

# AUSCHWITZ: OPEN AIR INCINERATIONS

In spring and summer of 1944, 400,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz and allegedly murdered there in gas chambers. The Auschwitz crematoria are said to have been unable to cope with so many corpses. Therefore, every single day, thousands of corpses are claimed to have been incinerated on huge pyres lit in deep trenches. The sky over Auschwitz was covered in thick smoke. This is what some witnesses want us to believe. This study investigates all available documentary, physical and anecdotal evidence. Italian revisionist Carlo Mattogno shows that the witness statements contradict each other in every regard. They also contradict what would have been physically possible. The fact that there is no documentary or forensic evidence supporting the claims is finally explained by air photos taken by German and Allied planes in 1944. They prove that the witnesses were wrong. In fact, no traces of huge pyres or massive smoke plumes covering the camp can be seen. Although based on a kernel of truth, Mattogno concludes, the witness statements are vastly exaggerated, and their homicidal claims are untrue. Softcover, 132 pages, #547, \$12. Available from TBR BOOK CLUB. See inside for ordering form or call TBR toll free at 1-877-773-9077 to charge to major credit cards. See also [www.barnesreview.com](http://www.barnesreview.com) for more revisionist books and videos.

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CARLO MATTOGNO

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# HOLOCAUST HANDBOOKS SERIES—VOLUME 17:

## *Auschwitz: Open Air Incinerations*

By CARLO MATTOGONO

Translated by HENRY GARDNER

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Photos on front cover, left to right: 1) Northern yard of crematorium V, outdoor cremation site; 2) Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz. APMO, negative 277; 3) Polish photograph, spring 1945. Birkenau, area of crematorium V, fence 35. APMO, negative 1334/137. Color background: Birkenau, northern yard of former crematorium V, in 1997. Area in which cremation site was located in August of 1944, © Carlo Mattogno.

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# Introduction

In 1979, two CIA agents, Dino A. Brugioni and Robert G. Poirier, published for the first time a selection of air photos of Auschwitz-Birkenau taken by the U.S. Air Force in 1944. They argued that these photographs demonstrated the reality of the mass extermination of Jews perpetrated at Birkenau, but because of their incompetence both in the field of air photogrammetry and in history<sup>1</sup> the result was a superficial and fanciful interpretation.

From that moment on the air photos of Birkenau became part of the argumentative tools of holocaust historiography. On the one hand, these photos led to a heated internal debate about the reason why the Allies did not bomb Auschwitz and thus destroy the “factory of death.”<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, the thesis of the alleged proof of a mass extermination was moved into the background in favor of the proof of the presence of alleged introduction holes for Zyklon B on the underground morgues of crematoria II and III in some of these photographs. Already in 1989 Danuta Czech had used the photograph of August 15, 1944, for that purpose.<sup>3</sup> The most important of these photographs were published and discussed in 1992 by revisionist scholar John C. Ball.<sup>4</sup>

The thesis of the “proof” of the Zyklon B apertures was further developed until it reached its climax with Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman<sup>5</sup> as well as with Robert Jan van Pelt.<sup>6</sup> This thesis has, however, no foundation and has been radically refuted by revisionist scholars.<sup>7</sup> Perhaps for that very reason John C. Zimmerman wanted to redirect the attention on the thesis, according to which these air photos constitute the “proof” of the alleged mass extermination. The nucleus of this “proof” is said to be the “cremation trenches,” and Zimmerman has devoted many pages to this topic in a book he published in

<sup>1</sup> The authors based their “historical” analysis on two strongly propagandistic works: Jan Sehn’s article “Concentration and extermination camp at Oświęcim (Auschwitz-Birkenau),” in: Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, *German Crimes in Poland*, Warsaw 1946, vol. I, pp. 25-92, and the book by Ota Kraus and Erich Kulka, *The Death Factory*. Pergamon Press, Oxford-New York 1966.

<sup>2</sup> One of the first books of this trend was *Warum Auschwitz nicht bombardiert wurde* by Heiner Lichtenstein (Bund-Verlag, Köln 1980), which contains the reproductions of six air photos.

<sup>3</sup> D. Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939-1945*. Rowohlt Verlag, Reinbek bei Hamburg 1989, p. 862.

<sup>4</sup> J.C. Ball, *Air Photo Evidence. Auschwitz, Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor, Bergen Belsen, Belzec, Babi Yar, Katyn Forest*. Ball Resource Services Limited, Delta, B.C. Canada, 1992.

<sup>5</sup> M. Shermer, A. Grobman, *Denying History. Who says the Holocaust never happened and why do they say it?* University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 2000 (First paperback printing 2002, p. 145).

<sup>6</sup> R.J. van Pelt, *The Case for Auschwitz. Evidence from the Irving Trial*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis 2002, pp. 174f.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. My articles “C. Mattogno, “No Holes, No Gas Chamber(s),” *The Revisionist* 2(4) (2004), pp. 387-410; C. Mattogno, “Denying Evidence,” *The Revisionist*, 3(1&2), (2005), in preparation. All reprinted in a slightly revised version in Germar Rudolf, Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz-Lies*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2005.



2000.<sup>8</sup> Even though he did turn to two “experts” on air photogrammetry, Mark van Alstine and Carroll Lucas, his conclusions are even farther off the mark than those of Brugioni and Poirier.

In this matter, the most surprising aspect is that in spite of the enormous demonstrational value, which official historiography attributes to the air photos of Birkenau, these people have never produced a general study of such documents. Zimmerman’s own work is intentionally truncated: while he does in fact present an (imaginative) analysis of the photographs, he does so without confronting them with the corresponding testimonies. As the reality of the alleged event (the mass extermination of Jews) is based solely on self-styled eyewitnesses, a proper historiographic method would require a comparison of the statements by these witnesses with what can actually be seen in the air photos, and only if the photographs fully confirm the testimonies can they be taken to prove the reality of the extermination.

And if they do not? In that case they constitute the proof of the fact that the testimonies are false. It is clear that Zimmerman did not want to run that risk. But from the point of view of method and science, the problem must be viewed precisely along those lines. The first part of this study is dedicated to this approach.

Besides the air photos, the holocaustic historiography makes use also of documentary “proof” of the extermination of the Jews in 1944: the increase in the workforce of the Birkenau crematoria in line with the arrival of the Hungarian Jews at Birkenau is claimed to demonstrate that these Jews were for the most part gassed and then cremated. In the second part of this study, I will therefore discuss the available documentation (much more abundant than the holocaust historians might think) in an effort to decide on whether this interpretation is, in fact, inevitable or whether there are not other and quite innocuous explanations in this respect.

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<sup>8</sup> *Holocaust Denial. Demographics, Testimonies and Ideologies*, University Press of America. Lanham, New York, Oxford 2000, pp. 208-253 and 275-301.

# Part One:

## Open Air Corpse Cremation at Birkenau in 1944

### 1. Official Theses

In the official history of Auschwitz, spring and summer of 1944 represent the crucial phase of the alleged extermination of the Jews. During that time, it is claimed, such an enormous number of Jews arrived at the camp that the Birkenau cremation ovens were no longer able to incinerate the masses of gassed people, and the SS was forced to resort to open-air incinerations. In spite of the fact that, most of all for this period, the alleged mass cremation<sup>9</sup> trenches played an essential part, holocaust historiography is extremely vague in this respect.

Franciszek Piper, the director of historical research at the Auschwitz Museum, who is considered to be one of the foremost specialists of the alleged exterminations at Auschwitz, has this to say:<sup>10</sup>

*“Furnace overload caused frequent breakdowns. For example, in the initial stages of the extermination of Hungarian Jews, crematorium V had to be shut down due to a breakdown of the chimneys. As a result, some bodies were incinerated in crematorium IV. The remainder were burned at the rate of about 5,000 corpses in 24 hours in the incineration pits near the crematoria. The same number were incinerated in the pits of bunker 2, which was reactivated in the spring of 1944.*

*Thus in the summer of 1944, the combined capacity of all the incineration installations reached the staggering number of 20,000 victims.”*

Official historiography is not in a position to say anything specific about the dimensions, the location, or the number of these alleged mass cremation trenches, which means for all practical purposes that it is not able to say anything whatsoever in this respect, and the assertions of individual historians like Jean-Claude Pressac<sup>11</sup> represent nothing but their own personal conjectures. This is due to the fact that the story of mass cremation trenches is based exclusively on testimonies and that these testimonies, as we shall see in chap-

<sup>9</sup> I use the term “cremation” in a wide sense because, strictly speaking, a cremation can only be realized in a crematorium furnace.

<sup>10</sup> F. Piper, “Gas Chambers and Crematoria,” in: Israel Gutman, Michael Berenbaum (eds.), *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington / Indianapolis 1994, pp. 173f.. The figure of a daily cremation of 20,000 bodies is the result of a generous rounding, because F. Piper held that the Birkenau crematoria had a total capacity of 8,000 bodies per day.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. Below, chapter 5.

ter IV, are contradictory in every regard so that it is impossible to draw from them any data of historical value.

