, Stanisław Chybiński wrote a report over the course of the summer titled “*Obrazki Auschwitzu*” (“Pictures of Auschwitz”), which was introduced into evidence during the trial of the Auschwitz camp garrison. An anonymous “Legend” appears at the end, perhaps written by Chybiński himself, “interpreting” four “original plans” (*oryginalne plany*) of the Birkenau crematoria (in actual fact, of Crematorium II): No. 932, “floor plan of basement” (of January 23, 1942; Pressac 1989, pp. 284f.), No. 1173 (January 15, 1942; *ibid.*, p. 273), No. 1301 (May 8, 1942; *ibid.*, p. 293) and No. 2003 (December 9, 1942). Attention is invited, among other things, to the presence of Morgues #1, 2, 3, followed by this comment:

“All the attached drawings represent one single crematorium. Two were built, and two others, identical to the first, but were double-twinning [i.e., mirror symmetrical].

The crematoria therefore had a total of 36 furnaces, in addition to which each furnace had 3 cremation chambers capable of accommodating 3 bodies each, that is, a [total] load of 324 bodies at a time. The [process of] cremation, as stated in the ‘Pictures of Auschwitz,’ lasted 7 minutes. [...] Every load of 324

bodies burned in 7 minutes. For a new load, and to clean the furnaces, took another 7-8 minutes, if it was done correctly. [...] Thus, one cremation, including loading, [lasted] 15 minutes, or 1,396 [recte: 1,296] bodies per hour. At this rate, therefore, the maximum capacity of the basements – 11,600 persons – was cremated in approximately 9 hours. [...] One need only calculate the productivity of the crematoria in two years to obtain a very eloquent figure, i.e.:

$1,296^{[424]} \times 24 \times 30 \times 12 \times 2 = 22,394,880$

which is more or less equal to the number of Poles after the expulsion of the national minority [Germans, Ukrainians, Jews etc.].”

The background of these claimed facilities was in fact the extermination of the Poles; Jews are not even mentioned.⁴²⁵

“We are now walking along the road which leads the doomed persons to their deaths. Here comes a truck. Columns [of persons] descend – women, children, and men who go directly to the basements. Passing through the antechamber (they are registered in the office, then proceed to the Waschraum [washroom] and are there ordered, with whiplashes, to undress rapidly and to enter the ‘shower room.’ They leave their clothes right there. All those who enter the basement are locked in hermetically. In all three of the chambers – ‘baths’ – they are crammed together tightly, and depending on the intensity [sic] from 700 to 2,800 persons, and in fact in all four crematoria, from 2,800 to 11,600 persons. The chambers are hermetically sealed. The capos – SS men – now take up position to administer death; they have no caption^[426] /diagram 2003, left, in front of the freight elevator/ and instead of water from the lower ‘air duct’ [luftkanalem], ...the gas... enters... with a whistling noise. After 15 minutes, the premises are ventilated with powerful fans, expelling the gas towards the outside through blowholes with outlets at the top [of the wall] and... now the burned offerings [calopalenia] begins, but only after the extraction of all dental gold and similar activities.”

This description is not an eyewitness testimony, but an imaginary story created out of whole cloth based on the four above-mentioned drawings of Crematorium II, which as yet for chronological reasons show none of Pressac’s “criminal traces” capable of suggesting the presence of a gas chamber in this building – apart maybe from the absence of the corpse chute (*Rutsche*) in Plan No. 932, which is irrelevant in this context. Therefore, the author of the “Legend” was compelled to give free rein to his fantasies. He considered the four crematoria at Birkenau to be identical, all built according to the above-mentioned plans, which confirms the artificiality of his description. First, women, children and men entered the basement; the Polish term used (*piwnica*) is equivalent to the German term “*Untergeschoss*” in the plans. The plural pre-

⁴²⁴ In the text, erroneously, “1.236.”

⁴²⁵ AGK, NTN, 155, pp. 399-401.

⁴²⁶ Meaning that the location of the SS men is not indicated on the plans of the crematoria.

sumably indicates the ensemble of the underground areas of the crematorium. Where did the victims enter? In the 1942 plans in question, the entrance at the end of Morgue #2, added only later, has not yet been included; there is not even any slide with a double stairway on both sides leading into the hallway (which was constructed as shown on later plans). The only accessway was the SS service entrance. Plan No. 2003 in fact bears the heading “Crematorium in POW Camp. Cover sheet to Nos. 932 and 933, moving basement entranceway to roadside.” According to the author, the victims did indeed use this accessway. In that case, the victims would have found themselves in the antechamber (*przdpokój*, German: *Vorplatz*), after which they would have entered an office (*biuro/Büro*), where they were registered (!), then entered the “*Waschraum*” (washroom, German in the text). Here, the author of the report makes a mistake, because in Plan No. 2003, the washroom appears in the ground floor. The three chambers (*komory*) – the expression “gas chambers” is never used – were obviously Morgues #1, 2 and 3. The designation “[shower] *baths*” (*łaźnie*) attributed to these chambers was no doubt an echo from preceding stories as examined earlier. The position of the SS inflicting death was obviously not indicated in the plans, therefore, the author of the report invented a location in front of the freight elevator (*winda*, translation of *Aufzug*), without further specification. How they could operate so as to inflict death upon the victims from this position is not explained. The air duct (*luftkanal*) corresponds to the German “*Luftkanal*,” but this term does not appear in the above-mentioned plans; instead, the words “air-intake duct” and “air-extraction duct” (“*Belüftungskanal*,” “*Entlüftungskanal*”). Plan No. 1173 shows the vertical section of Morgue #1 with an upper “air-intake duct” and a lower “air-extraction duct,” and specifies that the latter led “to the attic.” The story that this “air duct” carried the gas “instead of water” (*zamiast wody*) is even more absurd than that of gas instead of water flowing from shower heads, which was *en vogue* at that time: it is not possible for an air duct to carry water, and even less that the gas came in through the “lower” air duct, hence from the air-extraction duct, which was an exhaust duct for stale or foul air. The blow holes (*odpowietrzniki*) were perhaps the 32 exhaust vents from Morgue #1 referred to in Plan No. 932 and located in the two side walls, 16 on each side; at the top of the wall, these fed into the air-intake duct leading to the attic.⁴²⁷

This report is of fundamental importance to the literary genesis of the gasings in the crematoria for another reason as well. It is not known how the author of the “Legend” had deduced the presence of nine three-muffle cremation furnaces in Crematorium II from the plans, since he believed that the four crematoria of Birkenau were identical: he spoke of a total of 36 three-muffle furnaces. This claim, the fruit of a gross error of interpretation or deliberate

⁴²⁷ The ventilation system in Morgue #1 of Crematoria II and III at Birkenau is illustrated in detail in Mattogno/Poggi.

deceit, then became, as we shall see, one of the cornerstones of the Alfred Wetzler Report, which was copied over into the well-known *War Refugee Board Report*.

The report in question was the first attempt – and remained the only attempt for a year – to render an accounting of what Jean-Claude Pressac called the “machinery of mass murder” inside the crematorium.

A report dated July 10, 1943 said that 468,000 Jews had been gassed by September 1942; 181,000 Jews had arrived between September 1942 and the beginning of June 1943, 98% of whom (177,380) were also gassed; the total claimed balance sheet of gassing victims was therefore 645,000 in round numbers.

A radio message dated July 15, 1943 also spoke of the gassing of 468,000 Jews, but only up to the end of 1942, and the arrival of over 181,000 Jews, of whom 177,000 were gassed, would have brought the death toll to 645,000 victims also.

This information was later reworked and transmitted to London by “Wanda” at the end of January 1944. Breitman cites this document, attributing great importance to it. It mentions the presumed 468,000 gassing victims, the claimed additional 181,000 deportees, 98% of whom are supposed to have been gassed, making a subsequent total of 645,000 gassing victims (Breitman 1998, p. 120). But in this regard, he does not even wonder whether these nonsensical figures are “very close to what postwar reconstruction would establish as the actual situation at the time” (*ibid.*, pp. 116f.); as far as one can tell, he takes it as an indisputable fact.

The “Report on the Situation in the Eastern Territories No. 7 (up until September 30, 1943),” returned to the customary confused fantasies. On June 7, according to the report, a transport of approximately 1,700 persons arrived. “The train was immediately shunted to Birkenau, where all the inmates were asphyxiated with gases [*gazami*].” This transport is completely imaginary. The report continues as follows (*Obóz...*, p. 133):

“Around mid-year, 7,300 Jews arrived from Greece. All incoming Jews were killed, one after the other, in gas chambers [w komorach gazowych]. [...] Two new crematoria were consigned for the purpose in April. Up until that time, the Jews had been killed in a [rather] primitive way: the bodies of the Jews poisoned with gases [gazami] were arranged in layers upon pyres [na stosach] and drenched with flammable materials. The intolerable stench of the burning corpses could be smelled from several kilometers away.”

The first Jewish transport from Greece arrived at Auschwitz on March 20, 1943, while the last one in 1943 arrived on August 18. There were 48,533 deportees in total, only 11,147 of whom were registered (Czech 1970, Table 2 between pp. 24 & 25). The information in the report was therefore wrong by a very wide margin.

The report fails to explain the nature of the “primitive” method of killing the Jews before the commissioning of the two crematoria, nor is there any mention of any “modern” killing method in these new installations, as would have been logical. The first three Birkenau crematoria were consigned to the camp administration in the following order:

- March 22, 1943: Crematorium IV
- March 31, 1943: Crematorium II
- April 4, 1943: Crematorium V.

Crematorium III was consigned on June 25, three months before the date of the report in question, yet the author of the report was unaware of that fact.

On October 18, 1943, “Tadeusz” compiled a list of the transports he claims had arrived at Auschwitz between August 3 and 28, containing the following Jewish transports (*Obóz...*, p. 135):

- August 2: 200 from Berlin
- August 5: 100 from Berlin
- August 5: 125 from Dresden (inmates)
- August 23: 100 from Berlin
- August 26: 1,026 from Wolsztyn (Wohlstein)
- August 27: 205 from Eberswald, “Märkische Stahlform-Werke”
- August 28: 1,600 resettled from Rawicz.

Nothing is said of their fates. These data offer an opportunity to illustrate other examples of Danuta Czech’s distortions and falsehoods as contained in her *Auschwitz Chronicle*.

Czech records one documented transport from Berlin on August 5 (100 deportees, unknown number of registered inmates; Czech 1990, p. 456), in addition to one on August 3 carrying 200 deportees, all of whom were said to have been gassed. For this latter, *Auschwitz Chronicle* editor Czech refers to the report in question (*ibid.*, p. 454), although it mentions the date as August 2. According to Microfilm Publication A3355 of the National Archives in Washington, there were only two transports from Berlin to Auschwitz in August 1943, one of which departed on August 4 (carrying 99 deportees) and the other on August 28 (50 deportees). Therefore, the transport of August 3 with its 200 presumed gassing victims never existed.

Czech also borrows the yarn of the presumed transport carrying 205 Jews from Eberswald, all of whom are said to have been gassed (*ibid.*, p. 471), but such an assertion is indemonstrable by its very nature.

For August 5, she mentions the presumed arrival of the transport from Dresden, all 125 members of which are said to have been gassed (*ibid.*, p. 456).

A report from the Auschwitz camp physician to the camp headquarters dated September 6, 1943 on the inmates registered between August 26 and 31

shows that two inmates were registered from Dresden under the numbers 141804-141805.⁴²⁸ Following the list of men's transports (NOKW-2824, p. 25), the *Auschwitz Chronicle* editor considers these two numbers assigned to two inmates of a consolidated "group transport" which arrived at Auschwitz on August 27, whose deportees received the numbers 141743-141816 (Czech 1990, p. 471). The above-mentioned report from the camp physician indicates, on the contrary, the individual localities of origin for the members of this group transport, which obviously could not be considered a single transport: Kattowitz, Troppau, Oppeln, Heydebreck, Koblenz, Bielefeld, Dresden, and Prague. Therefore, even the transport from Dresden and its 125 gassing victims is the mere fruit of fantasy.

According to Czech, the transport from Wolsztyn did not arrive on August 26, but on the 27th, carrying 1,026 deportees, 1,016 of whom were registered with the nos. 140721-141736, while the remaining 10 were presumably gassed (*ibid.*, p. 471). The report from the camp physician attributes the numbers in question to a transport from a camp in Posen (Poznan). In this document, the Jewish transports are not reported, and the related numbers are not mentioned. The first gap relates to the numbers 139708-139885, 178 registered deportees of a documented transport from Holland, which arrived on August 26. There was then another gap which extends from 139897 to 140720, which the list of men's transports divides into 139897-140333 and 140334-140720, for the dates of August 26 and 27 (NOKW-2824, p. 25). Czech allocates the two series without any references to two Jewish transports from Zawierć (1,200 presumed gassing victims; Czech 1990, pp. 470f.). Again, with a reference to the list by "Tadeusz," she notes the arrival of a transport of 800 Jews from Küstrin (Kostrzyń) on August 28, 133 of whom are said to have been gassed (*ibid.*, p. 473). But the list clearly says that they were not Jews but rather "political inmates from Kistrzyń" (*800 więźniów politycznych z Kistrzina*).

Finally, Czech simply increases the number of claimed deportees of the August 28 transport from Rawicz (always taken from Tadeusz's list) from 1,600 to 2,000 deportees, and changes the date to August 29, thus obtaining another 600 gassing victims! (*Ibid.*, p. 474)

A communiqué from the headquarters of the information services of the Polish government in exile of October 11, 1943, summarizing the history of the Auschwitz Camp, describes the crematorium in the Main Camp as follows:⁴²⁹

"There were three furnaces in which the cremations were performed using coke as fuel. Approximately 70 bodies could be cremated in an entire day, since, in each furnace, the bodies underwent total carbonization only in one

⁴²⁸ RGVA, 502-1-71, pp. 42-42a.

⁴²⁹ *Obóz koncentracyjny w Oświęcimiu - informacje* (Auschwitz Concentration Camp – information). APMO, AU-D-RO/192, Vol. XXX, p. 2.

half hour. If there were several bodies, this was shortened to 20 minutes^[430] and as a result, the bones were not completely burnt when they were thrown into the dump or onto the roads, together with the ashes of the remaining coke. This insufficient number of furnaces compelled the Germans to bury the bodies in the mass graves which I have already described. In September 1942, it seems, a new electrical furnace [piec elektryczny] was built, and the problem of cremation was satisfactorily solved."

Urns containing their ashes were sent to the families of inmates who had died in the camp. 12,000 to 15,000 Poles and 2,000 to 3,000 Jews and a few thousand Soviet POWs had already died by March 1942.

A "Description of Auschwitz Concentration Camp" written by "Karol" in German on October 10, 1943, after stressing that "the annihilation of the Poles in the camp is progressing inexorably," mentions the first Jewish transport from Theresienstadt (*Obóz...*, pp. 138f., facsimile of the document):

"A few weeks go, approximately 2,000 people arrived from the ghetto in Teherensianstatt [sic]/Czechoslovakia, i.e., Jewish men, women and children. Quite surprisingly, these people were not gassed like their predecessors, but rather, all these people, the sick, the young, men and women, were driven together to the women's camp in Birkenau, and are still living in the blocks there today."

Further along, the report speaks of the arrest of inmates who "are awaiting the severest punishments in the bunker." This is additional confirmation that for the inmates the "bunker" was merely the Main Camp's brig. In the "Reports of the Information Department of the Delegation" of the Polish Government for the period of October 24 through November 21, 1943, we read only these two brief entries (Gmitruk *et al.*, pp. 498, 502):

"In Auschwitz in recent weeks, about 30,000 Jews brought there from Polish territories have been executed in the gas chambers."

"At the [Auschwitz] camp a malaria epidemic raged at that time. The mass killing of thousands of Jews in the gas chambers continued unabated. A transport to other camps and to work in the Reich to remove rubble was put together containing 17,000 Poles, Jews and Russians."

"Annex No. 61 for the period between November 1 and 30, 1943" states that there was a malaria epidemic at Auschwitz starting in the month of September. Danuta Czech informs us that the malaria patients were transferred to Lublin (Czech 1990, p. 534).

A report with the subject "Quarterly report from the health service at the Auschwitz I Concentration Camp", compiled by the camp physician of CC

⁴³⁰ That is, the "carbonization" time, the second, "burning" phase of a cremation, which corresponds fairly closely to the first phase of a cremation, the time required to evaporate the water contained in a corpse.

Auschwitz I on December 16, 1943, explains the motive for the transfer: the Lublin Camp was considered an area free of anopheles mosquitoes.⁴³¹

But as early as May 27, 1943, a transport of sick people departed as announced by Liebehenschel:⁴³²

“CC Auschwitz is immediately transferring 800 inmates sick with malaria to CC Lublin.”

The report then mentions the Jews (*Obóz...*, p. 142):

“The mass killings of Jews in gas chambers [w komorach gazowych], mostly women, is still going on.”

A transport carrying 17,000 Polish, Russian and Jewish inmates to other camps was prepared. There were approximately 6,000 re-educational inmates at Auschwitz.

“During the gassing of 30,000 Jews from Zagłębie Dąbrowskie, the crematoria [krematoria] were unsuccessful in burning the bodies, so they were burned on pyres [na stosach], the children were thrown alive into the flames.”

This refers to the Jewish Auschwitz deportees from Bendsburg (Będzin) and Sosnowitz, who initially numbered 15,000 (plus an undefined number transported in trucks) but here increase to 30,000, the canonical figure. There is no further need to dwell upon the macabre fantasy about children burned alive.

In the “Reports of the Information Department of the Delegation” of the Polish Government for the period of November 22 through December 18, 1943, we find this entry (Gmitruk *et al.*, p. 526):

“New transports of Polish convicts are constantly being sent to the Auschwitz Camp with several prisoners from the General Government. At the end of November, about 1,000 men were sent there from Pawiak [prison] in Warsaw. In addition, from time to time smaller groups of prisoners arrive from Pawiak to Auschwitz. At the same time, however, large transports of prisoners leave from the Auschwitz Camp toward other camps in the Reich and in the Polish territories: among the latter, 8,000 inmates of Auschwitz have been transferred to the special hard labor camp of Jaworzno. Large executions took place recently in Auschwitz, during which many inmates who had been there for a couple of years were executed, among others.”

The few subsequent messages of 1943 make no reference to extermination of Jews.

2.3.3. The Reports of 1944

The 16th edition of *Informacja zachodnia* (Western Information) dated February 10, 1944 contains extraordinary information (*ibid* p. 151):

⁴³¹ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 97.

⁴³² APMO, *Arbeitseinsatz*, Vol. 4, p. 306. D-AuI-3a/283.

“Auschwitz. A recently installed modern electric furnace [nowoczesny piec elektryczny] was supplied by the Siemens Company. It is used for the special processing of bodies. Human fats are extracted from the bodies by means of a gradual increase in temperature and then subjected to processing. There is also a large bone-glue factory at the camp.”

Whether or not this “electric furnace” is to be considered a “shadow projected by reality,” this tale is no doubt a distortion of the microwave delousing device supplied by the Siemens-Schuckertwerke AG, Berlin. A similar device was put into operation on June 30, 1944 in the reception building of the Main Camp (BW 160). It was also referred to as the short-wave delousing device, but at Auschwitz there was talk of it as early as early June 1943, and the related cost estimate dates back to August 16, 1943. The device was basically the world’s first microwave oven (see Nowak).

Incredibly, the story of the electric furnace was even brought up during the Höss Trial by the witness Władysław Tondos, who declared during the ninth hearing:⁴³³

“This crematorium [in the Main Camp] was too small, therefore a new electrical crematorium [nowe elektryczne krematorium] was built.”

The story of the bone-glue factory was probably the result of another distortion. The Auschwitz slaughterhouse (*Schlachthaus*, BW 33c) was put into operation at the end of July 1943.⁴³⁴ As shown by an inventory plan of September 27, 1944,⁴³⁵ there was a device for the extraction of bone marrow from animal bones installed on the building’s ground floor, among other devices (*Knochenentfettungsanlage*, bone-degreasing device). It was installed as early as September 1942.⁴³⁶ The related apparatus (*Knochenentfettungsapparat*) was supplied by the M. Trüsted Corporation of Berlin-Hannover, as shown by a letter from the company to the administration of Auschwitz Concentration Camp of June 25, 1942.⁴³⁷ The device was used to extract the fat and marrow from the uncooked remains of animals butchered to enrich the inmates’ diet.

The counterintelligence head at the Ministry of Defense of the Polish government in exile at London wrote up a report on Auschwitz Camp dated February 2, 1944, which stated, among other things:⁴³⁸

“The crematorium is built below ground, on the model of an air-raid shelter. At ground level, only the chimney can be seen, protruding from the ground. The informant worked on the construction of this chimney, with others. The in-

⁴³³ United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program, 1988, Reel No. 62. Höss Trial, 9th hearing, p. 988.

⁴³⁴ *Baufristenplan Konzentrationslager Auschwitz*, October 2, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-320, p. 4.

⁴³⁵ *Bestandplan des provisorischen Schlachthauses BW 33B*. GARF, 7021-108-48, p. 14.

⁴³⁶ *Baubericht für Monat September 1942*. RGVA, 502-1-24, p. 14: “...Knochenentfettungsanlage eingebaut...”

⁴³⁷ GARF, 7021-108-44, p. 1. Pages 2-11 contain other documents on this apparatus, including the service instructions and a technical drawing of the installation.

⁴³⁸ SPP, 3.16.

formant did not know the location of the gas chambers, he only felt that they were below ground, built on the model of the crematorium.”

This was simply a phantasmagorical description of the crematorium at the Main Camp.

The 9th edition of *Informacja Bieżąca* dated March 1, 1944 contains a detailed report on the effective manpower of the camp on January 20, and states that at the time the inmates being gassed were mostly Jews from the camp who had already been registered. The report adds (*Obóz...*, pp. 154f.):

“Jews from Belgium and Holland (a couple of thousand of them) had been transported to Auschwitz by January 15, 1944, and were immediately poisoned in the gas chambers [w komorach gazowych]. Approximately 6,000 Jewish women had been gassed at the women’s camp by January 1, 1944.”

A transport from Belgium (Malines) actually arrived on January 17, 1944, followed by another from Holland (Westerbork) on January 27 (Czech 1990, pp. 571, 577), but of these deportees, only 497 out of 1,605, or 31%, were registered. The gassing of 6,000 Jewish women is therefore pure fantasy, even from an orthodox point of view. A set of statistics of registered women inmates is then presented, ranging from February 1943 to January 15, 1944. The list mentions 4,283 Poles, 8,008 Jewesses and 7,475 “others,” for a total of 19,766. The report continues:

“Moreover, 11,930 Jewesses having arrived at Birkenau from other camps were gassed between February 1943 and January 15, 1944. On January 22, a transport of French Jews arrived (about 7,000 of them) for the sole purpose of being gassed.”

The original handwritten manuscript contains six columns: “Month,” “Total” (of the three columns), “Poles,” “Jews,” “Aryans without Poles,” “Jews only gas” (*Tylko Żydzi gaz*). The last column has a total of 11,930; the third, fourth, and fifth columns should therefore indicate natural deaths.⁴³⁹

Here as well, we are in a realm of complete fantasy, as may easily be verified. Pohl’s letter to Himmler of September 30, 1943 regarding “Fatalities in Concentration Camps” reports 938 deaths in the women’s camp at Auschwitz in August 1943,⁴⁴⁰ while the above-mentioned statistics show 1,533 deaths for the month of August, 498 of whom are supposed to have been gassing victims.

For the month of December, deaths are said to have totalled 8,931 (including 4,247 gassing victims), but the last four Death Books for 1943 (nos. 22-25), which cover the period from November 12 to December 31, record a total of 5,355 deaths, both male and female.

⁴³⁹ APMO, D-RO/85, Vol. II, pp. 62- 62a.

⁴⁴⁰ PS-1469.

The total number of gassed female inmates would therefore amount to 31,696,⁴⁴¹ but 36,991 registered inmates died at Auschwitz in 1943,⁴⁴² both men and women; the figures in the report are therefore obviously incommensurate.

A “Report from Auschwitz dated March 15, 1944” supplies the following particulars:⁴⁴³

“Bigger transports, the size of which is hard to quantify, are also sent into the gas [na gaz] without the camp numbering [registration]; among the others, a couple of very large groups of Poles from the region of Zamość perished in the gas. At the beginning of 1944, 2 groups from the Lublin region were liquidated with injections. To get an idea of the number of persons sent to the gas without registration, just take the figure [for the quantity] of gold obtained just from the teeth of gassed persons, which amounts to 10-12 kg per month. This is an official figure. In practice, [the actual figure] is 30% higher. [...] We may assume that 1,500,000 Jews from all countries, including approximately 100,000 Poles: men, women and children [...] have been gassed at Auschwitz without ever being registered.

Outside the camp there are 5 crematoria and gas chambers. Enormous transports of Jews from Holland, the Czech protectorate, Belgium and Greece perish there. A special squad of Jews isolated from the other inmates render service in the crematorium.”

The absurd figures for gassing victims were later borrowed by another report which will be examined later. As for the dental gold, the figure remained more or less unchanged (10-13 kg), but instead of monthly became daily!

A report titled “Various Items of Information from Auschwitz Camp dated March 1944” reports that there were 25,000 inmates at the Buna Camp (Monowitz), 1,223 of whom had died or had been killed, and 11,547 were sent to Auschwitz and Birkenau due to “physical weakness,” 95% of whom were gassed or had died.

In March 1944, the average manpower of the Monowitz Camp stood at 7,800, 1,283 of whom had died by that time (Makowski, pp. 134, 137, 170); the inmates transferred to Auschwitz and Birkenau amounted to 6,845 in total. The report continues as follows:

“From the Jewish ‘family camp’ at Theresienstadt, the survivors, after the gassing of the first transport, had to be divided into two groups: the able-bodied will be sent to work, while the rest – the elderly, most of the women and children – go to the gas /Sonderbehandlung/.”

⁴⁴¹ The presumed 11,930 Jews having arrived from other camps, already having been registered and included in the general statistics of the WVHA, could not disappear from the Auschwitz manpower figures without being registered in the *Sterbebücher*.

⁴⁴² This is the last number in *Sterbebuch* No. 25, the last one for 1943.

⁴⁴³ “Relacja z Oświęcimia z dn. 15.III.44.” Hoover Institution, Sprawozdanie, Box 3, pp. 30f.

On September 8, 1943, two transports of Jews from the Theresienstadt Ghetto reached Birkenau carrying 5,006 persons, all of whom were registered: 2,293 men and children were assigned numbers 146694-148986, while 2,713 women and girls were assigned numbers 58471-61183 (Czech 1990, p. 483). These inmates were accommodated in Sector BIIB of Birkenau, for this reason known as the “Family Camp Theresienstadt.” On December 16 and 20, another 5,414 deportees arrived, all of whom were also registered (*ibid.*, pp. 548, 551). There was presumably a gassing of 3,791 Jews from the Theresienstadt Ghetto quartered in Birkenau Camp Sector BIIa on March 8, 1944 (*ibid.*, p. 595). The report should have mentioned this claimed but undocumented event (see Mattogno 2016a, pp. 144-167), although the author was evidently entirely unaware of it. On the other hand, he was well aware of the cryptonym *Sonderbehandlung* (special treatment), which later became a sort of magic word.

The report then declares that the situation of the sick was as follows: 2,000 inmates without those lodged in auxiliary camps, and among these, the victims of gasings and injections with phenol were on the order of several tens of thousands. The report says nothing about the presumed extermination of the Jews, although the paragraph cited is titled “*Morderstwa*,” “Murders.”⁴⁴⁴

Edition No. 16 of *Informacja Bieżąca* of April 19 embroidered the previously published information with additional fabrications (*Obóz...*, p. 156.):

“7,000 Jews arrived from Italy, Denmark and France [in the preceding number: only France] during the first half of February, and were immediately gassed. On March 15, 4,000 Jews arrived from Theresienstadt (Czechia), and were gassed.”

As mentioned before, for the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, this occurred on March 8, 1944 (Czech 1990, p. 595). I shall return to this presumed gassing in Subchapter 2.5.2.

A radio intercept report dated June 15, 1944 informed the British that London had been informed that “4,000 Czechoslovakian Jews, who had been transported from Theresienstadt to Birkenau in December 1943, were murdered in the gas chambers on March 7” (*Obóz...*, p. 157, facsimile of the document). Here as well, there is a “shadow projected by reality” which was not, however, the gassing, but rather the transfer of the inmates to Kędzierzyn-Koźle, to the Blechhammer Camp (Mattogno 2016a, pp. 144-160).

The “Report (*sprawozdanie*) for the Period between April 20 and May 5, 1944” opens with the following revealing words:⁴⁴⁵

“*Auschwitz Camp* [German in text] was to have been the implementation of Hitler’s words on the ‘ausroten’ [*Ausrottung*] of the Poles, therefore, under-

⁴⁴⁴ “Różne informacje z obozu w Oświęcimiu z marca 1944 r.” Hoover Institution, *Sprawozdanie*, Box 3, p. 32.

⁴⁴⁵ APMO, D-RO/91. Vol. VII, pp. 433f.

taking experiments for the purpose of liquidating large masses of persons in a rapid and secret manner.”

One of the methods was said to have been killing with phenol injections to the heart, which allegedly had already claimed approximately 20,000 victims, obviously “most of them Poles.”

The following observation shows the degree to which intentional distortion of innocuous events by the members of resistance movements plays a crucial role in these fabrications:

“The Germans are working frantically to wipe out all trace of their murders. Restructuring the old crematorium into an air-raid shelter. During the demolition of the chimney, a true and proper layer of unburnt human fat several centimeters [thick] was found in the soot on the bricks.”

It is not clear how the informant was aware of the restructuring of the crematorium, since the “Plan for the conversion of the old crematorium for air-raid shelter purposes” was proposed by Head of Air Protection SS *Obersturmführer* Heinrich Josten only on August 26 1944.⁴⁴⁶ The chimney of the crematorium had been demolished already in the second half of 1943, after the cessation of all cremation activity at the end of July. It is known that the chimney had already been demolished and reconstructed in the past, having been irreparably damaged by overheating caused by intensive use, which means temperatures exceeding 500°C, those normally anticipated at the base of crematorium chimneys. But the temperature at which fat ignites is 184°C (Perry, p. 1584); it is therefore impossible for unburnt fat to become deposited on bricks from the refractory coating of the chimney flue (Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. I, pp. 38-41, 212-228).

The report moreover states that “shooting is the method of execution currently in use in the crematorium [*w crematorium*] of Birkenau; in the event of larger-scale executions, the victims are gassed directly.”

The “Periodic Report for the Period between May 5 and May 25, 1944,” dated May 26, returns to the “first gassing:⁴⁴⁷

“In September 1941, 500 Soviet prisoners of war arrived, most of them officers. To these 1,500 ‘Moslems’ (sick prisoners) were added; all were sent to the gas [na gaz], quickly and without hesitation. The stench of the smoke from the cremation furnaces was the last tacit cry of vengeance.”

This is followed by a paragraph titled “*Fabryka śmierci*” – the “Factory of Death”:

“Until the spring of 1943, two peasant cottages [dwa małe domki chłopskie] at Brzezinka/Birkenau were [used as] gas chambers [komorami gazowymi]. All the windows were bricked up, leaving only a few apertures hermetically closed

⁴⁴⁶ RGVA, 502-1-401, p. 34.

⁴⁴⁷ APMO, D-RO/91. Vol. VII, pp. 436f.

[closable] [from the] *outside*, and fake shower heads in the ceiling. This was supposed to be a 'bath.' [!] Truck transports arrived, escorted by armed SS men, who immediately compelled all the prisoners [tłum, the crowd] to undress completely with [= giving them] towels. [They are] Naive, without presentiment, [then] the doors are hermetically closed. A gas in powdered form [sproszkowany gaz] is then thrown through the apertures from cans bearing the trademark 'Cyklon.' The powder, as it evaporates, immediately kills all persons in the chamber. For the use of 'Cyklon' (the gas smells of mustard) they first throw in another powder which absorbs the oxygen from the air. The ventilator [wentylator] is then turned on, and a special 'Sonderkommando' [Sonderkommanda] throws the bodies into two enormous graves, arranging them in layers and sprinkling them with chloride of lime. Since the graves fill rapidly, the bodies, starting as early as the summer of 1942, were burned on pyres of branches and wood using petroleum or gasoline for fuel. Children were thrown directly onto the pyres with open ridicule and ferocious, insane laughter. A thick black smoke poisoned the entire district.

Starting in May 1943, [sic] 'comfort' ['komfort']. The transports arrive at the 'death ramp' at Rajsko and from there, the men, women, and children are all separated from each other, after which they are led into the gas chambers in the 4 recently built crematoria. We possess plans of the chambers [plany komór posiadamy]. After the gassings, the freight elevators [windy] in this 'death factory' carry the naked bodies to the ground floor [na piętro], where they are subjected to a careful search so as to enrich the Third Reich. The dental squad breaks the gold and platinum teeth, together with the jaw bone, to save time. The bodies of those suspected of having swallowed jewels are examined in the dissecting room. In a monstrous rage, infants, newly born in the women's camp, are thrown directly into the furnace. The 4 working crematoria process up to 5,000 [bodies] per day. The furnaces at Auschwitz 'processed' 1,500,000 Jews, in addition to 100,000 Poles, Russians and others."

The importance of this report in the development of the story of the gas chambers is obvious.

In November 1942, the "Degasungskammern" at Birkenau, one of the numerous themes invented by the resistance, developed into "a few cottages near the forest," then into "two dwelling houses"; here, with a further literary development, they became "two peasant cottages," a definition which subsequently became "official," in German translation – "Bauernhäuser" (peasant houses) – particularly in Höss's statements.⁴⁴⁸ Instead, the designations "czerwony domek" (red cottage) and "biały domek" (white cottage) just like those used with reference to "Bunker 1" and "Bunker 2," had not yet been invented, and their features had not yet been decided upon, even in the most basic respects, such as the position of these two presumed gassing installations, the

⁴⁴⁸ Mattoigno 2020, p. 29. In his handwritten statement dated March 14, 1946, Höss explicitly spoke of "2 old peasant cottages," in the book cited, in English translation, "2 old farmhouses."

number and capacity of the gas chambers; the transport system that whisked the corpses to the mass graves. The narrow-gauge field railway was then appropriated from the stories examined earlier relating to the six gassing “blocks” and the two gas chambers (“*I komora*” and “*II komora*”) located one in front of the other; the term “bunker,” by contrast, probably originates from the camp prison in the basement of Block 11, the scene of the presumed first gassing.

The tale, while containing two essential elements which flow together into the final version (the “Cyklon” poured through “apertures” and the introduction of the term “*Sonderkommando*”), are still highly redolent of the previous fantasies: the gas chambers were camouflaged as “shower baths” equipped with fake showerheads on the ceiling (although in the previous versions the shower heads were real, although gas came out of them). These showerheads are the reason why the victims were given towels before entering. Finally, two years and eight months after the “first gassing,” and after the claimed gassing of at least 1,500,000 people, the resistance members discover the murder weapon – Zyklon B – while continuing to attribute false properties to it. The presumed odor of mustard was specific to Yprite, referred to in English precisely for this reason as “mustard gas.” They were still unaware that the active ingredient of Zyklon was hydrogen cyanide; to them, that which evaporated, producing the gas, was the powder. The myth about another type of powder that absorbed the oxygen from the air was, in turn, subsequently developed by witnesses in several variants and stages, such as Miklós Nyiszli (Mattogno 2020a, p. 155):

“The toxic substance, at the moment of the actual contact with air – probably absorbing its oxygen – becomes gaseous from the solid state and fills the available space [...].”

In his handwritten note of April 23, 1946, Rudolf Höss expounded another version of this fable: Zyklon B immediately evaporated when coming in contact with the oxygen in the air [“bei Berührung mit Sauerstoff”]! (See Mattogno 2020, pp. 118, 273f.)

The “ventilator” is also a vestige of past fantasies (the “bunkers” of Birkenau, according to the final version, were without ventilators), while the term “*Sonderkommando*” was the German translation of the preceding “specjalne komando.” With elementary logic, the resistance members attributed one single mass grave to each “cottage.” The bodies were not burned in cremation ditches, but on pyres; this was not undertaken by virtue of any Himmler order, nor for reasons grounded in hygiene or health (the two dominant explanations in orthodox Holocaust literature), but simply because the two mass graves were full! The atrocious meme of (newborn) babies thrown *alive* into the flames, too delicious to be abandoned, is dished up once again, out of context,

since the context is that of the burning of cadavers; therefore, the children “thrown directly onto the pyres” were already dead.

The second part of the account relates, by contrast, to the gassings in the crematoria at Birkenau.

The activities of the presumed installations later referred to as “bunkers” ceased in May 1943, when the Birkenau crematoria entered into operation. In this context, all reference to the “death ramp,” the so-called “Jewish ramp,” is anachronistic, because it was put into operation only on April 16, 1944.⁴⁴⁹ The story cooked up here enriches the themes already present in the “Pictures of Auschwitz” from the summer of 1943. Although the authors of the report claim to have possessed “plans of the chambers,” their report does not explicitly state that they were underground: this can be deduced solely from the mention of the freight elevator going to the ground floor, which presupposes the “basement” (*piwnica*) of the preceding report. The inspection of the bodies, which was carried out on the ground floor rather than in the basement outside the gas chamber, as in the final version, and the reference to the dissection room is a theme since fallen into desuetude. The account is very general. Intuitively, we can see that the furnace room was on the ground floor, but the report says nothing in this regard, and is also silent on the number and type of cremation furnaces. It is not even explained that the crematoria were identical in design, but mirror-symmetrical in pairs, and that the description was only valid for Crematoria II and III. The atrocious story of the newly born infants thrown “into the furnace” (*do pieca*), in the singular, confirms that the authors of the report had only an approximate “cherry-picking awareness” of the Birkenau crematoria. This is an obvious elaboration on the equally fantastic story of the children thrown alive onto the burning pyres.

The four crematoria at Birkenau had an alleged capacity of 5,000 bodies per day, but in an earlier report, three crematoria had “a daily capacity of 10,000 bodies,” and the capacity of the “new crematorium” was either 3,000 or 5,000!

The phrase “the furnaces at Auschwitz ‘processed’ 1,500,000 Jews, in addition to 100,000 Poles, Russians and others” is doubly absurd, particularly already for the figure of 1,600,000 gassing victims in itself, and also because all these presumed victims are attributed to the cremation furnaces at Birkenau, that is, according to the report, between May 1943 and May 1944. Based on the preceding report, 468,000 Jews had been gassed by September 1942, and another 177,000 by the beginning of June 1943, for a total of 645,000. This means that the total number of Jews gassed was 2,145,000 minus the indeterminate number of persons gassed in May 1943. It is appropriate to recall that Franciszek Piper has calculated the total figure of 960,000 Jewish deaths at

⁴⁴⁹ RGVA, 502-1-186, p. 49. Note from an anonymous railway employee dated April 19, 1944 addressed to the Central Construction Office.

Auschwitz (Piper 1993, p. 202), a good part of whom, what is more, are said to have been Hungarian Jews not considered in this report.

The presumed fate of the Hungarian Jews was proclaimed before their deportations even began. Rezső (Rudolf) Kastner, for example, declared in an affidavit of September 13, 1943 with reference to April 1944 (PS-2606):

“In the meantime the Budapest Relief Committee received two messages from the Bratislava Committee. One message said that there was feverish work going on in Oswiecim to restore the gas-chambers and crematoriums there, which were not working for months and a remark made by a SS NCO that ‘soon we will get fine Hungarian sausages’ was reported.”

The second message concerned the plan to send 120 trains of deportees to Auschwitz. In 1946, Kastner returned to these messages in the following terms (Kastner, p. 30):

“Reports from Bratislava also confirmed these fears. The local Waadah [relief committee] forwarded reports from their intelligence service to us. According to this, the SS was in the process of repairing and renovating the gas chambers and crematoria in Auschwitz, which had been out of use since autumn 1943. The number of people in the work crew was increased, and one of the NCOs is said to have made the following statement: ‘We’ll soon be eating fine Hungarian salamai.’ (He was thinking here, however, of the food the Jews brought along.)” (spaced out in the original)

From Bratislava it was also learned that 150 rather than 120 freight trains of deportees would pass through Slovakia.

The Hungarian Jews are mentioned in the “Extraordinary Appendix to the Periodic Report for the Period between May 5 and 25, 1944,” titled “Oswiecim. ‘Action Hees’” (sic):⁴⁵⁰

“From mid-May, concentration of transports of Hungarian Jews. Every day 8 trains arrive, and 5 every night. The trains all consist of 48-50 cars, each of which [carries] 100 persons.”

The deportees were referred to as “resettlers,” and to each train were added “two cars loaded with construction lumber (*drewna budulcowego*), to be unloaded on the ‘death ramp,’ after which it was moved elsewhere and arranged in piles... intended for use by them [the deportees].”

“The [people] unloaded [off a] transports which the two gasworks [obie gazownie] are unable to dispose of camp out in a little wood nearby, or in ditches, guarded by ‘Posten’ [Postów, sentries] with submachine guns. The waiting time for death can be up to two days, because there are bottlenecks. Between the railroad ramp and the gaswork [gazownia] along the road, day and night [there is] an uninterrupted procession of persons walking towards

⁴⁵⁰ APMO, D-RO/91. Vol. VII, pp. 440-442.

the gassing installation [ku gazowni] as it gradually empties of already 'processed' bodies [...].

Before entering the gas chamber [do komory gazowej], everybody hands over the money and valuables they have with them to the... deposit [depozytu]. They must then undress completely, handing over [oddają] all their clothes, which are then searched to find any valuables sewn inside the linings. They then enter the 'bath,' that is, the gas chamber, in groups of 1,000 persons. They are no longer given hand towels and soap, as before – there isn't enough time.

The two gas chambers [obie komory gazowe] work without letup, but are unable to dispose of the rest [of the deportees]. Between the gassing of one group [and another], the only down time is that required for ventilation. On the other side [of the gas chamber], where it is certainly invisible to those entering the chamber, there are huge piles of bodies. There is not enough time to burn them. All victims, particularly the women, have their hair cut off by a special Kommando [komando] of barbers. The hair is loaded onto trolleys as raw material. A special squad of dentists carefully examine the oral cavities of all the corpses, extracting gold and platinum crowns. Since there is little time, they break the jawbones, and only extract the dental work afterwards. Another squad of 'specialists' is responsible for inserting a finger in the vagina of the female corpses in search of hidden jewelry. Only when the bodies have been thus processed and inspected, are they sent for cremation. 4 crematoria work round the clock – one brick kiln [cegielnia] plus pyres [stosy] burning in the open. Dense black smoke is visible from far away. It was nevertheless found impossible to cremate so many bodies. One crematorium is temporarily out of service and is being hastily repaired, because as a consequence of continual use, the grate and part of the furnace have burned out [ruszta i części pieca].

A reinforced 'Sonderkommando' amounting to as many as 2,000 men at the present time participate in all this activity – the looting, the killing and the transport of the bodies. These are strong healthy Jews selected from amongst the inmates. Naturally, in the end, they are all fated to suffer extermination as witnesses.

Of the Hungarian transports arriving until the present time, 2,000 strong [deportees] are allowed to live, and are transferred to the Gliwice Camp. These are immediately separated from the others on the ramp, so that they have no idea of the fate which awaits the others. They are ordered to write optimistic-sounding letters home to Hungary. This is a constant and convenient custom intended to fool subsequent transports.

At the present time, the number of gassed Hungarian Jews is already approaching 100,000, and is bound to increase proportionately every day. Auschwitz [German in text] must 'process' 1,200,000 Hungarian Jews in the shortest possible time. The pace is accelerated to the maximum, yet the intensity of the transports is further increased."

This account is a tight interweaving of truth, fantasy and lies. The first Jewish transports left Hungary on May 14 and reached Auschwitz on May 17. The

report asserts that 13 trains arrived every day, each one consisting of 48-50 cars, each car with 100 deportees. This corresponds to a minimum of $(13 \times 48 \times 100 =)$ 62,400 deportees per day! A telegram from SS *Standartenführer* Edmund Veesenmayer of May 24, 1944 (NG-5602) shows that 110,556 Jews had departed Hungary by the day before (but the last trains had not yet arrived at Auschwitz, because the trip lasted an average of three days). The deportation schedule anticipated the sending of four transports per day each carrying 3,000 Jews.⁴⁵¹ In the report dated May 29, 1944, Lieutenant Colonel László Ferenczy, the officer in the Hungarian gendarmerie responsible for the deportations, reported that 184,042 Jews had been deported in 58 trains by May 28 (T/1163), an average of approximately 3,170 persons per train, a little over 13,000 per day (see Mattogno 2001).

100,000 Jews are said to have been gassed by May 25, and only 2,000 of them were left alive, therefore a total of 102,000 Hungarian Jews had allegedly arrived; but at a rate of 62,400 per day, the number of arrivals over the eight-day period from May 17 to 25 would have amounted to $(62,400 \times 8 =)$ 499,200 people! This prospect was evidently taken seriously, because the report states that there was a pile of baggage at the railroad ramp 300 meters long, 20 meters wide, and as high as a one-story building, i.e., a volume of some 18,000 cubic meters!

The story told by the members of the Auschwitz resistance is therefore nonsensical.

The fact that railway cars of lumber also arrived with the trains has some basis in fact – although the wood was not used for construction, but as fuel. The fact is that an inmate labor unit exited that was in charge of unloading fuel wood for the crematoria, presumably from train cars and/or trucks: The report “Labor deployment for July 28, 1944” in the men’s camp, which follows the report of May 15 in the fragmentary documentation, mentions a labor unit “61-B wood unloader Crem. IV [= V]” consisting of 30 persons.⁴⁵² This entry appears in the following reports until August 9, starting on May 5 with reference to Crematoria I and II (= II and III; see Mattogno 2016f, pp. 61f., 83-92). However, since the deportation of the Hungarian Jews ceased on July 9, 1944, it is obvious that this Kommando had no direct relationship with these deportees.

The description of the gassing process is fantastic and incomprehensible even from the orthodox point of view. There were crematoria, but the gasings were carried out in “two gassing installations” whose location is not mentioned. The choice of the term “*gazownia*” – “gasworks” is rather revealing, since at that time the term indicated an industrial facility for the production of illumination and combustible gas, while the resistance members intended to

⁴⁵¹ NG-2262, Veesenmayer’s telegram dated May 4, 1944.

⁴⁵² “61-B Holzabblader Krem. IV,” APMO, D-Aul-3a/1a, p. 18.

refer to a presumed “gassing installation,” which in German would be “*Ver-gasungsanstalt*.” As far as one can tell, the crematoria, which were in no way linked to the “gasworks,” were only used for the cremation of cadavers and were backed up in this task by a fantastic “brick kiln” (*cegielnia*) – of which orthodox historiography remains completely ignorant – and “pyres” (*stosy*). There were two gas chambers, because every “gasworks” had one. The location of the gassings, although indeterminate, no doubt rules out the crematoria, because the bodies were piled up “on the other side” of the gas chamber, and it is not even possible to understand whether it was an enclosed space or out in the open. Here, at any rate, the victims had their hair shorn off, teeth containing precious metals were extracted, and the bodies were inspected. The procedure closely follows that attributed to the “Operation Reinhardt” camps: the victims handed over their valuables at a “deposit,” followed by their clothing (instead of leaving everything behind in the “dressing room,” according to the final version).

The claim that 1,200,000 Hungarian Jews were about to arrive is obviously absurd.

The report remains intentionally silent on the Birkenau transit camp, through which at least 79,200 unregistered Hungarian Jews passed before being transferred to other camps (Mattogno 2001).

Other elements of the story have a real basis, which is, however, exaggerated or distorted.

The fact that deportees may have spent the night, as a purely provisional matter, in a little forest (around the pond located south of Crematorium IV) is attested to by various photographs from the *Auschwitz Album*, but this does not mean that they were waiting for death. As I have noted elsewhere (Mattogno 2007, pp. 36-38), this hypothesis is no more probable or convincing than the hypothesis that they were awaiting transfer to other destinations, as intuited by the fact that, to reach the pond, the deportees shown in the photographs, carrying backpacks, bundles and cooking utensils, had already walked between Crematoria II and III, which were inactive: The gate of Crematorium III is shut, and there is no trace of deportees in the courtyard. The chimneys of Crematoria II and III are not smoking!

Crematorium V was out of service at the time, but was not being repaired. The reason cited in the report is puerile, and reveals complete ignorance: it was because “the grate and part of the furnace have burned out,” as if the eight-muffle furnace in this crematorium had only one grate (the furnace was equipped with four steel grates in the gas generators and eight grates of refractory clay inside the muffles).⁴⁵³

Finally, in the above-mentioned “Labor deployment” reports, the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” is always referred to as “Kommando 57-B/60-B, Heizer

⁴⁵³ See the schema of the furnace in Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. 2, Doc. 239, p. 400.

[stoker] Krematorium I-IV” (= II-V), and its maximum manpower never exceeded 903 inmates, including three specialists (see Mattogno 2016f, pp. 83-92).

The lies contained in this account reappeared in the subsequent reports. On June 8, “Soból” wrote (*Obóz...*, p. 163):

“Over 100,000 Hungarian Jews have already been gassed at Auschwitz. 13 trains arrive every day. Those doomed to die believe that they are to be resettled in the East, or exchanged in a deal with England [i.e., they believed that they were going to be exchange for German prisoners captured by the British]. The program provided for the killing of 1,200,000 Hungarian Jews. 2,000 Jews have been transferred to Gliwice. They write to Hungary saying everything is all right.”

Also on June 8, the information service of the Delegatura wrote a long report for London titled “The Liquidation of the Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz,” which begins as follows (*ibid.*, pp. 163-166):

“The liquidation action of the Hungarian Jews in the gas chambers [w komorach gazowych] at Auschwitz is continuing with tremendous intensity since May 15. Every night 8 trains arrive, and every day 5 trains, every one of which consists of 48-50 cars; every car carries 100 persons.”

This account repeats almost to the letter that of the “Extraordinary Appendix” mentioned earlier, with minimal variation; one of these is the substitution of the words “obie gazownie,” the two gasworks, with “*hale gazowe*” – gassing halls.

On July 13, 1944, an “encrypted dispatch” reported:⁴⁵⁴

“The mass extermination of persons, first of all Jews, followed by Soviet prisoners and so-called sick people, began at Auschwitz on May 15. The Hungarian Jews were arriving en masse. Over a period of 24 hours, 13 trains arrived with 40-50 cars each. The victims are convinced that they are going to be exchanged for German prisoners. The bodies are burned in the crematoria and in the open. There have already been over 100,000 gassing victims. The pace of liquidation may be reduced by intense propaganda.”

The anachronistic reference to the extermination of Soviet prisoners of war is added at this point.

In May 1944, the clandestine French newspaper *Fraternité* published the tale of a French worker returning from Germany (Courtois/Rayski, p. 220):

“Upon arrival, all the still-able-bodied men were immediately sent to the work sites. The others, women, children, the elderly, were sent to the showers. They are led into a splendid modern establishment... Except, instead of a jet of hot water, which would have relieved their tired limbs, the only thing that came out [of the showerheads] were jets of asphyxiant gas: in a few moments, they

⁴⁵⁴ APMO, Au.D-RO/192, Vol. XXX, p. 40.

were gone, leaning against the doors through which they attempted to flee; corpses of mothers holding their infants in their arms, or of old men embracing their old spouses in one last protective gesture.”

The “Period Report for the Period between May 25 and June 15, 1944” is subtitled “Oświęcim ‘Operation Höss – Operation Reinhardt.’” 324,005 Jews had departed Hungary by June 14, 1944,⁴⁵⁵ preceded by 289,357 Jews in 92 trains by June 7,⁴⁵⁶ an average of 3,145 per train. The 34,648 deportees between June 8 and 14 therefore correspond to 11 trains in seven days (carrying 3,150 persons each). If the journey lasted three days, at least seven of these transports, or 22,000 persons, had arrived by June 15. The total number of deportees therefore amounted to over 311,000, while (311,000 – 110,556 =) ca. 200,000 Jews arrived during the period which was the object of the report. Notwithstanding this enormous influx of deportees – and of presumed gassing victims – this report is even vaguer than the one preceding:

“The SS have been unsuccessful in dealing with the gassings, and [always] await the unloading [of the deportees] at the death ramp after [every] 3-4 trains. Therefore, the interval for the victims in the ‘gasworks’ [=gas chamber] has been shortened from half an hour to 10 minutes, cramming 1,000 people into the chamber at a time, and, to save [time] and facilitate ventilation, the quantity of gas [ilość gazu] thrown into the ‘gasworks’ has been changed from 12 to 6 doses [dawek]. The consequence has been terrible! A few victims have only been stunned, and when the time comes to throw them onto the pyre [na stos], they come to and attempt to pull themselves out. Using hooks – a long pole with an iron hook – the living victims are pushed back alive into the fire. A recently established rule states that small children generally are not gassed, the bigger ones are stunned with blows or drugged with the gas [gazem] by a vaporizer [z rozpylacza], the smaller ones have their heads smashed in, and the smallest are thrown directly into the fire. All this seems imaginary [fantastycznie], but it is the truth! These are the facts illuminated by the vivid flame of the burning pyres. The pyres burn incessantly, without stopping, day and night, supplementing the work of the crematoria. In the dark night, they create a spectral picture of violent flames and palpitating bodies, amongst which [sweat-]wet figures with a bloody glow of fire dart around like devils with powerful irons in their hands.”

The description closes with a reference to Dante’s *Inferno*, carrying out the “German program.” A brief paragraph regarding the riches extracted from the deportees, part of which was pocketed by the “camp commandant Höss and his adjutant Grabner” (who had nonetheless been arrested for embezzlement in the fall of 1943). As for the rest, the report says:⁴⁵⁷

⁴⁵⁵ Braham 1963, p. 608. Veessenmayer’s telegram of June 15, 1944.

⁴⁵⁶ NG-5619. Veessenmayer’s telegram of June 13, 1944

⁴⁵⁷ APMO, D-RO/91. Vol. VII, pp. 444-446.

“Approximately 40 kg of gold and white metal were extracted from the bodies of the gassing victims in the month of May alone.”

This description is not only *imaginary* (as the author was well aware!), but *puerile*. Here, there was one single “gasworks,” designed and constructed in an unknown manner and located who knows where, which bore the full weight of all the gassings. To facilitate dispatching the transports, the gassing time was shortened from 30 to 10 minutes – as if the “bottleneck” were the gassing and not the cremation, as explicitly confirmed by Robert Jan van Pelt (van Pelt 2002, p. 470). At the Höss Trial, expert witness Roman Dawidowski, a PhD engineer, declared that the gas chambers at Auschwitz could exterminate 60,000 persons per day in total!⁴⁵⁸

The lie about reducing the “quantity of gas” shows the abysmal ignorance of the report’s author, who knew nothing about the “gas” involved, all-the-more-obviously-so since, as measure for the amount of gas used, he did not give the number of “cans” (“*puszki*”) used, but rather the number of “doses” applied (*dawki*), which makes little sense.

The cremation scenes are always set in the open air, on pyres, located who-knows-where; there is no mention of the activity of the crematoria, only that their work is being supplemented by the pyres.

The report moreover mentions a mysterious “gas” vaporizer which stunned people! The claim relating to the 40 kg of gold is quite baseless. The rhetorical, horrifying tone in the last sentence is further proof of its fantastic nature.

“Operation Reinhardt” is only mentioned in the title of the report.

A note dated June 1, 1944 mentions the arrival of 90 trainloads of Hungarian Jews (*Obóz...*, p. 161).

A report dated June 17, based on information transmitted from the camp on May 19, backdated the startup gassing of Hungarian Jews to May 1 (*ibid.*, pp. 166-168):

“4 to 7 large-scale trains [consisting of many cars] arrive every day. Every car carries 100 persons, destined for ‘processing’ in local argot. The first transports arrive with all the appearances of resettlement, with large quantities of personal possessions, with construction materials to build houses (this construction material which was later used to fuel the pyres that burned the corpses of the gassing victims). [...]

Immediately after their arrival, they have to hand over all their valuables and money, for which they are issued meticulous receipts, then they wait in the ‘bathroom.’ All the women have their hair cut off before entering the bathroom, after which the hair is selected by a special squad and sent to the Reich in boxes. Their clothing is also selected by a separate squad, as [to send it] for disinfection. They are treated calmly, gently, the whole time, right up until the

⁴⁵⁸ Höss Trial. *United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program*, 1988, Reel No. 62, 14th hearing, p. 1568.

gas chamber [komory gazowej] is closed. After the gassing (Prussic acid [kwas pruski]), the bodies are inspected again by a squad under strict SS supervision, particularly [during] the careful extraction of all the gold teeth. The daily loot in terms of gold derived from the bodies amounts to 10-13 kg. The bodies are then burned. Since May 1, 4 crematoria have been in operation day and night, one brick kiln [cegielnia], every once in a while [czasem], they are also burned on pyres [na stosach]. The number of people liquidated daily amounts to 10,000. In this way, all the Hungarian Jews are to be exterminated – there are 1,200,000 of them. For this action, SS men were brought in – 2,000 SS men – responsible for supervising the ‘processing’ of the Jews, carried out by a squad consisting of strong young Jews having arrived on the first few transports. There have been cases of nervous breakdown and insanity among the SS, some of whom go to the crematorium together with the Jews. At the camp, the situation is calm. Starting in October [1943], following the recall of the old commandant, the death penalty for attempting to escape has been abolished. But former commandant Grabner, the well-known organizer of mass executions, returned on May 1, and is now carrying out the liquidation of the Jews.”

In a surprising anachronism, the arrival at Auschwitz of the transports of Hungarian Jews is here claimed to have begun on May 1, two weeks before the departure of the first mass-deportation train from Hungary. The thirteen trains per day in the preceding reports are here reduced to four to seven. It should be noted that somebody guessed “right” at long last and mentioned Prussic acid (hydrogen cyanide) as the agent of extermination – with regard to the previously mentioned “Cyklon,” the resistance members knew only that it smelled of mustard (Prussic acid has a mild scent remotely similar to bitter almonds). The picture borrows even more heavily from the picture dreamed up for the gassings in the “Operation Reinhardt” camps: the victims were even issued receipts for the clothing and valuables they turned in at the “deposit”! The women had all their hair cut off before being killed – a rational and efficient idea which, oddly enough, was abandoned in the orthodox version of gassing practices at Auschwitz. The weight of the gold recovered from the teeth of the bodies was 10-13 kg *per day*, but strangely amounted to only 40 kg for the entire month of May. The fantasies of the “brick kiln” and the number of Hungarian Jews to be exterminated – 1,200,000 – are already known.

The fairy tale of the SS men who went insane and went to the crematorium together with the Jews is puerile, because it confuses the crematorium with the gas chamber[s]. Finally and incredibly, the author of the report even confuses Grabner with Höss! Thus, one can easily judge the reliability of his sources.

In June 1944 at Stockholm, an official from the Polish government in exile named Waskiewicz questioned a Pole who had escaped Poland after spending seven weeks at Auschwitz. On June 18, Waskiewicz wrote a report in French on his interrogation of the witness, giving only the initials: K.J. The witness

was a forced laborer who, returning a few days late from leave, was arrested by the Gestapo and sentenced to ten weeks in a concentration camp. He was then interned for three weeks in the Rattwitz Camp, in Silesia, whence he was transferred to Auschwitz, where he spent the next seven weeks. In his detailed description of Auschwitz, this “eyewitness” stated the following, among other things:⁴⁵⁹

“At each roll call, a special service hauled away those who had collapses and no longer reacted to blows, and loaded them onto a mechanical conveyor without bothering to check whether or not they were still alive, and sent them straight to the furnace [singular] the capacity of which, in 1943, was calculated at 1,000 persons. [...] Section XVIII (the Jewish section) was equipped with a gas chamber and factory for the production of grease for machinery. K.J. declared that it was here that the Germans transformed the bodies of gassed Jews into grease, which was then sent off in packages bearing the inscription ‘Schmierstoff-Fabrik Auschwitz’ [Auschwitz Lubricant Factory]. As he was responsible for removing the bodies of the gassing victims, he was able to observe the process on a group of 1,500 Polish Jews, ‘sent off’ in May 1943. These Jews had not been mistreated upon their arrival, nor did they look particularly malnourished. Straight away, after their arrival, they were given a real shower and even soap. Then, after they had taken off their clothes themselves, they were selected, grouping the fat and the thin, women and men. Each group was then sent separately into the gas chamber, a vast concrete hall accessed through a triple door. The victims generally died within a few minutes after the doors were closed. The hall was then rapidly ventilated, and the inmates responsible for removing the bodies had to move them as quickly as possible before they became too stiff, using special trolleys which were carried to the grease factory on a mechanical conveyor.

There, using chemical processes with which K.J. was not familiar, the bodies were transformed into a sort of mush, after which the grease was extracted. The residues, in the form of a few bones and a shapeless mass, were carefully burnt in the crematory furnace.

The bodies of the gassing victims exhibited only traces of asphyxia (protruding tongues, open mouths) and bleeding from the mouth. The gassing hall, after rapid ventilation, smelled of sulphur.”

From “bone glue” to the manufacture of lubricants from human fat, human soap was but a step away; but it was a step taken only after the war. The fairy tale of the “mechanical conveyor” reappeared in a new form in the first few months of 1945 (see Subchapter 3.1.2.).

⁴⁵⁹ Central Dept. Poland No. 26. 18th June 1944. Political Memorandum. From: Press Reading Bureau, Stockholm. To: Political Intelligence Department, London. *Rapport de M. Waskiewicz sur l’interrogation de K.J.* TNA, FO 371-39451, pp. 137-140.

On June 4, 1944, the *Daily News Bulletin* published an article titled “Horrors of Oswiecim Camp Related by First Eye-Witness Reaching England: 800,000 Exterminated”.⁴⁶⁰

“London, June 2nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The number of Jewish and other victims tortured to death or exterminated in gas chambers in the notorious camp of Oswiecim and the neighbouring Birkenau up to the first half of 1942 was estimated by the Germans themselves at several hundred thousand, it was revealed here by the first eye-witness to reach this country from Oswiecim. Some observers, he said, put the figure as high as 800,000.

In a conversation with Dr. I. Schwarzbarth, member of the Polish National Council, the eye-witness, a non-Jew who was interned in Oswiecim from the later part of 1940 until the spring of 1942, related gruesome details about the horrors perpetrated by the Germans in the camp. He was later transferred to Birkenau where he stayed until spring, 1943, when he was brought to a labour camp in Germany from which he succeeded in escaping last autumn. The terrible experiences he has been through have left deep marks on him. Only with great difficulties was he able to sum up what he has seen during his captivity.

The area of the Oswiecim camp covers several square miles, he told Dr. Schwarzbarth. Special tracks were built connecting the camp with the Oswiecim railway station. Almost day by day transports of Jews from all parts of Poland and from western Europe were arriving while he was in the camp. Among others the eye-witness saw a large transport of French Jews. Non-Jewish Poles were also brought to the camp, especially from the Lublin province, and there were also Soviet prisoners of war and gypsies.

Numbered and Unnumbered Prisoners.

Prisoners were marked with a number, but only when they were put into one of the labour gangs. There were over 110,000 numbered prisoners in the camp when the eye-witness left for Birkenau in 1942. Hundreds of thousands, however, were not registered but were sent straight to the gas chambers. This fate was reserved for all children, aged people and expectant mothers, indeed for all those not considered fit for the heavy work the members of the labour gangs were forced to do. On the way to the gas chambers the victims were escorted by strong S.S. detachments.

‘Almost every day,’ the informant said, ‘we could see from Oswiecim the smoke rising from the pyres in Birkenau on which the bodies of people killed in the gas chambers were burnt. Members of labour gangs unable to stand the strain of heavy work were continually selected for execution in the gas chambers.’

Shooting at helpless prisoners was a favourite pastime among the guards who included also a number of Ukrainians, the informant said. ‘I saw myself Ger-

⁴⁶⁰ *Daily News Bulletin*, Vol. XXV, No. 129, June 4, 1944, pp. 3f.

mans shooting at children,' he declared. 'I also saw a German treading on a stick which he had placed on the throat of a prisoner lying on the ground, until the victim was strangulated. Many others were killed through injections. Before being put to torture, the victims were stripped and the clothes collected as 'Deutsches Volksgut'. Sometimes people were buried alive to great enjoyment of the guards.'

The informant himself went through manyfold tortures before he was assigned to a labour group. Discipline was reinforced by draconic means. For the slightest offence a man was put into the 'Stehbunker,' a small cell providing room only for one man when standing. Prisoners were kept in such cells until they fainted. Escape was impossible. The whole camp is surrounded by a high wall and two rows of high tension electric wire.

'When I came to Birkenau,' the informant continued, 'I found there seventeen incinerators either completed or in the course of construction. Pyres were burning day and night. The ashes were scattered over the fields and only a few charred bones were left. Notices 'Zum Baden' indicated the gas chambers. Conditions in the labour camp in Germany were also very hard. But after having gone through the Oswiecim hell, life there seemed to me like a sanatorium. I have read the pamphlet issued here about the Oswiecim camp.^[461] Its contents pale into insignificance when compared with what I have seen and with my own experiences,' the informant concluded."

This testimony shows quite a sampling of nonsensical and puerile atrocity stories, starting with the number of victims presumably "estimated by the Germans themselves," to the "pastime" of shooting inmates, to the inmates "buried alive" (added to the theme of inmates burned alive). As for the extermination procedure, the witness reiterates, with a few variations, the vague fantasies already noted: there were "seventeen incinerators" at Birkenau, and the ashes from the cremated bodies were used to fertilize the fields; there were also "pyres," and the gas chambers were indicated by the words "Zum Baden" ("to the showers"). As seen earlier, the fantastic figure of 800,000 gassing victims was a watchword of black propaganda that was attributed without too much concern to the period up to August 1942 or up to the spring of 1943.

On June 24, 1944, the Swedish embassy at Budapest sent the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs a detailed report in German on the Jewish deportations from Hungary, claiming that "a total of 335,000 Jews were deported from Hungary between May 15 and June 10,"⁴⁶² in addition to copies of the reports by Alfred Wetzler and Rudolf Vrba (to which I shall return later), also in German, with the well-known statistic of the Jews presumably gassed be-

⁴⁶¹ No doubt Natalia Zarembina's short book *Obóz śmierci*, mentioned earlier, translated into English under the title *The Camp of Death* and published in London by Liberty Publications in July 1944 with two "updates" (p. 19 and 30) based on more-recent information originating from the "Polish Underground."

⁴⁶² RA, HP 1095, pp. 141-154.

tween April 1942 and April 1944: 1,765,000!⁴⁶³ Finally, there was a “Letter from a Woman Deported from Szolyva, Hungary, on May 17, 1944.” The author was deported from Munkács on a train of 45 cars carrying 3,300 persons. After three days of traveling, the train arrived at Auschwitz on May 20, 1944 (although Auschwitz is never mentioned), where there was already a transport from Bacska. The deportees got off the train and were divided into three groups:⁴⁶⁴

“1/ Men

2/ Childless women and girls

3/ Women with children.

The first two groups were led off in the direction of a few houses visible in the distance. A smaller group of girls from Bacska, about 70 in number, were led away separately. We were hungry and thirsty, and especially the children were crying. The Germans told us that first we had to take a shower and then we would be given water and bread with marmelade. We were then led away. We went along a barbed-wire fence. Behind the fence there were houses, and we saw women and girls working there wearing striped, soiled clothes. A bit further along, we saw two large factory-type chimneys with big flames shooting out of them. It could hardly have been a factory, since the building belonging to it didn't look like a factory. They told us these were bathing facilities. But I couldn't believe it. We kept going. After about a quarter of an hour we came to a small sparsely wooded forest. We had to sit down on a free area. The children were crying constantly. We were repeatedly told that we would have to shower, then we would get everything we needed. Some of our group were taken a bit further away. They had to undress and were taken away naked to bathe. Shortly afterwards, we saw flames in the distance shooting high in the sky and spreading out sideways. I was very frightened and merely thought how I could get away from this. I no longer believed that we were to be bathed. The other women didn't believe it either. Many of them said their dying prayer /Viduj/. We were then told to go a bit further to get undressed. I decided not to keep up. I stayed behind a little bit, grabbed my child by the hand and ran further and further away from the fire. It was starting to get dark, I kept going straight ahead. It was already late when I reached a swampy area, then I couldn't go any further. We sat down and slept a little bit. Before daybreak I followed a path, and probably after a big detour I came into a village. I went to the railway station, the name of the station was Jawiszowice.”

The further vicissitudes of the “eyewitness” are without interest.

The subdivision of the “selections” into three groups is not only unusual, but contradicts the orthodox Holocaustical tenets: picking out those unfit for labor (the elderly and/or sick) is completely missing here. As already noted, neither Auschwitz nor Birkenau is ever mentioned in this tale. It contains

⁴⁶³ *Ibid.*, pp. 156-183

⁴⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 187f.

many fantastic elements. From the orthodox point of view, the witness's description of a gassing facility outside of the crematoria should actually refer to "Bunker 2," but that presumed gassing facility consisted only of a single cottage, while the witness speaks of "houses" in the plural. To get to the location where "Bunker 2" is said to have been, she only would have passed between Crematoria II and III at the end of the railway ramp, but nowhere near Crematoria IV and V. The author claims to have seen "two large factory-type chimneys" belonging to *one single* building ("*the building* belonging to it"), but those two crematoria only had one chimney each.

The claim that "big flames" shot from the two chimneys is one of so many absurdities typical of the usual "eye-witness" testimonies. Furthermore, this tale suggests that victims led away to "bathe" went up in flames "shortly afterwards," which looks like this witness prefers the "Nyiszlian" version of the killings in burning pits without hinting at gas chambers at all, all the more so since the author does not mention any building for this area.

The only real aspect of the tale could be that relating to the bath: the inmates were led "to a small sparsely wooded forest" and stopped at "a free area" to take their bath, while no building is ever mentioned. Now, the clandestine photograph of a group of naked women taken secretly at Birkenau in August 1944⁴⁶⁵ shows precisely the presence of inmates filling basins and pouring water from receptacles – a scene which is perfectly compatible with open-air bathing at a time of great influx of deportees crowding the *Zentralsauna*.⁴⁶⁶

The flight from the presumed execution site, as narrated by the witness, has an ingenuous, fairy-tale-like quality to it: if it was only necessary to take a few steps to escape – holding a child by the hand – circumventing the guards escorting the group, traversing the outer line of sentries and the southern-most confines of the Auschwitz "sphere of interest," and finally reaching the railway station at Jawiszowice (10 km from Birkenau as the crow flies), then there would exist similar testimonies by the hundreds, if not thousands.

On July 4, 1944, Dr. Hubert Ripka, acting Czechoslovakian minister of foreign affairs, transmitted to London a "Report on Conditions in the Concentration Camps of Oswiecim and Birkenau," which contains a description more in line with the current orthodox narrative:⁴⁶⁷

"Since March, 1942 enormous transports of Jews have come to Oswieczym [sic] and Birkenau. A very small number of them have been sent to the labour camp, while an average of 90 per cent of those who have come have been taken straight from the train and killed. These executions took place at the beginning in the forest of Birkenwald by gas suffocation in a special building constructed for the purpose. After the suffocation by gas the dead bodies were

⁴⁶⁵ APMO, negative 282.

⁴⁶⁶ See my analysis of the photograph in Mattogno 2016f, pp. 46-49, Docs. 12-16, pp. 159-161.

⁴⁶⁷ "Report on Conditions in the Concentration Camps of Oswieczym and Birkenau." TNA, FO 371-40809

burnt. At the end of February, 1943, four new crematoria were built, two large and two small, in the camp of Birkenau itself. The crematorium contains a large hall, a gas chamber and a furnace. People are assembled in the hall which holds 2,000 and give the impression of a swimming-bath. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber which is hermetically sealed. Several S.S. men in gas-masks then pour into the gas chamber through three openings in the ceiling a preparation of the poison gas Megacyklon, which is made in Hamburg. At the end of three minutes all the persons are dead. The dead bodies are then taken away in carts to the furnace to be burnt. The furnace has nine chambers, each of them with four openings. Each opening will take three bodies at once. They are completely burnt after 1 1/2 hours. Thus each crematorium can burn 1,500 bodies daily. The crematoria can be recognized from the outside by their lofty chimneys.

On principle only Jews are put to death by gas, this is only done to Aryans in exceptional cases. [...]

According to careful calculations during the period from April, 1942, to April, 1944, from 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 million Jews were put to death by gas or in some other way, half of these being Polish Jews, others Jews from Holland, Greece, France, Belgium, Germany, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Norway, Lithuania, Austria and Jews of various other nationalities who were brought to Oswiecym from other camps in Poland. About 90 per cent of the members of the transports arriving in Birkenau and Oswiecym were taken straight from the train to be put to death and about 10 per cent became inmates of the camp."

The report then speaks of the "selections":

"Twice a week the camp doctor indicated persons destined for selection. Those selected were all gassed. In a single block of Birkenau camp the average number of deaths a week was as much as 2,000, 1,200 of these being natural deaths and 800 'selection'. A special book entitled 'S.B. Sonderbehandelte' is kept dealing with the 'selected'. Notice of the deaths of the others is sent to the supreme commander of the camp at Oranienburg. At the beginning of 1943 the 'political section' (camp Gestapo) at Oswiecym received 500,000 forms for release. The governor had them all made out in the names of persons who had already been gassed and lodged them in the archives of the camp."

The latter was an absurd fabrication. This is followed by a list of camp SS men with garbled names, ranks and responsibilities:

"Hoess, governor of the camp, Untersturmfuehrer [sic], Schwarzhuber, director of the camp, the Tyrolese chief of the political department (Lagerfuherer) [sic], Oberscharfuehrer Palitsch,^[468] Scharfuehrer Stiwett,^[469] S.S. Scharfueh-

⁴⁶⁸ SS Hauptscharführer Gerhard Palitsch, born near Dresden in Saxony, was appointed *Schutzhaftlagerführer* at Auschwitz III (Monowitz) satellite camp Brünn in October 1943.

⁴⁶⁹ SS Unterscharführer Friedrich Stiewitz was deployed at Department IIIa (labor deployment).

rer Wykleff,^[470] S.S. Mann Kler,^[471] the garrison doctor Wirt,^[472] the camp doctor Entrest.^[473]”

The following explanation appears at the end of the report:

“The above is the contents of two documents. The persons who have managed to secure the transmission of the documents to a neutral country added (a) the following information:

‘12,000 Jews are deported daily from the territories of Carpathian, Transylvania and the district of Košice where there used to be 320,000 Jews. Those deported are sent to Oswieczym, 5,000 going by train via Slovakia daily and 7,000 via Carpathian Ruthenia.’”

Four requests are then presented, the second of which is the following:

“The crematoria in both camps, which are recognisable by their high chimneys and watch-towers, should be bombed, and so should the main railway-lines connecting Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia with Poland which are also of military importance, (especially the bridge at Čop).”

This story is based essentially on the Wetzler-Vrba Report, which will be examined later, with additions and distortions. The first regards the entry into operation of the crematoria, all four “at the end of February, 1943.” The gas used to kill the victims is imaginatively called “Megacyklon,” and the description of the gas chamber is curious to say the least: it “gives the impression of a swimming-bath.” The author of the report moreover invents the “special book entitled ‘S.B. Sonderbehandelte’” and the puerile story of the “500,000 forms for release,” suggesting that the camp authorities were trying to hide something from their superiors, hence must have considered as illegal the gassing of at least 500,000 persons.

The two “bunkers” at Birkenau were still unknown, because in the “Birkenwald” there was only “a special building constructed for the purpose.”

The “Period Report for the Period from June 15 and July 15, 1944” opens with a long paragraph on Block 11, and mentions the “bunkers” (*bunkrzy*) in the basement with an exact description: “Steinbunker” /stone cell/, measuring 80 × 80 centimeters × 2 meters in height, with one door and a little window at the top for fresh air.”⁴⁷⁴

The presumed extermination is only discussed in a single brief paragraph titled “Operation Höss – Reinhardt”:⁴⁷⁵

“Beginning on June 13, the reception of Hungarian transports was interrupted for a few days. Doing the maths, over the period between May 16 and June 13,

⁴⁷⁰ Unknown person.

⁴⁷¹ SS *Oberscharführer* Josef Klehr, headed the Desinfektionskommando.

⁴⁷² SS *Sturmbannführer* Eduard Wirths was SS garrison physician.

⁴⁷³ SS *Hauptsturmführer* Friedrich Entress was SS camp physician at Auschwitz until October 1943.

⁴⁷⁴ APMO, D-RO/91, Vol. VII, p. 448.

⁴⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 451.

over 300,000 Hungarian Jews were transported in 113 transports, plus one transport of 2,500 French Jews, one transport of 1,500 Italian Jews, two transports of 50 Czech Jews, including the president of the Czech ghetto, who was gassed along with his family, as well as 100 British and American citizens of Jewish origin, who were exterminated separately in a special manner. Of the transports of Hungarian Jews, 80,000 were sent to the camp with a separate 'A' numbering [system], due to the overloading of the gas chambers and crematoria, while the rest had already been successfully disposed of. Naturally, the rest were doomed to suffer the same fate in due time. The Hitlerite hangmen were systematic."

99 trains carrying approximately 311,000 deportees had arrived at Auschwitz by June 15, so that this report's figure of 300,000 is close to the truth, but very far from the "Extraordinary Appendix to the Periodic Report for the Period between May 5 and 25, 1944," which speaks of 13 trains per day, consisting of 48-50 cars, each carrying 100 persons per car.

The "List of Transports of Jews" in the Auschwitz archives contains 17,546 male inmate registration numbers and 9,798 female inmate registration numbers up to July 15, 1944, although these are not just Jews.⁴⁷⁶ Some 16,100 Hungarian Jews were registered up to July 15, 1944 (Mattogno 2007, pp. 47-49). The figure of 80,000 inmates "with a separate 'A' numbering system"⁴⁷⁷ mentioned in the report is very close to the figure for Jews sent to the Birkenau transit camp *without being registered*, who numbered at least 79,200, as mentioned earlier. The bad faith of the editor of the report in interpreting the above real data is blatant: he leads the reader to understand that the 300,000 deportees were all, or almost all, destined for extermination, while failing to mention the transit camp, which was the point of departure for at least 30 transports of Hungarian Jews destined for labor deployment elsewhere (Mattogno 2007, pp. 19f.), and he even pretends that 80,000 *regularly registered* inmates were only made to wait for death because the presumed killing installations were overloaded!

The report makes no mention of "Operation Reinhardt."

The "Periodic Report for the Period between July 15 and August 1, 1944" elaborates on Soviet POWs (the figure mentioned, 10,800, is very close to the real figure, and contradicts the fantasies contained in the 1942 reports). It reports a "List of Transports from Auschwitz Concentration Camps I, II and III between January 1, 1944 and July 10, 1944," which records only two Jewish transports for the period between May 17 and July 10, one departing on May 18 for Sachsenhausen (10 inmates), and the other departing on July 7 for Schwarzheide (1,000 inmates). Here as well, there is obvious bad faith. Dur-

⁴⁷⁶ APMO, List of transports of Jews, D-RO/123, pp. 15-21.

⁴⁷⁷ 19,992 male inmates and 25,378 female inmates were registered in numerical series "A," for a total of 45,370. List of transports of Jews, D-RO/123, pp. 15-22.

ing the period in question, at least 34,300 Hungarian Jews were transferred from the transit camp alone (*ibid.*, p. 19).

In the paragraph titled “Camp Manpower on July 12, 1944,” it says that there were 14,386 inmates at Auschwitz I, 8,189 of whom were Jews; there were 19,711 inmates at Auschwitz II, and 26,705 at Auschwitz III, plus 31,406 at the women’s camp, for a total of 92,208.

The following note appears at the end:⁴⁷⁸

“The camp manpower does not include the transports of Hungarian Jews not yet gassed, who were registered with separate numbers under ‘A,’ or who are generally sent to camp without numbering (registration).”

This is the first mention of the presence of non-registered Jews at the camp, although they were nevertheless destined to be gassed.

On June 29, the *Manchester Guardian* published a declaration of the *World Jewish Congress* which also mentioned the deportation of Jews from Hungary (see “Mass Murder...”):

“The World Jewish Congress has been informed that a message dated June 14, 1944, has reached the Polish Government in London from its representatives in Poland that 100000 Jews, recently deportated from Hungary to Poland, have been slaughtered by mass gassing in the lethal chambers of the notorious German death camp in Polish Galicia.

News reached the World Jewish Congress on June 17 that in the period from May 15 to May 27 the Germans transported from Hungary 62 railway trucks laden with Jewish children, aged between two and nine years, and that six railway trains laden with Jewish adults passed through the station of Plaszow, near Cracow, bound for an unknown destination.”

About ten days later, the Swiss newspaper *Ostschweizerisches Tagblatt und Rorschacher Tagblatt* carried a note from the news agency Reuter dated July 8 titled “62 trains full of Jewish children ... whither?” which expanded upon the information published by the British newspaper:⁴⁷⁹

“London, July 8 (Reuter). The Polish Ministry of the Interior has learned from the Polish government in Poland the details of the fate of the 400,000 Jews deported from Hungary. The majority of the deportees were transferred to the Auschwitz extermination camp in Upper Silesia. On May 15, 62 railway cars carrying Jewish children aged 2 to 8 years were deported by the Germans in Hungary, and since then railroad trains carrying adults have left the railway station of Plaszow near Cracow every day.

According to information in possession of the Assistance Committee for Jews in Poland, 2 million Polish Jews have perished in three concentration camps in Poland since 1939.

⁴⁷⁸ APMO, D-RO/91, Vol. VII, pp. 452-454.

⁴⁷⁹ “62 Eisenbahnen voll jüdische Kinder... wohin?” Reprint of the article in Świebicki 2000, p. 313. The journal was apparently published on July 9, 1944.

This Reuter report is also being disseminated with the following supplements by the Exchange Agency:

'It could be established that most of the adults travelling through have been sent to Oswiecim and have been executed in the camp gas chambers.' [...]

The Polish Ministry for the Interior has furthermore established the daily gassing capacity of the chambers of Oswiecim as 6,000. The Ministry for the Interior finally declares that two additional death camps were established by the Germans in Poland in the second half of 1942, the Tremblinka [sic] Camp and Rawaruska [Rava-Russkaya] Camp. It is not known whether gas chambers were built there as well."

The gassing capacity of 6,000 bodies per day was perhaps an echo of the cremation capacity claimed in the Wetzler-Vrba Report (see the next chapter).

The legend of the 62 trains full of children was no doubt intended to lend credence to the story of the deportation of Jews from Hungary to Auschwitz, particularly, if not exclusively, for purposes of extermination. The two million Polish Jews killed in three concentration camps is in contradiction to the final information relating to the camps at "Tremblinka" (Treblinka) and "Rawaruska" (Rava-Russkaya). Together with Auschwitz, this should in fact be the three camps mentioned above.

However, there was no "extermination camp" at Rava-Russkaya, located approximately 20 km southeast of Belzec on the road to Lvov (Lemberg in German); instead, a POW camp named "Stalag 325" for captured French and Belgian soldiers was located there. Two of these POWs, from Belgium, escaped from the camp on April 28, 1943 and reached Sweden on May 5. A memorandum dated May 18, 1943 contains their fanciful statements, including the following:⁴⁸⁰

"They have both witnessed atrocities and spoken to Germans and compatriots, who have told them other similar facts. For instance the Germans themselves boasted that at Lvov they had specially constructed gas chambers where Jews were systematically killed and buried. The total number was said to exceed 80,000."

The "Periodic Report dated August 1 to September 1, 1944" mentions neither gassings nor gas chambers. At the end, the camp manpower is described in the following terms: Auschwitz I: 15,971 inmates; Auschwitz II: 19,424; Auschwitz III: 30,539; women's camp: 39,234; total: 105,168.⁴⁸¹

A long report dated August 22, 1944 is headed "Urban," the signature at the end reads "Rot.," the initials of the author's pseudonym. First of all, he indicates the camp manpower. There were 15,971 inmates at Auschwitz I;

⁴⁸⁰ Central Dept FO. Germany No 45. 18th May, 1943. Memorandum. To: Political Intelligence Department. From: Press Reading Bureau, Stockholm. TNA, FO 371-34430.

⁴⁸¹ APMO, D-RO/91. Vol. VII, p. 458.

19,424 male inmates and 32,234 female inmates at Auschwitz II; and 30,500 inmates at Auschwitz III. The report states that

“in addition to the [inmates] listed above, there are currently approximately 30,000 non-registered Jews at Birkenau [sic], that is, Jews slated to be sent into the gas [na gaz]. This figure is variable.”

Overall, there were 65,934 men and 39,234 women at the camp, for a total of 105,168, plus a variable number of “transiting” inmates, at that time the above-mentioned 30,000 Hungarian Jews.

The camp garrison consisted of 3,250 soldiers, including 70 SS men, plus 30% of the total from the Wehrmacht. The report also supplies information on garrison morale, armaments, the vehicle fleet, telecommunications, fences and sentries. In this context, it mentions the presence of 22 bunkers (*bunkrzy*) laid out around the 30 guard towers forming the outer line of sentry posts (*große Postenkette*). “Every bunker is a machine-gun nest with a line of fire controlling all camp entrances and exits.” The report describes the general situation of the camp and the anticipated general behavior of the SS.⁴⁸²

The end of the report contains a detailed statistical appendix relating to camp manpower dated August 21, 1944. Total camp manpower is listed for every camp – “Lager” I, II, III; for the women’s camp, it is subdivided by nationality and category of inmates; for the Jews, it is broken down by nationality. Correcting for errors, the Appendix lists 65,937 male inmates and 38,954 female inmates. Hungarian Jews are listed as numbering 11,821.⁴⁸³

Another report, presumably compiled on August 23 (as stated in a note at the end), is subdivided into 13 points, some of which regard the presumed extermination of the Jews:⁴⁸⁴

“4) Some of the Jews on the transports from Płaszów are sent into the gas [na gaz] – a small group is admitted into the camp.

5) The gassings are still going on. Today, for example, 40 cars arrived, full of Jews from Łódź – all were sent into the gas [na gaz].”

The *Auschwitz Chronicle* clearly refutes the first item, asserting that on August 6, 1944, 7,500 Jewesses arrived at Auschwitz from the Płaszów Camp, who were all housed in the Birkenau transit camp.⁴⁸⁵ Danuta Czech states that 64 men and two women were selected from the transport from Łódź on August 22, 1944 (1990, p. 694). It is a very significant fact that the presumed continuation of the gassings should be accounted for based on this one single example. Another, very general, mention of the Jews from Łódź appears in an undated report written by “Stakło and J.”:⁴⁸⁶

⁴⁸² AGK, TNT, 155, pp. 99-114.

⁴⁸³ *Ibid.*, p. 115 (original) and 116 (transcript).

⁴⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 117.

⁴⁸⁵ Czech 1989, p. 842; the phrase about these deportees having been accommodated in the transit camp was omitted from the English edition: Czech 1990, p. 680.

⁴⁸⁶ APMO, D-RO/85, Vol. II, p. 126.

“Other transports of Poles and Russians depart the camp for Germany. The gassing of the Jews is continuing. Transports from Łódź, from Holland, from Italy. The ditches [doły] in which the bodies of the victims gassed at Birkenau are burned when the crematoria were unsuccessful in disposing of them all, are now being filled without a trace.”

Czech asserts that this report was sent on August 30, 1944 by Stanisław Kłodziński to Teresa Lasocka, but in the month of August not one Jewish transport from Holland arrived at Auschwitz while one single transport arrived from Italy (Verona) carrying 250 persons on August 2 (Piper 1993, p. 198).

The letter dated November 1, 1942 mentioned earlier states that the bodies of the gassing victims were “burned in the open in suitably excavated mass graves”; this detail, in subsequent reports replaced by “pyres” (*stosy*), is once again confirmed here; the cremation “ditches” (*doły*) became one of the essential elements in the final orthodox version of the Holocaust.

This outpouring of accounts reached the ears of the Soviets, among others. On August 23, 1944, Sergey Romanovich Savchenko, Commissar 2nd Class of State Security, sent a “Special Report on ‘Birkenau’ [sic] Extermination Camp” to Moscow from Kiev. The report states (Terushkin/Tikhankina, pp. 58-60):

“The camp extends over 5 square kilometers and has 4 special furnaces for the cremation of corpses.

Jews forcibly conscripted into a ‘Sonder’ unit work in the crematoria under the direction of the commander-in-chief of the SS general staff, SS Feldfebel [illegible].

In 1941, 12,000 Soviet POWs were imprisoned in ‘BERKENAU’; subsequently, they were tortured to death and exterminated, save for 50-60 people who worked for the Germans. The Soviet POWs were killed with clubs or strangled to death, after which they were cremated.

As of June 1944, there were up to 80,000 civilians and POWs of various nationalities in the camp, including Russians, Poles, Czechs, Frenchmen, Belgians, gypsies and Jews.

In May 1944, [illegible] proceeded to the mass cremation of the Hungarian Jews, exterminating over 12,000 people per day.

Since the cremation furnaces cannot process such a large number of victims per day, 4 huge pits were dug, where people were also burned.

Whole trainloads of Jewish families arrive at the camp, together with their belongings.

Once at the camp, the new arrivals are sorted; the elderly and children are kept separate from the men and women.

Under the pretext of going to the bathhouse, the new arrivals are undressed, given soap and sent to the ‘bath sections’; there, after the doors have been hermetically closed, ampoules containing an unknown liquid are thrown in

from above; as the ampoules break, they liberate a gas, under whose action [illegible] suffocation occurs in fifty [five-ten⁴⁸⁷] minutes.

After that, the area is ventilated, and the corpses are loaded onto trolleys [vagonetki] and taken to the cremation furnaces. Before the cremation, the corpses are inspected, and gold teeth, crowns etc. are pulled out.

In order to muffle the screams, an orchestra plays 200 meters away from the cremation furnaces. Every day, the Germans take the stolen valuables away from the camp on a sanitary plane.”

The tale introduces new elements of fantasy: the usual “shower rooms” (the presumed gas chambers) are abandoned in favor of “bath sections,” and the “bombs” [cylinders?] full of hydrogen cyanide are replaced by gassing “ampoules.” The fairy tale of the orchestra ordered to play loud music in order to cover up the screaming victims was rather short-lived, while that of the “sanitary plane” is mentioned only here, as far as I know.

On August 31, 1944, a “Senior Operative Agent of the 4th Department of the NKGB of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Senior Lieutenant of State Security” authored a “top-secret” report at Kiev based on the statements of two Soviet POWs, Anany Silovich Petko and Vladimir Yakovlevich Pegov, who had escaped “from ‘Auschwitz’ Concentration Camp, located 3 km west of the town of Osventsim,” in November 1943. From what follows, we must deduce that this is a reference to the Birkenau Camp (Terushkin/Tikhankina, pp. 60-66).

Nothing is known about these escapees, but this is not particularly important, since it is recorded that at least six Russians escaped from the Auschwitz complex in the first twelve days of November 1943: Jan Mitrochanow (74198), Wasil Osypow (124942), Jan Kosmaszenko (151298), Wasil Zmajlow (10421), Wasil Tilikin (19422) and Emich Jura Karpuszew (10449).⁴⁸⁸

Other Russian inmates also escaped during the preceding months of 1943, among them: Andrzej Haszpurenko (88356) on February 19, Leonid Utiesow (71738), Pawel Kaliumnyj (71738) and Andrzej Trunow (72008) on March 8, Semjon Korolkow (64775) on June 17, Szymon Budenko (10130) on June 23, Michal Naslankow (77100) on June 24, Jakub Solowjew (44702) on June 30, Jakub Lysenko (86420) on September 1, Stefan Symonencho (68755) on September 12, and Michal Winogradow (53824) on October 21. Jakub Hanczarenko (62921) had escaped as early as December 14, 1942.⁴⁸⁹

Therefore, the Soviet services should have been well informed.

⁴⁸⁷ A note warns the reader that it is probably not necessary to understand “pyatdesyat” – “fifty” – as it is written, but rather as “pyat-desyat” – “five-ten.” This is in fact more consistent with the gassing times appearing in other propaganda accounts.

⁴⁸⁸ Clandestine list of escapes from Auschwitz. AGK, NTN, 155, pp. 292f. All these names were obviously written phonetically, in the German or Polish way, and most of them were badly misspelled. I left them unchanged for the sake of “historical accuracy.” – Russian editor.

⁴⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 292.

The report in question is rather long; I shall dwell in particular on the parts making specific mention of the presumed extermination, but with regard to the general context.

The report opens with two blatant absurdities: the camp had a constant average population of 150,000-200,000 inmates,⁴⁹⁰ yet Auschwitz was referred to as a “death camp” (*“lager smerti”*), “because only those who are destined for extermination are sent there.”

This is followed by another absurdity:

“The camp administration and guards are granted unlimited powers. Everyone can kill as many inmates as he wants, without any reason whatsoever. Those who kill a lot are rewarded by the administration.”

It is well documented, however, that the camp regulations strictly prohibited all SS personnel from mistreating inmates (Mattogno 2016a, pp. 22-28).

Finally, another fairy tale not mentioned in the *Auschwitz Chronicle*:

“Every week, on Friday, the weak are selected for extermination.”

A section of the report deals specifically with the “crematoria.” This is the account, interrupted by my comments.

“50 meters from the ‘Auschwitz’ camp, 4 crematoria are located.”

This is a rather enigmatic phrase: the four crematoria were located inside the camp, as is well known; Crematoria II and III were 150 meters apart from each other, and approximately 50 meters from the fence around the camp’s three construction sectors, consisting of dwelling barracks; Crematoria IV and V were located approximately 100 meters apart from each other and approximately 180 meters from the above-mentioned fence.

“From the outside, the crematoria resemble a factory or a small plant surrounded by a wall [stena⁴⁹¹] with a high chimney (20-25 meters⁴⁹²).