## 2. The Genesis of the Story of Mass Cremations: The Reports from the Auschwitz Resistance Movement

The initial reports concerning cremation trenches at Birkenau in 1944 came from the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz. The “Periodic report for May 5 through 25, 1944” contains a section entitled “The death factory” which asserts the following:<sup>12</sup>

*“The 4 crematoria in operation have ‘handled’ up to 5000 [persons] per day. The Auschwitz ovens have ‘handled’ 1,500,000 Jews, plus 100,000 Poles, Russians and others.”*

The “Special annex to the periodic report for May 5 though 25, 1944” was devoted to “Auschwitz Action Heess [Aktion Höss].” We read i.a.:<sup>13</sup>

*“Starting in mid-May, intensification of transports of Hungarian Jews. 8 trains arrive each night, 5 during the day. The trains have 48-50 cars with 100 persons in each one.”*

Hence, within one day we would have a total of 13 trains with 62,400 to 65,000 deportees! The detainees located at Auschwitz furthermore assert that at Birkenau there are two gas chambers altogether:<sup>14</sup>

*“Both gas chambers run all the time, but they are insufficient.”*

With respect to the cremation of corpses, the report says:<sup>15</sup>

*“The 4 crematoria operate continuously – [there is] a furnace,<sup>[16]</sup> and pyres<sup>[17]</sup> are burning in the open. From afar, one can see a dense black smoke. Still, it is not possible to cope with the cremation. One crematorium is now out of commission and being repaired in feverish haste, because the grids and parts of the oven burned out on account of the uninterrupted operation.”*

On May 27, 1944, the Jewish detainees Czesław Mordowicz and Arnost Rosin escaped from Birkenau. In June they drew up a report on the camp, in which we can read:<sup>18</sup>

*“On May 15 [1944], transports from Hungary began to arrive at Birkenau in great numbers. Every day some 14,000 to 15,000 Jews would arrive. [...] Only 10% of them were accepted in the camp, the others were*

<sup>12</sup> Sprawozdanie okresowe od 5 V 1944 – 25 V 1944. APMO, D-RO/91, vol. VII, p. 437.

<sup>13</sup> Dodatek nadzwyczajny do okresowego sprawozdania za czas od 5 – 25 V 1944. APMO, D-RO/91, vol. VII, p. 440.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p. 441.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 442.

<sup>16</sup> “jedna cegielnia”

<sup>17</sup> “stosy”

<sup>18</sup> Henryk Świebocki (ed.), *London wurde informiert... Berichte von Auschwitz-Flüchtlingen*, Staatliches Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, Oświęcim 1997, pp. 302f.

*immediately gassed and burned. [...] As the capacity of the crematoria was insufficient, trenches some 30 m long and 15 m wide were again (as before the time of the crematoria) dug in the little birch wood where corpses were burned day and night. In this way, the 'possibilities of extermination' were almost unlimited."*

In her *Kalendarium* under the date of August 30, 1944, Danuta Czech reports a secret message from the detainee S. Kłodzinski who speaks of the filling in of "trenches, in which the corpses of the gassed had been burned."<sup>19</sup>

### 3. Cremation Trenches in the Soviet and Polish Investigations

Between February 14 and March 8, 1945, a commission of experts composed of the Polish engineers Jarosław Doliński and Roman Dawidowski and of the Soviet engineers V.F. Lavrushin and J.I. Shuer drew up a report on the alleged extermination installations at Birkenau. On the subject of open-air cremations, they stated the following:<sup>20</sup>

*"b/ Gas chamber No. 2<sup>[21]</sup> with the pyres*

*[...] The activity of the second gas chamber and the pyres nearby was interrupted in April of 1943, then resumed in May of 1944 and continued until October 1944. Therefore, this gas chamber and the pyres near it operated for a total of one year and ten months.*

*c/ Pyres near crematorium No. 5*

*Between May and October of 1944, the ovens of crematorium 5 were stopped and the corpses of the persons poisoned were burnt on 3 pyres located in the area of the crematorium."*

In its reports, the Soviet commission of investigation speaks always of "pyres," never of "cremation trenches."

In his technical report on the alleged extermination installations at Auschwitz, dated September 26, 1946, and prepared for Judge Jan Sehn as part of the preparation of the Höss trial, the engineer Roman Dawidowski wrote:<sup>22</sup>

*"In May of 1944 large transports of people began to arrive – (mainly Hungarian Jews) that were sent directly from the ramp to the gas chambers – so large, in fact, that the four crematoria did not succeed in cremating the bodies of the gassed. On account of this, 6 enormous trenches were dug next to crematorium V and the gas chambers of Bunker 2 were reactivated, as were the trenches next to this gassing installation. A cremation in all crematoria and in the two groups of trenches, one day in June of 1944,*

<sup>19</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), p. 866. Cf. below, chapter 10.3.

<sup>20</sup> Protocol, February 14 – March 8, 1945, City of Oświęcim. GARF, 7021-108, pp.7-9.

<sup>21</sup> Designates the so-called "Bunker 2," a term unknown to the Soviet commission of investigation, as were the designations "little red house" and "little white house."

<sup>22</sup> AGK, NTN, 93 (Höss trial, vol. 11), p. 41.

allowed a total of 24,000 gassed bodies to be reached; for that reason, the detainees assigned to work in the crematoria were rewarded with [a ration of] vodka.”

In 1946, Jan Sehn published the results of his findings on Auschwitz in the form of an article, which later became the basis of the indictment against Rudolf Höss. On the subject of the extermination of the Hungarian Jews Sehn affirmed:<sup>23</sup>

*“Between May and August of 1944, when there were mass transports of Hungarian Jews and French insurgents, in the rush caused by the developments on the war fronts, Hungarians and Frenchmen were gassed in such numbers that the crematoria were not in a position to cremate all the bodies. Therefore, six enormous trenches<sup>[24]</sup> were dug next to crematorium V and the old trenches near the gas chamber in the wood [Bunker 2] were reopened and the bodies were cremated continuously. When all installations ran at full throttle, in August of 1944<sup>[25]</sup>, a figure of 24,000 cremated bodies per day was reached!”*

The verdict of the Höss trial (April 2, 1947) asserts in this respect:<sup>26</sup>

*“In the four crematoria of the Birkenau camp there were thus 46 mufles with a total capacity of 10,000 bodies per day.<sup>[27]</sup> The gassing of the detainees in the Birkenau camp area took place in the gas chambers. Those gas chambers, 2 of them, were in the basements of crematoria II and III. Furthermore, crematoria IV and V had 4 gas chambers on the ground floor. The total capacity of all gas chambers was 60,000 [persons per day...].*

*Because the capacity of the gas chambers in the crematoria was considerably greater than that of the crematoria ovens, the bodies of the gassed persons were also burnt in a series of enormous trenches next to the crematoria.<sup>[28]</sup> In these trenches the bodies of the people were cremated on piles of burning wood.”*

And in the indictment for the trial against the camp garrison one can read:<sup>29</sup>

*“At certain times the crematoria were unable to cope with the workload, therefore 6 enormous trenches were dug near crematorium V and a supplementary incineration of corpses was undertaken there. The capacity of the Auschwitz gas chambers was 60,000 gassed per day, but that of the ovens was much lower. It was only after the trenches had been dug that it was possible to reach an average of 18,000 cremated corpses per day. On the basis of the average capacity of the crematoria and the supplementary installations, the People’s Supreme Tribunal, in the verdict of the Höss*

<sup>23</sup> J. Sehn, “Obóz koncentracyjny i zagłady Oświęcim,” in: *Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce*” Poznań 1946, vol. I, p. 126.

<sup>24</sup> “sześć olbrzymich dolów”

<sup>25</sup> Roman Dawidowski speaks instead of June 1944.

<sup>26</sup> AGK, NTN, 146z, p. 32.

<sup>27</sup> The theoretical maximum daily cremation capacity of the Birkenau crematoria was 1,104 corpses.

<sup>28</sup> “obok krematoriów”

<sup>29</sup> GARF, 7021-108-39, p. 38.

*trial, has set the total number of persons cremated in the Auschwitz extermination installations at no less than 3 million."*

## 4. Testimonies Concerning the Cremation Trenches

Many former detainees of Auschwitz have spoken of the alleged cremation trenches, but the most important ones are obviously those of the so-called "*Sonderkommando*" of the Birkenau crematoria. In this chapter, we will list their assertions in chronological order.

### 4.1. Henryk Tauber

Henryk Tauber was deported to Auschwitz from the Krakow ghetto on January 19, 1943, and was given the ID number 90124. In February of 1943 he claims to have been incorporated into the so-called "*Sonderkommando*." On February 27, 1945, Henryk Tauber was questioned by the Soviet military prosecutor, major Pakhomov. As to the topic of this study, he declared:<sup>30</sup>

*"Huge numbers of people were exterminated in the summer of 1944; 4 crematoria and 4 large pyres were in use for the extermination, French insurgents and Hungarians were exterminated. The whole time I worked in the Sonderkommando and came to work in all crematoria and on the pyres, so I know everything in detail."*

According to the witness, 400 corpses were placed into one trench and burned within 48 hours.<sup>31</sup> When questioned by Judge Jan Sehn on May 24, 1945, he asserted:<sup>32</sup>

*"In May of 1944, the SS ordered us to dig, in the yard of crematorium V, in the area between the drainage ditch and the crematorium building, five trenches in which the bodies of the gassed persons from the Hungarian transports were then burned. Actually, rails for little carts were laid between those trenches [but because] the SS considered them impractical the detainees of the Sonderkommando dragged the corpses from the gas chambers directly into the trenches. At that time, the old Bunker 2 and its trenches for burning the corpses were put back into operation."*

In this way, the four "pyres" for the whole camp in the first declaration became, in the second statement, five trenches located only in the yard of crematorium V!

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<sup>30</sup> Minutes of the interrogation of Henryk Tauber on February 27-28, 1945, GARF, 7021-108-8, p. 33.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 38.

<sup>32</sup> Minutes of the interrogation of Henryk Tauber on May 24, 1945. Höss trial, vol. 11, p. 149.

## 4.2. Henryk Mandelbaum

Henryk Mandelbaum was deported to Auschwitz on April 23, 1944, and was registered as detainee No. 181970; six weeks later, according to what he says, he was assigned to the so-called “*Sonderkommando*.” On February 27, 1945, he was questioned by the Soviet military prosecutor Major Kotikov. Mandelbaum stated that he had been sent to crematorium V where the bodies of the gassed were burned on pyres. Asked by the Soviet prosecutor about the number of persons gassed and cremated daily in the crematorium in which he had worked, Mandelbaum replied:<sup>33</sup>

*“Each shift worked for 12 hours and cremated 6000-7000 corpses.”*

Hence, in crematorium V alone, 12,000-14,000 corpses were burnt each day! When asked about the make-up of the pyres, the witness replied:<sup>34</sup>

*“We laid down one layer of wood and one of corpses, for ten layers altogether. In total, we put about 150-180 corpses on one pyre. We lit the pyre with pinewood soaked with gasoline. For that purpose we used also the bark stripped off the trees because it contained a lot of resin. We did that when we burned people from the camp, because they were very lean and burned poorly.”*

Henryk Mandelbaum appeared as a witness in the fifth session of the Höss trial, at which he declared:<sup>35</sup>

*“At the time, burning was not done in the ovens but on pyres, because there were mass transports that arrived, Hungarian transports during that period. We had to work two shifts of 12 hours, a day shift and a night shift and this changed every week; those who worked the night shift would work the day shift the week after, and vice versa. There was a narrow-gauge track, because the ground was clayey, that made it difficult to carry the dead.”*

Later, Mandelbaum also participated in the trial of the camp garrison. At the eighth session of that trial he made the following declaration:<sup>36</sup>

*“The cremation, when I worked there, was done in trenches and on pyres. The pyres were made up in the following way: they were 30-35 meters long and some 15 meters wide. The preparations for the cremation of the gassed went like this: with the carts came large amounts of wood in small chunks which were laid out in the trenches, then from the forest were brought fir branches and on such a layer the bodies of the gassed were dumped. From the gas chamber to the trenches a narrow-gauge track was laid, by which the corpses were transported on flat cars to the trenches into which they were then thrown. When a certain number of corpses had been thrown in, they were doused with gasoline, and the pyre was lit at its four corners, and then, as the corpses burned, another layer of corpses and*

<sup>33</sup> Minutes of the interrogation of Henryk Mandelbaum on February 27, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-13, p. 95.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 97.

<sup>35</sup> AGK, NTN,108, p. 839.

<sup>36</sup> AGK, NTN,162, pp. 163-164.

*wood was added, so that the trenches burned continuously for 24-48 hours. After the cremation, the ashes were removed from the trenches and taken to the place where the crematorium was.”*

According to the witness, into one cremation trench ten layers of 150-180 corpses alternating with a layer of wood were placed.<sup>37</sup> However, if we assume an average thickness of one meter for a layer of wood plus a layer of corpses, this would have yielded a pyre ten meters high!

#### 4.3. Stanisław Jankowski (alias Alter Feinsilber” alias Fajnzylberg)

Stanisław Jankowski was deported to Auschwitz from the camp at Compiègne (France) on March 30, 1942, and was registered with the ID number 27675. According to his account, he was assigned to the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” in November 1942. In the interrogation by Jan Sehn on April 13, 1945, Stanisław Jankowski declared:<sup>38</sup>

*“Some time in July of 1944 the first transport from Hungary arrived. [...] At that time, an average of 18,000 Hungarians were murdered in Birkenau every day. From the transports that arrived for days on end, one after another, some 30% were picked out and housed in the camp. They were registered as series A and B. The remainder were gassed and burned in the ovens of the crematoria. In cases where the required number had not been reached, they were shot and burned in trenches. The rule was that the gas chambers should be used only for groups of 200 or more, because it was not worthwhile to operate them for smaller groups of people”*

In an account secured by Franciszek Piper on August 28, 1985, Alter Fajnzylberg asserted:<sup>39</sup>

*“The cremation trenches which had an enormous capacity were located west of the gas chambers of crematorium V at a distance of some tens of meters. There were two trenches, and each one could accommodate some 2000 corpses. The corpses were placed on a layer of wood, a layer of men and a layer of women at a time, because they burned better that way. The corpses of children were also burned there. The cremation trenches worked in parallel with the ovens. Next to the trenches, run-off channels for the human fat had been dug, but I never saw that any fat flowed there – the corpses burned completely.”*

<sup>37</sup> The expression used by the witness “on one pyre we placed 150-180 corpses altogether” can only mean that each layer of the pyre was made up of 150-180 corpses, because ten layers of 15-18 corpses each would have required a pit of hardly 14 sqm, whereas the witness goes on to speak of pits measuring 450-525 sqm, and because the cremation of 150-180 corpses in 24-48 hours would have been absolutely irrelevant in the face of the alleged cremation of 12,000-14,000 corpses per day at crematorium V alone.

<sup>38</sup> Minutes of the interrogation of Stanisław Jankowski, in: Jadwiga Bezwińska, Danuta Czech (eds.), *Inmitten des grauenvollen Verbrechens. Handschriften von Mitgliedern des Sonderkommandos*, Verlag des Staatlichen Auschwitz-Birkenau Museums, 1996, pp. 48f.

<sup>39</sup> APMO, Zespoł Oświadczenia, vol. 113, p. 9.



The witness attached a drawing<sup>40</sup> to his account showing the position and the dimensions of the trenches – both were 20 meters long, 2 meters wide, and 2 meters deep. Jankowski’s statement will be addressed in more detail in chapter 7.3. below.

#### 4.4. Szlama Dragon

Szlama Dragon was deported to Auschwitz from the Mława ghetto on December 6, 1942, and was registered with the ID number 80359. He is said to have become part of the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” the day of his arrival. Questioned by Jan Sehn on May 10 and 11, 1945, he declared:<sup>41</sup>

*“In early May of 1944, the transports of Hungarian Jews began to be gassed and burned in crematorium V. The corpses of the gassed of some of the early transports were burned in the ovens of crematorium IV, because at the time the chimneys of crematorium V were damaged. Finally, the corpses of the Hungarian Jews were cremated in trenches dug for this purpose next to the building of crematorium V. There were 5 trenches excavated there, 25 meters long, 6 wide, and 3 deep. In the trenches, 5000 corpses were burned daily. But as there were more and more transports with Hungarian Jews that arrived, Bunker 2 was reactivated, and those people were gassed and burned there as well. I don’t know how many persons were burned each day at that Bunker because at that time, when they burned the Hungarian Jews, I was no longer working at Bunker 2 [...]. On the basis of my observations, I would guess that during those two months some 300,000 Hungarian Jews were cremated in crematorium V.”*

Both Dragon and Mandelbaum claim to have worked on the cremation trenches at the same place and at the same time, but whereas for the former there were five trenches measuring 25 by 6 meters, for the latter there were only two and they were some 30-35 by 15 meters in size! Moreover, Dragon’s trenches, while having a total area of 750 square meters, had a capacity of 5000 corpses per day, considerably more than Mandelbaum’s trenches with their 3000-3600 corpses in 24-48 hours and their minimum size of 900 square meters!

#### 4.5. Sigismund Bendel

Sigismund Bendel was deported to Auschwitz from the camp at Drancy (France) on December 10, 1943, and received the ID number 167460. He claims that he became part of the “*Sonderkommando*” in June of 1944 and stayed there until January 18, 1945.

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<sup>40</sup> Cf. Document 1.

<sup>41</sup> Minutes of the interrogation of Szlama Dragon on May 10 and 11, 1945. Höss trial, vol. 11. p. 110.