The underground part of a crematorium has two sections: undressing room and gas [room, chamber]. The above-ground part contains the crematorium as such, that is, the furnaces, which are coke-fired. Each crematorium has 5 furnaces, and each furnace has 3 firepots [topki⁴⁹³]. 3-4 corpses are put into each firepot at the same time. The cremation of a batch of corpses, after the kindling, takes from 5 to 10 minutes; subsequently, the duration of the cremation is shortened. The crematoria operate at full capacity 24 hours a day, and still are not capable of burning all the corpses.”

⁴⁹⁰ There were 54,446 male inmates and 33,846 female inmates at Auschwitz on November 30, 1943. AGK, NTN, 134, pp. 282, 286 (summary reports “Übersicht über den Häftlingseinsatz im K.L.” “Overview of inmate labor deployment in the concentration camp”)

⁴⁹¹ It should be a simple “fence,” which in Russian, with its various shades of meaning, is “ograda,” “ograzhdeniye,” “izgorod,” “zabor.”

⁴⁹² The chimney of Crematoria II and III was 15.46 meters high.

⁴⁹³ The terms used in Russian reports as equivalent to the German term “Muffel” are usually “mufel” (muffle) or “retorta” (retort).

The description obviously refers to Crematoria II and III, although it is expanded to cover all four.

Apart from the interpretations (“undressing room,” “gas room/chamber”), it corresponds to reality, but the data are absurd: three to four bodies were allegedly burnt in one single “firepot” (muffle) within 5-10 minutes, and even quicker after the furnaces reached thermal equilibrium! Combustion times like these only exist in the realm of fantasy, such as in the “Pictures of Auschwitz (seven minutes), repeated later by “witnesses” such as Roman Sompolinski (three minutes) and Dov Paisikovic (four minutes; see Subchapter 3.2.3.).

This is the alleged gassing procedure:

“The group of those doomed is brought to the precincts of a crematorium in motor vehicles; there, the people are lined up in a column and examined to see whether they have gold teeth or other valuables. Those who are found to have gold teeth or gold in other places are sent to the ‘surgical rooms,’ where their teeth or some kind of joints [prostheses?] are excised.”

This means that the operation is performed on living persons, not corpses, as asserted in the final version of the orthodox Holocaust legend.

“After the examination, the people are led to an underground room – a dressing room resembling one in a public bath. Once undressed, the people go to the next room – a [shower] bath which has faucets and shower [heads], but never any water. This room has 4 (four) lattice columns leading to the roof of the building. After the ‘bath’ has been filled to capacity with people (who stand very close to each other), the doors are hermetically closed. Through the apertures on the top of the columns, some powdery substance is poured in, a substance which emits a toxic gas, so the people begin to asphyxiate. The suffocation process lasts 10-15 minutes.”

This is probably the first known appearance of the four “lattice columns” which, however, are led to “the roof of the building” like the crematorium’s air-intake and air-exhaust ducts (which were not, however, four in number). Later versions have the lattice columns penetrate the roof of the presumed gas chamber (which in this case had “doors,” in the plural). The “powdery substance” is undoubtedly a reference to Zyklon B, which is nonetheless never mentioned by name. The duration of the gassing, 10-15 minutes, forms part of the common set of fairy tales.

“The corpses are then carried to the upper section with special trolleys [vagonetki] and cremated.

Daily, several trainloads of people arrive at the crematoria, without entering the camp. The crematoria are unable to burn all the corpses of the gassed people, so special pits have been [dug] near the crematoria, in which the corpses are burned, like on a pyre.

The service personnel of the crematoria consist exclusively of Jews, and is changed after every month. The previous service personnel are also cremated.”

The “trolleys” (“*vagonetki*”) have nothing to do with the corpse-introduction carts (*Sargeinführungswagen*) with which Crematorium II was initially equipped, and which were used to insert the bodies into the muffles. These were later replaced with more-practical metal stretchers (*Leichentragen*),⁴⁹⁴ as even Henryk Tauber declared (Mattogno 2019, pp. 334-336). This is an echo of the fairy tale of the trolleys linking the gas chambers to the furnace room, which made their appearance in the Wetzler-Vrba Report.

The claim that “several trainloads of people” arrived at the crematoria every day “without entering the camp,” highlights once more that the witnesses wrongly assumed the crematoria are located outside the camp. The quantity of “several trainloads” is also rather moderate, considering that the claimed cremation capacity of the four crematoria (the witnesses fled in November 1943, so all four facilities were active by then) is said to have been insufficient for what the trains allegedly brought in every day: Since Crematoria II and III each had five three-muffle furnaces, with three to four bodies inserted in each one of them at once, burning them all in 5-10 minutes or even less, the *minimum* cremation capacity of the two facilities (three bodies in 30 muffles in ten minutes) would have been $[(1440 \text{ min/day} \div 10 \text{ min}) \times 30 \text{ muffles} \times 3 \text{ corpses}] = 12,960$ bodies in 24 hours, and the maximum capacity would have amounted to $(1440 \div 5) \times 30 \times 4] = 34,560$ a day, which would have increased even further when the furnaces were operating at maximum load!

Assuming the above-mentioned data, the overall capacity of Crematoria IV and V would have been over 6,912 bodies per day. That amounts to a total of 41,472 bodies per day.

The cremation capacity was nevertheless insufficient, and it was necessary to dig special cremation ditches “near the crematoria,” that is, right next to Crematoria II and III (as I have explained above, the witnesses were unaware of the existence of Crematoria IV and V) – a location in contradiction with that established by current orthodox Holocaust historiography, which places such a ditch only in the northern courtyard of Crematorium V. The myth of the periodic extermination of the “*Sonderkommando*” appears with one of the shortest intervals: hardly a month, followed by killing and cremation.

“There were cases when suckling babies remained alive after a gassing; they would be finished off by the SS guards with clubs or simply [smashed] against a wall.”

This myth of babies surviving a gassing was elaborated upon by later “witnesses” (see Subchapter 3.7.13.).

⁴⁹⁴ Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. I, pp. 272-276; Vol. II, Photos 87-89, pp. 71f.; 181-187, pp. 118-121.

“During the operation of the crematoria, a flame up to 15 meters high comes out of the chimneys. The stench of corpses spreads for many kilometers around this terrible place.”

Another absurd fantasy bordering on the ridiculous: a little bit more, and the flames (15 meters) would have been higher than the chimney (15.46 meters)! The “stench of corpses” (“*trupny zapakh*”) is an obvious lapse in the whole pretense: the bodies were not buried, but were cremated immediately, so the stench would have been of something burning.

“In 1943, the following incident occurred in one of the crematoria: a Jewish-American girl threw herself on Rapportführer SCHILLINGER, knocked his pistol out of his hands, and then killed him and his assistant with this pistol, wounding an SS man.”

The anecdote of the presumed killing of Schillinger appears in many testimonies, with many more-or-less-fantastic variations. I have already addressed this question elsewhere (Mattogno 2020, pp. 312-316), but the one related by Chaim Frosch deserves to be mentioned:⁴⁹⁵

“On occasion of an arriving transport consisting of 6,000 foreign Jews, a young woman, when she noticed that everyone was to be gassed, offered resistance, and was slapped for this in the face by Unterscharführer Schillinger and by an officer. Upon this, she tore her clothes off her body and shouted: ‘You damned murderers, kill me but don’t believe that the world does not know about your crimes. Today you can commit these atrocities on defenseless people, but at some point the day will come when you will have to pay for everything.’ The young woman snatched the revolver from the officer in a flash, and struck down Schillinger, while she wounded the officer. That was Franziska Manuwma from Warsaw, a citizen of Paraguay.”

Finally we know the name of this heroine – to be consigned to the annals of history for posterity!

The only documented case coming close to this occurred in October 1943 during a revolt “on the occasion of a Jewish transport,” as a result of which two soldiers, SS *Rottenführer* Rudolf Grimm and SS *Schütze* Fritz Lackner, were awarded the War Service Cross Second Class (*Kriegsverdienstkreuz II. Klasse*) for saving several comrades “from a threatening situation“ and “from a very critical situation.” There is no mention of the crematoria nor of Schillinger’s death.

Schillinger, a mere SS *Unterscharführer*, was still alive on October 20, 1943, when he signed a punishment report for inmate no. 79757 Szmul Kohn. The report (“*Meldung*”) bears the stamp and signature of the Rapportführer, who was obviously someone other than Schillinger.

⁴⁹⁵ “Bericht über Auschwitz Birkenau,” YVA, O.33-18, p. 1. See Subchapter 3.6.4.

According to Danuta Czech, the presumed event occurred on October 23, 1943. According to her, a transport of 1,800 Jews from the Bergen-Belsen Camp arrived at Auschwitz on that day. They had received passports with visas to Latin American countries with the approval of the Gestapo in Warsaw, most of them after paying large amounts. This had turned them into “*Austauschjuden*” – exchange Jews who were to be exchanged for German POWs. Instead, however, they all are said to have been gassed in Crematoria II and III (Czech 1990, p. 513). This story was the final reworking of a somewhat different rumor reported in the “Reports of the Information Department of the Delegation” of the Polish Government for the period of November 22 through December 18, 1943 (Gmitruk *et al.*, p. 523):

“Autumn liquidation of the Jewish population. In late autumn, that is, in October and November, the Germans began a major action to liquidate a series of Jewish camps and ghettos from those that still existed in the Polish territories. At the same time, news spread throughout the country that in Bergen, near Hanover, the Germans had killed a group of 4,000 Jews from Warsaw, who had been sent there during the summer on the basis of documents from Central America bought with a lot of money from the Germans, but apparently authorized to exchange these Jews for Central American Germans.”

If the date was October 23, 1943, this alleged event should have been firmly fixed in Petko’s and Pegov’s memories, who escaped from Auschwitz a mere month later, but they were unable to supply a more-exact date than simply “1943.” This indicates that they are merely repeating a rumor which had been going around the camp for quite some time.

“Everything relating to the structure of the crematoria and to the process of the poisoning and cremation of the inmates has become known to us partly from our personal observations, and partly from the accounts of the service personnel of the crematoria; although [this personnel] lived in separate barracks, their accounts on the structure of the crematoria and on the process of the killing and burning of people were known to all the inmates who were in Auschwitz Camp.

Regarding the very fact of the existence of the crematoria, it is not a secret for the inmates, because one can walk past them at a distance of 10-15 meters. We personally saw, as we passed at a short distance from a crematorium when its doors were open, that piles of corpses were stacked up on the trolleys next to the furnaces.

Moreover, two crematoria were being completed in the fall of 1943, when we already were in this camp. The construction work was performed by Russian POWs, who lived in the same barracks with us. Several times, we personally went inside the unfinished crematoria and examined its internal structure.”

Hence, we are led to deduce that the “*Sonderkommando*” inmates continually blabbed Auschwitz’s “terrible secret” to anyone who would listen, but the re-

sistance members nevertheless placed in circulation the fairy tales set forth earlier. Thus, this “secret,” with a bit of luck, could easily be discovered by anyone who walked past the crematoria!

The last sentences are blatantly obvious lies. The witnesses referred to the camp’s main street, which ran between Crematoria II and III (as noted above, they knew nothing of Crematoria IV and V). The distance between the respective fences on the edge of the road and the crematoria was approximately 50 meters. The main door to Crematorium II-III was located on the chimney side, but provided access only to a vestibule, followed by a hallway, from which one could enter the furnace room to one side.⁴⁹⁶ Hence, there was no way to look into the furnace room from the outside through an open door.

The mention of “trolleys” upon which “piles of corpses were stacked up” confirms that the witnesses borrowed the fantasies invented by Wetzler and Vrba (see the next chapter). We can categorically exclude that this was a reference to the coffin-insertion carts mentioned earlier. The load-bearing structure of this device in fact consisted of a kind of flat-sheet-metal stretcher with raised edges, about 270 centimeters long and less than 40 wide, that could carry only *one single body* at a time, not piles of them.⁴⁹⁴

In the fall of 1943, the four crematoria at Birkenau had already been in operation for several months, and Soviet prisoners of war played no role in their construction.

The story of the inmate’s inspection tours of the *inside* of the crematoria under construction is another simple-minded fib.

At the end of July 1944, a group of Soviet inmates, Capt. Grigory Yakovlev and several others,⁴⁹⁷ escaped from Auschwitz (“Berkenau” camp). Based on their testimonies, Lieut. Col. of State Security Sidorov wrote a “Special Report” at Kiev, dated September 6 1944 (Terushkin/Tikhankina, pp. 66f.). The report says that at “Berkenau,” in the years 1941-1942, 70,000 (the first digit is illegible) Russian prisoners of war, as well as 150,000 Jews and political prisoners, were killed (although the alleged extermination of the Jews began officially only in 1942). The report, which is very short, contains very little information, other than to state that

“From May 16 to July 20, 1944, 1,200,000 Hungarian and Romanian Jews were exterminated at the camp.

Since the end of July of this year, entire trainloads of Jews began to arrive at the camp from German-occupied France, Yugoslavia and Greece for the purpose of extermination.

The adults are poisoned in special gas chambers and then cremated in cremation furnaces, while the elderly and children are thrown into the fire alive.”

⁴⁹⁶ Plan of future Crematoria II-III no. 933 dated January 19, 1942. Pressac 1989, pp. 276f.

⁴⁹⁷ Their names are not given in the below-mentioned report. Two words, most probably a name, are illegible. – *Russian editor.*

If we consider that, according to Petko and Pegov, everybody knew everything there was to know at Birkenau, the report by Yakovlev (of whom nothing is known) appears surprisingly reticent.

The figure of 1,200,000 victims is absurd, as it amounts to approximately three times the number of Jews ever deported from Hungary to Auschwitz. The influx of transports from France, Yugoslavia and Greece at the end of July 1944 is pure fantasy, because only one single transport arrived from France on July 4, while none arrived from Yugoslavia and Greece. The report speaks quite dismissively of “special gas chambers,” but still clings to the horror story of the persons burned alive, in particular children.

The “Periodic Report for the Period between September 1, 1944 and September 20, 1944. Special Communiqué” contains a detailed report on the bombardment of Auschwitz, Birkenau and Monowitz on September 13, 1944. At Auschwitz, a barracks of the “garments workshops” was destroyed, killing 40 inmates, including 23 Jews, and wounding another 65.

A paragraph titled “The gassing continues” states:⁴⁹⁸

“The gasworks [gazownie] and crematoria at Birkenau are still carrying on their horrendous activity, although judgment [for their crimes] is rapidly approaching. At the present time, the victims being gassed and burned are Jews from the ghetto at Łódź, the last of whom are being wiped out now. On September 12 of this year, a transport carrying 300 Jewish children from the region of Krosno arrived, who were gassed and burned immediately. At the present time, notwithstanding the evacuation plans, transports of Jews are still arriving from the West and recently from France, Belgium and Holland. The retreating Hitlerite hangman is carrying away the Jews, who are doomed to death at all times.”

According to Franciszek Piper, 60,000-70,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz from Łódź (Piper 1993, p. 127), but the real figure is approximately 22,500 (see Mattogno 2003a).

I shall return in Subchapter 2.5.4. to the claimed transport of 300 Jewish children from Krosno with their subsequent gassing.

A message for London dated September 6, 1944 sets forth the imaginary “Moll Plan.” According to Henryk Świebocki, who published a copy of the original document, the message was written by Stanisław Kłodziński and Józef Cyrankiewicz, and then transmitted to Teresa Lasocka (Świebocki, 1991, pp. 68f.). The document says that Höss, who is said to have directed recently the gassing of hundreds of thousands of Jews from Hungary, had ordered his officials to examine the technical possibility of liquidating the entire Birkenau Camp, “where the gas chambers [*gazownia*] and crematorium are located,” with 16,727 male and 39,125 female inmates. Höss asked SS *Scharführer* Moll, who was “commandant from this camp [Birkenau] and capo of

⁴⁹⁸ APMO, D-RO/91, Vol. VII, p. 460.

the gas chambers and crematorium,” whether it was technically possible to cause all trace of the persons and dwellings, “and particularly the gas chambers and crematorium,” to disappear before levelling the ground. This was to be an attempt on a vast scale to eliminate the traces of a camp “in which millions of persons [*miliony ludzi*] had perished in the gas chambers [*w gazowniach*], both inmates and Jews from all over Europe.” Moll supposedly proposed the use of motorized SS units, in addition to artillery and six airplanes to bombard the camp.⁴⁹⁹

Otto Moll, who was not even an officer but a mere SS *Hauptscharführer*, was allegedly promoted for this purpose to the position of commandant of the Birkenau Camp.

The message reached London as an “encrypted dispatch” on September 23. The “Moll Plan” was not a real “plan” in the original message but the response to the question of whether it was technically possible to liquidate the Birkenau Camp. It was therefore merely an eventuality, because no decision had been made. In the dispatch, by contrast, the impression is given that such a decision already appears to have been made:⁵⁰⁰

“We received the news that the Germans were planning the liquidation of Auschwitz and Buchenwald [sic]. The commandant at Auschwitz Hoss [sic], a confidant of Himmler, contacted several SS officials with regards to the plan for such a liquidation of the camp, including the persons [interned there]. At the present time, there are 16,727 male and 39,125 female inmates at Auschwitz. The commandant of Birkenau Moll [sic] introduces himself with the project, requesting motorized SS units and artillery to target the blocks, and 6 airplanes to bombard them, and finally, an adequate quantity of persons to level the ground.”

Another “encrypted dispatch” of September 23, 1944 returned to the question in the following terms:⁵⁰¹

“The plan has been approved. Moll wants a written order from Berlin, but this is one of those jobs that must be carried out unofficially.”

This story had a certain propagandistic resonance. The “Translation of Telegram from Poland” signed by the “Delegate of the Government for the Krakow District” dated October 14, 1944 spiced it up with an even-more-fantastic fairy tale:⁵⁰²

“Death threatens 156,000 prisoners in Osweicim and 12,000 prisoners brought from Warsaw. Mobile gas chambers installed on lorries so-called ‘sonderkammer’ /luryk/ already transport prisoners in the direction of Maczki.”

⁴⁹⁹ APMO, Au-D/RO/85, Vol. II, p. 140.

⁵⁰⁰ APMO, Au-D/RO/192, Vol. XXX, p. 62.

⁵⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 63.

⁵⁰² TNA, FO 371-39454. See Mattogno 2018, p. 360, where the years is erroneously given as 1941.

The delegate in question sent another telegram with the following tenor on the same day:⁵⁰³

“The gassing of prisoners at Oswiecim was to take place on the 7th October. Desperate Poles attacked their executioners killing six of them.”

This was a distortion of a message in Polish from a member of the Auschwitz resistance dated October 10, 1944 referring to the “Sonderkommando” revolt.⁵⁰⁴

“Saturday 7, after the development of a battle and a fire in one of the crematoria, a group of inmates slated to be gassed, consisting of 700 persons, breached the line of sentries [and escaped]. About 200 inmates perished during the escape. Pursuit was made more difficult by an evening air raid. The inmates are currently in the territory of Silesia, and may enter the territory of Żywiec, Bielsko and Krakow. Please instruct all subordinate units to send assistance to these inmates. A large percentage of them are probably foreigners. Account must be taken of the searches being conducted by the German authorities. P.W.O.K.”

Another misrepresentation may be found in another report forwarded to London on October 19, which declares with reference to the inhabitants of Warsaw deported to Auschwitz:⁵⁰⁵

“On October 7th mass-extirmination of these prisoners was begun. The work is still continuing.”

A message dated September 26, 1944 deals first and foremost with the evacuation of the camp. The wholesale liquidation of the camp discussed in the preceding reports was under discussion and in preparation:⁵⁰⁶

“Bunkers [bunkry] were dug around the outer line of sentry posts [Wielkiej Postenketty], every ten meters, like machine-gun nests.”

The second part of the message concerns the claimed gassing of 200 inmates from the “Sonderkommando”:

“The gassing of 200 Jews belonging to the so-called Sonderkommando was carried out in an unusual manner. The men constituted a special group employed at Birkenau in the filling in and levelling of the ditches [dołów] in which the bodies were burnt when the crematorium [crematorium] was overloaded. When they finished their work, they were not sent to their kommando, but to Auschwitz I. Here they were solemnly registered as Zugang [admission; German in original] – then... that evening they were sent to the ‘shower baths’ in the so-called ‘Entwesungskammer’ [sic], where no one had been gassed until that time, and they were gassed. The statement of the Auschwitz I camp au-

⁵⁰³ TNA, FO 371-39454. “Secret, Translation of a Telegram from Poland.”

⁵⁰⁴ The document is reproduced in Bartosik 2015, p. 35. On the revolt of the “Sonderkommando” see Mattogno 2020a, pp. 256-262.

⁵⁰⁵ TNA, FO 371-39454, “Sonderbericht. More Polish Atrocities,” by Lindley Fraser.

⁵⁰⁶ APMO, Au-D-RO/85, Vol. II, pp. 166f.

thorities before the official responsible for the action, Moll, that these 200 [inmates] at Auschwitz I were only guests, and that Birkenau would have to be notified of their leaving [abgang], is significant in this regard.”

This fairy tale circulated widely among the inmates, from Charles Sigismund Bendel (Mattogno 2020a, pp. 328-330) to Giuliana Tedeschi, an Italian Jewess deported to Auschwitz on April 5, 1944 (Tedeschi, p. 110), and was also taken up by Danuta Czech in her *Auschwitz Chronicle* with specific reference to the message in question (Sept. 26, 1944; Czech 1990, pp. 716f.).

The rumors concerning the presumed plan to liquidate the Birkenau Camp became so insistent that the German authorities were compelled to issue an official denial, repeated by the BBC on October 1, 1944.⁵⁰⁷

“Concerning the report circulated by Reuters and emanating from the British Foreign Office that the Polish Government had informed the British Government that German authorities were planning mass executions in the Oswiecim and Brzezinky concentration camps, situated in former Polish territory, German official quarters today state that these reports are false from beginning to end.”

Just how real the “Moll plan” actually was is shown by the fact that the SS left a good 4,299 bedridden inmates behind at Birkenau alone, to be liberated by the Soviets,⁵⁰⁸ all of whom would have been “eyewitnesses” to the presumed gassings!

Subsequent reports dwelt upon camp manpower. On October 14, 1944, total manpower was reported as 93,973 inmates, broken down as follows: 13,378 at Auschwitz I, 18,796 at Auschwitz II, 31,809 at Auschwitz III and 29,990 in the women’s camp.⁵⁰⁹

A very detailed set of statistics of January 17, 1945 indicates the manpower by inmate category and nationality (including 11,095 Jews) and for satellite camps (for Auschwitz III): the total number was 48,342 inmates.⁵¹⁰

2.4. The Auschwitz Escapees and the Wetzler-Vrba Report

Erich Kulka writes that

“during the existence of Auschwitz, 230 attempts at escape were noted and about eighty prisoners succeeded in accomplishing this daring feat.^[511] Five of

⁵⁰⁷ TNA, FO 371-39454, “Germany deny intention of mass murder in Polish concentration camps. German Telegraphic Service.”

⁵⁰⁸ GARF, 7021-108-23, p. 13. Statistic relating to February 2, 1945.

⁵⁰⁹ AGK, NTN, 155, p. 186.

⁵¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 208, 212.

⁵¹¹ As I noted above, there were a total of 667 escape attempts, approximately 390 of which were successful (59%).

them, who fled immediately after the first liquidation of the family camp, had a higher goal than saving of their own lives. They consisted of three completely independent actions, which can be considered the culmination of the efforts of the resistance movement to inform the world of what was happening.” (Emphasis added; Kulka, p. 201)

On April 5, 1944, the inmate Siegfried Lederer escaped from the Theresienstadt Family Camp (Sector BIIB at Birkenau) wearing an SS uniform with the complicity of SS *Rottenführer* Viktor Pestek. Kulka quotes Lederer’s account (*ibid.*, p. 202):

“My first job after my successful flight was to warn the people at Theresienstadt. [...] I spoke of the extermination of the September deportees and explained the whole system of murder at Auschwitz to a small group of friends, among whom was head fire fighter Leo Holzer, Jirka Petschauer, from the ghetto security force, and Otto Schliesser, member of the council of Jewish elders. My friends believed me, but the majority of the people at Theresienstadt remained sceptical when faced with my report. [...] With the help of a boatman I smuggled the information about Theresienstadt and Auschwitz to the International Red Cross in Geneva.”

Although according to this Lederer had escaped “to inform the world of what was happening” at Auschwitz, he produced no written report in this regard and never informed the Red Cross at all,⁵¹² nor is anything known of any oral report put together in writing by anyone else. As far as one can tell, Lederer had nothing of any importance to tell the world.

On April 7, 1944, two Slovakian Jews, Rudolf Vrba (interned under the name Walter Rosenberg on June 30, 1942, registration number 44070) and Alfred Wetzler (interned on April 13, 1942 with registration number 29162) escaped from Birkenau. The two escapees succeeded in making their way to Slovakia, where their statements on Auschwitz were transcribed in two reports in the second half of April (on this see Aynat). As far as is known, they appeared for the first time in a German-language document written at Geneva on May 17, 1944 with a title translating to “Factual Report on Auschwitz and Birkenau.”⁵¹³ Subsequent to the two initial reports, two more writings were added: that of the “Polish major” Jerzy Wesołowski, alias Tabeau, as already mentioned earlier, and the report by another two Jewish inmates who had escaped from Birkenau on May 27, 1944 (Czesław Mordowicz and Arnost Rosin).⁵¹⁴ All three texts were published in English translations by the War Refugee Board of the Executive Office of the U.S. President in Washington, D.C.,

⁵¹² Jean-Claude Favez, in his study *Une mission impossible?*, pp. 103f., speaks of the Theresienstadt Ghetto and the Wetzlar (sic) and Vrba report, which was received by the Red Cross in June 1944, but without any mention of Lederer, who was never even named.

⁵¹³ “*Tatsachenbericht über Auschwitz und Birkenau*” FDRL, WRB, Box no. 61. The report was disseminated by the *Weltzentrale des Hechalutz* at Geneva.

⁵¹⁴ I shall return to this report in Subchapter 3.2.9.

in November 1944 under the title *The Extermination Camps of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau in Upper Silesia*.

The Wetzler-Vrba Report was rapidly disseminated in various drafts.

The German text of the report, which the Swedish embassy at Budapest sent to its own Minister of Foreign Affairs on June 24, 1944, is not a transcription of the “Factual Report on Auschwitz and Birkenau,” but perhaps a re-translation of a translation into Hungarian, or a translation from the Slovakian version, if John Conway’s claim is true that the report was written “simultaneously in the Slovakian and German languages” (Conway, p. 269). The presumed draft in Slovakian, or a transcription of it, has never been found, though. On July 4, Dr. Hubert Ripka, Acting Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, transmitted a copy to the British Foreign Office.⁵¹⁵ The report also reached the Polish Delegatura, although it is not known through which pathway and in which language. The Delegatura summarized it in a secret message on September 6, titled “Information from the Birkenau and Auschwitz camps.”⁵¹⁶

As is known, the “War Refugee Board Report,” as it is generally referred to,⁵¹⁷ is considered by orthodox Holocaust historiography as the revelation of the “terrible secret” of Auschwitz. As Walter Laqueur wrote (1981, p. 146):

“Thus it was only in 1944, when Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler arrived, with very detailed information on the largest of all the death camps, that the ‘rumors’ became a certainty.”

A few years ahead of him, John S. Conway had already asserted that

“the significance of the reports lay in the fact that they provided vivid and exact descriptions which transformed the frightful rumors into fact.” (Conway, p. 270; my emphasis)

This is to be understood literally: these new fantasies *created* reality!

The most important report was drawn up in the first person by Wetzler, but with Vrba’s assistance, which I refer to as the Wetzler-Vrba Report.

The Report has never been analyzed seriously by orthodox Holocaust historians, who limited themselves to glorifying it as the revelation of “the truth” about Auschwitz, without ever concerning themselves with the blatant absurdities it contains.⁵¹⁸ Their superficiality is well exemplified by the following sentence written by Richard Breitman and Norman J. W. Goda (Breitman/Goda, p. 31):

“Polish underground reports on Jewish extermination activities at Auschwitz also reached London in the fall of 1942, and reports on new crematoria

⁵¹⁵ TNA, FO 371/42809.

⁵¹⁶ APMO, Au-D-RO/192, Vol. XXX, pp. 41-43.

⁵¹⁷ The related reports are also referred to as the “Auschwitz Protocol.”

⁵¹⁸ I shall dwell upon Jean-Claude Pressac’s and Robert Jan van Pelt’s attempts to explain these absurdities in Chapters 5.2. and 5.3.

reached London in March 1943. The most famous and most detailed report on Birkenau remains that of escapees Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler, parts of which were available in London and Washington from mid-June 1944 as Hungary's Jews were transported there."

A serious study must analyze five fundamental aspects of the Report:

1. the origins of the Wetzler-Vrba Report;
2. the accuracy of the information contained in the Report;
3. the sources of the Report;
4. the relationship between the information from the Auschwitz resistance movement sent to London up until the beginning of April 1944 and the Wetzler-Vrba Report;
5. the relationship between this information and the final version of the orthodox gas-chamber narrative.

Orthodox Holocaust historians have only concerned themselves with the first and fifth points, stressing that the Wetzler-Vrba Report was later "confirmed" by other sources. To quote Conway once again (Conway, p. 270):

"That these reports [...]⁵¹⁹ are telling the truth, was later confirmed by a huge quantity of information on conditions in Auschwitz: through interviews with other survivors, through the mass of captured German documents, through the interrogations of perpetrators in leading positions, such as Rudolf Höss [...], through the evidence produced at the Nuremberg Trial, and thorough research over the following years."

In relation to the crucial point of the problem – the existence of homicidal gas chambers – all these presumed confirmations are meaningless, since it is known that the only "evidence" that exists in this connection consists of totally misrepresented and misinterpreted so-called "criminal traces" (see Matogno 2019, pp. 27-205). Such an assertion nevertheless has a certain degree of truth to it in the sense that the Wetzler-Vrba Report was taken as a model for the propagandistic version cooked up by the Soviets and Poles, becoming the "official" version, to the detriment of the other versions which enjoyed a parallel existence for many more years after the war.

In the context of the present study, the problem of the original version of the Report, which I consider authentic – the text actually written by Wetzler and Vrba⁵²⁰ – is therefore relevant only with regard to determining the most-reliable version of the Report, and in particular to ascertaining the origins of the drawings contained in the report.

⁵¹⁹ Conway's article was directed against Arthur R. Butz's *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*," which was also mentioned in this context.

⁵²⁰ E. Aynat's theory is that a member of the Slovakian Jewish organizations "'fabricated' the Protocols of Auschwitz based on fragmentary information received from inside the camp." Aynat, p. 119.

With regard to the most-authoritative text, Oskar Karmil-Krasnansky, a certified engineer, reconstructed the origins of the text in 1973 in an interview granted to Erich Kulka, who summarized it in the following terms.

Around April 22-23, 1944, Karmil-Krasnansky met Wetzler and Vrba in the Slovakian town of Žilina, who gave him their story in Slovakian.

“According to his notes, K.[armil-Krasnansky] wrote the record [sic] in German, while Mrs. Ida (Tova) Steiner in Bratislava typed it up in German a few days later.”

Karmil-Krasnansky translated this text into Hungarian and provided Rudolf Kastner with a copy, and he sent a copy of the German text to Pinhas Freudiger at Budapest, and another to Nathan Schwalb at Geneva.⁵²¹

“Rabbi Weissmandel annotated the German text of the protocol with Hebrew letters and sent the same to his connection in Switzerland. This document is in all probability the same document as Protokol (M 20/149),^[522] held in the Yad Vashem Archives. This document was sent to Yad Vashem after the war by Dr. Abraham Silberschein (active with the Committee for Assistance to the Suffering Jews in the Occupied Countries).”

Mrs. Tova Steiner assured Kulka of the correctness of the following statements: on April 26, 1944, Karmil-Krasnansky typed the “Protocols” in German by dictation; the 40-page text was typewritten in several copies, one of which was sent to Freudiger, and another to Schwalb.

A few weeks later, when Rosin and Mordowicz arrived, Karmil-Krasnansky wrote another report in German, which was also typed up by Mrs. Steiner. This is followed by another important bit of information:⁵²³

“Attached to the Protocols were drawings of camps at Auschwitz prepared by Mr. K. , a certified engineer.”

It is therefore a fact that there are at least two different German versions of the Wetzler-Vrba Report; the one titled “Factual Report on Auschwitz and Birkenau” is supposed to be the copy sent by Karmil-Krasnansky to Nathan Schwalb at Geneva, but it does not contain any drawings. The version which came into Silberschein’s possession⁵²⁴ presents an almost identical text, but with a different pagination, and it includes the drawings. The version including an introduction by Richard Lichtheim dated “*Genf, 23. Juni 1944,*” which may be found in the archives of the Auschwitz Museum,⁵²⁵ is a mere tran-

⁵²¹ “Erich Kulka fu[e]hrte am 29. u 30.4.1973 Informations-Gespraechue ueber die Verfassung der Nachrichten von den Auschwitz-Fluechtlingen: Die Auschwitz-Protokolle. Information von Ing. Karmil-Krasnansky” (29.4.1973).” YVA, P.25-22.

⁵²² The reference is incorrect and should be M.20-153. This brochure does not contain Weissmandel’s text.

⁵²³ As FN 521, “Information von Frau Tova Steiner, Jerusalem (29.4.1973).”

⁵²⁴ YVA, M.20-153.

⁵²⁵ APMO, RO, Vol. XXa, pp. 7-37.

scription of the “Factual Report on Auschwitz and Birkenau,” and this one also includes the drawings.

The version sent to the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 24, 1944 by the Swedish embassy at Budapest, by contrast, has a different text, identical to that conserved at the Yad Vashem institute under shelfmark P. 54/6, but with a different pagination, as well as the drawings.

The drawing of Crematorium II-III, to which I shall return in detail later, is not identical in the three versions mentioned above, as can be seen easily (see Documents 10b-d).

On April 20, 1945, the U.S. Office of Strategic Services received an English translation of the Wetzler-Vrba Report titled “Testimony of two escapees from Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp at Oswiecim, Poland” with the heading “Bari, 20 April 1945.” The report was accompanied by explanations which are obviously at least partly incorrect. This was the translation of a text in Hungarian which Dr. Géza Soos, secretary of a resistance movement in his country, had brought from Hungary to Italy on microfilm. The original had been transmitted to him by a Protestant pastor, József Éliás, another resistance member. On the origins of the report, we are told:⁵²⁶

“Two young Slovak Jews escaped from the Birkenau-Auschwitz concentration camps at Oswiecim, Poland, on 7 April 1944 and reached Hungary, Dr. Soos believes, at the end of June or early July. They were interrogated by Dr. Elias and this document is the result of the interrogation.”

This could not be true. In an interview granted to Sándor Szenes in 1985, József Éliás reported that on the last day of April 1944, Géza Soós informed him of the flight of two young Slovak Jews from Auschwitz, who had written a protocol on the matter. Some members of the resistance movement of which Éliás was also a member obtained a copy of the protocol, which was then translated from German into Hungarian (see Szenes).

The English translation in question, which consists of 45 pages, does not contain any drawings, but at the end, in an unpaginated folio, is a “Plan II. Plan of the BIRKENAU CREMATORIA, Models I and II” (see Document 9a). The description of these crematoria makes no reference to this “Plan II,” but it speaks of the crematoria as “models I and II” (Szenes, pp. 19-21). The drawing, very similar to those found in the reports in German, was therefore already attached to the Hungarian text, and therefore in all probability originated with Karmil-Krasnansky, as he declared.

In the Wetzler-Vrba Report, it is necessary to examine two principal aspects of the matter: the description of the crematoria and the gassings, and the statistics of the victims, compiled by the two ex-inmates, which was accepted into evidence at Nuremberg as Document L-022. There is also a chronological list of the transports, highly fictionalized based on registration numbers as-

⁵²⁶ NARA, RG 226, OSS # XL 8883.

signed by the men's camp, from 27,400-28,600 to 171,000-174,000, which I shall only take into consideration here in one single case.

The set of statistics bears the title "Careful estimate of the number of Jews gassed in BIRKENAU between April, 1942 and April, 1944 (according to countries of origin)."⁵²⁷ Its numbers are reproduced in the following table, together with the official figures for Jews *deported* to Auschwitz over that time period according to Franciszek Piper:⁵²⁸

PLACE OF ORIGIN	WETZLER-VRBA	PIPER
Poland (transported by truck)	ca. 300,000	206,400
Poland (transported by train)	ca. 600,000	
Holland	ca. 100,000	58,100
Greece	ca. 45,000	48,500
France	ca. 150,000	60,400
Belgium	ca. 50,000	23,800
Germany	ca. 60,000	17,500
Yugoslavia, Italy, Norway	ca. 50,000	14,000
Lithuania	ca. 50,000	/
Bohemia, Moravia and Austria	ca. 30,000	20,200
Slovakia	ca. 30,000	18,700
Various camps for foreign Jews in Poland	ca. 300,000	34,000
Total	ca. 1,765,000	501,600

During the First Zündel Trial, Vrba declared *under oath* that he had *seen* all or almost all of the presumed victims (Rudolf 2020a, p. 254):

Q. [defense lawyer Douglas Christie] *You say 1.765 million, is that right?*

A. [Vrba] *1,765 thousand.*

Q. *Right. Did you see one person being gassed yourself?*

A. *I saw 1,765 thousand people walk into the space between Krematorium I and Krematorium II, Krematorium III and Krematorium IV, were in front of my eyes knowing that these space is absolutely closed, because there is no road out from there except coming back the way they went in, and nobody came out from there except smoke."*

Vrba later repeated the following statement (*ibid.*, p. 272):

"This means when I have counted 1,765,000 people, I saw them, but inside of the crematoria I didn't see."

Finally, pressed by defense lawyer Christie, who asked him whether he had counted every one of the 1,765,000 victims, Vrba affirmed (*ibid.*, p. 274):

⁵²⁷ "Vorsichtige Schätzung der in Birkenau seit April 1942 bis April 1944 vergasteten Juden nach Herkunftsländern," APMO, Au-D/RO/129, Vol. XXIIa, p. 39; p. 33 in the WRB's English translation.

⁵²⁸ Piper 1993, Table D, unpaginated insert between pp. 144 and 145.

“I counted reliably at least eighty per cent of it, and at least the remaining twenty per cent of it was seen by Wetzler and most of it was seen by both of us.”

Even if we accept this partial rectification, 80% of 1,765,000 is still 1,412,000. Therefore, Vrba claimed to have *seen and counted* at least 1,412,000 gassing victims *with his own eyes* between April 1942 and April 1944! We are not dealing with a mere exaggeration at this point, but a shameless lie. This is fully confirmed by another fact. The statistics on transports arriving at Auschwitz as given by Wetzler and Vrba in the text of their report, of which the figure of 1,765,000, broken down according to the various countries of origin, should be the total, actually results in a completely different total. In the Wetzler-Vrba Report, the persons presumably gassed are mentioned in various different ways. For some transports, the actual number of persons presumably gassed is given, while for others only the related percentage is mentioned. Analysis of these statistics shows that the total number of presumed gassing victims whose numbers are explicitly indicated in the report is approximately 498,700, 374,000 of whom were completely invented according to the *Auschwitz Chronicle* and F. Piper. The number of presumed gassing victims that can be calculated based on the percentages indicated in the report is approximately 494,000, approximately 452,000 of whom are also entirely fictitious. Overall, the presumed gassing victims according to the report amount to approximately 992,700, approximately 826,000 of whom are entirely fictitious.

Vrba therefore “saw” (1,412,000 – 992,700 =) 419,300 more presumed gassing victims “with his own eyes” than those whom he pretended to give a phantasmagorical accounting for in his own statistics!

In 1961 Vrba stated (Vrba 1961, p. 4):

“In that time I saw 1,750,000 men, women and children gassed, shot, tortured, or burned alive. [...] I calculated, in fact, that 2,500,000 people were murdered there in three years. I took these terrible statistics with me when I left in 1944.”

But during the First Zündel Trial, in reply to defense attorney Christie’s question as to whether he ever noted down these statistics in writing, Vrba replied (Rudolf 2020a, p. 274):

“No. I relied on my memory.”

His estimable sidekick, Wetzler alias Lánik, spoke of three million victims (Lánik 1967, pp. 152, 272, 284, 286), a list of whom is supposed to have been annexed to the report (*ibid.*, p. 276):

“And at the end of the report, the sum total of the victims, by nationality: three million victims.”

This statistical data was therefore compiled in a spirit of deliberate mendacity, and Vrba deliberately persisted in the lie until at least 1996, when he asserted that it was his “observations” during his “time at Auschwitz” that permitted him to conclude that 1,750,000 persons had been murdered (Vrba 1996, p. 10).

The Wetzler-Vrba Report contains a very brief mention of the gassings at Birkenau before the crematoria became operational:⁵²⁹

“On December 17, 200 young Jewish men from Slovakia were executed in Birkenau after working in the so-called Sonderkommando during the gassing and cremation of the bodies.^[530] The execution occurred as a result of preparing a mutiny and an escape, foiled as the result of betrayal by a Jew. The unit was replaced by 200 Polish Jews, who had just arrived on a transport from Makov. [...] As a result of change in Sonderkommando personnel, we lost direct contact with this ‘workplace,’ with especially serious impact on our provisioning.”

Hence, if we are inclined to believe them, Wetzler and Vrba were in direct contact with the “*Sonderkommando*” of the claimed gassing facilities named “Bunker 1” and “Bunker 2” at Birkenau from mid-April to mid-December 1942. They therefore would have had access to accurate first-hand information. In reality, they knew nothing, and were even unaware of the fantasies cooked up in 1942, which I examined earlier. The only rumor they gathered was that gassings and cremations were taking place at the “Birkenwald” (literally: birch forest) without ever specifying where or how. The first mention is related to the fairy tale of the bi-weekly “selections” of inmates slated to be gassed from “Block 7” of the inmate infirmary:⁵³¹

“The persons selected were loaded onto trucks and taken into the birch forest. Everyone who arrived alive was gassed in a big barracks especially built for this purpose near the cremation pit, after which they were thrown into the pit and burned.”

This “pit” was also the final destination of inmates who had died of natural causes, who “were then led into the birch forest (brezinsky [sic]) located nearby, where they were cremated in a pit several meters deep and about 15 meters long.”⁵³² The chronological reference is to the second Slovakian transport that reached Auschwitz 14 days after Wetzler’s arrival (on April 13, 1942), therefore the end of April 1942, hence at a time when open-air cremations had not yet been introduced (Czech states they started in on September 21, 1942,

⁵²⁹ “Tatsachenbericht...,” FDRL, WRB, Box no. 61, pp. 13f.

⁵³⁰ According to Danuta Czech, however, the execution is said to have taken place in “the gas chamber in Crematorium I” at Auschwitz; Czech 1990, pp. 277f.

⁵³¹ “Tatsachenbericht...,” FDRL, WRB, Box no. 61, p. 10. Engl. translation, WRP Report, p. 9:

“These ‘selectees’ were loaded into trucks and brought to the Birch Forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barracks erected near the trench used for burning the bodies.”

⁵³² *Ibid.*, p. 9. Engl. translation, WRP Report, p. 8: “brought to the Birch Forest (BREZINSKY) where they were burned in a trench several meters deep and about 15 meters long.”

1990, p. 242). What is more, the claimed “bunkers” of Birkenau consisted of two masonry peasant cottages, while Wetzler and Vrba speak of one single large gassing barracks, evidently made of wood.

Wetzler and Vrba return to open-air cremations in their discussion of the inmate registration numbers 38,000-38,400 allegedly assigned to “400 naturalized Jews” who had arrived with their families. The transport carried 1,600 persons, including the 400 naturalized Jews, and 200 women, all of whom were admitted to the camp, “while the remaining 1,000 persons (women, the elderly, children and also men) were led directly from the railway siding to the birch forest without any registration or processing, and were gassed and burned there.”⁵³³

Their choice of transport was not very careful, because the transport concerned happened to be the one that arrived at Auschwitz from the French camp at Compiègne on June 7, 1942, carrying 1,000 deportees, who were *all* registered and admitted to the camp, however! The numbers assigned to them were 38177-39176 (Czech 1990, p. 176).

The Report adds:⁵³⁴

“From this time onwards, all Jewish transports were handled similarly. Some 10% of the men on the transports and 5% of the women were led to the camp, while the remaining people were immediately gassed.”

In reality, all inmates on all the transports arriving during June 1942 – apart from those from Ilkenau, Sosnowitz and Kobierzyn, which were completely invented (see Mattogno 2016d, pp. 35f.) – that is, 1,000 inmates from Pithiviers (June 27), 1,038 from Beaune-la-Rolande (June 30) and 400 from Lublin Camp (June 30), were registered and thus admitted to the camp (Czech 1990, pp. 187, 189).

The Report continues along the same lines: those unable to work were sent “directly to the pit in the birch forest,” or were “gassed in the birch forest,” “burned in the birch forest” or “sent directly to the birch forest.”⁵³⁵

There was only *one single* pit in this “birch forest,” as far as Wetzler and Vrba knew – *the* pit (*die* Grube)! This abysmal ignorance can only be explained in two ways: either the whole story was false from beginning to end, or the Slovakian inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” who allegedly worked at the “bunkers” knew nothing about these presumed gassing installations. In both cases, the story of the “bunkers,” as elaborated in later years, was completely invented.

⁵³³ *Ibid.*, p. 11. Engl. translation, WRP Report, p. 10: “while the remaining 1,000 persons (women, old people, children as well as men) were sent without further procedure from the railroad siding directly to the Birch Forest, and there gassed and burned.”

⁵³⁴ *Ibid.*, Engl. translation, WRP Report, p. 10: “From this moment on all Jewish convoys were dealt with in the same manner. Approximately 10 percent of the men and 5 percent of the women were allotted to the camps and the remaining members were immediately gassed.”

⁵³⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 12f. Engl. translation, WRP Report, pp. 10-12.

The fact that inmates claimed to have been members of the “*Sonderkommando*” and others who claim to have seen them in action – such as André Lettich, Wilhelm Wohlfahrt, Franciszek Gulba, Moshé Garbarz, Maurice Benroubi, Arnošt Rosin, Maurice Shellekes, Samuel Hajblum and Andé Balbin⁵³⁶ – revealed the “truth” of the “bunkers” only after the end of the war demonstrates either that they didn’t know anything during the war, or that they deliberately disseminated false information inside the camp. The “eyewitnesses” either knew nothing about it, or they knew, but deliberately lied. This antithetic situation regarding the sources will appear again with regard to the crematoria, as we shall see.

The following, first of all, is the related description according to the English text of the report, then published by the War Refugee Board, adding, where, appropriate, the German terms from the “Factual Report on Auschwitz and Birkenau” which, in the absence of proof to the contrary, should be considered the original report:⁵³⁷

“At the end of February 1943 a new modern crematorium and gassing plant was inaugurated at BIRKENAU. The gassing and burning [die Vergasungen und Verbrennungen] of the bodies in the Birch forest [im Birkenwald] was discontinued, the whole job being taken over by the four specially built crematoria. The large ditch [die grosse Grube] was filled in, the ground levelled and the ashes used as before for fertilizer [als Dünger] at the farm labour camp of HERMENSE, so that to-day it is almost impossible to find traces of the dreadful murder which took place here.

At present there are four crematoria in operation at BIRKENAU, two large ones, I and II, and two smaller ones, III and IV. Those of type I and II consist of 3 parts, i.e.: a) the furnace room [Ofenraum]; b) the large hall [grosse Halle]; and c) the gas chamber [die Vergasungskammern]. A huge chimney rises from the furnace room around which are grouped nine furnaces, each having four openings [Oeffnungen]. Each opening can take three normal corpses at once and after an hour and a half the bodies were completely burnt. This corresponds to a daily capacity of about 2,000 bodies. Next to this is a large ‘reception hall’ [Vorbereitungshalle] which is arranged to so as to give the impression of the antechamber of a bathing establishment [Badeanstalt]. It holds 2,000 people and apparently there is a similar waiting room [Warthalle] on the floor below. From there a door and a few steps [einige Treppen] lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber [Vergasungskammer]. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms [die Wände dieser Kammer sind durch blinde Tuschanlagen [sic] maskiert] in order to mislead the victims. The roof is fitted with 3 traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside [sind 3 durch Klappen von aussen

⁵³⁶ Mattogno 2016g, pp. 73-159; Friedler *et al.*, pp. 63-194.

⁵³⁷ “The Extermination Camps of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau in Upper Silesia.” Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, New York, WRB, Box no. 61, pp. 12f.

hermetisch verschliessbare Fenster]. A track [ein Gleispaar] leads from the gas chamber [Gaskammer] towards the furnace room. The gassing takes place as follows: the unfortunate victims are brought into hall [b] where they are told to undress. To complete the fiction that they are going to bathe, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber [Gaskammer] [c] in such numbers that there is of course only standing room. To compress this crowd into the narrow space shots are often fired to induce those already at the far end to huddle still closer together. When everybody is inside the heavy doors [die schwere Tür] are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS. men with gas masks climb on the roof [steigen... auf das Dach], open the traps [die Fensterklappen] and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labelled 'CYKLON' 'For use against vermin' [zur 'Schädlingsbekämpfung'] which are manufactured [erzeugt] by a Hamburg concern. It is presumed that this is a 'CYANIDE' mixture of some sort [ein Cyanpräparat] which turns into gas at a certain temperature. After 3 minutes everyone in the chamber is dead. No one is known to have survived this ordeal, although it was not uncommon to discover signs of life after the primitive measures employed in the Birch wood. The chamber is then opened, aired and the 'special squad' [Sonderkommando] carts the bodies on flat trucks [auf flachen Feldbahnwagen] to the furnace rooms where the burning takes place. Crematoria III and IV work on nearly the same principle but their capacity is only half as large. Thus the total capacity of the four cremating and gassing plants at BIRKENAU amounts to about 6,000 daily."

This description includes a drawing (Document 9) which represents the "Rough Ground PLAN OF CREMATORIA: TYPES I & II IN BIRKENAU." The "Factual Report on Auschwitz and Birkenau," as already stated, does not contain any drawing; as far as I know, the drawings were first introduced in the transcription dated "Genf, 23. Juni 1944," which is accompanied by a presentation of Richard Lichtheim, the senior representative of the Jewish Agency in Geneva.⁵³⁸ Here, the drawing in question is rather crude (Document 10a). The drawing contained in the version transmitted by the Swedish embassy is just as crude, while the drawing from Silberschein is more-carefully done, with (ruled) straight lines and typewritten captions. The drawing from the text published by the War Refugee Board also has ruled straight lines and is clearly and carefully drawn, but the captions and numbers are handwritten, in addition to which the chimney is round instead of square.

It is now well-established that the description of Crematoria II and III supplied by Wetzler and Vrba – both in the text and the illustration – are com-

⁵³⁸ APMO, Au-D-RO/119, Vol. XXa, pp. 7-45.

pletely invented, as shown by a simple comparison with the original blueprint (Documents 11, 26).

According to the Plans of the Crematoria:

1. the furnace room had five furnaces instead of nine;
2. each furnace had three muffles instead of four; therefore, the total number of muffles was 15 rather than 36;
3. the furnaces were arranged in a straight line along the longitudinal axis of the furnace room and not grouped in a semi-circle around the chimney;
4. the room later referred to as the victims' undressing room (Morgue #2) was located in the basement instead of the ground floor;
5. the room referred to as the gas chamber (Morgue #1) was not located on the ground floor, a little bit lower than the undressing room, but in the basement and on the same level as Morgue #2;
6. the room referred to as the gas chamber was linked to the furnace room by a freight elevator rather than by rails.

According to the Current Orthodox Holocaust Narrative:

7. the gas chamber had four Zyklon-B apertures instead of three;
8. the Zyklon-B openings were mere manholes sealed by cement (or wooden) covers, not hermetically-sealing hatches;
9. the story of the distribution of towels and a piece of soap is a fairy-tale;
10. the cremation capacity of a single muffle is in contradiction to the current orthodox claim: three bodies in an hour and a half as opposed to two bodies in half an hour (Piper 2000, p. 164);

From the Technical Point of View:

11. the cremation capacity of 2,000 bodies in 24 hours for each of Crematorium II and III, and of 1,000 for each of Crematoria IV and V, that is 6,000 in total, greatly exceeds reality;
12. as I have noted earlier, the time required for the gassing victims to die – three minutes⁵³⁹ – is another absurdity which appears with a few variants in almost all the “eyewitness testimonies.”

Strangely, one of the few realistic elements of the story, that the bodies were carried to the furnaces “on flat trucks” (although from the freight elevator, not from the gas chamber), was abandoned in the subsequent literary versions in favor of the crude and inefficient system of dragging corpses across the floor with the help of straps and walking canes.

The Wetzler-Vrba Report is of capital importance in the foundations of Auschwitz propaganda. Having established that both the description and the plan of Crematoria II/III of the report in question are pure fantasy, it follows

⁵³⁹ Rudolf 2020b, pp. 227-298; Mattogno 2020, pp. 277-282.

that the story of the extermination of the Jews in homicidal gas chambers repeated by the Wetzler and Vrba did *not* originate from the inmates of the so-called “*Sonderkommando*,” but was cooked up *without their contribution*. And this is the proof that the whole story, as crude black propaganda, was invented by the camp resistance movement without even talking to the inmates actually working in the crematoria!

The final justification that “to-day it is almost impossible to find traces of the dreadful murder which took place here” is obviously another Freudian slip.

Józef Garliński asserted that

“the clandestine resistance at the camp monitored the preparations for the mass extermination of the Hungarian Jews and sent reports with alarming warnings to the outside world. These reports could only be convincing as the reports of things someone had seen with his or her own eyes, so that on April 7 [1944] two Slovakian Jews, Walter Rosenberg (no. 44070) and Alfred Wetzler (no. 29162) escaped from Birkenau after being put into contact with the clandestine camp resistance movement through Paweł Gulba, a member of the international group.” (Garliński, p. 235)

In a chapter titled “*Das Sonderkommando*,” Bruno Baum also declared that the resistance movement had contacts with the “*Sonderkommando*” (Baum, pp. 19f.):

“Here, too, we had comrades who were linked to our resistance movement.”

This is confirmed by Filip Müller with reference to 1944 (1979, p. 148):

“Thus peace was once more restored. We were able to keep up contact with the Resistance in the camp: three times daily the ration carriers went into the camp where they had the opportunity of meeting prisoners in the Resistance. The hospital was another contact point. Shortly after our isolation on the crematorium site it became necessary to establish a small ward for prisoners requiring in-patient treatment. The ward, under the direction of Dr Pach, was set up because prisoners of the ash team continued to sustain severe burns for which they could not be treated as out-patients. [...] There were also different teams of artisans on our site whose presence helped to ease our isolation. One of these workmen was always ready to take messages to the Resistance and bring back their answers.”

The contacts between the “*Sonderkommando*” and the Auschwitz resistance members were reaffirmed by Salmen Lewental in one of his “manuscripts”:

“And the most important thing, we gave him secret documents and materials on everything that was going on.” (see Subchapter 2.5.5.)

A paragraph from the book already cited by Friedler, Siebert and Kilian is eloquently titled “The Resistance Movement in the *Sonderkommando* and Their Contacts with the Auschwitz Combat Group” (Friedler *et al.*, pp. 223-238).

The purpose of Wetzler's and Vrba's escape, as Vrba later explained, was "to tell the world what was happening in Auschwitz," to prevent the deportation of the Hungarian Jews to that camp (Vrba/Bestic, p. 198). Vrba also declared that he was in contact with Filip Müller, the inmate from the "*Sonderkommando*," "who became one of his most precious sources of information" (*ibid.*, p. 175), and that he had received further information from him while discussing the situation in the camp with him in early 1944 (*ibid.*, p. 197).

During the First Zündel Trial in 1985, witness for the prosecution Rudolf Vrba confirmed that he had had frequent contacts with the members of the "*Sonderkommando*," declaring that he had drawn the schema of Crematoria II and III at Birkenau contained in the Wetzler-Vrba Report, based precisely on that information.⁵⁴⁰ Filip Müller, the ex-inmate named by Vrba, actually asserted that he had provided Wetzler in 1944 with "a plan of the crematoria and gas chambers," among other documents in 1944 (Müller, p. 121).

In a report dated November 30, 1963, Wetzler declared by contrast:⁵⁴¹

"One inmate, the Soviet POW, Wasyl [Vasily], I don't remember his last name, prepared drawings of the crematoria with his own hand."

In a book written by Wetzler under the pseudonym Jozef Lánik, to which I return in more detail later, Wetzler spoke of a plan of the crematoria, drawn in the form of a sketch, which was exhibited by himself during the preparation of the report in Slovakia (Lánik 1967, pp. 50, 276).

Therefore, the drawing of Crematoria II-III is said to have been prepared at the same time by Karmil-Krasnansky, by Vrba and by the Soviet POW Wasyl (Vasily). But that's just for starters.

As just mentioned, Filip Müller claimed to have provided Wetzler, in 1944, among other documents, with "a plan of the crematoria and gas chambers." However, in his own book, he published a sufficiently correct plan of Crematorium III at Birkenau (Müller, p. 176), which is in total contradiction with that of the Wetzler-Vrba Report. The plan in Müller's book was taken from a book published in Czechoslovakia in 1946 (Kraus/Schön, insert between pp. 144 & 145), in which a declaration by Filip Müller also appeared. The plan, according to the authors of the book, Ota Kraus and Erich Schön (Erich Kulka), had been stolen by Vera Foltynova at the Central Construction Office and sent into Czechoslovakia in August 1944 by way of Fabián Sukup (*ibid.*, p. 120). Nevertheless, in a "sworn statement given in the municipal offices at Dubňany, on May 18, 1945," three witnesses declared that Erich Schön (Kulka), on a date which is not indicated, provided Sukup, a civilian worker employed at Auschwitz, with the plans of the Birkenau crematoria as well as with

⁵⁴⁰ Rudolf 2020a, p. 259 (p. 1479 of the transcript). Rudolf Vrba declared under oath that he had drawn the schema in question (*ibid.*, pp. 221f., 230; transcript pp. 1260, 1266, 1316).

⁵⁴¹ Report by A. Wetzler of November 30, 1963. Archive of the Auschwitz Museum, *Oświadczenia* (Statements), Vol. 40, p. 36.

reports on the camp. After the war, Sukup gave these plans back to Schön-Kulka, and he published them in his book *Továrna na smrt (The Death Factory)*.⁵⁴²

Auschwitz Museum researcher Świebocki, on the other hand, tells a completely different story. According to him, the plans were entrusted to Antonina Piątkowska, who hid them in her barracks together with other documents; in October 1944, she handed them over to another female inmate, Zofia Gawron, who passed them on to a civilian worker. That civilian worker, however, was not Fabián Sukup, but Franciszek Zaguba (Świebocki 1995, fn 276, pp. 152f.).

The only thing that is certain is that this plan, although in conformity with the original, was never used to straighten out the story of mass gassings in these buildings before January 1945.

The drawing published by Filip Müller is very similar to that clandestinely copied by Vera Foltynova mentioned earlier, but it is mirrored, as if it showed Crematorium III.

All this shows, first of all, that Müller was a liar, in addition to which the “Auschwitz Combat Group,” that is, the international camp resistance committee, in its alleged escape operation to reveal the “terrible secret” to the world, never even took the trouble to question the inmate members of the “*Sonderkommando*,” and that none of these ever worked at the Auschwitz Construction Office in such a position as to obtain a correct description of the crematoria, or were in contact with a person working there and obtained such a description from that person.

The tale told by Wetzler and Vrba, although borrowing a few themes from the phantasmagorical propaganda stories propagated in the preceding Polish reports, constitutes something completely new when compared to any of these early reports, at least with regard to the results, and precisely for this reason it is celebrated as a revelation of the “truth” – which implies that the preceding reports represented revelations of an “un-truth,” or, if one prefers, a lie.

The Report thus revived the fantastic themes of the gas chambers camouflaged as bathing installations (*Badeanstalt*), with fake showerheads on the walls (!) – originally, real showers were attached to the ceiling, from which the “gas” was emitted – and repeats the ridiculous story that “each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap issued by two men clad in white coats,” which means that over the course of the inaugural gassing of 8,000 Jews from Krakow in March 1943,⁵⁴³ each of the two men in white coats distributed 4,000 towels and 4,000 small pieces of soap to 4,000 Jews!

With regard to the gas, Wetzler and Vrba developed the idea of “megacyklon.” They believed they knew that the cans of “Cyklon” bore the label “zur ‘Schädlingbekämpfung.’” and that the contents were “manufactured

⁵⁴² YVA, P.25-22.

⁵⁴³ *The Extermination Camps of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau in Upper Silesia*, p. 13.

[erzeugt] by a Hamburg concern.” But the Tesch & Stabenow Corporation of Hamburg were the mere distributor of Zyklon B, while the word “*Schädlingsbekämpfung*” on the label of the cans only appeared in the distributor’s name: “*Tesch u. Stabenow. Internationale Gesellschaft für Schädlingsbekämpfung m.b.H.*” The statement that “Cyclon” was a “*Cyanpräparat*,” by contrast, is correct, because the label on the cans said “*Giftgas! Cyanpräparat!*”⁵⁴⁴

Although Zyklon B was widely used at Auschwitz for disinfestation purposes, and although inmate *Kommandos* or units were employed in the respective installations (the “disinfestation chamber” of “*Kanada I*,” BW 28, the “gas chamber” in BW 5a and 5b of Birkenau, to cite the most-well-known), Wetzler, Vrba and their sources knew nothing about Zyklon B except by hearsay, and their knowledge was to some extent incorrect. This means that the information in their Report did not originate from these *Kommandos*, or from inmates employed in any claimed “*Sonderkommando*,” who would have had an interest in stealing a label from a can of Zyklon B as “proof” of the presumed gassings.

The claim that the ashes from the cremated victims were “used as before as fertilizer [*als Dünger*]” was a common ingredient of black propaganda and was later abandoned – and is therefore another lie.

In the Wetzler-Vrba Report, the figures relating to the cremation installations, *nine* furnaces each equipped with four “openings” (muffles) for a total of 36 muffles, are borrowed with great aplomb from the “Legend” of the “Pictures of Auschwitz” mentioned earlier, where the four (allegedly identical) crematoria at Birkenau possessed a total of 36 furnaces, therefore, every crematorium possessed *nine* furnaces. As is well known, and as the members of the “*Sonderkommando*” knew perfectly well, the number 36 corresponded neither to the four crematoria’s furnaces (actually 12 in number) nor to their total number of muffles (46). It is therefore clear that both the “Legend” and Wetzler and Vrba were based on garbled second- or third-hand information, which is another confirmation that their information could not have originated from inmates of any “*Sonderkommando*.”

The cremation capacity indicated in the report – 4,000 cremations per day for Crematoria II and III, 2,000 for Crematoria IV and V, for a total of 6,000 – apart from being thermotechnically ridiculous, is in contradiction with the data contained in the preceding reports, and also with the subsequent testimonies.

Previously, the “new crematorium,” that is, Crematorium II, had been accredited with 1,000, 3,000 and 5,000 cremations per day; three crematoria succeeded in cremating 10,000 bodies, but all four could only burn 5,000!

As regards the testimonies of the “*Sonderkommando*,” to adduce a few examples,⁵⁴⁵ Szlama Dragon spoke of 10,000-12,000 cremations per day;

⁵⁴⁴ See the reproductions of labels of Zyklon-B cans in Mattogno 2015, Docs. 8a-d, pp. 157-160.

⁵⁴⁵ See Mattogno 2019, pp. 288, summary table of claimed cremation capacities.

Stanisław Jankowski of 8,000; Filip Müller of 10,000; Josef Sackar of 20,000; the duration of a cremation, which for Wetzler and Vrba stood at 90 minutes for a load of three corpses, according to the “*Sonderkommando*” ranged from four minutes (Dov Paisikovic) to 20-25 minutes (Henryk Tauber)!

Regarding the plan for Crematorium II/III, on the other hand, the Wetzler-Vrba Report constitutes a downright regression compared to the “Legend” to the “Pictures of Auschwitz,” whose author was in possession of Plan No. 932, “Floor plan of the basement” dated January 23, 1942, which shows the real structure of the crematorium. This plan was obviously unknown to Wetzler and Vrba’s sources of information, which got the idea of locating the gassings inside the crematorium from the above-mentioned “legend” (or from the rumors that were based upon it), but used a completely invented floor plan which in no way corresponded to reality. The Wetzler-Vrba Report therefore represents the second and last attempt (before the arrival of the Soviets at Auschwitz) at “staging” (exterminations in gas chambers) and “locating” (inside the crematoria) the preceding propaganda themes.

On the following pages, I will briefly review Wetzler’s and Vrba’s subsequent statements.

In 1945, Wetzler published a pamphlet under the pseudonym of Jozef Lánik with the very significant title *Oswiecim: Hrobka štyroch miliónov ľudi* (Auschwitz: The Tomb of Four Million People), which is a paraphrased translation of his report from the year before, but in this presentation he insisted on the figure of four million victims and repeated it three times (Lánik 1945, p. 4).

On April 29, 1946, he appeared before the Public Prosecutor of the National Court of Bratislava. The related report contains only a few words about the alleged extermination at Auschwitz (*Riešenie židovskej...*, pp. 200-203):

“In two full years, from 1942 to April 1945, nearly 4 million people were killed, of which over 2,500,000 were of Jewish nationality. On March 15, 1943, four gigantic crematoria began to operate, which could contain [cremate] over 10,000 people every day. On average, 150-200 people died every day among the inmates who worked.”

The influence of Soviet propaganda is evident: the number of victims increased from 1,765,000 to 4,000,000, and the cremation capacity from 6,000 to 10,000 corpses per day.

On November 30, 1963, Wetzler wrote a long report for the Auschwitz Museum in which he recounted the events relating to the drafting of the Wetzler-Vrba Report as follows:⁵⁴⁶

“In Čadca we got in touch with Dr. W. Polak, who gave us another address in Zilina. The same day we were already in this location. We received provision-

⁵⁴⁶ APMO, *Oświadczenia*, Vol. 40. Sygn. Ośw/Wetzler/833, pp. 41f.

al accommodation at the Jewish Convalescent Home. It was there on April 27 [1944] that the first meeting took place where we related to those present the first report on what had happened in Auschwitz. After the meeting, we were given a typewriter and some paper. Within three days, we compiled a report which consisted of about 50 typewritten pages. We described everything we had seen at the camp, providing statistical data on those murdered. We did this not just from memory, but also on the basis of notes we had brought from the camp [z notatek, które wynieśliśmy z obozu]. We attached a fragment of the label from a Zyklon-B can to the report. The label had been given to us by Filip Müller, who worked at the Sonderkommando. I know that obtaining that label was a dangerous undertaking, because all the Zyklon cans were counted and taken away by the SS immediately after the gassing ended. As for the annotations, we made two copies before the escape. We lost one near Porąbka, during the pursuit, when we were discovered on the slopes of a mountain. In the lost scroll there was also the provisional plan of the crematoria [prowizoryczny plan krematoriów]." (My emphasis)

In 1964, a book by Wetzler/Lánik was published in Bratislava that contains his memories in the form of a novel: *Čo Dante nevidel* (*What Dante did not see*). This book was translated into German three years later (Lánik 1967). He gave the main characters pseudonyms, starting with himself ("Valer") and Vrba ("Karol"). However, the "fictional" aspect ends here; the book is in fact usually considered a historical work by orthodox historiography (Kárný 1994, FN 3, p. 564).

Wetzler collected the most stupid and ridiculous fables about Auschwitz, blatantly contradicted the nonsense he had written in his report, or embroidered them in such a way as to make them even more senseless. I quote some significant examples.

He repeated on several pages the story of Himmler's alleged visit to Birkenau on the occasion of the inauguration of Crematorium II, but without ever indicating its number (Lánik 1967, p. 67; all subsequent page numbers from there unless indicated otherwise):

"On the street in front of the crematorium, the ramp squad consisting of fifty striped men has lined up. Valer is among them, too."

Wetzler ("Valer") was therefore present and was an "eyewitness" to this imaginary event, the description of which he was forced to improvise badly (p. 71):

"After a brief consultation in front of the building, they enter on a sign from Moll. One after the other they approach a peephole in the upper part of the steel door: Himmler, medical professors from Berlin, Hamburg, Münster, representatives of various companies, Höss, officers from the headquarters of the Waffen SS and the staff of the camp management."

Naturally Wetzler had seen this long procession of fictitious visitors with his own eyes: he observed that Himmler arrived in the fifth car (p. 67). And here is the scene of the alleged gassing (pp. 71f.):

“The people stand crammed together in the chambers and are intimidated. The two paramedics appear with green tin cans. Once on the roof of the chambers, which is camouflaged with grass, they put gas masks on. Then they open the flaps of the ventilators, smash the patented lid of the tin cans and pour green-violet crystal grains into the openings.

Himmler looks at the clock and then for ten minutes through the peep window in the door.

The people who have just taken care of their luggage and also marveled at the politeness of the SS men, suddenly stare at the ceiling, where tiny crystals are pouring out of the showers. Gas develops quickly from them, now they breathe it in: strong, poisonous Zyklon.”

At this point “SS officers, engineers, technicians and scientists” turned to Himmler to see whether he was satisfied (p. 72):

“Himmler turns around and almost screams: ‘Splendid, splendid! Sensational! Great, brilliant!’

With mild envy everyone looks at Engineer Prüfer, who designed and installed these ‘shower baths’ for the Erfurt company Topf & Sons.”

Of course, an engineer from Degesch was also present (*ibid.*):

“‘Zyklon B, Herr Reichsführer,’ Engineer Faust from the Degesch Company tactfully helps him, where the miracle crystals are produced.

‘Yes, this Zyklon B, gentlemen, is a splendid tool in the historical struggle of the SS men against inferior races. Five tin cans for six to seven thousand units. I think our Führer will be very satisfied.’”

The epilogue of the fable is no less surprising:

“‘Would you like to have a look at the second room, Herr Reichsführer?’ asks Höss. ‘It has a larger capacity and also has a basement underneath.’

‘But only to stop by, since we’re already here,’ replies Himmler affably. They walk along the exemplary rolled road.”

Where Himmler went is not explained; Wetzler speaks only of the signs in four languages relating to a “bathroom” and refers to the alleged recommendation of the *Reichsführer* not to forget “the soap dishes” and that “more soap and more towels” ought to be provided (pp. 73f.)

Wetzler manages to put together a lot of nonsense even compared to the official version. At that time, Crematorium II is said to have had only one “gas chamber” with a wooden door, but the victims were instead crammed together “in the chambers,” which had a “steel door.” The whole scene takes place in the basement “gas chamber” (Morgue #1). However, there was also “the second room,” which, as Höss pointed out, had a “basement underneath,” which suggests that the “gas chamber” was on the ground floor. To carry out the gassing, the non-existent “flaps of the ventilators” were opened, through which the “green-violet crystal grains” were poured, which were neither crystals nor green-violet. It is not known how these “flaps” were connected to the shower pipes, because “tiny crystals are pouring out of the showers,” from which the

gas developed. The “showers” were therefore not fake, but real, and had been “designed and installed” by Eng. Kurt Prüfer as an extermination mechanism!

Wetzler gave further details on the “shower rooms” (p. 150):

“The rooms look like bathrooms... shower baths. Instead of water, Zyklon is sprayed there, small crystals of poisonous gas that suffocates the people.”

The victims “marched into the bathrooms, where no water but asphyxiating gas flowed from the showers” (p. 259). Other phrases refer to this imaginative procedure: “showered with Zyklon” (p. 272), “gas showers” (p. 277).

Zyklon B was “produced” by the Degesch Company, although Degesch merely issued licenses for its production and distribution, and five cans were enough to kill 6,000-7,000 people. Wetzler had no doubt misunderstood Höss’s claim that the gassing of 1,500 people usually required five to seven cans (see Mattogno 2020, p. 114). Finally, he also revived the tale of soap and towels. The gassing of Jews from Krakow, which affected 8,000 people in the 1944 report, is here reduced to 2,000 (p. 78). Wetzler had finally learned that the five crematoria at Auschwitz and Birkenau had a total of 52 “furnaces” (muffles) and “each of them reduces three corpses to ashes in twenty minutes – in a year it would be two million and four hundred thousand” (p. 95), while in the 1944 report Crematoria II and III alone had 72 muffles, but the cremation of a load of corpses took an hour and a half. The overall capacity of the crematoria, in 1944 6,000 corpses a day, became “six thousand, seven thousand, eight thousand and now perhaps even ten thousand corpses” (p. 265).

Wetzler also presents completely invented excerpts from the Report, such as:

“On March 26, 1942, 1,000 girls from Slovakia were killed.” (p. 274)

“On July 17, 1942, a second gassing bunker was put into operation in Himmler’s presence.” (*ibid.*)

“... from August 15 to 17, 1942, eight thousand Jews from Sosnowiec were gassed in Bunkers 1 and 2.” (*ibid.*)

These dates are in contrast with those given in the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, according to which the first Jewish transport from Slovakia arrived at the camp on March 26, 1942, and the 999 women who arrived with it were all regularly registered (Czech 1990, p. 148); “Bunker 2” was put into operation on June 30 without Himmler’s presence (*ibid.*, p. 189); and two Jewish transports from Sosnowitz of 2,000 people each arrived in Auschwitz on June 17 and 20, 1942 (*ibid.*, pp. 182f., although these transports are purely fictitious). Strangely, however, Wetzler gave up the fable of four million victims, but always kept claiming a figure that is no less absurd: 3 million (pp. 15, 152, 272, 284, 286); “Three million, perhaps even more...” (p. 151).

Then Wetzler even makes false claims about his 1944 report (p. 276):

“And at the end of the report, the number of victims by nationality: three million murdered victims.”

This refers to the “Careful estimate of the Jews gassed at Birkenau between April 1942 and April 1944 according to countries of origin” which I listed earlier, but there the estimated death toll is 1,765,000!

In this regard, “Karol” (Vrba) reported (p. 265):

“... of the transports, of the smoke clouds stinking of benzene and methanol, of the victims burned in a huge pit, of makeshift gas bunkers in barracks in which more than a million people are poisoned, ...”

therefore a million victims in the “gas bunkers” alone, which were simple “barracks” and had only one “pit.” Finally, the typewritten report allegedly had 60 pages (p. 273), but Wetzler had mentioned 50 pages in his report for the Auschwitz Museum examined earlier; for Tova Steiner, the self-styled typist, it was 40 pages; however, the actual typescript “*Tatsachenbericht ueber Auschwitz und Birkenau*” has 34 pages.

Rudolf Vrba, on the other hand, made his first public statements in conjunction with the preparations for the Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem (the first hearing took place on April 11, 1961), entrusting them to the *Daily Herald*. As will be seen, that climate led him to a bewildering megalomania. The first article appeared in the issue of February 27, 1961 on page 4 with the title “I warned the world of Eichmann’s murders.” Vrba addressed the question of the number of victims by asserting:

“In that time I saw 1,750,000 men, women and children gassed, shot, tortured, or burned alive. I saw them vanish in clouds of black smoke from the crematoria chimneys.” (My emphases)

This was more or less consistent with the 1944 report, but then he added:

“I calculated, in fact, that 2,500,000 people were murdered there in three years.”

In this regard he specified:

“Working on the transports not only helped me to survive, but gave me first-hand knowledge of the numbers being exterminated. I double-checked my figures with other prisoners.”

His story begins with a rather silly contradiction:

“They sent me with 1,000 other Slovak Jews to their concentration camp at Majdanek, near Lublin – crude blue-print of the efficient murder machine that was developed later at Auschwitz. We were lined up before a selection committee who picked out 100 strong young men. The rest – mainly the old and the sick, the women and children – were killed and burned.”

In his report, Vrba had written that his transport, which left Novaky on June 14, 1942, arrived in Lublin and then (Executive Office..., p. 21):

“Here the following order was issued: ‘Those fit for work aged between 15 and 50 are to leave the cars. Children and old people remain.’ [...] The cars containing the children and old people were immediately closed and the train

moved on. We do not know where they went and what happened to them.” (My emphasis)

But even this statement is false, because at the time, both in Majdanek and in Auschwitz only transports of able-bodied Jews arrived from France and Slovakia, all of whom were registered.⁵⁴⁷ From Majdanek, Vrba was transferred to Auschwitz, where he was assigned to agricultural work. In this regard he is quoted by the *Daily Herald* as follows:

“But I got an even greater shock when I learned the nature of my ‘agricultural work.’ We had to dig up and burn the bodies of 20,000 Russian war prisoners who had been murdered. We had to remove the decomposing evidence. Again I was lucky. I was redrafted and told to unload food for the SS mess. Not one of the other agricultural workers survived, because they had seen too much. I kept my strength by stealing the SS food. Then I became a cog in what the Germans called euphemistically the ‘administrative machinery’. There were about 300 of us. Half of us worked on the transports which were bringing Jews from all over Europe. We opened the crammed trucks under the surveillance of SS machine-guns and clubs and ushered the victims to the gas chamber. The rest collected the bodies for burning. The doomed cargoes, of course, had no idea of their fate. If any prisoner was seen talking to them, he was clubbed to death. The Germans, in fact, tricked their victims into believing they were going to labour camps, for had they known the truth they might have rebelled. Quietly the new arrivals were told to strip and have a shower in a large wooden hut. As soon as the hut was full, the doors were locked and gassing began. Survivors were shot. All bodies were flung into blazing trenches. My job was collecting their belongings. It was only then that I learned the real reason for this vast extermination.”

Vrba, presumably seized by a sudden media frenzy, therefore proclaimed himself a member of the “*Sonderkommando*” which had exhumed and cremated the corpses of “20,000 Russian war prisoners who had been murdered,” while, as I observed earlier, the total number of Soviet POWs sent to Auschwitz did not even reach 12,000, and those who perished were not even killed intentionally.

Next, Vrba also promoted himself to a member of the “*Sonderkommando*” working at the “bunkers,” of which he knew nothing, except that it was a “large wooden hut,” but that was exactly untrue, if we follow the orthodox narrative.

There is no shortage of more trivia in this *Daily Herald* article like these:

“In three years, in fact, Auschwitz sent six tons of gold to the Berlin State Bank.”

“Ashes from the crematorium fertilised the SS vegetable gardens.”

⁵⁴⁷ See Mattogno 2018a, pp. 82-92, 101-113 and table on pp. 89f.

In an article published by the *Daily Herald* on February 28, 1961, again on page 4 yet with the title “Two-hour wait for death while Himmler and Eichmann lingered over their meal...,” Vrba described Himmler’s real visit to Auschwitz in 1942 and the invented one of 1943 as follows:

“It was August, 1942. [...] Himmler, bespectacled and immaculate, looked like a school teacher. Eichmann stood behind him, the perfect sychophant. [...] We sighed with relief, but we had yet to learn the reason for their visit. In fact, we were about to enter a new era of fantastically efficient mass-murder. At that time the victims were being gassed in a wooden hut and burned in crude trenches. Now they were planning a massive new building which would be gas chamber, crematorium and dissecting room all in one. Extermination was to be streamlined. [...] Himmler and Eichmann returned for the inauguration of the new building – the first of the four.” (My emphases)

During the first visit, which took place in July rather than in August, Himmler was not accompanied by Eichmann. Vrba knows nothing of Himmler’s claimed inspection of a “bunker” and related the *Reichsführer*’s visit to the design of the crematoria instead. Of the “bunkers” he repeated the false claim that it was “a wooden hut.” The first gassing involved 3,000 Poles (the report claimed 8,000, and Wetzler/Lánik 2,000), and was to begin at 10 AM, and at 9:54 the victims were already crammed into the gas chamber. But Himmler had breakfast and went to the crematorium only a couple of hours later.

“When the gassing began, he watched it several minutes through a thick glass window. [...] They were issued with soap and spotlessly clean towels when they had stripped.”

Once more the nonsense with soap and towels! Vrba wrote furthermore:

“Philip Miller [sic], a Slovak friend who worked in the crematorium, told me that the Nazis would have so many victims on their hands that they would have to resort again to their old idea of throwing Jews – dead and alive – into mass, blazing graves. The SS spoke of an enormous job which would tax the resources of the four new chambers. That meant the slaughter of at least 10,000 a day. I had seen Eichmann’s lackeys preparing a trench, half a mile long and 30 yards wide, for them [the Hungarian Jews] and their children.”

In 1961, Filip Müller was still a marginal figure. The pit of about 800 times 27 meters is blatant nonsense, considering that the east and west sides of the Birkenau Camp measured 1,657 meters.⁵⁴⁸

In his book *I Cannot Forgive*, which appeared in 1963, Vrba collected without any discernment the worst fable on Auschwitz then circulating, and without taking the slightest care to avoid blatant contradictions with respect to

⁵⁴⁸ “*Lageplan des Kriesgefangenenlagers*,” October 6, 1942. VHA, OT 31(2)/8

the 1944 report, just like his worthy colleague Wetzler. I review briefly here some inconsistencies, absurdities and the most-blatant lies.

According to the 1944 report, as we recall, Crematoria II and III had nine furnaces with four muffles each. In each muffle, three corpses could allegedly be cremated in an hour and a half, and the capacity of the two facilities was said to have been 4,000 corpses per day, while that of Crematoria IV and V was 2,000 corpses per day, so that the overall capacity was 6,000 per day. In his book, Vrba doubled this capacity without giving any explanation. According to him, Himmler gave orders

“For the modern concrete gas chambers and the vast crematoria that could absorb as many as 12,000 bodies in twenty-four hours and, in fact, did so.”
(Vrba/Bestic, p. 15; all subsequent page numbers from there until stated otherwise)

He described Crematorium II as follows (p. 16):

“It was truly a splendid affair, one hundred yards long and fifty yards wide, containing fifteen ovens which could burn three bodies each simultaneously in twenty minutes, a monument in concrete, to his builder, Herr Walter Dejaco.”

Hence, Crematoria II and III alone had a capacity of 6,480 corpses per day! Furthermore, since, according to these data, Crematoria IV and V could cremate a maximum of 3,456 corpses per day, therefore all four crematoria 9,936, the capacity of 12,000 is doubly contradictory. Vrba resumed the story of Himmler’s visit to Birkenau for the inauguration of Crematorium II, of which he was obviously an “eyewitness” (pp. 15f.):

“Heinrich Himmler visited Auschwitz Camp again in January, 1943. This time I was glad to see him arrive, though not because I still nursed any faint hope that he would improve our lot through benevolence or any sense of justice.”
(My emphasis)

The Jewish transport for the first gassing no longer contained 8,000 Jews, but 3,000. As with Wetzler/Lánik, the alleged gassing took place in the “new gas chambers,” hence plural. Vrba also multiplied the crematorium elevator, because he wrote (p. 18):

“Special lifts took the bodies to the crematorium, but the burning did not follow immediately.”

Vrba, who in the meantime had informed himself a bit, also provided a different version of the exhumation and burning of the corpses in Birkenau (p. 89):

“There were 107,000 bodies buried near the camp, including 20,000 Russian prisoners of war who had been murdered. This evidence of mass murder had to be removed, not merely to cover up the crime, but because it was a danger to health; and therefore a special labour force of 1,400 men had been collected to get rid of it.”

The 1944 report, as I mentioned earlier, is ignorant of the 107,000-figure of buried bodies – which notoriously stems from Höss’s statements – and of the 20,000 Soviet prisoners. Moreover the “special labour force” that is said to have carried out the task and who were allegedly killed on December 17, 1942 was made up of merely 200 Jews, not of 1,400, about which Vrba specified (p. 90):

“Of the 1,400, only three hundred were alive when the last body was burned; and these, too, were executed.”

Such a “*Sonderkommando*” of 1,400 inmates is not reflected in orthodox Holocaust literature and is therefore a pure invention. In the article “I warned the world of Eichmann’s murders,” Vrba only knew the story of the 20,000 murdered Soviet prisoners, although he claimed to have been a member of this “special labour force”!

As for the number of victims, Vrba was also dissatisfied with the figure of the report and reiterated the one he mentioned in the article “I warned the world of Eichmann’s murders” (p. 15):

“For the machinery that sucked in 2,500,000 men, women and children in three years and puffed them out in harmless black smoke.”

The Wetzler-Vrba Report also influenced the subsequent Auschwitz witness-ess, even to the point of shameless plagiarism.

The *Libro giallo* (*Yellow Book*) published in 1945, which contains “Data on the Martyrdom of Hungarian Jewry during the 1941-1945 War,” presents the testimony of a certain Henrik Farkas, deported to Auschwitz on June 15, 1944. In the chapter “The Gas Chambers,” he borrowed wholesale from Wetzler and Vrba’s narrative, repeating practically every detail, pretending, however, to have supplied “a technical description of the gas chamber based on the notes of a Jewish engineer [zsidó mérnök] employed in a technical capacity.”⁵⁴⁹

Primo Levi and Leonardo de Benedetti, in their 1946 “Report on the Hygienic-Sanitary Organization of the concentration camp for Jews at Monowitz (Auschwitz – Upper Silesia)” supplied an augmented version of the whole tale:⁵⁵⁰

“It appears that in February 1943, a new crematorium furnace [sic] was inaugurated at Birkenau, and a more-rational gas chamber than that which had been in operation up until that month. These installations were in three parts: the waiting room; the ‘shower room’; the furnaces. In the center, amongst the furnaces, was a high chimney, surrounded by 9 ovens, with 4 apertures, each one of which permitted the simultaneous passage [sic] of three bodies. The capacity of each oven was 2,000 bodies per day [sic].

⁵⁴⁹ *Sárga könyv*, pp. 64f. French translation of the excerpt in: *Révision*, No. 55-56, August-September 1994, pp. 24f.

⁵⁵⁰ Istituto Storico della Resistenza di Torino, C 75, pp. 15f.

The victims, upon entering the first room, are ordered to undress completely, because they are going to take a shower; and to lend credence to the deception, they are provided with piece of soap and a towel; after which they enter the 'shower room'. This was a big chamber containing a fake shower installation, with slogans on the walls reading, more or less, 'Wash well, cleanliness is essential to human health!'. 'Don't stint on the soap!' 'Don't forget your towel!'; so that the room gave the deceptive impression that it was really a large bathing establishment. On the flat ceiling of the room was a large aperture, hermetically sealed with three large pieces of sheet metal, which could be opened by means of a valve. Rails ran through the midst of the chamber for the full length of the room, leading to the furnaces. Once the people were all inside the gas chamber, the doors were closed (they were air-tight), and a chemical preparation in the form of a crude, greyish-blue powder contained in tin cans was thrown down on them through the valves in the ceiling; the cans bore a label reading 'CYCLON B – for the destruction of animal parasites' and the trademark of a factory in Hamburg. This was a cyanide compound, which evaporated at a certain temperature. Over the space of a few minutes, all the people in the gas chamber died; doors and windows were then opened, and the members of the special squad, equipped with gas masks, went into action to carry away the bodies to the cremation furnaces. Before pushing the bodies into the furnaces, special personnel cut off the hair from any bodies that still had any, that is, the bodies of those persons who had just arrived on a transport and had been taken to the slaughter without entering the camp; and extracted gold teeth from any bodies that had any. The ashes, as is well known, were then scattered over the fields and in the orchards, to fertilize the soil."

In a 1976 appendix to his book *Se questo è un uomo* (*If This Is a Man*), Primo Levi wrote:

"I have not quoted the figures of the Auschwitz massacre, nor have I described the details of the gas chambers and crematoria. In fact, I did not know these things when I was in the camp, and I only learned about them later, when the whole world learned about them." (Levi, p. 233)

2.5. The Manuscripts of "Sonderkommando" Prisoners

Starting in February 1945, various manuscripts were found on the grounds surrounding the Birkenau crematoria, allegedly written by six self-proclaimed members of the "Sonderkommando": Chaim Herman, Salmen Gradowski, Leib Langfus, Salmen Lewental, an "unknown author" and Marcel Nadsari. The first general, but incomplete, anthology of these texts (minus Gradowski's third document and Nadsari's manuscript, discovered after the book's publication) appeared in Polish in 1971, published by the Auschwitz Museum (Bezińska/Czech 1971), which also published it in English two years later under

the title *Amidst a Nightmare of Crime* (as a more-recent edition: Bezwińska/Czech 1992). The manuscripts by Gradowski, Langfus and Lewental were printed in Yiddish by Ber Mark at Tel Aviv in 1977 in a book titled *Megiles oyshvits* (*The Auschwitz Manuscripts*), which was later translated into English (*The Scrolls of Auschwitz*, Tel Aviv, 1985) and French (Mark 1982). In 1996, the Auschwitz Museum prepared a German edition of the 1971 text, including Nadsari's text.

These manuscripts also have a place within the framework of the present study, because it is important to be aware of what these inmates knew of the claimed extermination procedure. This is an essential problem, usually underestimated by orthodox Holocaust historians, who are always merely in search of "proof" for the current version of the historical fairy tale of the gas chambers, yet are unwilling or incapable of an overall objective assessment of the manuscripts.

It should be noted that it is possible that the manuscripts in question do not really date back to pre-January 1945, which is confirmed by telling evidence, as we will see. The fact that the first manuscript was found in February 1945 does not necessarily mean that it was buried at the end of 1944, as is claimed, and this is even more true for all the other manuscripts found in later years. Thus, in the strict meaning of the word, there is no *documentary* proof of the existence of Salmen Gradowski, Leib Langfus and Salmen Lewental, whose registration numbers are also unknown (let alone the "unknown author"). But that makes the problem too complicated, so in the following analysis, I shall simply assume the basic validity of the orthodox Holocaust claims regarding the manuscripts' authenticity.

What is most-striking about such manuscripts is the radically false tone appearing in all of them without exception: these documents are supposed to have been written by members of the "*Sonderkommando*" for posterity in order to inform the world of the horrors of the "death factory" of Birkenau. This sentiment was expressed very adamantly by Mikloś Nyiszli, although in a purely imaginary context:⁵⁵¹

"Even if we do not survive we will ensure that the world comes to know of the cruelty and banal wickedness, unimaginable to the human mind, of a people that holds itself to be superior.

A message must go out to the world from here! Perhaps it will be found sooner, perhaps later, after years. Even then it will proclaim their guilt. The 200 members of the Crematorium I Sonderkommando will sign the message in the consciousness of their approaching death. [...]

⁵⁵¹ See Mattogno 2020a, pp. 77. Incredibly, these fantasies were taken seriously by orthodox Holocaust historians, who actually initiated a detailed excavation project to recover the imaginary Nyiszli manuscript in 1989. YVA, P25-94, "The Auschwitz Scroll. Production Evaluation Report, submitted to Sergio Pastrello." The first page bears the names, handwritten in ink, of Dov Levin, Israel Gutman and Erich Kulka, presumably the persons involved in the project.

The message is completed. It exhaustively describes the horrors perpetrated here in the last few years. We name the executioners of those who perished here. We report the approximate number of the dead. We make known the method and instruments of extermination. The message is written on three large sheets of parchment. The Sonderkommando clerk, a painter from Paris, wrote it in beautiful characters, and to ensure that the writing would not fade, it was written on the model of old parchment scrolls with India ink. The fourth sheet contained the 200 signatures of the Kommando. The parchment sheets were stitched together with fine silk thread. Rolled into a scroll, it was placed in a thin, cylinder-shaped metal canister made by one of our tinsmiths which was then soldered shut to make it air- and watertight.”

Coming from members of the “Sonderkommando” who wished to unveil the “terrible secret” of Auschwitz, one would expect adequate documentation, such as plans of the crematoria and gas chambers, with a description of the structure and functioning of the gas chambers, a description of the structure and functioning of the cremation furnaces, lists of the supplies of coke and wood for the furnaces, numerical lists of the Zyklon-B cans used for the gassings, labels from the cans, lists of the convoys of gassed Jews, numerical lists of gassed persons, numerical lists of cremated bodies, lists of names of members of the “Sonderkommando” with registration numbers and lists of names of SS personnel in the crematoria.

None of this appears in any of the manuscripts, however.⁵⁵² The information on the gas chambers and gassings are so vague and so limited that they not only do not provide any new knowledge in this regard, but, without any knowledge about the current narrative of homicidal gassings, they would be downright incomprehensible. For example, none of the manuscripts even mentions Zyklon B or hydrogen cyanide!

It was not by accident that, starting with the 1971 edition, the Auschwitz Museum used Stanisław Jankowski’s statement of April 16, 1945 as a preface to the collection; the statement had nothing to do with the manuscripts, but was considered a “precious source of information” in understanding the manuscripts (Bezwińska/Czech 1971, p. 7). The story of the extermination in the manuscripts is like a faded background against which edifying tales of a puerile Holocaust *Haggadah*⁵⁵³ parade past the reader.

2.5.1. Chaim Herman

The French letter by Chaim Herman, dated November 6, 1944, was found in the first 10-day period of February 1945 by a Polish medical student in a bottle “near the railway siding behind the crematoria on a pile of ashes.” The stu-

⁵⁵² There is one single exception, which will be examined below.

⁵⁵³ Jewish text read during the Passover feast conveying the myth of the ancient Jewish Exodus from Egypt.

dent delivered the letter to the French mission at Warsaw in March of that year, and the French minister for foreign affairs and war veterans handed it over to the chairman of the Auschwitz Association at Paris on February 10, 1948. Only in 1967 did the Auschwitz Museum receive “a photocopy of the typewritten transcription of the letter.”⁵⁵⁴ The version presented in the 1996 German edition is a translation of the 1971 Polish translation, which is based on the French text.⁵⁵⁵

Herman arrived at Auschwitz on a transport from Drancy on March 4, 1943, and was assigned inmate number 106113. The French text was published by Ber Mark.

After a long introduction directed to family members, the author affirms that, having arrived at Auschwitz, he was assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*,” and explains (Mark, p. 327):

“20 months have already passed since then, it seems like a century, it is perfectly impossible to write you all the proofs of what I experienced there, if you live, you will read many of the works written with regard to this sonder kommando [sic], but I must ask you never to judge...” (Emphasis added)

A little bit later, the author of the letter informs that

“several of my comrades have died, either of disease or they were simply shot; every week, we counted less; at the present time there are only 2 (two) of us left, just out of our hundred, it is true that many have met a more or less glorious death en masse.” (Ibid.)

He added that David Lahana

“left on a transport of two hundred persons, all from the ‘Sonder Kommando,’ on February 24, 1944 to Lublin, where they were exterminated a few days afterwards.” (Ibid., p. 329)

The last passage of any importance is this one:

“It is even possible that, through the history of the ‘Sonder Kommando,’ you will learn the exact date of my death. I am one of the last teams of 204 persons; they are currently liquidating Krématorium 2, where I am, with intensity, and we speak of our own liquidation some time this week.” (Emphasis added; *ibid.*, p. 330)

This letter, written clandestinely and hence without any fear of censorship by the SS, was addressed to the witness’s wife and daughter: what could they have understood of all this? What was the “*Sonderkommando*”? What was its task? Why had a part of it been killed? What was Crematorium 2 and why did it have to be dismantled? Why, then, did the men from the “*Sonderkommando*” have to be liquidated?

⁵⁵⁴ Bezwińska/Czech 1996, pp. 255f. The English edition of that book has only a brief footnote summarizing the history of this document (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 181).

⁵⁵⁵ Bezwińska/Czech 1996, p. 265. The 1992 English edition claims in the same footnote as before to have been translated from the French, but that may simply be a translated Polish footnote.

Herman did not answer any of these more-or-less-legitimate questions, but limited himself to invoking *future Holocaust literature*, which would provide all the answers! This prospect, unless it was absurd, presupposes that the letter was written when such literature already existed, therefore, a good while after 1945.

The historical elements contained in the letter are insipid and incomprehensible. The presumed transfer of 200 inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” to Lublin is not attested to by any document. Danuta Czech’s only source for this alleged transfer is Herman’s letter (Czech 1990, p. 588). A clandestine list of “Transports from Concentration Camp Auschwitz I, II III between January 1, 1944 and July 10, 1944” contains no record of any transport to Lublin.⁵⁵⁶ The transport in question is only mentioned in a “Report regarding the Majdanek Camp and a couple of other camps in the Reich” dated March 6, 1944, which says (Marczewska/Ważniewski, p. 231):

“On February 26, 200 Jews arrived – personnel from the Auschwitz crematorium. They were all dead after a couple of days.”

This reference is still not conclusive evidence, because the presumed event forms part of the Auschwitz kit of fairy tales and was known as such on various levels at the propaganda center of the Delegatura.⁵⁵⁷ In addition, while Herman could theoretically know of a transport sent to Lublin, how could he possibly know that the inmates sent to Majdanek were there “exterminated a few days afterwards,” and even write about it in the past tense?

Therefore, the transport must be considered without historical reality in the absence of *documentary* proof to the contrary. Among other things, no one has explained why it was necessary to transfer these 200 men to Majdanek to be killed, when Auschwitz allegedly was itself an “extermination camp” with a vastly larger killing capacity than Majdanek, where the “*Sonderkommandos*” were regularly “liquidated” every three or four months anyway.

The mention of a more-or-less-glorious mass death for inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” should refer to the revolt of October 7, but even in this regard, Herman refers exclusively to future works of Holocaust literature!

Herman’s claim that “only 2 (two) of us left, just out of our hundred,” which is repeated a little later (“two out of a hundred”; Mark, p. 328) is not confirmed by any document,⁵⁵⁸ while the claim regarding the commencement of the demolition of Crematorium III (“they are currently liquidating Krématorium 2”) on November 6, 1944 is contradicted by the text of the anony-

⁵⁵⁶ “Transporty z Kł Auschwitz I, II, III od 1 I. 1944 do 10 VII 1944.” Au D-RO/91, Vol. VII, p. 454.

⁵⁵⁷ As noted above, Milton Buki dated this presumed event to April 1944; Wetzler and Vrba, by contrast, knew nothing about it.

⁵⁵⁸ Up until October 8, 1944, the manpower of the day and night shifts was 84/85 inmates for Crematoria II, III and IV, and 84/70 for Crematorium V. From October 10 onward, the shifts each consisted of 33 inmates for all crematoria. Mattogno 2016f, p. 150.

mous author (see Subchapter 2.5.4.), who writes (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 120):

“Today, November 25, the demolition of crematorium II was begun, the next to be demolished will be crematorium III.”

Chaim Herman’s letter therefore contributes nothing new, but indicates an awareness on the part of the author of the rather poor-quality propaganda motifs *en vogue* at that time. This would have been impossible without some knowledge of the later-established orthodox Holocaust historiography.

2.5.2. Salmen Gradowski

The claim is made that this inmate arrived at Auschwitz on December 6, 1942, but his registration number is unknown. He is considered the author of three texts in Yiddish. On March 5, 1945, a Soviet commission of inquiry found an aluminum canteen containing a notebook and a letter in the area around Crematorium II at Birkenau. All items were taken to the Museum of Military Medical Service in Leningrad. In 1963, Ber Mark obtained a copy of these documents in microfilm form. He is still the official translator of these texts, even today, but also more than that, because the Auschwitz Museum tells us that Gradowski’s texts have been “deciphered from the Yiddish handwriting and translated into Polish by Prof. Bernard Mark.”⁵⁵⁹ If we consider that this “deciphering” was performed off of microfilm, we can imagine how accurate it may have been.

The following discussion is based on the English translation (page numbers from there), with an eye on the German, Polish and French translations.

The “Letter” is dated September 6, 1944. Gradowski starts off with a warning:

“I was writing this at the time when I was in the ‘Sonderkommando’.” (p. 75)

He writes that he has written various messages which he buried in the ashes because he considered it the safest place, a place where excavations would be carried out at some time in the future “to find the traces of millions of men who were exterminated” (*ibid.*, emphasis added). From his account, it appears that the SS had excavated several pits on the crematorium terrain where they deposited the ashes of cremated persons.

“But lately they have begun obliterating the traces and everywhere, where there was much ash, they ordered to have it ground fine and to cart it away to the Vistula and to let it flow with the current. We have dug up many graves and now [im Augenblick/aujourd’hui/obecnie] two such open graves are in the

⁵⁵⁹ Bezwińska/Czech 1996, p. 172. In the Polish text, “*odczytał*,” “deciphered,” Bezwińska/Czech 1971, p. 103; the English translation simply reads: “Read from the Yiddish manuscript by Professor Bernard Mark,” Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 122.

terrain of the second and third crematorium. Several graves are still full of ashes. [...]

Thanks to that there are still two large graves left with ashes on the terrain of the second and third crematorium. Masses of ashes [from burnt corpses] of hundreds of thousands of Jews, Russians, Poles, were strewn and ploughed in on the sites of the crematoria.” (pp. 75f.)

The “Kommando workers” had supposedly buried “tens of documents” and scattered “great quantities of teeth [...] all over the terrain”, “so that the world should find material traces of the *millions* of murdered people” (my emphasis; p. 76).

Gradowski adds:

“Under our eyes [Vor unseren Augen/devant mes yeux/na naszych oczach] tens of thousands of Jews from the Czech and Slovakian regions are now perishing.” (ibid., emphasis added)

The final reference in the letter to an abortive revolt is very fleeting.⁵⁶⁰

The idea of burying manuscripts in ashes which would then be retrieved, ground up and thrown into the Vistula does not seem particularly intelligent, nor does the German idea of depositing the ashes of cremated persons in pits, instead of throwing them straight into the Vistula. But as is known, the SS are often accused of cretinism bordering on dementia.

If we start out from the number of victims attributed to Crematorium II by Robert Jan van Pelt – 500,000 (2002 pp. 68, 458, 469) – and assume a weight of 3.5 kg of ashes per cremation of a 70-kg body with a specific weight of the ashes of 0.5 g/cm³ (Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. I, pp. 26, 31), then this would have produced a volume of ashes measuring 3,500 cubic meters. Assuming a pit two meters deep, the surface area of that pit would have amounted to 1,750 square meters, or a square area almost 42 meters in length and width. For comparison, the above-ground surface area of Crematorium II/III is hardly 800 square meters. But the air photo of Birkenau taken on September 13, 1944 shows in the east courtyard of Crematorium III a pit measuring approximately 7 m × 4 m (28 m²), plus two smaller pits measuring at least half that. In the east courtyard of Crematorium II, we see a pit measuring approximately 13 m × 7 m (91 m²).⁵⁶¹ The purpose of these pits is not known, but the total surface area measured approximately 150 square meters. Therefore, these pits do not prove any mass extermination in Crematoria II and III, and further undermine the witness’s claims relating to millions of victims.

To sum up, according to the author of the letter presumably written on September 6, 1944, “tens of thousands of Jews from the Czech and Slovakian regions” perished before his eyes. But the first transport from Czechoslovakia

⁵⁶⁰ Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 77; 1996, p. 139; 1971, p. 75; Mark, p. 243.

⁵⁶¹ NARA, Record Group no. 373, Mission 464 BG:4M97. Can B 8413. Exposure 6 VZ, 13 September 1944. See Document 12.

(Theresienstadt) arrived at Auschwitz only on September 29 (Czech 1990, p. 718), illustrating that Gradowski must have possessed powers of prophecy!

The “diary,” although it is not very long, is still-more-laconic on the presumed extermination of the Jews in the crematoria of Birkenau. Gradowski declares that his deportation convoy passed by Treblinka and continued on its way to Auschwitz. The French text says: “*Nous approchons de la station bien connue de Treblinka*” (Mark, p. 210), translated in the English edition to “Here we are approaching the ill-famed station of Treblinka” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 81). But why on earth would a Jewish transport pass right by the “extermination camp” of Treblinka on its alleged way to Auschwitz in order to be exterminated there?

The fleeting reference to “*la chambre à gaz*” (“the gas chamber,” singular, Mark, p. 229) was translated to “gas ovens” (plural) in the English translation (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 99). And that’s all Gradowski tells his readers about his alleged workplace at Auschwitz.

Another manuscript attributed to Gradowski, written in Yiddish, was published in Jerusalem in 1977 by Haim Wolnerman under the title “*In harz fun Gehenom. A dokument fun Auschwitzer Sonder-Kommando, 1944*” (“In the Heart of the Pugatory. A Document from the Sonderkommando of Auschwitz”), which was published as an Italian translation edited by Philippe Mesnard and Carlo Saletti (Gradowski 2002). The circumstances under which the manuscript was found were described by Wolnerman as follows:

“When, in March 1945, I returned ‘home’ to my birthplace Oswiecim (the Germans called it Auschwitz and built a death camp there), after having spent four years in concentrations camps, I found myself standing on the grave of millions. [...]

A month after the end of the war, I had the good fortune and privelege to find my wife who had been deported to a women’s camp in Lower Silesia where she was liberated. We decided right away to leave Oswiecim, the House of Sacrifice of millions, and together with a small group of friends we began to plan our immigration to Palestine. At this time, local inhabitants used to come to us in order to sell various items they brought – gold, and other valuables.

Shortly before we departed from the town, a young man came to me with a tin can that he had dug up at the crematorium in Birkenau-Brzezinka. From the can, which was partly rotted and rusted, we extricated pages of a notebook with dense handwritings in Yiddish. I perused several pages of the introduction and saw immediately that I had an important document before me. Although I did not know who the author of the work was and also did not know its exact contents – I immediately felt obliged to buy the manuscript, paid the desired amount, and the document came into my possession.

I have spent many months copying the pages, some of which I have been able to read without any trouble. A large portion, however, required considerable effort and a long time to separate pages stuck together and to decipher what

was written. Some words had been erased or were completely illegible. I marked these places in the manuscript thus: (...missing...)" (My emphasis)

Several institutions in Prague offered to publish the manuscript, but Wolnerman refused, because he wanted to fulfill the wish of the author, Zalman Gradowski, expressed to the discoverer of the manuscript, to write to his uncle in America (whose address he possessed) in order to ask him for information on him and a photograph. Wolnerman wrote to the uncle and received confirmation of Gradowski's identity, as well as a photograph of Gradowski with his wife. This was in 1946. In very early 1947, Wolnerman emigrated to Israel, and events prevented him from concerning himself with the manuscript. In 1953, he began looking for an editor, but without success. A copy of the manuscript remained neglected for 15 years in the Yad Vashem Archives.⁵⁶² The book finally appeared in 1977.⁵⁶³

Hence, here as well, the arduous labor of "copying" and "deciphering" was eventually crowned with success – more than thirty years after the initial discovery of the manuscript.

Every line of the text exudes a sugary and rhetorical, sentimental "lyricism," often bordering on the ridiculous. At first, Gradowski addressed the discoverer of his message as follows:

"Dear Reader, in these lines, you will find the tale of the sufferings and torments that we, the most unhappy creatures of this earth, have endured during the time of our 'life' in this hell on earth called Auschwitz-Birkenau. I imagine that, when you will read these lines, the world will already know of this place, and yet no one will be able to imagine the reality of what has happened. Some among those who will have heard, on the radio or through other media, of the barbarism practised against human beings here, will think this is only 'Greuelpropaganda' [atrocitiy propaganda; German in original]. I wish to say that everything you have heard, and that I myself have written, is not only the truth, but a small part of that which has happened here. This is a place created by bandits as a lair of extermination, of our own people first of all, but partly for other peoples as well. Auschwitz-Birkenau is one of these lairs of death, which are scattered across various locations, in which they are exterminating our people using various methods.

I am writing with the intention that at least a small part of the truth may come to the awareness of the world, and that you may demand vengeance, world, vengeance for everything!

This is the only purpose, the only significance of my existence. I live with this thought, with this hope, that perhaps these my writings will reach you and that at least part of what we aspired to in life will be realized, I and all those who are still alive, and that it was the last will of the murdered brothers and sisters

⁵⁶² YVA, pp. 25-94.

⁵⁶³ *Ibid.*, "Chaim Wolnerman. Introduction [to Zalman Gradowski, *In the Heart of Hell*]," pp. 1, 4-6.

of my people.” (Emphases added; Gradowski, pp. 55f.; subsequent page numbers from there unless stated otherwise.)

Like Chaim Herman, Gradowski appeals to future information which is supposed to reveal his “terrible secret” (p. 73) to the world, but it is difficult to understand who is to provide this information, since the inmate members of the “*Sonderkommando*,” the world’s primary source of information, said nothing of substance with the excuse that the world will have learned the “secret” from future works of Holocaust literature already anyway.

Regarding the extermination installations, he mentions “the enormous ditch” and “the immense ditch” (p. 66), singular at all times, of which he says nothing. It is not even possible to understand whether the ditch was intended for shooting or for cremations. The first interpretation seems confirmed by the fact that the victims were “already on the edge of the ditch” and then “went down into the ditch” (p. 62).

This manuscript sets forth a boring tale of the presumed gassing of the Jews from the family camp at Theresienstadt, depicted with an unbearable rhetorical emphasis. The preliminaries relate to the cremation furnaces, which “stayed lit for 3 days on end, ready to accommodate guests” (p. 78), which is a colossal load of nonsense that was later also proffered by Henryk Tauber, albeit in another context. As I have shown elsewhere, heating up the Topf triple-muffle furnaces from 20°C (room temperature) to an operating temperature of 800°C would have required a little over nine hours (Mattogno 2019, pp. 348f.). Keeping them lit for three days on end without any cremations going on would have entailed a huge waste of fuel that simply wouldn’t have happened.

This testimony continues the propaganda tradition according to which the term “bunker” did not refer to the presumed peasant cottage transformed into a gassing installation, which Gradowski knew nothing about, but rather to the “gas chamber” of Crematoria II-III. In this sense, the term reoccurs 22 times in the text, only in a few cases with the related explanation: “He didn’t want to go inside the bunker, the gas chamber” (p. 126); “The last woman had just been pushed into the bunker before the door was locked and hermetically sealed, so that not even a breath of air could enter” (p. 127); “underground bunker” (p. 129). And here is his description of the “undressing room” (p. 107):

“In the big, deep room, which is now strongly illuminated by electric light, twelve pillars support the weight of the structure. Along the walls, around the pillars, the benches and hooks on the wall are ready for the victims’ clothing. A notice attached to the first pillar, in several languages, warns new arrivals that they are now in the ‘bath,’ and that they must remove their clothes so they can be disinfected.”

To be exact, there were eleven pillars. What happened between the “undressing room” and the “bunker”? Gradowski does not explain it, but for literary reasons he introduces a non-existing area between the two rooms (p. 114):

“In the little room, which leads to the tomb, the representatives of the great power line up as if they were about to participate in a military parade. The entire Politische Abteilung is here this evening for the celebration. High-ranking officials whose faces we had not seen for these 26 months. Among them is a woman, an ‘SS’ officer, the commandant of the women’s camp. She, too, has come to be present at this great national ‘celebration,’ to witness the death of the children of our people.”

This “little room,” which led to the “tomb,” that is, to the “bunker”/gas chamber, could only be the corridor which existed between Morgue #2 and the vestibule, because it provided access to Morgue #1. However, this corridor was too narrow (1.97 m) and too short (5 m) to permit all the members of the camp’s Political Department plus other SS officers to line up in it; nor could it have been the vestibule, which was not a “little room.” The presumed gassing was only introduced as an “artistic” element in a sob story about a separated husband and wife who meet again inside the “bunker” (p. 136):

“And when he finally caught a glimpse of her, his heart pounding, he reached out to her, tried to push his way through to her, and started shouting her name – at that moment the gas spread into the room, and he remained transfixed in this position, his arms stretched out toward his wife, his mouth and his eyes wide open, like a madman.”

What Gradowski says is superficial and nonsensical. In his story, the gas suffused the room instantaneously (which it wouldn’t have) and petrified the victims (which it couldn’t), as if they were frozen stiff on the spot. In this regard, he dishes up two similar anecdotes that are spiced up with the usual schmaltzy rhetoric:

“Look, moon, they are arriving in pairs, the devil’s slaves, bringing the death of millions. They approach with an ‘innocent’ step toward those open eyes and pour out the mortal gas, the world’s last salute, the devil’s gift.” (p. 66)

“In the silence of the night, their steps can be heard. In the moonlight we can make out two silhouettes. They don the masks so as to be able to pour out the mortal gas. They are carrying two metallic containers with them, which will kill the thousands of victims buried down there. They approach the opposite side, on top of the bunker, in the deep hell, now they are approaching with muffled steps. They do their job calmly, coldly, confidently, as if they were carrying out a sacred duty. Their hearts are icy, their hands do not tremble, they walk towards each one of the ‘skylights’ of the underground bunker with an innocent tread, pour out the gas, after which they cover up the skylight with a heavy lid, so that the gas cannot escape. The heavy groaning of the mass of victims struggling with death can be heard from the skylight holes, but the ex-

ecutioners' hearts are not softened. Deaf, silent, cold and impassive, they approach the second skylight and pour in the gas. They even approach the last skylight, and only then do they remove their masks. Then they go away, proud, happy. They have carried out their sacred duty, the great task for their people, for the fatherland. They have taken a step towards victory..." (Emphasis added; p. 129)

Therefore, the gassing was carried out using two cans of "mortal gas" thrown through various "skylights." Gradowski knows nothing about Zyklon B, and does not indicate the number of introduction openings, which he refers to in such a "poetically" silly way.

Gradowski describes the opening of the gas-chamber doors as follows (p. 140):

"With trembling hands, our brothers turn the levers and release four bolts. Two doors open, of two immense tombs. An atrocious stench of death fills the area."

If the gas-tight door equipped with peephole found in the Bauhof⁵⁶⁴ after the war was supposed to belong to the "gas chamber" of Crematoria II or III, then in that case there were two levers on the door but no bolts at all. The presumed gas chamber, Morgue #1, as is well known, had one single door which, if we follow the orthodox narrative, had only one leaf. Hence, the reference to "two doors" is clearly wrong. Finally, a large number of freshly asphyxiated people does not exude any "atrocious stench of death." If this is a reference to the smell of the poison gas used (which had only a very faint, not unpleasant smell most people cannot even detect), which could allegedly be smelled when the "doors" were opened, this means that those smelling this "stench" cannot possibly have worn any gas masks, which is absurd.

What did the bodies look like? The witness writes (p. 111):

"From this finely sculpted nose – two rivulets of mucous will drip – red, yellow or white. And this pink face – due to the effects of the gas will turn reddish, purplish or black."

The only correct color for victims of hydrogen-cyanide poisoning – pinkish – was clearly a random choice, as it was mentioned together with purplish and black, which have nothing to do with hydrogen-cyanide poisonings.

As for the cremation of the bodies, Gradowski says (p. 111):

"And, like a filthy, disgusting piece of carrion, it will be thrown onto the freight elevator, to hell, and sent to the furnaces, up there – and in a few minutes these bodies, still of flesh, will be reduced to ashes." (My emphasis)

As is explained later, the cremation of the bodies of two adults and one child required only "a few minutes," a crazy claim, to say the least. Further along

⁵⁶⁴ APMO, negative no. 21334/44.

and in contrast to this, the witness introduces the canonical duration of 20 minutes for a cremation, which is only a little less crazy (p. 144):

“The entire process lasted twenty minutes – and a body, a world, is reduced to ashes.”

Gradowski goes on to state (p. 145):

“Thirty infernal mouths blaze, at this moment, in the two large structure, and devour the numberless victims. It will not take much time for these five thousand human beings, these five thousand worlds, to be consumed by the flames.”

In effect, to cremate 5,000 bodies, the 30 muffles of Crematoria II and III would have taken eight days of continual operation!

The description of the corpses’ transportation to the ground floor of the building, of the cremation technology, and of the combustion phases of the bodies are quite correct (p. 143):

“At this point, the body is ready for the freight elevators [plural, sic]. Two men throw them like logs onto the platform, and when there are 7-8 of them, the signal is given by a blow with a stick, and the freight elevator takes off.”

Even as late as 1944, Crematorium II was equipped only with the small initial freight elevator running in a space measuring 2.76 m × 1.43 m, and with a carrying capacity of 300 kg, corresponding to the weight of 7-8 malnourished inmates (the so-called “*Muselmänner*” – “muslims”). Since Gradowski allocated the gassing of 2,500 people to this crematorium (see further below), the freight elevator would have had to make at least 312 round trips to get all these victims into the furnace hall! Assuming a time of five minutes for each journey (loading the corpses, ascending, unloading, descending; see Mattogno 2019, pp. 47-51), these 312 journeys would have taken 26 hours!

Gradowski even mentions an iron loading device he calls “*taharah-bret*,” which the editors of the book clumsily explained as follows (fn 29, p. 150):

“The author uses the traditional Jewish term taharah-bret (table of purification), used during the burial ritual to support the body, after which it is bathed with warm water before being wrapped in the shroud.”

In fact, only the first term is Hebrew, and does in fact mean purification; “*bret*,” by contrast, is derived from the German “*Brett*”: “*Leichenbrett*,” body board or stretcher, was in fact one of the names for one type of furnace-loading equipment. The source/authors of the account signed by Gradowski had probably really formed part of the crematorium personnel, but that is only an aggravating circumstance, because in that case he lied deliberately.

Most of the report is dedicated to the presumed gassing of the family camp, hence of Jews deported to Auschwitz from the Theresienstadt Ghetto. The tale is rhetorical and tedious, with cues of “heroism” ending up in the ridiculous. For many pages, Gradowski not only describes at great length and in great de-

tail the vicissitudes of individual male and female inmates, both known and unknown, but he sounds their innermost thoughts and emotions, no matter how private, as if he were a sort of universal ego capable of distinctly perceiving the ego of every deportee, and as if he possessed an all-seeing eye, capable of seeing through the walls of the barracks. Every story is introduced with a disarming triteness (pp. 81, 82, 84, 88, 89):

“A young girl hardly 16 years old is locked up down there....”

“Another is locked up down there. She is twenty years old....”

“Down there is a desperate, appalled young woman, clutches a child to her breast....”

“Here, down there, a mother, rendered grim, not by age, but by her thoughts....”

“Down there is a young man, his head slumped, afflicted and desperate for his young beloved, his fiancée, with whom he was still together, the vigil....”

“Down there is a young father, immersed in his desperation....”

“Down there is a mother with her own son, immersed in despair and pain, and here, in another grave, lies a father, his heart full of love, who would like to run to help them, but who is no longer able...”

For Gradowski, the gassing of the Jews lodged in the family camp concerned 5,000 persons (pp. 77, 90, 93), 2,500 in Crematorium II and an equal number in Crematorium III. As I have shown elsewhere, this story is a mere fabrication (Mattogno 2016a, pp. 144-167). Danuta Czech dates the event on March 8, 1944, and claims that there were 3,791 victims (1990, p. 595).

In order to introduce the above-quoted scene of the two spouses who meet again in the gas chamber, Gradowski invented the following antecedent (p. 135):

“Heart-breaking scenes occurred when a certain number of women, for whom there was insufficient room in Crematorium I[I], were carried in with the men.”

Without entering into details, we know that there were 2,978 men in the Family Camp alive and kicking on February 15, 1944, and 1,478 men on April 20, meaning that 1,500 men went missing (Mattogno 2016a, p. 286, Table 5); if 3,791 persons were gassed according to Czech, and the 1,500 missing men were part of that number, then the number of women gassed amounted, in round numbers, to ca. (3,791–1,500≈) 2,300. For Gradowski, 2,500 Jewesses were gassed in Crematorium II, followed by a “a certain number” of women in Crematorium III together with the men. The antecedent anecdote is therefore merely a literary expedient.

The story of the gassing is riddled with gross rhetorics of the resistance. The women began to parade past the SS officers lined up “in the little room,” among them a little 9-year-old girl (p. 115):

“Behind them comes the mother, who stops suddenly, turns toward the officials, and begins to address them with unheard-of courage:

[‘Murderers, bandits, criminals without shame! Today, you’re going to kill us, innocent women and children. And then you’ll blame us, the unarmed and defenseless, for starting the war! It’s us, me, and my child, we started this war! Be careful, you robbers! You believe you can use our blood to cover up your failure at the front. But you’re going to lose this war. You know very well, how many serious defeats you suffer every day on the Eastern front. Think about it, you rascals! You can do anything you want, now, without worrying about it, but the day of vengeance will come! Great Russia will win, and will avenge us! We’ll tear you to pieces! Our brothers from all over the world will give you no peace, until they have revenged our innocent blood!‘]”

All the other women gave proof of their heroic courage as well (p. 114):

“The march, the march to their deaths, has begun. They march proudly, with a decisive, strong and courageous step, as if they were marching towards life. They do not even weaken when they come to the last room, the last corner, where the last act of their lives will be played out.”

Another woman stands out for her pride (p. 117):

“They continue to parade, row after row, of naked young women. And again, the marching suddenly stops. A splendid blonde young girl stops and she, too, turns towards the bandits:

[‘You horrendous criminals! You devour me with your greedy eyes, you ogle the nakedness of my seductive body. Of course, this is your moment. In civilian life you could never even have hoped for such a spectacle. You, shameless criminals, have found yourselves the perfect lair, here, to satisfy your perversion. But you will not enjoy this pleasure for very long. The game will soon be up for you, you will not succeed in exterminating all the Jews. You will pay for everything.‘] Suddenly she leaps forward and slaps Oberscharführer Vost, kapo, commanding officer of the crematoria, three times across the face. A rain of truncheon blows showers down upon her shoulders. She enters the bunker with her head broken, covered in blood.”

Once they are all inside the gas chamber, the women sing all verses, in order, of “The Internationale,” “the national anthem of the great Russian people” (p. 119), the *Tikva*, the “Jewish anthem” (p. 122), and the “anthem of the Czechoslovakian people”! (p. 124)

The editors of the book explain that “*Ha-tiqwah*, ‘Hope,’ was the national anthem of the Zionist movement and of the State of Israel after it was founded” (fn 22, p. 150). Why would Czech Jews have known and sung the *Zionist* anthem? The explanation is supplied indirectly by Gradowski himself (p. 122):

“This anthem reminds them that the ancient people of martyrdom, the people of Israel, will survive and will rebuild their own country on earth within the near future.”

All this can be explained on the reasonable assumption that this entire fairy tale was concocted *after* the founding of the state of Israel.

I shall skip the improbable reactions of the “group of high-ranking officials,” who witnessed such heroism in dismay.

The manpower of the “*Sonderkommando*,” at the time of this particular claimed gassing, was 140 inmates, after 200 are said to have been transferred (p. 92). In this regard, Gradowski states (p. 171):

“200 of our brothers were snatched away from us, whisked away to an unknown, mysterious and frightening destination.” (My emphasis)

This is supposed to refer to the inmates presumably transferred to the Lublin-Majdanek Camp.

These 140 inmates were subdivided into two *Kommandos* of 70 men each (p. 98), one servicing Crematorium II, and the other Crematorium III. The total manpower, as we shall soon see, was 191 men; there were, therefore, 52 inmates at Crematoria IV and V. These crematoria are never mentioned in the manuscript, however.

In the chapter titled “The Painful Roll Call,” Gradowski tells the following tale (pp. 183f.):⁵⁶⁵

“They sent us back into the courtyard, where the cruel separation had taken place. They lined us up for the first tragic roll call. The purpose was to carry out an official check of the number of workers remaining, and the operation carried out on our organism must be confirmed and ratified. As always, we line up in lines of 10, taking up half the courtyard. The other half is occupied by death. You feel it, you smell it, you touch it with your hand. This morning, at the first roll call, like every day, [your companion] was still here, and now, in his place, there is a void; nothing remained but a grave. [...]

They are starting to count us – the count was correct. The operation reduced our unit by more than half. There were only 191 of us left now. [...]

*At this time we say our last goodbye. If you could lend an ear, you would hear the last wishes of the 191 remaining members [of the *Sonderkommando*], to be able to accompany the two hundred fifty [already] set aside, to escort the brothers down there, on their path, where the devil is taking them, who knows where.”*

To what event does this narrative refer? The editors of the book remain prudently silent. The context appears to conjure up images of the first mentioned separation, but in that case there were 200 inmates, not 250. It is clear that Gradowski did not know anything about the transfer of these 200 or 250 in-

⁵⁶⁵ Gradowski “poetically” personifies the inmate cards archived in the card file.

mates from the “*Sonderkommando*” to Lublin-Majdanek: neither the date, nor the destination.

2.5.3. Leib Langfus

In April 1945, a resident of the city of Auschwitz found a glass jar containing a manuscript in Yiddish in the ruins of Crematorium III; the jar was only handed over to the Auschwitz Museum on November 5, 1970, however (*honit soit qui mal y pense...*). The manuscript was a 109-page notebook written in fountain pen, plus two other pages separate from the rest, originating from two different notebooks. This document does not appear in the Polish edition of the manuscripts of the members of the “*Sonderkommando*,” which appeared in 1971, and there is not even a reference to it in the preface to the book by Jadwiga Bezwińska and Danuta Czech, as if the manuscript were still unknown to the Auschwitz Museum at the time. The 1992 English edition also does not contain that entry, probably because this translation relied on the 1971 Polish original without giving concern to more-recent discoveries. It was only published in the German 1996 edition, in a translation by Roman Pytel. The manuscript is attributed to Leib Langfus. The first 99 pages are quite irrelevant from the point of view of the present study, because they simply provide a rather verbose account of the background to the deportation, and the deportation from Mława itself. The related transport is said to have arrived at Auschwitz on December 6, 1942. The *Auschwitz Chronicle* has an entry for it with claimed registration numbers assigned to the inmates on a transport, but she gives no source for this (Czech 1990, p. 280). Unfortunately, the text of the following pages (100-105), those which explain the scenario of the few elements set forth below, “is illegible” (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, fn 35, p. 124), so that we must content ourselves with the account on p. 106 of the manuscript, which describes a gassing of unknown victims at an unknown location on an undisclosed date (*ibid.*, p. 124):

“As many people were crammed in [as possible]. It’s difficult to imagine that you could fit so many people in such a small [room]. Those who didn’t want to go in there, were shot for [resistance] or torn to pieces by dogs. Over the course of a few hours, they could have suffocated from lack of oxygen. The doors were then hermetically sealed, and then gas was thrown in through a small hatch in the ceiling.”

A long footnote by the editors outlines the history of the “bunker” at Birkenau (*ibid.*, fn 37, p. 125), therefore, Bezwińska and Czech want the reader to understand that the above-mentioned text refers precisely to the “bunker”: but to which one of the two? They do not dare take a position in this regard, because the text in question contradicts what they are writing in their note: the manuscript in fact speaks of *one* single, small room, but “there were *two* gas chambers in Bunker 1; there were *four* in Bunker 2.” Moreover, the little Zyklon-B-

introduction ports – four in “Bunker 1” and five in “Bunker 2” (Piper 2000, pp. 135, 139) – must have been located in the walls, while there was only “a small hatch in the ceiling” according to Langfus.

We then learn that “the gas” – which gas is never specified – entered the lungs of the victims, including, surprisingly, a few “people fit for work,” and they all died in a rather curious manner (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, pp. 125f.):

“While dying, they fell on top of each other, due to the overcrowding, forming a pile of five or six layers [of bodies], all lying on top of each other, up to as much as a meter high.”

Bezwińska and Czech note that, based on the story, we must deduce that “the writer personally participated in all this, that he saw it all with his own eyes, and experienced it as one of the inmates integrated into the *Sonderkommando*” (*ibid.*, fn 38, p. 126). Hence, the author would have been a true and proper *eye-witness*, but this is refuted by his description of the bodies (*ibid.*, p. 126):

“Some of the people turned quite blue under the influence of the gas, while others looked completely fresh, as if they were sleeping.”

But it is in well-known that victims of poisoning by hydrogen cyanide turn “a cherry-red color” (Trunk, p. 28; Rudolf 2020b, pp. 228-230).

The tale continues as follows (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, p. 126):

“Not all of them could fit into the bunker; some of them were kept back in a wooden barracks until eleven o’clock the next day.”

The term “bunker,” here used in the orthodoxically correct sense – that is, indicating a provisional gassing installation with separate undressing facility – will be discussed in greater detail below.

As far as one can tell, Langfus did not even know that there were supposed to be two “bunkers,” because he always uses the word in the singular, and moreover asserts some of the victims could not fit into the small gas chamber and were left in a barracks waiting for it to be emptied and available again. For Szlama Dragon, the eyewitness par excellence for the “bunkers,” “Bunker 1” could hold 2,000 persons, while “Bunker 2” held at least 2,500,⁵⁶⁶ for a total of 4,500. There was therefore no need to gas them in two batches in the same “bunker.”

According to Langfus, the “*Sonderkommando*” was subdivided into four groups (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, pp. 126f.):

“After putting their gas masks on, the first group entered the bunker and threw the bodies from the doorway to the railway track, on which small, frameless carts stood. The next group loaded the bodies onto the carts – so-called drams – and pushed them to a place where a gigantic, wide and deep pit had been dug, filled [from all sides] with blocks, beams and entire trees. Gasoline [was poured] in it, and a huge blaze shot up in the air [...]. There stood the fourth group and threw the people into the fire.”

⁵⁶⁶ Deposition of Szlama Dragon dated May 10 and 11, 1945. Höss Trial, Vol. 11, p. 104.

For Dragon, there were seven squads: the first, with 12 inmates, was responsible for removing the bodies; the second, with 30, for loading the bodies onto the little carts; the third, with 10 inmates, for pushing the trolleys; the fourth, with 20, for unloading the bodies from the carts into the pits; the fifth, with 28, for transporting wood for the fires; the sixth, with two inmates, for extracting gold teeth from the bodies; the seventh, with another two inmates, for cutting their hair.⁵⁶⁷

For Langfus, there was one single pit, into which they threw the bodies when the pit was already ablaze, which is obviously absurd, because it would have been impossible to approach the edge of such a pit due to the radiation of intense heat. For Dragon, there were four pits near “Bunker 1” and 6 near “Bunker 2” (see Chapter 5.3.).

The witness assures us that “a small pile of burnt bone was all that was left of the entire transport, which was thrown aside” (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, p. 127). Since the ash content of a 70-kg human body is approximately 3.5 kg, as stated above, and the specific weight is approximately 0.5, the *little pile*, assuming a transport of 1,500 people, all of whom were gassed, would have measured over 10 cubic meters, plus all the intermingled ashes and charcoaled remains of the fire wood.

The ashes, “a little pile,” were never thrown into the Vistula, however, as the orthodox narrative has it, but into a pit:

“They were then thrown out and scattered and then covered with [earth], after which [trees] were planted on the levelled surface. Not the slightest trace of human life was permitted to remain.” (ibid., pp. 127f.)

Quite a nonsensical procedure, as noted earlier.

2.5.4. An “Unknown Author”

With regard to this group of manuscripts, there are disagreements between Ber Mark and the Auschwitz Museum, which they ought to clarify.

In the summer of 1952, a 58-page notebook written in Yiddish was found on the site of Crematorium III. The author remains unknown, but Ber Mark identifies him as Leib Langfus. In the German translation, Mark asserts that the original is located at the Jewish Historical Institute at Warsaw, but a footnote by Bezwińska and Czech states that the Institute in question had assured them that it did not possess the manuscript (*ibid.*, p. 176). In the Polish translation, the following notice appears at the end of this entry (Bezwińska/Czech 1971, p. 118):

⁵⁶⁷ Deposition of Szlama Dragon dated February 26, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-12, pp. 182f.

“Deciphered and translated from Yiddish by Prof. Bernard Mark. Checked against a photocopy of the original, and supplemented by Dr. Roman Pytel.”
(My emphasis)

In the French edition of the manuscripts, Ber Mark attributes five documents to Leib Langfus (Mark, pp. 245-264):

- “Journal I”
- “Sadism”
- “Journal II”
- “The 600 boys”
- “The 3000 nudes”
- a list of the presumed gassings carried out in the crematoria at Birkenau between October 9 and 24, 1944.

In the German translation, by contrast, Langfus is identified only as the author of the manuscript mentioned at the outset.

For the Auschwitz Museum, moreover, the manuscripts “The 600 boys” and “3,000 naked people” are works by Salmen Lewental (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, pp. 177f. (without headline), 142-146). The manuscripts known as “Journal I” and “Journal II” are works by the “unknown author,” while the list of transports does not appear at all.

The most-surprising thing is that the manuscripts “Journal I” and “Journal II,” a chronicle of events between October 14 and November 26, 1944, are attributed explicitly by Ber Mark to an “unknown author,” while the titles are given as “Particulars” and “Notes”!

Langfus is still considered by the Auschwitz Museum to be the author of the manuscript “*Sadisme*,” which has not, however, been published, because the related pages deal “with Belzec” and have “no significance for Auschwitz matters” (*ibid.*, p. 111).

This text had already been published in Polish in 1954 in an article titled “In the Abysses of Crime (Chronicle of Auschwitz by an Unknown Author)” (“W otchłani zbrodni...”). It contains three texts: “*Urywki*” (“Fragments”), corresponding to the text “Particulars” published by the Auschwitz Museum (*ibid.* pp. 114-120), but without the initial paragraph; “*Sadysm. W latach 1940-1941*” (“Sadism in the Years 1940-1941”), which is about Belzec; and “*Notatki*,” which corresponds to the manuscript “Notes.”

In 1972, the Auschwitz Museum published a manuscript with the title “*Wysiedlenie*,” which became “*Aussiedlung*” (“Resettlement”) in the subsequent German edition. The author is identified only as “Lejb,” with no indication as to last name. The list of gassings was reproduced as a document in the 1971 Polish translation, but without transcription or discussion (Bezwińska/Czech 1971, p. 124).

In the manuscript titled “Particulars,” the narration begins with the arrival of the Jewish transports from the ghettos of Będzin and Sosnowiec in August

1943. A rabbi “entered the undressing-room and then the bunker” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 112). A footnote by Bezwińska and Czech in the German edition warns us that this was “one of the first, provisional gas chambers” (1996, fn 2, p. 177), but that is an error. The Polish and English translations simply state that it was a “Gas chamber” (1992, fn 2, p. 112). According to the current orthodox narrative, after Crematoria II and IV became operational in March 1943, both “bunkers” were put out of service: “Bunker 1” was demolished, and “Bunker 2” was reactivated only in May 1944. It is therefore clear that even the unknown author referred to the gas chambers of Crematoria II and III with the term “bunker.” This also may be inferred from the term “undressing-room” rather than undressing hut or barracks.

This is followed by a number of rather improbable anecdotes which are not supported by the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, starting with the alleged shooting of 200 “young Hungarian Jews” (101 for Mark, p. 246), therefore fit for labor, in Crematorium III (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 112). Bezwińska and Czech provide no clarification in this regard.

“[M]ore or less late in the year 1943,” the following persons arrived at Auschwitz: 164 Poles, including 12 girls, all members of an underground organization. They were sent to the gas chamber (“bunker,” in the French text; Mark, p. 247) of one of the crematoria (we don’t know which one), followed by several hundred Dutch Jews. A group of SS officers were present at the execution. Suddenly, a Polish Jewess delivered an indignant speech against the SS, after which the victims sang, in order, the Hatikva and the Internationale! (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, pp. 114f.) This is clearly the same fabulous anecdote which Gradowski attributes to the gassing of the Czech Jews from the family camp a few months afterwards.

While they sang, “gas was thrown into the chamber” (*ibid.*, p. 115), and this is all we learn from this text about the claimed murder weapon and its alleged operation. In this case as well, the Polish editors of the book provide no further explanation.

At the end of the summer of 1944, a Jewish transport arrived from Slovakia, which was taken to the “bunker.” While the deportees went “from the undressing-room to the bunker” (*ibid.*; “Gasbunker” in the German edition; 1996, p. 180), a woman said: “Will perhaps a miracle happen, after all!” (1992, p. 115) A memorable sentiment, worthy to appear in the annals of history! The Auschwitz Museum obviously knows nothing of all this.

At the end of the summer of 1943, the text claims that a transport was taken from Tarnów. According to the related footnote, this occurred on September 2, 1943 (*ibid.*, fn 12). According to Danuta Czech, the transport which arrived on that date departed from Bochnia, located approximately 49 km east of

Krakow, while Tarnów is located approximately 50 km east of Bochnia.⁵⁶⁸ But that's not the only problem. Of the 3,000 Jews who arrived, 2,170 were presumably gassed (Czech 1990, pp. 477f.). Of this atrocious event (if it was real), Langfus recorded one unique detail for history: the usual rhetorical speech, this time from a preacher! During the 1944 Pesach (Passover), a transport is claimed to have arrived from the French camp at Vittel. Before being gassed, a rabbi named Mosze Friedman supposedly addressed an SS *Obersturmführer* with the usual rhetorical protestations, but here as well, that is all we learn about the particulars of the claimed crime (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 116). In 1944, the eight days of Pesach lasted from April, 8 to 15; the only transport that reached Auschwitz from France around that time was that of April 16. This was the 71st transport, but it originated from the Drancy Camp. Of the 1,500 deportees, 1,112 were allegedly gassed (Czech 1990, p. 612). In his presentation of the respective transport list, Klarsfeld does not claim that all of the deportees, or even any of them, originated from the Vittel Camp, and the list does not contain the name of any Mosze Friedman.⁵⁶⁹

The "unknown author" then mentions a transport from Košice which presumably arrived at the end of 1944 (for B. Mark, "towards the end of May 1944"; Mark, p. 249), of which the *Auschwitz Chronicle* knows nothing. In this context, the "unknown author" only reports the claimed memorable statements of a rabbi's wife (the usual indignant rhetoric; Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 118).

At the end of 1943, a transport allegedly reached the camp from Siauliai (in German: Schaulen), in Lithuania. A footnote by B. Mark explains that this was the ghetto of Siauliai, which was then liquidated (*ibid.*, fn 20). In this case as well, Bezwińska and Czech clumsily attempt to conceal the fact that no Jewish transport arrived at Auschwitz from this locality. In Auschwitz legendry, as I have shown earlier, the anecdote refers to the 300 Jewish children who, according to the "Periodic Report for the Period between September 1, 1944 and September 20, 1944. Special communiqué," are said to have been deported to Auschwitz from Krosno on September 12, 1944. In Czech's *Auschwitz Chronicle*, the date remains unchanged, but the transport is said to have departed from Kaunas (Czech 1990, p. 707), perhaps because she thought it refers to the locality of Krosna, which is approximately 60 km from Kaunas. The Polish text of the message says "Krosna," but this is the genitive of Krosno, which refers to a city located in south-eastern Poland, approximately 320 km from Krakow. In fact, in Polish, the name for Kaunas is Kowno. At any rate, the unknown author evidently reports this claimed event

⁵⁶⁸ The *Kalendarium* (Czech 1989), which mentions Bochnia, appeared in German as early as 1989. The editors of the footnote therefore should have known that the information was incorrect, or, if one prefers, untrue.

⁵⁶⁹ Klarsfeld 1978, I, Convoi N° 71 on 13 April 1944 and "*Liste alphabetique du convoi N° 71*" (the work is unpaginated).

only as a pretext to recall another “heroic” anecdote: “a girl of five [years of age]” (in the French translation “de huit ans”; Mark, p. 249) addresses herself to the head of the “*Sonderkommando*” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 119):

“*Be gone, you Jewish murderer! Don’t lay your hand, dripping with Jewish blood, upon my lovely brother! I am his good mummy, he will die in my arms, together with me.*’ – A boy of seven or eight stood beside her and spoke thus, ‘*Why, you are a Jew and you lead such dear children to the gas – only in order to live? Is your life among the band of murderers really dearer to you than the lives of so many Jewish victims?*’”

From all this we must conclude, among other things, that the “terrible secret” of Auschwitz was perfectly well known even to children five to eight years of age!

The anecdote of the invectives and speeches by the victims, of which I have provided several examples already earlier, presuppose, among other things, the existence of an appropriately trained squad of inmate interpreters and stenographers in the “*Sonderkommando*” translating and recording these memorable sayings for posterity!

The following anecdote, which is even more ridiculous, is situated “am Anfang des Jahres 1943” “at the beginning of 1943.” The “gas chamber” (“bunker” in the French text; Mark, p. 250) was packed full, and yet, incredibly, only “one Jewish boy remained outside”: what “gas chamber”? When? Where? It is useless to look for answers in this series of imaginary narrations. An *Unterscharführer*, obviously anonymous, massacred him with blows, leaving him wallowing in his own blood, but suddenly he arose and “all of a sudden the maltreated boy, who had been lying motionless, jumped to his feet and began to regard, quietly and silently, his cruel murderer with his childish gaze. The *Untercharführer* burst into loud, cynical laughter, took out his revolver and shot the boy” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 119).

Hauptscharführer Moll placed four persons in line, one behind another, and killed them “with one series of shots transfixed them all,” but in the French text, with one single shot! (“*d’un seul coup*”).

The unknown author reports other fundamental facts for Holocaust historiography: When a transport arrived, *Scharführer* Forst (*Oberscharführer* in the French text; Mark, p. 250), a person who never existed – although Bezwińska and Czech do not say so –, stood “at the gate of the undressing-room in the case of many transports and felt the sexual organ of each young woman that was passing naked to the gas chamber (“dans le bunker de gazage”; *ibid.*). But it also happened that “German SS men of all ranks put fingers into the sexual organs of pretty young girls” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 119).

The last anecdote takes place at the “end of the summer of 1942” when a Jewish transport is said to have arrived from Przemyśl. Here, incredibly, footnote 23 by Ber Mark warns us that the information is incorrect, because the transport in question arrived in September 1943. The deportees, the unknown

author claims, were in possession of daggers, with which they proposed to attack the SS, but their leader, a physician, dissuaded them, hoping that he would be saved, but he had to go with them all “into the bunker” (*ibid.*, pp. 119f.).

The manuscript “Sadism. In 1940-1941” is about the Bełżec Camp. Among other things, we read there (Mark, p. 253):

“Later, when the Germans have penetrated deeply into Russia, eight large barracks were built in the forest, in which they installed tables and benches; there, the Jews from Lublin, Lvov and other districts were crammed in together and electrocuted.”

Naturally, all this information was supplied by the usual *eye-witnesses*, who, we know neither how nor why, instead of being “electrocuted” at Bełżec, became members of the *Sonderkommando* of the crematoria at Birkenau! (*ibid.*) Ber Mark in fact assures us that these presumed events “are related according to the testimonies of different deportees transferred to Auschwitz and Birkenau after the crushing of the rebellion at Bełżec” (Mark, p. 184) The problem is that there was never any rebellion at Bełżec, and electrocution as a method of mass murder, although claimed for Bełżec by many early sources, is today summarily rejected as untrue (see Mattogno 2016h on Bełżec).

The manuscript headlined “Notes” is a chronicle of events occurring between October 14 and November 26, 1944, but in fact only the events of three days are recorded (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, pp. 120, 122):

- October 14: beginning of demolition of the walls of Crematorium IV by the inmates of the “*Sonderkommando*”;
- October 20: transport of documents from the camp, to be burned;
- November 25: beginning of demolition of Crematorium II, followed by that of Crematorium III; dismantling of the “ventilating motor and pipes,” intended for Mauthausen and Gross-Rosen.

The author of the chronicle warns us:

“Since they serve to gas people on a larger scale, as there were no mechanical appliances of that kind at all in crematoria IV and V, suspicion is aroused that on the terrain of those camps [Mauthausen and Gross-Rosen] identical points for the extermination of Jews will be established.”

The ventilation system in the presumed gas chamber in Crematoria II and III consisted of *two* ventilators – one for air intake, the other for the exhaust⁵⁷⁰ – with associated motor, a fact obviously unknown to the author of the manuscript. This system was already planned for Morgue #1 long before its claimed transformation into a gas chamber. It was standard equipment for morgues of this kind. Hence, claiming that this morgue was essentially or predominantly

⁵⁷⁰ The ventilation system of *Leichenkeller 1* of Crematoria II and III is accurately described in Mattogno/Poggi.

used for mass murder based on that ventilation system is simply an enormous bit of foolery. According to this logic, Crematoria IV and V could not be used for gassings, since they lacked any such “mechanical appliances,” which is factually true but flies in the face of the current orthodox narrative.

The “Notes” continue by claiming that there exist other buried manuscripts, including that of Leib Langfus, examined earlier, with a surprising editorial request (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 122):

“I ask to have them all jointly put in order and publish them under the title ‘Amidst a Nightmare of Crime’.”

This passage does not appear in the first Polish translation of the manuscript published in 1954, but the translator, always Ber Mark, assures us that the Polish equivalent of this title, “*W otchłani zbrodni*” (“In the Abysses of Crime”) is the title of the three manuscripts published by him at that time (“*Urywki*” (“Particulars”) “*Sadysm. W latach 1940-1941*” and “*Notatki*” (“Notes”; “*W otchłani zbrodni...*”, p. 303). The 1971 Polish edition, by contrast, contains the passage in question with the title “*Wśród koszmarnej zbrodni*” (“Amidst a Nightmarish Crime”; Bezwińska/Czech 1971, p. 118), of which the title of the English edition is an appropriate translation: *Amidst a Nightmare of Crime*.

Another oddity of the text is the fact that it attributes two different dates to the word “today”: “Today, November 25” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 120); “Today, November 26” (*ibid.*, p. 122). The first Polish translation contains the same anomaly: “*Dziś, 25 listopada*”; “*Dziś, 26 listopada 1944*” (“*W otchłani zbrodni...*”, p. 309).

From the orthodox point of view, the most-important manuscript of the entire corpus of manuscripts is undoubtedly the list of presumed gassing victims. Considering the enormous importance attributed to it – at least by the Auschwitz Museum – I shall examine it in a detailed manner.

The list in question⁵⁷¹ was handwritten in five columns, giving: date, number of victims, victim group, origin, number of the crematorium. As regards gender, the presumed victims are broken down first of all into men (“m.” = *mężczyźni*) and women (“kob.” = *kobiety*), then children (*dzieci*) and family (*Fam.[ilien]*, in German). This should be kept in mind, because every group was lodged in a different sector of the Birkenau Camp, and very diverse documentation exists on all this. I will explain the other abbreviations in footnotes. The list contains 27 entries ranging from October 9 to 24, 1944. I shall first provide the translation of the list (the numbering of the Crematoria is 1-4 = II-V in today’s numbering); the sixth column contains dates from the *Auschwitz Chronicle*. The header row with column names was added by me:

⁵⁷¹ APMO, Wspomnienia, Vol. 38a, p. 1. See Document 13.

DD.MM.	# VICTIMS	VICTIM TYPE	ORIGIN	KREMA	#CZECH
9.10.	2,000	Camp	German ⁵⁷²	K 1	
9.10.	2,000	Families	Theresienstadt ⁵⁷³	K 1	2,000
9.10.	2,000	Women	Camp C ⁵⁷⁴	K 4	2,000
10.10.	800	Children	Gypsy	K 4	800
11.10.	2,000	Families	Slovakia	K 2	2,000
12.10.	3,000	Women	Camp C	K 1	3,000
12.10.			Theresienstadt		(1,419)
13.10.	3,000	Women	Camp C	K 2	3,000
13.10.	2,000	Families	Theresienstadt	K 1	2,000
14.10.	3,000	Families	Theresienstadt	K 2	3,000
			BIIC		477
15.10.	3,000	Women	Camp C	K 1	3,000
16.10.	800	Men	German camp	K 2	800
16.10.	600	Men	Hospital camp ⁵⁷⁵	K 2	600
17.10.	2,000	Men	Buna	K 1	2,000
			BIIC		156
18.10.	3,000	Families	Slovakia	K 1	3,000
18.10.	2,000	Families	Theresienstadt	K 2	(1,343)
18.10.	300	Families	Misc. ⁵⁷⁶	K 2	300
17.10.	22	Men, politicals	Bunker ⁵⁷⁷	K 2	22
18.10.	13	Women, men, politicals	Inmates	K 2	13
19.10.	2,000	Women	Slovakia	K 1	2,000
19.10.	2,000	Families	Theresienstadt	K 2	2,000
20.10.	2,500	Families	Theresienstadt	K 1	1,158
20.10.	1,000	Children, male, 12-18	Wiski Dorf (Dy)	K 2	1,000
20.10.	200	Women	Camp C	K 2	248
20.10.	1,000	?	Camp ?	K ?	
21.10.	1,000	Women	Camp C	K 4	513
23.10.	400	Men	Gliwice ⁵⁷⁸	K 2	400
24.10.	2,000	Families	Theresienstadt	K 1	
	43,635				

“Camp C” should be understood to refer to Sector BIIC of Birkenau, at that time used for the women’s transit camp. For October 1944, the fluctuations in manpower of this camp have been conserved almost completely in the series

⁵⁷² “Lager niem.” “Niem.” is the abbreviation for the Polish word “niemiecki,” German.

⁵⁷³ “Terezen.”

⁵⁷⁴ “Ce Lager” (sic, “Lager” is German for camp), meaning Sector BIIC.

⁵⁷⁵ German: “Kranken Lager.”

⁵⁷⁶ “Rozmait[y].”

⁵⁷⁷ “Bunkier.”

⁵⁷⁸ “Glejewic.”

of reports referred to as “*Stärkemeldung*” – “Occupancy Reports.” Here, among the figures relating to “departures” (“*Abgänge*”), the heading “S.B.” appears, which almost certainly means “*Sonderbehandlung*” – “special treatment, which the orthodoxy considers this to be synonymous for gassing – and the term “*Durchgangs-Juden S.B.*”, “transiting Jews, special treatment,” which refers to Jews lodged in the transit camp. Danuta Czech cites these occupancy reports and the list by the unknown author as the sources for her gassings claims, as results from the following table, in which I juxtapose the data from the occupancy reports with some claims contained in the unknown-author’s list and the numbers given in Czech’s *Auschwitz Chronicle*.

Occupancy Reports				List	<i>Chronicle</i>
dd.mm.	S.B.	Transiting Jews S.B.	Total S.B.		
9.10.	7	0	7	2,000	2,000
10.10.	12	0	12		12
12.10.	3	131	134	3,000	3+131+2,866= 3,000
13.10.	5	3	8	3,000	8+2,992= 3,000
14.10.		477	477		477
15.10.	0	0	0	3,000	3,000
16.10.	3	0	3		3
17.10.					156
19.10.	3	0	3		3
20.10.	117	77	194	200	194
21.10.	2	513	515	1,000	513
Totals	152	1,201	1,353	12,200	12,358

It is obvious that the figures from the list and the *Auschwitz Chronicle* are in total contradiction with reality: on October 9, seven inmates were subjected to “S.B.,” hence were allegedly gassed, yet the list claims 2,000; on October 12, there were 134, as against 3,000; on October 13, there were 8, as against 3,000; on October 15, not one case of “S.B.,” as against 3,000; on October 21, there were 515 cases of “S.B.” as against 1,000 gassing victims claimed by the unknown-author’s list.

For October 13, Czech notes (1990, p. 731):

“3,000 women are killed in the gas chamber of Crematorium III; they were selected in Auschwitz I. Among them are five female prisoners from the prisoners’ infirmary, three female Jews from the transit camp, and 2,992 female Jews not registered in the camp.” (My emphasis)

The source is the occupancy report, but that document only mentions “Durchg. Jd. SB. 3,”⁵⁷⁹ that is, the three Jewesses from the passage underlined above, and contains no mention of the other 2,997, who are therefore completely fictitious.

The editor of the *Chronicle* reports 477 female gassing victims for October 14 as indicated in the occupancy report as “transiting Jews S.B.,”⁵⁸⁰ but the unknown author’s list has no entry for them.

The 156 presumed women gassing victims of October 17 are said to have been proven by the “Labor Deployment List” (Czech 1990, p. 731), but this makes no sense, because this series of reports does not contain any “departure” entries; these reports indicate neither how many deportees died, how many were transferred, nor how many were subjected to “S.B.”⁵⁸¹

During the period considered by the unknown-author’s list, the transports from Theresienstadt were as follows (Kárný, p. 73):

dd.mm.	# Deportees	Claimed gassing victims
06.10.	1,550	
09.10.	1,600	2,000
12.10.	1,500	
13.10.		2,000
14.10.		3,000
16.10.	1,500	
18.10.		2,000
19.10.	1,500	2,000
20.10.		2,500
23.10.	1,715	
24.10.		2,000

It should be noted that, in the “# Deportees” column, the date refers to the departure from Theresienstadt, while for the “claimed gassing victims” column, the date refers to the victims’ date of arrival at Auschwitz.

Adopting a charitable interpretation, the transport of October 6 could have been gassed on October 9, that of October 9 on October 13, that of October 12 on October 14, that of October 16 on October 18, that of October 19 on October 20, that of October 23 on October 24. Yet still, we have only six transports but seven claimed gassings, and the numbers don’t match either. However, only for two of these transports exist a documentary trace for their arrival at Auschwitz: in the quarantine list, three inmates were registered on October 15, and 216 on October 30.⁵⁸²

⁵⁷⁹ APMO, AuII-3a, FKL, p. 62a.

⁵⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 63.

⁵⁸¹ Report “Arbeitsinsatz” dated October 17, 1944; D-AuII-3a/1a-14c, pp. 355a-c.

⁵⁸² APMO, *Quarantäne-Liste*. D-AuII-3/1, p. 8.

There are no documents reporting transports from Slovakia to Auschwitz in October 1944. The historian Vlasta Kladivová asserts that five transports reached the camp in 1944, with a total of 7,436 deportees (Kladivová, p. 156):

- September 30: 1,860
- October 3: 1,836
- October 10: 1,890
- October 17: 920
- November 2: 930.

Another historian speaks of 12,306 Jews deported from Slovakia in 1944-1945, including 7,936 to Auschwitz, 2,732 to Sachsenhausen and 1,638 to Theresienstadt (Lipscher, p. 215). Still another rounded off the figure to 8,000, but stated that “it may be assumed that the majority of these victims survived their deportation” (Schmidt-Hartmann, p. 374). Danuta Czech cites a documentary source only for the transport of October 19 (for the other two, she refers to the unknown-author’s list). In the absence of proof to the contrary, this can be considered the only transport that was actually sent to Auschwitz.

a) The Transport from Gleiwitz

For October 23, the unknown-author’s list claims the gassing of 400 men originating from the subcamp near Gleiwitz. Danuta Czech limits herself to copying that claim without citing any other source (1990, p. 738). For more information, one has to consult Irena Strzelecka, author of an article on the “Labor Camp Gleiwitz 1.” With reference to the selection of camp inmates who were then sent to Birkenau, allegedly in order to be killed in the “gas chambers,” Strzelecka asserts (Strzelecka, p. 79):

“We know, for example, that over the course of the selection, approximately fifty Muselmänner (Muslims) [emaciated inmates] were selected in October 1944 and sent away from the camp immediately afterwards.”

No document exists to confirm this assertion. Strzelecka refers to a few testimonies, among them that originating from Josef Farber at the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial. These testimonies speak of “selections” at Gleiwitz, but in this context (Langbein 1965, pp. 758f.):

“Klehr selected two or three inmates at Gleiwitz. [...] He then carried out a selection yet again, and in so doing separated two inmates.”

Therefore, SS *Oberscharführer* Josef Klehr, who formed part of the Auschwitz Camp’s health service, is said to have “selected” a maximum of five inmates!

The story told by Strzelecka is extremely dubious and indirectly refuted by herself, since she publishes documents showing that at least some seriously ill inmates of Gleiwitz I were never sent to the “gas chambers” at Birkenau at all, but rather to the inmate hospital at Monowitz. On July 14, 1944, three inmates were transferred: one afflicted with myelitis to the neurology ward, one with

an inflammation of the arteries for a surgical operation, and the third, certainly a Jew (registration number A-7773), with a double inguinal hernia also for surgery. The order was signed by Klehr. On September 15, 1944, twelve inmates suffering from pathologies such as tuberculosis, colibacillosis, diarrhea, fractures, etc. were transferred to the hospital at Monowitz (Strzelecka, pp. 80f.).

On September 7, 1944, Klehr sent samples of expectorations and stool of five Jewish inmates from the Gleiwitz II Camp to the Institute of Bacteriological Hygiene at Auschwitz for bacteriological analysis (*ibid.*, p. 78). On September 20, he sent the above-mentioned institute an expectoration sample from Jewish inmate no. 187346 for bacteriological analysis for tuberculosis bacilli.⁵⁸³

The practice of [providing] hospital recovery care for sick inmates disproves the fairy tale of the gassing of 400 inmates from Gleiwitz, which, as we have seen, as regards date and number, is not even confirmed by the testimonies.

b) The Gassing of 800 Gypsy Children

For October 10, the unknown author's list claims that 800 Gypsy children ("*Dzieci Cygańskie*") were gassed in Crematorium V. With explicit reference to this list, Danuta Czech affirms (1990, p. 728):

"800 Gypsies, among them children, who had been delivered on October 5 from Buchenwald, are killed in the gas chambers of Crematorium V."

For October 5, the *Chronicle* editor writes (1990, p. 723):

"1,188 prisoners are transferred from Buchenwald to Auschwitz II, among them 800 Gypsies who were already in Auschwitz. Most of the prisoners from this transport are probably killed in the gas chambers."

The transport in question is said to have been attested to by a document from the International Tracing Service at Arolsen, but it is clear that the presence of 800 Gypsies among the transferees, which is undocumented, only serves to justify the presumption of gassing annotated by the "unknown author."

In the first German edition of the *Chronicle*, Czech simply mentioned a "transport of inmates from Buchenwald concentration camp, 1,188 inmates" on October 5 (Czech 1963, p. 72), and for October 10 (*ibid.*, p. 76):

"Inmate transport from Buchenwald Concentration Camp, 1,188 inmates /800 boys and girls/ – Gypsies from Buchenwald Concentration Camp – were gassed in Crematorium No. V."

The transport from Buchenwald could not leave any registration trace at their arrival at Auschwitz, precisely because these inmates had already been assigned registration numbers during their first stay at Auschwitz, which nor-

⁵⁸³ Strzelecka, p. 111. The inmate formed part of a group of 261 Jews registered on May 4, 1944 at the Gleiwitz Camp under nos. 187162-187422. Czech 1990, p. 618.

mally continued to be used when they were transferred back from other camps. According to common practice back then, the Auschwitz camp authorities should have informed Buchenwald of the arrival of the transport, after which the inmates were filed as “departures” at Buchenwald, and were admitted into the Auschwitz forced-labor pool. The only thing we know for sure is that there is no mention of this transport in the quarantine list.

For the list’s “unknown author,” the presumed gassing victims were 800 *Gypsy children*, not “800 Gypsies, among them children.” This misleading expression enables Czech to evade the contradiction with which she writes under the date August 3, 1944 that 918 Gypsies were transferred from Auschwitz to Buchenwald on that date, including 105 children aged 9 to 14 years (Czech 1990, pp. 678f.). In the first edition of her *Chronicle*, Czech reproduced a photocopy of the original document confirming the arrival of the transport carrying 918 Gypsies, listing them by age bracket: 105 persons 9-14 years of age and 393 persons 15-24 years of age (Czech 1963, p. 113). It is obvious that only 105 children were transferred to Buchenwald, and those allegedly retransferred back to Auschwitz in October could not have been more than 105, much less 800.

The reference to the “girls” in the first edition of the *Chronicle* is explained by the fact that in this publication the editor had not just considered the above-mentioned 918 male Gypsies as transferred to Buchenwald, but also 490 female gypsies (who were, however, transferred to Ravensbrück). Since she had even published the document which mentions the presence of the 105 children, she had to add others to arrive at the fateful figure of 800 from the list, therefore she introduced the “girls” as well. But if even the 490 women she misassigned to Buchenwald were all “girls,” the total number of “children” would only amount to 595.

c) The Gassing of 1,000 Children between 12 and 18 Years of Age

On October 20, the list records “1,000 children between 12 and 18 years of age from the Wiski Village” (“1000 m Dzieci 12-18 Wiski Dorf (Dy)”) “Wiski” is very probably a distortion of “Więk.,” that is, they probably originated from the village (*Dorf* in German) of Wiegenschütz, which, when spelled in the Polish way, turns into Większyce. Czech asserts that 357 of these 1,000 children originated from a subcamp of Gross-Rosen, located in Dyhernfurth (Czech 1990, p. 736), a village some 30 km north-west of Breslau (today’s Wrocław), which after the expulsion of the German population in 1946 was renamed to Brzeg Dolni by the Poles. This town is located some 140 km northwest of Wiegenschütz/Większyce. It is not clear how these two localities can be reconciled with each other.

Isabell Sprenger, author of one of the best-documented study on the Gross-Rosen Camp, devotes a few pages to the subcamps Dyhernfurth I and II. The biggest one was Dyhernfurth II, where an IG-Farben-associated chemical in-

dustry arose. In a table, Sprenger summarizes the data contained in an “Inmate Kitchen Occupancy Report of the Dyhernfurth II Labor Camp” for October 1944, which provides a day-by-day record on the fluctuations in the camp’s occupancy. The occupancy remained unchanged at 2,707 inmates between October 14 and 17 before falling to 2,706 on October 18, 2,705 on October 19, and 2,704 on October 20 (Sprenger, p. 247). This categorically refutes the fairy tale of the 357 children sent from this camp to Auschwitz.

Notwithstanding the above, Sprenger desperately seeks to uphold the fable of the transfer of inmates “to Auschwitz, where they were killed in the gas chambers,” and adds that “the two transports of October 22 and 26 leaving the camp, carrying 17 and 52 inmates respectively, may have been such transports” (*ibid.*, p. 252).

She is referring to the above-mentioned occupancy report in which the camp’s manpower fell by precisely 17 inmates (from 2,754 to 2,737) between October 21 and 22, and by 52 (from 2,791) between October 25 to 26. Deducting from this fact alone that a) there were two transports, b) these transports were sent to Auschwitz, and c) the persons carried were killed in “gas chambers” seems pure madness, all-the-more-so since, according to Sprenger herself, regular “selections” were carried out at the Dyhernfurth II Camp, over the course of which the preselected persons were transferred to the Gross-Rosen Camp and were allegedly killed there with lethal injections (*ibid.*).

But there is also another problem. Bezwińska and Czech claim that Salmen Lewental’s text “The 600 boys” mentioned earlier “probably” refers to this presumed gassing. Given the close connection between the two texts, I shall analyze Lewental’s text here.

The text, hardly a page-and-a-half long, claims that “600 boys were brought in the middle of a bright day 600 Jewish boys aged from 12 to 18.” Whence they were brought remains a mystery. This occurred “in the latter part of October” – an indication which does appear in the French text⁵⁸⁴ – and this is all. No other useful details are given. The tale does not even state that they were gassed, but ends after they were pushed “into the bunker”, and even these words were only added by the person who “deciphered” the text (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, pp. 177f.)

The list’s unknown author “knew,” therefore, that there were 1,000 children but did not know where they came from. Lewental, who was employed precisely in Crematorium III,⁵⁸⁵ where the gassing is said to have taken place, “knew” that there were 600 children, but also had no idea where they came

⁵⁸⁴ Mark, p. 257. On the other hand, the phrase “mais hésitent toujours à descendre *au bunker*” is missing in the German and English editions, where it says merely “*und rührten sich nicht von der Stelle.*”/“and did not budge from the spot.” Bezwińska/Czech 1996, p. 251; 1992, p. 177.

⁵⁸⁵ Bezwińska/Czech 1996, fn 1, p. 192; this “Comments” part of Lewental’s texts is not included in the 1992 English edition.

from! A beautiful example of collaboration between the members of the “*Sonderkommando*” with historiographic pretentions.

d) The Cremation of the Victims

In order to make the propaganda tales of millions of victims credible, all self-proclaimed “eyewitnesses” of the claimed extermination of Jews at Auschwitz attributed an insane cremation capacity to the cremation furnaces at Birkenau. Even the unknown-author’s list is based on this presupposition. The cremation capacity of each of the Auschwitz-type muffles was one adult body per hour. If we suppose the presence of children among the victims, we may conclude an increase in the capacity by a factor of approximately 1.2, as explained elsewhere (Mattogno/Deana 2015, pp. 336f.). In the case examined above, Crematorium II, this corresponds to 360 bodies per day (a cycle of 20 hours, with four hours’ downtime to clean the grates of the gas generators). In the following table, the first column gives the days of October 1944, the second the number of persons allegedly gassed and cremated, the third the *real* cremation capacity, the fourth the gap between cremated bodies and bodies to be cremated, and the fifth the total number of bodies remaining to be cremated.

OCT.	# VICTIMS	CAPACITY	DIFFERENCE	CUMULATIVE DIFFERENCE
9	2,000 2,000	360	3,640	3,640
10	0	360		3,280
11	0	360		2,920
12	3,000	360	2,640	5,550
13	2,000	360	1,640	7,200
14	0	360		6,840
15	3,000	360	2,640	9,840
16	0	360		9,120
17	2,000	360	1,640	10,760
18	3,000	360	2,640	13,400
19	2,000	360	1,640	15,040
20	2,000	360	1,640	16,680
totals	21,000	4,320		16,680

In practice, during the twelve days examined, Crematorium II would have been able to cremate 4,320 bodies at most, after which there would have been 16,680 bodies left, the cremation of which would theoretically have required approximately 46 days. At this point it is evident that this is not merely a specific technical problem relating to cremations, but a general logistical problem that would have caused the entire presumed machinery of extermination to collapse: after a few days, all the rooms within Crematorium II – but this is equally true for the other crematoria – would have been bursting with bodies

awaiting cremation, and the activity of the “gas chambers” necessarily would have come to a halt.

In conclusion, the unknown-author’s texts and gassing list are vulgar propagandistic fairy tales.

2.5.5. Salmen Lewental

On July 28, 1961, a metallic container “was found” in the area surrounding Crematorium III during excavation work. It contained a 342-page manuscript and another six sheets of paper written on both sides. It was later ascertained that the long manuscript exclusively dealt with life in the Litzmannstadt Ghetto (Łódź). It was written in diary form, putatively by a Jew who had lived in the ghetto and was deported thence to Auschwitz. Lewental is said to “have found” this document on August 15, 1944, the day of the arrival of approximately 2,000 Jews from Litzmannstadt, perhaps in the undressing room, where the author had left it. The six sheets mentioned above are Lewental’s comment on the diary (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, pp. 189f.). The text is of no value from the point of view of the present book, because it says nothing – not only about the presumed gassing procedure, but not even about the presumed extermination of the Jews of Litzmannstadt, which should have constituted the principal object of the comment. This text is included neither in the 1971 Polish nor in the 1992 English edition.

On October 17, 1962, another text “by Lewental” “was also found” in the area surrounding Crematorium III. Bezwińska and Czech inform us that the text consists of a notebook plus a few scattered pages, for a total of 75 pages, 10 of which are blank (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 117). Ber Mark is more-precise (Mark, pp. 185f.):

“Two manuscripts were found in a glass pot with about half a liter holding capacity:

- a) one 26 pages long, written on both sides and signed Zalman Lewental,*
- b) another, without signature, in different handwriting resembling – that and the style in Yiddish – the manuscript already mentioned, by an anonymous author. There are two descriptions, one titled ‘Three Thousand Nudes,’ and the other, ‘The Six Hundred Boys.’”*

Due to the humidity, continues Mark, the manuscripts are largely illegible, adding:

“This situation is complicated by the fact that Lewental did not number his pages. He began writing on only one side of the sheets, then, when he got to the end, he turned them over to write on the other side. Now, the collaborators at the Auschwitz Museum committed an unpardonable error: wishing to save the humid manuscript at least in part, they separated the sheets, ironed them out and photocopied them, thus creating the disorder in the unnumbered pages, the ends of which had often been effaced.

Due to this initial error, the first researcher permitted to decipher the manuscript, the journalist Gostynski, had considerable trouble. Because he not only had to decipher the partially effaced letters, but he also had to find the chronological order of the pages. The second person who had the manuscript in his hands, provisionally put in order by Gostynski, was Dr. Simon Datner, a coworker of the Main Commission Investigating Nazi Crimes in Poland. He then handed me the manuscript, I made a number of corrections in the order of the sheets established by Gostynski and organized them according to the topics dealt with.”

Lewental allegedly arrived at Auschwitz on December 10, 1942, and was allegedly assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*.” His registration number is not given.

The text published by the Auschwitz Museum in 1971 was *deciphered* from Yiddish by Seweryn Zalmen Gostyński and translated into Polish by Roman Pytel (Bezwińska/Czech 1971, p. 171), but the page numbering is the one established by Ber Mark.

Page 9 of the manuscript is supposed to mention the arrival of the transport from Małkinia near Treblinka to Auschwitz (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 132), similar to Gradowski’s claim of having passed by Treblinka,⁵⁸⁶ and the comment made above also applies here: it is impossible to understand why Jews unfit for labor travelling on the transport passing by Treblinka would have been sent to Auschwitz instead of being gassed right there at Treblinka. No, instead they allegedly were made to traverse almost all of Poland from north-west to south-west.

The description of the extermination of the transport in the “bunkers” of Birkenau on December 10 begins on p. 14 of the manuscript: (the text is fragmentary).⁵⁸⁷

“[to] those coming for the first time to the grove where there were bunkers at that lime”;

“the rest of people were driven [...] [from the barrack?] to the bunker, where they were gassed.”;

“for whom there was not room enough in the bunkers [...], sat naked in wooden barracks”;

*“And meanwhile the ill-famed Sonderkommando came and was clearing the bunkers [...] the corpses were carried 800 m[etres] farther and there they were thrown on a pile [pyre in the French (*brasier*) and German translations (*Scheiterhaufen*)] where men were by now burning [gassed] yesterday and the day before yesterday [...]”*

⁵⁸⁶ Remember that Gradowski arrived at Auschwitz on December 6, 1942, while Lewental arrived on December 10.

⁵⁸⁷ Bezwińska/Czech 1992, pp. 133f.. The “deciphered” (guessed) words are in square brackets, the missing passages are indicated by omission ellipses in square brackets: [...].

None of these passages appears in Ber Mark's translation (Mark, pp. 268f.), which raises serious doubts at least as to Gostyński's "deciphering" of the Yiddish text.

On p. 19, a summary description of one of the "bunkers" appears (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 135):

"150 metres further [there stood] [...] a seemingly harmless country cottage with [...] windows boarded up with thick [...] from the windows [...] All were told [to undress?] they ran [...] naked [...] in the farmhouse room, closely crowded, with the help of clubs and dogs [...] with people [...] through a small window the SS man [threw in the tin with the as] [...] he closed the window and after a few [moments] all suffocated."

And this is how Ber Mark reports the same passage (Mark, p. 270):

"One hundred fifty meters away from an innocent peasant cottage, with [-] windows were boarded up by thick shutters bolted shut. They were all ordered to undress completely after which they immediately began to chase the naked people running towards the cottage, which was already full of people, with the aid of truncheons and dogs [-] An SS man threw a toxic gas through a little skylight which he shut immediately afterwards. After a few minutes, everyone was asphyxiated."

The description is very similar to Langfus's. Lewental also claimed that the "bunker" had one single room and one little gas-introduction opening, but did not specify which gas was used. To this, he added the "windows were boarded up by thick shutters" – they were bricked up according to the current orthodox version – and the impossibly quick death of the victims in just a few minutes.

According to Szlama Dragon, there were two undressing barracks located 150 meters from "Bunker 2" (see Chapter 5.3.). Hence, Lewental is said to have described precisely this installation. But as pointed out earlier, there should have been four gas chambers and five introduction openings.

As in the story according to Langfus, not all the victims entered the gas chamber, and those that did not fit in were left waiting in the undressing room (*ibid.*):

"The other half, the ones that they couldn't fit into the bunkers, remained sitting, naked, in a wooden barracks."

The English translation does not have that sentence, yet adds here on p. 20 of the manuscript, "led to the bunker of death and suffocated with gas." The phrase fragment coming close to that cited from Mark's edition is "the bunker was overcrowded," singular (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 135). Further along, Lewental asserts that the transport with which he arrived at Auschwitz carried 2,300 persons, 500 of whom were registered (*ibid.*, p. 137), therefore, there were 1,800 presumed gassing victims. But for Dragon, the holding capacity of "Bunker 2" was 2,000 persons; it is therefore impossible to understand why

half of the people on a transport, 900 persons, could not be fitted into the “bunker” and had to wait inside the barracks instead.

The above-quoted phrase on the “*Sonderkommando*” clearing the bunkers and throwing the corpses on a pyre appears on p. 20 of the text in Ber Mark’s version (Mark, p. 270), yet on p. 16 in the German and English translations. Either way, it is argued that there existed only one single pyre, 800 meters away from “Bunker 2.” According to Langfus, a “wide and deep pit” also existed. Dragon declared by contrast that there were six cremation pits located 150 meters away from the “bunker” (see Chapter 5.3.).

Hence, we may deduce that contradictory rumors were going around about the “bunker” at Auschwitz at the time, meaning before January 1945, which were already mentioned by Wetzler, and which were further developed by Dragon at a later time.

Returning to Lewental, further along he adds that he arrived at Auschwitz on December 12, 1942. He states that he was assigned to various labor units and also worked at the Buna-Monowitz Camp. He was then transferred to Birkenau, and only on January 25, 1943 he was assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 137). It is therefore obvious that the whole story of the gassing of the other 1,800 deportees from his transport on December 12 in the “bunker,” which he outlined as an *eyewitness testimony*, is pure fantasy.

In the English translation, pages 37-46 of the manuscript consist of the text “3,000 naked people,” which Ber Mark ascribes to Langfus, as stated earlier. This is the narrative of the gassing of 3,000 registered female inmates (although the number appears only in the title), which is said to have occurred in Crematorium III “at the beginning of 1944.” Such an event is purely imaginary, so that Bezwińska and Czech do not even attempt to prove it. Among other things, the words of a few women are quoted using the usual rhetorics. In this narrative, the term “bunker” refers unequivocally to the basement rooms of Crematorium II/III (*ibid.*, p. 142):

“they slowly dragged themselves to the bunker, which was called Auskleidungsraum [German in text; undressing room] and to which steps led down, like to a cellar.” (My emphasis)

A few lines down, it says that many women “were a long time in the camp and knew that the Bunker was the last step [leading] to death.” Incredibly, Bezwińska and Czech remark in the German edition: “The author is thinking of one of the two first provisional gas chambers” (1996, fn 30, p. 216), while the same footnote in the English translation merely states “The author speaks here of the gas chamber” (1992, p. 142).

The women were shut inside the “gas bunker,” a Red Cross vehicle arrived, and the victims died, “After throwing 4 tins of the gas through the small

upper doors” (*ibid.*, p. 146), which Ber Mark calls “little windows” (Mark, p. 263). The type of gas is never mentioned.

Further along, Lewental claims that “we shall then have to burn a million of Hungarian Jews” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 154), and a little later he states as a fact that “half a million Hungarian Jews were burned in the meantime” (*ibid.*, p. 161), a higher figure than the actual number of deportees.

Ber Mark reports the Hebrew initials of the funeral inscription carved on tombstones (Mark, p. 299), of which there is no trace in the German and English translations (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, p. 245; 1992, p. 173).

The last part of the manuscript discusses plans for a revolt and contacts with the camp’s resistance movement. In this regard, it is sufficient to remark that the description of the revolt by the *Sonderkommando* contradicts the current orthodox version (which itself was created based on contradictory versions). Ber Mark recognizes this fact, but attempts to minimize it, writing that “in certain details, it differs from the one we provided in the preceding chapter” (Mark, p. 186).

With reference to the members of the resistance movement, Lewental claims (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 175):

“And most important of all, we supplied them with secret documents and materials concerning all that was happening with us [...].”

And again (*ibid.*, p. 176):

“Even the materials which we had transmitted to them were credited to their own accounts. They completely passed in silence our names as if we had had nothing in common with it.”

These claims constitute the seal of falsehood. If they were true, the messages transmitted by the Auschwitz resistance to the Delegatura would have depicted a “plausible” picture from the very outset – that is, consistent with the final versions, as outlined by the later Soviet-Polish propaganda. In reality, however, as I have shown earlier, such messages contain a litany of nonsense, absurdities and unprecedented lies. One must therefore assume that these fairy tales were cooked up and dished out by Lewental and his ilk.

The alternative, which is much more likely, is that Lewental and his ilk limited themselves to rehashing the propaganda themes which were created by the underground resistance independently and without their input, a fact corroborated by their botchy and merely approximate knowledge of facts as revealed by their manuscripts in this regard, such as their description of the “bunker.”

As I have noted earlier, the situation is very similar to that of Langfus’s text. The presence of the term “bunker” in both texts requires an explanation, which I lay out as follows:

1) From the analysis of the underground messages from Auschwitz resistance members, it appears that the term “bunker” was alternatingly used to

refer to the old crematorium at Auschwitz, to the basement of Block 11 of the Main Camp, to certain arrest cells which it contained (*Stehbunker*, *Steinbunker*), and to the machine-gun nests around the Birkenau Camp. They were completely unaware that the presumed gassing cottages were also supposed to be called “bunkers.”

2) Gradowski and the Unknown Author used the term “bunker” only in reference to the presumed gas chamber or undressing room of Crematoria II and III. Langfus and Lewental used it in this sense, but also in the sense of a gassing cottage, without explaining the ambiguous usage of the term (which has to be deduced from the context) and without ever explaining why simple farmers’ cottages should be called “bunker” (which is more-obvious for the basement rooms of Crematoria II and III). Neither Herman nor Nadjari (see the next subchapter) ever mentions the term at all.

With reference to the crematoria, use of the term “bunker” was fairly widespread. For instance, Deszö Schwarz, a Hungarian Jew deported from Vienna to Auschwitz on February 25, 1944 (registration number 174438), declared in an undated “affidavit” (NO-2310, p. 1):

“You must imagine that there were 5 crematoria in Birkenau, 4 of which were so big that they would easily stand comparison with any of the most modern crematoria in large cities. Four of these extermination sites had one gas bunker built into the ground, with an average capacity of 1,200-1,500 people.”

Nyiszli referred to the presumed gas chamber as the “underground bunker” (see Subchapter 3.2.7.), and even Henryk Mandelbaum used the term “bunker” in his testimony during the trial against the Auschwitz camp garrison.⁵⁸⁸ Ludwig Frank, who was deported from France to Auschwitz on November 6, 1944 (where he received the registration number 73274), told his family in a letter written in Lyon on September 10, 1945:⁵⁸⁹

“Everyone had to undress in front of the crematorium (all genders together). The first ones were given a towel and soap before entering the gas bunker in order to give the impression of a bath. [...] After 5 minutes there was no more screaming from the bunker because adults were dead after 3 minutes and children after 5 minutes.”

The killing took place with a “gas bomb” (“*Gasbombe*”), and the number of victims estimated by the witness was four to five million!

3) As stated earlier, Langfus arrived at Auschwitz on December 6, 1942, on the same transport as Szlama Dragon (registration number 80359), and both were assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*.” Lewental arrived at Auschwitz on December 10, 1942 and he, too, was assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*.”

Dragon is the witness *par excellence* regarding the “bunkers.” In his interrogation on February 26, 1945, he did not refer to them as “bunkers” at all, a

⁵⁸⁸ AGK, NTN, 162, p. 165.

⁵⁸⁹ YVA, O.33-2325, pp. 1f.

term which was completely unknown to him. Instead, he called them simply “*gazokamery*” – gas chambers (see Chapter 5.3.).

Henryk Tauber is another super-star witness, but with regard to the crematoria. In his deposition dated February 27 and 28, 1945, he referred to the “bunker” only as “gas chambers” (“*gazovye kamery*”).⁵⁹⁰ The Polish-Soviet expert report written between February 14 and March 8, 1945 mentions only “gas chambers” (“*gazovye kamery*”) nos. 1 and 2.⁵⁹¹

It is therefore a fact that the term “bunker” with reference to the presumed provisional gassing installations at Birkenau were entirely unknown until March 1945 (for more see Mattogno 2016g, pp. 77-79, 163f.).

How, then, are we to explain the use of the term “bunker” for the gassing cottages exclusively in the manuscripts by Langfus and Lewental?

There are only two possibilities: the first consists of stretching the *deciphering* of the Yiddish text of the Langfus-Lewental manuscripts, by virtue of which, through a sort of excess of Holocaust zeal, the decoders attempted to provide that which the Holocaust vulgate wished to hear in certain passages. (Just like Bezwińska and Czech forced the interpretation of Lewenthal’s passages relating to the “bunker” of Crematoria II-III in the German edition by attributing them to the “first provisional gas chambers” instead, meaning to Bunkers 1 and 2).

The other possibility is that the manuscripts were back-dated, meaning that they were not written and buried when their authors claimed they were. As set forth earlier, the manuscripts’ “discovery” date says nothing about when they were actually emplaced (if they ever were, that is), and strictly speaking there is no reason why they cannot have been buried after the arrival of the Soviets.

If a medical student posted to Auschwitz as a Red Cross volunteer could simply enter the camp area, dig around as he pleased and then “discover” or “find” Chaim Herman’s manuscript in February 1945, any former inmate or any person could have buried anything in the area of the crematoria. On the other hand, whether or not Langfus’s manuscripts were really found in April 1945, fact is that they were handed over to the Auschwitz Museum only on November 5, 1970; Lewental’s manuscripts were found only on July 28, 1961. In the best of cases, it is more than permissible to suspect a latter-day planting of these texts.

This possibility also applies to the other manuscripts mentioned earlier, almost all of which were discovered or made available to the Auschwitz Museum or published only in the 1960s or 1970s. The only text discovered a little earlier is the one titled “In the Abysses of Crime” (Chronicle of Auschwitz by an Unknown Author),” which was discovered in 1952 and published in 1954. In view of the above and strictly speaking, these manuscripts should therefore

⁵⁹⁰ GARF, 7021-108-13, p. 10.

⁵⁹¹ Trial transcript, February 14 – March 8, 1945. City of Oświęcim. GARF, 7021-108-14, pp. 7-9.

not even be considered contemporary with the existence of Auschwitz Camp, but should be included in Part Three of the present study dealing with testimonies originating after the camp's occupation by the Red Army on January 27, 1945.

2.5.6. Marcel Nadsari (Nadjari)

On October 24, 1980, during work near the ruins of Crematorium III at Birkenau, a small leather bag was found that contained a thermos bottle with a manuscript in Greek inside consisting of twelve partly illegible sheets of paper. On July 31, 1981, sworn translator Teodor Aleksiu translated the legible part of the document into Polish. The Auschwitz Museum archived photocopies of the text and translation under inventory number 166122.⁵⁹² The text was published in German translation in 1996 (Bezwińska/Czech 1996, pp. 269-274). Recently, on the initiative of the Russian historian Pavel Polian (or Polyan; Russian: Полян), with the assistance of computer specialist Alexander Nikityaev, the text of the manuscript was subjected to an innovative procedure, “multispectral scanning,” restoring legibility to 90%. The result was published by Polian in October and November 2017 (Polian 2017a&b). Marcel Nadjari or Nadjary⁵⁹³ or Natzari, as written in Greek (Νατζαρή), was deported to Auschwitz on April 11, 1944 on a Jewish transport from Greece, and was registered under number 182669. According to his own account, he was assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*.” Following the evacuation of the camp, he arrived at the Mauthausen Camp on January 25, 1945, where he was issued number 119116. After the war, he returned to Greece, where, Polian informs us, he “wrote his recollections of the period of persecution very soon afterwards. Signed and dated ‘April 15, 1947,’ obviously the completion date” (Polian 2017a, p. 600). In his learned introduction, Polian limits himself to this fleeting reference without explaining the intended object of these important memoirs from an eyewitness, written barely three years after Nadjari’s manuscript. I’ll get back to that issue later.

Neither Polian nor other Holocaust historians have ever explained why Nadjari never testified during the postwar trials, particularly the Höss Trial at Warsaw, the Auschwitz garrison trial at Krakow, or the Auschwitz Trial at Frankfurt, and why he never issued any statement, sworn or unsworn, on his activity in the “*Sonderkommando*.”

Nadjari died in 1971; a Greek book authored by him and titled *Chronicle 1941-1945* was only published twenty years later, in 1991, but was never distributed commercially (Natzari 1991).

⁵⁹² A copy of this documentation is also found in the archives at Yad Vashem, P.25-94.

⁵⁹³ The first spelling was used by Polian, the second by the Auschwitz Museum in their comment.

After a month in quarantine, therefore around May 11, 1944, Nadjari was assigned “to a crematorium.” Which crematorium he does not say, just as he never says that there were four crematoria at Birkenau. The reader must figure out for himself which installation is being referred to. But this cannot be established with any certainty from what he writes, because he mentions structures which belonged to both Crematorium II and Crematorium III. It is therefore necessary to be inclined to guess it was Crematorium III, solely because of the fact that the manuscript was found in this structure.

His description of Crematorium II/III is rather correct, but spiced up with the usual propaganda sauce.⁵⁹⁴

The crematorium (the term is mentioned only once in the entire manuscript) “is a large building with a broad chimney, with 15 (fifteen) furnaces. Underneath a garden, there are two endless basement rooms. One is used by us for undressing, and the other as a death chamber, where the people go in naked and, after it has been filled up with about 3,000 people, it is locked shut, and they gas the people, where they give up the ghost after 6 or 7 minutes of martyrdom.” Nadjari is unaware of the canonical terms such as “*Gaskammer*”/“gas chamber” and “*Auskleidekeller*”/“undressing cellar,” which he could easily have transliterated into Greek.

The claimed holding capacity, 3,000 persons in a room of 210 m², amounts to an unachievable high packing density of more than 14 people per square meter (1.3 persons per sq ft). In addition, this would have made ventilation of the gas chamber basically impossible. This number was later also used by others, particularly Nyiszli. The absurdity of the victims’ deaths within 6-7 minutes fits perfectly into the propagandistic parameters of the time.

The gas chambers were obviously camouflaged as shower rooms, but for Nadjari, there were no fake shower heads: “inside, the Germans had installed *pipes* on the ceiling.” After the Germans had “shut the gas-tight *door*,” the usual Red-Cross vehicle arrived, with two SS men carrying the “gas cans.” These were the “gas people” who “poured the gas in through openings.” Nadjari never mentions Zyklon B, and supplies no information about these “openings.” The next phase of the proceedings was as follows: “After half an hour, we opened *the doors*, and our work began.” After the canonical half hour, during which only a part of the Zyklon B’s hydrogen cyanide would have evaporated, the men from the “*Sonderkommando*” opened the “the doors” (but the Germans had shut only “the door,” hence only one), and they went to work. No mention of ventilating the gas chamber or of any ventilation system.

The bodies were transported away by the men of the “*Sonderkommando*” using the elevator to the furnaces, “where they burned *without the use of fuel, because of all the [body] fat they have*,” a monumental piece of stupidity, aggravated by the fact that the Jewish deportees originated from ghettos or col-

⁵⁹⁴ The quotations are taken from pp. 610-614 and 617 of Polian’s article.

lection camps where food provisions, as is well known, were not exactly plentiful. Nadjari states that “a person only gave off approximately half an oka of ashes,” or approximately 640 grams, which is less than one fifth of the content of ashes resulting from the cremation of a body weighing 70 kg, *i.e.*, approximately 3.5 kg (5%). The ashes were then loaded onto a vehicle and thrown into the Vistula. Since Nadjari mentions the figure of 1,400,000 gassing victims (or cremated bodies) at the end of the book, it follows that (1,400,000 victims × 3.5 kg of ashes =) 4,900,000 kg or 4,900 metric tons of ashes were thrown into the river! Apparently, this happened directly, without passing the ashes through the temporary collection pits, as his colleagues reported.

The witness then writes:

“The tragedies I saw with my own eyes are indescribable. 600,000 <six hundred thousand> Hungarian Jews – French people, Poles from Litzmannstadt, approximately 80,000 of them, passed right before my eyes, and now, at the end, for the first time some 10,000 <ten thousand> Jews from Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia arrived.”

If we follow Piper, approximately 470,000 Jews arrived at Auschwitz during the time period when the Hungarian Jews were being deported (from mid-May to July of 1944), 435,000 of whom were from Hungary (Piper 1993, Table D, between pp. 144 & 145). Even the figure relating to the Litzmannstadt Ghetto (Lodz) – 65,000 according to Piper (*ibid.*) – is rather exaggerated: the actual figure is approximately 22,500 deportees, as mentioned earlier.