In a report published in 1946, he described the alleged cremation trenches near crematorium V in the following way:<sup>42</sup>

*“When I entered the Sonder,<sup>[43]</sup> the capacity of the ovens was regarded as being insufficient, and they were replaced by three trenches, each one 12 meters long, 6 meters wide, and 1.5 meters deep. The output of those trenches was tremendous: one thousand persons per hour.”*

We have here another testimony on the alleged trenches of crematorium V which is at variance both with Mandelbaum’s and with Dragon’s statements

The following year, Bendel asserted that the record of the cremations – 26,000 (and not 24,000 as maintained by Jan Sehn) – was reached on June 25, 1944,<sup>44</sup> a day on which there could not have been any Hungarian Jews to be burnt, because no transports left Hungary between June 21 and 24<sup>45</sup> and the transports that left on June 25 took three days to arrive at Birkenau. The story of the 24,000 people gassed and burnt in a single day, with all its variants, was part and parcel of the propaganda baggage of the former Auschwitz detainees and each one gave it a different date. The anonymous author of the “Report on the Auschwitz Camp,” for example, placed it on June 9, 1944.<sup>46</sup> The story had very arbitrary contours. For Jaacov Gabai, the self-styled member of the “Sonderkommando,” the figure of 24,000 gassed persons was a daily average.<sup>47</sup> On the other hand, the detainee Kurt Marcus declared:<sup>48</sup>

*“When the transports from Hungary began to arrive on May 16, 1944, the crematoria were insufficient, because up to 30,000 corpses had to be burnt in the first few days.”*

#### 4.6. Miklos Nyiszli

Miklos Nyiszli arrived at Auschwitz on May 29, 1944, with a transport of Hungarian Jews and was registered as number A-8450. If we follow his declarations, he was selected in early June by Dr. Mengele as physician for the so-called “*Sonderkommando*,” with which he stayed until January of 1945. In 1946, his memoirs were published as a book with the title “I was an anatomist for Dr. Mengele at the crematorium of Auschwitz.”<sup>49</sup> It was later translated into many languages.

Even though he claimed to have spent eight months with the so-called “*Sonderkommando*,” being completely free to move around among all the

<sup>42</sup> S. Bendel, “Les Crématoires. ‘Le Sonderkommando,’” in: Jean Cassou (ed.), *Témoignages sur Auschwitz*, Edition de l’Amicale des déportés d’Auschwitz, 1946, p. 161.

<sup>43</sup> Meaning *Sonderkommando*.

<sup>44</sup> Ministère de l’Intérieur. Direction Générale de la Sureté Nationale. Minutes of the interrogation of Sigismund Bendel on October 7, 1947. AGK, 153, p. 210a.

<sup>45</sup> Randolph L. Braham, *The Politics of Genocide. The Holocaust in Hungary*, Columbia University Press, New York 1981, vol. 2, p. 607.

<sup>46</sup> NO-1960, p. 5.

<sup>47</sup> Cf. below, testimony No.12.

<sup>48</sup> AGK, NTN, 135, p.153

<sup>49</sup> Miklos Nyiszli, *Dr. Mengele boncolóorvosa voltam az auschwitz-i krematóriumban*, Oradea, Nagyvárad, 1946.

crematoria, Nyiszli knows nothing of any cremation trenches in the yard of crematorium V; besides, according to his testimony, the so-called “Bunker 2” was not a gas chamber but merely an undressing room for the victims who were subsequently shot in the back of the neck by means of a small-caliber weapon. In this respect, he writes the following:<sup>50</sup>

*“The pyre was located about five or six hundred yards from number four [= number V] crematorium, directly behind the little birch forest of Birkenau, in a clearing surrounded by pines. [...] We set off in the direction of the thick twisting spiral of smoke. All those unfortunate enough to be brought here saw this column of smoke, which was visible from any point in the KZ, from the moment they first descended from the box cars and lined up for selection. It was visible at every hour of the day and night. By day it covered the sky above Birkenau with a thick cloud; by night it lighted the area with hellish glow. [...] Passing through the gate, we reached an open place which resembled a courtyard, in the middle of which stood a thatched-roof house whose plaster was peeling off. [...] In any case, it was now used as an undressing room for those on their way to the pyre. It was here that they deposited their shabby clothes, their glasses, and their shoes. It was here that the ‘surplus’ from the ‘Jewish ramp’ was sent, that is, those for whom there was no room in the four crematoriums. The worst kind of death awaited them. Here there were no faucets to slake the thirst of several days’ voyage, no fallacious signs to allay their misgivings, no gas chamber which they could pretend was a disinfection room.”*

Some 150 meters away from this house, according to Nyiszli, there were two cremation trenches which he describes like this:

*“The pyre was a ditch 50 yards long, six yards wide and three yards deep, a welter of burning bodies. [...] Fifty yards farther on a scene similar in all respects was being enacted. [<sup>51</sup>...] When the two pyres were operating simultaneously, the output varied from five to six thousand dead a day. Slightly better than the crematoriums, but here death was a thousand times more terrible, for here one died twice, first by a bullet in the back of the neck, then by fire.<sup>[52]</sup>”*

#### 4.7. Dov Paisikovic

Dov Paisikovic was deported to Auschwitz from the ghetto of Munkacs (Hungary) in May of 1944 and was assigned the ID number A-3076 on May 21, 1944.<sup>53</sup> After three days in the camp, he claims to have been incorporated

<sup>50</sup> M. Nyiszli, *Auschwitz. A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*, Fawcett Crest, New York 1961, p. 68-71.

<sup>51</sup> A very free translation. The literal wording would be: “Some 50 meters from this ditch there is in operation another ditch just like it.” M. Nyiszli, *op. cit.* (note 49), p. 61.

<sup>52</sup> According to M. Nyiszli, the capacity of each crematorium was 5000 corpses per day, or a total of 20,000 corpses per day! *Ibid.*, p. 39.

<sup>53</sup> However, according to Danuta Czech's *Kalendarium*, the numbers A-2846/A-3095 were assigned to 250 Dutch Jews coming from the Westerbork camp; *op. cit.* (note 3), p. 779.

into the so-called “*Sonderkommando*,” in which he stayed until January 18, 1945, the day the camp was evacuated. In a declaration made in 1963 on the subject of the so-called “Bunker 2” (which he called “Bunker V), the witness declared:<sup>54</sup>

*“There was a pile of naked corpses; the corpses were bloated, and we were ordered to carry the corpses to a trench, some 6 meters wide and 30 meters long, in which corpses were already burning.”*

On August 10, 1964, Dov Paisikovic drew up a long account, which was entrusted to Tadeusz Szymański, custodian of the Auschwitz Museum. The witness stated i.a.:<sup>55</sup>

*“As we approached the trench that had been dug and which was some 30 meters long and 10 meters wide, we saw at the bottom of this trench chunks of wood. Near the trench I saw a new hole, recently dug, which was already aflame and into which we carried the corpses.”*

Paisikovic continued at this job for two weeks, doing day shifts and night shifts.<sup>56</sup> The witness attached four drawings of the alleged “Bunker 5” [= Bunker 2] to his account, one of which shows the position of the two “cremation trenches.”<sup>57</sup> With respect to the northern yard of crematorium V, Paisikovic relates a variant of the story of the cremation trenches:<sup>58</sup>

*“There was a time when corpses were buried in a trench near crematorium IV [= V], but after the end of the work in Bunker V [= Bunker 2] these corpses were unearthed from the trench near crematorium IV [= V] and were cremated in the crematorium ovens.”*

Another variant of the story appears in the report by a “French student” – who had reached London by way of Auschwitz on April 17, 1945 – dated May 31, 1945. Under items 41 and 42 we read the following:<sup>59</sup>

*“In addition, large transports of Hungarian Jews arrived for extermination and these did not pass through the camp but were sent direct to the gas chambers. During July 44 they were being liquidated at the rate of 12,000 Hungarians daily (!) and as the crematories could not deal with such numbers, many bodies were thrown into large pits and covered with quicklime.”*

#### 4.8. Joshua Rosenblum

Joshua Rosenblum was deported to Auschwitz in March of 1944. After eight weeks in quarantine, he was assigned to the so-called “*Sonderkommando*.” In a declaration of 1970 he wrote:<sup>60</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Declaration by Dov Paisikovic dated “Wien, den 17. Oktober 1963.” ROD, c[21]96, p. 1.

<sup>55</sup> Account by Dov Paisikovic of August 10, 1964. APMO, Zespół Oświadczenia, vol. 44, p. 88.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 90.

<sup>57</sup> Cf. document 2.

<sup>58</sup> Account by Dov Paisikovic of August 10, 1964. APMO, Zespół Oświadczenia, vol. 44, p. 101.

<sup>59</sup> L-161.

*“I started working there on May 15, 1944, on ovens No. 3 and 4 to be exact. Up until that time – so I was told – the Polish Jews had been burned. Then it was the turn for transports from all over Europe.*

*Each oven could absorb 800 corpses in 24 hours. But that was not enough. More mass graves were dug, each one 2 meters deep, 10 meters long and 5 meters wide, to burn people. [...]*

*But when the large transports from Hungary and the Lodz ghetto began arriving from May and there were 10,000 people for each crematorium, they would be gassed and were then thrown into the graves in which 2000 people were burned within 2-3 hours.”*

#### 4.9. Filip Müller

Filip Müller was deported to Auschwitz from Slovakia on April 13, 1942, and registered under ID number 29236. According to his account, he was initially assigned to the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” of crematorium I at Auschwitz, from where he was moved to the Birkenau crematorium when it went into operation. In his well-known book that appeared in 1979, the witness describes the alleged cremation trenches. With respect to the trenches in the yard of crematorium V, he has this to say:<sup>61</sup>

*“The two pits that had been dug had a length of 40 to 50 meters, were some 8 meters wide and 2 meters deep. [...] In the rear yard of crematorium V, Moll had another three cremation trenches dug so that now he had five available there.”*

In addition to that a concrete platform measuring 60 by 15 meters was arranged in the yard of crematorium V:<sup>62</sup>

*“In order to quickly and inconspicuously remove the ashes from crematoria and the trenches, Moll had an area of some 60 m in length and 15 m wide next to the trenches close to the crematorium covered with concrete. Later on, the ashes from the trenches were pulverized on it by means of massive pounders.”*

And this is how he describes the trenches in the area of “Bunker 2”:<sup>63</sup>

*“Furthermore, the farmhouse to the west of crematoria IV and V, which had been used as a place for annihilations in 1942, was put back into service under the designation of Bunker V. Next to the four rooms of the house, which served as gas chambers, four cremation trenches had been dug as well.”*

<sup>60</sup> “Zeugenaussage (Betrifft das Sonderkommando in Birkenau)” (witness statement (concerns the Sonderkommando at Birkenau)) by J. Rosenblum dated Haifa, November 23, 1970. AF, collection “Wo ist Mengele?”, Haifa, p. 2.

<sup>61</sup> F. Müller, *Drei Jahre in den Krematorien und Gaskammern von Auschwitz*. Verlag Steinhausen, Munich 1979, p. 207, 211.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 212.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 211f.

According to this witness, 1200 corpses were placed into the trenches in three layers of 400 corpses each:<sup>64</sup>

*“Once these ‘work phases’ were repeated one more time, 1200 bodies were lying on top of one another in three layers.”*

On the question of the duration of the cremation, the witness asserts:<sup>65</sup>

*“The cremation of the corpses had taken five to six hours.”*

#### 4.10. Josef Sackar

Josef Sackar arrived at Auschwitz on April 11, 1944, with a transport of Jews from Greece and was registered with the ID number 182739. He was interviewed by Gideon Greif in 1985 and related the following:<sup>66</sup>

*“I remember the first day very well. We were in camp D, and one night they took us behind the last crematorium building where I saw the most horrible thing in my life. A small transport had arrived that evening. We did not have to work; they had taken us there just to get us used to the sight. There were excavated trenches called ‘Bunkers’ to burn the corpses. From the gas chambers they brought the corpses to these ‘Bunkers’, dumped them and burned them in the fire. [...] The ‘Bunkers’ were being used again when I was there and the Hungarian Jews arrived; at that time there was no more room in the ovens of the crematoria and the ‘Bunkers’ were activated once more. [...] Yes, it was a large trench where the corpses were taken and dumped. The trenches were deep and there was wood placed on the bottom. They brought the corpses here from the gas chambers and dumped them into the trenches. These trenches were all outside, in the open air. There were several trenches in which they burned the corpses.”*

#### 4.11. Saul Chasan

Saul Chasan came to Auschwitz with the Jewish transport from Greece on April 11, 1944, and was registered with the ID number 182527. In an interview given to Gideon Greif in May of 1987, he asserted the following on the subject of the so-called “Bunker 2”:<sup>67</sup>

*“We had to bring out the corpses. There was this basin, a deep pit, called ‘Bunker.’ We had to arrange the corpses there, one next to the other, like sardines. Other workers chopped wood, and we loaded everything – wood, corpses, corpses, corpses until the whole pit had been filled. [...] The pit was very deep, about four meters, I think.”*

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<sup>64</sup> Ibid., p. 219.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., p. 221.

<sup>66</sup> G. Greif, *Wir weinten tränenlos... Augenzeugenberichte der jüdischen “Sonderkommandos” in Auschwitz*, Böhlau, Köln 1995, pp. 9-10.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., pp. 228f.

#### 4.12. Jaacov Gabai

This detainee, too, came to Auschwitz with the transport from Greece on April 11, 1944. He received the ID number 182569. When interviewed by Gideon Greif, he stated:<sup>68</sup>

*“24,000 Hungarian Jews had to be burned each day. [...]*

*From the end of April onwards and throughout the month of May several transports of Hungarian Jews came to Birkenau. There were so many people in these transports that the capacity of the crematoria could not absorb them. So they arranged pits and were thus able to burn thousands more each day. My group of the Sonderkommando was working next to the ‘sauna building’ in the woods, opposite crematorium III-IV. Pits were dug there to burn the corpses that the crematorium itself could not handle. These pits were called ‘Bunkers.’ I worked there for three days. From the gas chamber the corpses were taken to the Bunker and burned. The ‘Bunker’ was in the middle, among the trees, so one could not see what was going on there.”*

#### 4.13. Shlomo Venezia

Shlomo Venezia, another self-styled member of the “Sonderkommando” and latter-day witness, also came to Auschwitz with the Jewish transport from Greece on April 11, 1944, and was registered as detainee number 182727. According to him, he was assigned to the “Sonderkommando” in May. One day, he was sent to work in the “little farmhouse” (“Bunker 2”) where he witnessed a homicidal gassing. He related:<sup>69</sup>

*“Ten minutes later, the door opposite the entrance was opened. The capo called us to take out the bodies. We had to push them into the fire in a kind of swimming pool some 15 meters away. I saw the flames and said to myself: look, that is hell.”*

#### 4.14. Summary

What kind of historical knowledge can we gather from these testimonies? Let us see:

##### Area of crematorium V:

Depending on the witness, the cremation trenches numbered either 2, 3, 4, or 5; they were either 40-50, 30-35, 25, 20, or 12 meters long, 15, 8, 6, or 2 meters wide, and 1.5, 2, or 3 meters deep. Their capacity was either 150-180 corpses per trench in 24-48 hours, 400 corpses per trench in 48 hours, 1,000

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., p. 132.

<sup>69</sup> Interview by Stefano Lorenzetto of Shlomo Venezia, published under the title “Io, l’ultimo dei Sonderkommando addetti ai crematori di Auschwitz” in the Italian daily paper *Il Giornale* of January 13, 2002, p. 16.

corpses per hour (in one or three trenches), 1,000 corpses per trench in 24 hours, or 1,200 corpses per trench in 5-6 hours.

Area of the so-called “Bunker 2”:

There were either 1, 2, or 4 trenches, 50 or 30 meters long, 10 or 6 meters wide, and 3 or 4 meters deep. According to M. Nyiszli, there were no cremation trenches near crematorium V at all, and the so-called “Bunker 2” was not a gas chamber but an undressing room for victims who were then shot. Moreover, for S. Chasan, J. Sackar, and J. Gabai the “Bunker” was not the little house with the gas chambers, but a cremation trench. I have summarized the essential statements concerning the cremation trenches resulting from the testimonies in the table below.

AREA OF CREMATORIUM V					
Witness	Trenches	Length	Width	Depth	Capacity
Tauber/1	4 pyres	-	-	-	400 per pyre in 2 days
Tauber/2	5	-	-	-	-
Mandelbaum	-	30-35 m	15 m	-	1,500-1,800 per trench in 1-2 days
Jankowski	2	20 m	2 m	2 m	2,000 per trench per ?
Dragon	5	25 m	6 m	3 m	5,000 in 5 trenches per day
Bendel	3	12 m	6 m	1,5 m	1,000 in 3 trenches per hour
Müller	5	40-50 m	8 m	2 m	1,200 per trench in 5-6 hrs

AREA OF “BUNKER 2”					
Witness	Trenches	Length	Width	Depth	Capacity
Nyiszli	2	50 m	6 m	3 m	5,000 in 2 trenches per day
Paisikovic/1	2	30 m	6 m	-	-
Paisikovic/2	2	30 m	10 m	-	-
Müller	4	-	-	-	-
Chasan	1	-	-	4 m	-
Venezia	1	-	-	-	-

AREA NOT INDICATED					
Witness	Trenches	Length	Width	Depth	Capacity
Mordowicz-Rosin	-	30 m	15 m	-	-
Rosenblum	-	10 m	5 m	2 m	2,000 in 2-3 hrs



## 5. Cremation Trenches in Official Historiography

The uncertainty of the judicial findings, derived as they are from contradictory testimonies, is inevitably imprinted from the very beginnings upon the incipient official literature on Auschwitz. One of the first classics in this field – though well informed on most topics – restricts itself to the following lines:<sup>70</sup>

*“The gas chambers worked day and night. The crematorium chimneys belched not only smoke, but pillars of fire, three to four metres high.<sup>[71]</sup> It was not enough. Trenches were dug in the ground and temporary gas installations were put in, and the trenches were covered with tarpaulins. The cloakrooms and undressing stations were also inadequate, and an open-air undressing station had to be arranged. The crematoriums could not keep pace with it. So the Germans dug trenches and burned the corpses on wood pyres.”*

The story of the “gassing trenches,” later abandoned by the official historiography, enjoyed a certain popularity in the immediate post-war years among the Auschwitz detainees. Otto Wolken proposes this version:<sup>72</sup>

*“Trenches were dug and covered with tarpaulins, they served as temporary gas chambers; besides, two gigantic pits were dug to burn the corpses in the open air.”*

In 1949, Bruno Baum, a member of the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz which, he claimed, also had contacts in the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” of the crematoria, wrote:<sup>73</sup>

*“In the summer of 1944, that Kommando had grown to nearly 1200 men who were implementing the so-called “Aktion Hoess.” It was a matter of gassing three quarters of a million Hungarian Jews [sic!] within a short time; only 80,000 of the physically fittest came into the camp or were sent to other parts of Germany for work. On those days, the capacity of the crematoria was insufficient, and gigantic pits were dug in which pyres were arranged to burn thousands of corpses, piled one on top of the other.”*

In their classic work on Auschwitz, Ota Kraus and Erich Kulka were rather quiet on the subject of cremation trenches as well:<sup>74</sup>

*“When the ovens were insufficient – which happened frequently – thousands of dead bodies were burned on pyres. The corpses of the people killed were thrown into the yard, the chambers were cleaned out, and while the bodies were dragged from the yard to the pyres the gassing went on.”*

<sup>70</sup> F. Friedman, *This was Oswiecim. The story of a murder camp*, The United Jewish Relief Appeal, London 1946, pp. 55f.