In this context, Nadjari introduces the alleged Himmler order to stop the gassings:

“A transport from Theresienstadt arrived today, but thank God they didn’t bring them to us, they kept them in camps; the order is said to have come not to kill any more Jews, and by all appearances that seems to be true, since now they’ve changed their minds at the last moment – now that there’s not one single Jew left in Europe anyway, but for us, the matter looks different; we have to disappear from the earth, because we know so much about the unimaginable methods of their mistreatments and reprisal actions.”

Czech dates this presumed order back to November 2, 1944 (1990, p. 743). Nadjari states that the order was issued in combination with the arrival of a Jewish transport from Theresienstadt, the last of which arrived on October 30, 1944, but according to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, 1,689 of the 2,038 deportees were allegedly gassed (*ibid.*, p. 742). Therefore, either this gassing claim is false, or Nadjari’s statement that the presumed gassing victims were accommodated at the camp is false.

If we follow the orthodox narrative, the presumed “stop” order is said to have entailed the extermination of the inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” as “carriers of the secret.” Nadjari tells this story with a preamble of antecedent facts:

“Our Kommando is referred to as the Sonderkommando <eidiko komanto>. It consisted initially of approximately 1,000 <thousand> men, including 200 Greeks, the rest being Poles and Hungarians; and after heroic resistance, because they only wanted to withdraw 800 <eight hundred>, because all hundred outside the camp and the others inside [?]. My good friends Viko Brudo and Minis Aaron from Thessalonica were killed.”

The documents appear to indicate that the maximum strength of crematoria manpower was 903 inmates (Mattogno 2016f, pp. 84-92). The mention of “resistance” undoubtedly refers to the revolt of October 7, 1944, over the course of which, however, the number of inmates killed amounted to 450 or 451, if we follow the orthodox narrative; 212 inmates were left on October 9.⁵⁹⁵ Nadjari does not state the number of victims of the revolt. He merely states: “Now that this order has been received, they will also eliminate us, we are 26 Greeks in total, and the rest are Poles.” In practice, 174 Greek inmates were killed.

At the end, however, the witness claims:

“With the exception of the ca. 300 [of us] who are still alive until today, (in) Athens, Arta, Kerkyra, Kos and Rhodes. – A total of about 1,400,000.”

This figure of 300 survivors is contradicted by the documented figure of 212. As regards the figure of 1,400,000, Polian comments (2017a, fn 79, p. 617):

“Nadjaris’ estimate of 1.4 million people murdered at Auschwitz comes astonishingly close to current research, according to which at least 1.1 million people died in the concentration- and extermination-camp complex.”

He is attributing this figure to the entire duration of the existence of the Auschwitz camp complex and to all the deaths, but the context shows that the figure refers to presumed gassing victims only. In Polian’s hypothesis, Nadjari was an eye-witness to only the 690,000 presumed gassing victims mentioned by him explicitly. Yet only approximately 427,000 deportees arrived at Auschwitz over the time period in question,⁵⁹⁶ approximately 100,000 of whom were transferred without being registered (Strzelecki, 1995b, p. 352). Applying the orthodox tenet that some 75% of the remaining 327,000 were gassed, Nadjari could have “seen” at most some 245,000 gassing victims, or a little over one third of the number he claimed to have seen. So much for the reliability of this witness as a counter of gassing victims.

Among all the manuscripts from members of the “*Sonderkommando*,” Nadjari’s account is no doubt that which most-closely approaches the final version of the orthodox narrative. After the reports by Wetzler and Vrba, Nadjari’s account constitutes an additional attempt to define the setting of the gasings in the crematoria, which was perfected a few months later by the Soviets and Poles.

⁵⁹⁵ Czech 1990, p. 724-728 (451 is the difference between manpower of 663 on October 7, 1944 and 212 on October 9).

⁵⁹⁶ $470.000 - (65.000 + 22.500) = 427.500$.

To date, the *Greek* transcription of the recovered text has not been made accessible, but precisely its publication should have been fundamental to demonstrating the authenticity of the work done. Individual pages of the recovered manuscript are available on the Internet, but that is enough to raise a few doubts. The recovered text from page 1, partly in German and partly in French and written partly above and partly in the spaces between the lines of the Greek text, is written with a different pen or pencil stroke from the Greek text. Not one word has been recovered from the Greek text.⁵⁹⁷ At the end of pages 11 and 12, the name “Nadjari” is written in a different hand (see Document 15), although both should be the witness’s signature.

On page 2, in the second half of the page, the translator has not succeeded in deciphering numerous words, which he has replaced with omission ellipses (Polian 2017a, pp. 609f.):

“On April 2, 1944 we departed from our Athens, after I have been suffering through a month in the Chaidari Camp where I always [one word crossed out] received the packages from the good Smaro, and her efforts remain unforgettable for me in these terrible days that I suffer through. always, that you are searching... for her...

Dear Misko and at some point in time... but that you get her address for me,..... our Ilias, and that you are always taking care of him, ... and that Manolis has not forgotten her,”

This page, however, is one of the most-easily legible (see Document 16). But if that is so, what should we think about his decipherings of the less-legible pages?

The few quotations from the manuscript which appear on a few Greek sites⁵⁹⁸ diverge from the German translation and also have a few gaps; they seem to be retractions from the German translation rather than quotations from the original text.

Polian has also published Nadjari’s text in Russian (see Polian 2017b), with a translation performed directly from the Greek text, as well as the German text, which was translated by Niels Kadritzke.

Already on the first few pages, the two translations present interpretations which deviate from the text, as shown by the following comparison:

<u>RUSSIAN TRANSLATION</u>	<u>GERMAN TRANSLATION</u>
Bitte diesen Brief senden an [dem nächsten] Griechischen Konsulat. Womöglich nächsten [...] Bardzo prosze [...]	Bitte diesen Brief senden am dehm nerensten Gricheschin Konsulat... Ich bitte sehr, den

⁵⁹⁷ See Document 14 and the translation in Polian 2017a, pp. 608f.

⁵⁹⁸ “Το ανατριχιαστικό σημειωματάριο επιζήσαντα του Αουσβιτς” (The Horrifying Notebook of an Auschwitz Survivor), from http://newsotherwise.blogspot.it/2017/12/blog-post_19.html.

RUSSIAN TRANSLATION	GERMAN TRANSLATION
beiliegenden	Brief zuzustellen dem
nächst	
Konsulat Grecki	-en griechischen Konsul
[...] ma grecque	[...] ces quelques mots
[...] ces quelques mots	par[s?] un condamné [?] à
[...] mort [...]	
mort [...]	[...] le remettre en plus
le permettre ne plus ainsi que	
prochain	
Consulat de la Grèce	Consulat de la Grèce
[...] aux lectures	
Dimitrios A. Stefanides	Dimitrios A. Stefanides

These are all fragments that make little sense, so I won't even try to translate this into English here. The point is that the translations rarely agree on what the text's actual decipherable content is.

On page 3, the Russian expression “under [the ground]” (“*под [землей]*”/ “*pod [zemlyoy]*”), corresponds to “underneath the garden” (“*Unterhalb eines Gartens*”) in the German translation. On the same page, with regard to the underground rooms, the German translation says “One is used by us for undressing, and the other as a death chamber” (“*Der eine dient uns zum Auskleiden und der andere als Todeskammer*”); in the Russian text, the phrase is rendered as “one is used to get people to strip naked, and the other is a (the) death chamber” (“*одно используется для того, чтобы люди раздевались догола, а другое — это камера смерти,*”)

On page 4, the German translator uses the words “with the German Red Cross vehicle” (“*mit dem Auto des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes*”) and explains that the manuscript contains the abbreviation “Герм., Germ.” at this point, which the Russian translator missed.

On page 4 until the start of page 5, the German translation states “They are the gas people, who then poured in the gas through openings for them” (“*Sie sind die Gasleute die ihnen dann das Gas durch Öffnungen hineingeschüttet haben*”) while the Russian text reads “Those were the gassers who threw the gas into the chamber through special holes” (“*То были газаторы, которые вбрасывали газ в камеру сквозь специальные отверстия*”).

These few examples are only intended to show the importance of publishing the original text of the manuscript.

Nadsari's memoirs of 1947, in excerpts published in 1991 as mentioned earlier, appeared in an updated, commercial edition in 2018 under the new title *Χειρόγραφα 1944-1947 – Από τη Θεσσαλονίκη στο Ζοντερκομάντο του Λουσβιτς* (Manuscripts 1944-1947 – *From Thessalonica to the Sonderkom-*

mando of Auschwitz). Panagiotis Heliotis, a Greek revisionist writer, gave an account of this in an article dedicated to this witness. In the manuscript, Nadjari ignores the aforementioned letter and provides a boilerplate description of a “gassing”:

“When the women had finished undressing, they would enter through the door in groups of five, naked, with shoes in hand and many with a [piece of] soap. [...] Afterwards, the men would go down to the undressing room, wondering how they could get their clothes back, since they had all turned into a sea [sic], the same procedure would follow, and they would also enter the gas room. Then, after it was filled and everyone had entered the gas room, the door was closed and, immediately afterwards, the two gas experts climbed above and opened 4 cans and emptied them from above either laughing or chatting about various irrelevant things. They put back the concrete slab. Many times they came down to the small scuttle on the door, watching, with a stopwatch in hand, the minutes needed so that none remains alive (a matter of 6-7 minutes). The moment the door was shut well and they threw the first gas can from the hole, the people realized they were going to die.”

Contrary to the current orthodox narrative, the undressing here takes place separately for women and men, and we also find the recurring propaganda story about the soap issued. The story of the four gas cans (and of the two gas experts) belongs to the literary trend also taken up by Nyiszli, and like Nyiszli, Nadsari does not indicate the number of gas-introduction openings; however, the text suggests only one, because it speaks of a single “hole” and a concrete slab, which should be one of the four wooden lids about which Jean-Claude Pressac fabulated. The witness does not even mention the alleged gas introduction devices. The observation of the “gassing” with a watch in hand reminds us of the Gerstein Report, but in the summer of 1944, when Nadjari claims to have witnessed this, such a procedure would have been completely useless, because at that time the alleged “extermination machinery” was well underway and functioning for years. The duration of the gassing of 6-7 minutes, as I noted earlier, is pure nonsense.

Heliotis publishes two drawings from Nadjari’s manuscript which show the *Zentralsauna* and two barracks in the camp, Nos. 13 and 14. He emphasizes the manuscript does not have any drawings of the crematoria, the fundamental aspect of the testimony. If we want another proof of the fictitious and superficial character of the manuscripts discussed in this chapter, it is sufficient to compare them with the statements made by other members of the “*Sonderkommando*” after the war, at a time when they had all the means to be precise with whatever they wanted to state, as I will show in Chapter 3.1.

Compared to Henryk Tauber’s declaration of May 24, 1945, for example, everything found in the manuscripts of the “*Sonderkommando*” sounds like puerile babbling.

Part 3:

Testimonies after the Conquest of Auschwitz

3.1. The Soviets

3.1.1. The First Reports on Auschwitz

As is well known, the Soviets presented their propaganda picture of Auschwitz in the “Report of the Extraordinary State Commission for the Establishment and Investigation of the Crimes of the German Fascist Invaders and Their Accomplices,” which was published by *Pravda* on May 7, 1945, and subsequently entered into evidence by the Nuremberg Military Tribunal as Document 008-USSR, upon which I shall dwell at length in Subchapter 3.1.3.

This report was also the result of extensive production efforts. On January 27, 1945, advance troops of the 100th Infantry Division of the Red Army, subordinate to the 60th Army of the 1st Ukrainian Front, reached the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex, at that point in time already abandoned by the SS, who had perforce left all the sick inmates behind who were unable to walk. According to the situation on February 2, 1945, there were 4,299 of these inmates in the camp:⁵⁹⁹ each was an eyewitness to what had happened at the camp.

The Polish historian Filip Friedman, to whom I shall return in Chapter 4.3., overestimated the number of these inmates at 5,000 and asserted (Friedman 1945, p. 107):

“Over 5,000 escapees from the most horrendous slaughterhouse in the world now raise their accusatory voices against the demoniacal Hitlerite criminals.”

Friedman’s book concludes with these words. One can easily infer from this how terribly afraid the SS were that these inmates would reveal the alleged “terrible secret” of Auschwitz.

Within the propagandistic framework of the period, this fact alone is so absurd that some even went so far as to deny it: On March 20, 1945, the *Manchester Guardian* reproduced a dispatch from Reuters Athens with the headline “Nazis’ Massacre of Greek Jews Survivor’s Account” citing the tale of a Greek Jew who had been deported to Auschwitz. Here is his frenzied rant on the alleged fate of the inmates left behind in the camp by the SS (Leader, p. 219):

“Prior to the evacuation they had taken everyone no longer capable of work to the crematorium on the pretext of ‘disinfection’. Naked men, women, and children were put into an overheated room into which was thrown a special powder producing suffocating gas. Through the spyhole the Germans watched the death struggle of these unfortunates, which lasted some fifteen minutes. Then the bodies were moved to the ovens for burning. Mr. Vatis estimates that over two-thirds of the Greek Jews disappeared without a trace.”

⁵⁹⁹ “Spravka” (“Information Report”) from Major Milov of the Medical Service dated March 9, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-10, p. 94.

3.1.2. Boris Polevoy and the First Reports (1945)

The journalist Boris Nikolaevich Polevoy (or Polevoi; real name: Kampov; 1908-1981) inspected Auschwitz Camp in the wake of the Soviet troops.

Already two days after the Soviets arrived at the camp, on January 29, 1945, Polevoy wrote a first report (memorandum) with distinctly fantastic contents:⁶⁰⁰

“In the first two years, people were killed in the usual way; they were shot and buried in large graves with a capacity of 200-250 people. Hundreds of such graves are located in the eastern part of the camp, which the inmates began to call ‘Hitler valley’. In 1942, the Germans built two crematoria; the first, in which corpses were cremated, just like at Majdanek, outwardly resembles a large lime-burning plant, and the second is the so-called ‘conveyor belt of death’. It was a long building, almost half a kilometer long, at whose end shaft (blast) furnaces [shakhterskiye [sic] pechi; correct: shakhtnye pechi]^[601] heated with hot coal gas were located; the temperature in the furnaces reached up to 800°C, so corpses burned in them in 8 minutes; north of the furnaces, there was a longitudinal building with metallic floors, divided into separate cabins. Inmates were brought on trains and told that they must undergo sanitary treatment at that working place; they undressed, men and women separately, in dressing rooms, handed over their belongings, and then went to a room on which [i.e., on whose door] it was written ‘Bath’; there, they were killed with high-voltage current. The floor then opened, and the corpses fell onto the conveyor belts slowly moving to the furnaces, where they were burned; then, the charred bones were passed through the rolling mills^[602] and used to fertilize the gardens located around the camp. This building, together with the furnace, was destroyed by the Germans after the Majdanek trial, so one can only see its remains at that place.

All the killing methods, according to the accounts of KOZLOV and MARKOV-SKY in general, after the Majdanek trial the Germans did a lot to wipe out the traces of their crime; in particular, they leveled the grave mounds.”

There is no need to dwell on the absurdities of this report. It is important, however, to bear in mind that this was allegedly based on the statements of eyewitnesses.

On February 2, 1945, *Pravda* published an article by Polevoy, titled “*Kombinat smerti v Osventsime*” (“The Factory of Death at Auschwitz”), in which we read, among other things:

⁶⁰⁰ “Memorandum. To the Head of the Political Department of the First Ukrainian Front, Guard Major-General, comrade Yashechkin.” The memorandum is signed as follows: “War correspondent of the *Pravda* newspaper, Lieutenant Colonel Polevoy. 29.1.45.” This document is a certified true copy of the original, executed on February 9, 1968. TAMO, stock 236-2675-340, pp. 12-15.

⁶⁰¹ *shakhtnaya* or *shakhtnye pech*, more or less the equivalent of the German *Schachtofen*, shaft/blast furnace, an enormous cylinder of refractory material for the production of city gas from the gasification of coal. No plant of this type ever existed at Auschwitz.

⁶⁰² Presumably ball mill grinders, stone-crushing machines used at Auschwitz for road work.

“Last year, when the Red Army revealed the terrible and disgusting secrets of Majdanek to the entire world, the Germans in Auschwitz began to wipe out the traces of their crimes. They leveled the mounds of the so-called ‘old’ graves in the eastern part of the camp,⁶⁰³ blew up and destroyed the traces of the electric conveyor belt where hundreds of people had been simultaneously killed with electric current; the corpses fell onto the slow-moving conveyor belt and were carried by it to the shaft [blast] furnace [shakhtnaya pech], where they were completely burned; the bones were crushed in the rolling mills and used to fertilize the fields.”

There were also “special mobile devices for killing children.” In the first years of the camp’s existence, the Germans had used a primitive (amateurish) killing method: inmates were simply taken to a huge pit, forced to lie face down, and shot in the back of the head. When the bodies completely filled the bottom of the pit, other inmates were killed in the same way, forming another layer of bodies, and so on until the pit was filled.

“Hundreds of huge pits in the eastern part of the camp, known as the ‘old’ graves, were filled in this way.”

In 1946, a French governmental publication reported the following version of Poleyov’s fantasies with reference to a “Report from the Russian Services” (Aroneanu, p. 182):

“800-900 meters from the place where the furnaces were located, the inmates climbed into trolleys running on rails. These trolleys, at Auschwitz, were of different size and could accommodate from 10 to 15 persons. Once loaded, the trolley is set in motion on an inclined plane and sent into a gallery at full speed. At the end of the gallery there was a wall; behind it was the access to the furnace. When the trolley hit the wall, it opened automatically, and the trolley tipped up, throwing its cargo of living people into the furnace. Having done this, another trolley followed, loaded with another group and so on.”

Leo Laptos, an inmate who had worked at Birkenau as a pharmacist and who was then transferred to the Dutch camp of Vught, recounted there in September or October 1943 in a conversation with Dr. I. van der Hal

“that, when transports with Jews arrived at Auschwitz, most of the new arrivals were gassed immediately and then burned. He reported that the gas chambers were equipped like bath houses, and that the people allegedly were to take a shower in them, that gas came out of the pipes instead of water, and that later the floors were tipped up, causing the victims to fall onto a conveyor belt, which transported them to the crematorium.” (de Jong, p. 9)

These absurd stories found an echo in the testimony of a Dutch ex-inmate in 1945, S. van den Bergh:

⁶⁰³ The graves, real and presumed, were located in the western part of the camp.

“Having arrived at the gas chamber, they had to wait in long lines, because when a transport arrived, [the deportees] could not all be processed right away. Group after group came along and were made to enter. They had to undress completely, and hand over all their money and valuables. Their hair was cut and collected; it was useful for German industry. This was followed by the bath, from which no one ever returned. Because when the room was full of people, and the windows and doors were shut, a lethal toxic gas came out of the shower heads [kwam een dodend giftgas uit de douches]. The victims fell down stunned; some died immediately, others came to, and were taken living to the flames. The floor then opened, and the bodies fell onto trolleys [lorries] which were already ready, and the people were dumped into furnaces heated with wood. ‘The chimney is burning again,’ said a man from an adjacent camp, a red glow of flames which, particularly in the evening and at night, filled us with an oppressive disgust, exited from the chimney by many meters.” (van den Bergh, pp. 55f.)

On February 26, 1945, Major-General F.M. Krasavin wrote a “Report on the Nazi Atrocities at the Auschwitz Camp from January 27, 1945,” in which he wrote that “during the existence of the camp, 4.5 to 5 million people were exterminated.” The victims were brought into specially built basements (there were five of them in the camp, with a capacity of 2,000-3,000 people each), after which

“the air was pumped out [vykačivali vozdukh], and gas bombs [gazovye bomby] filled with hydrogen cyanide were thrown in through a special aperture in the ceiling; under the action of [the gas], the people in the basement died within several minutes. After that, the dead were burned in the crematoria; there were five of them, too, with a capacity of 2,500-3,000 people per day each; as they had no time to cremate [all the corpses] in the crematoria, the fascist beasts carried out the cremation in specially dug pits [kanavakh]; children were thrown alive into the pits or into the oven and burned.” (Terushkin/Tikhankina, p. 73)

In addition to an absurd cremation capacity, the report recycled the fantastic themes of pumping air out of the gas chambers, of “gas bombs,” of five crematoria, all dedicated to extermination, and of the ever-present tall tale of the children burned alive.

Of the 4,299 potential witnesses, only a little over 200 (4.7%) were interrogated by the Soviets,⁶⁰⁴ but only three of them – 0.07% of all the witnesses – were granted the honor of serving as witnesses from the “Sonderkommando”: Szlama Dragon, Henryk Mandelbaum and Henryk Tauber. Their statements in subsequent depositions to the Poles still constitute the framework of the dominant version of history. Before May 7, this narrative was still being worked out. One example for this is the appeal “To the International Public,” signed

⁶⁰⁴ The list in alphabetical order may be found in: GARF, 7021-108-27, pp. 1-28.

on March 4, 1945 “in the name of the 4,000 rescued” by four luminaries of medical science: university professors Géza Mansfeld of Budapest, Berthold Epstein of Prague, Henri Limousin of Clairmond Ferrand and lecturer Bruno Fischer of Prague. This was the first official statement that came out of the Auschwitz Camp and also constituted the first attempt to bring coherence to the multiple propagandistic themes circulating in the camp. The presumed gassing procedure is described in it as follows:⁶⁰⁵

“The people destined for gassing had to undress before the gas chambers, and were then driven naked into the gas chambers with whip lashes. They then shut the doors and carried out the gassing. After about 8 minutes, death set in after about 4 minutes, the chambers were opened, and the corpses were carried out by a Sonderkommando specifically assigned to this, and taken to the individual hearths of the crematorium, which burned day and night. At the time of the Hungarian transports, the furnaces did not suffice, and gigantic burning pits had to be excavated, in order to accommodate the corpses. Here, stacks of wood had been drenched in petroleum. The corpses were thrown into these burning pits. It often happened enough that SS men threw living children and adults into the burning pits, where the poor creatures died a horrible death by burning. In order to save petroleum, the oils and fats required for the combustion were to some extent obtained from the corpses of those gassed. Technical oils and fats for machinery and even laundry soap was obtained from corpse parts.”

It is truly incredible that these four luminaries endorsed the absurd fables of persons burned alive and of the recovery of “oils and fats” from corpses not only for the manufacture of lubricants, but even for soap! The tale of the claimed gassings is even vaguer: the report says nothing about crematoria and gas chambers; on the other hand, the only precise piece of information, the four-minute duration of a gassing and the opening of the gas chambers after another four minutes, is technically impossible.

The “Report from the Hungarian Physician Dr. Gyula Gál, Budapest,” dated March 22, 1945, shows that the final version was still in the preparatory stages:⁶⁰⁶

“The Germans exterminated at this location approximately 5 million persons, 3½ million Jews and approximately 1½ million Poles and Russians.”

“400 persons at a time were brought into a room equipped with showers, so that it resembled a shower bath. Initially, the unhappy victims were given soap and towels, allegedly to enable them to wash themselves. When they were all inside, the hermetically sealing doors were bolted shut, and Zyklon B filled with Zian [sic] – the product of a Hamburg corporation – was scattered on them like a powder. This powder had lethal effects within two minutes.”

⁶⁰⁵ GARF, 7021-108-46, p. 9.

⁶⁰⁶ GARF, 7021-108-52, pp. 67f.

Among the execution personnel were eight dentists, who pulled gold teeth out of the mouths of those murdered.

After that, the corpses were transported to the crematorium, where they were burned within two hours; while the extermination of the men was still going on, heart-breaking scenes occurred when the children were separated from their mothers. The majority of the children were thrown alive into the burning furnaces, while the rest was burned after having been beaten to death. Pregnant mothers stood near the crematorium as if they were in a waiting room. They were beaten to death by the sinful sadistic murderers who were marked with a green cross on their uniform and fulfilled their duty voluntarily. This method was used especially when the crematorium designed for the extermination of 15,000 people each was not up to the task, that is, when more than 15,000 people were to be murdered. This happened mostly when new victims arrived in large numbers from Hungary and Poland.”

Apart from the five million victims, the witness knew only of one single crematorium and one single gas chamber, camouflaged as a shower bath, which could only accommodate 400 persons at a time, who were all supplied with soap and towels. The installation was designed to exterminate 15,000 persons “each,” probably per day, which would correspond to 37.5 gassing batches per day. Hypothetically functioning around the clock, a single gassing with all the related operations would have required only 38 minutes – but at least the SS saved a lot of time by limiting the actual killing to a mere two minutes, if we believe this witness!

The expression “Zyklon B filled with Zian” shows that the witness had no clear understanding of what Zyklon B really was. The theme of the children burned alive (not in cremation pits this time, but in the furnaces) has been escalated to an extreme, just like the tale of the horrors inflicted upon pregnant women.

3.1.3. The Report of May 7, 1945

This report, written in German, was presented by the Soviets during the Nuremberg Military Tribunal and accepted into evidence as Document 008-USSR, as mentioned earlier.⁶⁰⁷ The typewritten text in Russian as published by *Pravda* is preserved at Moscow.⁶⁰⁸

The version of the presumed extermination of the Jews set forth in this document consequently received benediction as official “truth.” In addition to the inmates mentioned earlier, the Soviets found a great many German documents at the Auschwitz camp archives, estimated at approximately 120,000 pages, containing, among other things, the original blueprints of the cremato-

⁶⁰⁷ IMT, Vol. 39, pp. 241-261.

⁶⁰⁸ GARF, 7021-116-103.

ria. They moreover thoroughly inspected the Birkenau Camp, including the ruins of the crematoria. All the witnesses interrogated by them, starting with Szlama Dragon and Henryk Tauber, were able to benefit from these discoveries so as to “calibrate” the fantasies of the resistance groups, which had until then lacked any realistic scenario, onto the resulting objective data. They acted like a person who claims to have witnessed a murder in London: the murder is claimed to have happened on the bridge over Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park, but the witness cannot describe the scene correctly until he has visited the scene way after the claimed event.

In the following pages, I shall give an English translation of the salient passages from the original Russian text of the report that are describing the extermination procedure. Words not included in the German translation are underlined:⁶⁰⁹

“In the Auschwitz Camp there were gas chambers, crematoria, surgical rooms and laboratories – they were all intended for the monstrous extermination of people. The Germans referred to the gas chambers as ‘baths for special purposes,’ On the entrance door of such a ‘bath’ it was written ‘For disinfection,’ and on the exit door, ‘Entry to bath’. Thus, people selected for extermination, without suspecting anything, entered the room [marked] ‘For disinfection,’ undressed, and were driven from there into the ‘bath for special purposes,’ that is, to a gas chamber, where they were exterminated with a poisonous substance named ‘Zyklon’. [...]

In the four new crematoria, there were 12 [cremation] furnaces with 46 retorts; each retort could fit from 3 to 5 corpses, the cremation process of which lasted about 20-30 minutes.

At the crematoria, ‘baths for special purposes’ – gas chambers for the killing of people – were built; these were located either in basements or in special annexes to the crematoria. Furthermore, the camp also had two separate ‘baths,’ the corpses from which were burned on special pyres. People selected for extermination were driven into the ‘baths’ by blows with sticks and rifle butts and by dogs. The doors of the chambers were hermetically sealed, and the people inside were poisoned with ‘Zyklon’. Death occurred within 3-5 minutes; after 20-30 minutes, the corpses were removed and taken to the furnaces of the crematoria. Before the cremation, the dentists pulled out gold teeth and crowns from the corpses.

The ‘productivity’ of the ‘baths’ – gas chambers – considerably exceeded the capacity of the cremation furnaces, so the Germans also used huge pyres to burn corpses. For these pyres, special pits 25 to 30 meters long, 4 to 6 meters wide and 2 meters deep were dug. Special channels ran on the bottom of the ditches serving as ashpits [“air supply” in the German translation]. Corpses were brought to the pyres on narrow-gauge rails, stacked up layer-by-layer with [“like” in the German translation] firewood in pits, poured with oil, and

⁶⁰⁹ The German equivalents can be found at IMT, Vol. 39, pp. 242, 244-245, 260-261.

burned in this way. The ashes were buried in large pits or thrown into the Sola and Vistula rivers. [...]

In the Auschwitz Camp, the Germans daily killed and burned from 10,000 to 12,000 people, 8,000-10,000 of which were from the newly arrived trains, and 2,000-3,000 were camp inmates.

Two former inmates, Shlema [Szlama] Dragon (resident of the borough of Zhirovnin [?], Warsaw Voivodeship) and Genrikh [Henrich] Tauber (from the city of Chrzanow, Poland), who had previously worked in a special squad that serviced the gas chambers and crematoria, were interrogated as witnesses and testified as follows:

'...At the beginning of the camp's operation, the Germans had two gas chambers situated at a distance of three kilometers one from another. Two wooden barracks were attached to each of them. People who arrived on trains were taken to the barracks, undressed and led to the gas chamber... 1,500-1,700 people were driven into [each of?] the gas chambers, and then SS men in gas masks threw 'Zyklon' inside through the hatches. The gassing lasted from 15 to 20 minutes, after which the corpses were removed and carried in trolleys to the pits, where they were burned... Later, four crematoria operated on the territory of Birkenau camp, and each of them had a gas chamber attached to it. Crematoria nos. 2 and 3 were of identical design and had 15 [cremation] furnaces each, while crematoria nos. 4 and 5 were of a different design, less convenient as far as their size and engineering development are concerned ["less large and of lower technical quality" in the German translation], and had eight ovens each. All these crematoria burned from 10,000 to 12,000 corpses per day.' [...]

During the existence of the Auschwitz Camp, the German butchers exterminated at least 4,000,000 citizens of the USSR, Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Holland, Belgium and other countries in [this camp]."

The term "bath" for the presumed gas chambers originated from the preceding accounts – the "baths" equipped with showers from which gas sprayed instead of water – while the shower story did not appear true to the Soviets, they had found among the tens of thousands of documents of the Central Construction Office a crutch which they use as "proof" for the "bath" story as such: the well-known file memo of August 21, 1942 by SS *Untersturmführer* Fritz Ertl, where we read:⁶¹⁰

"On the subject of the erection of 2 triple-muffle furnaces at each of the 'bathing facilities for special actions,' engineer Prüfer suggested to divert the furnaces from an available shipment for Mogilev [Byelorussia]; the division head [Bischoff] presently at the SS WVHA in Berlin was informed of this by telephone and was asked to take the necessary steps."

⁶¹⁰ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 159.

As I have explained in Chapter 1.6. and also elsewhere (Mattigno 2019, pp. 186-190), the “bathing facilities for special actions” referred either to Crematoria IV and V or to plans for an emergency hygienic-sanitary installation, temporarily considered during the terrible typhus epidemic of the summer of 1942, which was, however, never realized. The Soviets, by contrast, presented it as documentary “proof” of the fantasies of the resistance members, and only Point 2 of the file memo was translated into Russian, which mentions precisely the “bathing facilities for special actions” (rendered as “*bani osobogo naznacheniya*” = “baths for special purposes”), and inexplicably also the first line of Point 4, which mentions the erroneous shipment to Auschwitz of some parts of a double-muffle furnaces that were meant to be shipped to the Mauthausen Camp.⁶¹¹ The Soviet Investigatory Commission decided that the “bathing facilities for special actions” must have been homicidal gas chambers, and linked them to Crematoria IV and V. In a report on the presumed extermination installations at Auschwitz-Birkenau dated February 14 to March 8, 1945, at the end of the section dealing with the two above-mentioned crematoria, we read in fact:⁶¹²

“It is characteristic that in their official correspondence the Germans referred to the gas chambers as ‘baths for special purposes’ (letter no. 12115/42/Er/Ha. from August 21, 1948 [sic]).”

In the report of May 7, 1945, the Soviets used this translation,⁶¹³ but unduly extended that designation to all four crematoria.

Based on the documents and the ruins, they knew that there were twelve cremation furnaces at Birkenau with 46 “retorts” (“*retorty*” in the Russian text), an unusual term they used rather than the more appropriate term “*mufeli*” (muffles) which appeared in numerous documents.⁶¹⁴ The duration of a cremation (20-30 minutes), by contrast, served as “technical” justification for the myth of 4 million victims.

The Soviets also sought to shore up the myth of the immense cremation pits by supplying fantastic details in their regard.

The daily extermination of 10,000-12,000 persons constituted another bogus support item for the 4-million figure (who therefore would all have been exterminated in no more than 400 days).

The Soviet report cites two self-proclaimed members of the “*Sonderkommando*,” Shyloma (Szlama; in the Russian text: Shlema) Dragon and Genrikh (Henryk)⁶¹⁵ Tauber.

⁶¹¹ GARF, 7021-108-14, p. 27.

⁶¹² Protocol, City of Oświęcim, February 14 - March 8, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-14, p. 7.

⁶¹³ IMT, Vol. 39, p. 244.

⁶¹⁴ But in the translation of the aforementioned file memo, the term “Dreimuffelöfen” (three-muffle furnaces) was translated correctly as “*trekhmufel'nykh pečej*.” GARF, 7021-116-103, p. 44.

⁶¹⁵ In Russian, an aspirated “h” is rendered as the guttural letter “g.”

Dragon created the final version of the multiple and conflicting, previously uttered fantasies regarding the provisional gassing facilities, but as mentioned earlier, neither Dragon nor the Soviets were familiar with the later-claimed official term “bunker.” As I noted earlier, in his interrogation of February 26, 1945, Dragon always spoke of “*gazokamera* [газокамера] 1 and 2.”⁶¹⁶ Tauber also used the same verbiage in his interrogation of February 27-28: “*gazovye kamery* [газовые камеры].” Citing Dragon’s statement, the report of May 7, 1945 claims precisely that the Germans had “two *gazovye kamery*.”⁶¹⁷

The claim of the presence of “a gas chamber” in each of the crematoria was then “corrected” by the Poles, specifically regarding Crematoria IV and V.

The impossible cremation capacity of 10,000-12,000 bodies per day in the Birkenau crematoria, and the crazy figures relating to the individual installations was the result of an “expert technical report” which had to make possible the fiction of the 4 million victims. In the elaboration of this myth, there is an inextricable connivance between the parties by virtue of which the experts, with their foolish calculations, provided a “scientific” cover to the absurdities proffered by the witnesses.

Within the framework of the investigations of the Soviet Investigatory Commission on Auschwitz, the engineers Dawidowski⁶¹⁸ and Doliński (from Poland) as well as Lavrushin and Shuer (from the USSR) in fact wrote an expert report on the “gas chambers” and crematoria of Auschwitz-Birkenau between February 14 and March 8 1945, which contains a brief “Appendix 1” titled “Calculations for Establishing the Number of People Exterminated by the Germans in Auschwitz Camp.”⁶¹⁹ The “expert report” opens with the following preamble:⁶²⁰

“Based on the investigatory materials, it can be established that the Germans, as they carefully wiped out the traces of their crimes and atrocities in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, destroyed all the documents and data which would have made it possible to establish, more or less exactly, the number of people who died in the camp at the hands of the Hitlerite butchers. Thus, for example, the Germans destroyed the data on the arrival of trainloads of people at the camp, destroyed the data on the registration of people in the camp, destroyed the data on the quantities of women’s hair, eyeglasses and clothes taken away from the camp, and [the data] on similar indicators which, by using statistical calculation methods, could have thrown light on the actual number of people who died here. Nevertheless, we consider it possible to make

⁶¹⁶ GARF, 7021-108-12, pp. 182-185.

⁶¹⁷ GARF, 7021-116-103, p. 45.

⁶¹⁸ At the Höss Trial, Roman Dawidowski made statements that can only be called delusional; see Mattogno 2020, pp. 174f.

⁶¹⁹ GARF, 7021-108-14, pp. 18-20.

⁶²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

calculations for establishing the magnitude of the number that characterizes the scale of the mass extermination of the camp inmates by the Germans.”

In the absence of any documents, the Soviet-Polish experts resorted to a calculation method which is inconclusive in and of itself, into which they furthermore introduced hyperbolically exaggerated parameters: the count of the bodies cremated in the claimed extermination facilities at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

All the calculations relating to cremations in the furnaces are based on the assumption that the crematorium at Auschwitz cremated 9,000 bodies per month, and that the crematoria at Birkenau had the following monthly cremation capacities:⁶²¹

- Crematorium II: 90,000
- Crematorium III: 90,000
- Crematorium IV: 45,000
- Crematorium V: 45,000

for a total of 270,000 bodies per month.

Such a cremation capacity, corresponding to 9,000 bodies per day (3,000 bodies per day for each of Crematoria II and III, and 1,500 per day for each of Crematoria IV and V), is in reality eight times higher than the theoretical maximum capacity of the facilities!

First of all, the experts divided the activity of these facilities into three periods:

- first period: end of 1941 until March 1943, duration: 14 months;
- second period: March 1943 until May 1944, duration: 13 months;
- third period: May 1943 (sic) until October 1944, duration: 6 months.

“During the first period, Crematorium No. 1, Gas Chambers [gazovye kamery] Nos. 1 and 2, and the pyres next to them were in operation. During the second period, Crematoria Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5. During the third period, Crematoria Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5, Gas Chamber No. 2 and the pyres next to it.”

They then performed the calculations based on the parameters determined. First of all, the death toll of the crematoria. For the third period of activity we have:

- 270,000 = theoretical number of bodies cremated monthly in the Birkenau crematoria;
- 6 = number of months of cremation activity;
- 0.9 = fraction of time the crematoria operated,

This results in $(270,000 \times 6) \times 0.9 = 1,450,000$ bodies.

For the second period lasting 13 months, the experts assumed a fraction of time during the crematoria operated of only 0.5, resulting in $(270,000 \times 13) \times 0.5 = 1,755,000$ bodies, rounded off to 1,750,000.

⁶²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

The experts applied the same time fraction of 0.5 to the first period as well, in which only Crematorium I was in operation for 14 months, so that they calculated: $(9,000 \times 14) \times 0.5 = 63,000$ deaths.

Therefore, for the three periods in question, the result would be a total figure of 3,263,000 bodies cremated in the crematoria.

Now to the “bunkers.” For “Gas Chamber No. 2,” that is, the so-called “Bunker 2,” allegedly in operation for six months during the third period, the experts hypothesized a killing capacity of 3,000 persons per day, therefore, 90,000 per month, with a time fraction of 0.5, so that the related number of deaths results in: $(90,000 \times 6) \times 0.5 = 270,000$. (They forgot that Bunker 2 was active also during the first period, which would add several hundred thousand victims.)

“Gas chamber No. 1,” the so-called “Bunker 1,” was in operation during the first period for 14 months with a killing capacity of 5,000 persons per day (hence 150,000 per month) and with a time fraction of 0.25, therefore, the related calculation results in: $(150,000 \times 14) \times 0.25 = 525,000$ bodies.

The calculated number of bodies in both “bunkers” therefore amounts to 795,000. Adding this figure to the figure of people killed (and cremated) in the crematoria, we obtain the figure of 4,058,000, which the experts rounded off to 4,000,000.

Summing up, the “experts” calculated the following victims:

– Crematorium I:	63,000
– Crematoria II-V:	3,200,000
– “gas chamber no. 1”:	525,000
– “gas chamber no. 2”:	270,000
Total:	4,058,000
Rounded off to	4,000,000 ⁶²²

These lunatic ramblings were summarized in the report dated May 7, 1945.⁶²³ But the witnesses were just as bad. One of them, a certain Frantsishek (Franciszek) Stanek, who was interrogated on March 3, 1945, attempted to fill the information gap caused by the lack of documents on transports as lamented by the experts. He had worked from 1939 to 1945 as an assistant at the control center of the Auschwitz railway station, and wrote a month-by-month account of the transports that arrived at Auschwitz between January 1942 and October 1944. According to him, there were 150 transports in 1942 alone, each one of them consisting of 30-35 cars, carrying a total of 190,000-200,000 deportees. In 1943, there were 360 transports, each with 35-40 cars, carrying altogether 720,000 deportees. In 1944, he claimed to have witnessed 1,500 transports, each with 50-60 cars, carrying a total of approximately four million people

⁶²² GARF, 7021-108-14, pp. 18f.

⁶²³ IMT, Vol. 39, p. 261.

who arrived at Auschwitz between January and October 1944. The total number of deportees therefore amounted to five million!⁶²⁴

The report of May 7 also borrowed the fable of the exploitation of human corpses, claiming to supply documentary proof:⁶²⁵

“In 1943, they began to grind up the unburnt bones for industrial purposes and to sell them to the ‘Strem-Gesellschaft’ for the manufacture of superphosphate. Written proof was found in the camp showing that 112 tons and 600 kilograms of bone meal from human corpses had been shipped to the ‘Strem-Gesellschaft’.” (My emphasis)

In reality, the “proof” is based on the distortion of a list compiled by a Polish inmate on February 27, 1945, and made available by him to the Soviet Commission. It bears the heading “List of fresh bones and osseous waste sent to Strzemieszyce station for the Strem company.” This list itemizes the materials sent to the corporation in question, giving the date, car number, and weight. The “Content” column specifies, in German, the type of bone dispatched: “*frische Knochen*,” fresh bone, “*tierische Abfälle*,”⁶²⁶ animal waste, “*Rinderknochen*,” cattle bone, “*Leimleder*,” skins for glue.⁶²⁷ Therefore, the bones sent to the Strem company were not *human*, but *animal* bone.

The fairy tale of the exploitation of human corpses is no doubt derived from the more-or-less intentional misrepresentation of these shipments, and from the presence of a bone-degreasing device in the slaughterhouse at Auschwitz, as mentioned earlier (Subchapter 2.3.3.).

Notwithstanding the delusional absurdities which it contains, the report of May 7, 1945 became the cornerstone of the final version of the orthodox Holocaust narrative on Auschwitz, precisely because it fixated the fantasies of the resistance members on real places, and “confirmed” them thanks to (false) testimonies and (distorted) documents.

In its time, the Soviet version, notwithstanding the sanctity of officialdom which it received at Nuremberg, was not universally accepted, however, as it remained confined to a specific category of witnesses, as I shall show in the following chapter.

⁶²⁴ “Protokol doprosa svidetelya” (record of witness interrogation), Frantsishek Stanek, March 3, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-17, pp. 116-120.

⁶²⁵ IMT, Vol. 39, p. 244.

⁶²⁶ The text says “*apfälle*,” meaning “*Abfälle*,” as shown by the equivalent Polish term (mentioned in the document) “*odpadki*,” “wastes.”

⁶²⁷ GARF, 7021-108-17, p. 130 (original document) and 131 (Russian translation).

3.2. Eyewitness Testimonies by “*Sonderkommando*” Members

In my study of Miklós Nyiszli, I noted that the Auschwitz eyewitnesses can be divided into two large categories. The first includes those who had stayed behind when the SS abandoned the camp, and were still at Auschwitz when the Soviets arrived, or who returned to the Auschwitz region soon afterwards. This exposed them potentially to three months of propaganda bombardment by two investigations – one Soviet, the other Polish – into the presumed extermination in “gas chambers.” Particularly the claimed “eyewitnesses” could not only talk to one another, but they could even examine the places of the claimed crimes, even if they lay in ruins, and could even consult German documents and blueprints. Hence, they were able to absorb the official version of the events which was then beginning to take shape.

The second group consists of inmates who had been evacuated before the arrival of the Soviets. They took with them the propaganda yarns invented by the various resistance movements in the camp, as outlined earlier, imaginatively developing them in various ways, without being able to benefit from the latest “literary” updates. This explains the substantial difference which exists between the declarations of the first category of inmates – those who were subjected to interrogation by the Soviets and by Polish Investigative Judge Jan Sehn – and the reports of witnesses in the second category.

In general, the first category includes precisely those witnesses who, toward the end of the war, found themselves in the Soviet-Polish sector; these were mostly Polish, and they participated in the Warsaw Trial (of Rudolf Höss) and the Krakow Trial (of the Auschwitz camp garrison). The second category consists of witnesses who rendered their statements to the British and U.S.-Americans, and who participated in their trials – particularly in the Belzen and IG-Farben Trials – but some also appeared during the Polish trials.

In this chapter, I shall examine the declarations of the second category’s “eyewitnesses” – all self-proclaimed members of the “*Sonderkommando*” who testified in the immediate post-war period until the late 1940s, before the rise of nascent orthodox Holocaust historiography in the early 1950s that began to establish a bit of order among the testimonial chaos by informing the public of a broad synthesis of the translations into French⁶²⁸ and English⁶²⁹ of Jan Sehn’s Polish article “*Obóz koncentracyjny i zagłady Oświęcim*” (“The Auschwitz Concentration and Extermination Camp,” Sehn 1946b).

⁶²⁸ Sehn 1948. This translation was later used by Léon Poliakov in his *Bréviaire de la haine* (1951).

⁶²⁹ Sehn 1946a. Gerald Reitlinger refers to this translation in his *The Final Solution* (1953), although he primarily relied on testimonies from the second category, extrapolating individual data and ignoring the mutually contradictory absurdities which they contain, as I have shown in Mattogno 2020a, pp. 349-353.

Well-known persons appear here, such as Miklós Nyiszli, Charles Sigismund Bendel, Milton Buki, and less-well-known ones, such as André Lettich and Arnošt Rosin, and even some who are unknown to orthodox Holocaust historiography, such as Szaja Gertner, Roman Sompolinski and two anonymous inmates. Their statements contain conspicuous and often irreconcilable differences, which are explained with the literary vein to which they are linked or with the lore most-popular among each witness's ethnic group.

Lettich and Bendel belonged to the French testimonial "school" (so to speak); Gertner, Sompolinski, Buki and the anonymous inmates belonged to the Polish and French testimonial schools, Rosin to the Czechoslovakian and Nyiszli to the Hungarian school. Bendel and Sompolinski signed depositions at the Belsen Trial, Rosin at the Warsaw and Krakow Trials. I shall report the testimonies in chronological order as they were deposited.

3.2.1. Szaja Gertner (1945)

This witness was a Polish Jew who was deported to Auschwitz from Łódź on an unknown date. He is practically unknown to orthodox Holocaust historiography, since he only appears in the list of members of the "Sonderkommando" compiled by Eric Friedler, Barbara Siebert and Andreas Kilian, where his name is spelled "Gertner, Shaje" (Friedler *et al.*, p. 376), without giving any details and without any reference to his testimony, which was published in a Polish book in 1945. The witness does not indicate the date of his deportation to Auschwitz, but limits himself to reporting that right after his arrival he was assigned to the "Sonderkommando," which consisted of 400 inmates. I shall report here his description of the gassing and cremation process:⁶³⁰

"The building had the word 'Badeanstalt' written on it. Everything they [the deportees] were carrying had to be simply left on the ground. They went inside, undressed completely, after which each person received a receipt for the clothing so as to be able to reclaim it later, plus a piece of soap and a towel, after which they went underneath the shower [pod tusze]. The Germans then rushed inside and began to beat them to cause confusion. The persons did not know what was going on; they threw themselves on top of each other, and fled from each other. The doors to the chamber then opened, and the whole crowd was forced to enter. Suddenly the doors closed, and a can of gas was thrown through a little window [przez okienko]. I worked in this squad for 10 weeks. After the gassing, they opened the door to the other side – where nobody was supposed to enter – and the windows, and they ventilated for five minutes. The kapos then entered the center [of the room] and dragged out the bodies [away] from the doors and windows, so they could work more quickly. We all had big

⁶³⁰ Borwicz *et al.*, pp. 78f. There is an almost identical version, but translated into English from a Yiddish text (Gertner 1968).

rubber gloves on and cotton plugs in our mouths. Gas escaped from the bodies as soon as they were moved, so that it was impossible to breathe. Railway tracks ran from the door of the gassing room [gazowni] to the furnace. 40 bodies at a time were loaded onto a trolley, and it went straight to the grate [naruzst]. These trolleys tipped up into a pit [do dolu], where there was a grate, [and] the bodies immediately began to turn red due to the current [od prądu], and after 10 minutes they were transformed into ashes.

If the current was too low, it left very big ashes, but normally only small residues were left. In the middle there was an apparatus, which they called the 'Exhauster,' which blew away the ashes into a nearby pit after every cremation. There, there was a worker who filled a barrel with ashes, and a winch pulled it up. The ashes were then carried away and dumped in the water."

This testimony is an original reworking of many of the more-widespread fantasies of the time: the victims are, as always, issued soap and a towel, and the presumed gas chambers had doors and a window; the gas was introduced "from a little window," and the bodies were removed not only through the doors, but through the windows as well.

There were no mechanical ventilation systems, so that the ventilation was performed naturally by opening doors and windows for five minutes. The inmates responsible for removing the bodies did not wear gas masks, but "cotton plugs." The story that the "gas escaped from the bodies" was borrowed, with some slight retouching, by Nyiszli, as was the term "Exhauster," retained by Nyiszli in the form of "exhaustor," a type of ventilator (Mattogno 2020a, pp. 40f.). The tale of the rails that linked the gas chamber to the furnace, however, originates from the Wetzler-Vrba Report or from a common source. The furnace consisted of a "pit" (*dół*), but it is certainly a distortion of the "shaft (blast) furnace" mentioned in Polevoy's report, while the fairy tale of the trolleys tipping over into the furnace was taken from Aroneanu's "Report from the Russian Services" mentioned earlier (Subchapter 3.1.2.). The use of electrical current for the cremation of bodies recalls the fantasy of the "electrical oven" from the *Informacja zachodnia* of February 10, 1944 (Subchapter 2.3.3.).

3.2.2. Anonymous Polish Testimony of 1945

A "Description of the Gas Chamber" published in 1945 is attributed to Dr. Otto Wolken, an ex-inmate from Vienna registered at Auschwitz under number 128828, assigned on July 11, 1943.⁶³¹ Otto Wolken provided substantial material that was used during the trial of Rudolf Höss, including the famous "*Quarantäneliste*": According to his interrogation dated April 24, 1945, he was transferred to the BIIa Quarantine Camp at Birkenau, where he was em-

⁶³¹ NOKW-2824, p. 21.

ployed as a physician, and on November 10, 1944 he was sent to BIIf Hospital Camp.⁶³² The author of the above-mentioned “Description,” however, was assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*” on November 4, 1944. Of course, both cannot be true for Otto Wolken. Hence, the name Otto Wolken associated with this text is probably the result of an error. Filip Friedman derives many data from this document, but attributes it to a certain Dr. Jakub Wolman of Lodz (see Chapter 4.3.).

I shall next reproduce the translation of this declaration, classified under number 300. The author was no doubt a Polish Jew (since his testimony appears in a publication of the Jewish Historical Commission of Krakow), which, in 1945, must have been familiar with at least the Soviet version of the gas chamber at Auschwitz. This declaration’s description is rather similar to the Soviet version, but also contains extraneous and fantastic elements, some of which were later developed in the Polish version.⁶³³

“On November 4, 1944, we, 100 inmates, were assigned to work servicing the gas chamber and crematorium of Auschwitz. The gas chambers were located in the basements beneath the crematoria. They are accessed by stone steps. The basement is divided into three parts: in the right-hand part, there is the ‘undressing room,’ as is usually found in bathing establishments, on the walls there are shelves and hooks. The left-hand part of the basement is the gas chamber properly speaking. This is accessed through metallic doors in which there is a small round spyhole. On the interior, the spyhole is equipped with a network of iron wire to prevent the desperate victims from breaking it in their death agonies. The second part of the gas chamber consists of a large room (12 x 6 meters) divided by a partition so as to create two rooms. Each of these rooms has the iron doors described above, with observation windows. If there are only a few victims, we work – for reasons of economy – in one single room. Every room is whitewashed and has the following words painted on the walls to deceive the victims, in French, Polish, German, and Dutch: ‘Be careful, don’t forget your soap and towel.’

When all the victims are inside the chamber, some through compulsion, some through disorientation, the doors close hermetically, and now the true action begins.

Three or four gas pipes [rury gazowe] surrounded [okolone] by sturdy iron wire are lowered from above down to the floor, in such a way that the gas entering the basement falls down and penetrates through the holes and apertures in the chamber.

When after a few minutes (3-7), the gas finishes its action, the room is ventilated by fans installed in the walls [w ścianach] and [the ventilated air is] led to the open air.

⁶³² Höss Trial, Vol. 6, pp. 1-3. The entire 303-page volume contains exclusively materials and declarations supplied by the witness.

⁶³³ “Opis komory gazowej” (“Description of the gas chamber”) in: Borwicz *et al.*, pp. 97-99.

The bodies [of the] gassing victims are transported by means of an electrical freight elevator located in front of the crematoria [przed-krematoriów]. Here, they are loaded onto a cart [na woza] and are conveyed into the furnaces. Every crematorium possesses 15 apertures, while two, by contrast, had 18. In every one of these apertures three bodies are placed, which burn in 20 minutes. The ashes of the cremated victims are thrown into the Sola River.

It is moreover certain that the bones are processed into a sticky preparation; with the victims' hair, by contrast, felt is manufactured.

All objects of gold are collected with great care, particularly gold teeth, which are extracted from the victims' mouths before death [przed śmiercią].

It is worthy of mention that small children are often not gassed, but the head of the crematorium kills them by shooting [them] with a pistol."

It should immediately be noted that the witness claims to have been assigned to the crematorium on November 4, 1944, but according to Danuta Czech, the gassings had ceased two days earlier (Czech 1990, p. 743). The architectonic description of Crematoria II/III is evidently incorrect. For the witness, the basements were located "beneath the crematoria" ("*pod krematoriami*"), meaning underneath the part of the crematoria located on the ground floor. In a crematorium, the basement was divided "into three parts": to the right, there was the "undressing room" and to the left was the gas chamber consisting of two rooms. This distinction only makes sense if the "undressing room" and the "gas chamber" were two adjacent rooms, as in Regina Plucer's description (Subchapter 3.5.3.). In reality, however, the two large basement rooms of Crematoria II and III were perpendicular to each other, separated by another room, hence the distinction between right and left loses all meaning (see Document 11). The gas chamber was divided into two rooms, one of which measured 12 × 6 meters; Morgue #1 measured 30 × 7 meters, therefore, the other part of the gas chamber must have been some 18 meters long. This presumed subdivision, together with the spyhole protected by an interior grid,⁶³⁴ then became an element of the final Polish version, thanks above all to Henryk Tauber. The presence of "metallic doors," by contrast, is pure fantasy, like the fairy tale of the soap and towels, which here occurs in a new form, written on the wall: "Be careful, don't forget your soap and towel."

The story of the Zyklon-B-introduction devices had not yet been invented, or the witness was only vaguely aware of it. He speaks, in fact, of three or four (sic!) "gas pipes" (*rury gazowe*) surrounded (*okolone*) by wire: these were therefore true pipes surrounded by metal wire, not the "iron wire-mesh columns" (*slupy siatkowe*) as described by Michał Kula.⁶³⁵ It is unclear how they were arranged, whether three or four were located in every gas chamber

⁶³⁴ At Auschwitz, Polish investigators found and photographed a wooden door equipped with a peep-hole protected by an iron grid, claimed to be from a gas chamber. APMO, negative no. 21334/43 21334/25. For the related discussion, please see Mattogno 2019, pp. 65f.

⁶³⁵ Deposition of June 11, 1945. Höss Trial, Vol. 2, p. 99.

of whether it was the total number. These evidently movable pipes were lowered down to the floor, and the gas (we do not know which one) exited from “holes” and “apertures,” obviously pierced in the “pipes,” which resembles Nyiszli’s “quadrangular tinsplate pipes [*négyszögletű vasbádóg csövek*], their sides pierced throughout with holes like a grill” (Mattogno 2020a, p. 40). The gassing was over after just 3-7 minutes, which, as I have noted earlier, is absurdly short, and the fans were installed “in the walls” (*w ścianach*), as in the Zyklon-B-disinfestation chambers of buildings BW 5a and 5b.

After being taken to the crematorium by means of the freight elevator, the bodies were loaded “onto a cart” (*na woza*), which resembles the trolleys of the preceding tales. The claims relating to the cremation furnaces are a little bit confused: “every crematorium” (*każde krematorium*) had 15 apertures (muffles), but two had 18 of them! If we are to understand a pair (II-III) and another (IV-V), this latter would have had 18 muffles instead of the actual 16. The cremation of three bodies in one muffle within 20 minutes belongs to a different version from the Soviet and Polish versions and finds its best-known supporter in Nyiszli (*ibid.*, p. 43). The duration of 20 minutes for a cremation had already been mentioned in the communiqué of the information service of the Polish Government in Exile of October 11, 1943, and it also appears in one of Salmen Gradowski’s manuscripts. It may have come from the misrepresentation of the operating instructions for the Topf double- and triple-muffle furnace, which required that the furnace blower be left on for 20 minutes.⁶³⁶ The processing of human bone to obtain a “sticky preparation” is a fantasy which had already appeared in *Informacja zachodnia* (Western Information) No. 16 of February 10, 1944, as mentioned earlier: “There is also a large bone-glue factory at the camp” (Subchapter 2.3.3.). The extraction of gold teeth from the victims “before death” and the killing of children with pistol shots are also well-known basic themes of atrocity propaganda, although the story of the children burned alive was much preferred.

3.2.3. Roman Sompolinski (1945)

This witness, completely unknown to Holocaust historiography, participated in the Belsen Trial. In this capacity, he signed a detailed statement, in which he stated:⁶³⁷

“1. I was arrested in 1939 because I was a Jew. I am 22 year of age. I was in various camps until I was sent to Auschwitz at the end of 1943. I was transferred to Belsen in December 1944.

2. Whilst at Auschwitz I worked for three months on general duties in one of the gas chambers and crematorium at Auschwitz. Employees on this job got

⁶³⁶ See Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. 2, Docs 210 & 227, pp. 358, 382.

⁶³⁷ Deposition of Roman Sompolinski, Exhibit 61. May 24, 1945. TNA, WO 309-1697.

better food than the rest of the prisoners due to the nature of their work. At the end of about 6 months, however, they, themselves, would die in the gas chamber because the SS tried to keep the occurrences in the gas chamber secret. I escaped this fate because I contracted typhus and was removed to hospital and later to Belsen. The following is a description of this particular gas chamber and crematorium and the events enacted therein. Those selected would be told they were going for a bath. They would enter the first room of the building where they would undress and be given towels and soap. This room would hold about 500 people. They would then enter the second room which gave the appearance of a shower-bath room with stone floor and wooden duck boards. Hanging from the ceiling were sprays. Once inside the gas would be turned on by an SS man in a control room underneath the 'bathroom.' The people would scream and shout in their agony but the noise was drowned to anyone outside by a brass band playing outside and a wireless [radio] inside. Those in the chamber would be dead in about three to five minutes. Ventilators would then be operated to clear the gas from the room. As soon as the room was clear of gas the workers, including myself, would enter it from a door at the far end of the room and collect the corpses. The bodies would then be put on a chute which would drop them into a subterranean room adjacent to the crematorium ovens. In this room corpses would be received from the chute by a tipper trolley on rails which would hold about 8 bodies at a time. The trolley would then be wheeled by a worker to a platform from which the corpses would be loaded onto a metal stretcher. The base of this consisted of three metal bars. The stretcher would then be wheeled on rails into the mouth of the oven. There the bodies would be dropped into the furnaces by the operator of the stretcher, who manoeuvred levers which opened the metal bars downwards. The bodies would be destroyed in about three minutes. The fuel for the furnace consisted of wood and petrol. The SS man in charge of my party on this job was Oberscharfuhrer Moll. During the three months I was working on this particular gas chamber and crematorium I estimate that a total of about 20,000 people met their deaths this way."

In another deposition, the witness declared:⁶³⁸

"I only worked at 1 Gas Chamber and crematorium at Auschwitz. It was numbered 1. There were other Gas Chambers and crematoriums at Auschwitz. I never visited any of the other Gas Chambers and crematoriums but I understood from what I was told by members of the German Camp Staff that there were at least five including the one at which I worked. I worked at the Gas Chamber and crematorium No 1 from and including Dec. 1943 to Feb. 1944. At the time that I contracted typhus at the end of Feb. 1944 further Gas Chamber and crematoriums were being built. This I know from what was told me by members of the German Camp Staff. Also from the same source I was told that

⁶³⁸ In the matter of war crimes and gas chambers at Auschwitz. Further deposition of Roman Sompolski, May 24, 1945. TNA, WO 309-1697.

some of the other Gas Chambers and crematoriums had chutes, down which living people were tipped into the Chamber. There was no chute at No 1."

Over the course of the hearings, the witness was questioned and cross-examined at length in the hearing of October 1, 1945, but strangely he was never questioned about the gas chambers at Auschwitz; he limited himself to stating:⁶³⁹

"I was employed in the gas chambers in cleaning the gas chambers, in undressing the dead bodies and in taking the bodies away and loading them into the lorries."

Since the old crematorium at the Auschwitz Main Camp was taken out of service in the summer of 1943 (Mattogno 2016b, p. 23), Sompolinski could not have worked there between December 1943 and February 1944. Exactly because the old crematorium no longer existed as such at that time, Crematorium II in Birkenau was actually renamed Crematorium I, so the witness must refer to this building. Although this building actually had a chute, it was used merely to move corpses from the outside into the basement morgues for storage. It is strange that Sompolinski could not tell how many crematoria there were, as one really couldn't miss seeing at least Crematorium III just across the camp's main road while working in Crematorium II, and the other crematoria were also not too far away either.

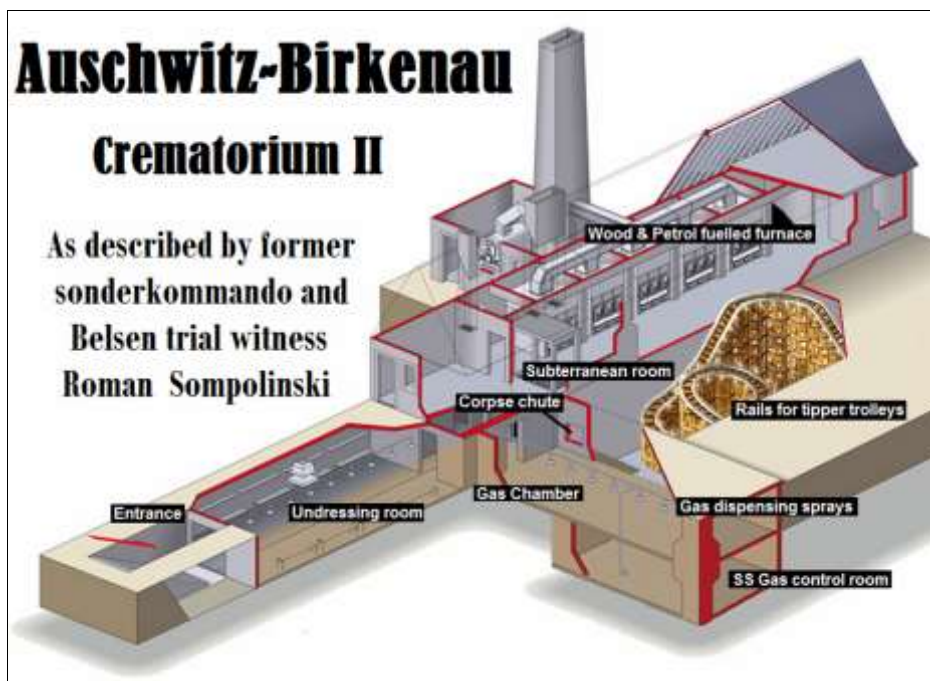
The witness repeats the fairy tale of the periodic elimination of the "*Sonderkommando*" (in his case, every six months), but like Lettich (see Subchapter 3.2.5.), he contradicts himself by introducing a banal subterfuge of having dodged his elimination for "knowing too much" because he was recovering in the hospital from typhus! Had he really been so unfit for labor that he had to be hospitalized, he should have been killed right away exactly because he was unfit for labor and because he "knew too much," if the orthodox narrative were accurate. But no, the SS went to great lengths and expense in order to restore his health.

After working for three months in Crematorium I (= II), he must have been perfectly familiar with it, but his description mixes the most-familiar propaganda themes, in bulk – the victims are supplied with soap and towels, the gas chamber is camouflaged as a "bath house," the 3-to-5-minute killing time – with other less-well-known but equally fantastic fantasies:

- the presumed gas chamber had a "stone floor and wooden duck boards" and the gas was not poured in, but was "turned on"⁶⁴⁰ by an SS man in a

⁶³⁹ Proceedings of a Military Court for the Trial of War Criminals held at Luneburg, Germany, on Monday, 1 October 1945, upon the trial of Josef Kramer and 44 Others. Thirteenth Day. Transcript of the Official Shorthand Notes, pp. 9-18. *United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program*, 1988, Reel No. 51, pp. 9-22, quotation on p. 10.

⁶⁴⁰ This bit of nonsense was also placed in the mouth of Rudolf Höss, who, after mentioning the usual showers, asserted that "instead of water, we turned on poison gas." Mattogno 2020, p. 116.



Crematorium II at Birkenau according to Roman Sompolinski; artwork courtesy of the CODOH Forum.

control room underneath the “bathroom,” which, as the “bathroom” was already underground (Morgue #1), had to be located below the basement’s foundation (*Kellersohle*) consisting of 50 cm of concrete designed to resist the ground-water pressure, meaning that control room would have been submerged in the groundwater;⁶⁴¹

- the small orchestra and radio to drown out the screams of the victims;
- the imaginary presence of a door “at the far end” of the gas chamber;
- the chute upon which the bodies slid down “into a subterranean room adjacent to the crematorium ovens,” therefore, either the gas chamber was on the ground floor, while the cremation furnaces were located in the basement, or the gas chamber was in the basement and the furnaces in a room below that, on the same level as the imaginary “gas control room”;
- the “tipper trolley on rails” borrowed from the fantasies of the Wetzler-Vrba Report or a common source;
- equally fantastic are the “platform” and structure of the stretcher, consisting of “three metal bars” which opened, dumping the bodies into the muffle; in reality, the stretcher (*Leichentrage*) used in the crematoria at Birke-

⁶⁴¹ Letter of Bischoff to the Huta Corporation dated October 14, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-113, p. 112.

- nau had a fixed bottom of sheet metal,⁶⁴² and was introduced into the muffle manually, not “wheeled on rails”;
- the duration of a cremation, “about three minutes,” is truly an example of technical folly, even greater than that of the other “eyewitness” from the “*Sonderkommando*,” Dov Paisikovic, for whom “the corpses burned away within in about 4 minutes.”⁶⁴³

The death toll of three months of extermination activities was incredibly low: just 20,000 victims, or on average just over 200 per day!

3.2.4. Charles Sigismund Bendel (1945-1948)

Bendel, born in Rumania in 1904, moved to France, where he was arrested on November 4, 1943; on December 10, 1943, he was deported to Auschwitz from the Drancy Camp and registered under number 167460. According to his account, he was sent directly to Monowitz, and on January 1, 1944 to Auschwitz; on June 2, he was assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*” of the crematoria as a physician where he remained until January 17, 1945.

Dr. Bendel may be considered a sort of professional witness: he rendered at least six testimonies and statements:

1. He was a prosecution witness during the Belsen Trial (September 17 to November 17, 1945), in which he was examined by Colonel Backhouse during the hearing of October 1, 1945.⁶⁴⁴
2. On October 21, 1945, he furthermore signed a statement for this trial, recorded as “Production no. 24,”⁶⁴⁵ which then became Document NI-11390.
3. Next, Bendel participated in the Tesch Trial (March 1-8, 1946), over the course of which he was examined by Major Draper on the second day of the hearings, March 2, 1946.
4. In 1946, a statement by Bendel appeared in the book *Témoignages sur Auschwitz* (Fédération national...).
5. On October 7, 1947, Bendel was examined by criminal-police inspector Pierre Berillet from the National General Security Administration of the French Ministry of the Interior. He signed a “Record”⁶⁴⁶ which was included among the records of the Auschwitz camp garrison trial (held between November 25 and December 16, 1947).

⁶⁴² See Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. 3, Photos 62-65, pp. 57f., and 84, p. 68.

⁶⁴³ Statement of D. Paisikovic dated “*Wien, den 17. Oktober 1963*,” p. 2. ROD, v[21] 96.

⁶⁴⁴ Proceedings of a Military Court for the Trial of War Criminals held at Luneburg, Germany, on Monday, 1 October 1945, upon the trial of Josef Kramer and 44 Others. Thirteenth Day. Transcript of the Official Shorthand Notes, pp. 2-9. *United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program*, 1988, Reel No. 51.

⁶⁴⁵ TNA. WO 309-1603.

⁶⁴⁶ Ministère de l’Intérieur. Direction Générale de la Sureté Nationale. Procès-Verbal. NTN, 153, pp. 210f.

6. Bendel also appeared as a witness for the prosecution during the IG-Farben Trial, at the hearing of March 18, 1948.⁶⁴⁷

In my study of Miklós Nyiszli, I performed a detailed analysis of all these declarations, stressing their radical falsity (Mattogno 2020a, pp. 304-333). The most-extraordinary fact is that both Nyiszli and Bendel claimed to have been *the only* physician in the *Sonderkommando* at the same location and during the same time span, and that they lived in the crematoria at Birkenau for the entire period of their stay at Auschwitz, from early July 1944 until the evacuation of the camp in January 1945. Similarly, both claimed to be the only surviving “*Sonderkommando*” physician! But they were mutually unaware of each other’s existence, and described incorrect places and mutually contradictory factual assertions.

I shall now very briefly summarize Bendel’s most-important declarations on the extermination installations, referring to my just-mentioned study for further information.

On the Birkenau crematoria, he borrows fantasies previously bandied about, asserting:

“The foundations of these imposing red-brick structures were laid in March 1942. Thousands of inmates worked there and died to build them.”

“Completed in January 1943, their inauguration was honored by the presence of Himmler in person.”

According to Bendel, Crematoria II and III had 16 cremation furnaces each (rather than five with three muffles each) with a cremation capacity of 2,000 bodies per day, while Crematoria IV and V had eight furnaces each, with a capacity of 1,000 bodies per day, for a total of 6,000 per day. This capacity, which is purely fictitious, is taken from the Wetzler-Vrba Report.

The witness repeated the absurd story of the flames exiting the crematory chimneys:

“In the period from July – and particularly in that month, the smoke and flames rose up to about ten meters.”

But he also introduced his own kind of unprecedented blunders:

“At the time I entered the Sonderkommando, the throughput of these furnaces had been deemed insufficient, and they were replaced by three cremation pits, each 12 meters long, 6 meters wide and 1 m 50 deep. The capacity of these pits was formidable: a thousand people in an hour.”

Therefore, the crematoria were abandoned in favor of the cremation ditches! This fairy tale was even repeated by investigating magistrate Jan Sehn:

“Experience gained in the burning of bodies in open ditches in August 1944 showed that this was the most-economical method, the activity of the cremato-

⁶⁴⁷ Official Record. United States Military Tribunals Nürnberg. Case No. 6, Tribunal 6. U.S. v. Carl Krauch et al. Volume 26, Transcript (English), pp. 9586-9618.

ria was arrested, and starting at that time, the bodies were burned in ditches only, and the sixth crematorium, according to plan, was based on the principle of burning the bodies in open ditches." (Sehn 1946b, p. 126)

For Bendel, Crematoria II and III each had two gas chambers, each of which could accommodate 1,000 persons; each chamber measured 10 m × 4 m or 10 m × 5 m by 1.5 m in height. Crematoria IV and V each had two gas chambers, with a capacity of 500 persons each, and measuring 6 m × 3 m × 1.5 m. In reality, Morgue #1, the claimed "gas chamber" in Crematoria II and III, measured 30 m × 7 m × 2.41 m. The varied dimensions of the presumed four gas chambers of Crematoria IV-V, whose ceilings were 2.20 meters high, were just as incompatible with those asserted by the witness.

According to him, moreover, "At the center of these chambers, two latticed pipes that went down from the ceiling with an external valve served to emit the gas," in contrast to the sheet-metal pipes claimed by the 1945 anonymous Polish member of the "Sonderkommando" and by Nyiszli.

Bendel began his activity in the "Sonderkommando" "one day in June 1944," but also "in August 1944." The total number of victims at Auschwitz was "more than four million people," including 800,000-1,000,000 during his stay at the camp. The total number of victims during the months of May-August was 530,000, but strangely, "During the month of June [1944] the number of gassed was 25,000 every day," which corresponds to 750,000 victims. These nonsensical figures are furthermore in contradiction with the quantity of Zyklon B allegedly supplied to the crematoria:

"During the months of May and June of 1944 I estimate that a total of 400 tins of Zyklon per month were used for killing people."

But the proportion between cans of Zyklon B and the number of victims, according to him, was as follows:

"Two tins for one thousand persons; 25,000 per day; then we may say 50 tins per day."

This means a requirement of (50 cans/day × 30 days =) 1,500 cans for a single month; or, vice versa, that 400 cans would have been enough for (400 cans ÷ 2 cans/1,000 people × 1,000 people =) 200,000 victims.

At Auschwitz, for Bendel, the SS "managed to get 17 tons of gold out of the four million bodies"!

3.2.5. André Lettich (1946)

This person was deported from France to Auschwitz on Transport No. 8 on July 20, 1942, as shown by the related deportation list,⁶⁴⁸ and was registered there under number 51224 on July 23. In 1946 he wrote a memorandum

⁶⁴⁸ Klarsfeld 1978, List of Convoy No. 8 of July 20, 1942.

whose title translates to *Thirty-Four Months in the Concentration Camps* which contains the section “*Sonderkommando*.” The following are a few of the most-pertinent passages (Lettich, pp. 27-30; emphases in original):

“One day we heard some talk about a squad (special squad), that needed a doctor, and where, they said, nobody was going hungry.

Seeing that we were starving, we asked to be sent as doctors to the block where this squad was located.

We thought that the ‘Sonderkommando’ was a squad responsible for burning dead bodies, nothing else; but as soon as we started working, and as soon as we got in contact with our fellow inmates, we learned its true destination. It was they, these fellow inmates, in this special squad, who were responsible for the death service upon arrival of the trains, when new deportees from Poland or Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland, France, men, women and innocent children, were to be immediately and directly taken to the gas chamber and incinerated.

It was there that we had the opportunity to gather the most-precise testimony on the barbarous acts committed by the SS. [...]

Until the end of January 1943, there were no crematoria at Birkenau. In the middle of a beech forest, about two kilometers from the camp, there was a peaceful-looking little cottage, where an expelled or murdered Polish family used to live. The cottage had been turned into a gas chamber a long time ago.

Over five hundred meters away from there were two barracks: the men were lined up on one side, and the women on the other. Very politely, very gently, they were given a little speech: ‘You’ve been travelling, you’re dirty, you will take a bath, you must get undressed in a hurry.’ They were given towels and soap, and suddenly, the brutes revealed their true faces: all these naked people, men and women, were driven with heavy blows, were driven the few hundred meters or so which separated them from the ‘shower room’. Above the door, in the entrance way, were the words ‘Brausebad’ (shower bath). At the ceiling one could even see showerheads, which were cemented [in] but never distributed any water. [...]

The doors were closed, and ten minutes afterwards, the temperature was high enough to facilitate the evaporation of the hydrogen cyanide, since the doomed persons were gassed with hydrogen cyanide. It was the ‘Cyklon B,’ diatomaceous earth soaked with 20% hydrogen cyanide, which German barbarism was using.

Then, through a little skyhole, SS Unterscharführer MOLL threw in the gas. The screams were horrifying; but after a few moments, there was complete silence. Twenty to twenty-five minutes later, windows and doors were opened for ventilation, and the corpses were immediately thrown into ditches, where they were burned; BUT THE DENTISTS HAD ALREADY CHECKED THE MOUTHS OF ALL BODIES TO EXTRACT THE GOLD TEETH. They likewise checked to make sure that the women had not concealed jewels in the

most intimate parts of their bodies, and their hair was cut off and methodically collected for an industrial destination.

The yield of this gas chamber did not appear sufficient. It was only possible to gas 400 to 500 persons per day. Now, with the Great Reich's gigantic plan of destroying all the enemies the Third Reich was expecting – and we know how many of them there were – they began to build the cremation furnaces during the month of August 1942.

Four cremation furnaces rose up out of the ground: ultramodern structures, which could only have been designed by German technicians. They were topped by large chimneys, such as seen on factories. Of these four furnaces, two had nine muffles, and two had six. Six bodies could be cremated in each muffle at the same time, in the space of about fifty minutes. In total, 180 bodies reduced to ashes in an hour. This was really highly advanced German technology.

To give you an idea of the destructive power and size of these furnaces, we will say only that, to fan the flames, each muffle was equipped with a 12-HP electric blower.

These furnaces were solemnly inaugurated at the end of January 1943. A commission consisting of German high officials arrived from Berlin to attend the first gassing and cremation operation. Through little skylights, it was easy for them to monitor the progress of asphyxiation inside the chamber without risk to themselves. These gentlemen declared themselves satisfied, since when the little ceremony was over, they gathered all the personnel from the special squad and gave a little speech, promising them that they would be well treated. At the end, they were given cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol.

Until that time, no people had ever imagined, designed and carried out the industrial 'complete liquidation' of 180 human beings per hour. Germany could be proud.

Thus it was that for almost three years we were able to see convoys arriving at Auschwitz from all over Europe, and to disappear in the flames and smoke in the sky over Auschwitz. Without exaggeration, we are able to estimate the number of victims who perished in this manner in this death camp at four or five million. A 'kolossal' execution worthy of the German culture.

In rendering an account of the role played by the Sonderkommando, we were shocked, and we resolved to take steps to leave the special squad by any means available.

And these unfortunates of the Sonderkommando, who imagined that, by virtue of the odious tasks they were compelled to perform on pain of death, their lives would be spared, had no idea about the fate reserved for them by German 'technology'. [...]

These inconvenient witnesses were in fact present during the undressing and gassing of the victims and the subsequent 'liquidation' of the corpses, thus one day, they might be considered to have 'seen too much,' so that German pru-

dence had them 'liquidated' every three or four months in turn. The squads were thus radically and definitively renewed.

We succeeded in obtaining a transfer, and we were sent to the Gypsy camp in the month of March, as physicians."

Lettich was therefore a member of the "Sonderkommando" for a good three years, and therefore must have been perfectly well familiar with the "machinery of extermination."

He was unaware of the term "bunker," and did not even know that there were supposed to be two such gassing facilities, as he refers to only one single "cottage" located in the forest "about two kilometers from the camp," a disproportionate distance for both "bunkers." He states that there were "two barracks" used as undressing rooms, located "over five hundred meters away" from the bunker, according to a version of the story also known to Szlama Dragon, who, in his deposition of February 26, 1945, stated that "Gas Chamber No. 2" had two undressing barracks, located 500 meters away, later reduced to 30-40 meters in his deposition of May 10 and 11, 1945 (see Chapter 5.3.). Perhaps someone had noticed that only an idiot would have placed the undressing hut 500 meters away from the gas chamber, thus compelling the victims to run the entire distance in the open and requiring major efforts on the part of the guards to prevent them from escaping – and the world from noticing.

The gassing capacity of the "cottage" was rather small: 400-500 persons per day. This whole story formed part of the propagandistic vein derived from the second category of inmates, known even to the British investigators who interrogated Rudolf Höss, compelling him to claim, in his handwritten statement of March 14, 1946, that the capacity of the two "farmhouses" was "depending on the size 2-300 people" (Mattogno 2020, pp. 26f.). This category also included Arnošt Rosin, who mentioned a capacity of 300 persons (see Subchapter 3.2.9.).

Other elements were taken from the Wetzler-Vrba Report or from a common literary vein: waiting for the temperature to increase "to facilitate the evaporation of the hydrogen cyanide"; the number of muffles in two crematoria (nine), a made-up number of muffles in the other two (six), and the disproportionate capacity of a muffle, six bodies at a time, which burned in fifty minutes. According to a fable also borrowed by Nyiszli (Mattogno 2020a, p. 38), "to fan the flames, each muffle was equipped with a 12-HP electric blower." Every furnace was in fact equipped with a blower no. 275 with a 3.5-HP motor, which was only used to provide the muffle with combustion air, however, not to fan the flames.⁶⁴⁹

Lettich evidently knew nothing of the internal structure of the crematoria and presumed gas chambers.

⁶⁴⁹ Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. 1, pp. 266, 273; Vol. 2, Doc. 213, p. 361.

After three years in the “*Sonderkommando*,” which was supposedly exterminated at regular intervals (“every three or four months”) to prevent its members from revealing the “terrible secret” of Auschwitz, the witness gets himself transferred to the Gypsy camp and is never harassed in the slightest!

This was “the most-precise testimony” on German crimes at Auschwitz, according to Lettich!

3.2.6. Milton (Meilech) Buki (1946)

This witness was deported to Auschwitz on a transport departing the Mława Ghetto on December 6, 1942, and was registered under number 80312. On January 4, 1946, he signed a statement at Linz, Austria, for an office of the United States War Crimes Division.⁶⁵⁰ It is titled “Atrocities of SS Oberscharfuehrer in Auschwitz Camp,” which is an indictment of “Hustek-Erbers.” Buki was interned “in the Auschwitz Camp II from December 1942 until January 1945” and formed part of the “special detachment” which operated “mainly in the crematorium.” He immediately recognized “Oberscharfueher Hustek of the political section of the Auschwitz camp” in a photograph shown to him. For the witness, “Hustek” was the factotum of the extermination:

“It was HUSTEK-ERBERS who ordered us to put the gas cells in order and to heat the stoves when a new transport was expected.”

On the ramp at Birkenau, Hustek personally performed the “selection” and chose the victims to be gassed. When the victims arrived at the “gas cell,” it was again Hustek who made the deceptive speech telling the victims that they were about to be take a shower. “He stayed til [*sic*] the doors of the gas cells were closed.” On November 13 or 23,⁶⁵¹ 1944, 170 inmates arrived who had worked in a coal mine, and were supposed to be gassed. Although, as mentioned before, the order not to kill any more Jews had been received from Berlin on November 2 according to Czech, “Hustek” personally ordered the killing of these 170 inmates. In April 1944, he personally chose 200 inmates from the “special detachment” who were transferred to Lublin and shot there; in July 1944, he ordered the gassing of another 180 inmates at Birkenau. In September 1944, he requested another 350 inmates on the pretext that they were required for another kind of job, but they rebelled. The next day, “Hustek-Erbers” killed the head of Buki’s “detachment” with his pistol. Hustek was called “the horror” by all the inmates in the camp, and bore the Jewish surname “MALACH-HAMOVES.” The statement ends with these words:

“I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the statements made above are true.”

⁶⁵⁰ *Proces załogi Oświęcimia* (Auschwitz Camp Garrison Trial), Vol. 45a, p. 64.

⁶⁵¹ The original text mentions both dates, no doubt due to a typing mistake of the initial digit.

The person accused so imaginatively by Buki was Josef Houstek, who had already changed his name at Auschwitz to Erber. His career at Auschwitz is summarized as follows by Aleksander Lasik (Lasik 1995, p. 282):

“starting in January 1942 in Department I, Armory, since September 1942 Department II, Records Office, and thereafter in the Inmate Admissions and Discharge Office, head of the subsidiary branch of this department at Auschwitz-Birkenau. After the evacuation, served at the Gross-Rosen and Mauthausen Camps.”

Department II was the Political Department, of which the “Records Office, Organization and Card File Maintenance” as well as the “Admissions and Discharge Office” were sections. It is obvious that Houstek-Erber had nothing to do with the presumed gassings and crematoria, and that the crimes of which he stands accused by this “eyewitness” were those ascribed by other witnesses to SS *Hauptscharführer* Otto Moll. Houstek was nevertheless mentioned by Filip Müller as the “the bringer of ill tidings.” For that reason, the “*Sonderkommando*” members called him “*Malchemoves*,” “Angel of Death” (Müller, p. 94), a nickname otherwise used in conjunction with Dr. Josef Mengele. Buki’s blatantly obvious lies open a scenario which is often mentioned only in passing: false statements against SS members by prosecution witnesses called to testify against the SS, and the evolution of these false statements over the course of later testimonies. In this specific case, Houstek was covered by the broader framework of investigations into Maximilian Grabner, former head of the Auschwitz Camp’s Political Department, who had been arrested by virtue of Arrest Warrant No. 1619 by the Vienna Police Department on August 3, 1945.⁶⁵² Among the witnesses interrogated by this office was a former Auschwitz inmate named Hermann Langbein, future inmate historian of this camp. In a record dated August 8, 1945, Langbein declared the following, among other things:⁶⁵³

“Of course, Grabner was present at the mass gassings of the transports coming into Auschwitz. Over the course of these transports, some 5,000,000 people were gassed. Grabner was likewise present at the mass liquidations of the Russians (1,200,0,000 [sic] were murdered in the first winter alone).”

Buki’s accusations fit into this context. On January 7, 1946, he signed another statement directed specifically against Grabner, in which he asserted:⁶⁵⁴

“I was admitted to the Birkenau Camp in 1942 as a prisoner in protective custody, and immediately after the first few days of my stay at the camp I was assigned to the special detachment, which had to do the work inside and around the crematorium.”

⁶⁵² GARF, 7021-108-34, p. 12.

⁶⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

⁶⁵⁴ *Proces zalogi*, Vol. 45a, p. 79.

As mentioned earlier, Buki reached Auschwitz on December 6, 1942, but Crematorium II only began its alleged extermination activities on March 13, 1943; therefore, the testimony contains an obvious anachronism. The crematorium is only mentioned once, always in the singular:

“My work consisted of hauling the corpses out of the gas chambers to the various cremation locations (crematorium, cremation pits). I did this until November 1944, when the gassings were stopped.”

Grabner was claimed to have been present at the “selections.” The following is Buki’s description of the gassings:

“The people slated to be gassed were taken away to the intended [gassing] premises as quickly as possible. They were then told to undress completely on the pretext that they were led into a bath. Those who were too slow in undressing were brutally beaten with truncheons by SS men; in addition, the heat in the gas chambers was so great that most of the people were already benumbed before they actually died. Grabner was sometimes present during these actions as well. The gassing itself lasted between 6 and 8 minutes, and the chamber was opened after half an hour, whereupon the corpses, which were sometimes so clenched up together that they had to be pried apart, were taken away to [be] burned.”

Buki only knew about one single crematorium, and was completely unaware of the presumed “bunkers.” His description of the gassing procedure is very vague, and we are unable to understand where these “rooms” were located, or how the victims were killed. And for a person who pretends to have been a member of the “*Sonderkommando*” from December 1942 until November 1944, such ignorance is truly excessive. He only mitigated his scanty knowledge with gleanings from the nascent Holocaust historiography. During the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, on January 14, 1965, he became one of the witnesses for the claimed events at the “bunkers,” referred to by Buki as “little cottages” (Naumann, pp. 426-428), and 15 years later in a deposition made in Jerusalem, as a “brick farmhouse.”⁶⁵⁵

3.2.7. Miklós Nyiszli (1946)

I dedicated a separate study to this unique individual, to which I refer the interested reader (Mattogno 2020a). In his famous memoir *I Was Dr. Mengele’s Forensic Pathologist in the Auschwitz Crematorium* (see Mattogno 2020a, pp. 19-131), Hungarian-Jewish physician Miklós Nyiszli wrote that he had been deported to Auschwitz at the end of May 1944 (his number, A-8450, was assigned on May 29), and that he was assigned to Crematorium II after a couple of days, thus coming to form part of the “*Sonderkommando*.” He claims to have remained in this position until the final evacuation of the camp. Howev-

⁶⁵⁵ Pressac quotes from a sworn statement by Buki dated December 15, 1980 (1989, p. 163).

er, it is documented that he was assigned to Monowitz immediately after his arrival, whence he was sent to Sector BIIf of the Birkenau Camp based on a transfer order of June 27, 1944. And this is not the only chronological contradiction in his account, and not even the most serious one, as I have shown in a respective chapter (*ibid.*, pp. 272-275).

The most disconcerting fact is that, in addition to the above-mentioned memoirs, he also wrote a series of articles after the war which appeared in 27 installments in the Budapest newspaper *Világ* (*World*) between April 18 and May 22, 1948, in which he set forth a very detailed account of his direct examination by U.S. prosecutor Emanuel Minskoff during the IG-Farben Trial, properly known as “United States of America v. Carl Krauch et al.,” which was held at Nuremberg between August 14, 1947 and July 30, 1948. However, Nyiszli never participated in that trial at all! He reported ample – but completely invented – excerpts from the hearings, with the prosecutor’s questions and his own answers, describing the disconcertment of the judges and the public at his terrible revelations. He mentions the testimony of Stössel, a non-existent witness, and “saw” Dr. Eduard Wirths, the former Auschwitz SS garrison physician sitting among the defendants, although Wirths had committed suicide while being held prisoner by the British in September 1945.

Such are the witness’s credentials. My critical analysis of his statements is organized in ten chapters; here, I shall limit myself to a brief summary of those relating to the presumed extermination facilities at Auschwitz (*ibid.*, pp. 190-264).

For Nyiszli, what he calls “Cyclon” was “chlorine in granular form”; the gas developed immediately, “as soon as it comes into contact with air”; Zyklon consisted of “, purple [or rather] burgundy-colored chlorine pellets,” which “developed chlorine gas that caused the most-cruel death by suffocation within 5 to 10 minutes.” Again, it was a “a chemical combination of acidum hydrocyanatum [hydrogen cyanide], chlorine and in all probability nitrogen in a way whose chemical formula” Nyiszli pretended not to know, since it was secret, or so he claimed, which is nonsense. The carrier substance was “calcium silicate,” when in fact it was calcium sulfate (gypsum). He had succeeded in discovering that the name “Cyclon” was derived from the abbreviation of its essential ingredients: cyanide, chlorine and nitrogen, and that a “Cyclon A” also existed, which was a disinfectant, and a “Cyclon B,” which was used for purposes of extermination.

Nyiszli’s various testimonies taken as a whole often contain innumerable bits of idiocy all lumped together. Zyklon B was not chlorine-based, but, as is well known, exclusively hydrogen cyanide. It evaporated not due to coming in contact with the air, but under any circumstances in which it was released from its sealed container (rather like paint, or glue) and with a speed depending only on temperature and humidity. The granules were not purple or pink, but could have a bluish hue, as mentioned earlier (this is true only for the gyp-

sum-based Erco-type of Zyklon B as used at Auschwitz). Nitrogen, like chlorine, was not a component of Zyklon B, and Nyszli's "discovery" of the pesticide's name being an abbreviation of its components is ridiculous, because the *German* term is "Zyklon" – not "Cyclon." Moreover, chlorine in German is called "Chlor," while nitrogen is called "Stickstoff." As for Zyklon A, this had not been in production since the end of World War I due to a respective prohibition clause in the Versailles Treaty. Zyklon is German for "cyclone."

Nyszli knew nothing of any "Bunker 2" as a mass-gassing facility, which was allegedly operating at full tilt when he saw it in the summer of 1944. He described that facility instead as "a long, shabbily plastered, thatch-roofed house." Yet Nyszli never even noticed the canonical four gas chambers the building allegedly contained, but only "a single long room," obtained by demolishing the partitions, which was "an undressing room" where the victims left their clothing before being escorted naked approximately 150 meters to two burning pits, before SS soldiers armed with 6-mm weapons along the perimeter. They fired one bullet into the back of the victims' necks, knocking them into the burning pit. The two ditches measured 50 m × 6 m × 3 m and had a daily capacity of 5,000 to 6,000 victims. Nyszli knew nothing about cremation pits in the courtyard of Crematorium V. He knew the term "bunker," but for him, the "bunker," as I have mentioned earlier, referred to the underground gas chamber of Crematoria II and III, the "underground bunkers" (Mattogno 2020a, p. 137).

His description of Crematorium II, in which he claimed to have spent whole months, is astonishing. The "undressing room" was 200 meters long, and had "an oak double door" through which the victims went straight into the gas chamber, which was also 200 meters long. But Morgue #2, the alleged undressing room, measured 49.49 meters, and Morgue #1, the claimed gas chamber, measured 30 meters, and a corridor 1.97 m wide and 5.30 m long led from Morgue #2 through a double door measuring 2.10 m × 1.80 m into the vestibule, which in turn provided access to Morgue #1, through a single door measuring 100 cm [39 inches] wide × 192 cm, which is an ideal width if you want to allow rapid passage of the 3,000 victims mentioned by Nyszli!

After the gassing, we are presented with the following scenario:

"The bodies do not lie all over the length and breadth of the room but rather in a single, story-high heap. The explanation for this is that the fallen gas granules first permeate the air layer above the concrete floor with their deadly vapors and only gradually saturate the higher layers of air in the room. This forces the unfortunate victims to trample each other, to climb over one another. In the higher layers the gas thus reaches them later. What a terrible struggle for life must take place there, and yet the time won is only one or two minutes in all! Could they but think about it, they would know that they are trampling their parents, their wives, their children in vain, but they cannot!"

What they do is a survival reflex! I notice that at the bottom of the tower of bodies lie the babies, children, women and aged, at the top, the stronger men."

This horror story was invented by Nyiszli based on the false presupposition that Zyklon B was chlorine, which, as it is heavier than air, would indeed fill a room gradually from the bottom upwards, the way water fills a basin, but hydrogen cyanide is slightly lighter than air.

The bodies were then taken to the ground floor by means of "Four large mechanical freight elevators," but there was only one elevator in the crematorium. The furnace room contained "fifteen cremation furnaces" "installed *separately* in large red-brick structures," that is, 15 individual furnaces, while there were in fact five triple-muffle furnaces. "The furnaces' (muffles') heavy iron doors" opened "automatically," which is pure fantasy. The bodies were put three at a time into each furnace (muffle), and their cremation lasted 20 minutes, in accordance with one of the many versions relating to the cremations:

"The bodies of the dead are reduced to ashes in 20 minutes. The crematorium works with 15 furnaces. This means the cremation of 5,000 people a day. Four crematoria are in operation at the same capacity. Altogether 20,000 people pass each day through the gas chambers and from there into the cremation furnaces. The souls of twenty-thousand innocent people fly off through the gigantic chimneys."

The figure of 20,000 cremations per day results from the fact that, for Nyiszli, the four crematoria each had 15 muffles, hence 60 in total, while it is known that Crematorium IV and V (where Nyiszli claimed to have been transferred after October 6, 1944, where he allegedly remained until January 1945), each had one eight-muffle furnace, so that the total number of muffles was 46, not 60. Besides, the correctly calculated daily cremation capacity resulting from three bodies in 60 furnaces every 20 minutes would be 12,960, not 20,000. Even Nyiszli's arithmetic was wrong.

This brief summary is more than sufficient to show the fraudulent and nonsensical nature of Nyiszli's declarations. Nevertheless, both Jean-Claude Pressac and Charles Provan attempted to rehabilitate him to some extent (*ibid.*, pp. 363-379), a truly quixotic undertaking which Nyiszli himself seriously sabotaged through his other nonsensical claims, such as, for example, that the *Kanada* section of the camp, where the inmates' personal property was stored in 30 barracks arranged in three rows of ten barracks each, located to the south of Crematorium IV, east of the *Zentralsauna* and west of Sector BIIf, according to Nyiszli was a "garbage heap" where they burned rather than stored inmate property considered by the SS to be "useless." Or take Nyiszli's claim that the Birkenau Camp was located 2 km away from Crematorium V, which was of course located inside the Birkenau camp; or that the lifespan of a "*Sonderkommando*" unit was limited to four months by the SS, while Nyisz-

li's "Sonderkommando" allegedly was already the 12th in a row, so that the first "Sonderkommando" would have been established already in October 1940 (when in fact it is said to have been created only in early 1942); or that on *October 7, 1944*, Nyiszli was present at the gassing of a Jewish transport originating from the Riga Ghetto, when the *only* Jewish transport from Riga arrived at Auschwitz on *November 5, 1943*; or that he followed "two million innocent people" with his eyes right up "to the gas chambers," and was moreover "witness to the horrors of the pyres," which would bring the number of victims "seen" by him up to an even-higher figure (the pyres having had a claimed capacity of 5,000 to 6,000 victims per day, hence 150,000-180,000 per month), but adding up all the gassings actually mentioned by him does not even yield 733,000 victims (see Mattogno 2020a, pp. 244f.).

3.2.8. Anonymous Polish Testimony of 1946

Another anonymous member of the "Sonderkommando" signed a statement which is reproduced in a Polish book published in 1946, with the following presentation:

"Over the period from January 20 to March 16, 1944, the witness was a member of the special squad of inmates at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp who worked with the gassings and cremations of persons in the crematoria, the so-called Sonderkommando."

The following is a translation of the salient part of the statement (Rajewski, pp. 119-121):

"The trucks arrived in front of the crematorium, which looked like a factory from the outside, with a big rectangular chimney. [The SS] gently helped the [people] in getting down off the trucks, telling [them]: 'This is just a bath house.' [public bath] Before they got undressed in the bath house, they called upon the [new] arrivals to hand over their valuables voluntarily, as they would be returned, after which they told the women and children to get undressed first. Women and children received a towel and soap. When the women were already undressed, they told them with [feigned] embarrassment that they would unfortunately have to bathe together with the men, because the next transport would be there soon, and all the baths were occupied. A moment later, the big hermetically sealed door opened that led from the undressing room to the presumed bath. The women and children entered first, then the men. This room looked like a bath; only the windows were missing. The inmates from the Sonderkommando hung around in the room for a few minutes, asking the people again to hand over all their valuables voluntarily, because even naked people succeeded in hiding their valuables in their hair or in their body cavities. A whistle sounded, they were all in the bath, all ready, the inmates wished them a 'good bath,' and went outside, all of them; the door closed, automatically emitting a signal. It was the warning for Oberscharführer Traub

and his adjutant *Rapportführers*, young Lithuanian students from Kovno [Kaunas].

These three men opened the valves [kurki] on the 8-10 gas cylinders [bomb z gazem] full of HCN (hydrogen cyanide). These cylinders were linked to the showers in the presumed 'bath' by means of tubes, and gas escaped into the gas chamber through the showers [Bomby te są połączone rurkami z owymi prysznicami rzekomej łaźni i przez prysznice gaz dostaje się do komory gazowej]. The inmates from the Sonderkommando listened through the thick wall to the horrifying screams of the persons dying of asphyxiation (on average, from 800 to 1,000 persons). The screams lasted approximately 2 minutes, then all was still.

Now the ventilators began their work, which extracted the air-gas mixture from the gas chamber for three hours [przez trzy godziny] and expelled it to the exterior through long tubes. When the ventilators finished their work, the hermetically sealed door opens, and a pile of bodies a meter and a half high fell out. When the victims [felt] themselves suffocating due to the gas, they ran to the only way out of the chamber – the hermetically sealed door. For that reason, the inmates found more bodies near the door than anywhere else. [...]. A long, hidden corridor, without windows, leads from the gas chamber, linking it to four large furnaces [z czteroma wielkimi piecami] constituting the crematorium. The inmates line up and pass the bodies from hand to hand, and throw them into the furnace from the last hand in the chain. The furnace consists of a big plate capable of containing 50-60 bodies. Under the plate is the fire, stoked by inmates [Heizerów = Heizer, stokers] and burning continuously. The furnace works in such a way that the flames escaping from below the plate completely envelop the bodies, which burn rather rapidly (60 bodies in about three hours, therefore 4 furnaces burned a transport of 1,000 persons within 12 hours). When the bodies were incinerated, the mobile plate tipped, the ashes fell off, and made room for the next crop of bodies.”

This eye-witness testimony combines and mixes well-known propaganda themes with great inventiveness. From the ever-present hand-out of towels and soap, the scenario develops with new themes, beginning with the gassers: “Oberscharführer Traub and his two adjutant *Rapportführers*, young Lithuanian students from Kaunas.” “Traub” is an unknown person, and the SS men with similarly sounding names (SS *Unterscharführer* Adolf Taube, SS *Sturm-bannführer* Karl Tauber) were not at all involved in the presumed gassings according to orthodox Holocaust historiography, which were moreover performed by the SS disinfectors and SS paramedics, not by *Rapportführer*; moreover no Lithuanians are known to have occupied such a position.

The witness had very probably heard vague talk of the phantasmagorical “cylinders containing hydrogen cyanide” [*bomby z kwasem pruskim*] as reported by Polish underground sources, and was familiar with the “gas show-

ers,” therefore he interpreted the term “*bomba*” as a cylinder containing gaseous hydrogen cyanide, which could flow into the gas chamber through tubes!

The impossibly brief agony of the victims (two minutes) forms part of the propagandistic canon, but the ventilation takes an extremely long time: three hours. The story of the pile of bodies a meter and a half high spread insidiously through subsequent testimonies and reblossomed in the testimony of Schlomo Venezia over sixty years later (Venezia, p. 93). The “long, hidden corridor” recalls the fantastic statements of Wetzler-Vrba and Ada Bimko (see Chapter 3.5.1.), but is not equipped here with rails upon which run trolleys full of bodies: here, the bodies were carried from the gas chamber to the furnace room from hand to hand along a human chain!

The eyewitness’s fantasies are unleashed without restraint in his description of the furnaces. The crematorium – we don’t know which one – contained four furnaces equipped with a plate [*plyta*] with a capacity of 50-60 bodies, which were cremated within about three hours; the plate could tip,⁶⁵⁶ enabling the load of ash to slide off. (But wasn’t the fire which enveloped the plate and the bodies placed on it down there?)

3.2.9. Arnošt (Ernst, Arnold) Rosin (1947)

Rosin was deported to Auschwitz from Slovakia on April 17, 1942 and was registered under number 29858. As mentioned earlier, he escaped from the camp on May 27, 1944 together with Czesław Mordowicz, with whom he wrote a report which was added to the Wetzler-Vrba Report and published in November 1944 by the War Refugee Board.

At the Höss Trial, the witness declared:⁶⁵⁷

“I arrived at Auschwitz in 1942, and was taken to Birkenau. At the time, Birkenau was not yet a concentration camp, there were just wooden barracks, a few of brick. There were 3,000 persons: Poles, French, Slovaks, but above all Soviet prisoners, kept separate from the others. 14 persons were selected for a certain Sonderkommando, as I have said. We had to go outside the camp, into the woods, where we dug a few trenches [okopy] 70-80 meters long and 5 wide. There we remained for 14 days. We did not know what we were working for. To the right of these barracks were a couple of cottages [parę małych domów] from which persons were taken away. These barracks were eventually built and repaired there.”^[658]

⁶⁵⁶ The Topf cremation furnaces for civilian use were equipped with a “*Drehrostplatte*,” tiltable grate panel introduced in 1934, which was never installed in the furnaces of the Birkenau crematoria. See Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. 1, p. 185f.

⁶⁵⁷ *United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program*, 1988, Reel No. 62. Höss Trial, 11th hearing, deposition of Arnold Rosin, pp. 1164-1167.

⁶⁵⁸ It is not clear which set of barracks the witness is referring to or what their function was.

Later on, from the trenches, a narrow-gauge rail line was laid to the cottages. 30 inmates were then selected for Sonderkommando II. These inmates lived near the barracks and repaired it. They brought in chlorine in large barrels weighing 400-500 kg. We had to work like this all day. When we got there in the morning, they wouldn't let us approach these pits, which had water in the bottom. Two pumps arrived from Auschwitz, from the fire station. The defendants Höss, Aumeier, Schwarz and also a few Germans whose names I don't know, because we had only been at camp a few months. They pumped out the water, and a few transports arrived during the night. We only learned this in the morning, when we went to these pits and had to cover the bodies in a uniform manner, which were covered [only] by a thin layer of earth.

Every once in a while, I saw human bones, hands, then we had to move away again, and from these bunkers [z tych bunkrów] they brought us some bread. When we returned by another road, we saw children's shoes, shoes, hair, there were wigs, and so on. It went like this for about three months.

Then these 30-100 persons from the Kommandos were combined in one single Kommando. This was the special Kommando [specjalne komando], and no inmate could enter into contact with it. This Kommando grew continually, because the crematorium did not exist yet.

The job of removing these bodies again began in September 1942. We formed a big circle using these bodies, normally they were burned, the smoke and stench of the burning of these bodies extended for several kilometers.

The Kommandos arriving at our camp, when we became aware of what was going on, attempted to escape. This escape was revealed by an inmate. The entire Sonderkommando, consisting of 300 persons, was taken to Auschwitz and were all exterminated. And this occurred immediately, I think that this was not an order issued by Berlin, but was a direct order from Commandant Höss, who ordered their destruction.

There was a transport of Polish Jews from around Mława, the numbers [assigned to them were around] 82000. These Jews were supposed to burn the persons who arrived after them.

The first crematorium was built in February 1943. 32 trucks full of Jews then arrived from Krakow. The two last trucks had the good fortune to suffer a breakdown, so they stayed there, while 30 [other] trucks went to the crematorium. Since it was the first gassing, the following persons were present: Frank, from Krakow, Himmler and his whole general staff, who watched and observed this first gassing.

I wish to add that over the period in which the Hungarian action was carried out, Höss took part in it and was at the ramp, where the selections took place.

Prosecutor Cypryan: Frank and which others were present at this action?

Witness: There was Frank, from Krakow, Himmler, Höss and the entire rank of superior officers of the command.

Prosecutor: At the time when the witness covered the pits containing the bodies, were the persons burned or [only] killed?

Witness: Persons were gassed in the little chamber [w malej komórcze], in the white cottage [w białym domku]. This little chamber, it could not hold more than 300 persons. It measured 4 x 4 or 5 x 5 meters. We were not permitted to go there, only those 30 persons who were staying there could go there.”

Rosin also testified at the Auschwitz Camp Garrison Trial, where he declared:⁶⁵⁹

“I was an inmate from Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camp. In 1942, I was deported to Auschwitz Concentration Camp, where I remained 3 days before being transferred to Birkenau. The next week, I was assigned to the so-called ‘Sonderkommando’. At first, our work consisted of digging pits. At the time, our Kommandoführer was the defendant Plagge. At first, we didn’t know what we were digging these pits for, until the day of the first gassing [pierwsze gazowanie] in the small gas chamber [w malej komorze gazowej] at Birkenau; in the morning, when we got to our work [station], there were persons in the pits covered up [with dirt] but we could see legs and in some cases bodies. This was the day that two pumps from the fire station arrived at Auschwitz, while Aumeier and Grabner were there.

I would like to testify as to the individual defendants. On December 3, the Sonderkommando, consisting of 300 persons, was gassed at Auschwitz for preparing to escape. The rest of the Sonderkommando, 10-12 persons, remained in the block and was then taken to the so-called ‘death chamber’ [komora śmierci] – this was the place set aside for the bodies – and the defendant Plagge shot them personally. The camp elder was present as well as an inmate from the hospital.

I would moreover like to stress that I did not see all the SS killing people. On the bench, with the other defendants, sits Buntrock, who did not kill people, but tormented them, and those who did not kill anyone were no better than those who did.

President of the Tribunal: Does the witness know the defendant Buntrock personally?

Witness: With regard to Buntrock, I wish to comment [as follows]. I escaped from Birkenau in 1942 [sic]. In 1945, I saw him in Bratislava as he was walking down the street. I would like to ask whether Buntrock will confirm this.

President of the Tribunal: Defendant Buntrock, do you confirm that the witness recognized you at Bratislava?

Defendant Buntrock: No. I would like to make a statement regarding the witness’s deposition. I left Auschwitz in 1944 and was transferred to an armored unit at Woditz, in Czechoslovakia, for training purposes.

Witness: I saw him at Bratislava in March 1945 while he was walking with a rifle.”

⁶⁵⁹ *Proces załogi Oświęcimia (Auschwitz Garrison Trial), Vol. VII, pp. 6-8.*

Rosin arrived at Auschwitz on April 17, 1942, and remained there for three days. After a week, he was assigned to the “*Sonderkommando*,” this therefore took place on April 27. For 14 days, until May 11, he dug mass graves 70-80 meters long and 5 meters wide near “a couple of cottages” near some barracks. The scenario is that of the “*Birkenwald*” and therefore of the “bunker” at Birkenau.

According to the current orthodox Holocaust narrative, only “*Bunker 1*” or “*czerwony domek*” (the “red cottage”) was operating at the time; “*Bunker 2*” or “*biały domek*” (the “white cottage”) allegedly entered into operation on June 30, 1942. Rosin therefore described the events relating to the “red cottage,” but spoke of a “white cottage” (*w białym domku*), in addition to “a couple of cottages” and “bunkers,” in the plural (from which bread was brought), but without further detail, which did not, therefore, correspond to either “Bunker” 1 or 2. In the 1960s, he was only familiar with “a peasant cottage of wood with a shack” (*malý, bílý selský domek s kůlnou*),⁶⁶⁰ and of “an old peasant cottage with a shack” (*starý selský domek s kůlnou*).⁶⁶¹

According to Rosin, this “white cottage” contained one single gas chamber measuring 4 m × 4 m or 5 m × 5 m with a 300-person capacity (12 to 19 persons per m²). But “Bunker 1” is said to have measured approximately 15 m × 6 m and supposedly had two gas chambers (Piper 2000, pp. 134f.). From Rosin’s account we deduce that “the first gassing in the small gas chamber at Birkenau,” that is, in the “white cottage,” took place after the 14 days of digging mass graves, when they began to be filled with bodies, that is, on May 26. This should also be the date upon which the first “bunker” entered into operation, which for Rosin was therefore not “Bunker 1” but “Bunker 2,” and the date was not March 20 (the orthodoxy’s current start-up date for “Bunker 1”), but specifically May 26 (although the orthodoxy insists that “Bunker 2” became operational only at the end of June 1942).

The exhumation and cremation of the bodies began in September 1942, but the witness has only featureless banalities to offer in this regard: he does not explain how it was done or how many bodies were in the mass graves.

What the witness says about the “*Sonderkommando*” is not particularly clear. Initially, his “*Sonderkommando*” at the graves consisted of 14 inmates, but “30 inmates were then selected for *Sonderkommando II*,” performing who-knows-what tasks; the total was therefore 44 inmates in two “*Sonderkommandos*.” Nevertheless, “then these 30-100 persons from the *Kommandos* were combined in one single *Kommando*,” which became the “*Sonderkommando*” true and proper. This “*Sonderkommando*” was gassed at Auschwitz on December 3, 1942, but consisted of 300 inmates, or 300 plus 10-12 more inmates not initially killed, who were killed later by Plagge. Danuta Czech

⁶⁶⁰ Interview of Rosin by E. Kulka, fall of 1965 – spring of 1966. YVA, P.25-22.

⁶⁶¹ *Rezhovor s Arnoštem Rosinem* (Talk with Arnost Rosin) by E. Kulka, fall of 1965. YVA, P.25-21.

mentions the presumed event specifically on this date, with reference not only to Rosin, but also to Stanisław Jankowski's statement dated April 16, 1945 (Czech 1990, pp. 277f.). However, Jankowski mentioned "somewhat more than 390 persons" and the date of November or December 1942 (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, pp. 45f.). In practice, apart from these two statements, no evidence exists in this regard.

In counting the inmates in the "*Sonderkommando*," Rosin forgot to count himself: 300 were gassed, 12 were shot, probably with pistol shots to the back of the head, but what about him? Based on his account, it is obvious that he was not killed and was therefore the sole survivor.⁶⁶² But how and when did he escape death? And until when did he remain in the "*Sonderkommando*"? He never supplies any answers to these questions.

Rosin was familiar, although very confusedly, with the fairy tale about the formation of the new "*Sonderkommando*," later codified by Danuta Czech: it was formed on December 6, 1942 from a Jewish transport arriving from Mława that brought 406 male Jews, who were registered under numbers 80262-80667, among them Milton Buki and Szlama Dragon. This squad, explains Danuta Czech, was probably referred to as "*Sonderkommando II*" ("*Special Squad II*" in the English edition, Czech 1990, p. 280). For Rosin, however, that squad already existed several months earlier: "30 inmates were then selected for *Sonderkommando II*," a phrase which refers to the time when they were digging the mass graves, that is, the first ten days of May 1942.

Of the new "*Sonderkommando*," Rosin says that these Jews "were supposed to burn the persons who arrived after them," which means that he could not have been one of them.

The anecdote relating to the inauguration of Crematorium II is obviously derived from Wetzler and Vrba's account or one of their common sources: it took place "in February 1943," and the officials present included not only Himmler and Höss, but even General-Governor Hans Frank!

After his escape on May 27, 1944, Rosin went to Slovakia together with another escapee, Czesław Mordowicz, where they met Karmil-Krasnansky, who claims to have written a report as a result of this encounter. The report was then sent to Switzerland (Świebocki 1997, pp. 56f.), where it arrived on August 6, 1944. It was later published by the War Refugee Board together with the Wetzler-Vrba Report.⁶⁶³ I quote from a German version,⁶⁶⁴ which should be the basis for the English translation.

⁶⁶² Another self-proclaimed member of this "*Sonderkommando*" of 300 inmates named Süß claimed in 1964 that he and a certain Spanik were the *sole survivors* of the gassing, which took place on December 5, 1942. He does not mention Rosin at all. "Vernichtungslager Auschwitz. Die Aufnahme wird durchgeführt von Meir Lamed, und findet im Atelier des Institutes für gegenwärtiges Judentum statt. Das Datum ist der 29. April 1964. Der Befragte ist Herr Süß aus Pressburg." YVA. P.25-20.

⁶⁶³ "The Extermination Camps of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau in Upper Silesia." Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, New York, WRB, Box no. 61, pp. 28-33.

The curious fact is that the report in question is presented as the sequel to the Wetzler-Vrba Report, and opens precisely with Wetzler's and Vrba's escape on April 7, 1944. It presents a simple chronicle of alleged events without further information on the alleged extermination techniques, particularly in "Bunker 2," a topic practically neglected by Wetzler and Vrba. The report contains no mention of the fact that Rosin had formed part of the "*Sonderkommando*" between the end of April and the beginning of December 1942, a period in which he claims to have been an "eyewitness" to the killings in the "*white cottage*." By contrast, he limits himself to repeating second-hand information. It is therefore very probable that the story of his assignment to the "*Sonderkommando*" is a postwar invention of his.

According to the report, transports from Hungary carrying from 14,000 to 15,000 Jews per day began to flow into Birkenau around May 15, 1944. "Only barely 10% of these transports were brought into the camp; the others were immediately gassed and burned." The inmates left alive were not registered. The men were housed in "Camp Sector 'C'," whence they were transferred to Buchenwald, Mauthausen, Gross-Rosen, Gusen, Flossenbürg and Sachsenhausen. The women were quartered in the Gypsy Camp. The "*Sonderkommando*" was increased to 600 inmates, and then to 800 after a few more days.⁶⁶⁵

"3 crematoria are operating day and night / the fourth is currently under repair/. Since the crematoria were insufficient, 4 pits about 30 meters long and 15 meters wide were once again dug in the birch forest, in which bodies were burned day and night, just as they were in the time before the crematoria were built. The cremation capacity is therefore almost unlimited."

According to their account, the two fugitives were in contact with the inmates from the "*Sonderkommando*," but they did not mention "Bunker 2," which was supposed to be located precisely in the "birch forest"; instead they repeated two hare-brained fairy tales presumably told to them by the "*Sonderkommando*."⁶⁶⁶

"According to a communication from a Jew of the Sonderkommando, Reichsführer Himmler is said to have paid a visit to Birkenau on May 15 or 16, 1944. On this same day, I myself saw 3 cars carrying 5 men in civilian clothing driving on the road to the crematoria. My source explained to me that he and others had recognized Himmler. He [Himmler] visited Crematorium I, and after a stay of about half an hour, he then drove back with his entourage. The next day, one could read about Himmler's visit to Krakow in the Silesian newspapers. Hence, the communication was probably correct."

⁶⁶⁴ The document is typewritten and is five pages long, plus an introduction, and was published in Weissmandel, facsimile outside text, Annex II.

⁶⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 2f of the report.

⁶⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4 of the report.

This fantastic story is no doubt a literary development of the fairy tale, later adopted by Vrba,⁶⁶⁷ according to which Himmler was present at the inauguration of Crematorium II.

Rosin and Mordowicz introduce the second untrue story as follows:

“Another incident which should not be forgotten was described to us by members of the Sonderkommando.”

At the end of the summer of 1943, a committee of four Dutch Jews arrived at Auschwitz to inspect the camp. They were courteously received and were able to speak to several Dutch Jews. They convinced themselves that everything was all right at Auschwitz, and they even signed a statement to that effect. They then expressed the desire to see the crematoria at the Birkenau Camp. The administration agreed and accompanied them to Crematorium II, where the four unfortunates were killed. The SS claimed that they had been killed in a car accident.⁶⁶⁸

This story, which is also invented, is equally puerile: who could seriously believe that the administration of Auschwitz would agree to an inspection by a “committee of Jews”?

3.3. Non-“*Sonderkommando*” Witnesses Who Worked in the Crematoria

The Internet site of the Hungarian National Committee for Assisting Deportees (*Deportáltakat Gondozó Országos Bizottság, DEGOB*) features a vast collection of testimonies of Hungarian Jews on Auschwitz, including Nyiszli's, accompanied by English translations of the original text. The testimonies are anonymous; each testimony is accompanied by the initials for the first name and last name, gender, date and place of birth, profession, ghetto of origin and deportation camps of the witness.

Of these testimonies, at least four are by former inmates who claim to have worked in the crematoria at Birkenau in some capacity, a fact conspicuously ignored by orthodox Holocaust historiography. I shall now reproduce the English translations of the most important parts – warts and all – with an eye to the Hungarian text.

⁶⁶⁷ Vrba/Bestic, pp. 15f.

⁶⁶⁸ Weissmandel, p. 4 of the report.

3.3.1. Protocol No. 90 (June 23, 1945)

G.E., male, born in 1924 at Nagyszöllös:⁶⁶⁹

“I found myself in block 9, where the entire block had been emptied, because there were too many people in the camp and they had to get rid of 900 people. There was a block curfew [blokkspere for German Blocksperre], when everyone went into his or her own block. Three dumper trucks with trailers entered and they started to throw us onto the carts irrespective of whether we were ill, young, strong or weak. I was in that group and the only way I could escape was that I told them I was there to help them loading. I got in the truck, sat next to the driver and we went to the crematorium. After we arrived at the gas chamber [a gázkamrához], we practically turned people out from the car; if someone was not able to stand up, we threw him in. We undressed everybody, but as a beginner I could not imagine the horrible things that came next. We unloaded the prisoners and I had to watch as my friends, acquaintances and relatives were taken away, undressed and given soap and towels. Finally we herded all the 2000 people into the gas chamber. They went in unsuspectingly and we locked every window [minden ablakot] from outside. They were expecting water running from the shower and then the gas operator turned on the gas [erre megindította a gázkezelő a gázt]. They were moaning and yelling as the gas was torturing them. Mothers had to see their children die. The strongest man was able to bear it for six minutes. After six minutes [6 perc után] we opened the doors [ajtókat] and we faced a heap of dead bodies [hullahegy]. Then we started to throw the bodies onto trams [csillékbe; csille: tipper carts], as if we would shovel coal, and then took and put them into the ovens [kemencékbe]. The burning process [égetés] took place there. I worked with that work unit for three days, but this horrible work was bordering on madness and I was not able to do it any more. I told the Kommandoführer that I wanted to leave and he sent me to another crematorium, because there were five of them. My work was easier there, as my task was to drive, beat and chase people. It happened that an entire transport from Hungary had to be burnt upon their arrival without any selection. Neither the young nor the old could escape. Our equipments were more modern. Two thousand people were herded into a large hall, of course undressed, with soaps and towels. Then gas came out of the nozzles [tussokból, shower heads]. After the gas killed the people, the automatic [automataszerűen] floor started to move [megindult: opened] and it threw the bodies into the oven underneath [lévő kemencébe a holttesteket]. That was a circle-shaped floor, which could be divided into two mechanically [ez egy köralaku padló volt, ami gépszerkezetre vált kétté]. When all the corpses were thrown into the oven, the next transport arrived and it started all over again. The victims were unsuspecting and thought that the others before them left the room through another door. The procedure continued the same way. I worked there for six days and then one of my acquaintances sent me into an infirmary.

⁶⁶⁹ <http://degob.org/index.php?showjk=90>

People working there were generally not kept for more than 24 hours, because they were taken to the crematorium. We lived quite separated, and I managed to be sent to another camp. I was assigned to block 19 where 1200 of us stayed for about five to six days. Our food was a small piece of bread and some soup. From there we were transported to Warsaw. I received my first prisoner number there^[670] and I was taken into a block.”

Apart from the usual fantasies of the distribution of soap and towels to the victims and the showers emitting poison gas instead of water, the lightning-fast death (6 minutes maximum), the carts carrying the bodies to the furnaces, the gas chamber with doors (in the plural) and windows, this testimony contains the fable of the floor opening up automatically with the cremation furnaces located underneath, which was developed by other “witnesses” in numerous variants, each more fantastic than the last. Some of them I have already mentioned earlier, others will be examined later.

3.3.2. Protocol No. 151 (June 27, 1945)

K.I., female, born in 1928 at Miskolc:⁶⁷¹

“After the bath we were lined up in rows of five. I was in the first row and an SS came and whispered something to the German woman. Twenty of us were taken to one of the blocks. We were given bread, butter, salami and jam. We did not suspect anything, but the girls there sneaked into the block and told us that we would have to work in the gas chambers. This meant that we could not live longer than a few weeks [egy pár hétnél]. Until then we would be doing fine, but then it was going to be our turn. Panic set in: everybody was crying and I was smiling. Out of a transport 40-50 people were taken to the gas chamber. Some of them did not even know where they would be taken. They got a piece of bread and some margarine and first they were taken to the bath. Here they had to get naked, then after a couple of minutes gas poured on them and killed them. The doors were shut and it took three to four minutes for them to die. It was terrible to listen to it. I had never heard such desperate voices: ‘Mother, my child, my God, we are dying, help!’ They waited for 20 minutes, then the doors were open and Polish men [lengyel férfiak] with gas masks went into the gas chamber and dragged the corpses out. They were loaded onto a truck [teherautóra]. I saw the corpses with my own eyes: their face was blue [elkékült], their eyes were popping out, their fists were clenched. I saw mothers and children clasped in a non-separable way. Afterwards we had to go in and take the victims’ clothes out and carry it to a storehouse where they were sorted. These were the clothes the deported arrived in. German SS guards es-

⁶⁷⁰ This means that this inmate had not been registered at Auschwitz but stayed only for several days in the Birkenau transit camp.

⁶⁷¹ <http://degob.org/index.php?showjk=151>

corted us. I worked at the gas chambers for two weeks, then I managed to escape by joining a transport passing by.”

A woman claiming to have worked in the “*Sonderkommando*” (a term unknown to the witness), which consisted of “Polish men” and who were exterminated after only two weeks! This version of the fairy tale is rather scanty, but contains the “official,” impossibly short execution time of three to four minutes, as well as the 20 minutes’ waiting time mentioned by Nyiszli. Moreover, the victims’ faces were blue (wrong), and the victims were “loaded onto a truck,” evidently in order to transport them to the cremation furnaces, although those were located upstairs, reachable by a freight elevator.

3.3.3. Protocol No. 182 (June 30, 1945)

R.B., female, born in 1913 at Aknasugatag:⁶⁷²

“The 10th of August 1944, I was transported to Birkenau as an electrician. I worked in the crematorium [a krematóriumban]. I arrived when the most modern one of the six crematoria was just being renovated. I did the work of an electrician. The crematorium was closed: painters, electricians, bricklayers and carpenters worked in it. It looked the following way: victims first entered a lobby. It was a nice clean room with painted country sceneries and other pictures on the walls. The door of the changing room [vetközoterem] opened from here. Notes warned the entering people to keep the place clean. All around the wall there were numbered cloth[e]s hangers. There was a big note on the wall saying that everyone should remember the number of the hanger where they hanged [sic] their clothes, because numerous people wanted to have a bath. The next room was the bath [fürdőterem] with 600 places. There were four lines of showers. Instead of water gas flew [flowed] of the taps [a csapokból víz [víz] helyett gáz ömlött]. If they had sufficient time, people got first gassed but if there were many transports and they had to burn a lot of people at the same time and had no time for gassing them the floor simply turned and people fell in the fire alive [megfordult a padló és élve estek a tűzbe]. The floor had an invisible metal axis [in the middle] [a padló közepén egy láthatatlan vastengely volt elhelyezve], which was made to function by electricity [a szerkezet villanyárammal működött]. The switch was pushed by an SS man who stayed close in a cabin [egy SS kezelte a kapcsolóket egy kis szemszédos fülkéből, from within a small adjacent cabin]. If he pushed one of the switches the floor turned in an upright position and the victims slid on a conveyor belt that was invisible before, which carried them into the crematorium [Ha az egyik kapcsolót lenyomta, akkor a padló féloldalra billent és a szoba egyik szélén az áldozatok lecsusztak az előbb még láthatatlant futószőnyegre, mely egyenesen a krematoriumba vitte őket]. I worked here in a Son-

⁶⁷² <http://degob.org/index.php?showjk=182>

derkommando [special Kommando] that had 200 members, mostly Polish men. One day they learnt [sic] that they were going to kill us soon, too. As there was nothing to lose they decided to counter the SS with arms. The way they got hold of weapons will always remain a secret to me. They threw three SS men into the fire of the neighbouring crematorium, while they killed four others. They tore them into pieces in front of my eyes. 40 of them could manage to get away the rest were captured. I ran into another block. In Birkenau, in this Sonderkommando we had a great quantity of gold and silver, which had no value, no one wanted it. Food was first class. Once a son of a Transylvanian rabbi was also selected for the Sonderkommando. He refused to work here and ran against the electric wires and got shot by the SS. The next camp was Monowitz, where we worked for the plant of I. G. Farbenindustrie [sic] Buna.”

Here we have yet another version of the variegated propaganda stories put into circulation by Auschwitz resistance groups. The story of the gas chambers is once again colored with imaginary details, starting with the *six* crematoria and the entrance hall “with painted country sceneries and other pictures on the walls”! The gas chamber, camouflaged as a shower bath, had “600 *places*,” and inside, there were “four lines of showers,” from which, obviously, “instead of water, gas [flowed].” The description of the floor that opened up is much more-articulated, and borrows its literary motif from the “conveyor belt” already mentioned by Boris Polevoy.

This witness is the second woman claiming to have been a member of the “*Sonderkommando*”!

3.3.4. Protocol No. 2114 (August 26, 1945)

E.S., male, born in 1917 at Cigánd:⁶⁷³

“At the beginning of October one of the crematoria was to be blown up with hand grenades. The partisans were already close by then, and they were in close touch with the prisoners who acquired explosives from them. Unfortunately we Hungarians could not take part in the uprising. We were considered to be unreliable, as we had fought the Russians, even though the labour servicemen were craving a Russian victory.

The members of the Sonderkommando knew that they were to be executed, so that they would not be able to tell anything about what they had seen in the gas chamber and crematoria. Therefore they attempted to blow up the crematorium, to break through the barbed wire and to join the partisans waiting in the neighbouring woods. The crematorium was destroyed by the explosion, but unfortunately 99 percent of the Sonderkommando was killed. Next week eight of us tradesmen were assigned to the crematoria and first we dismantled the

⁶⁷³ <http://degob.org/index.php?showjk=2114>; the Hungarian text of the second paragraph cited is not available, since page 2 of the report, where it is found, has not been posted.

destroyed crematorium. When we finished, we were ordered to dismantle the other three crematoria as well. We dismantled iron doors, water pipes and ventilating devices. I saw the gas chamber with my own eyes. It was in a cellar. It was a huge hall with numbered hangers all around along the walls. Large placards in several languages called the attention of those entering to the fact that this was a bath and disinfection hall where everybody was obliged to hang his or her clothes on one of the numbered hangers, and to keep the number in mind so as to easily find it after bath. After getting undressed the victims went nude into the gas chamber, which looked like a shower bathroom. The shower heads were fixed up on the ceiling by nails, but there were no water pipes. There was a shaft driven through the roof to the room through which the cellophane pellets containing the poison gas were thrown in. Once I talked to a man of the Sonderkommando who worked in the gas chamber. He told me that death came within six to eight minutes. During this time the victims had to suffer pains so great that they tore open their throats and bit their fingers. Corpses were found lacking fingers, since the victims had unconsciously bitten them off before dieing [sic]. The commander of the crematorium observed this through a peep-hole, waiting for the moment of death. The ventilation was turned on to pump the gas out. The corpses were handed over to prisoners who pulled out golden teeth and carried the dead bodies to an elevator that went up to the crematorium. In the furnace room there were five ovens. The corpses were slid into the ovens on rolls. Aryans were not gassed, but shot in the nape of the neck. This type of execution took place also in the rooms of the crematorium. On January 18 we were set off on foot.”

This witness, who was not an eyewitness to any alleged gassing events but tells his story only from hearsay, sets forth a different and contrasting propaganda version compared to that of his “colleagues.”

99% of the “Sonderkommando” member inmates were killed during the “Sonderkommando” revolt, although its manpower actually dropped only from 663 to 212 inmates, thus losing 451 inmates, or 68%, as I have noted earlier. After its near-total extermination, eight tradesmen were assigned to the crematoria, and were ordered to dismantle Crematorium IV, the one damaged by the uprising that did indeed occur. This group of 8 tradesmen is purely imaginary even from the orthodox point of view. The witness *saw* the gas chamber *with his own eyes* – while dismantling equipment in the crematorium: this was a room, always disguised as a shower bath, but the showerheads were completely fake, according to one of the many variants of the tale. The witness nevertheless remedied this lack of imagination by introducing a very original gassing system: “There was a shaft driven through the roof to the room through which the cellophane pellets containing the poison gas were thrown in.” Another rather peculiar invention is that “Corpses were found lacking fingers.” The duration for the killing, six to eight minutes, is nevertheless typical of the absurd execution times invented by the resistance groups.

3.3.5. Lieberman (1945)

On September 27, 1945, this witness, of whom nothing is known, signed a detailed statement on the presumed technique of extermination at Auschwitz. The source turned out to be inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” housed in the same block, but Lieberman claims to have visited “the gas chamber and the crematorium” personally, on one occasion. With great originality, Lieberman fuses the fairy tales of the tipping floors and conveyor belt, which already had an imaginative expositor in a number of war-time resistance reports and in Boris Polevoy (see Subchapters 2.3.3. and 3.1.2.). This is his tale, narrated to a large degree from hearsay:⁶⁷⁴

“As already mentioned, I was one of a working party whose duty it was to unload potatoes at the station. We had at this time no contact with the prisoners of the big camp. We were separated in quarantine but housed together with another working party which was serving the crematorium and the gas chamber. It is due to this fact that I know how things occurred. The men and women entered the so-called bath room and undressed separately to avoid panic. Once they were undressed they entered by separate doors in the central chamber. This chamber could take 3,000 people. The gas was released through sprays of the showers and from bombs which were thrown through apertures which were designed to allow for that procedure. Death occurred within five minutes. On certain days when enormous transports arrived at the station of Birkenau 42,000 people were gassed. Once the gassing process had been completed, the floor of the chamber opened automatically and the corpses fell into the subterranean chamber where prisoners in charge of extracting the teeth or cutting hair of a certain length, took over. On several occasions I have myself seen in the evening, after a good day’s work, the gold teeth or the hair which came from the corpses and which had been kept by the prisoners who lived with us in quarantine. Once the gold teeth had been recovered, the corpses were loaded on to a moving belt and transported to cremation ovens, through subterranean gangways. There were four ovens, a big one and three small ones, which were capable of burning 400 corpses in five minutes. Later on, when the number of corpses outdid the capacity of the ovens, trenches were dug and the corpses thrown in saturated with petrol. I have personally seen these trenches and smelled the stench of the combustion. I have equally been able to visit the gas chamber and the crematorium, when I was detailed to clean up on a day when they were not in use. It so happened that one of the prisoners who worked at the station recognized a member of his family amongst new arrivals. He threw himself on his father and told him that he was going to die. Both were immediately beaten to death by the SS. On another occasion, a very beautiful woman who was perfectly well aware of what was go-

⁶⁷⁴ *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*. Office of United States Chief Counsel for Prosecution of Axis Criminality, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946; Vol. VI, pp. 1100-1105, here from pp. 1101-1103 (Document D 251).

ing to happen to her, succeeded, [in] the billet of the block leader where she had been conducted under the pretext of having to wait, in taking his revolver and killing him and herself. After this 400 women were selected in the camp of Birkenau and executed as a reprisal. I have personally seen these women before they entered the gas chamber. I have no photographs of the gas chamber or crematorium of Birkenau in my possession.

Due to my employment of unloading at the station I knew of the gas, called 'Cyclon'. This gas was kept in little bombs which were themselves kept in metal cylinders. They were marked 'Cyclon Gas I.G.V. from Hamburg to Auschwitz'. When corpses were burnt, they were put on a platform, five adults being placed longways whereas corpses of children were put aside as one could place double their number on the platform. This explains the SS use of the word 'abrechnung,' which means 'accounting'. I have never seen the trolleys for the transport of corpses personally, nor have I seen the ovens operating; but as I have already mentioned, several of the working party, which was serving the gas chambers and ovens lived with us and have given me all the details. This special working party was called Sonderkommando [special commando]. A certain Jacob Weinschein of Paris,^[675] who is a survivor of this commando, is personally known to me. He escaped death because he was in hospital when his companions were gassed. In point of fact members of this commando were, themselves, put to death in the gas chamber after two or three months of employment. I know this fact, which was witnessed by the new commando which replaced them and whose first task it was to gas their predecessors. They were selected from the new arrivals, who were completely ignorant of the procedure in operation. They told us that they had to transport the corpses of their gassed comrades, who had been tattooed on the first day of work. As soon as the Red Army approached in August 1944, the ashes from the cremation ovens were exhumed by the prisoners by order of the SS. I have held a handful of these ashes myself. I have seen them carried to the edge of a river which crossed the camp. The work was not carried out by the sonderkommando but by several hundreds of prisoners of the camp itself."

Men and women "entered by separate doors in the central chamber," a literary invention which has at least a logic of its own. Refusing to waive a single detail, the witness puts together the emission of the gas "through sprays of the showers and from bombs" containing "Cyclon Gas I.G.V. from Hamburg to Auschwitz," a completely fictitious inscription. Death, according to the common lore, set in after five minutes. By virtue of the famous German technical genius, "the floor of the chamber opened automatically and the corpses fell into the subterranean chamber," after which "the corpses were loaded onto a moving belt and transported to cremation ovens, through subterranean gangways." At Birkenau there were "four ovens, a big one and three small ones, which were capable of burning 400 corpses in five minutes." Even if this is

⁶⁷⁵ Person unknown to Holocaust historiography.

understood to refer to crematoria, the claim is still false, because we are speaking of two pairs of mirror-symmetrical installations. The cremation capacity is truly extraordinary: 400 bodies in five minutes corresponding to 115,200 per day! Nevertheless, there were cases in which “the number of corpses outdid the capacity of the ovens,” and it was necessary to have recourse to cremation “trenches,” although, at the peak of the enormous transports to Birkenau, “42,000 people were gassed.” As far as anyone can tell, the “trenches” functioned on petroleum: obviously the SS had an abundance of the stuff and could waste it in this manner.

3.4. Testimonies of Prisoners Who Claim to Have Escaped a Gassing

3.4.1. Abraham Cykert (1945)

This witness was a Jew from Łódź who had been deported from the “Rokov” Ghetto to “Belszic” and thence to Auschwitz, whence he was transferred to Buchenwald. “Rokov” is a non-existent locality, and it is no doubt a distortion of some other name which is difficult to identify.⁶⁷⁶ “Belszic” by contrast is probably a distortion of Bełżec, which had its own railway station; if this is so, it was only a transit camp for the transport of the witness.⁶⁷⁷

“In the evening we reached the railway station at Belszic, where cattle trucks were waiting. A hundred people were squeezed into each of them. I heard an S.S. man reporting to his superior officer: ‘Six hundred and thirty-two.’ ‘That is all?’ he was asked. ‘Yes,’ he answered ‘the rest we got rid of on the way.’ After waiting for a few hours the cattle trucks started moving. We did not know where we were being taken.”

And here is the story relating to Auschwitz:

“I was trapped and driven with the others to the gas chamber. Here I saw the crematorium before my eyes. I stopped breathing and I felt like losing consciousness. Suddenly the order was given to undress. Together with the others I obeyed automatically. There was no will and no realisation of what I was doing. We all stood completely naked in the corridor leading to the gas chamber and waiting for the order to march in, when suddenly what looked like a high-ranking S.S. officer of the crematorium personnel arrived. He appeared in my eyes as the chief emissary of death, and, strangely, on looking at him I regained my consciousness: ‘I am going to die, I am going to die.’”

⁶⁷⁶ There was a “Roków” in the Krakow Voivodeship, but according to the 1931 census, only 9 Jews lived there (*Black Book*..., p. 52).

⁶⁷⁷ “From the Ghetto to Auschwitz. The Story of a Jewish Boy,” in: *Manchester Guardian*, May 14, 1945. TNA, FO 371-50975.

It appears that this 'expert of death' came for a last-minute inspection. The naked victims were again marched past him. Here and there he pushed one out of the line. My turn came; he looked at me and pushed me out as well. There were about fifty of us and we were standing aside wondering what would be the end of this terrible game. Suddenly he turned to us and shouted, 'Get dressed in two minutes.'

We ran like mad back to where we had undressed. When I returned to camp I realised that I had four shirts on me instead of a jacket, a left shoe on my right foot and no shoe at all on my left one, and some useless garments under my arm.

Three hours later the furnaces of the crematorium were already burning. We watched its thick smoke and knew its terrible meaning."

This story, vague and general as regards crematorium and gas chamber, is obviously imaginary, above all regarding the circumstances of the witness's "salvation."

3.4.2. Regina Bialek (1945)

This witness was a Polish Jewess from Skladowa, deported to Auschwitz in July 1942 and later transferred to Bergen-Belsen on a date not indicated. She participated in the Bergen-Belsen Trial, at which she signed a statement, dated May 26, 1945, the principal points of which are reproduced below:⁶⁷⁸

"3. On 25th December 1943 I was sick with typhus and was picked out at a selection made by Doctors MENGELE and TAUBER along with 350 other women. I was made to undress and taken by lorry to a gas chamber. There were 7 gas chambers at AUSCHWITZ. This particular one was underground and the lorry was able to run down the slope and straight into the chamber. Here we were tipped unc[e]remoniously on the floor. The room was about 12 yards square and small lights on the walls dimly illuminated it. When the room was full, a hissing sound was heard coming from the centre point on the floor and gas came into the room. After what seemed about 10 minutes some of the victims began to bite their hands and foam at the mouth and blood issued from their ears, eyes and mouth and their faces went blue. I suffered from all these symptoms together with a tight feeling at the throat. I was half conscious when my number was called out by Dr. MENGELE and I was led from the chamber. I attribute my escape to the fact that the daughter of a friend of mine who was an Aryan and a Doctor at AUSCHWITZ has seen me being transported to the gas chamber and had told her mother, who immediately appealed to Doctor Mengele. Apparently he realized that as a political prisoner I was of more value alive than dead and I was released.

⁶⁷⁸ Deposition of Regina Bialek dated May 26, 1945. Belsen Trial, Exhibit "66." TNA, WO 309-1697.

4. I think that the time taken to kill a person in this particular gas chamber would be from 15 to 20 minutes.

5. I was told that the staff of the prisoners who worked in the gas chamber and crematorium next door changed every 3 months. The old staff being taken to a villa in the camp to do some repair work. Here they were locked in the rooms and gas bombs thrown through the window. I estimate that in December 1943 about 7000 people disappeared from AUSCHWITZ apparently by way of the gas chamber and crematorium.”

This tale remixes the above-mentioned propaganda themes in an imaginative and original manner. There were seven gas chambers, and the one into which the witness was allegedly led was underground, but a truck was able to unload its human cargo directly into this basement room by means of a ramp. The surface area of the chamber was “12 yards square,” which corresponds to about 10 square meters: a little small for such an operation (alternatively, this could refer to 12×12 yards, hence some 120 m²). There is no need to stress that Morgue #1 of Crematoria II and III were in the basement, but measured 210 square meters, and above all, did not have an access ramp for the delivery of persons or anything else by truck.

The gas entered “from the centre point *on the floor*” *hissing*; it was therefore already in the gaseous state and delivered under pressure. The symptoms of hydrogen-cyanide poisoning described are quite imaginary and all wrong: the victims bit their hands (according to the Hungarian witness, author of the report dated August 26, 1945, the victims bit their own fingers off, and their bodies “were found lacking fingers”), they foamed at the mouth and bled from the ears, eyes, and mouth, while their faces turned *blue*.

The story of how she was saved is simply crazy: Dr. Mengele entered the gas chamber, without a gas mask, because he called the inmate’s number so loud that she could hear it and was thus saved!

The story of the presumed killing of the “*Sonderkommando*” at the beginning of December 1942, which was obviously circulating in various versions, takes place in a *villa*: the killing was performed by means of “gas bombs thrown through the window”!

3.4.3. Sofia Litwinska (1945)

This witness was a Jewess from Lublin who was arrested on May 19, 1941 and sent to Auschwitz approximately in mid-1942, where she remained until November 1944. She was later transferred to Bergen-Belsen, where she participated in the Bergen-Belsen Trial. She signed a deposition under the name of Zofia Litwińska, and was also questioned in court. In her deposition dated May 24, 1945 she declared.⁶⁷⁹

⁶⁷⁹ Deposition of Sofia Litwinska of May 24, 1945. Belsen Trial, Exhibit “62.” TNA, WO 309-1697.

“2. At AUSCHWITZ on 24th December 1942 I was paraded in company with about 19,000 other prisoners, all of them women. Present on parade were Doctors MENGELE and KONIG and Rapportfuehrer TAUBER. I was one of 3,000 prisoners picked out of the 19,000 by the Doctors and taken to our huts where we were stripped naked by other prisoners and our clothes taken away. We were then taken by ‘Tipper-type’ lorries to the gas chamber chute. They were large lorries, about 8 in all and about 300 persons on each lorry. On arrival at the gas chamber the lorry tipped up and we slid down the chute through some doors into a large room. The room had showers round, towels and soap and a large number of benches. There were also small windows high up near the roof. Many were injured coming down the chute and lay where they fell. Those of us who could sat down on the benches provided and immediately afterwards the doors of the room were closed. My eyes began to water, I started coughing and had a pain in my chest and throat. Some of the other people fell down and others coughed and foamed at the mouth. After being in the room for about 2 minutes the door was opened and an SS man came in wearing a respirator. He called my name and then pulled me out of the room and quickly shut the door again. When I got outside I saw SS man FRANZ HESSLER [sic] whom I can identify as No. 1 on Photo 9. He took me to Hospital where I stayed for about 6 weeks receiving special treatment from Dr. MENGELE. For the first few days I was at the hospital I found it impossible to eat anything without vomiting. I can only think that I was taken out of the gas chamber because I had an Aryan husband and therefore was in a different category from the other prisoners who were all Jews. I now suffer from a weak heart and have had two attacks since being in Belsen. I do not know the names of any persons who went into the gas chamber with me.”

Under questioning during the hearing of September 24, 1945 at the Belsen Trial, the witness made chronologically contradictory statements. She said in fact that she arrived at Auschwitz in early fall 1941, and that she recovered in the women inmate’s hospital, where there was a big selection “the day before Christmas Day” involving “over 3,000 women,” among them herself. This dating cannot be correct, since the first women’s transport reached Auschwitz on March 26, 1942.⁶⁸⁰ The questioning continued as follows:⁶⁸¹

“Q. What happened to you then?”

A. We stayed in block number 4 for a night, and the next day we were taken to block number 18 and stayed there the whole day.

Q. What happened to you then?”

A. Then at about five or half past five in the evening trucks arrived and we were loaded into these quite naked like animals.

⁶⁸⁰ NOKW-2824 (*Frauenlager*), p. 1.

⁶⁸¹ Proceedings of a Military Court for the Trial of War Criminals held at Lüneburg, Germany, on Monday, 24 September 1945, upon the trial of Josef Kramer and 44 Others. Seventh Day. Transcript of the Official Shorthand Notes, pp. 4f. *United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program*, 1988, Reel No. 51.

Q. Where were you driven to?

A. The /sic/ crematorium.

Q. When you reached the crematorium what happened there?

A. We left the trucks and were led into a room which gave the impression of a shower bath. There were towels hanging round and sprays, and even mirrors.

Q. How did you leave the truck?

A. The whole truck was tipped over in the way as they do it sometimes with potatoes or coal loads.

Q. How many of you were there in the room altogether?

A. I cannot say really because I was so terrified about all these happenings that I have no idea about the numbers which were there.

Q. Were the doors closed?

A. I cannot say; I have never thought when I was there I shall leave and be here present in the court to speak about it.

Q. What happened next?

A. There were tears; people were shouting at each other; people were hitting each other. There were healthy people; strong people; weak people; and sick people, and suddenly I saw fumes coming in through a window.

Q. What do you mean when you say window?

A. On top, very small sort of windows.

Q. What effect did this have on you?

A. I had to cough very violently; tears were streaming out from my eyes, and I had a sort of feeling in my throat as if I would be asphyxiated.

Q. What happened to other people around you?

A. I could not look even at the others because each of us was only concentrated on what happened to himself.

Q. What was the next thing that you remember?

A. In that moment I heard my name called. I had not the strength to answer it, but I raised my arm. Then I felt somebody take me and throw me out from that room.

Q. When you got out did you see anyone there?

A. Then Hoessler took me on a motor-cycle – he put a blanket round me – and took me again into the hospital.

Q. How long did you stay in the hospital?

A. Six weeks.

Q. What effect did the gas have on you?

A. I have still quite frequently headaches; I have heart trouble, and whenever I went into the fresh air my eyes were filled with tears.”

The scenario of this tale is the presumed gas chamber of Crematorium I at the Auschwitz Main Camp, which the witness imaginatively describes according to the propaganda stereotypes of the time: a chamber camouflaged as a shower bath, with “showers round, towels and soap and a large number of benches,” plus “sprays, and even *mirrors*,”(!) and the ever-present “small windows high up near the roof.” Cans of Zyklon B were not thrown into the gas chamber

from these small windows, however; the witness saw in fact “*fumes coming in through a window*”! That she never set foot in the crematorium is shown by the fact that her description shows a total lack of any distinctive features of the crematorium (the low structure, the sloping side walls covered with earth, the high chimney), and more importantly by her false claim that the inmates were made to “slide down the chute through some doors into a large room,” although all rooms of Crematorium I were on ground level, and it could be entered only by means of one single door, which provided access to a small room (vestibule), giving access to another small room (wash room) and thence to the morgue – or alleged gas chamber.⁶⁸²

On December 24, 1942 – “the day before Christmas Day” – occupancy at the women’s camp at Birkenau was 5,400 female inmates.⁶⁸³ According to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, there was one single “selection” in the women’s camp of Birkenau in December 1942, over the course of which 2,000 women inmates were allegedly gassed. The source is a book written in Slovakian and published in Bratislava in 1962. The fact that Danuta Czech took recourse to this source means that no testimony exists in this regard, neither from the Höss Trial nor the Auschwitz Camp Garrison Trial. Hence, we may deduce the value of this source. At any rate, the day of the presumed gassing was December 5, not the 24th, and the location concerned was not Crematorium I. The inmates were in fact “brought to the gas chambers in the bunkers” (Czech 1990, p. 279). Piper confirms that “the morgue at crematorium I was used as a gas chamber from the autumn of 1941 to the autumn of 1942” (Piper 2000, pp. 133).

We should also not overlook the absurdity of “about 300 persons on each lorry”!

3.4.4. Bruno Piazza (1956)

This Italian Jew was deported from Trieste to Auschwitz on July 31, 1944, and registered under number 190712. In a brochure published in 1956, which attests to the incredible persistence of the most-absurd fables about the claimed extermination, he described this extraordinary experience as follows (Piazza, pp. 127-131):

“I heard one of them say, ‘Crematorium’. We continued marching through the camp, between two rows of barracks of a type quite similar to those of the last camp. When we got to the end, they made us turn left and then made us enter a barracks in semi-darkness, all eight hundred of us. Night had already fallen. In the middle there was a stove that had gone out and three zinc buckets. Sud-

⁶⁸² Central Construction Office Plan No. 1241 “Bestandplan des Gebäudes Nr. 47a B.V. 11” of April 10, 1942. See Mattogno 2016b, Doc. 4, p. 110.

⁶⁸³ TNA, HW 16/10. ZIP/GPCC101/7.1.43. G.P.C.C. F: December 1942.

denly, they turned on the lights and we saw that we were in a sort of shower room. Twenty shower heads hung from the ceiling. [...] This room was the antechamber of the crematorium, was the gas chamber [...].

No doubt of it now. I had heard of the system: they put a white layer of potassium-cyanide powder underneath the shower and then suddenly turned on the water. This caused the release of deadly poisonous cyanide gas from the powder. Then the clerk [sic] entered with a mask on his face, sprinkled the powder, turned on the shower, left, closed the door, and after ten minutes we were all dead, asphyxiated. At the other end of the room was a high door which was said to lead to the crematorium by means of an inclined plane. [...]

In the past, asphyxiation had been achieved using a different method from the current one, with the showers. A hole was pierced in the ceiling. The hole was opened by an automatic valve, ejecting three or four pre-prepared cyanide gas cylinders into the interior of the chamber. But the system was not very safe, because sometimes the cover of the cylinder didn't break during the fall, and it was then necessary to repeat the procedure four or five times, to be sure that the gas had actually been emitted."

The witness did not explain how he succeeded in escaping from the gassing. Although relatively late in coming, this fabulous narration presents new and original literary motifs: the gas chamber was located in a barracks, always camouflaged as a shower bath, but there was a stove on the inside. The twenty showers were real: the water squirting out of them moistened a layer of potassium-cyanide powder from which deadly hydrogen-cyanide fumes escaped into the air. At the end of the barracks was another door, leading to the crematorium by means of an inclined plane, so that the crematorium was located on a lower level than the gas chamber.

Piazza imaginatively reworked the fable of the "bombs filled with hydrogen cyanide" mentioned by Tabeau: for Piazza, these were *cylinders* whose covers broke on impact, allowing the (liquid) hydrogen cyanide to evaporate!

3.5. Incidental Witnesses of the Gas Chambers

3.5.1. Ada Bimko (1945)

The Polish Jewess Ada Bimko was deported from Sosnowitz to Auschwitz on August 4, 1943, and transferred to Bergen-Belsen on November 23, 1944. She signed two depositions for the Belsen Trial and was questioned in court.

On May 9, 1945, the witness declared:⁶⁸⁴

"I set out hereafter what I observed myself with regard to the mass exterminations of prisoners and I will name the persons each of whom individually selected persons for extermination. I have examined the records of the numbers

⁶⁸⁴ "Deposition of Ada Bimko," May 9, 1945. TNA, WO 235-21.

cremated and I say that the record[s] show that about 4,000,000 persons were cremated at the camp. I say that from my own observation I have no doubt that at least this number were exterminated.”

In a later deposition of May 28, 1945, Ada Bimko told the following story:⁶⁸⁵

“1. In the BERKENAU [sic] section of AUSCHWITZ camp there were five brick buildings. These five buildings were similar in appearance and different from all the other buildings in the camp. They were commonly known by all the prisoners in the camp as crematoriums. [...]

2. One day in August 1944 I was able to visit one of these buildings. The visit was pre-arranged with an S.S. Unterscharfuhrer [sic] (name unknown) who belonged to the medical staff and who agreed to show me round. I met him near the building. We agreed to say that our visit was in order to fetch blankets if anyone stopped us. The S.S. man took me in a door of the building and inside we met a Polish prisoner named JOSEF GOLDBERG. I know this man’s name because he comes from my home town. He was employed in this building. I do not know his present whereabouts. The door through which we entered the building led into what appeared to be an undressing room. There were hooks on the wall and the S.S. man told me it was an undressing room. This was on the ground floor. From this room there was another door. We walked through this door which led us into another room which had the appearance of a shower bath room. I noticed that there were five or six rows of spray fittings in the roof, with about twenty sprays to each row. The floor, walls and ceiling were made of concrete. The room was about 48 ft square and 10 ft high.^[686] One thing that I noticed was that there were no drains, so that if water came through the sprays it could not drain away. The floor being on the same level as other rooms this would mean that water would flood right through the building. The S.S. man told me that this room was the gas chamber.

3. Walking through the gas chamber room we went through another door which led into a passage pointing directly ahead. It was rather dark in there at the time and I could not see the far end of the passage. There were two rails leading from the door of the gas chamber down the passage and on these two rails was a flat-topped wagon. The S.S. man told me that the wagon was used to take the dead bodies from the gas chamber to the crematorium at the other end of the passage.

4. We then walked back through the gas chamber and undressing room to the door where I had entered the building. Near this door were some stairs. We went up these stairs and came to a room above the gas chamber. Across this room were two pipes each about three inches thick [7.6 cm]. I did not notice whether there were any branch pipes leading from them. The S.S. man told me that the pipes, which were on the floor, were connected to the spray fittings in

⁶⁸⁵ “Further Deposition of Ada Bimko,” May 28, 1945. TNA, WO 235-21.

⁶⁸⁶ 48 ft square = 4.46 square meters; 48 feet = 14.6 meters; 10 ft = 3.05 m.

the gas chamber below. In a corner of the room were two large cylinders but I did not notice whether these cylinders were connected to the pipes. The S.S. man told me that the cylinders contained the gas which passed through the pipes into the gas chamber. I then left the room.

5. With reference to the gas chamber there were also hooks on the walls in this room. The S.S. man told me that they were there to hang towels on as condemned prisoners were led to believe that it was a shower room, and were given towels to deceive them.”

In another deposition, dated June 1, 1945, Ada Bimko stated:⁶⁸⁷

“Referring to my Deposition sworn on the 9th May 1945 paragraph 1, the records which I examined were not official records but were figures kept by prisoners who worked at the crematorium.”

Ada Bimko was questioned during the fifth hearing of the Belsen Trial (September 21, 1945). The following are the most-significant passages from the transcript:⁶⁸⁸

“Q. How many gas chambers were there at Auschwitz?”

A. Five crematoria.

Q. In what section of the camp were the crematoria?

A. I do remember one crematorium which was just behind the women’s camp and a second which was in a part of the camp called Brzezinki, and all the others, particularly all the chimneys of these crematoria, were quite visible from our camp.

Q. Was Auschwitz divided into a number of camps?

A. Yes.

Q. Which camps were the crematoria in?

A. The crematoria were in a portion called the Berkenau. [sic...]

Col. Backhouse. Have you ever been into one of the gas chambers?

A. Yes.

Q. When was that?

A. In August 1944. I was working in a portion of the camp which was called D as a doctor, and again a new crowd of those selected for the gas chamber had arrived, and as they were sick they came covered with a blanket. After two days we were told to fetch all those blankets from the gas chamber. I took the opportunity, as I always wanted to see with my own eyes this ill-famed gas chamber, and I went. I did go into this crematorium.

Q. Will you describe it to the court?

A. It was a brick building and there were trees around in a way as if it were camouflaged. I went in and in the first room I met a man whom I knew who

⁶⁸⁷ Third Further Deposition of Ada Bimko, June 1, 1945. TNA, WO 235-21.

⁶⁸⁸ Proceedings of a Military Court for the Trial of War Criminals held at Lüneburg, Germany, on Friday, 21 September 1945, upon the trial of Josef Kramer and 44 Others. Fifth Day. Transcript of the Official Shorthand Notes, pp. 5-7. *United Nations Archives. Security Microfilm Program*, 1988, Reel No. 51.

came from the same town as I do; his name was Jozef Goldberg. In this first room there was also an S.S. man with a rank of *Unterscharfuhrer* [sic], and he belonged to the Red Cross. I recognised the insignia, so I know he belonged to the Red Cross. I was told that in this first big room the people left their clothes. From this room people were led into a second which made an enormous impression. I gained the impression that hundreds and hundreds of people may go into this room it was so large. It gave me the impression of a showerbath, because it resembled the showerbaths or ablution rooms we had in the camp. There were showers on the top of the ceiling.

Q. How many of these sprays were there?

A. There must have been very many, because these sprays were all over the ceiling in rows which went parallel.

Q. Of what were the floor, walls and ceiling made?

A. It was just like a shower bath.

Q. Were there any drains?

A. No. That was the most astonishing fact for somebody who did observe, I did not see any drains on the floor. It was most astonishing, because all those people who went into this room were issued with a towel and a cake of soap so that they should have the impression they are going to have a bath, but for anybody who looked at the floor it was quite clear that it was not so, because there were no drains.

Q. Did you then leave the actual room with the sprays in?

A. I was in that room with the sprays and there was a small door which opened to a room which was pitch dark; it gave the impression of a corridor. I saw a few lines of rails with a small wagon, which was called a lorry, they called it a lorry, and I was told that those prisoners who were already gassed were put on these wagons and sent directly to the crematorium.

Q. Was the crematorium in the same building?

A. I believe it was in the same building, but I myself did not see the stove.

Q. To avoid any confusion later, what did the prisoners usually call these buildings?

A. Crematoriums.

Q. Did you see any other room in the building?

A. Yes, I have seen another room. I was led a few steps and there, higher above this room, there was a small room with a very low ceiling, and I noticed two pipes. I was told that those two pipes contained the gas. Then in a corner I saw two huge metal containers, which, as I later was told, contained also gas.

Q. Did any of the prisoners keep any records in respect of these gas chambers?

A. Yes. There was a troop of internees who were working in these crematorium [sic] and this working kommando had the name of 'Sonderkommando,' special kommando. These kommandos were changed after a few months, because they themselves were also destroyed; they were gassed. One of those who took part in these kommandos, a man called Grzeck, told me that others of those kom-

mandos before having been gassed had complete records of all those transports which did arrive and then eventually were destroyed. This man Grzeck told me that others who took part in these kommandos, and in fact he himself, kept records and that the number of those Jews who were destroyed in this gas chamber would be about four million."

Ada Bimko claimed to have "examined the records of the numbers cremated," showing a total number of four million victims, but in contradiction with this, she asserted: "This man Grzeck *told me* [...] that the number of those Jews who were destroyed in this gas chamber would be about four million." This is obviously a shameless lie. This is also true for her description of the crematorium for a plethora of reasons.

The reason for her claimed inspection of the gas chamber is utterly absurd. She claimed that she had "pre-arranged" the visit "with an S.S. Unterscharführer (name unknown) who belonged to the medical staff." It would therefore be necessary to believe that an inmate, at Birkenau, could take a tour of the gas chambers by prior arrangement with an unknown *Unterscharführer!* During the trial, the witness later stated that the reason for her visit was to recover blankets left by gassed registered women inmates, although in her deposition she had stated that this was merely a cover story she and the SS man had agreed on in case "anyone stopped us." According to the final orthodox version, recovering items left behind by gassed inmates was the responsibility of the "*Sonderkommando*" members. What is more, it would have been absurd to send a single female inmate to recover the blankets of a "crowd of those selected for the gas chamber." By her own account, Ada Bimko was a physician "in a portion of the camp which was called D," which at Birkenau could only have been Sector BIId. But this sector was a men's camp at that time. The female inmates' hospital was located in Sector BIb. If we follow Danuta Czech, there were no selections of female inmates in August 1944. Quite on the contrary, on August 11, 212 sick inmates (malaria patients) were transferred from Auschwitz to Flossenbürg Concentration Camp (Czech 1990, p. 684).

Since the rooms in the crematorium allegedly visited by her were all "on the ground floor" or "on the same level," this could only have been Crematorium IV-V, but she was evidently unfamiliar with the differences between the two pairs of crematoria, because for her there were "five brick buildings. These five buildings were *similar in appearance*." At any rate, the description supplied by the witness is in total contradiction to the actual blueprints of these facilities. According to her, they entered through one door (1) into an undressing room (2), and from there, another door (3) led to a room looking like a shower room (4). This room had yet another door (5) that led into a kind of corridor (6) where there were "two rails leading from the door of the gas chamber down the passage and on these two rails was a flat-topped wagon" which led "directly to the crematorium."

Document 17 in the Appendix is a drawing of Crematorium V as in service in 1944, drawn by Polish Investigative Judge Jan Sehn based on the statements of the witness Szlama Dragon. The west wing (upper part of the drawing) allegedly contained four gas chambers (K1-4); the first (K1) also had a secondary entrance from the outside. The main entrance was located in the south facade (at the left), and led to a small “corridor” (in fact, an atrium) (Kr), from which one could access Gas Chamber No. 4 (K4), the “*Sonderkommando*” room (Sk), the SS kitchen (Ku), and undressing room (Rb). From the latter, through the area containing one of the two chimneys, one could enter the furnace room. The access door used by Ada Bimko, excluding the two doors opposite the furnace room, which she did not visit, could not have been any of the doors leading into (K1-4), because in that case she would have found herself directly inside one of the gas chambers, nor could it have been the main entrance into (Kr), because in that case she would have been inside the “corridor.” Moreover, the room said to have been the undressing room of Crematoria IV and V (Rb) had no door leading directly into any of its claimed gas chambers. In addition, for the witness, the crematorium had *one single* gas chamber. In practice, such a door as she described never existed.

Entering into the details so generously supplied by the witness, the gas chamber measured “about 48 ft square and 10 ft high,” or approximately 4.46 m² and 3 m high. Plan No. 2036 of Crematorium IV dated January 11, 1943 indicates the precise dimensions of the three rooms presumably used as gas chambers (Pressac 1989, p. 399):

- Chamber 1: 7.72 m × 12.35 m
- Chamber 2: 8.40 m × 11.69 m
- Chamber 3: 3.70 m × [11.69 – x] m
- Chamber 4: 3.70 m × [11.69 – y] m (with x+y=11.69 m)

The third room, 11.69 meters long and 3.70 meters wide, is said to have been divided into two parts in such a way as to obtain four gas chambers. The height of the rooms was 2.20 meters. The indication “48 ft square” makes no sense, since the room was supposed to contain “five or six rows of spray fittings in the roof, with about twenty sprays to each row,” therefore, at least 100 *real* showerheads, which nevertheless squirted “gas” instead of water. But according to Plan No. 1941 dated November 24, 1942, the 54 showerheads provided for the *Zentralsauna* occupied a surface area measuring 7.58 m × 9.38 m = ca. 71 m² (*ibid.*, p. 68). Hence, “48 ft square” has to refer to a room 48 ft (about 14.6 meters) wide *and* long, hence 2,304 sq ft² (some 214 m², which is close to the floor area of Morgue #1 in Crematoria II & III).

What is more, the witness had “the impression that hundreds and hundreds of people may go into this room it was so large.” Another piece of nonsense is that she considered the gas chamber to be much larger than the undressing room, but in Crematoria IV and V, the room presumably used for this purpose,

i.e., the undressing room, measured 19.84 m × 12.35 m = 245 m², so that rather this room should have impressed the witness for its size.

Ada Bimko asserted that the gas chamber had no “drains,” but Plan No. 2036 shows drains in Rooms 1 and 2, so that the room in question must have been Number 3; but this was presumably divided into two gas chambers, and had no access from the undressing room.

The witness eventually turned back and exited through the door through which she had entered: “Near this door were some stairs. We went up these stairs and came to a room above the gas chamber.” But such a stairway never existed, and above the presumed gas chambers there was only trusses supporting the roof, without access.

As for the cremation furnaces, we would have to believe that the ever-so helpful SS guide and the two inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” with whom the witness had spoken, Jozef Goldberg and Grzeck, who briefed her in detail about the gas chamber and on the number of victims, said nothing whatsoever about the cremation furnaces, since she only spoke of “the stove,” in the singular.

Ada Bimko was therefore too-obviously a liar, and a perjurer to boot, because she had sworn to tell the truth. Nevertheless, Robert Jan van Pelt credulously declared her a truthful and reliable witness. The miserable tricks and artifices he used to achieve this shall be set forth in Chapter 5.4. Precisely for this reason, I for-now suspend refuting in a documented way the evidently false statements of this witness.

3.5.2. Jeannette Kaufmann (1945)

The statements which follow are testimonies of inmates who claim to have been employed in dismantling the crematoria at the end of 1944.

The witness Kaufmann was deported to the East from Vienna on February 27, 1941 and passed through several labor camps. From the last of these, Bliżyn, she was transferred to Birkenau on August 1, 1944. Here she was assigned to the crematorium-demolition squad. On February 4 or 5, 1945, she arrived at Bergen-Belsen via Breslau-Hundsfield, Gross-Rosen and Mauthausen.

In a deposition dated April 21, 1945, the witness declared the following:⁶⁸⁹

“Six weeks there as part of a gang dismantling the crematorium taught me what was beyond human conception. The crematorium was pulled down to try and hide traces of it’s [sic] vile work.”

⁶⁸⁹ Deposition of Jeannette Kaufmann, April 21, 1945. Belsen Trial. Durham County Record Office, D/DLI 7/404/12; online at: www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/article/10750/Transcript-of-statement-given-by-Jeanette-Kaufmann-in-Belsen-Concentration-Camp-21-April-1945-DDLI-740412.

The building was rather deceptive in appearance. It consisted of five chimneys, from their respective furnaces, looking from the outside rather like a laundry. The output of the establishment was 20 bodies every 10 minutes. The place was camouflaged to represent a sanatorium with a light railway line running into it for conveying sick persons too ill to walk. Inscriptions explained the passageways leading to the various departments – ‘Waiting Room’ – ‘Clothing Room’ – ‘Bathroom’. The last mentioned room had a very big door like that of a bank safe. The bathroom was actually fitted out with shower sprays, but they were connected to gas pipes instead of water pipes. Our colleagues forming part of the permanent staff of the building explained some of the routine details of the working to us. The ‘Bathroom’ was designed to cope with 2,000 people in 15 minutes. Small transports had to wait for hours on end and even days until the required number could be made up in order to conserve gas. The big majority of the victims were conscious of what was about to happen to them in spite of the elaborate [sic] camouflaging of the place. A detailed account of my knowledge of the place would fill a large volume.”

Jeannette Kaufmann also signed another deposition, longer yet undated, in which she supplied other particulars on her work in the crematorium.⁶⁹⁰

“On August 1st 1944, we were all moved to Birkenau, where I worked in the office at first. Later I joined a working party whose function it was to demolish the crematorium. The work of demolition had already begun when I arrived, but much of the building was still standing. I was able to see all the main parts of a crematorium. I saw the big ovens, the chimneys all leading into one big chimney. I also saw the so-called ‘Auskleideraum’ (room for undressing) and the adjoining hall which looked like a huge bath room. Everything had a very pleasing and luxurious appearance. The Auskleideraum and the ‘bath room’ were underground and had to be reached by steps leading downwards. In the so-called ‘bath room’ there were gas pipes disposed in the walls. We uncovered these pipes when we demolished the walls. I cannot say how the gas pipes were connected with the other appliances in the room, but I assume that the gas was penetrating into the room through the objects which looked like showers and possible also through boxes with little holes in them which looked like electric fuse boxes. The ‘bath room’ was separated from the Auskleideraum by a heavy iron door similar to doors of safes. I also saw rails and trucks which I was told had been used in carrying the bodies of the gassed people. I also saw thousands of urnes [sic] which we had to destroy, and a big heap of objects such as spectacles, note books, combs, photos etc.”

The fantastic nature of these statements is obvious. The crematorium described by the witness (II or III) had “five chimneys, [emanating] from their respective furnaces,” but then, contradicting herself, there was only one big chimney into which all the others merged (“the chimneys all leading into one

⁶⁹⁰ Deposition of Jeannette Kaufmann, no date given. Belsen Trial. TNA, WO 309-1696.

big chimney”), although in reality there was only one chimney, internally subdivided into three flues.⁶⁹¹ We might assume that she meant five smoke ducts leading from each of the five furnaces to the chimney.

The capacity of 20 bodies in 10 minutes is a pure absurdity. The presumed camouflaging of the “sanatorium” is a goofball idea which, to my knowledge, appears only in this testimony. The “light railway line” with “trucks” traversing the entire structure – “Waiting Room,” “Clothing Room” and “Bathroom” – is a fanciful embroidery of Wetzler and Vrba’s fictitious description. Between the gas chamber and the undressing room there was a “heavy iron door similar to doors of safes,” which is also the fruit of fantasy. The “gas pipes disposed in the walls” could have been the misunderstood ventilation ducts of Morgue #1 inside Crematoria II and III (the “bath room”) but they were most-certainly not connected to “showers,” which is a reworking of well-known propaganda themes. The fuse-box-like gassing boxes, by contrast, are undoubtedly an original invention, and bizarre. The killing capacity of the “bath room,” 2,000 persons in 15 minutes, perhaps refers to the duration of the death agony of the victims, while the waiting time of hours and days for small transports is senseless, because from the orthodox point of view, these small batches of people are said to have been sent to the smallest gas chambers of Crematoria IV and V. This is also in contradiction with the enormous daily mass murder described by other witnesses, such that the crematoria were allegedly unable to dispose of the bodies of those gassed.

3.5.3. Regina Plucer (1945)

This witness, a Jewess from Łódź, also took part in the Belsen Trial. In a deposition signed on May 11, 1945, she asserted:⁶⁹²

“1. I am 32 years of age and was arrested in 1941 at Gostinin near Lodz because I am a Jewess. I was taken to Bruchfelde Labour Camp where I remained until August 1943 when I was transferred to Auschwitz. I came to Belsen in January 1945.

2. In October 1944 I was employed at Auschwitz with a party detailed to dismantle the No. 1 gas chamber and crematorium. This dismantling was apparently ordered because of the nearness of the advancing Russian army. The work was done very carefully, various stones had to be stacked separately, and doors, window frames, fittings etc. were given numbers so that I gathered that the building was to be re-assembled elsewhere. During these operations I had access to all the departments of the building and I am able to describe the interior in a general way. The actual method of operating the gas chamber and

⁶⁹¹ Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. 2, Docs. 221f., pp. 374f.

⁶⁹² Deposition of Regina Plucer, May 11, 1945. Belsen Trial, Exhibit “81.” TNA, WO 309-1697.

crematorium was told to me by members of the *Sonderkommando* (special party employed in the building when it was in use).

3. The building was surrounded by a wire fence over which blankets were draped apparently to screen the events which took place therein from outside view. A garden also surrounded it which was of considerable depth and again assisted in the screening process. The building itself consisted of basement, ground floor and attic. In the basement was the undressing room access to which from the outside was gained by a flight of steps or a chute. The chute was used for sick and weak people but often when lorry-loads of victims came they were tipped directly from the lorry down the chute. The capacity of the undressing-room was such that I estimate it would hold about three thousand persons. The second room in the basement was the gas chamber itself holding about a thousand persons.

4. The ground floor was divided into two compartments. The first was the doctors experimenting and vivisection room. In this room I saw a large glass container filled with some liquid in which were apparently human organs. I took to these to be brains and spleens. The second compartment which was immediately above the undressing room, contained 15 separate ovens which were in line. They were about six feet long, six feet high and three feet wide. The corpses were conveyed from the gas chamber by means of an elevator to this room, where they were loaded into trolleys which ran on rails parallel with the ovens. The trolleys would be unloaded and the bodies placed in the various ovens. The fuel used in the ovens was wood.

5. Immediately above the gas chamber was part of the garden and from here ten small chimneys led down into the gas chamber. Each one showed above the earth about a foot and was about a foot square. Each was fitted with a lid. Into these chimneys were put green coloured powders and some chemical action would take place and the gas developed would descend into the gas chamber. The attic was used as living quarters by members of the *Sonderkommando*. Up to the time that the building was dismantled *Obersturmführer MOLL* was in charge.”

The description of the ground floor of the crematorium is generally correct: there was a medical-service area – an autopsy room (not an “experimenting and vivisection room”!), moreover a laboratory and a washroom – and the furnace room. Here, however, she claims to have seen with her own eyes “15 separate ovens which were in line,”⁶⁹³ while there were actually five separate triple-muffle furnaces; the witness claimed that these measured “about six feet long, six feet high and three feet wide,” that is ca. 180 cm × 180 cm × 90 cm, but the real measurements were 278 cm (length without gas generators; with the gas generators, 340 cm), 200 cm (height) and 346 cm (width; Matogno/Deana 2015, Vol. I, p. 269). While the measurements of the height and

⁶⁹³ This fiction was also set forth by Miklós Nyiszli. See Matogno 2020a, p. 38.

length could be erroneously estimated, this is impossible for the width: no sane person would take something measuring 346 cm and estimate it at 90 cm.

With regard to the “trolleys which ran on rails parallel with the ovens,” it should be noted that this device, known as a coffin-introduction cart, was only temporarily installed in Crematorium II. A file memo from Hans Kirschnek dated March 25, 1943 explicitly states that this cart was to be replaced in Crematorium III by more-practical metal stretchers (*Leichentrage*). This system later also replaced the cart in Crematorium II, as correctly stated by Henryk Tauber.

The mention of wood as fuel for the furnaces may explain the activity of the wood unloaders for the crematoria mentioned earlier.

The gassing procedure is a fantastic reworking of the related account by Wetzler and Vrba, and undoubtedly represents a literary link between this and the final Soviet-Polish version. The witness sets the stage in an underground gas chamber beneath a garden, where “small chimneys” rose for the introduction of the gas, topped with “lids.” But there were ten of these, not four, as per the current orthodox version. They moreover had a cross section of “a foot square,” or approximately 0.09 m², which corresponds to a square of approximately 30 cm on each side. This size is also in conflict with the current narrative, in particular with the statements of the witness *par excellence* Michał Kula, according to whom the inmate-metal-workshop-manufactured wire-mesh columns (*szupy siatkowe*) extended down into the claimed gas chamber. The contents of Zyklon-B cans were allegedly poured into these. In his first deposition, Kula claimed that those columns were 70 cm square and 3 meters high.⁶⁹⁴

The witness knew nothing about Zyklon B, however, and spoke of “green coloured powders,” where even the color is a fruit of fantasy, because the carrier material of Zyklon B consisted of a granular mass of a *pinkish-brown color* (Diagriß) or – the type used at Auschwitz – of *bluish* gypsum granules (Erco).⁶⁹⁵ In addition, the gas apparently was produced by a chemical reaction directly inside the “chimneys,” and then it “descend[ed] into the gas chamber.”

There is another element which definitively demolishes the credibility of this witness. On June 1, 1945, Sergeant Edward Dinsdale signed a deposition in which he declared:⁶⁹⁶

“On 30th May 1945 I interviewed REGINA PLUCER (Deposition Exhibit No 81)[.] On information supplied by her, I made a plan of No 1 Gas Chamber

⁶⁹⁴ Höss Trial, Vol. II, pp. 99f. He changed that in a later deposition, reducing the size to 24 cm square, and 2.5 m high, though; see in this regard Rudolf 2020b, pp. 148-161.

⁶⁹⁵ “Richtlinien für die Anwendung von Blausäure (Zyklon) zur Ungezieferverteilung (Entwesung).” NI-9912.

⁶⁹⁶ Deposition of Edward Dinsdale dated June 1, 1945. Belsen Trial, Exhibit “82.” TNA, WO-309-1697.

and crematorium at Auschwitz and which is now produced and shown to me marked 'E.D.' All details and measurements and all other particulars contained in this plan were supplied to me by the said REGINA PLUCER."

The related design, titled "Plan of No 1 Gas Chamber and Crematorium Auschwitz" (see Document 18), shows in the "Basement" a "Gas Chamber" and an "Undressing Room" arranged side-by-side, separated by a wall, and with a total width of 15 yards (about 13.5 meters). The "Undressing Room" is as long as the "Basement," 80 yards (about 73 meters), and is accessed from one side only through an "Entrance" and a "Chute," whence a door to the right leads to a vestibule ("Passage") which opens into the "Gas Chamber." The gas chamber is therefore shorter and narrower than the "Undressing Room" (the related measurements are not indicated).

On the "Ground Floor" above the "Basement," for the length of 40 yards (about 36.5 m), there is a "Garden" in which, in correspondence with the "Gas Chamber," rise the 10 "Chimneys leading to Basement" mentioned above. The building part located on the ground floor of the crematorium, 40 yards long, shows a "Doctor's experimenting Room" right over the vestibule ("Passage"), and the furnace room, which is located over the first half of the "Undressing Room." The side of the building near the vestibule is flanked by the roof of the "Gas Chamber," from which four of its ten "chimneys" rise. More or less in the middle of the cremation room there is an "Elevator." The cremation room is equipped with a "Row of Ovens," which is a single block of 15 furnaces, in practice one gigantic furnace with 15 muffles, in front of which "Rails" have been laid for the "trolleys" mentioned earlier.

There is no need to refute these architectonic absurdities in detail. A simple comparison with the image of Crematorium II under demolition in an aerial photograph taken on December 21, 1944,⁶⁹⁷ which shows Morgue #2 (the presumed "Undressing Room") with the roof off, while Morgue #1 (the presumed "Gas Chamber") perpendicular to it still shows the roof. The external dimensions of the crematorium shown in the various plans published by Jean-Claude Pressac were as follows:

- ground floor: length 55.5 meters, width 12 meters;
- basement:
 - Morgue #1: length 30.67 m, width 9.58 m.
 - Morgue #2 and service areas: length 50 m, width 9.27 m.

The rectangular structure annexed to the center part on the ground floor, containing the chimney, the waste incinerator and the three rooms for the forced-draft blowers, measured 10 m × 12 m and corresponds to the "Doctor's Experimenting Room" in the plan drawn by Edward Dinsdale!

⁶⁹⁷ NARA, RG 373, Mission: 15SG/994 15 PG. CAN: D 1533, Exposure 3021, December 21, 1944. See Document 19.

Regina Plucer, by her own account, formed part of the women's demolition squad assigned to the demolition of Crematorium II, and was therefore an eyewitness; furthermore, she had direct information from a member of the "Sonderkommando," another eyewitness. Therefore, the enormous blunders indicated above can only be explained by her either not having been a member of the demolition squad, not having received accurate information by any "Sonderkommando" member, or by signing a false deposition.

3.5.4. Hermine Kranz (1945)

This Slovakian Jewess, who was deported to Auschwitz towards mid-1942, was called to testify at the Belsen Trial, and she signed a deposition on May 9, 1942, in which she declared:⁶⁹⁸

"I have been in concentration camps since 1942. I am a Jew. I have been in Auschwitz and Belsen. I arrived at Belsen the 26.11.44. For the 1 1/2 years which I was at Auschwitz Kramer was commandant. While at Auschwitz, arrangements were made for building a crematory. This was outside the camp at a place called Birkenau and so a railway had to be built. I was guarding the latrines and was in a position to see all that was going on. There was a guard on the latrines to prevent prisoners throwing rags or anything of that sort down the latrines. The distance was about 75 yards. For four months I had a 6 hours guard [shift], sometimes by day and sometimes by night.

After the crematorium had been built, I saw train transporters arrive at the crematorium siding from other camps or from outside, containing living men and women. The transporters waited often two or three hours. Often there was a queue of four or five transports. It was especially busy about April 1944. I use the word crematorium to include the gas chamber and the crematorium proper. The transporters were in fact cattle trucks.

The people in the transporters often saw through the apertures smoke coming out of the chimney and would ask what it was. They were told that it was a factory or bakery. Before leaving the camp the people were told that they were going to another camp. The doors were opened and the people were told to leave all parcels and personal belongings which would be brought later by lorries.

They were then told to enter the crematorium which was only about 10 to 15 yards away. I saw Kramer every day standing there and waving the people on into the chamber. A Dr. Mengele was always present also. I understand Mengele was studying twins and any twins were not sent into the chamber. They were picked out.

Preparations were made outside the crematorium. This looked like a country-house. It was surrounded by electric barbed wire. The people were asked to undress and a towel and soap were given to each person with the explanation

⁶⁹⁸ Deposition of Hermine Kranz, May 9, 1945. Belsen Trial, Exhibit "C." TNA, WO 309-1696.

that they were going to have a bath. Then they went in through an iron door. The crematorium looked very pretty. There were altogether 6 such crematoria, but my evidence relates to one only. Three thousand persons could be dealt with at a time.

I had to carry bodies of people who had died in the camp for some reason or other into the gas chamber on occasions. This gas chamber was used as an anatomical research laboratory in addition to being a gas chamber. The inside of this chamber looks like a very large bathroom. There were objects similar to showers and there was a very pretty tiled floor. In the floor there were trap doors which opened. Under these were truck containers and the bodies after gas[s]ing were dropped into them to be moved to the furnace where the bodies were burnt. The iron trap doors were covered with tiles and there were benches all around. I saw all this. Some of the inmates who worked on the removal of the corpses showed me all this.

There was always a Red Cross truck with every transport. This was done for propaganda purposes only and to cover up the real purpose. The Hungarians who were burnt never knew what was going to happen, but the Poles had an inclination of what was going to happen to them. I have heard cries and wailing at night when Polish transports were brought up.

People were sorted out before entering the chamber and for some reason or another some of them were kept back. For instance beautiful girls were kept back.”

Hermine Kranz borrowed and embroidered the propaganda themes of the time. With a further exercise of her imagination, she declared that the gas chamber, equipped with the usual “iron door” as well as “a very pretty tiled floor,” with “benches all around,” was also used as an “anatomical research laboratory,” none of which is in line with the facts or the current orthodox narrative.

The gassing technique closely follows the fairy tales which were well known even to the Hungarian inmates examined above, with the difference that, for this witness, it was not the entire floor that opened, but only some simple “trap doors,” beneath which there were neither any cremation furnaces nor conveyor belts, but “truck containers” – probably tipper carts such as those used in coal mines – which carried the bodies “to the furnace,” presumably on the rails *seen* by Ada Bimko!

Adding another version to the multiple variants of these gaseous fantasies, the Red Cross vehicle did not carry the lethal gas, as the orthodox narrative has it, but accompanied the deportees doomed to be gassed “for propaganda purposes only.”

3.5.5. Fritz Putzker (1945)

Putzker, a Jew from Vienna, passed through the camps of Dachau, Flossenbürg, Gusen, Auschwitz, Birkenau, Dora and Nordhausen. At Auschwitz, he was registered under number 103972, which was assigned to him on February 23, 1943. In this camp, Putzker occupied the position of “*Capo*” (foreman) in the workshops of the Lenz Corporation⁶⁹⁹ for nine months. He wrote a long undated report, no doubt dating back to 1945, in which he declared that he had been present at homicidal gassings in a crematorium, without ever specifying which one it was.⁷⁰⁰

“From Auschwitz I was sent on in Jan 44 to the branch camp in Birkenau to do duties as ‘Obercapo’ in charge of the ‘Effekten Kammer’ and the decontamination centre (Sauna). Birkenau was the biggest annihilation camp of all times. There itself 5-6 million people were killed off from 1942 until its final evacuation. I can testify to it as eyewitness.”

In the paragraph headed “The crematorium,” the witness recalls:

“People entered this building through a door equipped with a slide and came into the lavishly equipped dressing room. There they had to undress as quickly as they could no matter if it was man woman or child, and were then driven into the so-called ‘bathing hall,’ the gas room. Those who resisted were clubbed like cattle. The hall was equipped with plated showers which then unfortunately were never used. As soon as one complete detachment was brought inside the gasdoors began to open and the respective SS Man on duty, wearing his respirator (Dabrowolsky, Schriders, Gagen all of them Rottenf.) poured out three cylinders of gas ‘Zyclon B’ with prussic acid. Within three minutes and in a temperature of 40-60’ (German) everybody was killed. By means of an elevator the bodies were transported to the furnaces.

There were also two small crematoriums with the following procedure. People had to undress and then were spread out over 4 compartments. 400 of the[m] were usually herded together into one compartment. Then the gas was poured out. Here it took from 6 - 8 minutes until death ensued. Here I clearly saw the effect of this terrible barbaric device for the annihilation of human beings. Frantic positions, torn out bits of hair, small children who had dug their teeth into their mothers’ breast. How terrible to witness it all.

Where is the law of the nations? Oh you blood hounds!

Still more savage was Herr SS Rottenf. Eckardt. A beast in the person of a man. He kept on jumping on the body of pregnant women until the birth literally protruded. And things like that could happen in a Germany of the 20th Century without the knowledge of the people. The reason why I was present at all was purely a perfunctory one as I had always to report the decrease of

⁶⁹⁹ The *Schlesische Industriebau Lenz & Co. Aktiengesellschaft* of Kattowitz, which carried out various construction projects at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

⁷⁰⁰ “Statement on Concentration Camp Conditions by a Longterm Serving Inmate.” TNA, WO 309-374, Declaration of Fritz Putzker, pp. 4f., 8.

the Stock. The handling of the corpses was done by Jewish personnel only, but although being an Aryan and in spite of my protest to visit these places I was forced to look on.

Bunker V was the funeral pyre."

The statement concludes with the following attestation in German:

"All this is the pure truth and represents my own personal experiences, and it will also be confirmed by other witnesses still alive."

The first part of the description refers to Crematoria II-III. It contains the general schema of gassings in an underground room and the transport of corpses to the furnaces by means of a freight elevator, but the details, although originating from preceding fantasies, are reworked in an original manner. The "dressing room" is accessed by means of a "slide." The gas chamber, called the "bathing hall," was equipped with "plated showers"; the "Zyklon B" was poured directly into the room, presumably onto the floor, by SS men wearing gas masks, after which the victims died within three minutes at a temperature of 40 to 60°C. Then, "by means of an elevator the bodies were transported to the furnaces." The names of the SS executioners – Schriders and Gagen – have never been linked to the crematoria at Birkenau in the Auschwitz Museum's literature. An SS *Sturmmann* Aristaron Dobrowoski is mentioned in Headquarters Order No. 1/43 of Monowitz dated December 2, 1943 (Frei *et al.*, p. 375). The others are unknown, if they even existed. Eckardt is mentioned by Piper as having been employed at Crematorium IV in the capacity of "Kommandoführer," but only on the basis of other testimonies.⁷⁰¹

The description is accompanied by a drawing of the crematorium (see Document 20)⁷⁰² which, rather than clarify matters, confuses them even further. The crematorium is divided into two parts, one (probably) underground, to the right, the other on the ground floor (to the left). The first contains an "undressing room equipped with every convenience clothes racks, hat racks, glazed" accessed by an "entry staircase fitted with slide" which reminds of the double stairway equipped with a slide in between running down into the basement vestibule of Crematoria II-III, before Morgue #1. The "Gas chamber – To accommodate 1000 - 2000 people with imitation showers, and so-called baths" is adjacent to the undressing room without any apparent wall separating the two, and it possesses three "Gas Inlets," represented by the symbol "X" inside a rectangle. It is not clear whether this rectangle represents the "gas chamber" itself or an external structure above the "gas chamber," and it is difficult to understand how this system can be reconciled with SS men throwing "Zyklon B" into the room. The "Electric Elevator" is located between the "gas chamber" and furnace room, in which, in front of the elevator, there is a "rail

⁷⁰¹ Piper 2000, p. 235. Piper is uncertain of the spelling, and also suggests "Eckhardt."

⁷⁰² This, and the drawing mentioned later, are archived in unnumbered sheets between pages 4 and 5 of Putzker's statement.

with wooden tip lorries” with five of these vehicles. The idea that they were “wooden” is rather strange. The furnace room is equipped with twelve “furnaces,” six on one side and six on the other, “1 furnace for 3-4 people.” In front of the freight elevator, opposite the furnace room, is an “Ash Receptacle,” probably a cavity in the floor.

There is no need to stress the purely imaginary nature of the drawing.

The second part of the description, by contrast, describes Crematoria IV and V, referred to as the “two small crematoriums.” Here Putzker, by his own account, was an “eyewitness” to the events described. The victims undressed and were made to enter “4 compartments,” each of which could accommodate 400 persons. Here, for some unknown reason, the gassing lasted six to eight minutes. Here as well, this brief exposition is accompanied by a drawing of the crematorium (see Document 21), which bears a very vague resemblance to the real plan.⁷⁰³ The structure is entirely “Above the Ground.” In the furnace room are eight single “furnaces,” four on either side, among which is an “Ash Receptacle.”