<sup>71</sup> We have here a propaganda story well known to the witnesses. Cf. in this respect my article: “Flames and Smoke from the Chimneys of Crematoria,” *The Revisionist*, 2(1) (2004), pp. 73-78.

<sup>72</sup> AGK, NTN, 88 (Höss trial), p. 45.

<sup>73</sup> B. Baum, *Widerstand in Auschwitz. Bericht der internationalen antifaschistischen Lagerleitung*. VVN-Verlag, Berlin-Potsdam 1949, p. 20.

<sup>74</sup> O. Kraus, E. Kulka, *Die Todesfabrik*. Kongress-Verlag, Berlin 1958, p. 116.

In his history of the Auschwitz camp, based for the better part on his previously mentioned article of 1946, Jan Sehn wrote:<sup>75</sup>

*“From May to August 1944, when there were arriving mass drafts [sic] of Hungarian Jews and French resistance fighters, so many people were being hastily gassed (because of developments in the situation on the eastern front) that crematoria could not burn all the bodies. So six huge pits were dug near Crematorium V, the old pits near bunkers 1 and 2 were re-opened, and bodies were burnt in them unceasingly. With all these installations in full operation, a cremation figure of twenty-four thousand bodies a day was reached in August 1944.”*

The curious thing here is that, as we have seen in the preceding chapter, the number of cremation trenches which Jan Sehn assigns to the area of crematorium V – six trenches – is not found in any of the testimonies!

The mention of the “French resistance fighters” allegedly gassed in great numbers at Auschwitz is worth a closer look. In the immediate post-war years, this story was widespread among the detainees and was reported *i.a.* by H. Tauber and H. Mandelbaum. In 1946, Filip Friedman summarized it as follows:<sup>76</sup>

*“At the end of the summer of 1944, after the Allied invasion of France, ‘terrorists,’ which means members of the Resistance Movement, were brought from France. Their number is estimated at about 670,000. I feel that both these figures are exaggerated, but there are no other statistics available.”*

Actually, besides Jews, Gypsies, Poles, and Soviet prisoners of war, about 25,000 persons of other nationalities were deported to Auschwitz (Byelorussians, Russians, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Germans, Austrians, Italians, and Frenchmen). The number of French deportees is documented as being 654!<sup>77</sup> According to the reports from the secret resistance movement of the camp,<sup>78</sup> there were 674 French detainees in the Auschwitz compound on August 21, 1944, which confirms the order of magnitude of the above documentary data. By the end of the 1970s the legend of the mass extermination of French insurgents had died down.

In 1974, the Auschwitz Museum published a book,<sup>79</sup> which contained as an appendix a plan of the Birkenau camp indicating the sites of the alleged open air cremations. As far as the area of crematorium V is concerned, the authors – not knowing where to locate the alleged cremation trenches – simply indicated a large continuous swath of land to the north, east, and west of the crematorium for the cremations (as no. 12). Furthermore, they designated as “No. 10”

<sup>75</sup> J. Sehn, *Oświęcim-Brzezinka (Auschwitz-Birkenau) Concentration Camp*. Wydawnictwo Prawnicze, Warsaw 1961, pp. 140f.

<sup>76</sup> F. Friedman, *op. cit.* (note 70), p. 55.

<sup>77</sup> F. Piper, “The Number of Victims,” in: I. Gutman, M. Berenbaum (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 10), p. 70 and 76 (note 74).

<sup>78</sup> AGK, NTN, 155, p. 116, summary of the strength of the camp

<sup>79</sup> Kazimierz Smoleń (ed.), *Auschwitz vu par les SS*, Edition du Musée d’Etat à Oświęcim, 1974, plate without page number.

an “area in which the ashes from crematorium IV were buried” and as “No. 13” the “pond where the ashes from crematoria IV and V were put.” They do not say where the ashes from the alleged cremation trenches ended up.

In the German 1997 edition of the same book we have a plan of Birkenau with the legend “Installations and locations of mass extermination in KZ Auschwitz II (Birkenau),” but the open air cremation sites are no longer indicated.<sup>80</sup>

In 1978, in one of the first general histories of the camp prepared by the Auschwitz Museum, Franciszek Piper writes:<sup>81</sup>

*“Henceforth bodies were burned in the open only when there was an influx of particularly large transports and the crematoria were unable to keep pace with the work of extermination. In view of the unlimited capacity of the burning pits, the number of bodies cremated depended in principle on the numerosness of the transports and the capacity of the gas chambers, which was theoretically estimated at 60,000 over a period of 24 hours, taking account of gassing time and the time needed to remove the bodies. The highest daily number of gassed and cremated actually achieved – in 1944 during the extermination of the Hungarian Jews – was 24,000. At that time Bunker 2 was reactivated, the old burning pits re-opened, an additional five large pits were dug around Crematorium V, and the railway onto which the transports were shunted was extended right up to [the] crematoria themselves.”*

Even more generally, the authoritative encyclopedic guide on the German concentration camps on Polish territory, drawn up by Central Commission of Investigation into the Hitlerian Crimes in Poland, states the following on the topic in question:<sup>82</sup>

*“Because the crematoria could not cope with the cremation of corpses, these were also burnt near the little wood on pyres and in trenches. In this way, the figure of 20,000 bodies cremated within a day was exceeded in the summer of 1944.”*

In 1979, Danuta Czech, the famous author of the *Auschwitz Kalendarium*, wrote:<sup>83</sup>

*“In order to master this situation, in May of 1944, during the mass liquidation of the Hungarian Jews, five pits were excavated next to crematorium V, destined for incinerations of bodies in the open air. At the same time, Bunker II was ordered to be put into service again. The pits near it, which had once before been used for incinerations, were reopened. Under*

<sup>80</sup> Jadwiga Bezwińska, Danuta Czech (eds.), *Auschwitz in den Augen der SS*, Staatliches Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1997, plate outside of text.

<sup>81</sup> F. Piper, “Extermination,” in: J. Buszko (ed.), *Auschwitz. Nazi Extermination Camp*, Interpress Publishers, Warsaw 1978, p. 117.

<sup>82</sup> Czesław Pilichowski et al. (eds.), *Obozy hitlerowskie na ziemiach polskich 1939-1945. Informator encyklopedyczny*. Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warsaw 1979, p. 368.

<sup>83</sup> D. Czech, “Das KL Auschwitz als Vernichtungslager,” in: *Ausgewählte Probleme aus der Geschichte des KL Auschwitz*, Staatliches Museum Auschwitz, Auschwitz 1988, pp. 48f. The work was first published in 1979.

*conditions of full load at all cremation installations, crematoria and pits, the Fascists reached a daily throughput of 24,000 corpses in 1944. [...] In mid-1944, 1000 Jewish detainees were working at the four crematoria with [their] 8 cremation pits.”*

However, in her most detailed *Kalendarium* on Auschwitz, Danuta Czech limits herself to some vague references to the cremation trenches. She mentions a single “pit near the crematorium” – presumably crematorium V – in connection with the alleged gassing of the Gypsies on August 2, 1944,<sup>84</sup> and the filling in of the trenches for August 30,<sup>85</sup> without giving any information as to when and where the trenches had been dug, how many there were or what sizes they had.

According to D. Czech, the four crematoria had a combined capacity of 8,000 corpses in 24 hours.<sup>86</sup> It follows, therefore, that the capacity of the cremation trenches was 16,000 corpses per day!

In 1980, another world expert on Auschwitz, Hermann Langbein, wrote in connection with the alleged extermination of the Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz:<sup>87</sup>

*“The capacity of the gas chambers was enough to quickly kill large numbers of people who were ‘no longer fit for work,’ but the crematoria were not big enough to burn them all immediately. Therefore, graves were dug near the crematoria, and in them the bodies were burned.”*

H. Langbein was just as evasive and vague<sup>88</sup> in his classical work on Auschwitz:<sup>89</sup>

*“As in the early days, pyres were again built in the open air next to the crematoria in order to burn the corpses; the capacity of the crematoria was insufficient.”*

In his second work on Auschwitz, published in 1993, Jean-Claude Pressac asserted – on the basis of data from the Auschwitz Museum and of air photos taken on May 31 and June 26, 1944<sup>90</sup> – that in the area of crematorium V of Birkenau there existed three cremation trenches, and two more in the area of the so-called “Bunker 2,” one of 30, the other of 20 square meters.<sup>91</sup> But, as we shall see in chapter 10, these indications have no counterpart in reality.