As noted earlier, Crematoria IV and V had one eight-muffle furnace in two compact blocks separated by the respective gas generators. An access door in the position indicated in the drawing actually existed, but there was also another door opposite, which is not shown. Adjacent to the furnace room. Putzker put the “Undressing Room” in a position in which the final version of the orthodox narrative places this room as well – although that room was much larger. Omitted are the two access ways through airlocks connecting the furnace room to the undressing room, and the two chimneys are missing as well. The next room has no designation and should provide access to the two “Gas Inlet[s]” in the wall towards the gas chambers. In the original plan there was a vestibule here, with the main entrance, a coal room and a physician’s room. The four gas chambers, of equal dimensions and symmetrically arranged, are referred to by Putzker as “Bunkers” and numbered from I to IV. In the original plan, there were three rooms of different dimensions; according to the final orthodox version, one of these is supposed to have been divided into two in such a way as to obtain four gas chambers.

In Putzker’s drawing, every gas chamber has its own “Entrance” through the side walls (this word is crossed out in pen), with two other “Gas Inlet[s] on the wall at the far end of the room.” Underneath is the caption “Daily Capacity 5 - 8,000. In addition 2 air pyres.” The indicated capacity is simply absurd. If we consider that the report assigns this capacity to eight furnaces (=muffles), and that another installation of this kind is said to have existed, and moreover that Crematoria II and III, for the witness, had twelve furnaces (=muffles), this means that each of Crematoria II and III had a capacity of 7,500-12,000 bod-

⁷⁰³ Plan No. 2036 of January 11, 1943. Pressac 1989, p. 399.

ies, and that all four crematoria together could cremate 25,000-40,000 bodies per day!

In the section of Crematorium IV-V that contained the presumed gas chambers, there was one single access doorway and that there were seven little wall openings through which the Zyklon is supposed to have been introduced, arranged in a manner completely different than the four “gas inlets” drawn by this witness.

When it comes to Crematoria IV and V, this testimony contains in an embryonic state the themes developed by Szlama Dragon in a description which has become the orthodox version (see Document 17), but its greatest importance lies in the fact that it supplies an explanation for the otherwise incomprehensible Holocaust term “Bunker V,” attributed to the phantasmagorical “Bunker 2” in 1944.⁷⁰⁴ Each of the crematoria, both IV and V, had four gas chambers, referred to as “Bunker I,” “Bunker II,” “Bunker III” and “Bunker IV;” therefore, continuing the numbering, there was also a “Bunker V,” although for Putzker this was not a gassing installation, but only “the funeral pyre.”

As noted above, attribution of the term “bunker” to the presumed gas chambers was not unusual, not even for Crematoria II and III.

3.5.6. Isaac Egon Ochshorn (1945)

Ochshorn passed through eight concentration camps in the following order:

- Buchenwald (October 2, 1939 until September 27, 1940), registration number 7397;
- Dachau (September 27, 1940 until June 16, 1942), no. 20954;
- Gross-Rosen (June 16, 1941 until October 16, 1942), no. 852;
- Auschwitz-Birkenau (October 16, 1942 until October 8, 1943), no. 68244;
- Warsaw (October 8, 1943 until August 7, 1944), no. 1690;
- Dachau, Kaufering, Allach (August 7, 1944 until April 29, 1945), no. 89109.

On August 21, 1945, Major E.L. Rothschild of the 200 Jewish Field Regiment sent Ochshorn’s English deposition to the United Nations War Crimes Commission, which archived it on September 14.

As regards Auschwitz, the testimony is just as ambiguous as the previous one: Ochshorn did not claim to have been a member of the “*Sonderkommando*” nor to have visited the presumed gas chambers, but he supplied a description of the interior, insistently repeating the words “I saw.”

The witness signed stupefying statements, even on the first three camps.

⁷⁰⁴ Pressac wrote that “Bunker 2” was “subsequently renamed Bunker V,” without supplying any explanation in this regard (1989, p. 171).

Buchenwald

“In November 1939, the Central Bureau for Concentration Camps in Berlin-Oranienburg, Amt D.II, informed the Camp Commandant, that, since a monthly schedule of 20,000 Polish Jews was to be sent to Buchenwald, care was to be taken for their quickest possible liquidation (murder). The Camp Commandant put this order into effect by the following methods: The new-coming Jews were immediately subjected to such sadistic maltreatment that more than half were murdered on the day of arrival, while the surviving Jews were put into separate cages where they were denied any sort of nourishment or water and were bestially mishandled, so that they would die within 14 days. I myself overheard the Camp Commandant, SS Obersturmführer Schober[t] giving SS Hauptscharführer Hinke[l]mann the order: ‘I want every day at least 600 Jewish death reports in the Camp Office.’

By an order of Camp Commandant Schober[t] issued to the SS men Hinke-mann, Kubitz and Abraham all University graduates and Rabbis were taken to the camp gate and there these learned men, some of whom enjoyed world-wide reputation, were buried alive, standing up to their neck, dying a dreadful death.”⁷⁰⁵

The “Central Bureau for Concentration Camps in Berlin-Oranienburg” was the Inspectorate of the Concentration Camps (*Inspektion der Konzentrations-lager*), which was incorporated into the SS WVHA as Office Group D only on February 1, 1942. 9,553 inmates were interned at Buchenwald in 1939, with 1,235 deaths out of 32,587 internees (819 of whom died over the past two years); 2,525 inmates were interned in 1940 with 1,772 deaths out of 39,119 internees (*Internationales Lagerkomitee...*, p. 10). The commandant of Buchenwald until December 1941 was SS *Standartenführer* Karl Koch; an SS *Obersturmführer* Schober[t] was part of the SS personnel at Buchenwald. The propaganda yarn of the inmates “buried alive” requires no comment.

Dachau:

“The Jews were thrown alive into huge concrete mixers where they were milled into pulp. This material served as street plaster; hence, these streets were commonly called ‘Juden-Strassen’ (Jew-roads).”⁷⁰⁶

This is an unheard-of fairy tale, absurd and preposterous.

Gross-Rosen:

“From October 1941 to August 1942 500 to 600 Russian Prisoners of War were daily murdered by poison or gas.”⁷⁰⁶

This corresponds to a total of 135,000-162,000 victims! But the Soviet POWs presumably killed in this camp amounted to a total of only some 3,000

⁷⁰⁵ Statement by Ochshorn on massacres of Jews in concentration camps. NO-1934, p. 2.

⁷⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

(Sprengrer, p. 225). According to the Holocaust orthodoxy, there was no gas chamber at Gross-Rosen.

Auschwitz:

With regard to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the witness asserted:⁷⁰⁷

“I saw new newcoming [sic] of Jews transports marked for gassing arrived at Birkenau station. I myself heard the Political Officer of Auschwitz giving to the newcoming Jews misleading speeches and instructing them to take a bath where instead of water – gas was being inducted. [...]

I saw the lorries with the Jews marked for gassing arriving at the gas chambers and crematoriums. I saw how the Jews were bestially driven into the undressing-halls of the gas chambers naked. I saw how these unfortunates were handed soap and towels as if they were going to bathe. I also saw how, after the gas chamber had been stuffed with human beings, the doors were closed, a gas bomb was taken out of a Red-Cross lorry, how the Duty SS Officer handed the bomb to the SS man; how the latter put on his respirator, prepared the bomb and how he threw the lethal Gas bomb through a hole in the roof of the gas chamber, which looked from a distance like a bee-hive, and how he immediately reported to the Officer. [...]

The gassed Jews were brought from the gas chambers into the adjoining crematoriums which had many hundreds of ovens. In each oven a man, a woman and a child were laid, since experience had taught that such an arrangement ensured the best method of burning them.

From the old Birkenau Camp of block 27, which was occupied by prisoners and was separated from the gas chamber only by a wire fence, these mass murders could be seen accurately. One could even hear the terrible cries for help of the desperate, and their shrieks of horror.

I once heard the Camp Commandant of Auschwitz say: ‘Our system is so terrible that no man in this world will believe it to be possible – even should a Jew succeed in escaping from Auschwitz and telling the world all he saw. The world will brand him as a fantastic liar and nobody will believe him.’

Towards the end of 1943, when almost all the Jews of Europe (with the exception of the Hungarian Jews) had passed through the gas chambers and crematoriums, it was the opinion of the SS Führers of Auschwitz that the gas chambers and crematoriums would now be destroyed. But they were greatly mistaken. Already in September 1943 there arrived an important SS Commission with engineers and technicians under the personal leadership of Himmler. A technical Commission was set up with the task of enlarging the capacity of extermination in the gas chambers and crematoriums from 8,000 to 40,000 per day. The building of these tremendous installations was commenced as early as September. These new plans included the laying of a railway directly to the gas chambers. Since there were no more Jews left in Europe, the SS Officers

⁷⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 3f.

believed that after the extermination of the Jewish people it was now the turn of the Poles and Czechs."

The witness claims to have seen the crematorium from Block 27; hence, he might have been able to see the victims disappear into an underground room (the presumed "undressing-hall"), but he cannot have seen that they "were handed soap and towels," which they took into the gas chamber with them, and that "the doors were closed" behind them. The fairy tale of the "gas bomb" formed part of the propaganda repertoire together with the distribution of the "soap and towels." Although Block 27 was located approximately 150 meters from the roof of Morgue #1 of Crematorium II as the crow flies, the witness "saw" the SS throw the "gas bomb" through one single "hole in the roof of the gas chamber." The current orthodox narrative insists on four of these holes, though.

The presence in the crematorium or crematoria of "many hundreds of ovens" is ridiculous nonsense, like the story of the SS commission presided over by Himmler in person, whose task it was – in September 1943! – to raise the capacity of the gas chambers and cremation furnaces from 8,000 to 40,000 victims *per day*! This is an imaginative reworking of the fairy tale of the inauguration of Crematorium II in the presence of Himmler and other illustrious guests who had arrived especially for this occasion from Berlin – in early 1943. No-less-absurd is the presumed German intention to exterminate the Polish and Czech peoples in the gas chambers.

The anecdote of the warning by the camp commandant that the reality was so terrible that, if anyone revealed it to the world, he would be considered "a fantastic liar" is an obvious alibi, a sort of *excusatio non petita* (gratuitous excuse) by someone who knew himself to be indeed "a fantastic liar."

3.5.7. Anonymous French Jewish Witness (1946)

An anonymous Jew deported to Auschwitz from Compiègne (France) on an ungiven date wrote a "Report on the 'Auschwitz' Camp" that was archived on August 20, 1946 by the "Documents Unit Records Sub-Section War Crimes Branch, USFET." The lines relating to the cremation capacity of the crematorium are the exact translation of a passage of a testimony which appeared in a French publication of 1946, as mentioned earlier (Aroneanu, pp. 177f.). The source given there is "Lequeu" and must be a different person than another witness named Maurice Lequeux, who was arrested in 1943, and whose statement I will discuss later.⁷⁰⁸ On the other hand, only two transports ever left Compiègne for Auschwitz, one on March 27 and one on June 5, 1942, and no "Lequeu" appears in the associated deportation list.

⁷⁰⁸ Unless this Lequeux had made a statement that contradicted the previous one, which is certainly not far-fetched. See Subchapter 3.7.4.

The witness does not explicitly claim to have been present at any presumed gassing, but clearly allows the reader to understand that this was indeed the case, because he describes the behavior of the victims in the gas chambers as seen from the inside, and comments: "I shall never forget them!" The following is an excerpt from his account:⁷⁰⁹

"Approach by descent comparable to the entrance to an underground railway station, in the middle of these stairs there is a cemented slope from 50 to 60 cm high, curved in the form of a ramp in which aged people, invalids and little children who cannot descend, slide down.

When they reach the bottom, they are immediately put into the gas chamber or killed on the spot. For this category of victims precautions are taken that they be undressed in the yard in order to speed up the execution operations.

The two gas chambers are adjoining in what is called a Bunker (gas chamber), each being capable of holding 1500-1600 persons packed like sardines in a tin-box. In the middle there is a square, grated column of 30 cm on each side with a glass opening on the top. It is through this opening that the SS specialists will introduce the quantity of gas necessary to achieve the suffocation of these unfortunates, I say to achieve, because the people are so numerous for such a small place and without any openings that they are already 9/10 dead when the famous 'cyclone' is introduced: gas with a base of cyanid acid.

I suppose I should indicate that this gas was always transported by the Red Cross lorry with insignia quite conspicuous on the sides and the roof, the collecting took place in Auschwitz.

The suffocation lasted about three minutes, then 5 minutes of waiting, then the above-mentioned glass-openings and the doors were opened. I forgot this detail: when the chambers were full, it happened that the SS tyrants decided to throw children on top of the adults. Oh, my Lord, what apocalyptic scenes, these cries of mothers begging for mercy for their children, who very often were in the same chamber or in the adjoining one: these children calling their parents, their brothers, their sisters, still praying God and hoping for His mercy when they were at the threshold of death. These complaints, these cries of despair, these traces of nails upon the wall, I shall never forget them!

The doors were opened and the personnel of the special commands proceeded to the emptying of the chambers. The bodies, standing on their feet, jammed together, are all intermixed, it seems impossible to take them out, that is why an instrument with two prongs is used to take the bodies away from the chamber. They are taken out one by one, brought to the lift and before being taken to the cave they are examined by a so-called recuperation detail which will proceed to an inspection of the mouth in order to remove the sets of teeth or gold filled teeth or the rings which might have been left on the fingers of the bodies. It is difficult to understand how the spirit of plunder can go so far. But still it is the truth.

⁷⁰⁹ NO-1960, pp. 7f.

This job being finished, the bodies are transported in freight elevators to the upper floor where six ovens are burning and reducing to ashes 36 bodies every 20 minutes, that is, 108 in an hour and 2592 in 24 hours, as they burn continuously. Out of the 5 ovens there are always 4 which function, so that the daily figure is 10,400 on the average, not counting the trenches, where 12 to 14,000 bodies are burned every 24 hours at the time of so-called 'great urgency' during the big influx of the Czech, Polish and specially Hungarian transports. Once lighted the furnaces are kept going, solely with bodies."

The preceding propaganda themes are remixed with additions probably included by the witness. Access to the gas chambers of Crematoria II and III, which, according to the current orthodox version, was through a staircase at the end of the "undressing room" (Morgue #2), becomes "comparable to the entrance to an underground railway station" – a rather bold comparison to say the least – and the double stairway with the slide in the middle which led down into the vestibule becomes the main accessway for the victims. At any rate, the witness knew nothing of any "undressing room" inside the crematorium, because victims undressed "in the yard," and as soon as they entered the crematorium, they were "immediately put into the gas chamber or killed on the spot." The presence of "two gas chambers" was a common claim also made by Bendel. Since it contradicts the actual layout of the crematorium, the original gas chamber (Morgue #1) was then claimed to have been divided into two parts.⁷¹⁰

Of particular interest in this testimony is the attribution of the term "bunker" to the gas chambers of Crematoria II and III, similar to Putzker's "Bunkers I-V" and other similar cases already examined.

For the emission of gas, as in various other testimonies, there is one single aperture "with a glass [!] opening on the top" which opens onto a "grated column" with a width of 30 cm, similar to the one claimed by Regina Plucer. The nonsensical duration of a gassing – three to five minutes – is also part of the propagandistic baggage and – with a few variations – is similar in nearly all accounts. The story of the children thrown onto the heads of the adults in the gas chamber was another grim theme also claimed by Bendel. By contrast, the "instrument with two prongs" to extract the bodies piled up in the gas chamber seems to be an invention of this witness.

In the description of the cremation furnaces, we perceive an echo of the Vrba-Wetzler Report and of the statement by the anonymous Polish Jew of 1945, at least in the magic number 36,⁷¹¹ referring here to the bodies cremated in 20 minutes by the six furnaces. There also reappears the technically impos-

⁷¹⁰ Statement by Henryk Tauber dated May 24, 1945. Höss Trial, Vol. 11, p. 130.

⁷¹¹ The anonymous Jew mentions two crematoria with 18 furnaces each, or 36 furnaces together; the cremation of three bodies in a muffle took place within 20 minutes.

sible tale of furnaces cremating bodies without fuel, feeding exclusively on corpses.

3.5.8. Helena Bard-Nomberg (1946)

Helena Bard-Nomberg arrived at Auschwitz from Majdanek in June 1943, and was registered with number 49298, which was assigned on July 11. On May 22, 1946, this witness declared:⁷¹²

“Our group was led to the crematorium. (I had proposed to hide at any cost; the desire to live was so great, I don’t know why – I wanted to live to get revenge!). Our group was heavily surrounded by guards. In front of the entrance to the crematorium, the victims undressed; their clothes remained outside. I managed to sit down for a moment on a pile of clothes without being seen. Immediately in a hurry the companions inadvertently covered me with clothing. I sat there until morning. At dawn, seeing no one, I entered the vestibule of the gas chamber [do przedsionka komory gazowej], which was a large room – the walls were tiled, and there were plenty of showers, soap and towels. I don’t remember whether the gas-chamber door was open. A little later, a German officer with a [gas] mask came out of the room, slammed the door behind him. When he wanted to close the door to the supposed bath room – he saw me. It was evidently too late to push me into the gas chamber. He scolded me a lot and told me that I would end up there the next day anyway (‘You cursed Jew, you old hag! You don’t go today, you get here tomorrow’ ... [German in text]). He kicked me and then ordered a guard to accompany me to the camp. [...] Some time later Hessler [Hössler] (called among the Jews ‘Mojzieligne,’ Moses the liar), the head of the camp, came to my Block E. He passed by by chance and saw me. He asked me why ‘this old witch’ was still in the block, [since] she should have been consigned to the crematorium. I told him about my hiding place, thanks to which I had remained alive. Then Hessler [said]: ‘Only the cursed Jews are so cunning’ [German in text]. But from that moment he turned a blind eye to me.”

Here the “bath room” was not the “gas chamber”, but its “vestibule.” According to the orthodox narrative, this eyewitness should have been killed immediately with a blow to the back of the head; luckily for her, however, she was sent back to her block, and when Hössler met her there, he admired her cunning and left her alone so she could tell the world!

⁷¹² Protocol of the interrogation of Helena Bard-Nomberg, dated Trelleborg, May 22, 1946. ANN, Warsaw, 212-II-I, pp. 3f.

3.6. Hearsay Testimonies of Inmates Receiving Information from “*Sonderkommando*” Members

3.6.1. Sofia Kaufmann Schafranov (1945)

Sofia Kaufmann, married name Schafranov, a Persian Jewess of Russian origin who lived in Italy, was arrested on December 2, 1943 and later deported to Auschwitz, where she arrived on February 6, 1944 and was registered under number 75181. On January 18, 1945, she was evacuated from the camp first to the Ravensbrück Camp, then to the Mauthausen Camp, where she was liberated by U.S. troops. She entrusted the account of her experiences to her brother-in-law, Alberto Cavaliere, who published it in 1945. The following is her description of the gas chambers (Cavaliere, p. 40):

“Deportees were assigned to the gas chamber to carry out the macabre task, certainly not of their own free will, all-the-more-so since their term of office only lasted two months, during which time they were kept segregated, after which they ended up in the same [gas] chambers and were replaced by other operators, to prevent the secret of these chambers and torture chambers from leaking out. But an Italian, a certain Ferrari,^[713] assigned to this job, under pain of death for refusal, who succeeded in escaping when the camp was evacuated, told me a few hair-raising details of the operation. A fake shower bath was set up, and the victims, although they now knew what type of shower bath it was, were even given towels and a piece of soap, after which they were made to undress, and were chased down into low-ceiling, hermetically-sealed concrete chambers: twenty-five or thirty persons per chamber. There were faucets on the ceiling which sprayed them with poison gas instead of water. The spray was often scanty, and the action of the gas was not sufficiently efficient, so that the victims were thrown into the furnaces while still alive.”

Here we see the recurrence of the literary themes of the extermination at regular intervals of the “*Sonderkommando*” members every three or four months (here reduced to two months), the distribution of soap and towels to the victims, the showers spraying gas instead of water, and finally victims burned alive. The “low-ceiling” “concrete chambers” are reminiscent of those described by Bendel (which were only 1.5 meters high!) while their capacity (25 or 30 persons) is a foolish invention of the witness; just imagine the enormous number of gassing batches or “asphyxiation chambers” necessary to set the “record” of 20,000 victims in a day as claimed by the orthodoxy (Piper 1994, p. 174), or even up to 30,000, as claimed by witnesses.⁷¹⁴

⁷¹³ There was no known member of the “*Sonderkommando*” with this last name.

⁷¹⁴ Statement by Kurt Marcus titled “Auschwitz-Birkenau. das grösste Vernichtungslager der Welt.” Trial of the Auschwitz Camp Garrison, AGK, NTN, 135, p. 153; see Subchapter 3.7.13.

3.6.2. Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier (1945)

This witness was deported to Auschwitz from the Compiègne Camp on January 27, 1943, whence she was transferred to the Ravensbrück Camp in August 1944. She had her brief moment of fame on January 28, 1946, when she testified during the 44th hearing of the Nuremberg Military Tribunal at the request of the assistant prosecutor for the French Legation, Charles Dubost. But she had already published an account of her experience the year before in a brochure titled *Auschwitz*, in which she described the presumed gassing procedure. Her sources allegedly were a little French girl who was assigned to undress the children in a crematorium, and unspecified men from the “*Sonderkommando*” (Vaillant-Couturier, pp. 20f.):

“At first, when the Jewish transports arrived, when they got down off the trains, the young people were sorted out to enter the camp, but not all of them, only those who looked good; the elderly, the mothers and the children climbed into trucks for the gas. The system was later perfected and modernized. A siding took the train right up to the gas chamber. The travelers were welcomed by an orchestra made up of fifteen young girls, inmates, most of them very pretty, dressed in navy-blue skirts and white blouses during the week, and with polka dots on Sunday, who played light melodies, like the ‘Merry Widow’ waltz, or the ‘Barcarolle from the Tales of Hoffmann,’ while they did the selection. It was touching to see families saying good-bye, young girls leaving their mothers and their young brothers and sisters, old couples saying good-bye; but no one doubted that a horrible death awaiting them. The line of grandmothers walking with little steps, mothers pushing their baby carriages, 12-year-old children holding smaller children by the hand, and walking slowly towards a building of red brick bearing the inscription ‘Baths’. There, they undressed, then they were locked naked into a big hall, and gas capsules were thrown through an opening in the ceiling. It was the same gas as that used to disinfect the blocks against lice. It seems to have taken five minutes for the women and three for the men. Three quarters of an hour after the arrival of the train, immense flames could be seen escaping the chimneys from the cremation furnaces. We knew that, in a few minutes, those people who we had seen alive a short while ago would be no more than a little ashes. Since the eight cremation furnaces were not enough for the demand, the S.S. had huge ditches dug, filled with dry branches soaked in a flammable liquid; the bodies were thrown into them; the whole sky lit up. At a certain time, when there was a lack of gas, they threw living children into the ditches.”

At Nuremberg, the witness testified as follows as to the presumed gassings (IMT, Vol. 6, p. 216):

“They were taken to a red brick building, which bore the letters ‘Baden,’ that is to say ‘Baths.’ There, to begin with, they were made to undress and given a towel before they went into the so-called shower room. Later on, at the time of the large convoys from Hungary, they had no more time left to play-act or to

pretend; they were brutally undressed, and I know these details as I knew a little Jewess from France who lived with her family at the 'Republique' district.
M. DUBOST: In Paris?

MME. VAILLANT-COUTURIER: In Paris. She was called 'little Marie' and she was the only one, the sole survivor of a family of nine. Her mother and her seven brothers and sisters had been gassed on arrival. When I met her she was employed to undress the babies before they were taken into the gas chamber. Once the people were undressed they took them into a room which was somewhat like a shower room, and gas capsules were thrown through an opening in the ceiling. An SS man would watch the effect produced through a porthole. At the end of 5 or 7 minutes, when the gas had completed its work, he gave the signal to open the doors; and men with gas masks – they too were internees – went into the room and removed the corpses. They told us that the internees must have suffered before dying, because they were closely clinging to one another and it was very difficult to separate them.

After that a special squad would come to pull out gold teeth and dentures; and again, when the bodies had been reduced to ashes, they would sift them in an attempt to recover the gold.

At Auschwitz there were eight crematories but, as from 1944, these proved insufficient. The SS had large pits dug by the internees, where they put branches, sprinkled with gasoline, which they set on fire. Then they threw the corpses into the pits. From our block we could see after about three-quarters of an hour or an hour after the arrival of a convoy, large flames coming from the crematory, and the sky was lighted up by the burning pits.

One night we were awakened by terrifying cries. And we discovered, on the following day, from the men working in the Sonderkommando – the 'Gas Kommando' – that on the preceding day, the gas supply having run out, they had thrown the children into the furnaces alive." (My emphases)

The witness tosses all the propaganda fantasies she ever heard of into the pot: the orchestra that welcome the transports, the *eight* crematoria (other witnesses contented themselves with six or seven), the inscription "Baden" on a crematorium, the ever-present towels distributed to the victims; in the gas chamber, equipped with doors, plural, there was a single aperture in the ceiling, through which "capsules" of gas were thrown, a development out of the fantastic gas "bombs," which then became "cylinders" and "ampoules." The duration of the gassing (five to seven minutes) was the usual absurdity with slight variations proffered by nearly all witnesses. The witness never hesitates to proffer the usual tomfooleries: the flames shooting up from the crematorium chimneys; the burning ditches into which the bodies are thrown, presumably by catapult; the children burned alive, either in pits or in cremation furnaces.

3.6.3. Marco Nahon (1945)

Nahon was a Greek Jew who was deported to Auschwitz on May 16, 1943, and was registered there under number 122274. In October 1944, he was transferred to the Stutthof Camp, then to Buchenwald on April 6, and finally, after transiting through a number of other locations, he was liberated at the Dachau Camp on April 27 by U.S. troops. He describes his experiences in a long-heretofore-unpublished report written in French, which was translated into English in 1959 by Jacqueline Havaux under the title of *Birkenau: The Camp of Death*, although it got published only in 1989 with the same title. The typewritten translation bears the words “Dachau-Augsburg, June-July, 1945.” The following are the most-important passages from Chapter XXVIII, “The ‘Cremas’ and the ‘Sonder-Kommandos’.”

The inmates in the “*Sonderkommando*” lived segregated from the others,⁷¹⁵

“but near the end of the war, however, shortly before the evacuation of Birkenau, the surveillance had slackened considerably and we could converse with the people of the Sonder without too much difficulty. Those men and even those living inside the Crema Blocks have divulged many details on the ‘working methods’ in the Crematoria.”

One of Nahon’s friends, named Benardis,⁷¹⁶ recognized “one of his old acquaintances from Athens” among the men in the “*Sonderkommando*,” who told him the story set forth by Nahon. The narration is in the first person, a sort of transcription of the statements of the man from the “*Sonderkommando*.”

He was selected by the camp physician in the quarantine camp together with other Jews, and the group was transferred to Barracks 9 and 11 of Camp Sector BIId; after a few days, they were taken to a crematorium:⁷¹⁷

“We enter the court-yard, and then we cross over the door-way of the building above which I read the word ‘Baden.’ Are they taking us to the baths? We are led to a very large room in the basement. Nothing unusual there; in the far end of it, a door; on the walls, hundreds of numbered hooks to hang clothes on. I am however obstinate in trying to discover somewhere some mysterious machine that gives death. Maybe the ceiling or the walls are concealing some ingenious apparatus to destroy people? The Germans are so subtle. But nothing at all. This room is like any other room... and yet, an unspeakable fear claws at my throat. All of a sudden [sic], truck engines are heard outside; they stop in front of the door. Women and children are now entering the room; then others, and more... There must be about three hundred of them. The trucks go away; the door is closed. Several S.S. and a few of the older captives on duty are now moving around the room. They order the women to undress... ‘schnell...

⁷¹⁵ YVA, O.33-9029, p. 90 of the typewritten text.

⁷¹⁶ There is no record of any member of the “*Sonderkommando*” by that name.

⁷¹⁷ YVA, O.33-9029, pp. 92-94.

schnell... los... los...'. Already, whips go into action, pistols are shining... They must undress quickly. The women are instructed to hang their clothes carefully on the hooks and especially, to be sure to remember their number so as to avoid confusion after the baths. Too modest to stand naked in front of so many men, a few women are still keeping their slips on. But the men order them to take off everything, 'alles... alles...'. "

Then other groups of inmates arrived:

"This procedure is repeated five or six times. Then, an officer asks. 'How many are they?' ... 'A thousand four hundred.' The Kapo orders us, 'Eintreten by five; it's enough work for today.' ... We go back to the Block."

After two days, the group of inmates was taken back to the crematorium; there were 2,000 men in the undressing room. The narration continues as follows:⁷¹⁸

"They [the SS] open the back door. I am getting closer... and closer... It leads to a narrow passage. On one side of it is another door with its sections lined with wide strips of thick rubber; this door shuts hermetically. Above it is an electric clock, and a kind of attic-window with a very thick glass.

An S.S. opens a case and takes out two metal containers very similar to vacuum flasks or thermos bottles; they contain a gas called 'Cyclone.' He opens the small window, throws with force the thermos into the room, and shuts it back hastily. What time is it at the electric clock? Five past eight. On striking the floor the thermos break, making a detonation. Immediately after, I hear a second noise: it sounds like tires blowing out, or rather, like the rattle or hissing of hundred snakes.

Cries of distress, atrocious shouts and shrieks come up. They grow louder and louder. Am I in hell? The walls of the gas-chamber tremble under the incredible impact and the desperate knocking of those being asphyxiated. Arms and fists keep hitting and smashing against the thick glass of the small observation window, in a last attempt to break it down. All of us are pale, our hair stands up on our heads, a cold sweat forms in drops over our foreheads... The blood drains from our bodies. Some of us sway and feel about to faint. The cries and the yelling now seem to be losing in their intensity; they are becoming more sparse... They have now become groaning, more wailing, muffled and far distant laments... Then, absolute silence. How long did it take?

Three minutes, five minutes? The S.S. takes a look at the clock. He presses an electric button. Inside the gas-chamber, ventilators clear up the atmosphere. The door is pushed open. What an horrible sight! A mass of dead bodies pell-mell on top of each other; their limbs sprawled and intertwined, their eyes popping out of their orbits, their mouths frothing, their faces emaciated, blood, stains...

⁷¹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 94-97.

The bodies are turned over and we must proceed immediately with the 'Zähne-Kontrolle' or dental ablation; the gold teeth are extracted and put down in a case. The women's hair is cut off and will soon get on its way to Germany. Specially arranged elevators carry the bodies up to the next floor where the furnaces are, what is left of 2,000 human beings who a while ago were alive..."

In this narration, the word "Baden" on one of the crematoria resembles the version told by Vaillant-Couturier. The duration of death, 3-5 minutes, forms part of the absurd parameters established by propaganda, and in a crematorium (II or III) there are "elevators," plural (for Nyiszli, there were four of them).

It seems like Nahon inserted a few themes on his own initiative, such as, for example, the electrical clock, the victims entering in groups of 300 until the gas chamber is full with 1,400 persons, although 1,500 would have been more-logical (5 groups of 300 persons) and "a kind of attic-window with a very thick glass," presumably in the wall over the gas-chamber door.

Other themes are her own adaptations, such as *exploding* "thermos [bottles]" full of "Cyclone" gas: an ingenuous interpretation of Tabeau's "bombs with hydrogen cyanide": if they were "bombs," they should have exploded when they hit the floor! The fairy tale of the periodic extermination of the inmates in the "Sonderkommando" appears here with a temporal expansion:⁷¹⁹

"Every five or six months or so the staff at the Sonder-Kommando is replaced."

In this literary fiction, the source of "information" was an anonymous Greek member of the "Sonderkommando," which supposedly turns this into an "eyewitness" account, but the only thing this Greek inmate knew about the cremation of the bodies (if we consider him to be real) was that there were "furnaces." Nadjari states that, before the evacuation of Birkenau, 26 Greeks remained in the "Sonderkommando," so that the source of the story should really be one of those, if not exactly Nadjari himself.

3.6.4. Chaim Frosch (1945)

The witness was deported to Auschwitz on April 30, 1942 and registered under number 34496. He signed an undated 4-page "Report on Auschwitz Birkenau" in German, which no doubt dates back to 1945. According to him, only 15-20% of the deportees from Jewish transports were admitted to the camp upon arrival. Here is an excerpt from his report:⁷²⁰

"The remaining 80% were taken to the so-called Brzezinka and put in a small room, gassed there and burned at the pyre. Persons who did not obey most

⁷¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 99.

⁷²⁰ "Bericht über Auschwitz Birkenau". YVA, O.33-18, pp. 1f.

quickly the orders to undress were thrown alive into the fire. I have knowledge of this through the people in the Sonderkommando who carried out this work. I myself worked at a distance of 200-300 m and watched a lot of this.

Crematoria I and II in Birkenau were completed in August. The gas chambers held about 2000 people who were gassed in one batch. [...] At the end of 1942, Crematoria III and IV were completed, which burned 1500 people a day. [...] At the beginning of 1944, large transports of Hungarian Jews arrived at a rapid pace, of whom, as usual, 15% were brought to the camps, the rest were immediately gassed and burned. The Crematoria I-V worked uninterruptedly day and night, but could not cope with the work, so that large pits were dug at the crematoria in which the gassed people were burned. When the gassing chamber could not cope with the demand either, thousands of people were simply driven to the excavated pits, shot and immediately burned, often children in front of their mothers. The picture which presented itself to the camp inmates was terrible when they could watch the extermination work of the four crematoria and pits, had to listen to the horrific, shrill cries for help of those doomed, while the flames blazed meters high into the sky.” (My emphases).

Despite his alleged contact with the “Sonderkommando who carried out this work,” Frosch knew nothing of the two gassing “bunkers.” For him, in 1942, there was only “a small room” and a single “pyre.” According to him, Crematoria II and III were completed in August 1942, Crematoria IV and V at the end of that year. As mentioned earlier, these dates are way off. The capacities of these facilities (6,000 people per day) are clearly taken from the Wetzler-Vrba Report or from another common source. In 1944, the mass graves were dug “at the crematoria,” and not just near Crematorium V, as claimed by the final Polish-Soviet version. The story of deportees killed with firearms and burned in cremation pits, which was taken up and developed by Nyiszli, is here also justified by the fact that “the gassing chamber,” in the singular, could not cope with the claimed enormous influx of deportees to be exterminated.

3.7. Testimonies of Prisoners Reporting Camp Rumors

3.7.1. Protocol No. 701 (July 9, 1945)

The witness with the initials K.D., born in 1915 at Budapest was a Hungarian Jewess and former Auschwitz inmate. Among other things, she declared:⁷²¹

“It was horrible to see the chimneys throwing out fire [égő kéményeket] everyday, and to see the pits on fire [éggödöröket] from afar. Dead bodies were so numerous that the crematoria did not have the capacities to burn them all so they burnt people also in pits out in the open. There were transports that ar-

⁷²¹ <http://degob.org/index.php?showjk=701>

rived during the night and were sent to the gas chamber [gázba: gas] without selections. There were nights [éjjel] when they burnt 25,000 people. People from the last Hungarian transport came from Újpest and the neighbourhoods of Pest. A few weeks later there was less work to do because no new transports arrived so the Kanadakommando was dismissed. My last horrible memory working in the Kanada is the episode when men, who had worked in the gas chambers [a gázkamrában: in the gas chamber], were brought to our place and gassed in the room where the Kanada used to gas clothes [a Kanada ruhagázósítójában].”

This witness collected the propaganda themes of the flaming chimneys and burning pits. The figure of 25,000 cremated persons, which some people considered the record set in an entire day, as we have seen earlier, is obtained here during just one night. The story of the gassing of men from the “*Sonderkommando*” in the gas chamber of *Kanada I* at Auschwitz was attributed by the witness to *Kanada II*, at Birkenau,⁷²² which, as is known, did not have a place in which to fumigate clothing, unless we wish to consider as such the gas chamber in the disinfection barracks (*Entlausungsbaracke*) of building *BW 5a*, which did not form part of the camp sector where the inmates’ personal effects were stored.

3.7.2. Protocol No. 468 (July 20, 1945)

Another former Jewish Auschwitz inmate from Hungarian with the initials I.M., born in 1918 at Oroszvégy, stated:⁷²³

“We worked in the baths for 8 months. We saw terrible things day after day, because we were just opposite the crematorium. We saw as they were taking tens of thousands of young mothers with their children and old people to the gas chamber [a gázba: into the gas] and burnt them every day. The chimney of the crematorium was emitting flames day and night. If someone resisted, they ordered huge dogs to attack them. Sometimes they took those people selected for transports also into the crematorium. We realised it because when we were sorting out clothes we found camp-bread in the pockets of dresses and coats, and also numbers on the coats (because we had to wear numbers on the outside of clothes or coats). I also know that some people managed to escape from the crematorium, but only very few. Those men who worked in the crematoria were replaced every three months [hónaponként: monthly]. They were then taken to a clothes storage [area] [ruhamagazinba] where they were gassed [engedtek rájuk gázt: the gas was released on top of them]. These were members of the so-called Sonderkommando. They were not allowed to talk to anybody, SS soldiers guarded them even when they went to wash themselves so

⁷²² The witness never mentions Birkenau, but claims that he was assigned to the *Weberei-Kommando* (*Kommando* weaving factory) in Camp “C” (BIIC) in October 1944; therefore he was at Birkenau.

⁷²³ <http://dego.org/index.php?showjk=468>

that they could not talk to us. Before they were executed, they were all singing the Russian national anthem. It would still happen that I could talk to a person like that sentenced to death before he was killed with gas. I remember that one of them shouted to us in the baths [fürdőbe: after the bath] the following words: we burnt 15,000 people today, unfortunately we will not have an opportunity to take revenge for all these horrible things, but you may stay alive and we ask you to take revenge for all this horror... Another time one of my friends managed to save two children, she snatched them from a transport that was on the way to the crematorium. They cut her hair as punishment,^[724] but she managed to keep the children alive. When we arrived in Birkenau it was night and we saw the great flames [óriási lángnyervekat felczapni: enormous tongues of fire] soaring into the sky behind the crematorium [a krematórium mögött]. The road to the baths [fürdő felé] led that way and we witnessed as the members of the Sonderkommando [Sonderkommandósok, plural] were throwing corpses into huge pits [óriási gödrökbe]. One held the arms and another one the legs. We found out later that they had done this because there had been no room in the crematorium, and they had to get rid of the corpses this way. The crematorium was smoking until about the end of October, then the Germans demolished it, and left only one standing. When the Russian troops were approaching us we were evacuated, but before we left, they took blood from us for their soldiers.”

Another fantastic testimony that reworked the propaganda themes already seen above: the “clothes storage [area]” used as gas chamber, the one-month life expectancy of the “Sonderkommando,” flaming chimneys, the “huge pits” for cremation “behind the crematorium” (which one, is not indicated). To throw the bodies into the burning pits, “one held the arms and another one the legs,” a feasible procedure only if they were standing at the edge of the pit, where the intense heat would have burned them alive.

3.7.3. Anonymous French Student (1945)

On April 17, 1945, a French student fled to Great Britain “by way of Oswiecim”; the student’s name is not given, and it is not even known whether that person was one of the inmates left behind at the Auschwitz complex by the SS before withdrawing. But he left a long statement organized in points. The most important, from the point of view of this study, are the following:⁷²⁵

“39. In May and Jun [sic] 44 two further batches arrived, each amounting to perhaps 1500 French Jews sent for extermination. In each case about 200 of the fittest were put in Oswiecim Camp.

⁷²⁴ All inmates had their heads shaved upon registration, as seen in Photos 103 and 104 of Hellman *et al.*, pp. 135f.

⁷²⁵ “Interrogation of a French student, born 15 May 19 at St. Halle, who reached the U.K. via Oswiecim on 17 Apr. 45.” L-161, p. 8.

40. *Also in May and Jun 44, about 3000 Hungarian Jews arrived, 1000 of whom remained in the camp, and the balance were sent to work in the neighbouring mines.*

41. *In addition, large transports of Hungarian Jews arrived for extermination and these ones did not pass through the camp but were sent direct to the gas chambers.*

42. *During Jul [sic] 44 they were being liquidated at the rate of 12,000 Hungarian Jews daily and as the crematoires [sic] could not deal with such numbers many bodies were thrown into large pits and covered with quicklime.*

43. *Informant had heard that probably a million Hungarian Jews were thus exterminated. In Oct or Nov [sic] 44 transports of these Jews ceased to arrive."*

In May and June 1944, three transports arrived at Auschwitz from France (Drancy), the exact dates being May 1 and 23, and June 2; there were 3,204 deportees in total, of whom 980 were registered (Czech 1990, pp. 617, 631, 638).

The story of the 3,000 Hungarian Jews of whom 1,000 were sent to the surrounding mines is reminiscent of the Polish "Extraordinary Appendix to the Periodic Report for the Period between May 5 and 25, 1944," which speaks of 2,000 Hungarian Jews who were left alive and were then transferred to Gleiwitz.

For the witness, the deportation of the Hungarian Jews reached its climax in July 1944, lasted until the month of October or November, and cost the lives of one million people, although in reality the deportations ceased on July 9, 1944, and the total number of *deportees* was approximately 438,000 (Piper 1993, p. 124). The witness did not know anything about any "cremation pits," because according to him, the bodies of the murdered persons were thrown into mass graves and "covered with quicklime."

3.7.4. Maurice Lequeux (1945)

Paddy Costello, an official at the embassy of New Zealand in Moscow, found himself at Lublin in the first few months of 1945, and managed to visit the Majdanek Camp. In Lublin, he met Captain Maurice Lequeux, who had been interned at Auschwitz in 1944, and who told him his story of the camp. On May 4, 1945, Costello wrote a report on both camps. The following are the most-important passages of the report on "Oswiecim":⁷²⁶

"My official business in Lublin brought me into touch with a French captain, Maurice Lequeux, who had been captured by the Germans in 1943 while engaged upon sabotage work under the direction of London. I interrogated him

⁷²⁶ German "Extermination Camps" (Vernichtungslager). A report by Mr. Costello of the New Zealand Legation, Moscow, after visiting Poland. TNA, FO 371-50975.

closely and was most impressed, as was my colleague F/O Floyd, by his character and intelligence. What he told me about the concentration camp at Oswiecim, where he was imprisoned during 1944 and up to his evacuation by the Germans in January this year, was confirmed by another ex-inmate of the camp, Dr. Olga Lengel, whom I also met in Lublin. Both these people carry tattooed on their forearms their concentration camp number.

Oswiecim (on the Vistula, West of Krakow) was a much bigger camp than Maidanek and far more people were murdered and burnt there. Instead of one furnace there were five, with five chimneys, as well as two ditches each 120 ft. long, 25 ft. wide and 12 ft. deep. [ca. 37 m × 7.5 m × 3.5 m], in which the bodies were burnt. There were always four furnaces working (the fifth being in reserve for boom periods) and the ditches too were used continuously except for the two or three occasions each month when the ashes were emptied. At Oswiecim the ashes from the ditches and the furnaces were transported in lorries and emptied into the Vistula.

Oswiecim seems to have resembled Maidanek except that it was on a bigger scale and the work there was more rationalised. The principle was similar and the sequence – shower, gas, oven – was the same. The Germans introduced some refinements into their treatment of the prisoners. The inmates of any particular shed in which a ‘selection’ (‘Auswahl’) was to be held for that day’s burning were always told some hours ahead in order that they could think about what was coming to them. The ‘selection’ was completely arbitrary, the inmates of the shed parading past a seated German who jerked his thumb left or right to indicate whether the individual was to be burnt that day or not. Children who were ‘selected’ were always sent to take farewell of their parents.

In many cases the victims were naked when they set out for the gas chamber. Captain Lequeux saw one parade of 2,000 women stark naked marching ‘to the gas’ with the German band at their head playing tangos and fox-trots. In cases where they were dressed, they were given numbered checks for their clothes in the shower room and, passing to the gas chamber, filed past a notice which said in several languages: ‘Keep hold of your check as otherwise you may not get your own clothes back when you come out.’ The people were packed so tight in the gas chamber that Captain Lequeux believes 75 per cent of them died of simple asphyxiation; the rest were finished off as at Maidanek, with Zyklon. They were so tight jammed together that to pull the bodies out when the door was opened large iron hooks were used.

At Oswiecim the gas chamber was not, as at Maidanek, at some distance from the ovens. It was underground, and lifts carried the bodies up to the ground level in the furnace area. There the gold teeth of the dead were broken out of their mouths by a special team, autopsies were performed on a few, and they went into the fire. It took 20 minutes to burn the bodies, and Lequeux said that the lifts with the next intake of corpses could be heard rising a minute or two before each lot of bodies had been consumed.

All those engaged in handling the dead were persons who were themselves condemned to be burnt. The prisoners' doctors likewise were appointed for periods of three months at the end of which they passed to the gas chamber themselves. Lequeux, who worked around the camp as a mechanic, made the acquaintance of a Dr. Pasch, who was burnt at the end of July last year, and from whom he got the figures of the previous three months' burnings. There were: –

*May 360,000
June 512,000
July 1st-26th 442,000*

On the day when they established their record of 25,000 executed in one day the Germans were issued with an extra ration of schnapps, and celebrated the occasion by a carousal. It may be pointed out here that as from January 1944 non-Jews were no longer burnt in the ovens though they were massacred in droves. [...]

It was the German practice always to gas the prisoners before they burned them. Exceptions were made in favour of persons seriously ill and of newborn babies; these were thrown alive into the ovens. The babies were thrown into boxes as they were born; after a few days, when the boxes were full (those in the bottom layers being presumably already dead), they were burnt without any formalities. [...]

Captain Lequeux puts the number of these murdered in Oswiecim at 6,000,000."

Costello added the following comment:

"The above sounds like the invention of an insane mind. I am convinced that Captain Lequeux was telling the truth, and F/O Floyd agrees with me. Captain Lequeux was anxious to return to Paris to deliver a full report on this subject, and I am glad to say that my position at Lublin enabled me to help him on his way."

The narrative contains both old and new fantasies. There were five crematoria, with five chimneys (instead of four with six chimneys), four of which were always in operation, while the fifth was for reserve. There were only two cremation pits (the location is not indicated), whence the ashes were cleaned out two or three times a month. The theme of the small orchestra which accompanied the deportees on their way to the gas chamber is here enriched: "Lequeux saw one parade of 2,000 women stark naked marching 'to the gas' with the German band at their head playing tangos and fox-trots." As far as one can tell, for the witness, the "shower room" was not the gas chamber, but the undressing room. The theme of the extreme overcrowding of the gas chamber reappears here, as a result of which 75% of the victims died asphyxiated even before the gassing. The use of "large iron hooks" to extract the bodies is reminiscent of the "instrument with two prongs" mentioned by the anonymous French witness, while the autopsies on the bodies of gassing victims represent

a new literary theme. For Lequeux as well, the manipulation of the bodies occurred in the furnace room, served by “lifts,” therefore more than one. The duration of a cremation was 20 minutes, just like the version also adopted by Nyiszli and others. The presumed periodic extermination of the inmates from the “*Sonderkommando*” (here every three months) is attributed by the witness to the “prisoners’ doctors.” As regards “Dr. Pasch,” a presumed member of the “*Sonderkommando*,” I refer to what I have written elsewhere (Mattogno 2020a, pp. 372-374). The number of presumed victims over the months of May to July 1944, supposedly supplied by this physician, is not only ridiculous (1,314,000 gassing victims!), but also in contradiction with the figures supplied by other authoritative (so the orthodoxy) members of the same “*Sonderkommando*,” such as Bendel (530,000 people gassed between May and August). Even more ridiculous is the total figure for victims at Auschwitz: 6 million!

Lequeux even childishly embroiders the fairy tale of the “record” of persons killed, which appears in many testimonies: that of the 25,000 victims, which was celebrated “with an extra ration of schnapps” and “by a carousel.” This extensive repertoire of stupidity could not possibly fail to include the fantasies of children burned alive. Hence, one can certainly agree with Costello’s first impression of this testimony:

“The above sounds like the invention of an insane mind.”

3.7.5. Olga Lengyel (1946)

This witness, mentioned by Costello in the report examined above, wrote a memoir which was published in French in 1946 under the title *Souvenirs de l’au-delà*, translated into English the following year under the title *Five Chimneys*. The following excerpts are taken from the 1995 edition (Lengyel, pp. 81f.):

“Of the four crematory units at Birkenau, two were huge and consumed enormous numbers of bodies. The other two were smaller. Each unit consisted of an oven, a vast hall, and a gas chamber. Above each rose a high chimney, which was usually fed by nine fires. The four ovens at Birkenau were heated by a total of thirty fires. Each oven had large openings. That is, there were 120 openings, into each of which three corpses could be placed at one time. That meant they could dispose of 360 corpses per operation. That was only the beginning of the Nazi ‘Production Schedule’. Three hundred and sixty corpses every half hour, which was all the time it took to reduce human flesh to ashes, made 720 per hour, or 17,280 corpses per twenty-four hour shift. And the ovens, with murderous efficiency, functioned day and night.

However, one must also take into account the death pits, which could destroy another 8,000 cadavers a day. In round numbers, about 24,000 corpses were handled each day."

The tale of the witness was evidently borrowed from the Wetzler-Vrba Report. In the English translation of Olga Lengyel's book, the choice of words is a little confused, as "fire" corresponds to "furnace" in the English translation of the above-mentioned report, which in turn corresponds to the German word "*Ofen*," while in both narratives "openings" means "muffles"; the witness's description is therefore summarized in a table:

Crematoria	Fires	Total Fires	Openings per Fire	Total Openings	Body Load	Total Load in 30 min.	Total Load in 1 hr	Load in 24 hrs
II-III	9 + 9	18	4	72	3	216	432	10368
IV-V	6 + 6	12	4	48	3	144	288	6912
Totals	30	30		120		360	720	17280

However, for Wetzler and Vrba, the cremation of a load of $(18 \times 4 \times 3 =) 216$ bodies took 90 minutes, which corresponds to a 24-hour cremation capacity of 3,456 bodies for the two installations, 1,728 for each one (generously rounded off upwards to 2,000 by both witnesses). Olga Lengyel reduced the duration to 30 minutes, thus tripling an already-phantasmagorical capacity.

With regards to the number of victims, the witness declared (*ibid.*, p. 83):

"I have the figures only for the months of May, June, and July, 1944. Dr Pasche, a French doctor of the Sonderkommando, in the crematory, who was in a position to gather statistics on the rate of exterminations, provided me with these:

<i>May, 1944</i>	<i>360,000</i>
<i>June, 1944</i>	<i>512,000</i>
<i>From the 1st to the 26th of July, 1944</i>	<i>442,000</i>
	<i>1,314,00</i>

In less than a quarter of a year the Germans had 'liquidated' more than 1,300,000 persons at Auschwitz-Birkenau!"

The same figures also appear in the "Report on the 'Auschwitz' Camp" by the Jew deported from Compiègne, analyzed earlier:⁷²⁷

"In an exact and official manner I can give the number of victims during the period of 1 [May] to 26 July which totals 1,314,000 and which is divided as follows:

<i>In May</i>	<i>360,000</i>
<i>In June</i>	<i>512,000</i>
<i>From 1 to 26 July</i>	<i>442,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,314,000 "</i>

⁷²⁷ NO-1960, p. 5.

Considering the claims of four, five or even six million Auschwitz victims at the time, such absurdities were quite “normal.”

3.7.6. Mordecai Lichtenstein (1945)

In May 1945, an ex-Auschwitz inmate, Mordecai Lichtenstein, wrote a report which was collected by the Jewish Central Information Service in London and introduced as follows:

“One of the few survivors of the horrors of the infamous Nazi concentration camp at OSWIECIM (Auschwitz), Poland, paid a visit to our London Institute on the last stage of his recent escape. We have carefully checked our informant’s identity and reliability, and are certain that his report is true in every detail.”

The most-important part of the report is the paragraph titled “Gassing”:⁷²⁸

“The actual killing in the gas chambers took place in the following way. In front of the chambers, people had to alight from the lorries, or were simply tipped out by means of a winch. Sometimes they were given a towel and a piece of soap, driven into the chambers and beaten if resisting, supposedly to take a bath and be deloused. Then the doors were shut and screwed down. By an electrical process the air was pumped out. An S.S. man opened a trap-door near the roof, about 40 centimetres square, and threw one or several tins of CYCLON into the gas chamber. If a sufficient quantity of the substance was used, asphyxiation was complete in about 3 to 5 minutes. Otherwise the killing was said to have lasted 25 to 30 minutes. The Jewish electricians working in the crematoria told me that the S.S. had several times not used a sufficient amount of gas and that the ‘Sonder-Commando’ people, Jews employed in removing the victims, had found the corpses clutched fast together in the final agony of suffocation. The ‘Sonder-Commando’ had great difficulty in separating the bodies. Through a peephole covered with thick glass S.S. doctors watched the gassing and then ordered the automatic ventilation of the chambers. Now the ‘Sonder-Commando,’ about 200 men, pulled the corpses out of the place. The hair of the victims was then shorn, their gold and metal teeth broken out of their mouths. On little carts the corpses were taken to the crematoria, where they were burned by an electrical current of 6,000 volts. Most of the people were sent to this death completely naked, but if the incoming transports were too big and the S.S. wanted to hurry things up, they were killed in their clothes. Then the ‘Sonder-Commando’ had to undress them afterwards. [...]

The exact figure of the Jews gassed in Auschwitz will never be known, nor will their names. The members of transports arriving at the camp and led straight

⁷²⁸ Jewish Central Information Service, London, “Jewish Survivors Report, Documents of Nazi Guilt. No. 1. Eighteen Months in the Oswiecim Extermination Camp.” ROD, c[21]09, p. 1, 11f.

to the gas chambers were not registered by name, nor did they receive any camp numbers, and I very much doubt whether the names of these people immediately gassed were even known to the camp administration. But it is a very careful estimate that about 3 million Jews died in Auschwitz, most of them gassed, many of them brought to a premature and violent end by the other methods described. In addition one million non-Jews prisoners were murdered in Auschwitz, with the exception of the gypsies not by gas, but in various ways indicated in this report."

This testimony rehashes the usual common literary themes ("a towel and a piece of soap," "a trap-door near the roof" – one single introduction aperture, gassing time three to five minutes, total number of victims four million, broken down into three million Jews and one million non-Jews!) with the addition of further fantasies: "by an electrical process the air was pumped out" the gas chamber (this fairy tale had already appeared in "Report on the Nazi Atrocities at the Auschwitz Camp" of February 26, 1945; see Subchapter 3.1.2.) and transporting the bodies "on little carts" to the crematoria (a method invented by Wetzler and Vrba), where cremation was achieved by "by an electrical current of 6,000 volts," an obvious development inspired by electrical cremation furnaces.

The killing of the victims "in their clothes," so that then "the 'Sonder-Commando' had to undress them afterwards," is one of the so-many stories that attribute to the SS the very stupidity which the inventors of these fairy tales were guilty of.

3.7.7. Pelagia Lewińska (1945)

This Polish Jew arrived at Auschwitz on January 28, 1943 and was registered under number 32292. After the Soviet conquest of Auschwitz, she went to France for some unknown reason, where she wrote a short book that was published in Polish and French in 1945. The following is my translation from the second Polish edition of 1946 (Lewińska, pp. 103-105):

"Then, when the number of transports from all over Europe and Hungary in particular, increased over the months of April, May, June and July 1944, a dead-end spur was laid to the camp off the Krakow-Kattowitz main rail line, leading directly to the crematorium.

The number of crematoria was increased to 14, and deep pits were dug in which children up to the age of 14 were burned alive on piles of wood without gassing. The gas in the chambers was not always sufficient for the children; the gas was saved to the detriment of the children, who perished alive in the flames. There were months in which the flames from the crematorium chimneys were never extinguished and dense clouds of voluminous smoke rose from the burning pyres, spreading for kilometers, covering Auschwitz and the surrounding area with a thick veil of dust.

When we were working in company, up to a distance of several kilometers away from the camp, our bodies and clothing were covered with black soot.”

In May 1944, five trains consisting of 50 cars carrying 100 persons each arrived every day.

“In the meantime, the persons got down off the trains, calmly forming columns of five and went passively to the gas chambers true and proper. With natural trust, they received a towel, entered the room in great faith, waiting for the restorative waters to spray forth from the shower heads. But... but now it was too late – the only thing exiting the water taps [z kranów] was gas... death!”

In this testimony, all the grisly themes recurrent in the crudest fairy tales appear: nonsensical number of crematoria (14!), children regularly burned alive, flames exiting the chimneys for whole months at a time, clouds of smoke and dust in the air over the camp at all times, the gas that exited the “water taps” instead of water!

3.7.8. Bela Fabian (1945)

A report headed “Paris, 30th April, 1945” and signed “P.F.D. Tennant” reports the following:⁷²⁹

“In the afternoon of April 26th, Mr. Scarlett and I interviewed Dr. Bela FABIAN, a Hungarian democratic politician and journalist who, together with a Greek, a Czech and a Dresden Jewish violinist, had escaped from German hands across the American lines on April 9th and 10th after having been interned in the camp of OSWIENCIM (Auschwitz), from which he had been transferred to the West following the Russian advance in the East, until he finally escaped from the camp of ORDRUF.”

This is followed by the witness’s account, from which I shall examine the following points:

“He was employed in the Record Office of the Oswiencim camp, and, from these records, it was possible to deduce that up to June 1944 five million people had been gassed and burned.”

The “Record Office” was the Registry of the Political Department (*Registatur der Politischen Abteilung*), which, among other things, maintained the card file for all the inmates of the camp. The figure of five million gassing victims is evidently absurd.

Fabian, who was issued number B-12305, saw the usual flames from crematorium chimneys and could also observe that they

“were of a curious reddish-yellow colour and the smell of the burning corpses was evident from the beginning. Large numbers of corpses were also being burned out in the open air because the crematorium would not hold them.”

⁷²⁹ TNA, FO 371-50975, pp. 74-76.

In this regard, he explained:

“In the various crematoria, a daily turnover of 12,000 corpses was the average. Some times, however, this was exceeded and additional corpses were simply burned on pyres in the open air.”

This fits perfectly with the logic of five million gassing victims.

The witness reports that in the Birkenau Camp’s Sector BIII, known as “Mexiko,” there were 30,000 young Hungarian Jews, and also mentions the presumed gassing of the Gypsies, which for him occurred on August 1, 1944 (for Danuta Czech on the next day) and affected 2,400 persons (for Danuta Czech, 2,897; 1990, p. 677). In particular,

“he described further how 1,000 boys between the ages of 15 and 17 in Block 11 were suddenly concentrated one day, loaded onto lorries and driven off to be killed. He said that their bravery and dignity was unbelievable.”

As noted earlier, it is a documented fact that 918 Gypsies were transferred to Buchenwald on August 3, 1944, including 105 children 9 to 14 years of age (and 393 aged 15 to 24); it therefore makes no sense to have killed 1,000 children aged 15 to 17 years.

The account concludes with this final fabrication:

“On October 26th, he was with the famous Czech scientist, Epstein, in the hospital when suddenly the Sperre was sounded, and they were told to return to their blocks for immediate evacuation. They were divided up into two groups, given a medical examination and those who were too ill were immediately gassed and burned.” (Emphasis in original)

Danuta Czech makes no mention of this presumed “selection,” which means that Fabian is the sole guarantor of its reality – and from what I have shown above, his unreliability has been unequivocally demonstrated.

3.7.9. Samuel Lewent (1945)

This witness was in the Łomża Ghetto and was deported to Auschwitz via Zambrów with a transport in January 1943. The journey lasted three days. Here are excerpts from the protocol of his interrogation conducted in May 1945 in Bucarest:⁷³⁰

“On the spot in Auschwitz around 8000 men between the ages of 20 and 35 were assigned to work; all others were sent into the gas.

Those assigned to work were tattooed with numbers on the left hand (fore-arm). I received the number 89221. One of the first of my comrades from Lomza received the number 86811; as one of the last from Lomza, I received

⁷³⁰ “Protokoll aufgenommen im Hause der Flüchtlinge zu Bucarest, Calea Moșilor 128 am 15. Mai 1945.” GFHA, Catalog No. 21, p. 1.

the number 89221, which shows that a total of about 8000 men from Łomża remained alive – after arriving at Auschwitz.”

According to Danuta Czech, seven Jewish transports arrived at Auschwitz in January 1943 from Łomża and Zambrów (on Jan. 13, 15, 16 [two transports], 17, 18, 19) with altogether 14,000 deportees, 1,500 of whom were registered (Czech 1990, pp. 305-308). The number of registered inmates given by the witness is undoubtedly excessive, and his claimed registration number – 89221 – is wrong, too, if we believe the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, according to which this number was assigned to a deportee from a transport of Jews who arrived from Belgium on Jan. 18 (numbers 89076-89462; Czech 1990, p. 307f.). Lewent, who remained in Auschwitz until the evacuation of the camp, provides the following information:⁷³¹

“Another labor squad was the Sonderkommando, which worked on the cremation of corpses. They received the people who had arrived by car, led them into the undressing room, where they had to completely undress the people, counted them, took off their clothes, then the people were supposedly taken to bathe, and everyone was given a bar of soap, but in reality, they went into the gas chamber, where they were suffocated by means of Ziklon [sic]. The Jews brought the corpses into the furnaces of the crematorium by means of [iron?] carts, where they were cremated. There were four crematoria, each with four furnaces, an undressing room and a gas chamber.

In all four crematoria, 15,000 bodies were burned within 24 hours. The stay in the gas chamber lasted 8 minutes. The women’s hair was cut off before they were burned. The collected hair was transported to Germany. The gas was only used if there were over 400 people. If the number of people to be killed was lower and the gas was evidently expensive, those affected were killed by an injection into the heart. It was pretended that it was an injection against infectious diseases. The injection happened right in front of the gas-chamber door. When it happened and the person in question entered the gas chamber, he would immediately fall dead to the ground.”

To the most-common fantasies (soap, the cremation of 15,000 corpses a day, the duration of the gassing of eight minutes with “Ziklon,” four crematoria, each with four furnaces and one gas chamber) the witness added the innovative variant of the minimum number of inmates admitted to a gassing in order to save gas. Earlier versions talked about people (mainly children) burned alive in cremation pits in order to save gas, or because there wasn’t enough of it, or that people had to wait inside the crematoria until the required number of people was reached. This witness claims instead that there was a limit below which gas was not used. Both this limiting system and the alternative killing method claimed developed according to the witness’s inspiration: for Lewent, the lower limit was 400 people, and the alternative method was lethal injec-

⁷³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

tion; for Nyiszli and Bendel, the lower limit was 500 and 300 people, respectively, and the alternative killing system was a shot into the back of the neck (Mattogno 2020a, pp. 75, 322). Note here the unique inventiveness of Lewent: the lethal injections were administered “right in front of the gas chamber door,” so that the victim could still walk into the gas chamber and would die only there!

3.7.10. André Rogerie (1946)

André Rogerie was transferred to Auschwitz from the Majdanek Camp on April 14, 1944, and was registered under number 183070. He remained at the camp until January 18, 1945, when he was evacuated to Gross-Rosen and then to Nordhausen, Dora and finally Harzungen. Returning home, he wrote a set of memoirs which he finished on October 21, 1945. They were published in 1946 and reprinted in 1988. This is the relevant section of his testimony (Rogerie, pp. 72f.):

“To the right, they were sent to disinfection, then to the labor camp. To the left, those slated for the cremation furnace, the useless ones. But these latter are still unaware. With slow steps, the elderly, women, children head for the perimeter of the furnace, which they mistake for the disinfection site. They enter an underground hall in which they get undressed. Large notices inform them they will find their clothing at the exit, right where they left them, after which they enter a shower room. On the ceiling, the devices are ready to dispense their beneficial waters. Everything is there.

They are gradually crammed together in the hall, and inevitably everything is beginning to make them nervous. Then, when they are all there, completely naked, crammed tightly together, it’s not water that sprays forth onto them, but the gas that kills them. A little later, the bodies, piled up in a room upstairs, will be burned in electrical furnaces, working faster than the slaughter houses in Chicago. The ashes will be used to enrich the infertile soil of Germany. There are four cremation furnaces at Birkenau. Even more, on ‘peak’ days, two supplementary pits are dug to further burn the bodies.”

Rogerie adopted the fairy tales of the gas showers, the electric furnaces, and the ashes used as fertilizer. The propaganda version he drew on preferred to claim that there were two cremation pits, without specifying where they were located.

The most-important part of this testimony is a drawing of Crematorium II, seen from the east (from Sector BIb), which is rather correct (see Document 22). Rogerie also drew a plan of the Birkenau Camp (see Document 23)⁷³²

⁷³² In this sketch, the chimney wings of Crematoria II and III are on the wrong side of the building; the railway branch line shows two tracks instead of three; in the drawing in the Wetzler-Vrba Report, neither the chimney wing appears (all the crematoria have the same silhouette) nor the railway line; here, moreover, the *Zentralsauna* (“Bath”) is located between Crematoria II-III and IV-

which is more accurate than the plan that appears in the Wetzler-Vrba Report (see Document 24), which confirms the purely propagandistic nature of the Wetzler-Vrba Report.

3.7.11. Narcyz Tadeusz Obrycki (1946)

The Pole Narcyz Tadeusz Obrycki was deported to Auschwitz on May 13, 1943, and registered under number 121557. In an interrogation on December 9, 1946, the affidavit he signed reported the following:⁷³³

“In Auschwitz there were a total of five crematoria. No. 1, close to the Political Department, was a small crematorium; in the years 1943 and 1944, it remained inactive, then it was partially demolished and transformed into a warehouse, then in Birkenau [were built] Crematoria 2 and 3 of one type and Crematoria 4 and 5 of another type. At first, people were gassed in a shed [w szopie] in Brzezinki [na Brzezinkach] and burned on pyres [na stosach]. Then Crematoria 2 and 3 were built. The construction was carried out by the company Bau und Industriegesellschaft of Gleiwitz,^[734] the furnaces were installed by the company Topf und Söhne. The head of construction was SS Oberscharführer Sichorz, who spoke Polish, probably a renegade. In the lower part, hence underground, the crematorium consisted of two rooms, which measured 7 x 30 meters, located opposite each other at a right angle. The rooms were connected by a corridor. Everything was made of concrete. The walls were 40 cm thick, the floors were made of concrete, inside the walls were insulated with tarboard. The roof was supported in the center by a row of columns and covered by a half-meter layer of earth. The first room was accessed by a beautiful staircase. The first room was the changing room with benches; towels and soap were handed out there. The second room was entered through a corridor, and fake showers were installed there. The delinquent [delikwent, meaning victim] did not suspect anything. After entering the second room, the gas-tight doors were closed, and an SS man launched a cartridge [nabój] of ‘cyclon’ gas from the outside. The second room had lower and upper channels. After the gassing, the exhaustors [ekshaustory] were started, and the gas was removed from the chamber, and air was introduced. The service team, made up of Jewish inmates, the so-called Sonderkommando, entered the hall, and by means of a freight elevator in the corridor carried the corpses upstairs, to the hall where the cremation furnaces were installed. There were five furnaces with five openings each. Two corpses were loaded into one opening. Under the surveillance of the SS, the clothes [coming] from the

V, while Rogerie correctly places it on top of the crematoria (“Désinfection”). His drawing even shows the soccer field (“Stad[e]”) located behind Crematorium III.

⁷³³ *Protokol* of the interrogation of N.T. Obrycki dated December 9, 1946, by the Warsaw District Investigating Judge. ANN, 212-II-5, p. 15.

⁷³⁴ The witness probably referred to the *Industrie-Bau A.G.* [Aktiengesellschaft], although it was headquartered at Bielitz.

first hall were searched, sorted and sent to the so-called Kanada warehouse, i.e. the Lederfabrik [leather factory] in Auschwitz. The search was mainly for gold, so the corpses' teeth were examined, gold teeth were extracted, etc. As we calculated, about five million Jews were cremated in the crematoria and on the pyres, so the Kanada warehouses were always full of various things that belonged to the Jews. The crematorium staff was liquidated every three months, being taken to Gleiwitz, where they were gassed. [Then] A new service team arrived."

This witness provided a surprisingly precise description of Crematoria II and III in some places, which could only result from documents, such as the measurements of Morgue #1 of 30 m × 7 m, or the existence of two ventilation ducts, one lower and one higher, but, strangely enough, for him the five cremation furnaces each had five muffles instead of the actual three. What could not be taken from documents evidently came from the propaganda bandied about in the camp, starting with the name of the fans, *ekshaustory*, which is the polonization of the term Exhaustor, which I already addressed earlier. On the other hand, Obrycki knew nothing of the alleged Zyklon-B-introduction openings and devices. For the witness, the head of the Central Construction Office was a certain SS *Oberscharführer* Sichorz, which must refer to Franz Sihorsch, who was merely an SS *Unterscharführer* and only a bricklayer by profession, although he was employed by the Construction Office of the POW Camp (Birkenau; see Mattogno 2015a, p. 24). The gassing procedure also involved the distribution of towels and soap, and the “delinquents” (!) were killed by throwing a cartridge of “cyclon” into the room, the final stage of the gas-bomb story. Taken from previously spread rumors were also the five million cremations and the extermination of the “*Sonderkommando*” every three months, specifying with great imagination that these prisoners were gassed in Gleiwitz rather than at Auschwitz. The “cleansed” echo of this fable can still be found in current orthodox Holocaust historiography with its claim that on October 7, 1944 SS *Oberscharführer* Houstek asked the men of the “*Sonderkommando*” for 200 volunteers for a feigned labor assignment in Gleiwitz (but who were actually slated for gassing; Piper 2000, p. 186). The leather factory of Auschwitz, on the other hand, seems to be this witness’s invention. Obrycki knew even less about the alleged initial phase of the extermination: early gasings had taken place “in a shed in Brzezinki,” a place that he evidently believed to be different from Birkenau, as he uses both terms side-by-side as if they were different places. The corpses were not burned in cremation pits, but on pyres. Of Crematoria IV and V, he evidently knew nothing, as he does not describe them at all.

If we accept that this witness acquired the above-detailed information on Crematoria II and III when he was an inmate in the camp, it would result that a simple prisoner knew much more in terms of these crematoria and the exterminations allegedly conducted in them than the members of the “*Sonder-*

kommando,” who propagated the fairy tales analyzed earlier (which, of course, did not come from first-hand experiences but rather from rumors and lies invented by the underground resistance centers).

3.7.12. Robert Lévy (1947)

This witness was a university professor at Strasbourg who was deported to Auschwitz on September 4, 1943, and registered there under number 145920. He sets forth one of the many variants on the fantastic stories invented by the Auschwitz resistance groups (Lévy, p. 464):

“The six crematoria burned day and night; in view of the influx of the summer of 1944, the furnaces were no longer enough, and they burned the bodies in big pits in a beech forest. In one single night in August 1944, the whole Gypsy camp, consisting of 4,000 men, women and children, was sent to the gas. In the meantime, the method had been perfected: a railway spur line was built up to within 50 meters from the gas chambers, so that a whole transport, once it embarked, whether at Drancy or at Budapest, arrived directly before the execution ground. It only had to pass before the SS committee; the committee told the doomed to go ahead a few steps, after which they went into an immense freight elevator, where they were gassed; thanks to this system, the bodies were transported to the furnaces without wasting time. In June 1944, we arrived at the record number of 22,000 incinerations in 24 hours.”

A “gassing elevator”! Such a thing was really missing in the collection of propaganda stupidities! As for the gassing “record,” Lévy was rather modest: only 22,000 cremations per day!

3.7.13. Kurt Marcus

This witness wrote a report titled “Auschwitz-Birkenau. The largest Extermination Camp of the World” (“... *Das grösste Vernichtungslager der Welt*”), which was introduced into evidence during the Krakow Trial. This is a 13-page text in German which does not present itself as a testimony but takes the form of a historical chronology. It anticipates, in a certain way, the accounts to be examined in the next part.

Nothing is known about the author; no known deportee to Auschwitz was ever called Kurt Marcus (with “c”), but there were two Kurt Markuses (with “k”). One of them arrived in Auschwitz on January 22, 1943 (registration number 92542), the other on April 9, 1943 (113313). It can be stated with certainty that the document predates the starting date of the trial against the Auschwitz camp garrison (November 25, 1947).

Given the particular interest of the report, and considering that it is unknown even to specialists such as Jean-Claude Pressac and Robert Jan van Pelt, the following are a few highly representative excerpts:⁷³⁵

“Four crematoria with gas chambers were built south and north of Field 7, Subsection G, known as the ‘New Sauna.’

The gas chambers of Crematoria 1 and 2 were underground and had a holding capacity of about 2,000 persons to be gassed.

Crematoria 3 and 4 with 3 gas chambers each were above ground and for 150, 400 and 800 people; they served for smaller transports.

At a distance of 300 m west of the ‘Sauna’ was a small peasant’s cottage, well disguised, covered with shingles, with a gas chamber for about 1,000 people.

The bodies of the gassing victims were loaded onto wagons, taken to open ditches, stacked up there like pieces of wood, drenched with crude oil, and burned.

Greater numbers of people fell victim to this little peasant cottage than to all other crematoria since its existence.

SS members assured me in the spring in 1945 that a further construction project of 34 [sic] additional crematoria existed.

Poland and other nations of the East, perhaps also of the West, were to be resettled to Birkenau, the weak and elderly to be exterminated, those fit for labor to be deployed in construction projects, exactly like the Jews.

The four crematoria in Birkenau were placed in operation during the first half of 1943.

The mass extermination of the Jews of all the countries of Europe, such as Belgians, Dutch people, French people, Germans, Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Italians, Yugoslavians, Greeks, Hungarians, Spaniards, Russians, Danes, Norwegians and even Africans were brought to Europe with transport aircraft and taken to Auschwitz from there. Even the little island of Aegais was not spared.

But already in May 1942, they started with the gassing of the Polish Jews from the ghettos that had been erected in Poland in the meantime.

The bodies were buried in the mass graves located on what was later the grounds of the ‘Sauna,’ where 10,000 murdered people already lay buried or prisoners of war killed with a shot to the back of the neck.

Since this area was extremely swampy, with ferruginous groundwaters, it was natural that the surface of the earth began to swell and sink after a while, everything transitioning to a kind of fermentation process, whereby fountains of water, mixed with blood, gradually began to squirt up to 3 m high, [so that] the corpses, sprinkled with chlorine, were thrown up to 1 meter into the air, until finally the entire area was covered with blood and putrid water.

⁷³⁵ AGK, NTN, 135, pp. 147-155.

The resulting stench of rotting corpses polluted not only the air in the adjacent Birkenau Camp, but the stench even spread to the city of Auschwitz, so that one had to anticipate the outbreak of an epidemic.

They now took steps to dig up the corpses, and burn them in two ditches running parallel to each other and 4 meters deep, connected with the peasant cottages by means of a narrow-gauge railway spur.

Such a complete destruction proved itself very well in practice, since

1) it saved space and

2) all the traces of these mass murders were wiped out.

They even destroyed the original transport lists.

The only evidence ever seen by the world was the fact that the inmates were sent to the camp.

From that time onwards, they instantly took the bodies out of the 'gas room' into these ditches. They called this process, 'stewing in their own juice'.

As is well-known, no wood needs to be added if average or well-nourished human bodies burn. Besides, the inmates assigned to these cremation squads were forced to scoop up the settling fat with iron ladles on long handles, and pour it back onto the burning bodies.

This fine business was done by a specially recruited squad consisting exclusively of Jews, the so-called 'Sonderkommando,' which consisted of between 400 and 1700 inmates, depending on how busy these 'Heinrich Himmler Works' were, as we called them.

The working day was organized in two shifts of 12 hours each.

When these murder factories were only lightly used (there was always something to do), the Sonderkommando was reduced in number. The inmates removed from the Sonderkommandos were also gassed and burned. [...]

Over the course of 1943, a railway siding line was built leading to between Crematoria 1 und 2 at Birkenau. A modern railway station was built with a platform about 10 meters wide and 4 tracks of about 800 meters. This station was illuminated by strong reflectors.

All men and women over the age of 40, all children, with only very few exceptions, up to age 16, all pregnant women, all weak-looking persons, all invalids, everyone who refused to be separated from their children or family members due to any sense of togetherness, all volunteers for allegedly lighter work, also those who, although healthy, were faking to be sick, lined up either to the right or to the left of the ramp in rank and file, in rows of five, and went together on their final path.

The rest, usually from 15 to 20%, rarely 25%, were selected for life in the camp or for transport, until they fell victim to a selection in the camp as a 'Muselmann' (name given to worn-out, emaciated, exhausted, battered inmates), but with the difference that those picked during a selection were aware of their fate in the crematorium. [...]

At the end of the train, an ambulance drove up with a Red Cross on the sides and roof. In front, the driver, behind frosted glass, the mass murderer (gas

master) with the cans of 'Cyklon' (blue-cross gas). He was an SS man from the so-called National Socialist health service.

Insight, disillusionment and fear of death came too late.

Since the equipment of Crematoria 1 and 2 was technologically perfect, the further action in this crematorium ought to be described.

About 15 steps downwards was a large dressing room. The weak and sick, who were brought on trucks at the end, were quite simply thrown down the steps in a big pile by tipping the cargo bed. In the undressing room, they were all ordered to lay down their luggage and clothing, to hang them on a clothes hook, to remember the exact number of the hook, and not to forget it, so that they could be processed more quickly after their shower.

Everyone received a towel and soap, after which they entered a second room, the same size as the undressing room, the gas chamber as such. Provisional showers had been installed on the ceiling of this room, towel holders hung on the walls, soap dishes and bath mats were present. On the doors were notices such as 'Shower Room' 'Toilet,' 'Doctor's Office,' 'Waiting Room'.

A small net had been stretched out in the middle of the ceiling; above the net, a small opening for introducing 'Cyklon,' which consisted of blue, irregular pieces of hazelnut size. There were no windows. The entrance door could be closed tightly and hermetically, equipped with a small, latticed observation window.

In cold weather, this room was pre-heated by means of coke stoves to about 40 degrees [Centigrade], since the gas was most effective at this temperature.

Only now, the whole situation began to look suspicious to those who thought clearly. The whole room was crammed so full that hardly anyone could move.

The shouts of the Sonderkommando, who urged the rest of those undressing themselves to hurry up, became even more brutal. Now, even small children were already flying over the heads of the tightly crowded mass of people. [...]

The doors close and are locked.

Crying, praying, calling for help, cursing, an indescribable inferno evolves. – The gas is already falling onto the net from up above.

Those standing in close proximity fall unconscious against each other, while others attempt to crowd their way to the exit. Still others attempt to scratch open the hard walls with their bare hands, and have no idea what to do in their fear of death.

After 3 to 5 minutes, only a chaotic pile of people can be seen, a tangle of corpses, families tightly embracing themselves, spouses hugging each other in death, an indescribable chaos of a mad tragedy. –

The doors are opened after about 15 minutes. The chamber is aired by means of fans.

And even then, a low whimpering and whining of children is often heard. An infant tightly attached to his mother's breast, had escaped death, while another child remained alive for some other reason. But what for?

An SS man wearing boots strides over the bodies with a truncheon in his hand and slays the survivors by hitting them on the carotid artery.

A bullet was too good for children.

Now begins the cleaning-up work by the Sonderkommando.

The bodies are loaded onto an electrically-driven freight elevator next to the exit door, hoisted up [to the ground floor], laid on trolleys and brought in front of the furnace openings.

At first, however, the corpses are inspected here: breaking out gold fillings and bridges from the mouths, searching the women's sexual organs. They searched for valuables, jewels and any valuable item that fell prey to the avarice of the SS men. A complete looting ensued.

The cremations took place in 15 furnaces with 3 openings each, for 2 bodies each, in some circumstances plus a child. The cremation time was between 15 and 30 minutes, depending on the corpse's physical condition.

If a second transport was already waiting, the corpses were brought in front of the crematorium, or they drove the men into the gas chamber on top of the corpses of their gassed wives and children.

When transports from Hungary started arriving on May 16, 1944, the crematoria were insufficient, since up to 30,000 bodies had to be burned during the first few days.

The gassing occurred in the gas chambers of the 4 crematoria and in the gas chamber disguised as a farmhouse.

The cremations were carried out in the furnaces of the crematoria and in the open ditches (pyres). For months on end, the sky over Birkenau glowed night and day in the fiery glow of the burnt corpses. [...]

Already today, the number of human lives obliterated in this manner can be established at 5 million. Hungary alone relinquished about 800,000 human beings to these murders over a period of three months in the year 1944."

Marcus was well aware, in a rather cursory manner, of the findings of the Höss Trial, which he abundantly spiced up with the propaganda obsessions already noted, while simultaneously inventing new ones. His tale of the blood-squirting and body-ejecting burial pits and the self-fueling cremation pits is the peak of absurdity. The area around the common graves was "extremely swampy," yet the burning of the exhumed bodies took place "in two ditches running parallel to each other and 4 meters deep," meaning that the bodies not only did not require any fuel, but they burned even under water! Not to mention his claim that the corpses were ejected from the grave up an entire meter, or the "fountains of water, mixed with blood, gradually began to squirt up to 3 m high." To top off this insane narrative was the recovery of human fat, recycled to feed the pyres! Naturally, there were the usual "average or well-nourished human bodies" (perhaps the Germans fed them a special diet for this very purpose?) that not only permitted them to save wood ("there was no need to add wood"), precisely because the flammable human fat made up for

the wood, but also to recover this same fat which had just burned! Other bits of nonsense include “construction projects of 34 additional crematoria,” and the Jewish deportees from Africa hauled to Europe “with transport aircraft.” The new ramp (*Judenrampe*) was not built in 1943, but in 1944, and consisted of three tracks, not four (an error also committed by Nyiszli; see Mattogno 2020a, p. 55). The figures are decisively absurd: five million victims, including 800,000 Hungarian Jews; and 30,000 bodies cremated per day!

Although the term “bunker” received official sanction during the Höss Trial, Marcus was unaware of it: he still only knew of a “farmhouse.” Like Nyiszli,⁷³⁶ he told the legend of the sky at Birkenau being lit up day and night by the pyres. In his description of the presumed, he could not resist the attractions of the story of the victims being handed “towel and soap,” as well as the tale, also told by Bendel, of the “small children” thrown into the gas chamber “over the heads of the tightly crowded mass of people.” The gas chamber was equipped with “provisional showers,” not fake ones, in addition to which there were “towel holders” on the walls, “soap dishes” and “bath mats.” The gas chamber had “the same size as the undressing room,” an error also committed by Nyiszli,⁷³⁷ but had “doors,” plural, one for entering and one for leaving, explicitly mentioned by Marcus as an “exit door.” Inside the chamber, the victims were “crammed so full that hardly anyone could move,” but during the gassing, some of them “fall unconscious against each other, while others *attempt to crowd their way to the exit.*” Marcus understood very little of the Zyklon-B-introduction devices which had been described in imaginative detail during the Höss Trial. In his view, there was only a “a small opening” arranged “in the middle of the ceiling,” beneath which a “small net had been stretched out,” therefore, a simple horizontal net used to catch the “Cyklon” granules (“The gas is already falling onto the net from up above.”). He knew nothing of the “wire-mesh columns” claimed during the Höss Trial. The name of this “Cyklon” as “blue-cross gas” is unique; it refers to German gas shells used during the First World War, which, depending on the type of gas with which they were filled and the symbol with which they were marked, were called “green cross” (lachrymators, lung poisons), “yellow cross” (skin poisons); and precisely “blue cross” (nose, throat and lung irritants).⁷³⁸

The duration of the gassing, three to five minutes, is the usual propagandistic absurdity, like the cremation of two or three bodies in 15-30 minutes. The handling of the bodies, according to a version later abandoned, occurred in front of the furnaces, not in the corridor of the semi-underground basement.

Nor is there any shortage of the usual accompanying myths, such as the inmates of the “*Sonderkommando*” who found the bodies of their relatives in

⁷³⁶ Mattogno 2020a, p. 57: “During the day it covered the sky above the Birkenau woods like a dense cloud; at night it lit up the surroundings as if it were the flames of hell.”

⁷³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 39: “This room is the same size [*olyan nagyságú*] as the undressing room.”

⁷³⁸ *Gasschutz und Luftschutz*, Vol. 14, No. 7/8, July/August 1944, p. 141.

the gas chamber and the absurd tale of the suckling infant found alive, which had a certain success with the appropriate literary variants.⁷³⁹

⁷³⁹ Thus, for example, for Nyiszli, it was a girl 16 years old (Mattogno 2020a, pp. 73f.), while for Shlomo Venezia, it was an infant (Venezia, pp. 129f.).

Part 4:
First Attempts to Historicize
the Resistance Fantasies

An important aspect of the genesis of the current orthodox narrative of the gas chambers at Auschwitz, which is constantly neglected by orthodox Holocaust historians, is that which appears in the books published in the immediate post-war period in this regard by authors who were not exposed to the current Soviet version or who were only fragmentarily familiar with it. In this chapter, I shall undertake an analysis of five books written in the years 1945 and 1946: one by an ex-inmate, drawn up in the form of a historical chronicle, one by the Polish publicist Stefan Tadeusz Norwid, one by the Polish-Jewish historian Filip Friedman; the remaining two are by ex-inmates from German concentration camps, Eugen Kogon and Benedikt Kautsky, which were also written as historical chronicles.

4.1. *Behind the Fences of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp*

This short book by O. Augustyn with the Polish title *Za drutami obozu koncentracyjnego w Oświęcimiu* (*Behind the Fences of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp*), was published in Krakow in 1945. The following is my translation of the part relating to the alleged extermination installations (Augustyn, pp. 17, 21f.):

“Behind the camp, in the little forest, there was a peasant cottage [domek] surrounded by fencing. Unfortunate victims were sent inside and they closed the doors behind them. From above, they poured a can of gas, so-called cyklon, through apertures. This was the same gas used in the first disinfection of the camp. The bodies were pulled out and thrown in ditches, which were dug close by the cottage. The ditches were enormous. The bodies were sprinkled with chloride of lime and covered with earth. This work was performed by Jews. These Jews made up the so-called Sonderkommando. After work, they returned to camp, but were isolated and could not socialize with the other inmates. These [the peasant cottage and the pits] were provisional installations, because they immediately began to build 4 powerful, modern crematoria, together with special gas chambers. The crematoria could not keep up with the task of burning all the bodies. [...]

In the meantime, at Birkenau, all the gas chambers near [przy] the crematoria were working full tilt. The SS were walking around drunk. The smoke and the sight of the chimneys, which were cracking with the heat, frightened everyone. Let us see how the crematoria were designed. In the first and second crematoria, the gas chambers were located below ground. There, the people went down some steps. At the entrance there were signs in all languages [saying] that this was where the people were to be bathed and disinfected. Further along, there was an enormous room, which could hold 2,000 persons, with provisional showers [z prowizorycznymi natryskami]. As they went in, they

were given towels and soap. First, they had to undress. Then, when they were all inside, the 'hermetically sealed' doors swung shut, SS men threw cans of 'cyklon' gas through openings up above. After 15 minutes there was no one left alive. The doors were opened and Jewish inmates carried the bodies to the cremation furnaces. The bodies were burned with coke. There were about a dozen [kilkanaście] furnaces in every crematorium [w każdym krematorium]. Two bodies could fit into each furnace. The cremation lasted a few minutes [kilka minut]. The ashes and bone residues, which had to be pulverized, were thrown into the Vistula, which ran by a kilometer away. The crematoria burned all day and all night without letup. The crematorium true and proper was like a [brick] furnace inside, and the chimneys were only a little bit wide [not very wide]. At night, the sacred fires of Hitlerite culture burned above all 4 chimneys and 4 crematoria. All the crematoria were built in line, on a trajectory of more or less 1 km. Crematoria 4 and 5 were concealed in the little forest adjacent to the camp, while the first and second were located behind the camp. Everything that happened there was visible from the camp. We should remark that all gold teeth and filings were pulled out before cremation."

The author was also unaware of the term "bunker," since he mentions a simple peasant cottage (*domek*). The existence of the "undressing room" is simply assumed; the gas chamber had "provisional showers," not fake ones, and all victims were provided with towels and soap, following the shop-worn propaganda theme. The crematoria and gassing procedure are described in a very approximate and fantastic manner: every crematorium had "about a dozen" (!) furnaces, and on the inside they resembled a brick kiln or a brickyard (*cegielnia*); two bodies were placed in every furnace (muffle), which took only "a few minutes" to burn them! The author did not know that Crematoria IV and V had two chimneys each, so that the total number of chimneys was six, not four, but on the other hand he repeats the fable of the flaming chimneys.

When the text was drawn up, the Polish narrative was still evolving, and the author was only familiar with fragments of it, which he spiced up with existing propaganda motifs.

4.2. *Martyrdom of a People*

Stefan Tadeusz Norwid was the pseudonym of Jan Tadeusz Nowacki, a Polish journalist born in Warsaw in 1902 who emigrated to Sweden during the Second World War. His book with the German title *Martyrium eines Volkes: Das okkupierte Polen* (*Martyrdom of a People: Occupied Poland*) was published in 1945 by a German-language publisher in Swedish exile. In this book, the author dwells on Auschwitz at length (Norwid, pp. 97-100):

"The camp at Oswiecim was tougher. At first, it took in 15,000 Poles a month, but since 1941 it swallowed 30,000 a month. Its 'capacity' was therefore cal-

culated at 200,000 fatalities during the first few years. From 1941 to 1942, and from 1942 to 1943, this 'capacity' increased to about 360,000 per year. Until the fall of 1943, the National Socialists murdered at least one million Poles at Auschwitz alone. Jews were not sent there. What happened at Auschwitz was only made known through reports of the few who succeeded in escaping the place. Personally, I have heard reports from that camp twice. One of my informants was a Pole whom I met by chance in Warsaw under circumstances which I must not divulge; the other time a certain slovenly and intoxicated German person provided me with the information. The man worked as a 'nurse orderly,' and consequently as a slave driver in the transit camp of nearby Częstochowa.

Hence, neither of the two sources is entirely reliable. [...] But both reports were astonishingly similar. Arrival and stay at Auschwitz was described by them in approximately the following manner:

The people slated for Auschwitz were taken out of the prison and shipped in freight cars with 150 people each. Thus, they stood packed tightly together, unable even to move their arms. The car was locked shut. The floor of the car was often sprinkled with a thick layer of lime and a chlorine mixture, which dissolved under the influence of water. Either the Hitlerites themselves poured water in the cars, or it arose through the urine of the prisoners; it was, therefore, never intended to let the cars reach Auschwitz. They stood on a siding for a day or two and were then taken directly to the crematorium or the mass graves. The chlorine vapors had done their work! This kind of mass murder was also used against Jews during the mass evacuation of the ghettos.

Some cars with a thinner layer of chlorine arrived at Auschwitz at a slow speed. By that time, some of the condemned were standing right next to corpses who were also still standing upright in the tightly packed space.

The train stopped a few hundred meters from the entrance to the camp. The cars were not opened on the way, but only after arrival. A gang of SS men with whips and automatic pistols stood ready. The prisoners who were still alive had to jump down out of the wagon and run the gauntlet between the SS men, who beat them as much as they could. All this happened as quick as lightning. If one fell, he was shot immediately. It was increasingly harder not to stumble. The chances that the people running would ever reach the gate were quite slim.

The entranceway to the camp went through an underground tunnel, which was full of filth and dirt up to a meter high. Anybody who succeeded in jumping as far as the tunnel, disappeared in it, but wasn't let out: the tunnel was locked up at the other end.

The prisoners then had to remain in the tunnel for 12 hours or even longer. When the exit door was opened, the same procedure began all over again. SS men with oxen-leather whips drove the prisoners to the barracks at top speed. Inside the barracks, they had to undress and bathe. The bathing installations were located 600 meters away from the barracks, and the path was strewn

with broken glass. While being whipped, the naked prisoners had to run over all this glass to and from the baths. For many of them, this was enough. The hardest torture, of course, was the lack of sleep. The prisoners worked eighteen hours a day. The work was utterly pointless. It consisted of carrying heavy stones from one location to another, and of similar tasks. The awareness of this pointlessness was also torture. [...]

After [reading] the above description, it is understandable why smoke was constantly rising from the six chimneys of the crematorium in Auschwitz. Until the fall of 1943, there were only three furnaces. The Polish underground organization, which made their observations from outside the camp, never noted even a single case that anyone ever left the camp alive. The camp was guarded by a few SS companies, equipped with armored cars and armed to the teeth. This description may strike the reader as the product of sick fantasy. I understand that the measures moreover give the impression of complete pointlessness. What could be the point of tormenting people who are condemned to death anyhow? But the facts speak a clear language. The National Socialists tortured and tormented people before they killed them, and not only in Auschwitz.”

This account is based on two testimonies; the author formally expressed a few reservations as to their reliability, but at the end he considers them credible and in accord with reality. This narrative contains well-known literary themes which were attributed to Bełżec Camp, however: the trains with cars sprinkled with quick lime and the access “tunnel” to the camp! The first was officialized at the end of November 1942 by a Polish expert in black propaganda, Jan Karski; the second was invented by one of Karski’s colleagues, Stefan Szende, in a book published in Stockholm in 1944 (for details see Mattogno 2016h, pp. 17-19, 22-33), by which Norwid evidently was inspired. He belonged to the group of chauvinist Poles who wished to place the sufferings of their people above that of the Jews, with mad results (the killing of one million Poles at Auschwitz). Neglecting the preposterous fantasies of the 600-meters-long path “strewn with broken glass,” and on the “utterly pointless” work done by the inmates for 18 hours a day, Norwid’s narrative is an obvious distortion of information from the Auschwitz resistance movement (which made its presumed “observations” from inside the camp, not from outside): at the camp, there was one single crematorium with six chimneys which, until 1943, possessed three furnaces (but the resistance members spoke of three crematoria). The author’s comment is very revealing. He was perfectly well aware of the absurdity of his account: anyone would have considered it “the product of sick fantasy,” since it gave “the impression of complete pointlessness,” but since the National Socialists were evil torturers and exterminators, the account was true, at least as to the essentials!