<sup>84</sup> Cf. my article “The ‘Gassing’ of Gypsies in Auschwitz on August 2, 1944,” in: *The Revisionist*, 1(3) (2003), pp. 330-332.

<sup>85</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), p. 838 and 866.

<sup>86</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 83), p. 48.

<sup>87</sup> H. Langbein, “Auschwitz: The history and characteristics of the concentration and extermination camp,” in: Israel Gutman, Avital Saf (eds.), *The Nazi Concentration Camps. Proceedings of the Fourth Yad Vashem International Historical Conference*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 1984, p. 284.

<sup>88</sup> H. Langbein speaks of the pits near “the crematoria” in the plural.

<sup>89</sup> H. Langbein, *Menschen in Auschwitz*, Europaverlag, Wien 1987, p. 66.

<sup>90</sup> Cf. document 31.

<sup>91</sup> J.-C. Pressac, *Die Krematorien von Auschwitz. Die Technik des Massenmordes*, Piper Verlag, Munich / Zürich 1994, p. 200.

In the *magnum opus* in five volumes edited by the Auschwitz Museum in 1995, Franciszek Piper devoted only a total of three lines to the question of the cremation trenches:<sup>92</sup>

*“In May 1944, during the killing of the Hungarian Jews, it was put back in operation. Several new burning pits<sup>[93]</sup> were dug and a new barracks [sic] for undressing constructed at that time. Bunker 2 functioned until the autumn of 1944. It was demolished in November after the cessation of killing by gas. The ashes were removed from pits and the whole site was leveled.”*

Robert Jan van Pelt, who is presently considered to be the world expert on Auschwitz by the official historiography, has provided no indications on the cremation trenches in his well-known work of over 500 pages about the camp, giving neither the number, nor the dimensions, nor the location. Considering the fundamental importance of the cremation trenches in the assessment of the alleged extermination of Jews in spring and summer of 1944, this gap by van Pelt is serious and unacceptable.

Hence, the knowledge of the official historiography about the Birkenau cremation trenches, already vague and inconsistent in the early post-war years, has become even more elusive and uncertain with the passage of time, in spite of the historiographical progress for the history of the camp.

John C. Zimmerman has recently tried to fill this enormous gap in the official historiography by trying to prove the presence of three cremation trenches in the area of the so-called “Bunker 2” and another three in the northern yard of crematorium V. We shall later look into his results later.<sup>94</sup>

## 6. Historical and Technical Analysis of Documents

### 6.1. Projects of Mass Cremation at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943<sup>95</sup>

In the first months of 1943, the Topf Co. was planning two installations of mass cremations for Auschwitz-Birkenau. A letter from the head of *Zentralbauleitung* (Central Construction Office) of Auschwitz, *SS-Sturmbannführer* Bischoff, to the camp commander, *SS-Obersturmbannführer* Höss, dated February 12, 1943, mentions “the project of a 6<sup>th</sup> crematorium (an open incinera-

<sup>92</sup> F. Piper, “Komory Gazowe i Krematoria” (Gas chambers and crematoria), in: *Auschwitz 1940-1945. Węzłowe zagadnienia z dziejów obozu* (“Fundamental problems of the history of the camp”), Wydawnictwo Państowego Muzeum Oświęcim-Brzezinka, 1995, vol. III, p. 121. English edition: Waclaw Długoborski, Franciszek Piper (eds.), *Auschwitz 1940-1945. Central Issues in the History of the Camp*, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum 2000, vol. III, “The Methods of Annihilation,” p. 143.

<sup>93</sup> “kilka dolów”

<sup>94</sup> Cf. below, chapter 8

<sup>95</sup> I have summarized here section VII.4 (“The projects of mass cremation at Auschwitz-Birkenau”) of volume I of my forthcoming publication *I forni crematori di Auschwitz. Studio storico-tecnico con la collaborazione del dott. ing. Franco Deana*.

tion chamber measuring 48.75 by 3.76 meters,” also called “open incineration site.”<sup>96</sup> The project of crematorium VI was based on the principle of a field oven (*Feldofen*) devised by Friedrich Siemens.<sup>97</sup> By separating the individual hearths as in that project, crematorium VI would have had 60 hearths, in which some 150 corpses could have been cremated simultaneously.

A letter from the Topf firm to the Central Construction Office at Auschwitz, dated February 5, 1943, mentions a “cost estimate for the large circular incineration oven,”<sup>98</sup> which certainly was the “Crematorium oven for corpses operating continuously, for mass application” devised by the Topf engineer Fritz Sander, for which he filed a patent application on October 26, 1942, later rewritten on November 4, 1942.<sup>99</sup> This project had, in fact, a cylindrical combustion chamber with an annular section.

Another project of a device for mass cremations appears in “Cost estimate of Topf Co. for a cremation oven” dated April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943, of which R. Schnabel shows only the last page.<sup>100</sup> The object of this cost estimate was a real and true crematorium oven, even though of a special design. The presence of a flue shutter (*Rauchkanalschieber*) is proof. This cost estimate probably referred to the oven devised by Fritz Sander as well, which also had a single flue duct.

The devices just mentioned were never built, no doubt because the conditions had changed in the months that followed. In January of 1943 the Birkenau crematoria had not yet gone into service; at the end of March crematoria II and IV were operational, with crematorium V following in early April. The cost estimate of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943, certainly responded to a request from the Central Construction Office uttered some weeks before when the sanitary conditions in the camp had still been disastrous because of a renewed outbreak of typhoid fever, which had erupted the year before and in consequence of which the death books (*Sterbebücher*) registered over 7,300 deaths among the detainees between March 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>101</sup> From April onwards, the mortality declined considerably, which was probably the reason why the Central Construction Office gave up on this project. This explanation is reasonable and in conformity with the facts and the documents.

Let us now look at the significance of these projects within the framework of the hypothesis of the reality of the alleged mass extermination.

<sup>96</sup> Letter from *Zentralbauleitung* to camp commander of February 12, 1943. APMO, BW 30/34, p. 80.

<sup>97</sup> Drawing of the device in: F. Küchenmeister, *Die Feuerbestattung*, Ferdinand Enke, Stuttgart 1875, pp. 82f.

<sup>98</sup> Letter from Topf to *Zentralbauleitung* at Auschwitz of February 5, 1943. APMO, BW AuII 30/4/34, D-Z-Bau/2544/2 (page number not legible).

<sup>99</sup> Deutsches Patentamt, Berlin.

<sup>100</sup> R. Schnabel, *Macht ohne Moral. Eine Dokumentation über die SS*. Röderberg-Verlag, Frankfurt/Main 1957, p. 351.

<sup>101</sup> State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau (ed.), *Sterbebücher von Auschwitz*, K.G. Saur, Munich 1995, vol. 1, p. 236.

According to the Auschwitz *Kalendarium*, open air cremations at Birkenau are said to have begun on September 21, 1942. Under that date, Danuta Czech says:<sup>102</sup>

*“At Birkenau, corpses begin to be burnt in the open air. Initially the corpses are burnt on piles of wood loaded each with some 2000 bodies, later in trenches, with the unearthed corpses. To speed up the combustion, the bodies are doused at first with waste oil, later with methanol. In the trenches, combustion goes on day and night.”*

By the end of this phase, on December 3rd, 1942, a total of 107,000 corpses<sup>103</sup> are claimed to have been cremated. Hence, over 75 consecutive days on average 1,426 corpses would have been cremated each day without any problems.

In December of 1942, the number of gassed, as per the *Kalendarium*, amounted to some 16,800, but in January of 1943, some 45,700 people were allegedly gassed – the highest figure for the year – yielding an average of about 1,474 corpses per day, some 48 more than the figure for the period of September 21 through December 3, 1942. This cremation, too, seems to have been carried out without the least difficulty.

Now, all of a sudden, at the end of January of 1943, the Central Construction Office begins seriously to look into the possibility of building mass incineration units: what was the reason, seeing that they had already managed to burn 170,000 corpses in the open air without any problems and in view of the fact that the number of allegedly gassed and cremated persons for the month of February was less than half the load for January (about 18,700)?

As we will see in detail further on, some 134,300 Hungarian Jews are said to have been gassed and cremated in the period of May 17 through 31, 1944; an average of 8,950 per day, of which 1,100 could have been cremated in the crematoria, so that the remaining 7,850 had to be cremated in trenches.

However, for such an enormous cremation, which the Birkenau crematoria could not possibly have handled, the camp administration and the Central Construction Office did not in the least consider those mass cremation projects of early 1943. Jan Sehn considered this fact to be so absurd that he felt obliged – in an act of blatant fraud – to move the projects of early 1943 into the summer of 1944. He wrote:<sup>104</sup>

*“The method of burning a large number of bodies in open pits, as used in August 1944, proved to be quickest and most economical. Thus the crematoria stopped working and only the pits were used. The sixth crematorium, as included in the plans for extending the camp, was to be based on the principle of burning corpses in open pits. In the correspondence with Topf’s, reference is made to ‘large ring incineration oven,’ ‘open combustion chamber,’ and ‘open combustion site.’ The crematorium was to be a reheating furnace which would couple the enormous capacity of pits with*

<sup>102</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), pp. 305f.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid., p. 349.