4.3. *This Is Auschwitz!*

This short book with the Polish title *To jest Oświęcim!* (*This Is Auschwitz!*) by the Polish Jew Filip Friedman was also published in 1945. It is doubtlessly the first attempt at a general organization of the history of Auschwitz. The author dedicates a special chapter to the “Gas chambers of Auschwitz” and one to the “Crematoria.” In 1946, it also appeared in English, although allegedly translated from Yiddish (Friedman 1946). In this translation, the text was divided into twelve chapters, while the Polish version has 22. Moreover, in an appendix, a drawing representing the Treblinka Camp was incomprehensibly added (*ibid.*, pp. 381-384). The same year, Friedman published another edition of his book’s text in a volume which also contains an essay by Tadeusz Hołuj (Friedman/Hołuj, pp. 11-119), enriched by the first results of the Polish judicial investigations. The following is my translation from the first Polish edition of 1945 (Friedman 1945, pp. 66-70; underlined text is missing in the English translation of the book):

“The gas chambers at Auschwitz

The gas chambers at Auschwitz – if we consider the meticulousness of the installations and the exactness of all the individual installations – could represent the pride of German engineering science.

This concerns in particular the chambers of Crematoria IV and V, where all the innovations and the technical results based on the rich experiences of past gas chambers were adopted.

The gas chambers of Crematoria IV and V were located in basements [w suterrenach], while the buildings relating to the crematorium and furnaces were located in the part above ground. The entrance to the gassing basements [do podziemi gazowych] was comfortable and could testify to the meticulous care with which the Germans received their guests [pensionariuszy]. Next to the stone steps for common mortals, there descended an inclined plane so that exhausted patients did not have to go down the stairway, but could go down the plane with greater comfort, in this modern humanitarian installation! The fittings of the gas chamber [gazownia] in the basements was a complete imitation of the internal fittings of ornate bathrooms for the general public. The subterranean part of the establishment was divided into three main rooms [ubikacje]. The first room was the undressing room; all around, on the walls, there were notices in the most widely differing languages reading: ‘Bath and disinfection’. There, the doomed people undressed completely and entered the second room, that is, the gas chamber true and proper. This chamber, measuring 12 by 6 meters, was divided into two parts. Depending on the number of persons destined to be gassed, they used only half the chamber or the whole thing. The chamber was made to give the illusions of being an ordinary collective bath. There were even non-functional showerheads on the walls [przy ścianach] to prevent the victims from realizing what was happening; on the walls

there were notices of this kind in various languages, 'Cleanliness is next to godliness!', 'Don't forget to take your soap and towel with you!' In the four corners [w czterech rogach] of the room, there were columns with exterior walls made of mesh [kolumny o siatkowych ścianach zewnętrznych]. By means of these columns, so-called gas bombs [bomby gazowe] were thrown down from above, when the room was already full of people. After the gassing of each part [of the gas chamber], the bodies were carried into the adjacent room, room no. 3, where there was an electrical elevator [wyciąg⁷⁴⁰], right next to the areas [pomieszczenia] reserved for the barbers and dentists. The barbers carefully cut the hair off the bodies and loaded it onto carts [do wózków], 40 dentists pulled out gold and platinum teeth, after which a special electrical oven [specjalny piec elektryczny] melted down this raw material into pre-established bars. The bodies thus processed were transported to the room above ground, the crematorium, by means of the electric elevator [wyciągiem]. Besides this industrial room, used for 'production' purposes, a buffet [buffet] was also set up for use by the Gestapo and SS.

The doomed people were poisoned with a gas, the so-called 'Cyklon B' (the same gas was used at Majdanek and in other Hitlerite killing locations). It was taken to Auschwitz in the solid state, in the form of small steel-grey cubes [stalowo-szarych grudek], like slag. According to witness declarations, approximately 20 railway cars of cyklon were shipped to Auschwitz (Dr. Wolman).^[741] It was stored at Auschwitz I and delivered to the crematoria at Birkenau [w Brzezinkach] ... in a Red-Cross ambulance!

The chemical composition of Cyklon-B gas was established in a technico-judicial and chemical expert report of the Polish-Soviet Commission on Majdanek. The chemical analysis [established that]: [...]"

This is followed by a quotation from the report of the above-mentioned commission, which has been translated in a study on the Majdanek Camp written by Jürgen Graf and myself (Graf/Mattogno, pp. 117-126). This passage is missing in the English version of Friedman's book. The Polish text continues as follows:

"The doomed people were taken to the place of execution on trucks. Later, in April 1944, a special rail line was built from the railway station directly to the crematoria. The small transports, carrying 150-200 persons, for whom it was not worthwhile putting the gas chamber into operation, often had to wait their turn for several days under the crematorium [pod crematorium] until [a batch] was complete. When there were enough people and they were all crammed together in the undressing room, all these naked people had to be persuaded to enter the gas chamber as quickly as possible. But the people, seized by an un-

⁷⁴⁰ The term properly means "ski lift"; "elevator" in Polish is "winda."

⁷⁴¹ On p. 12 of *To jest Oświęcim!* Friedman specifies that the person referred to was Dr. Jakub Wolman of Lodz. Wolman was deported to Auschwitz on April 29, 1942 and registered under number 33611.

pleasant presentiment, were reluctant to leave the dressing room and enter the room marked 'Bath and Disinfection'. After all, they behaved as if something was awaiting them in that chamber, and they were in no hurry to enter it. In general, the persons crowded into the second room were not enough to activate the gassing apparatus. The hydrogen cyanide in fact only evaporated at a temperature of 27°C. To reach this temperature in the unheated room, it was necessary to cram the people together to an exceptional extent. The 'optimum' degree of crowding was approximately 20 persons per square meter. To crowd them together, they unleashed specially trained German-shepherd dogs on the naked people in the dressing room. The doomed people were seized by a great panic at this point. To escape from the fierce beasts, they all crowded towards the only accessible exit, the gas chamber. In this way, the chamber was soon filled up with three layers of people lying on top of each other, with another layer standing up.

An SS physician watched the room through a little spyhole. When he considered that there were enough people in the room to activate the gas, he ordered an adjutant as follows: 'Na! gibt ihnen schon zu fressen!' (Well, give them some fodder to eat!). The adjutant then threw 3 five-hundred-gram cans [puszki] into the empty meshwork [column]. The gas worked fairly rapidly, that is, death ensued in 3-5 minutes at most.

After removing the bodies and ventilating the room, another group was made to enter. In this way the gas chambers were able to eliminate 4,000-5,000 persons in an hour."

This is followed by the story of a gassing truck allegedly used at Auschwitz, summarized decades later by Robert Jan van Pelt.⁷⁴² The following chapter contains the description of the crematoria (Friedman 1945, pp. 72-75):

"The crematoria constituted the final stage of production of the death industry at Auschwitz. As already mentioned, the Germans at Auschwitz adopted this 'ingenious' invention in the spring of 1942. Before that, there was a small crematorium at Auschwitz I with 4 retorts [retortach]. 2 large crematoria were then built, Crematoria II and III, at Auschwitz II [Brzezinki: Birkenau]. Each crematorium had 5 furnaces, each with 3 retorts, that is, 30 retorts in all. The productive capacity of each furnace was 3 bodies in approximately 20 minutes. Crematoria IV and V, likewise at Birkenau, placed in operation in 1943, were the state of the art of German technology in this field. In fact, there were only 2 furnaces, which had 8 retorts, but they were modernized and perfected to the point that they greatly exceeded the preceding furnaces. These burnt 5 bodies, in each retort, in 10 minutes, thus, each furnace burned 240 persons per hour. The retorts had a square aperture 2 meters in width,

⁷⁴² van Pelt 2011, pp. 215f. See my analysis in Mattogno 2016c, pp. 111-114, and Mattogno 2018, pp. 322-325 and 359f., where I showed that the story of the "gas van" which appears in a clandestine message dated September 21, 1944 was invented years beforehand and already appears in a message dated October 14, 1941.

through which the bodies were loaded onto a special trolley [podwozia], as in the baker's oven (the inmates at Auschwitz, in their common camp jargon, called the crematorium the 'bakery').

The bodies were arranged in the retort in such a way that they could accommodate 2 Canadians [kanadyjczyków⁷⁴³] on the bottom and 3 Muselmänner on top. The Muselmänner [were arranged that way] because they were so emaciated that they had no fat, so that their bodies were hard to burn.

In total, therefore, all four crematoria at Birkenau burned 750 persons per hour. (The crematorium at Auschwitz I did not play a very important role in this mass action, because it was too small.) This low furnace capacity greatly increased the concerns of the German specialists. Since the production capacity of the furnaces amounted to only 750 persons [per hour], but the capacity of the gas chambers reached 4,000-5,000 per hour, the result was a bottle-neck in the process."

The furnaces, Friedman continues, worked with generator gas, and the Germans took care to avoid wasting fuel, therefore, when there were not enough bodies to cremate at Birkenau, they telephoned Auschwitz I to request "raw material." At Auschwitz I, they performed a "selection," and some of the victims were sent to Birkenau. Starting in May 1944, the Hungarian Jews began to arrive at Auschwitz, 650,000 people in total:

"In the late summer of 1944, after the start of the [Allied] invasion of France, the Germans began to bring 'terrorists,' that is, patriots and partisans, from France. The number of French deportees is estimated at approximately 670,000. Other 'normal transports' were also arriving. All this human material had to be 'processed.' The gassings went on day and night. From the furnaces [z pieców] of the crematoria came not only smoke, but tongues of fire, 2-4 meters high. But all this was not enough. It was necessary to dig pits which were covered with sheeting for provisional gassing actions. Even the undressing rooms in the crematoria were not enough; rather, they had to set up a huge 'beach' undressing room outdoors. So much so that the disproportion between the rhythm of the gassings and that of the cremation of the bodies got even worse. To remedy all this, enormous pits were dug in which the bodies were burnt using wood. Enormous stockpiles of wood intended for this purpose can be seen at Auschwitz even today. Channels were dug near the pits to permit the fat from the burnt bodies to be scooped up in a tank. If a transport of particularly emaciated inmates arrived, the bodies were drenched with fat to make them burn better.

The time available to gas them all was no longer sufficient. Therefore, the elderly, the children and the sick were thrown alive into the burning pits. The

⁷⁴³ Slang term used to refer to inmates having arrived at Auschwitz long beforehand; in this context, sufficiently well-nourished by virtue of their capacity to "arrange things" ("organisieren"), as distinguished by the "Muselmänner" (Muslims), who were emaciated.

screams and laments of those being burned alive could be heard all over the camp.”

Flames, screams and blood-thirsty SS men turned the scenario into a German “*Walpurgisnacht*.”

Friedman then quotes an extensive excerpt from the “Extraordinary Appendix to the Periodic Report for the Period of May 5-25, 1944,” but he attributes it to “a witness of these scenes, a worker activist from Krakow” who wrote a report for the secret organization of the Polish Socialist Party (*ibid.*, pp. 75-79).

Friedman’s exposition evidently borrows heavily from the “Description of the Gas Chamber” of 1945 (Subchapter 3.2.2.), although with new or divergent elements. First, he confuses Crematoria IV-V with Crematoria II-III, attributing to the first the underground rooms forming part of the second, and considers them the apex of German cremation technology, while it is known that these were built cheaply, were less-advanced and offered inferior performance than the state of the art of that time.⁷⁴⁴ Friedman knew very little about the corpse slide and believed that the secondary entrance where this slide was located was actually the main entrance for the victims, although the current orthodox narrative insists that the victims entered down a separate staircase at the end of the undressing room (Morgue #2). The gas chamber, which for Friedman measured 12 m × 6 m, was subdivided into two parts, and following the propaganda themes most-popular at that time, it was camouflaged as a shower bath equipped with fake showerheads “on the walls,” not on the ceiling. The gas introduction columns were located “in the four corners” of the gas chamber (not in a straight line along the longitudinal axis, as the orthodox claims today), and there were presumably eight of them, since there were two gas chambers. For Friedman, “Cyklon B” consisted of “small steel-grey cubes,” and he even repeats the fairy tale of the “gas bombs.” The pretext that “approximately 20 railway cars of cyklon” were delivered to Auschwitz is another lie.

The phrase “Well, give them some fodder to eat” formed part of the propaganda arsenal and is found, with minor variants, in the statements of Nyiszli and Tauber,⁷⁴⁵ as are the absurd lightning-fast execution times of 3-5 minutes. Friedman claims that three cans containing 500 grams of “Cyklon B” each were poured “into the empty meshwork,” which means twelve cans in the four columns of each chamber; for Nyiszli, there were four cans in total. The group of later victims entered “after removing the bodies and ventilating the room,” which means that the ventilation was performed after the bodies were removed, not before; the gassing capacity of 4,000-5,000 persons per hour,

⁷⁴⁴ Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. I, pp. 246-251, 279-286 (Section II, Chapters 6.3. and 7.3.).

⁷⁴⁵ Mattogno 2020a, pp. 137: “*Gib schon das Fressen den Juden!*” (“Give the fodder to the Jews!”); p. 159: “*Gib schon schneller das Fressen den Juden!*” (“Make haste giving the Jews their fodder!”); cf. pp. 216f.

96,000-120,000 in 24 hours, is an even-more-insane delusion than that of the engineering expert Roman Dawidowski, who presented a technical report at the Höss Trial summarized as follows by investigating magistrate Jan Sehn.⁷⁴⁶

“In the light of the concordant statements of the witnesses, the expert estimated the productivity of the gas chambers of the four cremation complexes at Birkenau at approximately 60,000 persons in 24 hours. This figure is based on the following calculation: according to the statements of the witnesses, 3,000 persons at a time were crowded into the gas chambers of each crematorium. The undressing, in a climate of violent incitement, took about 30 minutes, the average gassing time was 25-30 minutes, clearing the chamber took 4 hours for each gassing. In total, therefore, to complete the gassing of a chamber load of people took 5 hours, that is, the productivity of the gas chambers at each cremation complex was about 15,000 persons in 24 hours. For the 4 cremation complexes the total figure was 60,000 persons in 24 hours.”

The small corridor located in front of Morgue #1 was referred to by Friedman as the “adjacent room, room no. 3,” and the freight elevator which was located there, becomes a kind of ski lift (*wyciąg*), a term which reflects Friedman’s ignorance relating to this piece of equipment. The area “reserved for barbers and dentists” is completely invented, as are the “carts” for hauling away the hair, the “electrical oven” to melt the gold, and the “buffet” for the SS! According to Henryk Tauber, there were not 40 “dentists” but merely two!⁷⁴⁷

The claim that the small transports, carrying 150-200 persons, had to await death, even for days, “under the crematorium” (!), contradicts the claim that the original room containing the gas chamber had been divided into two rooms precisely for the purpose of processing small batches of victims. Friedman’s source in fact explicitly states: “In case of small number of victims, we work – for reasons of economy – in one single chamber.” Furthermore, Friedman describes enormous numbers of gassings: there were at least five million victims at Auschwitz, or according to a few witnesses even six to seven million (Friedman 1945, p. 12).

The story of the victims waiting for death “in the unheated room” until the temperature rose to a certain level to favor the evaporation of the “Cyklon B,” a theme already developed by Wetzler and Vrba, is in contradiction to Marcus’s testimony, who speaks of the use of coke stoves to obtain this result, and also with Buki’s testimony of the other extreme that “the heat in the gas chambers was so great that most of the people were already benumbed before they actually died” (see Subchapter 3.2.6.).

The overcrowding of 20 persons per square meter into a gas chamber is an obvious absurdity, while their arrangement – three layers of naked persons ly-

⁷⁴⁶ Höss Trial, Vol. 11, p. 51.

⁷⁴⁷ Statement signed by Henryk Tauber before the Soviet Investigatory Commission on February 27-28, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-8, p. 36.

ing prone and another layer of persons standing on top of them – is a ridiculous fairy tale.

On the crematoria, Friedman's ideas were rather confused. According to him, Crematorium I was put into operation in the spring of 1942 (when the first cremation was in fact carried out on August 15, 1940)⁷⁴⁸ and had four "retorts," but this crematorium was ultimately equipped with six muffles, as is well-known. According to Friedman, Crematoria II and III were built in 1942, while Crematoria IV and V entered into operation in 1943. To these last presumed jewels of German technology, Friedman attributes insane levels of performance: each "retort" – which were allegedly two meters wide (they were actually only 70 cm wide)!⁷⁴⁹ – cremated five bodies in ten minutes per muffle, that is, the entire eight-muffle-furnace cremated 240 bodies per hour, or 5,760 in 24 hours, The two installations put together cremated 480 bodies per hour or 11,520 in 24 hour; the capacity of Crematoria II and III was three bodies in 20 minutes in each "retort," that is, 135 bodies per hour, or 3,240 in 24 hours. Hence, these two crematoria together cremated 270 bodies per hour or 6,480 in 24 hours. The total capacity of all four crematoria was therefore 750 bodies per hour, or 18,000 in 24 hours! Notwithstanding this insanely exaggerated figure, the crematoria were insufficient for the task, and it was still necessary to dig cremation pits! This was obviously done for the crazy purpose of making the extermination of five, six or seven million persons credible! In a year of uninterrupted activity, these crematoria actually would have cremated altogether ($18,000 \times 365 =$) 6,570,000 corpses!

The slang terms "Canadians" and "bakery" are very unusual. The fable of the "selections" carried out at Auschwitz to feed the furnaces at Birkenau, so as to avoid wasting fuel, is another piece of idiocy. The number of Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz – 650,000 – is almost double the actual figure, and the story of the 670,000 deported and exterminated French patriots and partisans is a preposterous lie. Friedman dishes up other absurdities: the tongues of fire 2-4 meters high from the crematorium furnaces, and the recovery of human fat from the cremation ditches! The "gassing pits" (together with "a huge 'beach' undressing room") were a less frequent literary theme; similar gassing pits can also be found in a statement by Otto Wolken:⁷⁵⁰

"Pits were dug and covered with tarpaulins, which served as provisional gas chambers."

Finally, there is the ever-present yarn of "the elderly, the children and the sick" "thrown alive into the burning pits"!

⁷⁴⁸ Mattogno/Deana 2015, Vol. I, pp. 214.

⁷⁴⁹ The muffles of the furnaces of Crematoria IV and V were 70 centimeters wide; *ibid.*, p. 284.

⁷⁵⁰ Höss Trial, Vol. 6, p. 45.

4.4. *The SS State*

This book by Eugen Kogon was published in 1946 in Germany with the German title *Der SS-Staat (The SS State)*. An English translation was published in 1950 with the title *The Theory and Practice of Hell*. In this book, Kogon, a German political inmate deported to Buchenwald, attempted to outline, as recited by the subtitle, *The German Concentration Camp System*. In a chapter titled “The Gas Chambers” in the German edition (“Special Places of Execution and Disposal of the Dead” in the English edition), he also concerns himself with Auschwitz, presumably based in particular on the statements of ex-inmates from Auschwitz transferred to Buchenwald (Kogon 1946, pp. 132f.). I quote here from the 1979 Octagon reprint of the English edition (pp. 213-215). Text omitted from the English translation is underlined and translated from the German original:

“At Auschwitz, however, there was a huge gas plant – actually at Birkenau, a part of Auschwitz – which embraced five crematories together with four gas bunkers built into the ground. Each of these had an average capacity of twelve to fifteen hundred persons. The fifth crematory had no furnaces. It was only a huge fire pit.

The victims were lined up before the pit naked and shot down by the SS, the bodies – or the wounded! – toppling directly into fire. The Camp Commandant, SS Captain Kramer, never missed these mass executions. He generally stood by beaming, slapping his thighs with glee when the scene grew especially exciting. [...]

The gas chambers were simplicity itself, yet they were planned with diabolical ingenuity. Each chamber had the appearance of a public bath, and was so represented to the victims. In the dressing rooms there were signs, in all the principal languages of Europe, instructing the prisoners to tie their shoes together and fold their clothes neatly to avoid loss. Hot coffee was promised after the bath. From the dressing rooms the way led directly to the ‘bath,’ where hydrogen-cyanide gas was emitted through the shower heads and ventilator outlets as soon as the doors had been closed. Infants were still being thrown through the windows when the chambers were too crowded. Death took as long as four or five minutes, depending on the amount of gas available. During this time the most-dreadful screams could be heard from the men, women and children inside, as their lungs were slowly ruptured. Any bodies that showed signs of life when the doors had been opened were clubbed into quiescence. The prisoners of the service squad then dragged out the bodies, stripped off any rings, and cut off the hair, which was bundled into sacks and shipped to plants for processing. (In 1944 a young Jew from Brno, Janda Weiss, was a member of this squad. He is the source of the details here presented, which have been confirmed from other sources.)

The bodies were then stacked in piles of ten each. SS Technical Sergeant Moll, in charge of the Auschwitz crematories, made his tour of inspection, after

which the bodies were thrown into the furnaces or the fire pit. *Moll* was fond of placing naked women against the edge of the fire pit and watching them fall into the flames when they were shot in the abdomen. [...] The highest 'output' attained by Auschwitz was 34,000 bodies, in one continuous day and night shift."

This version calls the gas chambers in the four crematoria "gas bunkers," with a relatively modest capacity of 1,200 to 1,500 persons. Apart from the fact that they were "underground," Kogon says nothing more. The attribution of the term "gas bunkers" even to Crematoria IV and V, which had no underground rooms at all, is obviously senseless.

The alleged "bunkers" of Birkenau are entirely ignored, but in compensation for this, Kogon describes a fifth cremation as a "huge fire pit." Here the victims are killed with firearms and thrown into the pit, a fantastic yarn amply developed by Nyiszli (Mattogno 2020a, pp. 57-60, 245-247). The gas chamber, according to the stereotype adopted by nearly all versions, was camouflaged as a "bath," but here, "hydrogen-cyanide gas was emitted through the shower heads and ventilator outlets" (the German text has here "*Ventilatorenpfeiler*" – ventilation pillars). It goes without saying that this was impossible, both because Zyklon B, as noted earlier, consisted of liquid hydrogen cyanide soaked into a granular mass (*Diagrieff*) or on gypsum pellets (known as *Erco*), and because the "ventilation pillars" never existed (which may be the reason why that term was changed in the English translation). By his own account, Janda Weiss, a Jew deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz on May 20, 1944, had entered into contact with the crematorium personnel, who allegedly had told him of the horrors which he then reported, among them the following: "There were three columns for the ventilators, through which the gas poured in" (Hackett, p. 350). Kogon's sources knew nothing about cremation furnaces or cremation, but for him, their "record" of the greatest number of persons killed in a single day was 34,000! A true record either of credulity or of insolence!

4.5. *Devil and Damned*

This book by Benedikt Kautsky was published in 1946 in Switzerland with the German title *Teufel und Verdammte* (*Devil and Damned*). Kautsky was transferred from Buchenwald to Auschwitz on October 19, 1942, and was issued registration number 68510. In his book, which is supposed to be a sort of general history of the inmates in German concentration camps, he writes the following (Kautsky, pp. 273-275):

"You can imagine how we felt when we were sent to Auschwitz on a transport in October 1942; but we were lucky: we weren't sent to Birkenau into the gas

chambers, but to Buna, to work. The luck, of course, was such that, of 405 of us, about 110 were alive after half a year.

Yet still, we were close enough to the gas chambers to be able to gain reliable information about them. I spoke to dozens of inmates who had witnessed the gassings and burnings, and who had been active there in one way or another.

The procedure was so ingenious that they combined the greatest effect with a minimum of work, as well as a minimum of resistance possibility. The transport trains carrying the people to be gassed, who had been carefully kept ignorant about the purpose of the transports, arrived at a ramp, on the other side of which were the crematoria and gas chambers. The passengers in the cars had to get onto the ramp; here, the people were sorted into those to be gassed and those to be used for labor, in each case according to instructions issued by the central office in Berlin. Those slated for the gas chambers were driven into a room, where they had to undress. As the purpose, they were told to take a bath. To perfect the deception, sometimes they were given soap and towels.

The naked victims were now crowded into another room, which was white-washed and equipped with showers on the ceiling; due to their excitement, only few of them will have noticed that there were no drains in the floor. When the room was full, the doors were slammed shut, and the showers were turned on: no water came out of them, but gas.

The gas used was probably mostly carbon [mon]oxide, so that the people suffocated within a few minutes. All descriptions agree that the unfortunates screamed and moaned throughout this time, that they literally clenched up one another, and that they were found with blue lips, having bled from the mouth, nose, ears and eyes. A dedicated squad of inmates were employed to tear the bodies apart from each other; then they were shorn – since the hair of the dead was a raw material not to be despised – the gold teeth were broken out of their mouths, and they went into the cremation furnaces.

The capacity of the gas chambers greatly exceeded that of the crematoria. I was told that the ceiling capacity of the chambers was the simultaneous gassing of 2,000 people. Since it took several hours to drive the victims into the chambers and empty them afterwards, daily performances of 6,000 to 8,000 people killed could be reached. This maximum was achieved in the months of May to July 1944, when about three quarters of a million Hungarian Jews were gassed (including transports from Theresienstadt and so on).

At that time, hundreds of thousands were burned on pyres outdoors: in each case, a layer of wood was put on a layer of bodies, the whole thing was doused with petroleum, and it was lit. Once the pyres were burning, no more fuel had to be added: for these people who burned there were from freedom [freshly arrived from the outside world] rather than emaciated, fatless inmates. The horrible details of these burnings can hardly be described. The clouds of smoke were visible for days and weeks, polluting the entire area for kilometers with the stench of burning flesh and fat, with soot and ashes; at night, one could see

the flames, a horrible beacon of annihilation, not just of hundreds of thousands of human lives, but of all German claims to culture. [...]

At least three-and-a-half-million human beings were killed at Auschwitz in mass gassings – in addition to inmates unable to work, who were registered in the camp, a six-digit figure of whom went into the gas chambers without a doubt. According to the most-reliable estimates, the corresponding figure for Majdanek (Lublin) amounted to one-and-a-half million.”

This account, allegedly based on the statements of dozens of “eyewitnesses,” repeats standard propaganda themes (distribution of soap and towels to the victims, showerheads emitting gas instead of water) with the addition of one rather bold bit of hare-brained nonsense: the gassing by means of “carbon [mon]oxide” which caused death in “within a few minutes.”

The presumed extermination capacity at Birkenau appears rather small compared to other testimonies: the “Leistungsfähigkeit der Kammern,” “capacity of the chambers” – evidently all chambers put together – was 2,000 persons in “several hours,” while the highest yield estimated by a witness (or witnesses) was 6,000-8,000 per day, which should be understood as meaning: three or four gassings per day in all the gas chambers. Kautsky states that “this maximum” – that is, 8,000 victims per day – “was achieved in the months of May to July 1944.” This figure, although far removed from the madness of the other claimed “records” of 24,000 or 34,000 victims, is still crazy, because it is based on the fallacious presupposition that “about three-quarters-of-a-million” people were gassed in the months of May to July 1944, hence within about 90 days, or approximately 8,300 per day, and if “at that time, hundreds of thousands were burned on pyres outdoors,” it is clear that the crematoria at Birkenau had a cremation capacity notably inferior to 8,300 bodies per day. At any rate, Kautsky was unaware of the “cremation pits,” with a vague concession as indicated below. In compensation, he adopted the motif of the soot from the chimneys covering the entire area around Birkenau, and of the immense flames lighting up the night. Regarding the total number of victims, he contented himself with three-and-a-half million – plus hundreds of thousands of gassed registered inmates, which amounts again to some four million in total.

For Kautsky, the story of persons burned alive in cremation furnaces was “very improbable,” if only for the fact that the apertures in the muffles were too narrow, and attempting to introduce a conscious person into such a muffle would have required the assistance of many men; for this reason, “the burning of living people in a crematorium occurred only as a rare exception, if at all,” On the other hand, he considered the “burning of living persons on pyres or in pits to be quite probable, and the burial of living persons in individual or mass graves to be quite certain” (*ibid.*, pp. 276f.). This allows us to assess Kautsky’s ability of critical reasoning.

Part 5:

The Connivance of Orthodox Historians:

Deceptions to Hide the Lies

5.1. The Alleged “Concordance on the Essential” by Georges Wellers

Dr. Georges Wellers, an ex-deportee to Auschwitz,⁷⁵¹ was also an orthodox Holocaust historian, particularly in polemical exchanges with the late revisionist Dr. Robert Faurisson. In one of his books, he presented a “Comparative Analysis of the Testimonies” on Auschwitz, in which he examined the testimonies of Rudolf Höss, Pery Broad, Johann Paul Kremer, Alfred Wetzler and Rudolf Vrba, the Polish major (Jerzy Tabeau), Czesław Mordowicz and Arnošt Rosin, Chaim Herman, Salmen Gradowski, Salmen Lewental, the unknown author of the “*Sonderkommando*,” André Lettich and Charles Sigismund Bendel – 14 all in all, as he stressed (Wellers 1981).

The procedure he chose was inevitably specious. To start with, Wellers did not actually take the trouble to perform a “comparative analysis” of the individual testimonies selected by himself. For example, for Rudolf Höss, Wellers cites only his “Memoirs” in a *French* edition published by the Auschwitz Museum in 1974 (Bezwińska/Czech 1974, pp. 35-142), which is the translation of Höss’s so-called “Krakow annotations” published in German by Martin Broszat in 1958 with the title *Kommandant in Auschwitz*. However, in his short career as witness, the ex-commandant of Auschwitz rendered a long series of contradictory, false and absurd statements which I have analyzed in a dedicated study (Mattogno 2020). Wellers only mentions two of Höss’s statements *en passant*: his statement of March 14, 1946 and the one dated April 5, 1946, both of which are jam-packed with contradictions, false statements and absurdities (1981, pp 64-77).

Of Broad, Wellers mentions only his report from the same Bezwińska/Czech book (1974, pp. 143-209), while ignoring the witness’s other statements, such as the one signed by him during the Tesch Trial on March 2, 1946 (NI-11954). In it, Broad asserted among other things that 10,000 persons per day were gassed at Birkenau in the months of *March and April* 1944; that Crematoria II and III could cremate 3,000-4,000 bodies per day, while Crematoria IV and V processed 2,000 bodies daily; that “there was only a gas stove there” in Crematorium V (he actually meant “Bunker 2” here) with a capacity of 800-1,200 victims; and that the total number of gassing victims was 2.5-3 million!

Of Bendel, Wellers examines only the account which appears in the book *Témoignages sur Auschwitz* (Fédération nationale...), while carefully ignoring

⁷⁵¹ His first and last name, with no other data, appear in the list for the 76th Jewish transport from France to Auschwitz. Klarsfeld 1978, “Liste alphabétique du convoi N° 76.” The transport arrived at Auschwitz on July 4, 1944.

Bendel's other statements in which the witness proffers incredible pieces of stupidity.

What is worse, Wellers completely neglects to analyze the reliability and truthfulness of these witnesses, presupposing *a priori* that they were all reliable and truthful, then cherry-picking excerpts supporting his historical claims.

Early on in the present book I showed that the Wetzler-Vrba Report, particularly when it comes to its description of Crematoria II-III, is a jumble of fairy tales without basis in reality. Wellers, however, considers it "a detailed and very precise description of the Birkenau Camp and its gas chambers" (Wellers 1986, p. 278), although he himself had published Plan No. 932 of the new crematorium at Auschwitz dated January 23, 1942, with the usual orthodox comments not supported by the plan.⁷⁵² This plan visibly demonstrates the total falsity of the so-called "detailed and very precise" description! This means that Wellers knowingly spreads false claims.

What I have set forth shows clearly that not only Wetzler and Vrba, but the Polish major as well, Mordowicz and Rosin, Herman, Gradowski, Lewental, the unknown author, Lettich and Bendel signed statements packed with absurdities and contradiction that Wellers obviously took great pains to conceal from his readers, dwelling exclusively on secondary and insignificant differences – precisely because in his mind, they were allowed to diverge only on insignificant details, for they were supposed to be all *a priori* true. Thanks to this fallacious method, he then reached the following conclusion (Wellers 1981, pp. 128f.):

"If one wishes to summarize these testimonies, one could say that as their authors change, the lighting changes, that the details described are not always the same, that the tales of the ones are often obviously clearer than those of the others. [...]"

But on the essentials, all these witnesses are in agreement: and on the 'selections' and the significance of sorting people 'for the gas chambers' [...]; and on the two 'bunkers' transformed into gas chambers in 1942;^[753] and on the ditches in which they burned the bodies originating from these 'bunkers'; and on the four modern crematoria with their 'annexes' which have been in operation since 1943; and on the reopening of the graves in 1944; and, finally, on the evacuation of the camp in January 1945.

All these witnesses – I wish to stress, I am reminding you of it once more – due to their position or as a result of circumstance, have, with their own eyes, seen the progression of this stage of the killing, in the gas chamber, of the Jewish transports at Auschwitz II, and they described them without any possibility of connivance or reciprocal influence, quite independently and, often, if not al-

⁷⁵² Wellers 1981, Document 7 ("Plan of Crematoria II (I) or III (II) with annexes"), unpaginated insert.

⁷⁵³ From the orthodox point of view, two peasant cottages were allegedly transformed into gas chambers, then referred to as "bunkers."

ways, long before the alleged motives for lying by way of political or financial interests came into play, before the creation of the State of Israel, before the creation of the two Germanies and before the initiative of German reparations.^[754]

This is what I called an ‘abundance of proof’ in 1978.”

In reality, we can speak only of an abundance of lies, absurdities and contradictions.

As for the pretense that the witnesses were absolutely independent of each other, it is difficult to establish whether this claim derived from naivety or bad faith. This study shows incontrovertibly that the fairy tales created by the resistance groups heavily influenced *all* witnesses, who at most only reinvented new ones, and only regarding those new and usually absurd inventions that can be described as “independent.”

For Wellers, the “concordance on the essential” boils down to this recipe: take a certain number of witnesses; from among the many, often contradictory statements they have made, the best-fitting are picked; eliminate the absurdities, the blatant lies and the contradictions they contain; what remains is the mere mention of the gas chambers, and this is the “essential”!

From this point of view, even the fables of the “gas showers,” the “gas bombs” (including all its variants), the electrical chambers, chambers with opening floors, corpse-conveyor belts, electrical furnaces, pneumatic hammers, etc. etc., would be “concordant” as to “the essentials”: the mass killing and cremation of persons!

5.2. Pressac and the Wetzler-Vrba Report

Jean-Claude Pressac has attempted to explain and justify in a detailed manner the absurdities of the Wetzler-Vrba Report by dedicating an entire chapter to this theme in his first book on Auschwitz (Pressac 1989, pp. 459-468).⁷⁵⁵

All of Pressac’s arguments are based on two unfounded presuppositions:

1. that the *direct* observations from *outside* the crematoria by Wetzler and Vrba did not extend beyond March 1943;
2. that the indirect information reported by them in their report originated principally, if not exclusively, from members of the *Sonderkommando* assigned to the *bunkers* at Birkenau, and did not extend beyond the end of 1942, because all these inmates were said to have been killed on December 17, 1942.

⁷⁵⁴ In the atmosphere of anti-German mass hysteria, which the Allies have fueled intensely since the beginning of the war, this “grandfather status” is without significance and cannot be considered a guarantee of the truthfulness of the testimonies.

⁷⁵⁵ See Mattogno 1990, the text of which was adopted and adjusted for this chapter.

At the Zündel Trial in 1985, Vrba denied the first presupposition, declaring that he had observed Crematorium II from the mortuary annexed to Block 27 of Camp Sector BIb (at that time still a men's camp) from a distance of 50-60 yards, or about 45-55 meters.⁷⁵⁶ He entered that building on "every occasion" possible. In that building, Wetzler was a "Registrar" clerk (p. 1321/p. 231), a position he occupied until June 8, 1943 (p. 1428/p. 250). Therefore, the two witnesses could have examined Crematorium II from this distance up until that date. Vrba moreover declared that he had observed the crematoria and surrounding area "from January 1943 until April 7, 1944" (p. 1329/p. 232).

Pressac's second presupposition was likewise openly contradicted by Vrba and Filip Müller, who, as noted above, spoke of direct and reciprocal contacts in 1944. Pressac also focused merely on the drawing of the crematoria, without taking into consideration the related description (of which the drawing is an example), which illustrates Crematorium II/III and the alleged gassing procedure on its *inside*, but this description is allegedly based on an eyewitness testimony.

Although this is already sufficiently radical to invalidate Pressac's attempt to prove the accuracy of the "essential core" of the Wetzler-Vrba Report, it is appropriate to set forth a detailed refutation of his explanations in order to demonstrate the artificiality and the historical-documentary inconsistency of Pressac's claims, to eliminate any remaining doubt as to the propagandistic and mendacious nature of the report, and finally because van Pelt relied on Pressac's claims for his fraudulent defense of this report, as I will show later.

1. Number of Furnaces and Muffles, Arrangement of the Furnaces

Pressac writes (1989, p. 459):

"The number of furnaces cited per Krematorium is wrong. Those of type II/III had only 15 cremation muffles, not the 36 announced. This error is understandable if we assume that the witnesses had themselves never entered a Krematorium and all their observations were from the exterior or based on the accounts of other prisoners, in particular, though we cannot prove it, Sonderkommando members working in December 1942 at Bunkers 1 and 2 who would have been able to watch the building of what they believed would be their future place of work. Document 9 enables us to understand the assumed disposition of the furnaces around the chimney, and with this arrangement the number of furnaces would be a multiple of three."

In other words, detainees attached to the "Sonderkommando" assigned to Bunkers 1 and 2, seeing the chimney rising from a broad quadrangular wing of Crematorium II, which measured 10 m × 12 m (Pressac's Document 9 is a photo of Crematorium II showing this wing; *ibid.*, p. 465), supposed that the

⁷⁵⁶ *In the District...*, p. 1322; Rudolf 2020a, p. 231; subsequent page number in the format p. xyz/p. uvw from these two sources.

furnaces were arranged around the chimney and communicated this hypothesis to Vrba and Wetzler.

This explanation does not explain, however, how the inmates are supposed to have deduced the number of furnaces – *nine* – the number of muffles on each furnace – *four* – and their arrangement *around* the chimney. Indeed, as is plain from the photo of Crematorium II published by Pressac, from looking only at the exterior, nothing of the sort could be deduced: one could only “imagine,” which is very different. Pressac makes no attempt to explain why these detainees should have “imagined” exactly nine furnaces with four muffles each, arranged around the chimney, a hypothesis which could not be more probable or plausible than any other, since external observation of the crematorium could not supply the slightest clue in this regard. His contention that, had the furnaces been arranged around the chimney in a semicircle, their number would be a multiple of three, is incomprehensible. There is no reason why the number of furnaces could not be five or seven in such an arrangement, for example.

Pressac’s explanation is moreover radically refuted by the fact that Wetzler and Vrba’s (presumed) source dated back to 1944 and consisted of Filip Müller’s description and plan of Crematorium II.

The above indicated contradictions therefore remain unexplained and inexplicable.

2. Cremation Capacity.

The cremation capability of each of Crematoria II and III as stated by the Vrba-Wetzler Report – 2,000 corpses in 24 hours – is about twice the figure arbitrarily fixed by Pressac: 1,000-1,100 bodies in 24 hours (*ibid.*, p. 244). Pressac attempts to explain this contradiction as follows (*ibid.*, p. 459):

“In the [Vrba-Wetzler] report the throughput of the four Krematorien per 24 hours is fairly reasonably estimated at 6000, though this is one third higher than the 4416 units a day reported in a letter of 28th June 1943 from the Bauleitung to the SS Economic and Administrative Head Office in Berlin. Even this I consider to be a purely administrative document, calculated on the basis of the original estimated throughput of the furnaces, the true daily rate for the four cremation installations being no more than 3000. If we take the rate of incineration given by the witnesses — three corpses per muffle in one and a half hours — and apply this to the true number of furnaces, the daily figure for the four Krematorien is about 2200.”

This figure therefore derives from the cremation time of 90 minutes of three corpses each in altogether 46 muffles, hence: $[1,440 \text{ min/day} \div 90 \text{ min/load}] \times 3 \text{ corpses/load} \times 46 \text{ muffles} =] 2,208 \text{ corpses/day}$, but this calculation makes no sense, because Wetzler and Vrba speak of 72 muffles just in Crematoria II and III (to which we would have to add those of Crematoria IV & V).

On the other hand, the capacity obtained by performing his calculation with reference to Crematorium II/III (3 bodies \times 15 muffles \times 90 minutes) results in 720 bodies in 24 hours for each facility, so that, if Pressac accepts as true the cremation time for three bodies in one muffle as supplied by Wetzler and Vrba – 90 minutes – it is incomprehensible how he could at the same time maintain that Crematoria II/III each had a capacity of 1,000-1,100 bodies in 24 hours, and that the four crematoria together had a capacity of 3,000 instead of 2,208. This explanation is therefore a mere sophistic trick.

But that is not all. Vrba subsequently changed his version completely by claiming that Crematoria II and III each had five furnaces with three muffles for each furnace, and that in each muffle three corpses could be cremated in 20 minutes (Vrba/Bestic, p. 16). The incineration capacity of each crematorium thus jumps to 3,240 corpses in 24 hours. Filip Müller, Wetzler's and Vrba's valuable source of information, confirmed these technically impossible data exactly – three corpses per muffle in twenty minutes times 15 muffles (Müller, pp. 16f., 59). If, therefore, Filip Müller supplied the witnesses with this information in 1944 (three bodies in 20 minutes in 15 muffles) why did they mention completely different data (three bodies in 90 minutes in 36 muffles)? If, on the other hand, he supplied them with the false data repeated by the witnesses, he was guilty of historical falsehood and technical absurdity. Either way, since both sets of data in question are technically absurd, it is clear that both Wetzler-Vrba and Filip Müller lied egregiously.

The fact of the contradiction relating to the cremation capacity of Crematoria II and III remains therefore entirely confirmed, and even aggravated.

3. Location of the “Undressing Room” on the Ground Floor of the Crematorium instead of in the Basement

Pressac considered this point of the report to be correct, because in March 1943, in the north courtyard of the crematorium, there existed a barracks which was used for approximately one week as the undressing room for the victims of the alleged gas chamber. Since this barracks was obviously on ground level, the two witnesses were telling the truth when they asserted that the “undressing room” was located on the ground floor (Pressac 1989, pp. 459, 462).

Even overlooking the fact that Wetzler and Vrba's sources dated from 1944 and not March 1943, Pressac's explanation is nevertheless refuted by their report, which does not mention any “undressing room” at all in any *barracks outside* Crematorium II, but does describe it as a *room located inside* the crematorium. Therefore, even admitting that the two witnesses and their sources really saw the barracks in question, it nevertheless remains to be explained why, in their report, this *exterior barracks* became an *interior room*. Even in this case, Pressac's explanation is inconclusive and sophistic, and the contradiction relating to the position of the “undressing room” remains valid.

4. “Gas Chamber” on the Ground Floor, a bit lower than the “Undressing Room,” instead of in the Basement, on the same level as the Undressing Room Pressac doesn’t even notice this discrepancy, due to his mistaken reading of the text of the Wetzler-Vrba Report, and more importantly due to his neglect of the additional sources (Vrba’s subsequent writings and testimony). Because Pressac identifies the subterranean Morgue #1 as the “gas chamber,” he credits the Wetzler-Vrba Report with accuracy on this point, since by his interpretation it locates Room C, the alleged gas chamber, “at basement level” (*ibid.*, p. 459). But this interpretation is simply erroneous. In this regard, the report says (see Chapter 2.4.):

“From there a door and a few steps lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber.”

This room, according to the report, was presumably located a bit lower than the furnace room and the “undressing room,” but it cannot be said that it was in the basement, like Morgue #1, either because there should have been another “undressing room” “underneath” (*below*) it, lower down than the “gas chamber,” or because it was linked to the furnace room by rails, and therefore could not have been in the basement. This is moreover confirmed by the report itself, where it says that, to get the people to undress, “SS men with gas masks *climb on the roof*” of the “gas chamber,” which was therefore well above ground level.

This interpretation was expressly confirmed by Rudolf Vrba’s testimony at the First Zündel Trial. As noted earlier, Vrba claimed to have observed Crematorium II while looking out the window of the morgue attached to Block 27 of Camp Sector BIb, from a distance of 50-60 yards (45-55 meters), specifying that (p. 1328/p. 232):

“This Krematorium No. II had, apart from buildings, long bunkers which were approximately the height of two such tables. Say the bunker was about this height, above the head of a human being.

Q [Attorney Christie]: All right. You are indicating about six and a half, seven feet?

A. [Rudolf Vrba]: I would think so. In other words, a man who would climb on it would have to lift his hands and sort of make an exercise in order to swing himself on top of the bunker.”

Vrba moreover stated that he had personally seen a corporal from the SS health service climb onto the roof of the “bunker” to carry out a gassing in the manner described (*ibid.*):

“And then he climbed on the bunker by holding on his hands and in a sporty way swinging himself over, which attracted my attention because it was not usually the demeanor of S.S. men to make sport.”

Under cross-examination by defense attorney Doug Christie, Vrba confirmed his past statements, asserting that he had not measured the height of the “bun-

ker” with a yardstick, but adding that he was sure that it was about as high as an adult man, perhaps more, and that to get up on top of it would require climbing in the manner he described (p. 1444/p. 253). Nevertheless, as noted by Christie, the original plan of the “bunkers,” that is, of Morgues #1 and #2 (Huta drawings 109/13A and 109/14A, published by Pressac, 1989, pp. 322, 324), show two underground rooms protruding 126 cm from the ground (from 235.366 m to 236.626 m above sea level) including the layer of soil on the roof. The earth embankment on the sides, sloping up from ground level, enabled one to climb to the roof of the alleged gas chamber by taking merely a few steps. Since Vrba claimed instead that this room rose from ground level to a height of about two meters with a wall to climb up on, it is clear that he did not tell the truth.

The validity of the contradiction relating to the location of the presumed gas chamber is therefore definitively confirmed, and is even aggravated by Vrba’s related lie/perjury during the First Zündel Trial.

5. Number of Roof Openings for Insertion of Zyklon B

In this regard, Pressac asserts (*ibid.*, p. 464):

“The gas chamber of Krematorium II was fitted with four openings for pouring Zyklon-B. The witnesses state that there were only three, and a photograph of January 1943 does indeed show this gas chamber as having only three devices for introducing the toxic product at that time.”

This is the well-known “train photograph,” interpreted by Pressac in a rather fanciful way.⁷⁵⁷ According to him, the presumed four introduction shafts (together with all related equipment) certainly existed on March 31, 1943, but, as we have seen earlier, Vrba claimed to have observed the crematorium from a distance of 45-55 meters until April 7, 1944. What is more, from his vantage point until early June 1943 (the morgue barracks next to Block 27 of Camp Sector BIb), Morgue #1 of Crematorium II was in full view at a slight angle, so it was easy to count any objects protruding from the roof. Therefore, Pressac’s explanation in this regard is inconsistent, and the contradiction indicated remains.

6. The Rails Connecting the “Gas Chamber” to the Furnace Room, Passing by the “Undressing Room”

Pressac supplies a long explanation in this regard (*ibid.*, p. 464), which I shall now summarize. During late 1942 and early 1943, Wetzler and Vrba – or their sources – saw rails connecting Morgue #2 to the furnace room and “imagined” that they were a permanent installation. Because at that time it was not known what the function of the two morgues would be, they imagined moreover that Morgue #2 was the “gas chamber,” and that later on this premise was still connected to the furnace room by means of the rails. In support of this inter-

⁷⁵⁷ See Mattogno 2017a, esp. pp. 377-380, and Rudolf 2020b, pp. 132-134.

pretation, he adduces two photographs. The first shows the construction pit for Morgue #2 traversed by a set of rails (*ibid.*, Doc. 11, p. 466). The second depicts the interior of the furnace room of Crematorium II, upon the rough floor of which two pairs of tracks appear (*ibid.*, Doc. 12). However, nothing shows that any tracks went up from Morgue 2 into the furnace room or vice versa.

Pressac claims that the tracks visible in the second photograph descends “on a shallow slope towards Leichenkeller 2” (*ibid.*, p. 466), as appears in his drawing reproduced in Document 10 (*ibid.*, p. 465). However, the height difference between the floor of the furnace room and that of Morgue #2 was 2.60 meters. Even if we assume that the inclined plane with tracks on it penetrated into Morgue #2 for approximately 15 meters (following Pressac’s drawing), the slope would have been 17%. No locomotive could climb such a steep slope, and pushing carts up such a steep slope manually would have been physically impossible as well.

Pressac moreover commits the error of assuming that the photos he shows were taken roughly at the same time, when in fact they were taken at distinctly different times: he attributes the first photograph to October-November 1942, but this photograph is actually older by several months, since the Central Construction Office’s construction report of September 1942 already mentions the beginning of insulation works on the morgues,⁷⁵⁸ meaning that their walls had been finished, while this photo shows only a crude excavation. By contrast, the second photograph dates to December 1942 or January 1943, after the furnaces had been installed. The tracks inside the excavation pit of Morgue #2 and those inside the furnace room were not concomitant, but successive: they exited these rooms from the south side and were probably linked to the rail line which appears in the “train photograph” (*ibid.*, p. 340), in which we see a small locomotive pulling carts full of construction materials.

Pressac’s explanation is moreover categorically refuted by two fundamental elements. The first is that Vrba testified under oath that he saw a gassing in Morgue #1 of Crematorium II, by means of which he knew perfectly well which of the two morgues was the presumed gas chamber. The confusion between Morgues #2 and #1 advocated by Pressac is therefore impossible. The second element is that Vrba declared, always under oath, that he had drawn the plan of Crematorium II/III based on information derived from the inmates of the “*Sonderkommando*” who worked there in 1944, who could not be unaware of the arrangement and equipment of their rooms.

The fact of this contradiction is therefore fully confirmed.

⁷⁵⁸ “Baubericht für Monat September 1942.” RGVA, 502-1-24, p. 141.

5.3. Van Pelt and the Wetzler-Vrba Report

Robert Jan van Pelt, like his colleagues, asserts that the report in question “was the first substantial report on the use of Auschwitz as a factory of death,” and then attempts to justify the obvious absurdities it contains in some way (van Pelt 2002, pp. 147, 149):

“The first mention of gassing in the Wetzler-Vrba report concerns the killing of prisoners in the summer of 1942. At this time Vrba had been the administrator of the sick barrack, hence he knew of the selections. ‘Twice weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, the camp doctor indicated the number of prisoners who were to be gassed and then burned. These ‘selectees’ were loaded into trucks and brought to the Birch Forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barrack erected near a trench used for burning the bodies.’ This description of the killing in Bunker 2 was to be largely confirmed after the war both by Sonderkommando Shlomo Dragon, who worked at that site, and by archeological remains. The only mistake was that the ‘big barrack’ served as an undressing barrack, and from there the victims were led to the adjacent gas chamber, located near the cremation trench.”

This comment is clearly fallacious. First of all, van Pelt confuses Wetzler with Vrba, to whom he attributes the work of the other. The bi-weekly “selections” in “Block 7” are a fable even according to the *Auschwitz Chronicle*, as van Pelt must have known, because from May 4 to September 30, 1942 only four “selections” are noted by Czech, only the first of which (May 4) in “Block 7” (Czech 1990, pp. 162, 177f., 210, 247). These “selections,” like all the others of this type recorded by Danuta Czech, are mere conjecture (Mattogno 2016a, Chapter 5, pp. 87-144).

Van Pelt then arbitrarily asserts that the description in the report refers to “Bunker 2,” but as I have noted earlier, Wetzler and Vrba did not even know that there should have been two “bunkers,” and that they should have been referred to in the plural. That then the “description of the killing in Bunker 2 was to be largely confirmed” by Szlama Dragon is a patently false assertion.

During his first interrogation on February 26, 1945 by Soviet military investigator Levin, Dragon, who at that point was not even aware of the term “bunker,” asserted the existence of two “gas chambers” (*газокамеры, gazo-kamery*), known as No. 1 and No. 2, which are said to have been converted from two houses. “Gas Chamber No. 1” had two standard wooden barracks about 500 meters away, and four cremation pits 30-35 meters long, 7-8 meters wide and 2 meters deep, also 500 meters away. The capacity of this gas chamber was 1,500-1,700 people. “Gas Chamber No. 2” had two similar barracks 150 meters away, and, at the same distance, six cremation pits of the same dimensions as those near Chamber No. 1. Its capacity was 2,000 people.⁷⁵⁹ To

⁷⁵⁹ GARF, 7021-108-12, pp. 183-185.

sum up, according to the witness, there were two houses/gas chambers, four barracks/undressing rooms, and ten ditches 30-35 meters long, 7-8 meters wide and 2 meters deep.

When Dragon was interrogated by Jan Sehn on May 10 and 11, 1945, he had in the meantime become aware of the term “bunker,” and used it readily: “Near *Bunker 1* there was a small barn and two barracks” (*W publiżu bunkra 1 stała stodołka i 2 baraki*); the cremation pits, now indeterminate in number, were located “very far away” (*bardzo daleko*). “*Bunker 2*” still had two barracks/undressing rooms, no longer 150 meters away but at a more-reasonable distance of 30-40 meters, plus four cremation pits measuring 30 m × 7 m × 3 m deep.⁷⁶⁰

For Wetzler/Vrba, there was no cottage/gas chamber, no barracks/undressing room, and there was only one single “pit several meters deep and about 15 meters long.”

We now need to consider that Wetzler and Vrba claimed to have been in direct contact with the “*Sonderkommando*” of the presumed “Bunkers” 1 and 2 at Birkenau since mid-April until mid-December 1942, who should have supplied them with a description similar to Dragon’s (had Dragon’s description been true). It might be objected that Dragon claims to have arrived at Auschwitz only on December 7, 1942 and was assigned to the new “*Sonderkommando*” on December 11, but he declared that he had worked approximately two months at “Gas Chamber No. 2,” and a couple of days at “gas chamber no. 1.” This means that he “described” the same situation that existed when Wetzler and Vrba were presumably in contact with the last “*Sonderkommando*,” as indisputably shown by the fact that, according to orthodox Holocaust historiography, the two “bunkers” ceased their activity only in the spring of 1943 (Piper 1994, p. 164).

In this context, how can it be seriously claimed that “the only mistake” in the description contained in the Wetzler-Vrba Report is the gassing barracks? This is a truly pathetic exercise in damage control, which also eliminates the contradiction between Wetzler’s sole burning pit and Dragon’s multiple pits.

Van Pelt’s claim that Wetzler’s story has been confirmed “by archeological remains” – consisting of the foundation walls of a building claimed to have been “*Bunker 2*” – is truly incredible, both because the foundation walls are those of a house built of stone, which could not confirm the existence of a wooden gassing barracks as claimed by Wetzler, and because there is no documentary evidence that the house to which these foundations belonged was ever transformed into a gassing installation. In fact, the pattern of the foundation walls refutes such claims.

This intellectual dishonesty is the inevitable consequence of the orthodox axiom that all witnesses tell the truth, so that one must resort to trickery in or-

⁷⁶⁰ Höss Trial, Vol. 11, pp. 103f.

der to reconcile their contradictions, or put a different way, if what the witnesses say does not correspond to reality, so much the worse for reality.

In the specific case, seen from an orthodox point of view, either Wetzler is a liar or Dragon is.

Naturally, van Pelt does not even consider the eventuality, which is much more probable, that *both* descriptions are false, and that Dragon's is a literary development of Wetzler's draft version, meaning that both are liars.

Van Pelt then reproduces the drawing of Crematorium II/III annexed to the Wetzler-Vrba Report and the related description, and comments (van Pelt 2002, p. 149):

"It is clear that the account of the layout of the interior is based on second-hand information, derived from members of the Sonderkommando."

He adds that Vrba asserted in 1961, and repeated in 1963, that he and Wetzler "received all the specific information on the crematoria from Sonderkommando Filip Müller and his colleagues" and stresses that Müller confirmed this fact, citing a passage from Müller's book *Eyewitness Auschwitz* (a 1999 reprint of the 1979 English translation *Auschwitz Inferno*; *ibid.*). At the First Zündel Trial in 1985, continues van Pelt, defense attorney Douglas Christie, referring to the drawing of Crematorium II/III, asked Vrba:

"Q.: 'Sure. I now produce and show to you a diagram which came from, I suggest, your War Refugee Report of 1944 in which you depicted a crematorium. Correct?'

A.: 'That's right.'

Q.: 'Is it accurate?'

A.: 'This I cannot say. It was said that as we were not in the large crematoria, we reconstructed it from messages which we got from members of the Sonderkommando working in the crematorium, and therefore, that approximately how it transpired in our mind, and in our ability to depict what we have heard.'" (p. 1479/p. 259)

Van Pelt then attempts to "reconstruct the genealogy of his [Vrba's] 'errors'" along the lines of Pressac's fallacious conjectures (van Pelt 2002, p. 150). Crematoria II and III were visible from the outside from a certain distance, and one could distinguish the chimney which arose "from a projecting wing" of the structure. Not knowing that the cremation furnaces were located in the cremation room, "Vrba must have logically assumed that the projecting wing was the furnace room with the ovens placed around the central chimney" (*ibid.*). He then explained this "genealogy" in the following terms (van Pelt 2002, pp. 150f.):

"As Vrba had been told that there was a large undressing room and an underground gas chamber, it was logical for him to assume that the undressing room would occupy the main body of the crematorium. Thus he had come to two adjacent rooms, one large aboveground 'reception room' and an incinera-

tion room—an arrangement similar to that of Crematoria 4 and 5. But if the latter buildings had three small aboveground gas chambers at the other end, then Crematoria 2 and 3 had one large underground gas chamber, which Vrba depicted in roughly the right position. Its description is quite precise, except that it was equipped with four instead of three traps.

The description of the crematoria in the War Refugee Board report contains errors, but given the conditions under which information was obtained, the lack of architectural training of Vrba and Wetzlar [sic], and the situation in which the report was compiled, one would become suspicious if it did not contain errors.”

Thus, the fact that the description is completely erroneous becomes further proof of its truthfulness! This “reconstruction” is a true and proper model of speciousness and fallacies, leading to conclusions exactly contrary to those hoped for by van Pelt.

To start with, he assumes that Vrba had deduced his description of Crematorium II/III as any other observer would have done, merely seeing the building *from the outside*. Van Pelt conveniently forgets that Vrba’s (or rather Wetzler’s) information (allegedly) originated from the “*Sonderkommando*.” This essential point will be examined in greater detail below. Still, as I have explained earlier, from the outside it may perhaps have been possible to imagine that the crematorium’s chimney wing contained the furnaces, but this certainly could not permit him to deduce their number or arrangement either. It is worthwhile stressing that Vrba’s vantage point (as I shall show below) was Block 27, which was used as a morgue (p. 1321/p. 231), at a distance of “fifty, sixty yards” south-west from Crematorium II (p. 1322/p. 231), and in this regard he declared that he could observe it “from January 1943 until April 7, 1944” (p. 1329/p. 232).

From that position (see Documents 12a and 25) he could see – from a distance of approximately 150 rather than 50 meters – Morgue #1 of Crematorium II, which was half-underground and protruded perpendicularly to the crematorium in the opposite direction of the chimney wing, which was invisible from this vantage point (from there, only Crematorium III’s chimney wing was visible). Ignoring Morgue #2, which was also not visible from that position, the description and drawing from the Wetzler-Vrba Report are impossible: Morgue #1 could not have been linked to the chimney wing by rails, because this morgue was half-underground, and the “Large Hall” could not be as wide as this chimney wing; this wing measured 12 meters on its longest side, exactly like the east side (the width) of the crematorium’s main part, but from Block 27 one could see that the building was very much longer than wide (55.50 meters along the south side) and that was particularly obvious when observing the south side of Crematorium III. What is more, given the small size of the chimney wing, it should have been difficult to imagine that it might contain four four-muffle furnaces (that is, 16 muffles) on its longest side (12

meters), which would have required a much-larger space (the furnace room was 30 meters long and contained 15 muffles). Anyway, how could anyone deduce the number and arrangement of the furnaces and muffles, and above all, the duration of cremations, from the outside?

The absurdity of van Pelt's claim is made visibly obvious by Document 26, where I have placed the drawing from Wetzler-Vrba's report side-by-side for comparison with the presumably corresponding part of the actual blueprint: only a mad man could have deduced the first from the view of the Crematorium II from Block 27, from where one could clearly see that the main part of the crematorium building and Morgue #1 formed a 90° degree angle.

Van Pelt knew Vrba's deposition from the First Zündel Trial in 1985, but hushed up the shameless lies proffered under oath by the witness. In the specific case, as noted earlier, Vrba declared that Morgue #1 protruded above ground "above a head of the human being," so much so that the SS man assigned to the gassing "climbed on the bunker" (p. 1328/p. 232) and, having finished his work, "climbed down from the bunker" (p. 1329/p. 232), while it actually required only a few steps to walk onto the roof. On the other hand, since this roof was perfectly visible from Block 27 along its entire length, why did Vrba "see" only three of the four canonical apertures (introduction shafts)?

I showed earlier that Wetzler's description is completely false on all essential points. Yet still, van Pelt has the effrontery to write that it "is *quite precise*, except that it was equipped with four instead of three traps"! (van Pelt 2002, p. 151) But even the term used in the report and adopted by van Pelt – traps – is inaccurate.

Citing Filip Müller's book, van Pelt also hushes up the fact that this witness, as noted earlier (Chapter 2.4.), wrote that, in 1944, he had provided Wetzler "a plan of the crematoria and gas chambers," and Vrba confirmed that Müller became one of his "most precious sources of information." The most incredible thing is that van Pelt, apart from the omission mentioned above, candidly admits that the two escapees "received all the specific information on the crematoria from Sonderkommando Filip Müller and his colleagues." If that is true, it follows that they supplied Wetzler and Vrba with a plan and a description of Crematorium II/III which were either *intentionally false*, or that the two *intentionally falsified* the real plan and description which they had received. Both options are evidently absurd. Therefore, the conclusion can only be the one suggested earlier, that is, that the report written by Wetzler and Vrba, who were supposed to reveal Auschwitz's "terrible secret" to the world, was invented as black propaganda by the resistance centers of Auschwitz without the involvement of any "*Sonderkommando*" and without their knowledge.

5.4. Van Pelt and the Testimony of Ada Bimko

With reference to this witness, van Pelt writes as follows (2002, pp. 233f.):

“Dr. Bimko testified that she had seen one of the gas chambers. While she did not identify which crematorium she visited, it seems that she visited crematorium 5. In her original deposition, she discussed the circumstances that made the visit possible. The women who had been waiting in Block 25, the holding pen in the women’s camp for those selected for the gas chambers, would be ordered to undress and leave their clothes behind there. Occasionally they were allowed to cover their bodies with hospital blankets. Attached to the hospital in the women’s camp, Dr. Bimko was responsible for recovering the blankets which the naked prisoners used after having undressed in Block 25. ‘I took the opportunity, as I always wanted to see with my own eyes this ill-famed gas chamber, and I went in.’ One day, she arranged with an SS-Unterscharführer who belonged to the medical staff to see the crematorium. He gave her a little tour. The gas chamber was square and resembled a shower-bath: ‘There were many sprays all over the ceiling on rows which were parallel. All these people who went into this room were issued with a towel and a cake of soap so that they should have the impression that they were going to have a bath, but for anybody who looked at the floor it was quite clear that it was not so, because there were no drains.’ She never saw the incineration room. ‘I believe the crematorium was the same building,’ she stated, ‘but I myself did not see the stove.’ But she did see something few others would ever see: the duct-work of the ventilation system installed above the gas chambers. Her SS guide told her, erroneously, that the ducts which extracted the poison from the gas chambers served the opposite purpose, namely to force the hydrogen cyanide into the gas chambers, and he wrongly identified the cylindrical drums that contained the ventilators as gas cylinders. Not in a position to challenge his explanation, Bimko accepted it for what it was.”

It should immediately be noted that van Pelt derives Ada Bimko’s statements from an official report on the Belsen Trial, which reproduces a summary of the testimony, but even that which is summarized therein is more than sufficient to evaluate the reliability of the witness (R. Phillips, pp. 67f.):

“In the first room I met a man who came from the same town as I do. There was also an S.S. man with a rank of Unterscharführer, and he belonged to the Red Cross. I was told that in this first big room the people left their clothes, and from this room were led into a second, and I gained the impression that hundreds and hundreds might go into this room, it was so large. It resembled the shower-baths or ablution rooms we had in the camp. There were many sprays all over the ceiling in rows which were parallel. All these people who went into this room were issued with a towel and a cake of soap, so that they should have the impression that they were going to have a bath, but for anybody who looked at the floor it was quite clear that it was not so, because

there were no drains. In this room there was a small door which opened to a room which was pitch dark and looked like a corridor. I saw a few lines of rails with a small wagon which they called a lorry, and I was told that prisoners who were already gassed were put on these wagons and sent directly to the crematorium. I believe the crematorium was in the same building, but I myself did not see the stove. There was yet another room a few steps higher than the previous one with a very low ceiling, and I noticed two pipes which I was told contained the gas. There were also two huge metal containers containing gas.”

The phrases underlined are those cited by van Pelt. He has therefore omitted everything that would permit the reader to qualify the testimony as false and absurd, specifically, the room “like a corridor” containing “a few lines of rails with a small wagon” leading to the furnace room. Van Pelt was so well familiar with the interior structure of Crematorium IV (which was mirror-symmetrical to Crematorium V) that he reproduced it in six drawings (van Pelt 2002, pp. 200f., 203). He was therefore perfectly well aware that there was no such room equipped with such gadgets, as he knew that, according to the orthodox narrative, there was no room in Crematorium V at all with “many sprays all over the ceiling in rows which were parallel.”

Regarding the “two pipes” and the “two huge metal containers,” van Pelt’s explanation is even more deceptive: he claims in fact that these were ventilation ducts and ventilator housings. This absurd hypothesis is refuted by two indisputable facts:

1. The “Air-extraction systems for Crematoria IV and V” were never installed. This is confirmed by the witness Henryk Tauber in his statement of February 27-28, 1945:⁷⁶¹

“Furthermore, in the gas chambers of Crematoria 4 and 5 there was no ventilation [system], so the chambers were ventilated by opening the doors and little windows.”

A similar statement is also found in the “Notizen” dated November 26, 1944 and examined earlier (Subchapter 2.5.4.): “as there were no mechanical appliances of that kind at all in Crematoria IV and V” (Bezwińska/Czech 1992, p. 122). Consequently, in Crematorium V, allegedly visited by Ada Bimko, there were no “cylindrical drums that contained the ventilators” which could erroneously be misinterpreted “as gas cylinders.”

2. Topf’s Invoice No. 132 of December 23, 1943 relating to “Air-extraction systems for Crematoria IV and V” mentions only one ventilator.⁷⁶²

“Blower No. 450 for extracting approximately 8,000 cbm of used air per hour against a total pressure of 40 mm of water column, three-phase a.c. motor for

⁷⁶¹ GARF, 7021-108-13, p. 7.

⁷⁶² RGVA, 502-2-26, p. 220 and 502-1-327, p. 1.

380 volts, 50 Hz. with double-groove anchor, splash proof, $N = ca. 3.5$ HP. $n = 925$ rpm.”

Even the “cost estimate for air-extraction system” for Crematoria IV and V dated June 9, 1943 mentions only one single “Blower No. 450” for each crematorium.⁷⁶³ Therefore, in no case could Ada Bimko have seen *two* air-extraction ducts and *two* ventilator housings in this crematorium.

3. Van Pelt would have us believe that “an SS Unterscharführer who belonged to the medical staff” – who could only have been an SS medical orderly, such as SS *Oberscharführer* Josef Klehr, allegedly in charge of pouring the Zyklon B into the gas chambers – did not know that the gassings were being carried out precisely by pouring cans of Zyklon B into certain openings, and was crazy enough to confuse ventilation ducts and ventilator housings with gas pipes and gas containers, although he knew that this “gas” was delivered as a liquid soaked on gypsum pellets filled in cans!

In order to save Bimko’s credibility at all costs, van Pelt was prepared to believe – or to pretend to believe – in this absurdity, thus shifting the blame for this witness’s shameless lying to the SS *Unterscharführer*!

This is more than enough to show van Pelt’s bad faith, but the complete statements of Ada Bimko make his explanation even more senseless.

She in fact explicitly declared in her deposition of May 28, 1945 that the room containing the “two pipes” and the “two large cylinders” were located in a separate room “above the gas chamber,” and that these “two pipes” were located “on the floor” of the room and “were connected to the spray fittings in the gas chamber below,” on the ceiling of which the “five or six rows of spray fittings” were installed, so that, in practice, they would have been connected to the showers (see Subchapter 3.5.1.). But, as I have noted, in Crematoria IV and V above the presumed gas chambers there was a truss that supported the roof, which has been well depicted by van Pelt in his Drawings 1, 2 and 3. The presumed gas chambers, being on the original plans (No. 2036 and No. 1361, dated October 14, 1942; Pressac 1989, p. 397), could at best only have a light-weight false ceiling fixed to the roof beams which could not be walked on.

Van Pelt also attempts to pass off as truthful other blatantly mendacious testimonies. On two pages, he reproduces a long excerpt from Bendel’s cross-examination during the Belsen Trial on October 1, 1945 (van Pelt 2002, pp. 234-236), leading the reader to believe that the information is so obviously truthful as to require no comment, but omits any reference to the witness’s other nonsensical statements which I have examined earlier (Subchapter 3.2.4.). Regarding Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier, he dares to write that she “provided a long, precise and important testimony on the situation in Auschwitz”! (*Ibid.*, p. 246; see Subchapter 3.6.2.)

⁷⁶³ APMO, BW 30/27, pp. 20-23.

In a polemic against the late German revisionist Wilhelm Stäglich, van Pelt moreover quotes an excerpt from the declaration by Janda Weiss, who, as van Pelt reports, had arrived in Auschwitz from Theresienstadt on May 20, 1944.⁷⁶⁴ Weiss reported that the transports each had 2,000 deportees. Upon arrival at Auschwitz, they were divided into two groups, one of them containing the men, the other the women. Mengele then selected the most-robust, which were “around thirty out of 2,000,” that is 1.5%! The rest were taken over by Moll (van Pelt 2002, pp. 167f.):

“The remainder were led away by SS Technical Sergeant Moll, the officer of the crematorium. The elderly were loaded onto dump trucks and then dumped into burning trenches while still alive. The remainder were led into the gas chambers. Meanwhile new transports were arriving. [...]

There were three columns for the ventilators, through which the gas poured in. [...] When the room was full, small children were thrown in through a window. Moll grabbed infants by their little legs and smashed their skulls against the wall. Then the gas was let into the chamber.”

Van Pelt comments that,

“following Stäglich’s hermeneutical rules, we must conclude that it [Weiss’s testimony] must be taken seriously. He [Weiss] made specific allegations and he provided specific details, such as the name of the man in charge of the crematoria (Moll) and details of the undressing room and the gassing apparatus. Weiss’s testimony did not contain contradictions, nor did it contain improbable allegations.” (ibid., p. 168)

Such effrontery is truly unprecedented, because the testimony in question contains statements that contradict the current orthodox narrative; they are false and extremely unlikely, not to say outright ridiculous.

To begin with, there is the negligible percentage (1.5%!) of deportees allegedly admitted to the camp, while the “official” number, sanctioned by Höss, is 25-30% (Mattogno 2020, pp. 110, 117f., 143, 173). The older deportees were allegedly dumped directly into the cremation pits simply by tipping the load bed of the transportation truck over their edge, which would have caused the truck’s gas tank to explode due to the heat radiated from the burning pit. As van Pelt was well aware, none of the crematoria had “three columns for the ventilators, through which the gas” could have “poured in” (the witness never specified which building he refers to), and none of the alleged gas chambers had “a window” through which children could have been thrown inside. The story of Moll smashing the heads of small children against the wall is not in fact “unlikely,” it is simply preposterous.

But this testimony contains other nonsense that van Pelt simply ignored (Hackett, pp. 349f., Appendix 159). Upon his arrival, Weiss recounts, “the

⁷⁶⁴ The third and last of the three Jewish transports from Theresienstadt in May 1944 arrived in Auschwitz on May 19. Czech 1990, p. 628.

crematorium greeted us with its horrible tongues of flame coming out of its smokestacks,” which was nonsense. Van Pelt himself, at the end of his book, argues against an earlier assertion by Germar Rudolf that the chimneys of the crematories only smoked during the lighting of the furnaces, but not during normal operation. Van Pelt implicitly states that these chimneys always smoked (van Pelt 2002, p. 504) – indeed, they did smoke, but they did not shoot out flames.

Weiss furthermore stated:

“I visited the barracks of the Jewish work detail, which worked in the crematorium. These comrades told me about the horrors of the crematorium, where I would later work.”

Despite this, he mentions “the crematorium” several times, never indicating which one, and when he uses the term in the plural, he never says that there were four crematoria. He knew absolutely nothing about the crematoria.

Among the anecdotes told by the witness, there is this one:

“On another occasion he [Moll] arranged twelve women who were lined up behind each other in a row, so that their heads were at the same height. Then he mercilessly shot through them all with a single bullet.”

Evidently van Pelt found nothing “improbable” in this idiotic story!

Conclusions

The history of the gas chambers was born from the distortion of the hygienic-sanitary installations of the reception building, which included under one roof the planned presence of 19 fumigation chambers and a shower bath for the inmates, plus two mirror-symmetrical disinfestation facilities called Buildings 5a and 5b, which consisted of a hydrogen-cyanide fumigation chamber labeled “gas chamber” on the blueprints, a washroom and shower bath.

This distortion had a purpose and a cause. The purpose, purely propagandistic in nature, was initially linked to Polish chauvinism, and only gradually did the Poles decide to link their destiny indissolubly to that of the Jews, who served as a worldwide amplifier for their own sufferings. The cause – or the immediate impulse – should no doubt be sought in the disconcertment and fear which the disinfestation procedures inspired in members of the Eastern Jewish religious communities, for whom they represented a disquieting novelty, as Samuel Crowell has suggested. From the very outset and not by accident, the most commonly recurring fantasies were those about the “Degasungskammern” relating to the showers, from which gas exited instead of water.

The general background was the mass use of asphyxiating gases and aggressive chemicals by all belligerents during the First World War. Over 250,000 tons of these substances were manufactured between 1914 and 1918. Approximately 1,000,000 soldiers were affected, 78,000 of whom died (Izzo, p. 7). In the summer of 1917, between Neuilly and the left bank of the Meuse, over a front only 10 kilometers long, over 400,000 gas projectiles were fired, and thousands more in August and October at Verdun, and in December along the Russian front (*ibid.*, p. 31). In 1918, German artillery arsenals contained 50% gas projectiles. In the first great offensive of 1918, the Germans fired 200,000 mustard-gas shells on a single day (*ibid.*, p. 32).

After the end of the war, these aggressive chemicals – particularly from the tactical point of view – continued to be studied in all the countries which had

been involved in World War One, giving rise to governmental instruction manuals and a rich technical literature (*ibid.*, pp. 445-448). From the scientific point of view, the fundamental work in Germany was no doubt the text by Ferdinand Flury and Franz Zernik whose title translates to *Toxic Gases, Vapours, Fogs, Smokes and Powders*.

Although the use of aggressive chemicals was prohibited by the gas protocol of Geneva of 1925, their potential use was anticipated by all former belligerents in case of a future war.

British black propaganda also exploited this theme notoriously. In 1916, *The Daily Telegraph* published an article, presumably transmitted by its Rome correspondent, which reported that two Italian prisoners of war had fled from Austria through Serbia and had taken refuge in Romania. They claimed that the Austrians and Bulgarians had killed 700,000 persons: women, children, and the elderly had been locked into churches and were either killed by bayonets or “suffocated by means of asphyxiating gas,” and in this manner, 3,000 people had been killed in a church in Belgrade. “Serbian refugees,” the article continued, “not on oath, have stated that they were present at a distribution of bombs and machines for producing asphyxiating gas to the Bulgarians by the Germans and Austrians, who instructed the former how to utilise these instruments to exterminate the Serbian population. The Bulgarians used this method at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend, and Negotin, the inhabitants of which places died of suffocation. Similar means were employed by the Austrians in several parts of Montenegro” (“Atrocities...”).

In this context, the first information was introduced on a homicidal gassing at Auschwitz, dating back to October 24, 1941: the victims had been killed, not in the context of a plan of extermination, but with a gas in order “to experiment with a new type of war gas to be employed on the eastern front”; this moreover explains why Zyklon B was so late to enter the accounts on the gasings.

The trauma of being separated from their families (the “selection”) and the subsequent disappearance of inmates unfit for labor from the camp, who were partly transferred to the Ukraine and Transnistria (see Part 1 of this study), were interpreted by the resistance movements as killings, which supplied additional impetus to the history of the gas chambers.

The extermination procedure is a simple parody of reality: the lethal showerheads exuding gas instead of water (with the subsequent evolution of the alleged “gas chambers” into rooms disguised as “shower baths”), and the hair cut off the gassing victims are a misrepresentation of the real showers registered inmates had to take regularly, whose hair had been cut previously for hygienic reasons. On August 8, 1942, the head of WVHA Office Group D, SS *Brigadeführer* Richard Glücks, issued an order to collect the hair of the detainees and send it to companies specialized in processing hair for industrial purposes. In the Auschwitz and Lublin areas, these were the companies Paul

Reimann and Held, both based in Friedland (now Mieroszów), in the Breslau District. And it is no coincidence that the story of corpses having their hair cut off appeared a long time after that and in a rather silly version: that relating to the camps of “Operation Reinhardt,” which at least has the merit of being somewhat reasonable: the deportees had their hair cut while still alive, hence before the alleged killings.

The extraction of any precious-metal fillings or teeth from the corpses of deceased registered inmates before their cremation, on the other hand, was standard procedure at least since 1942. This may have been inspired by the inaugural dissertation presented to the University of Breslau in 1940 by Wiktor Scholz titled *On the possibility of recycling gold in the mouth of the dead* (*Über die Möglichkeit der Wiederverwendung des Goldes im Munde der Toten*; Kłodziński 1964, p. 91).

According to Investigating Judge Jan Sehn, 16,325 teeth made of gold or other precious-metal alloys were removed from 2,904 corpses within just 200 days in 1942. He extracted this data from a series of pre-printed forms bearing the heading “Inmate Dental Station of CC Auschwitz” (“*Häftlingszahnstation des K.L. Auschwitz*”) that were addressed “To the Political Department of CC Auschwitz (“*An die Politische Abteilung des K.L. Auschwitz*”). The form stated that “In the corpse released for cremation” – followed by the inmate’s name and registration number handwritten in pen – teeth had been extracted, giving the type of metal and the tooth’s or teeth’s position(s) in the mouth.⁷⁶⁵ The date line (“*Auschwitz, am ... 194...*”), which had to be completed manually, was printed next to the heading. Jan Sehn published one of these forms in the summary of his investigation on Auschwitz: it concerns Dąbrowski Johann, inmate no. 18306, and is dated July 8, 1942 (Sehn 1946b, photo between pp. 128 & 129).

No such forms exist for deportees who were allegedly gassed. From the orthodox perspective, it is not clear at all why this hyperbureaucracy was necessary for the teeth extracted from registered prisoners, while the Political Department was not informed in a similar fashion about teeth presumably extracted from those allegedly murdered on arrival without registration.

Zyklon B was in common use in Auschwitz since at least July 1940 (see Mattogno 2015, p. 67). The fact that it does not appear as a “weapon of crime” in the reports of the resistance activists before the end of May 1944 (which is inevitable, since it cannot flow instead of water from showers!) is another clear sign that they simply invented and spread mere fantasies and myths.

Completely without any sense of proportion and even of the ridiculous, the resistance propagated victim totals which were disproportionate and absurd, and which had an inevitable repercussion on their vision of the crematoria of

⁷⁶⁵ Höss Trial, Vol. 3, p. 86.

Birkenau, which in their propaganda became the infernal machines for carrying out enormous massacres.

That their fantasies were founded on nothing is clearly shown by the fact that the first correct factual claim about Crematoria II and III – that they each had five triple-muffle furnaces (they never knew anything exact about Crematoria IV and V) – appeared only in a report from August 1944, but with an insane comment: three to four bodies were inserted into each muffle at once, and they were reduced to ashes within 5-10 minutes or even less!

The story of the pyres or cremation pits was also a distortion of real events: that is, the open-air cremation of registered inmates – mostly victims of a raging typhus epidemic – whose bodies could not be cremated in the little crematorium at the Main Camp either because of its low cremation capacity, or due to the numerous interruptions caused by the need for repairs. During the second half of 1942, these surplus corpses were temporarily buried in four long mass graves outside the Birkenau Camp north of the future Crematorium V, but they had to be exhumed and cremated later, as they threatened to poison the area's fresh-water supply. Furthermore, there existed two small burning pits in the area north of Crematorium V in the spring-summer of 1944 (though not concurrently), although it is unknown what was burned there.

These distortions were elaborated in multifarious versions by the various resistance groups at Auschwitz, who in this way invented fantastic stories without ever asking the "*Sonderkommando*" members for any input. These stories were disseminated inside and outside the camp, and every witness embroidered and enriched them, adding additional fantasies. This explains the simultaneous presence of multiple contradictory versions, the discriminating factor being the transfer of the witness from Auschwitz before the arrival of the Soviets or their presence at the camp in January 1945 and the following months; or alternatively, the ethnic group to which they belonged, as each group with their reciprocal contacts tended to harmonize a version in a certain manner.

The Soviet-Polish narrative became established as the official "truth," not because it was any more true than the others, but merely because the Soviet and Polish investigators and the witnesses under their influence were able to "calibrate" their narrative based on material evidence and documents, pruning it of the most-absurd fairy tales along the way; in other words, since the "setting" of this narrative (in a cinematographic sense) was real, the narrative itself was considered true.

However, there was never any "terrible truth" at Auschwitz.

Appendix

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Archive Abbreviations

- AGK: *Archiwum Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni w Polsce*, Archives of the Central Commission for the Investigation of Crimes in Poland, now *Instytut Pamięci Narodowej* (Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation), Warsaw
- ANN: *Archiwum Akt Nowych* (Archive of Modern Documents), Warsaw
- APK: *Archiwum Państwowego w Katowicach* (Kattowitz State Archive), Katowice
- APMO: *Archiwum Państwowego Muzeum w Oświęcimiu* (Archives of the State Museum Auschwitz)
- BAK: *Bundesarchiv Koblenz* (German Federal Archives, Koblenz)
- FDRL: *Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library*, New York
- GARF: *Gosudarstvennyy arkhiv Rossiyskoy Federatsii*, State Archive of the Russian Federation, Moscow
- GFHA: *Ghetto Fighters House Archives*, Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetat, Israel
- HI: Hoover Institution, Washington, D.C.
- IMT: *Trial of the Major Criminals before the International Military Tribunal*. Nuremberg 14 November 1945-1 October 1946. Published at Nuremberg, Germany, 1947-1949.
- NARA: *National Archives and Records Administration*, Washington, D.C.
- NCA: *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*. Office of United States Chief Counsel for Prosecution of Axis Criminality, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1945-1946.
- RA: *Riksarkivet*, Stockholm
- ROD: *Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie* (State Archive for War Documentation), Amsterdam
- RGVA: *Rossiyskiy gosudarstvennyy voyenny arkhiv*, Russian State Military (War) Archive, Moscow
- SPP: *Studium Polski Podziemnej w Londynie* (Study of the Polish Underground in London), London
- TAMO: *Tsentralny arkhiv Ministerstva Oborony RF* (Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation)
- TNA: *The National Archives*, Kew Richmond, Great Britain, formerly *Public Record Office*
- VHA: *Vojenský Historický Archiv* (Archive of Military History), Prague
- YVA: *Yad Vashem Archives*, Jerusalem

Documents

Form- Zunt- Blatt-	Spruch Nr. 14		SS-Standort-Funkstelle	
Demerite:		an Auschwitz		
Befehlende Stelle:		79 1011		
54/11		Leitung der Waffengruppe		
W.V.HA.		in Auschwitz		
		Eingang 4. JUNI 1942		
		Stellvertreter 8387/112		
		Erst-Abt. Tief. Abt. Planung Vermess. Abt. Techn. ...		
		Beschaltg. ...		
An Bauleitung.		54/11		
Nach Mitteilung Chef Amtsgr. D				
besteht für den Kamin des Krematoriums				
K.L.Au. Einsturzgefahr. Falls zutreffend,				
sofort Erneuerung des Schornsteins in An-				
griff nehmen. Vollzugsmeldung anher und				
Angabe, warum ich nicht durch die Zentral-				
bauleitung unterrichtet bin.				
Der Chef der Amtsgruppe C				
Dr. Ing. Kammler,				
#-Brigadef. u. Generalmajor				
der Waffen SS.				
F. D. R. Funkstellenleiter				
469. Draft A Gross, Berlin EO 30				

DOCUMENT 1: Radio message no. 14 received by SS-Standort-Funkstelle at Auschwitz on June 4, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-312, p. 55. Typical presentation of the German messages intercepted and deciphered by the British.

9/10. OMA de OMP 2 Tle 249 87 0812
 An ..goes off.. und Chef Amtsgruppe D.
 Besteht ~~in dem Kamin~~ des Krematoriums im ..groups missed.
 gefahr. Falls zutreffend sofort Erneuerung des ..goes off... in
 Angriff nehmen: Vollzugsmeldung anher und Angabe, warum ich nicht
 durch die Zentralbauleitung unterrichtet bin.
 Der Chef der Amtsgruppe C DR. Ing. KAMMLER SS Brigadeführer
 und Gen.maj. der Waffen SS.

Document 1a: Version of Document 1 as intercepted and deciphered by the British. TNA, HW 16-19. German Police Decodes Nr 3 Traffic: 4.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 109/11.6.42, n. 9/10.

Wehrkreis VIII		AUSCHWITZ		155	
Krankenblatt					
Berichtsjahr 19 42					
Reservelazarett Kattowitz Innere Abteilung.				Hauptkrankenbuch Nr. 2136	
(Hilfsarzt: Rosenbaum)				Neb.-Krankenbuch Nr. 551	
Krankheitsbezeichnung: Grippe			Krankheitsnummer: 7		
Name	Familien-	Franzen		Zugang am	22.7.1942
	Vor-	Michael		woher?	Truppe
Dienstgrad	H-Rottenführer		überwiesen		
	Truppenteil		Kdtr.Stab K.L.Auschwitz	berlegt am	
Geburt	Tag, Monat, Jahr	1.10.1917		wohin?	
	Ort	Hürth		überwiesen	
	Kreis	Köln		berlegt am	
Dienstzeit		2.6.1937		wohin?	
H.-Nr.				Kommandanturstab K.L. Auschwitz	
Bürgerlicher Beruf		Verkäufer		Gesamtzahl der Behandlungstage: 20	
Nächste Angehörige und deren genauer Wohnort (auch Straße und Hausnummer)		Ehefrau: Wilhelmine F., Wartenberg Ob/Bayern, Bergstr.71			
Ist Dienstbeschädigung von dem Kranken bescheinigt? _____					
Ist Dienstbeschädigung festgestellt (Epidemie oder Endemie)? _____					
Ist Dienstbeschädigung gemeldet am _____					
am _____ von _____					
angenommen ist nicht gemeldet, da zu geringfügig.					
MV 834 H.-Verbandsheft D. 8. Hagen, Hiltisch (Eben. Geklöb) 1914					

DOCUMENT 2: Medical chart of confinement to Kattowitz reserve military hospital of SS Rottenführer Michael Franzen, admitted on July 22 and discharged on August 11, 1942. GARF, 7021-108-54, pp. 155-155a.

Datum	Krankheitsgeschichte
	<u>A. Vorgeschichte:</u>
	Gesimpft lt. Soldbuch gegen Pocken und Typhus. Familiengeschichte: o.B. Krankheiten vor Diensteintritt: 1927 Verletzung des li. Auges durch Jagdunfall. Krankheiten während der Dienstzeit: 1939 Entzündung der Leisten- drüsen mit operativer Behandlung. Anfang 1942 6 Wochen Behandlung wegen Nervenankfällen in einer Nervenheilstätte (wahrsch.funktionelle Anfälle). Verlauf der gegenwärtigen Krankheit: Erkrankte Mitte Juli 1942 mit Kopfschmerzen und Fieber und wurde wegen Verdacht auf Fleckfieber der Inneren Abt. des Res.Laz.Kattowitz überwiesen.
	<u>B. Befund:</u>
	Gewicht: 72.- kg Größe: 182 cm Augen: o.B. Ohren: o.B. Gebiß in Ordnung. Lunge feucht, im hinteren Abschnitt grau belegt. Rachen gerötet. Hals: Kieferwinkeldrüsen etwas geschwollen und druckschmerzhaft. Brustkorb: gut gewölbt, dehnt sich bei der Atmung gleichmäßig aus. Lungen: Untere Grenzen an normaler Stelle, keine Unterschiede im Klopfeshall. Atemgeräusch bläulichförmig. Herz: Grenzen regelrecht. Töne rein. Aktion regelmäßig. Leib: weich. Leber und Milz nicht vergrößert. In beiden Leisten- gegenden fest verheilte Operationsnarben. Gliedmaßen: Gelenke frei beweglich. Nervensystem: o.B.
	<u>C. Krankheitsverlauf:</u>
22.7.42	Behandlung: Bettruhe, Brustwickel, Symptol und Antineuralgica. Urin frei von Eiweiß und Zucker. im Sediment mehrere rote und einige weiße Blutkörperchen. Blutsenkungsreaktion nach Westergreen: 6/13 mm. Zahl der weißen Blutkörperchen: 3400.
23.7.42	Fieber etwas zurückgegangen. Klagt über leichte Schluckbeschwerden. Rachen gerötet. Kieferwinkeldrüsen geschwollen.
24.7.42	Temperaturen immer noch um 38,40.
25.7.42	Lungen o.B. Puls gut gefüllt. Keine Milzschwellung. Kein Exanthem.
27.7.42	Das Fieber klingt allmählich ab.
28.7.42	Temperaturen nur noch subfebril.

DOCUMENT 2, continued

Abschrift.

Wehrkreis VIII 192

Krankenblatt

Berichtsjahr 1942

Reserve-Lazarett Kattowitz
Innere Abteilung

Gesamt-Krankenbuch Nr. 1184
Kl.-Krankenbuch Nr. 271

Ort-Bezirk, Kreis (Postort)

Krankheitsbezeichnung:		Krankheitsnummer:
Fleckfieber		8
Name:	Familien:	Sienschkowski
	Vor-:	Franz
Dienstgrad:		SS-Schütze
Truppenteil:		9./H-T.-Stuben. K.-L. Auschwitz
Geburtsdatum:	Tage, Monat, Jahr:	11.3.1917
	Ort:	Kulischkenen
	Kreis:	Gumbinnen, Ostpr.
Dienstbeginn:		11.11.1941
H. Nr.:		
Vorgesetzter Beruf:		Landarbeiter
Mutter: Angehörige und deren genauer Wohnort (auch Straße und Hausnummer)		Mutter: Anna S., Narwskau Kr. Ebenrode/Ostpr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Dienstfähig von dem Kranken beurlaubt <input type="checkbox"/> Dienstfähig (Epidemie oder Epidemie?) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dienstfähig geschied am <u>18.12.1942</u> W.D.R. erwiesen am _____ von _____ an _____ ist nicht gesund, da in geringfügig.		
Die Krankheitsgeschichte ist in der Krankenakte (Krankheitsprotokoll) eingetragen.		

Befehlszahl der Behandlungstage:
35

DOCUMENT 2A: Medical chart of confinement to Kattowitz reserve military hospital of SS-Schütze Franz Sienschkowski, admitted on November 13. and discharged on December 18, 1942. GARF, 7021-108-54, pp. 192-192a.

Datum	Krankheitsgeschichte
	<u>A. Vorgeschichte:</u>
	Geimpft lt. Soldbuch gegen Pocken, Typhus.
	Familiengeschichte: o.B.
	Krankheiten vor Dienst Eintritt: Als Kind Masern und Grippe.
	Krankheiten während der Dienstzeit: Januar 1942 14 Tage Revierbehandlung wegen Grippe.
	Verlauf der gegenwärtigen Krankheit: Am 10.11.42 mit hohem Fieber und starken Kopfschmerzen erkrankt. S. meldete sich krank und wurde sofort im Revier aufgenommen. Am 15.11.42 erfolgte Einlieferung auf die Innere Abteilung des Res.-Laz. Katowitz wegen Verdachtes auf Fleckfieber.
	<u>B. Befund:</u>
	Gewicht: 58,5 kg. Größe: 164 cm.
	Kopf und Augen: o.B.
	Ohren: o.B.
	Mundhöhle: Bis auf einen Backenzahn Gebiß vollständig und saniert. Zunge trocken, bräunlich belegt. Rachen o.B.
	Hals: Keine Drüsenanschwellungen. Schilddrüse nicht vergrößert.
	Brustkorb: asymmetrisch.
	Lungen: Bronchitische Geräusche über beiden Unterlappen. Grenzen normal, gut verschieblich. Klopfischall sonor.
	Herz: Grenzen regelrecht, Töne rein, Aktion regelmäßig.
	Leib: weich. Leber und Milz nicht vergrößert.
	Gliedmaßen: Gelenke frei beweglich.
	Nervensystem: o.B.
	<u>C. Krankheitsverlauf:</u>
13.11.42	Hohe Temperaturen, leichte Benommenheit. Deutl. Fleckfieberexan
15.11.42	Immer noch hohe Temperaturen. Behandlung mit Strophantin-Traubenzucker.
19.11.42	Noch kein Temperaturabfall, Puls etwas weich. Die Benommenheit hat zugenommen.
22.11.42	Immer noch kein Temperaturabfall. Nahrungsaufnahme erschwert.
26.11.42	Lytischer Temperaturabfall, die Benommenheit hat nachgelassen. Weil-Pelix'sche Reaktion auf Fleckfieber 1 : 800 +.
1.12.42	Temperaturen normal. Keine Benommenheit mehr. Puls gut gefüllt.
3.12.42	Weiterhin Wohlbefinden.
8.12.42	Rö.-Befund: Hili verdichtet, Lungen und Herz o.B.
12.12.42	S. klagt noch immer über schnelle Ermüdbarkeit. An den inneren Organen kein krankhafter Befund. Entlassungsvorgesehen.

DOCUMENT 2A, continued

- 3 -

6.)	Eingangsgebäude	✓	24. 000
7.)	Lagerhaus		105. 000
8.)	11 Wachtürme aus Holz	✓	5. 000
b.)	<u>Bauvorhaben genehmigt durch B.F.H.</u>		
1.)	312 Unterkunftsbaracken	a 11.000	4. 680. 000
2.)	18 Wirtschaftsbaracken	a 20.000	1. 280. 000
3.)	36 Wasch- und Abortbaracken	a 25.000	900. 000
4.)	19 Wäscherei- und Vorratsbaracken	a 15.000	285. 000
5.)	14 Revierbaracken	a 15.000	210. 000
6.)	4 Leichenbaracken	a 20.000	80. 000
7.)	Kommandanturbaracken		70. 000
8.)	Wachbaracke mit Abortbaracke		80. 000
9.)	Barackenlager für Wachtruppe bestehend aus:		
	16 Unterkunftsbaracken	a 25.000	400. 000
	2 Wirtschaftsbaracken	a 50.000	100. 000
	6 Abortbaracken		78. 000
	2 Waschbaracken		28. 000
10.)	Krematorium		400. 000
11.)	Bäckerei (provisorisch)		111. 400
12.)	27 Wachtürme aus Holz		13. 500
13.)	1 Übersichtsturm		10. 000
14.)	Wasserversorgungsanlage		372. 000
15.)	Kanalisation und Kläranlage		424. 000
16.)	Zufahrtstrasse einschl. Parkplatz		412. 000
17.)	Strassenbefestigung innerhalb des KGL. einschl. Appellplätze		1. 387. 000
18.)	Gleisanschluß vom Bahnhof Auschwitz		546. 000
19.)	Einfriedigung (elektr. geladenes Drahthindernis)		520. 000
20.)	Licht- und Kraftstrohanlage		6. 000
21.)	Elektr. Freileitung von Birkenau einschl. Trafo-Gebäude		15. 000
22.)	Alarm- und Telefonanlage		8. 000
			<u>13.347. 000</u>

- 4 -

DOCUMENT 3: "Overview of all structures ordered by the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office Berlin to be built in the area of Auschwitz CC, or in the service area of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen SS and Police Auschwitz, respectively, during the third financial year of the war." July 30, 1942. RGVA 502-1-275, pp. 34f.

- 2 -

✓ 8.) Entwässerung (Hauptsamler, Regenwasserkanal und Kläranlage mit Faulgasgewinnung) 1.080.000,-

o.) Bauvorhaben genehmigt durch B.f.H.

✓ 1.) 3 Führerunterkunftsbaracken - 1 288.000,-
 ✓ 2.) 12 Mannschaftsunterkunftsbaracken 492.000,-
 ✓ 3.) 4 Bekleidungsbaracken }
 ✓ 4.) 7 Werkstättenbaracken } 360.000,-
 ✓ 5.) 2 Wohn- und Arbeitsbaracken 82.000,-

II.) Landwirtschaftliche Betriebe Auschwitz

11.287.800,-

a.) Bauvorhaben eingestuft unter der GE-Nummer VIII Up a 1

✓ 1.) 3 Feldscheunen und 4 Hofscheunen (behelfsmäßig) 244.000,-
 ✓ 2.) behelfsmäßige Gewächshäuser für 3.000 qm Fläche u. Trockenanlage 330.000,-
 ✓ 3.) 4 behelfsmäßige Kartoffel-Lagerhäuser 86.000,-
 ✓ 4.) Ausbau des Rohbaues in Raisko als Laboratorium 21.000,-
 ✓ 5.) behelfsmäßige Schweine- und Schafställe in primitivbauweise 10.000,-

b.) Bauvorhaben genehmigt durch B.f.H.

✓ 50 Pferdestallbaracken einschl. Folgenlagen zur Unterbringung von Vieh, landwirtschaftlichen Produkten und Geräten. } 664.000,-
 } 360.000,-
 1.735.000,-

III.) Kriegsgefangenenlager der Waffen-SS

a.) Bauvorhaben bei GE.-Bau eingereicht

1.) 30 Gefangenen-Unterkunftsbaracken (gemauert) ✓ 372.000,-
 2.) 2 Wirtschaftsbaracken ✓ 66.600,-
 3.) 10 Wasch- und Abortbaracken ✓ 65.300,-
 4.) 2 Entlausungsbaracken ✓ 82.400,-
 5.) 1 Leichenbaracke ✓ 22.200,-

- 3 ✓ 22.200,-
 609.000,-

59
Abchrift. FB 11

Punk-Sprech Nr. 32
Besondere Stelle:
W.V.H.A.

An
K.L.AU.

Angekommen: 15.9.42 1744

~~Best.~~ **Betr. Fahrgenehmigung.**
~~Best.~~ **Dort. Antrag v. 14.9.42**

Fahrgen. für einen PKW. von AU. nach Litzmannstadt
und zurück zwecks Besichtigung der Versuchstation für Feld-
öfen Aktion Reinhard wird hiermit für den 16.9.42 erteilt.

Die Fahrgen. ist dem Kraftfahrer mitzugeben.


Der Chef der Anst. D
ges. Glücks
B-Brigadef. u. Generalmajor
der Waffen-SS, Leiter der
Dienst. im Range eines General-
leutnants der Waffen-SS

F.d.R.
ges. Stelle
Punkstellenleiter

Kommandantführer und Adjutant.

[Handwritten Signature]

Waffen-SS, R.d.A. 1



DOKUMENT 4: Travel permit for a business trip from Auschwitz to Litzmannstadt for the purpose of "inspecting the test station for field incinerators Aktion Reinhard", September 15, 1942. AGK, NTN, 94, p. 170.

42/43. GMP de ONA 1640 239 167

Betr: Fahrgenehmigung. Bezug: dort. Antrag vom 14.9.42.

Fahrgenehmigung für einen Pkw. von AU nach LITZMANNSTADT
und zurück, zwecks Besichtigung der Versuchstation für
Feldöfen, Aktion "Reinhard" wird hiermit für den 16.9.42
erteilt... remainder missed...

DOKUMENT 4A: Version of Document 4 as intercepted and deciphered by the British. TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr 3 Traffic: 15.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 237b/28.2.43, n.42/43.

Abschrift. ^{Zahl} 118 F B.

Funk-Sprach Nr. 98
Absendende Stelle: **An** **Angesommen: 30.9.42 1055** 171
W.V.H.A. **K.L. Auschwitz**

An Lagerkom.

Betr.: Besichtigung des Haarverwertungsbetriebes Fa. H e l d
in Friedland, Bez. Breslau.
Besw.: Dort. Fs. vom 29.9.

Ich genehmige hiermit die Fahrt mit einem PKW. des
H-Oberstuf. S c h w a r z von Auschwitz nach Friedland
zur Besichtigung des Haarverwertungsbetr. Held in Fried-
land, Bez. Breslau.

gez. G l u c k s
H-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor
der Waffen-H in der Dienststellung
eine Generalleutnants.

F.d.R.
Gen. Sells
Funkstellenleiter
F.d.R.d.A.:
Hauptsturmführer und Adjutant. *g*

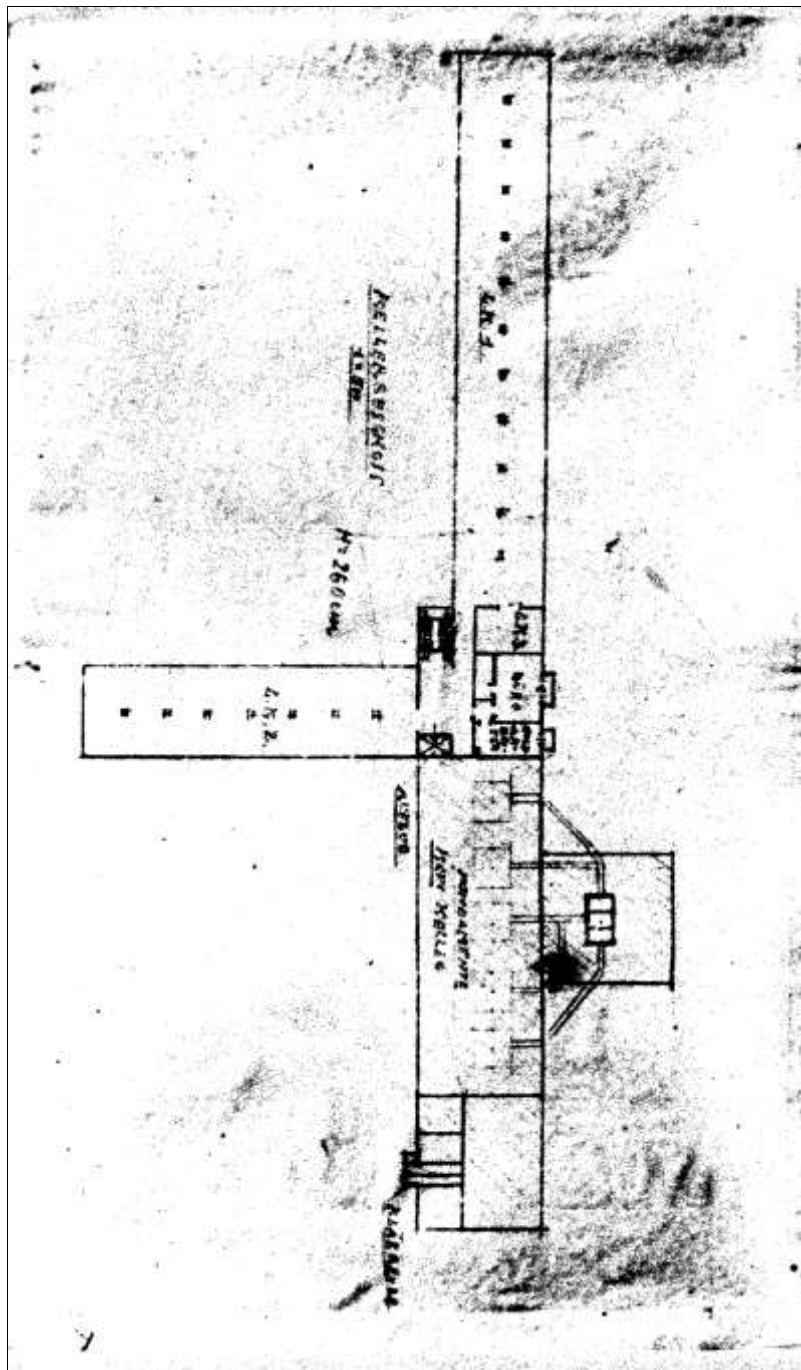


DOKUMENT 5: Travel permit for a business trip from Auschwitz to Friedland for the purpose of "visiting the hair recycling plant of the HELD company". AGK, NTN, 94, p. 171.

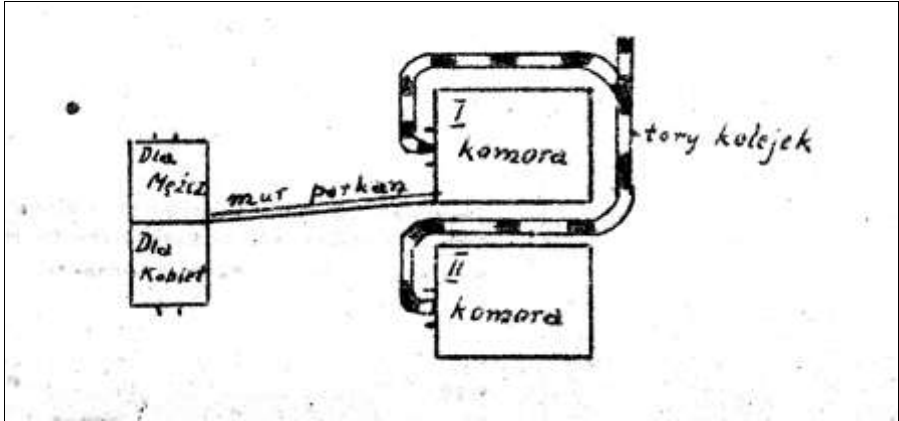
10/11. ORP de OMA 1030 244 131

An Lagerkom.
Betr: Besichtigung des Haarverwertungsbetriebes, Fa. HELD in
FRIEDLAND, Bezirk BRESLAU. Bezug: dort. Fs. vom 29.9.42. Ich
genehmige hiermit die Fahrt mit einem Pkw. des SS Obersturm-
führers SCHWARZ nach FRIEDLAND zur Besichtigung des
Haarverwertungsbetriebes HELD in FRIEDLAND, Bezirk BRESLAU.
Gen. GLUCKES, SS Brigadeführer und Gen. Major der Waffen SS
in der Dienststelle

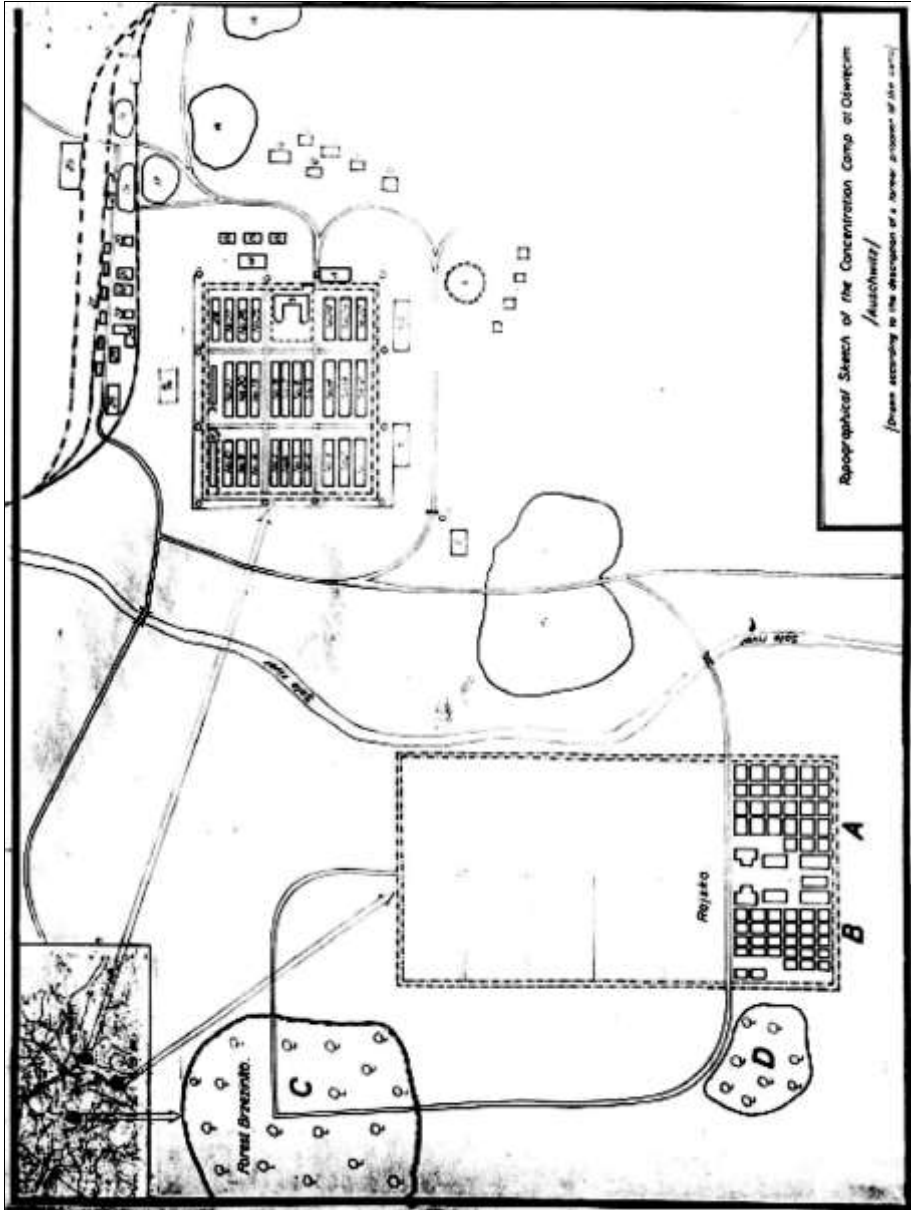
DOKUMENT 5A: Version of Document 5 as intercepted and deciphered by the British. TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr 3 Traffic: 30.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 239b/3.12.42, n.10/11.



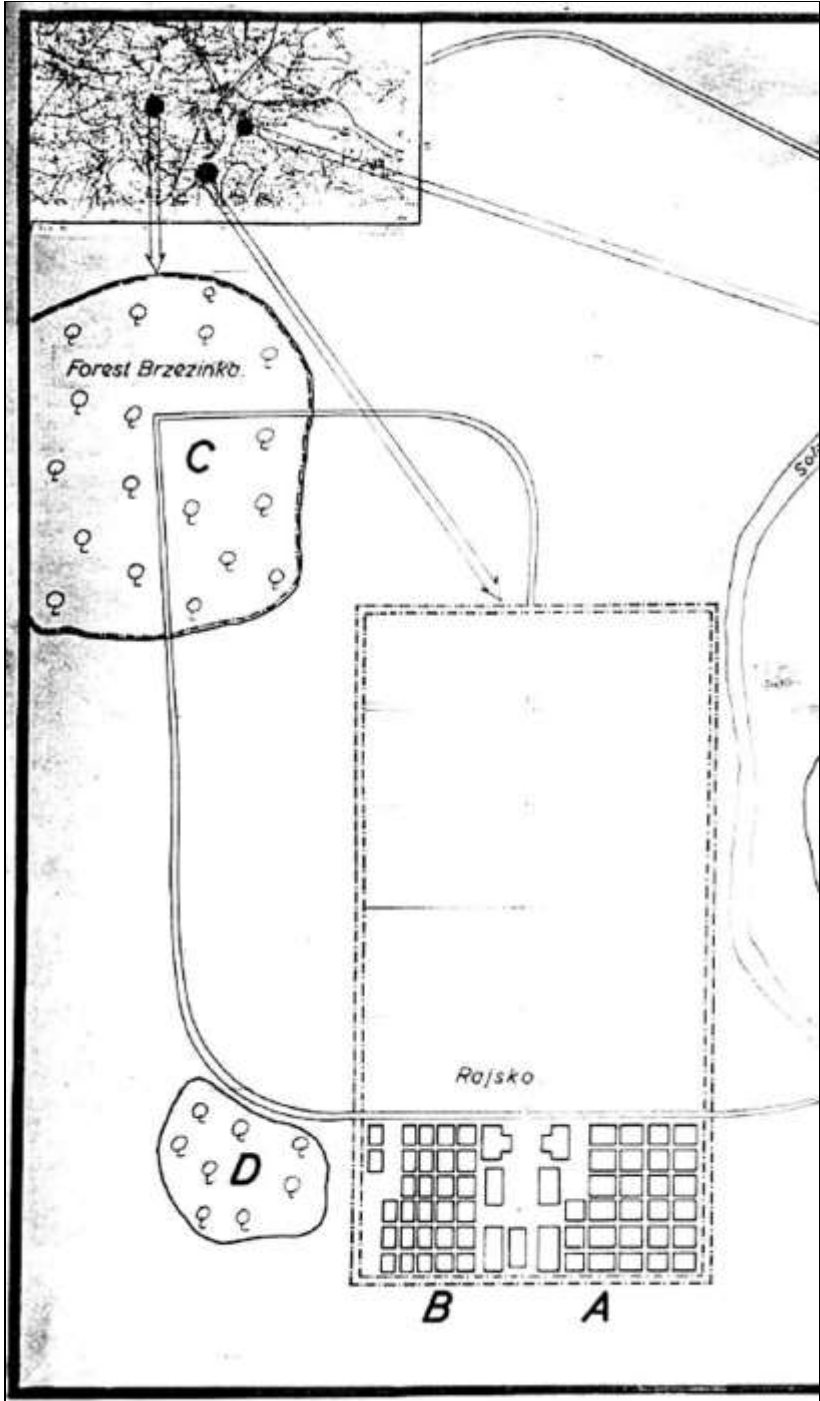
DOCUMENT 6: Clandestine drawing of Crematorium II by Vera Foltynova.
APMO, microfilm no. 6220.



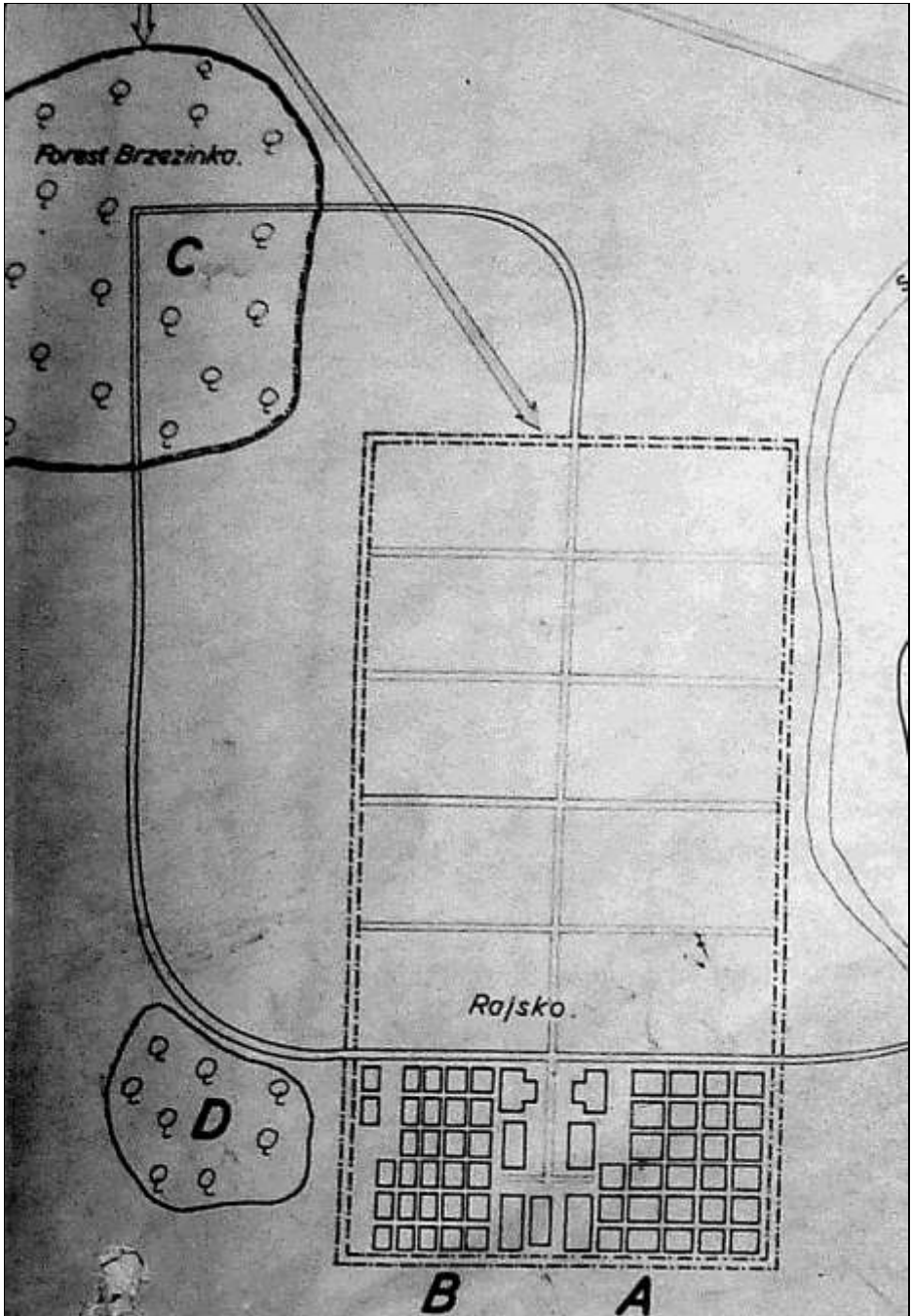
DOCUMENT 7: Drawing of two gas chambers at Birkenau by unknown author (December 1942 or January 1943). AGK, NTN, 155, p. 299.



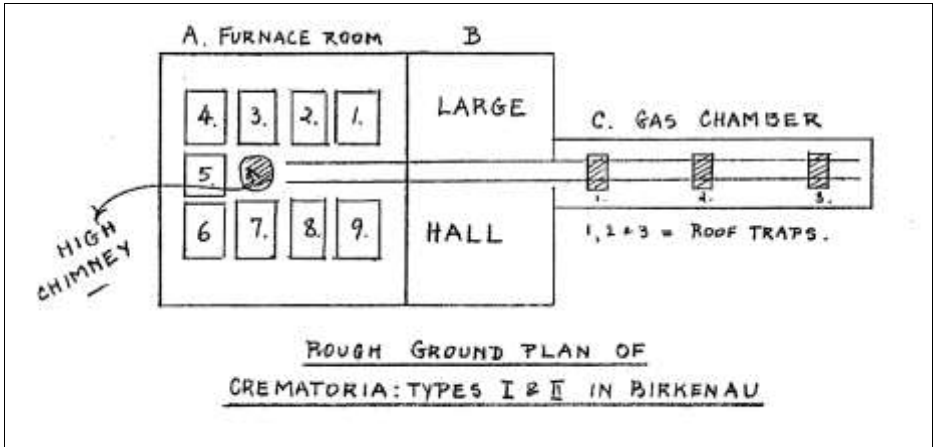
DOCUMENT 8: “Topographical Sketch of the Concentration Camp Oświęcim /Auschwitz/ /Drawn according to the description of a former prisoner of the camp”; undated (but drawn in the spring of 1943) by an unknown inmate; FDRL, WRB, Box no. 61, Report 3.



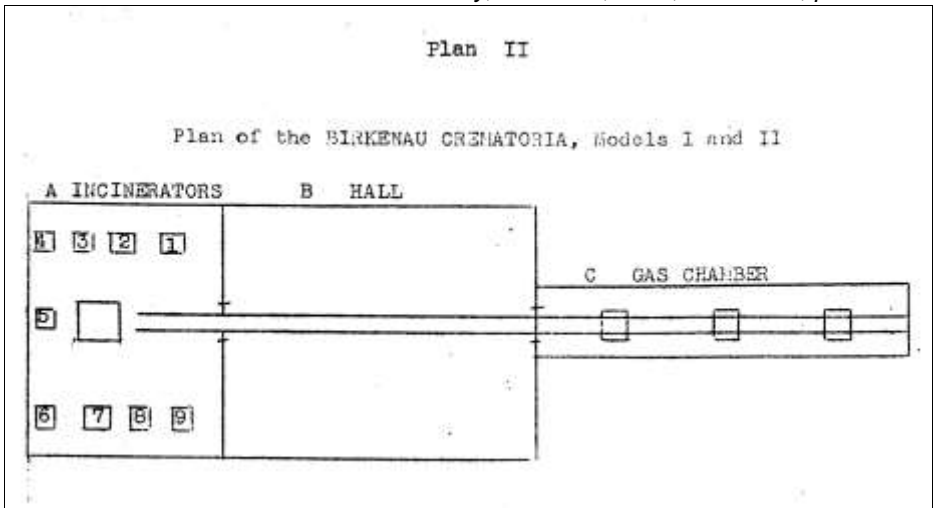
DOCUMENT 8A: FDRL, WRB, Box no. 61, Report 3



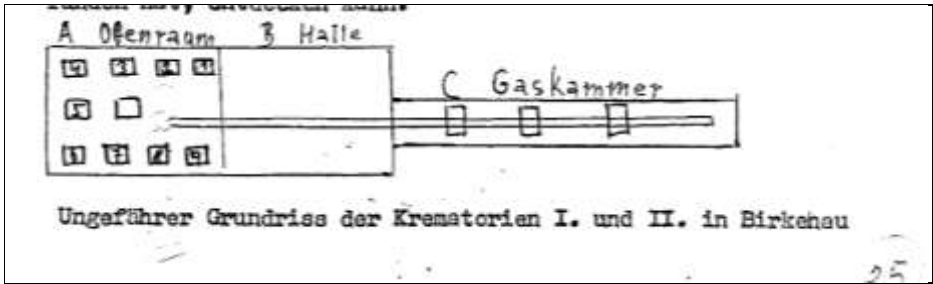
DOCUMENT 8B: TNA, FO 371-42806.



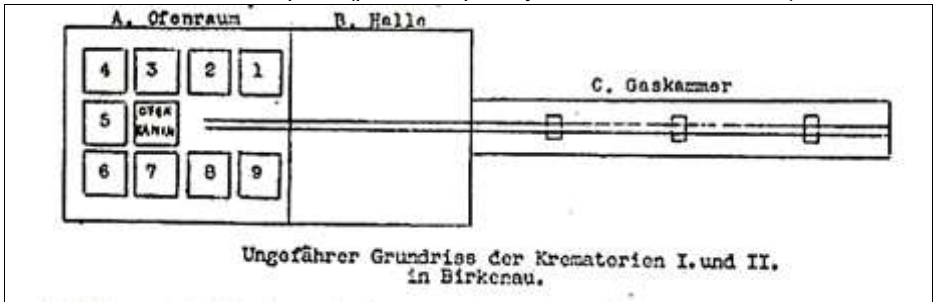
DOCUMENT 9: "Rough Ground PLAN OF CREMATORIA: TYPES I & II IN BIRKENAU." From: *The Extermination Camps of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau in Upper Silesia.* Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, New York, WRB, Box no. 61, p. 12.



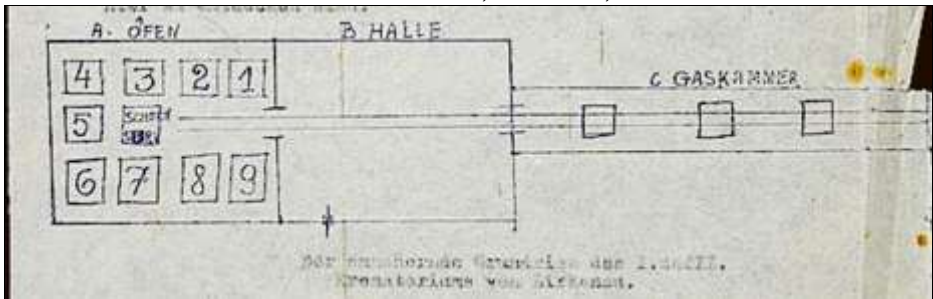
DOCUMENT 9A: "Plan of the BIRKENAU CREMATORIA, Models I und II." From: RG 226, OSS #XL 8883.



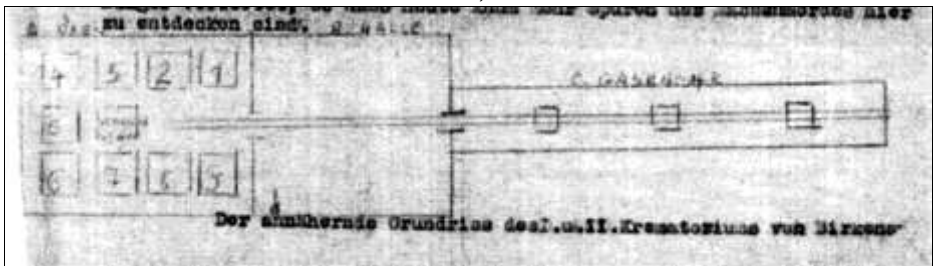
DOCUMENT 10A: "Rough floor plan of Crematoria I and II in Birkenau." From: APMO, RO, Vol. XXa, p. 25 (p. 19 of report by A. Wetzler and R. Vrba).



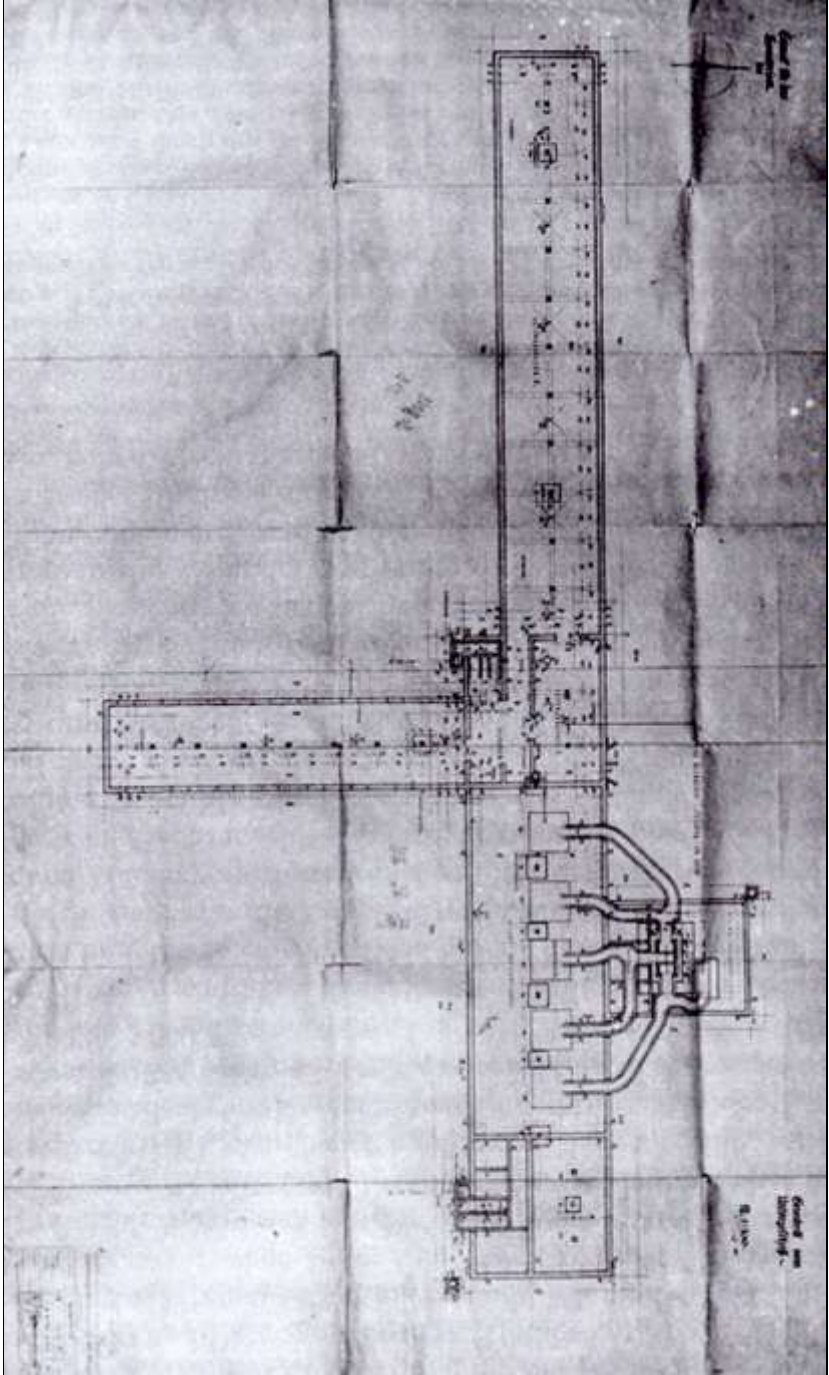
DOCUMENT 10B: as before; from: YVA, M.20-153.



DOCUMENT 10C: "The approximate floor plan of I. and II. Crematorium of Birkenau"; from: YVA, P.54/6.



DOCUMENT 10D: as before; from: RA, HP 1095, p. 167.



DOCUMENT 11: "Draft of the crematorium." Plan no. 932 dated January 23, 1942 for future Crematorium II. APMO, negative no. 17079.



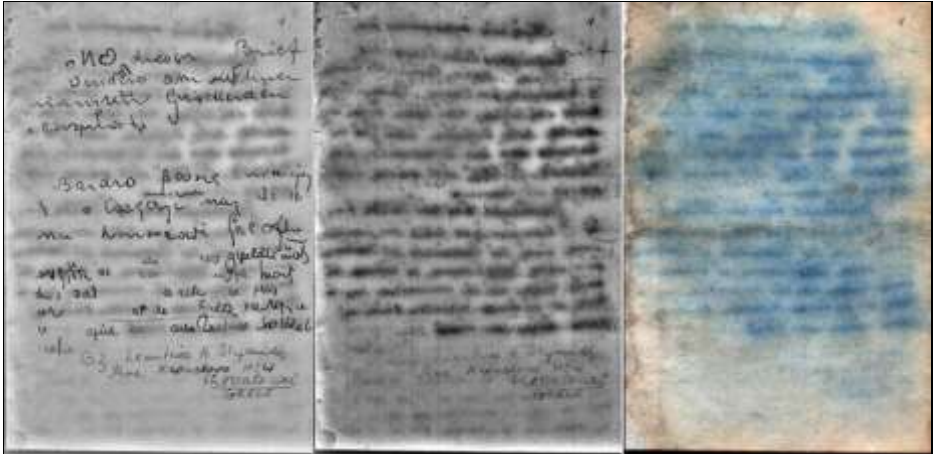
DOCUMENT 12: Canadian aerial photograph of Birkenau dated September 13, 1944, detail showing the four crematoria. National Archives, Washington D.C., Record Group no. 373, Mission 464 BG:4M97. Can B 8413. Exposure 6 VZ.



DOCUMENT 12A: Section enlargement of Document 12 showing the location of Crematoria II and III compared to Block 27 of Sector B1b. (LK 1: Morgue #1 of Crematorium II, here surrounded by a black box.)

1/10	200	Sam	Sachsen	60	1
2/10	100	Hob	Co. Lager	100	4
10/10	700	Dist	General	40	2
11/10	2,000	Sam	Stenak	..	2
12/10	3,000	Hob	Co. Lager	..	4
13/10	3,000	Hob	Co. Lager	..	2
15/10	2,000	Sam	Sachsen	..	1
16/10	3,000	Sachsen	Sam	..	2
17/10	3,000	Hob	Co. Lager	..	4
18/10	100	..	Lager	..	2
19/10	600	..	Walden Lager	..	2
19/10	2,000	..	Human	..	4
19/10	3,000	Sam	Stenak	..	1
19/10	2,000	Sam	Sachsen	..	2
19/10	700	Sam	Sachsen	..	2
19/10	20	..	p. Plankhof	..	2
19/10	10	..	p. Wisker	..	2
19/10	3,000	Sam	Stenak	..	4
19/10	2,000	Sam	Sachsen	..	2
20/10	2,500	Sam	Sachsen	..	1
20/10	1,000	2
20/10	200	Hob	Co. Lager	100	2
20/10	1,000	4
20/10	1,000	Hob	Co. Lager	..	4
20/10	900	..	Stenak	..	2
20/10	2,000	Sam	Sachsen	..	1

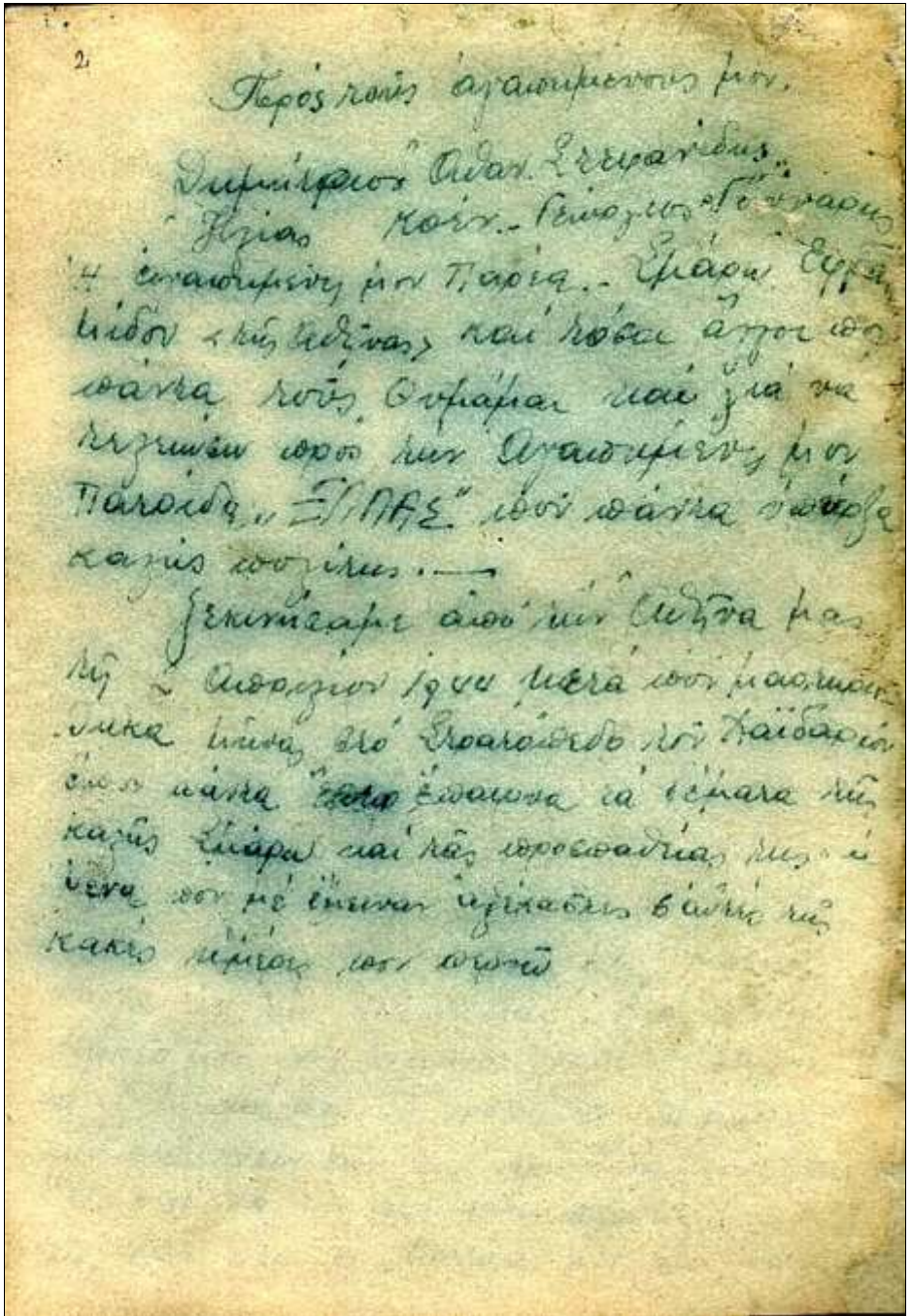
DOCUMENT 13: List of presumed gassings at Birkenau in October 1944 by unknown author. APMO, Wspomnienia, Vol. 38a, p. 1



DOCUMENT 14: Page 1 of manuscript by Marcel Nadjari before and after enhancement of the image (from right to left). Public domain web image.



DOCUMENT 15: Signature of Marcel Nadjari affixed at the end of p. 11 and 12 of his manuscript. Public domain web images.

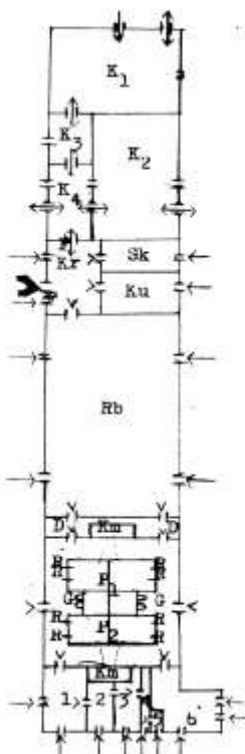


DOCUMENT 16: Page 3 of manuscript by Marcel Nadjari after enhancement of the image. Public domain web image.

Szkic krematorium nr. V.

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/załącznik do protokołu zeznań świadka Szlamy Dragona z 10 i 11.5.1945r./



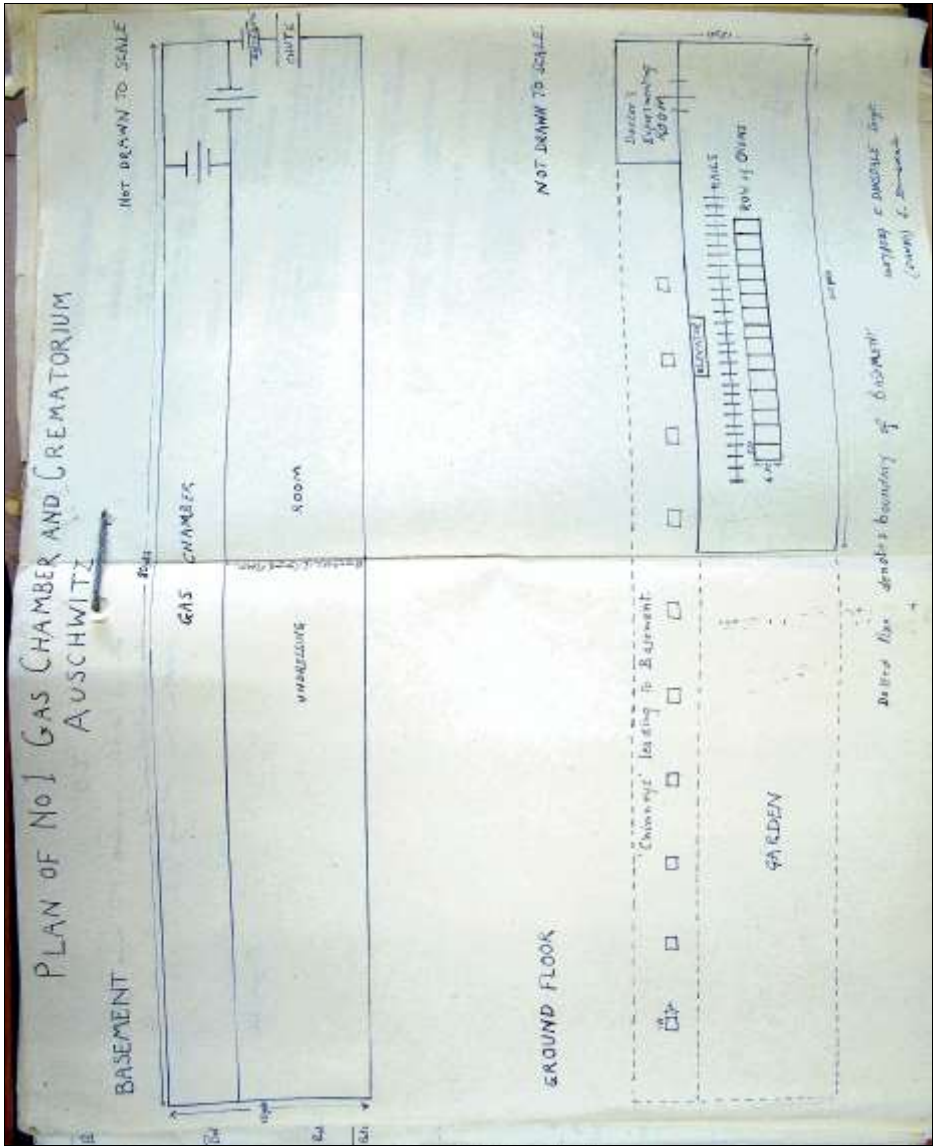
- = drzwi gazoszczelne
- = okienka do wrzucania cyklot
- = okna
- > = drzwi
- ⤵ = główne wejście
- K = komory gazowe
- Sk = pokój dla Sonderkommando
- Kr = korytarz
- Ku = kuchnia dla SS-mannów
- Rb = rozbiórnia
- P = fryzjerzka
- D = dentyści
- Km = kominy
- P = piece krematoryjne
- R = retorty
- G = generatory
- I = izba komandoführera
- 2 = izba dla SS-mannów
- 3 = " " " "
- 4 = ubijalnia
- 5 = klozet
- b = koksownia

/Szkic niniejszy narysowany został przez Sędziego Śledczego Jana Sehna w obecności Prokuratora Edwarda Pęchalskiego na podstawie bezpośrednich oględzin na miejscu, oraz wyjaśnień świadka Dragona Szlamy, złożonych przez niego w toku dokonywania oględzin i podczas jego przesłuchania./

Sędzia Śledczy:

/Jan Sehn/

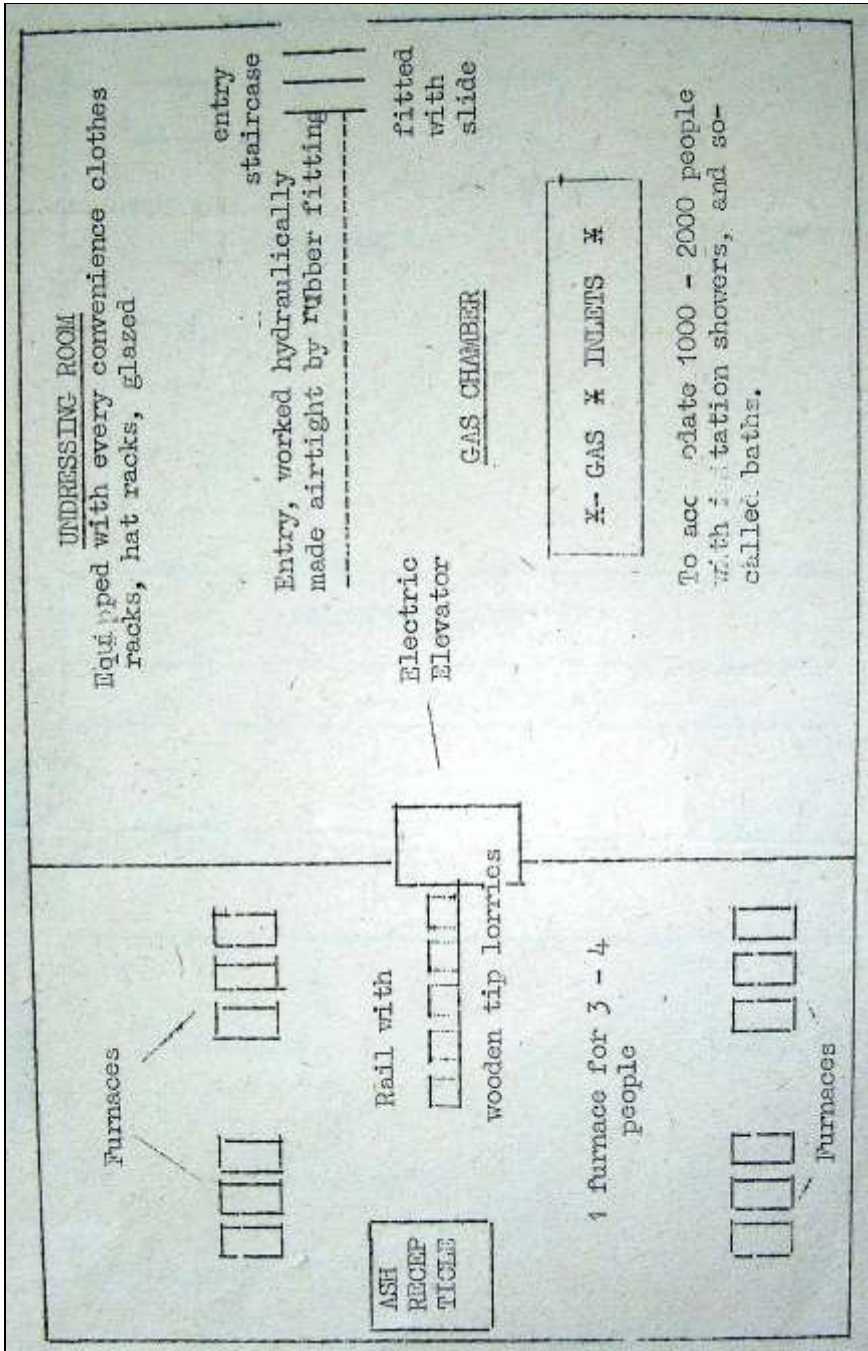
DOCUMENT 17: Drawing of Crematorium V in 1944 by Jan Sehn based on statements by witness Szlama Dragon. Record of deposition by Signatory Dragon on May 10 and 11, 1945. Höss Trial, Vol. 11, p. 118.



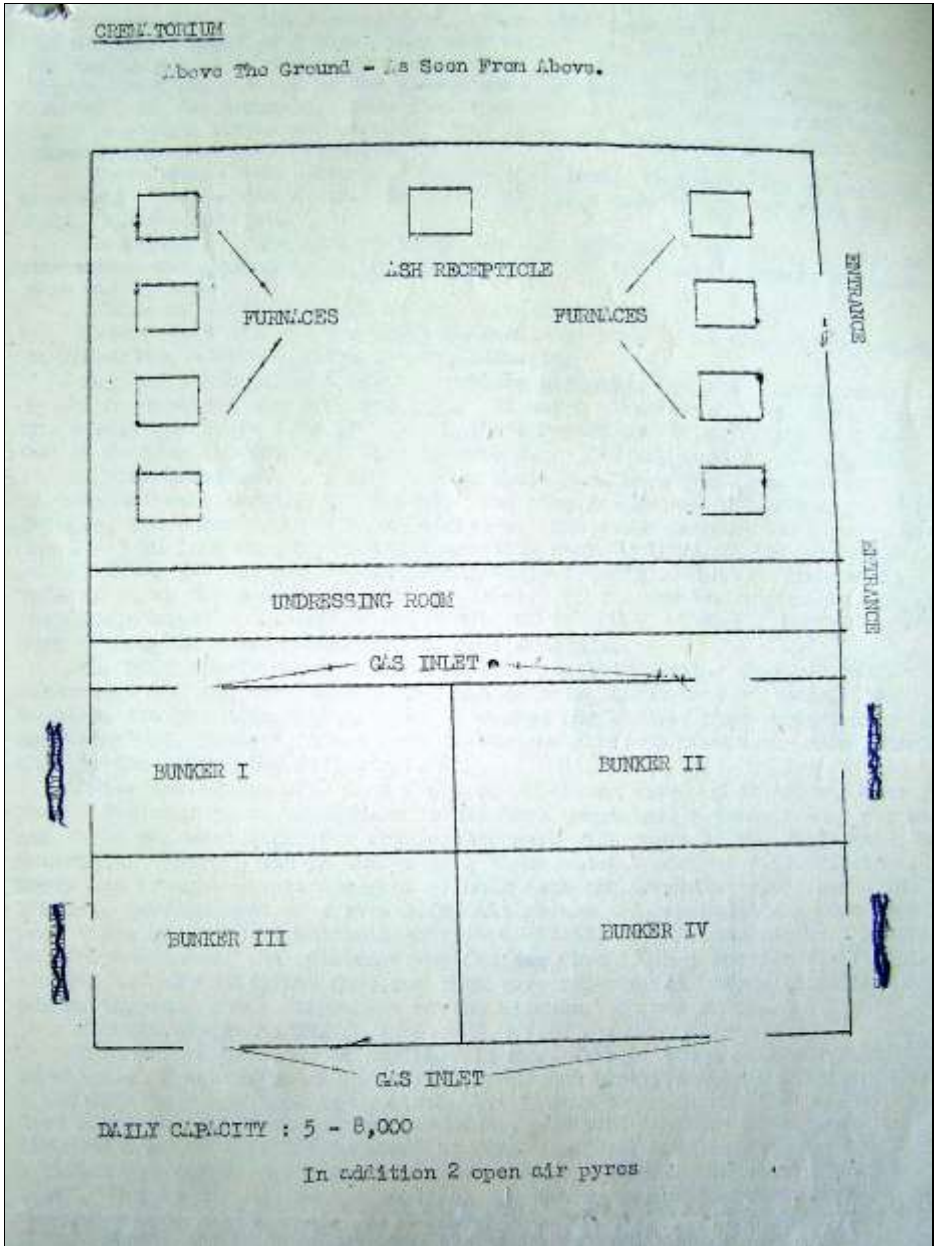
DOCUMENT 18: "Plan of No 1 Gas Chamber and crematorium Auschwitz" drawn by Sergeant Edward Dinsdale on June 1, 1945 based on statements by Regina Plucer. TNA, WO, 311-1326-1; WO, 311-1326-2.



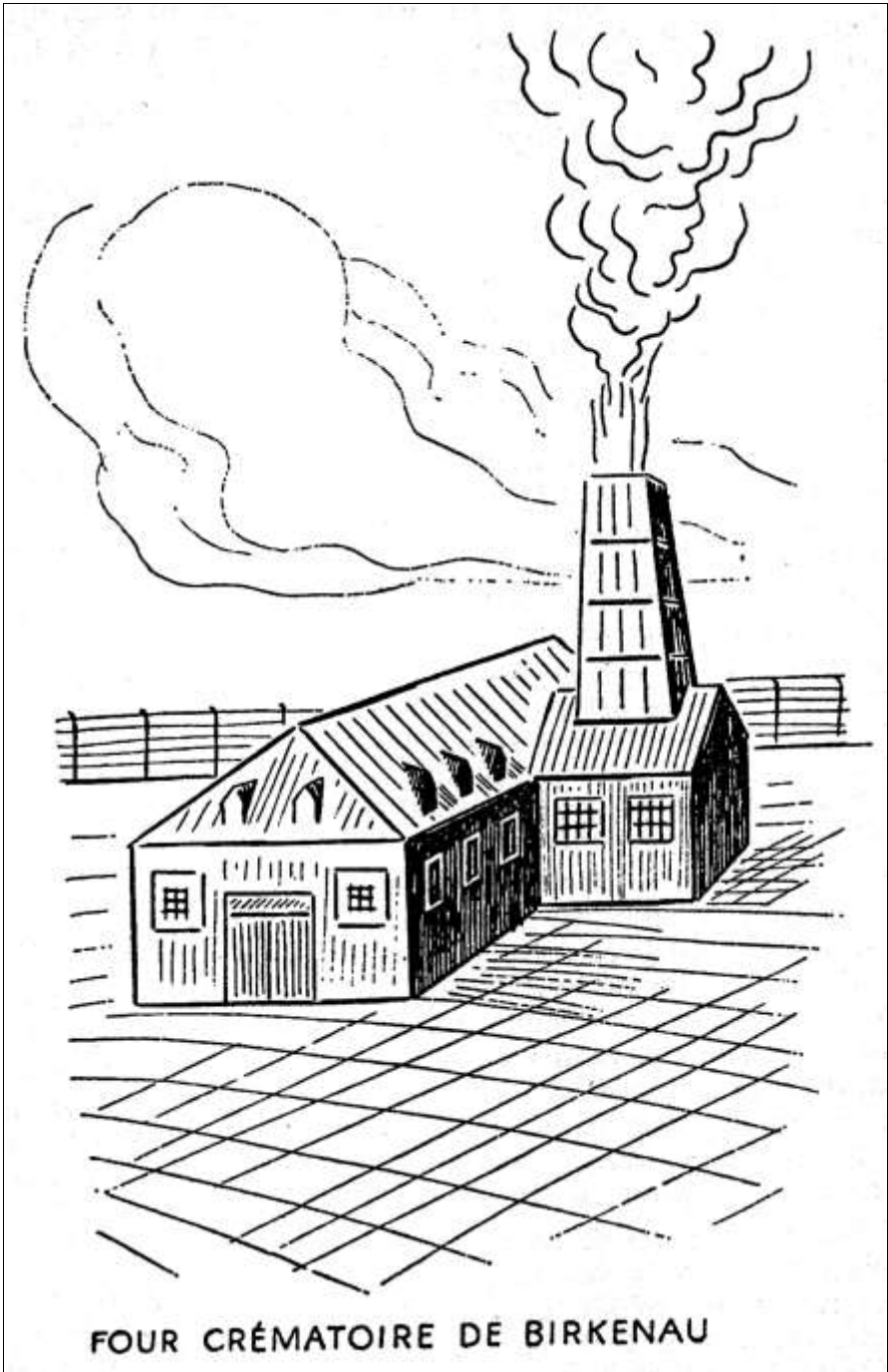
DOCUMENT 19: Canadian aerial photograph of Birkenau dated December 21, 1944. Detail of Crematorium II. NARA, RG 373, Mission: 15SG/994 15 PG. CAN: D 1533, Exposure 3021.



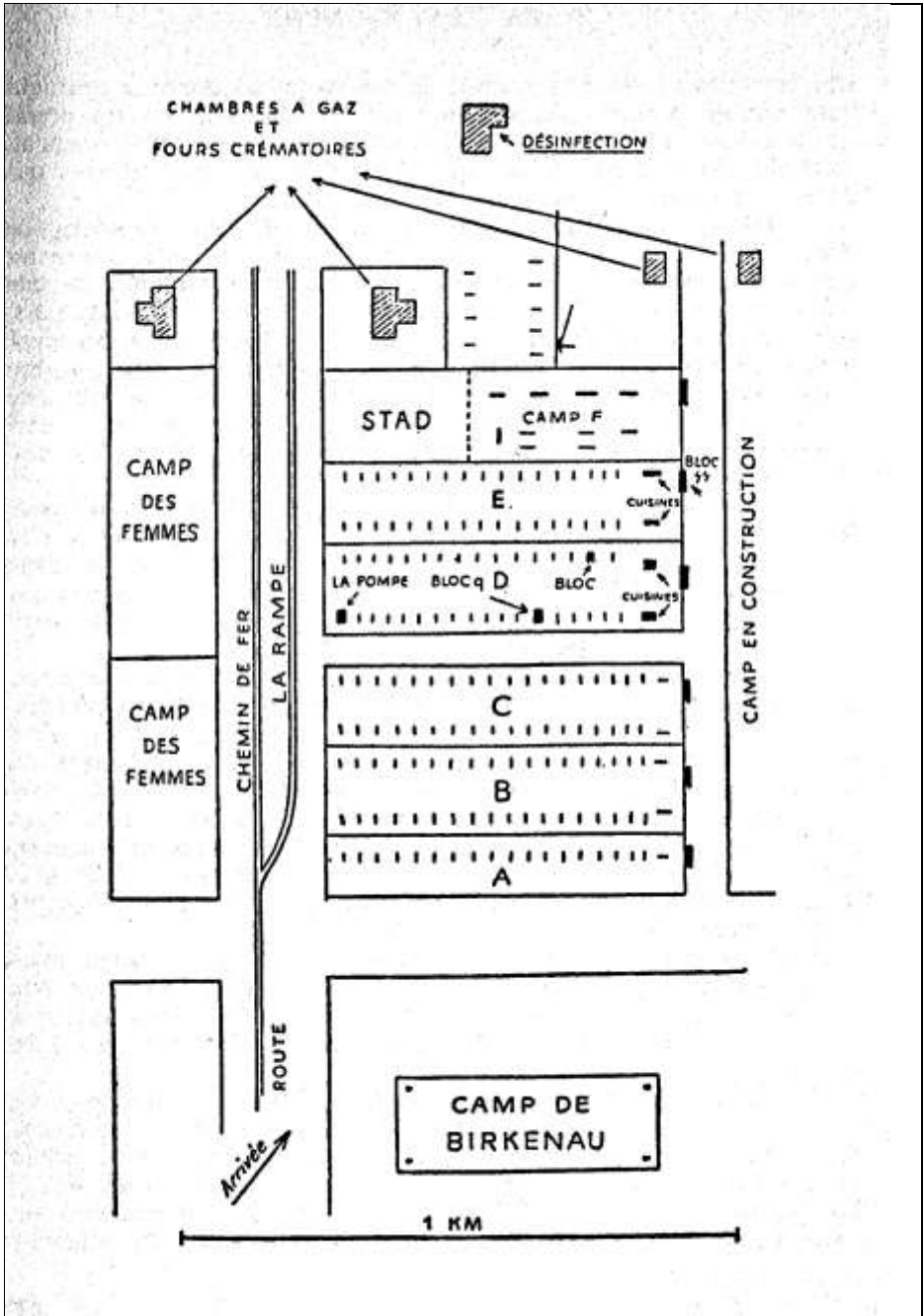
DOCUMENT 20: Drawing of Crematorium II-III at Birkenau by Fritz Putzker. "Statement on Concentration Camp Conditions by a Longterm Serving Inmate." TNA, WO 309-374.



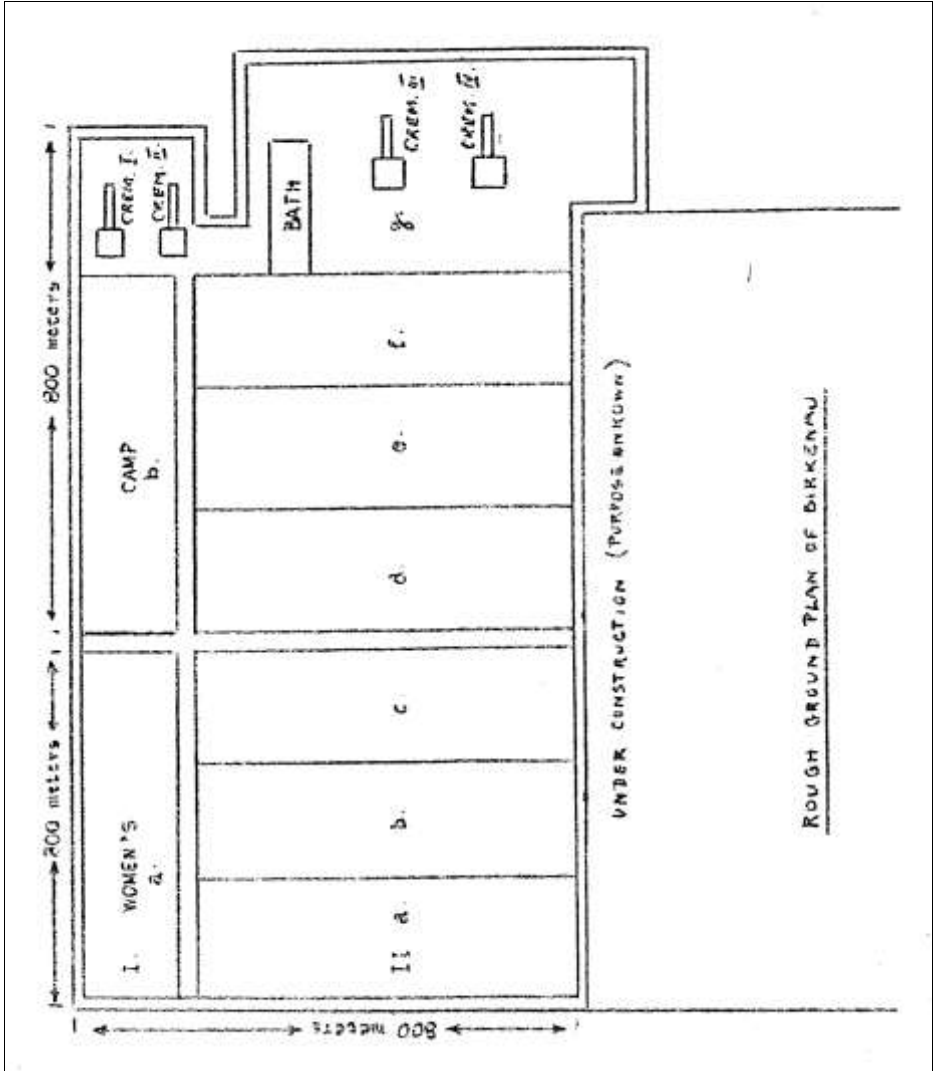
DOCUMENT 21: Drawing of Crematorium IV-V at Birkenau by Fritz Putzker. "Statement on Concentration Camp Conditions by a Longterm Serving Inmate." TNA, WO 309-374.



DOCUMENT 22: Drawing of Crematorium II by André Rogerie (1945). From: Rogerie 1992, p. 75.



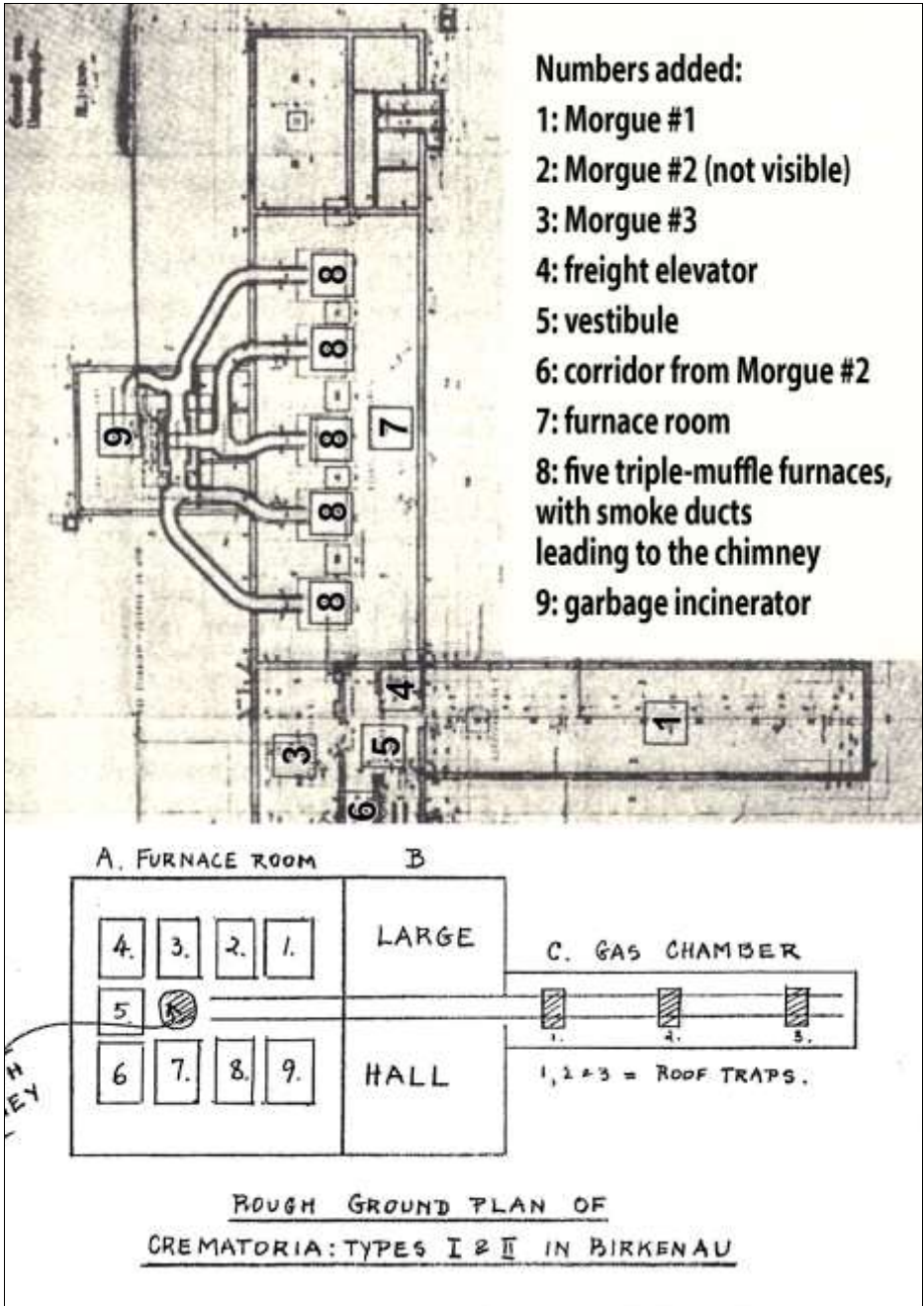
DOCUMENT 23: Drawing of Birkenau Camp by André Rogerie (1945). From: Rogerie 1992, p. 68.



DOCUMENT 24: "Rough Ground Plan of Birkenau." From: *The Extermination Camps of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau in Upper Silesia.* Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, New York, WRB, Box no. 61, p. 18.



DOCUMENT 25: Satellite image (Google Earth, 2017) of Birkenau camp. Location of Morgue #2 of Crematorium II compared to Block 27 of Sector B1b.



DOCUMENT 26: Comparison between plan of Crematoria II/III from Wetzler-Vrba Report (DOCUMENT 9, bottom) and a blueprint of the future Crematorium of January 23, 1942 (DOCUMENT 11, top).

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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.

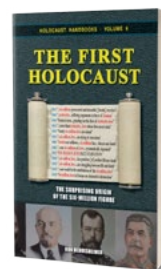
SECTION ONE:

General Overviews of the Holocaust

The First Holocaust. The Surprising Origin of the Six-Million Figure.

By Don Heddesheimer.

This compact but substantive study documents propaganda spread prior to, during and after the FIRST World War that claimed East European Jewry was on the brink of annihilation. The magic number of suffering and dying Jews was 6 million back then as well. The book details how these Jewish fundraising operations in America raised vast sums in the name of feeding suffering Polish and Russian Jews but actually funneled much of the money to Zionist and Communist groups. 5th ed., 200 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#6)

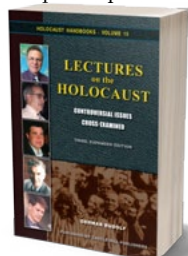


neued much of the money to Zionist and Communist groups. 5th ed., 200 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#6)

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 essential 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 argues for a free



exchange of ideas on this topic. This book gives the most-comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the critical research into the Holocaust. With its dialogue style, it is easy to read, and it can even be used as an encyclopedic compendium. 3rd ed., 596 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#15)

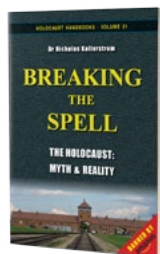
Breaking the Spell. The Holocaust, Myth & Reality.

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



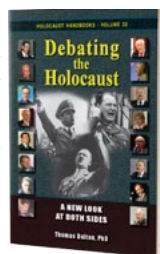
Pictured above are all of the scientific studies that comprise the series *Holocaust Handbooks* published thus far or are about to be released. More volumes and new editions are constantly in the works. Check www.HolocaustHandbooks.com for updates.

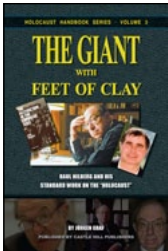
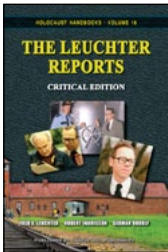
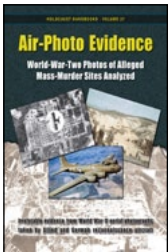
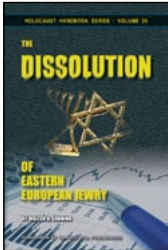
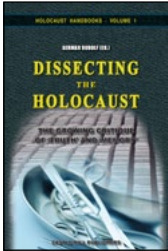
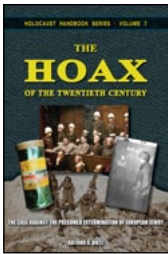
refutes the orthodox “Holocaust” narrative. It reveals that the Germans were desperate to reduce the death rate in their labor camps, which was caused by catastrophic typhus epidemics. Dr. Kollerstrom, a science historian, has taken these intercepts and a wide array of mostly unchallenged corroborating 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, any 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





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 prove 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 Gernar Rudolf. *Dissecting the Holocaust* applies state-of-the-art scientific techniques 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 excitingly 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 Gernar 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 Gernar 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, Babı 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. 6th edition; with a contribution by Carlo Mattogno. 167 pages, 8.5”x11”, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index (#27).

The Leuchter Reports: Critical Edition. By Fred Leuchter, Robert Faurisson and Gernar 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 points, 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 about 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-page 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

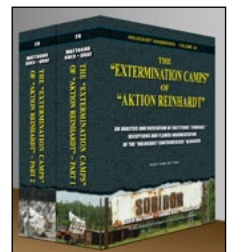
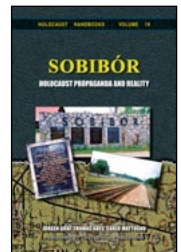
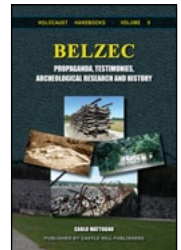
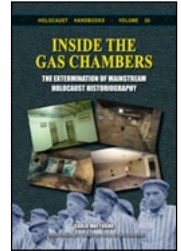
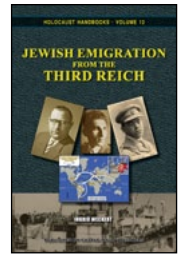
Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp? By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. It is alleged that at Treblinka in East Poland between 700,000 and 3,000,000 persons were murdered in 1942 and 1943. The weapons used were said to have been stationary and/or mobile gas chambers, fast-acting or slow-acting 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

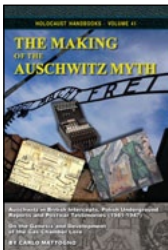
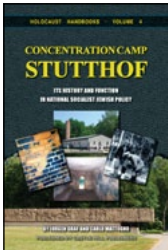
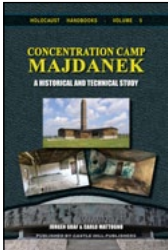
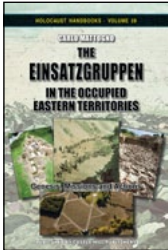
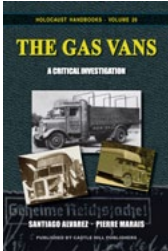
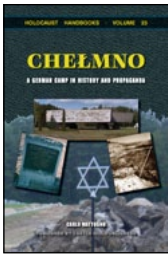
camp. 3rd ed., 384 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#8)

Belzec: 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-exhaust 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 are analyzed that started in 2000-2001 and carried on until 2018. The book also documents the general National-Socialist policy toward Jews, which never included a genocidal "final solution." 2nd ed., 456 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)





Chelmo: A Camp in History & Propaganda. By Carlo Mattogno. At Chelmo, 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 Chelmo, 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 believable? 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 Chelmo 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 units called *Einsatzgruppen* primarily engaged in rounding up and mass-murdering Jews. This study sheds a critical light onto 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 ad-

dition, 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 it 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 “make-shift” 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 Post-war Testimonies (1941-1947). By Carlo Mattogno. Using messages sent by the Polish underground to London, SS radio messages sent 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. 2nd edi-

tion, 514 pp., b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#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 every 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)

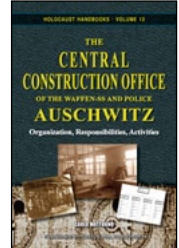
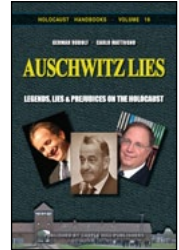
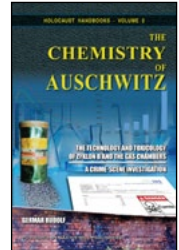
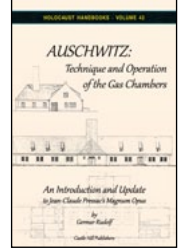
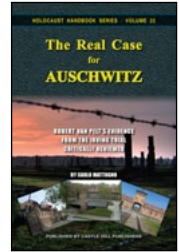
Auschwitz: Plain Facts: A Response to Jean-Claude Pressac. Edited by Germar Rudolf, with contributions by Serge Thion, Robert Faurisson and Carlo Mattogno. French pharmacist Jean-Claude Pressac tried to refute revisionist findings with the “technical” method. For this he was praised by the mainstream, 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 substantiates 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)

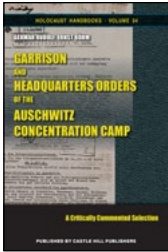
Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers: An Introduction and Update. By Germar Rudolf. Pressac's 1989 oversize book of the same title was a trail blazer. Its many document reproductions are still valuable, but after decades of additional research, Pressac's annotations are outdated. This 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: How were these gas chambers configured? 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 conducted by other scholars. 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 Carlo Mattogno and Germar 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 (who turned cracks into architectural features), are exposed for what they are: blatant and easily exposed political lies created to ostracize dissident historians. 4th ed., 420 pages, b&w illustrations, index. (#18)

Auschwitz: The Central Construction Office. By Carlo Mattogno. Ever since the Russian authorities granted western historians access to their state archives in the early 1990s, the files of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz, stored in a Moscow archive, have attracted the attention of scholars who are researching the history of this most infamous of all German war-time camps. Despite this interest, next to nothing has really been known so far about this very important 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.” This emphasizes the importance of the present study, which not only sheds light into this hitherto hidden





aspect of this camp's history, but also provides a deep understanding of the organization, tasks, and procedures of this office. 2nd ed., 188 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary, index. (#13)

Garrison and Headquarters Orders of the Auschwitz Camp.

By Germar Rudolf and Ernst 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, such as the children of SS men playing with inmates, SS men taking friends for a sight-seeing tour through the camp, or having a romantic stroll with their lovers around the camp grounds. 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 Carlo 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 Carlo 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 this very Dr. 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.

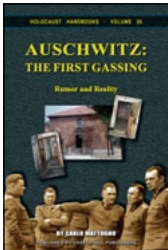
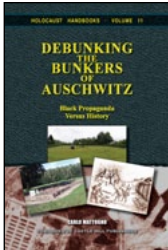
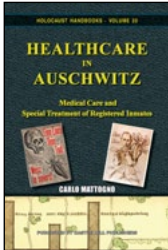
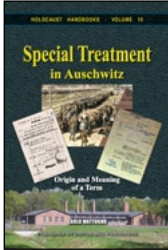
By Carlo Mattogno. The "bunkers" at Auschwitz, two former farmhouses just outside the camp's perimeter, are claimed to have been the first homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz specifically equipped for this purpose. With the help of original German wartime files as well as revealing air photos taken by 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 Carlo Mattogno. The first gassing in Auschwitz is claimed to have occurred on Sept. 3, 1941 in a basement. 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 about the event's location, date, the kind of victims and their number, and many more aspects, which makes 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 Carlo 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 Carlo 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 filled with 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 early 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 makeshift versions of what was usually produced, and that their capacity to cremate corpses was lower than normal, too. This demonstrates that the Auschwitz crematoria were not evil facilities of mass destruction, but normal installations that barely managed to handle the victims among the inmates who died of various epidemics ravaging the camp through its history. 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. In 2014, they answered with a book presenting documents allegedly proving their claims. But they cheated. In its main section, this study analyzes their "evidence" and reveals the appallingly mendacious attitude of the Auschwitz Museum authorities when presenting documents from their archives. This is preceded by a section focusing on the Auschwitz Museum's most-coveted asset: the alleged gas chamber inside the Old Crematorium, toured every

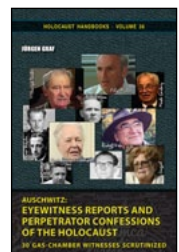
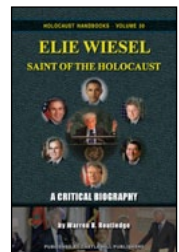
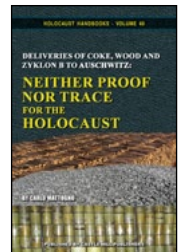
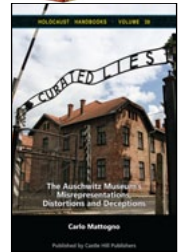
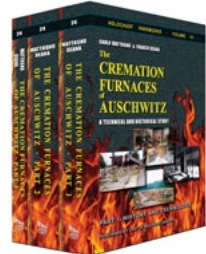
year by well over a million visitors. *Curated Lies* exposes the many ways in which visitors have been deceived and misled by forgeries and misrepresentations about this building committed by the Auschwitz Museum, some of which are maintained to this day. 2nd ed., 259 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, 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. Rutledge. The world's first independent biography of Elie Wiesel shines the light of truth on this mythomaniac who has transformed the word "Holocaust" into the brand name of the world's greatest hoax. Here, both Wiesel's personal deceits and the whole myth of "the six million" are laid bare for the reader's perusal. It shows how Zionist control of the U.S. Government as well as the nation's media and academic apparatus has allowed Wiesel and his fellow extremists to force a string of U.S. presidents to genuflect before this imposter as symbolic acts of subordination to World Jewry, while simultaneously forcing school children to submit to Holocaust brainwashing by their teachers. 3rd ed., 458 pages, b&w illustration, 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. 2nd ed., 484 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#37)

Rudolf Reder versus Kurt Gerstein: Two False Testimonies on the Belzec Camp Analyzed. By Carlo Mattogno.

Only two witnesses have ever testified substantially about the alleged Belzec Extermination Camp: The survivor Rudolf Reder and the SS officer Kurt Gerstein. Gerstein’s testimonies have been a hotspot of revisionist critique for decades. It is now discredited even among orthodox historians. They use Reder’s testimony to fill the void, yet his testimonies are just as absurd. This study thoroughly scrutinizes Reder’s various statements, critically revisits Gerstein’s various depositions, and then compares these two testimonies which are at once similar in some respects, but incompatible in others. 216 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#43)

Sonderkommando Auschwitz I: Nine Eyewitness Testimonies Analyzed. By Carlo Mattogno. To this day, the 1979 book *Auschwitz Inferno* by former Auschwitz inmate and alleged *Sonderkommando* member Filip Müller has a great influence both on the public perception of Auschwitz and on historians trying to probe this camp’s history. This book critically analyzes Müller’s various post-war statements, which are full of exaggerations, falsehoods and plagiarized text passages. The author also scrutinizes the testimonies of eight other former *Sonderkommando* members with similarly lacking penchants for exactitude and truth: Dov Paisikovic, Stanislaw Jankowski, Henryk Mandelbaum, Ludwik Nagraba, Joshua Rosenblum, Aaron Pilo, David Flamenbaum and Samij Karolinskij. Ca. 300 pages, b&w illust., bibliography, index. (#44)

Future Projects

The following projects are in various stages of research/writing/editing/translation. The titles listed and the contents summarized are tentative. These projects do not have timelines yet:

The Dachau Concentration Camp. By Carlo Mattogno. Dachau is one of the most-notorious Third-Reich camps. It’s about time revisionists gave it their full attention.

Sonderkommando Auschwitz II: The False Testimonies by Henryk Tauber and Szlama Dragon. By Carlo Mattogno. These two witnesses are held in high esteem among the orthodoxy for their tales about Auschwitz: Tauber on Crema II and Dragon on the “bunkers.” This study dispels the notion that these witnesses’

tales are worth any more than the paper they are written on.

The “Aktion Reinhardt” Camps Belzec, Sobibór, Treblinka: Black Propaganda, Archeological Research, Material Evidence. By Carlo Mattogno. The existing three books of the present series on each camp are all outdated, but updating them would lead to much overlap. Hence a new book with all the new insights.

Mis-Chronicling Auschwitz: Danuta Czech’s Flawed Methods, Misrepresentations and Deceptions in Her Auschwitz Chronicle. By Carlo Mattogno. Danuta Czech’s *Auschwitz Chronicle* is a reference book for the history of Auschwitz. Mattogno has compiled a long list of misrepresentations, outright lies and deceptions contained in it. This mega-fraud needs to be retired from the ranks of Auschwitz sources.



For current prices and availability, and to learn more, go to www.HolocaustHandbooks.com – by simply scanning the QR code to the left. Published by Castle Hill Publishers, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

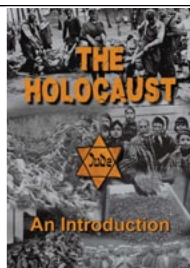
BOOKS BY AND FROM CASTLE HILL PUBLISHERS

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

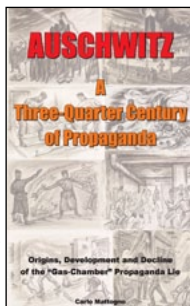


Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz: A Three-Quarter Century of*

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.

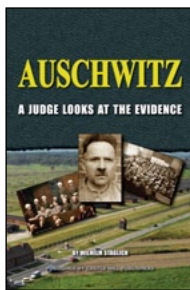


Wilhelm Stäglich, *Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence*

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.

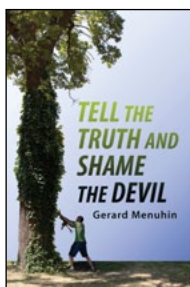
3rd edition 2015, 422 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.



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.



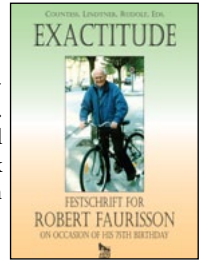
For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

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 early 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.

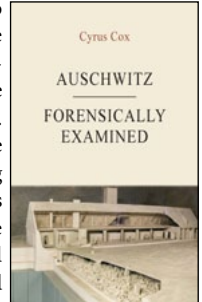
146 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.



Cyrus Cox, ***Auschwitz – Forensically Examined***

It is amazing what modern forensic crime-scene investigations can reveal. 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.

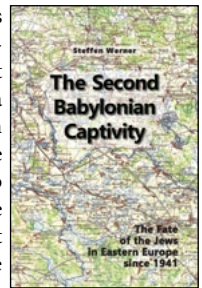
124 pp. pb., 5"×8", b&w ill., bibl., index



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 random historical events and quite obviates all need for paranormal events such as genocide, gas chambers, and all their attendant horrors. With a preface by Germar Rudolf with references to more-recent research results in this field of study confirming Werner's thesis.

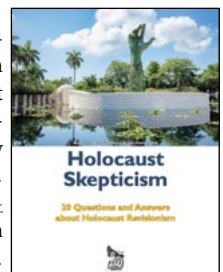
190 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill., bibl., index



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

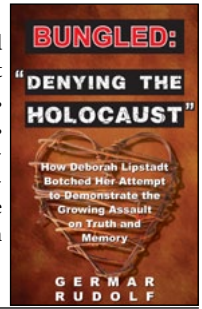


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Germar Rudolf, **Bungled: "Denying the Holocaust"** How Deborah Lipstadt Botched Her Attempt to Demonstrate the Growing Assault on Truth and Memory

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**

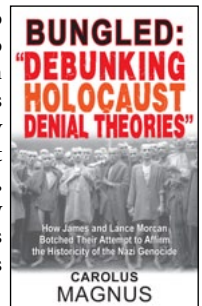
162 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.



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 mention 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**.

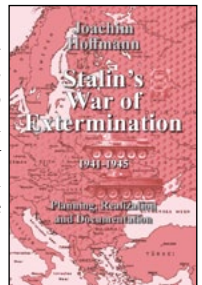
144 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.



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 cruelest 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.



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.

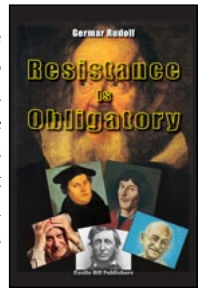
500 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl., b&w ill.



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: For 7 full days Rudolf gave a speech in the courtroom, during which he proved systematically that only the revisionists are scholarly in their approach, 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 dissidents 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: lost his job, denied his 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 prosecution, 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 in a "Western democracy"...

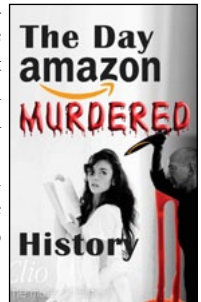
304 pp. pb, 6"×9", bibl., index, b&w ill.



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 title 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, falsely portraying 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 policy. 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.



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 transcripts 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 wars, and look at their primary beneficiaries, we repeatedly find a Jewish presence. Throughout history, Jews have played an exceptionally active role in promoting and inciting wars. With their long-notorious influence in government, we find recurrent instances of Jews promoting hard-line 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.

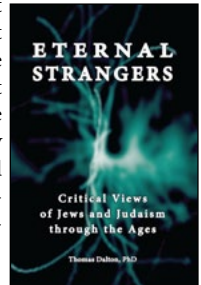
197 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.



Thomas Dalton, *Eternal Strangers: Critical Views of Jews and Judaism through the Ages*

It is common knowledge that Jews have been disliked for centuries. But why? 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 in very negative, yet always similar terms. 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.. This book 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.

186 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.



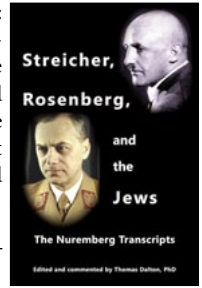
Thomas Dalton, *Streicher, Rosenberg, and the Jews: The Nuremberg Transcripts*

Who, apart from Hitler, contrived the Nazi view on the Jews? And what were these master ideologues thinking? During the post-war International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, the most-interesting men on trial

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regarding this question were two with a special connection to the “Jewish Question”: Alfred Rosenberg and Julius Streicher. The cases against them, and their personal testimonies, examined for the first time nearly all major aspects of the Holocaust story: the “extermination” thesis, the gas chambers, the gas vans, the shootings in the East, and the “6 million.” The truth of the Holocaust has been badly distorted for decades by the powers that be. Here we have the rare opportunity to hear firsthand from two prominent figures in Nazi Germany. Their voices, and their verbatim transcripts from the IMT, lend some much-needed clarity to the situation.

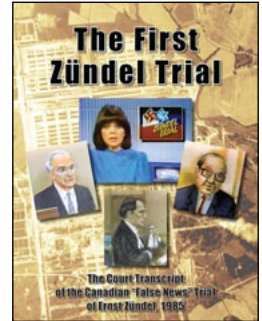
330 pp. pb, 6”x9”, index, bibl.



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.

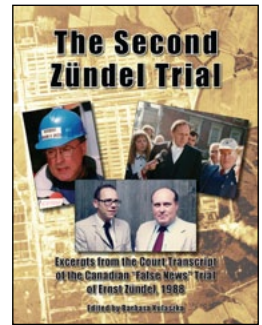
820 pp. pb, 8.5”x11”



Barbara Kulaszka (ed.), *The Second Zündel Trial: Excerpts from the Transcript*

In 1988, German-Canadian Ernst Zündel was on trial for 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...

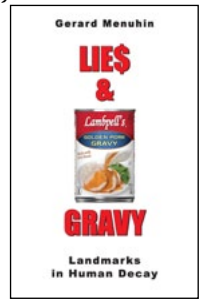
498 pp. pb, 8.5”x11”, bibl., index, b&w ill.



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 are a few of the most-telling stages in the chosenites’ 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”x8”



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