<sup>104</sup> J. Sehn, op. cit. (note 75), p. 141.

*the economy of crematoria ovens fitted with rational hearths. That enabled the wood piles used in pits to be replaced with a small quantity of coke or coal.”*

This deception was later taken up and endorsed even by Franciszek Piper who strengthened it, saying:<sup>105</sup>

*“The project was brought up again in 1944 in connection with Eichmann’s forecasts of new transports due to arrive in late 1944 and early 1945. According to Höss’ testimony, work on the construction of large crematoria was about to begin. He described them as projected to be built ‘in the shape of a huge brickworks with a ring furnace’.”*

This confirms, once again, the lack of foundation for the official thesis. The projects for installations of mass cremation concerned exclusively the corpses of the registered detainees who had died of natural causes. They were discussed in late January and early February of 1943 because of an upswing in the mortality of the registered detainees and because the Central Construction Office knew it would not be able to meet the new completion date for crematorium II, February 15, 1943.<sup>106</sup>

As crematoria II and IV went into operation and the death rate among the detainees went down in April the realization of those projects became superfluous.

## 6.2. Documents Regarding Outdoor Cremations in 1944

There is no doubt that open-air cremations of corpses were carried out at Birkenau in the summer of 1944. What has to be examined is the reason for them and, most of all, their extent.

On June 28, 1944, a ministerial delegation made up of seven members inspected the Auschwitz camp. *Ministerialrat* Müller later drew up a “travel report,” in which we can read:<sup>107</sup>

*“The final item on the agenda for the tour of the camp was a large dog kennel where several hundred dogs were trained for police and Wehrmacht purposes [and] for the hunt in SS riding schools. On the way back to the camp we passed a crematorium where apparently pyres were also used for the incineration of corpses.”*

The register of the *WL* (= workshop management) *Schlosserei* (locksmith workshop) contains *i.a.* all work orders relative to the crematoria coming from the Central Construction Office at Auschwitz. In the preparatory phase of the trial of Rudolf Höss they were assiduously noted in a list dated July 24, 1945.

<sup>105</sup> F. Piper, *op. cit.* (note 10), pp. 175f.

<sup>106</sup> APMO, BW 30/34, p. 105. *Prüfbericht* by engr. Prüfer of January 29, 1943. The initial date for the completion of crematorium II, moved back by Chef der Amtgruppe C of WVHA Kammler by order of January 11, 1943 (RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 59), was January 31, that of crematorium IV was February 28.

<sup>107</sup> BAK, R22/1468, fol. 59a.



In this list we also find the following orders for tools, which were used in connection with open-air cremations:<sup>108</sup>

“June 1, 1944. [order] no. 1600. Crematory administration. Object: Repair of 30 oven doors of crematories III and IV, as well as manufacture of 4 pcs. fire-hooks. Cartwright-shop: make 4 pcs. poles for fire-hooks, 8 m long. Order slip of SS garrison administration no. 336/O Dept. VU of May 26, 1944. Urgent! In charge: Zajac. Finished: June 7, 1944. [...]

June 19, 1944. [order] no. 1645. Crematory administration. Object: 4 sieves for sifting ash, in the form of sieves for sand. Order slip SS garrison administration of June 7, 1944. In charge: Dunikowski. Finished: June 26, 1944. [...]

June 28, 1944. [order] no. 1719. Crematory administration. Object: 4 pcs. sieves in the shape of sieves for sand as previously supplied under Com. 1685. Order [slip] SS garrison administration no. 349/3 of July 14, 1944. In charge: Dunikowski. Finished: Aug. 5, 1944.”

The “fire-hooks” were pokers with a hook for arranging the corpses and stoking the fire in open air cremations. The “sieves” on the other hand were probably used for sifting the ash for gold teeth. What is of importance here is the number of pieces – 4 fire hooks and 8 sieves, 12 tools altogether. This number is absolutely not in keeping with the official thesis of *mass* cremations in the open air of *thousands* of corpses per day.

It is known that in the crematoria there existed a “*Häftlingszahnstation des K.L. Auschwitz*” (detainee dental station of concentration camp Auschwitz), which was responsible for removing the gold teeth from the mouths of corpses prior to incineration. For each corpse, a report was written for “the political department of concentration camp Auschwitz,” which contained the ID number of the detainee, the number and the metal (alloy, gold) of the extracted teeth.<sup>109</sup> According to the official history, gold teeth were also extracted from the corpses of the allegedly gassed prior to incineration, and the order for “sieves” would thus seem to be unexplainable both if the ashes belonged to registered detainees who had died of “natural” causes and if they came from corpses of persons allegedly gassed. Actually, though, there is an explanation: the ashes belonged to detainees who had died of “natural” causes and were taken directly from the Birkenau camp mortuaries to the pyres without passing through the mortuaries of the crematoria.

In the archives of the Auschwitz Museum numerous reports exist indicating that between May 16 and December 10, 1942, 16,325 gold teeth were removed from 2,904 corpses. The lowest ID number is 40 for a man and 16 for a woman. The highest ID number is 78,947 for a male and 7,425 for a female detainee. Besides the reports mentioned, there is a series of cards, which do not give the name of the detainee but only the respective ID number.<sup>110</sup> During the period in question, a total of over 37,000 registered detainees died in the

<sup>108</sup> Höss trial, vol. 11a, p. 96f.

<sup>109</sup> APMO, D-AuI-5/1-1801.

<sup>110</sup> Protocol of Jan Sehn of August 14, 1945. Höss trial, vol.3, pp. 84-86.

camp, whereas there are supposed to be 122,000 gassed victims. However, there is not a single report card mentioning extraction of teeth from an unregistered detainee. The indications in the official literature stem from mere assertions of self-styled witnesses and have no material or documentary backing.

In the Auschwitz literature one can read here and there that the “sieves” were used to separate wood and bone fragments of the corpses from the ash, which were then broken up with pounders. But even if this explanation were true, the number of “sieves” mentioned would be completely out of proportion with the daily load of ash that would have come from the incineration of allegedly gassed corpses.<sup>111</sup>

### 6.3. The Groundwater Level at Birkenau

Because the official historiography asserts that at Birkenau the corpses of allegedly gassed victims were cremated in great numbers in pits, it is important to look into the question of the groundwater level at Birkenau. I have already dealt with this question in a specific article.<sup>112</sup> A further analysis is presented here.

The Central Construction Office plan No. 2534/2 of June 15, 1943, concerning “temporary basins” at BAIII shows that the groundwater level stood at 232.51 meters, the surface of the ground was at 233.71 meters and the bottom of the decantation basins at 231.01 meters.<sup>113</sup> Thus the groundwater level was at 1.20 meters below ground and the decantation basins had a depth of 2.70 meters.

The *Königsgraben* – the main drainage ditch of sectors BI and BII at Birkenau – flowed into the Vistula river in an area where the river forms a double loop. To be precise, the ditch flowed into the first loop, the one to the south. This loop embraces a little stretch of river bank situated at a level of 232.8 meters; a point on the beach of the second loop – some 500 meters further north as the crow flies – stands at about the 233 m level,<sup>114</sup> hence the river stood practically at the same level as the groundwater at Birkenau. The southwest corner of sector BI of Birkenau, where the *Königsgraben* left the camp, is at the 235.17 m<sup>115</sup> level. On the other hand, the northern area of the Birkenau camp is slightly lower than the southern portion.

The point where “*Strasse B*” (the road which divided sectors BII and BIII) crosses the fence (to continue towards crematoria IV and V, some 200 m further along) is at the 234.26 m level. The area of these crematoria was lower still, because the little pond,<sup>116</sup> which was used as a fire-fighting reserve in the

<sup>111</sup> Cf. chapter IX, 6.

<sup>112</sup> “‘Cremation Pits’ and Ground Water Levels at Birkenau,” *The Revisionist*, 1(1) (2003), pp. 13-16.

<sup>113</sup> APMO, negative No. 20943/19. Cf. J.-C. Pressac, *Auschwitz: Technique and operation of the gas chambers*, The Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York, 1989, p. 169.

<sup>114</sup> Topographical map 1:25000 of Birkenau zone. APK, Land SP LO/S 467, p. 89.

<sup>115</sup> RGVA, 502-2-24, p. 226.

<sup>116</sup> Cf. document 17.

birch wood east of crematorium IV, is nothing but an outcropping of the groundwater, and the water was only a little less than one meter below the surrounding area.<sup>117</sup> The entire sector BIII was in a similar state, if not worse, as results from a telex sent by Jothann on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1944. The head of Central Construction Office had refused permission for the occupancy of 14 barracks located in sector BIII of Birkenau, explaining:<sup>118</sup>

*“Barracks are only partly roofed, area is swampy and not leveled in any way. A contamination of the groundwater and the formation of further sources of disease is feared.”*

In conclusion, as far as the groundwater level is concerned, the situation around crematoria IV and V was practically the same as that near the wastewater plant in sector BIII, i.e. the groundwater level stood some 1.2 meters below ground.

## 7. Historical and Technical Analysis of Ground-Level Photos

### 7.1. Photos of Corpses Cremation

#### 7.1.1. The Authors

The Auschwitz Museum is in possession of two photographs, which are said to show a scene of outdoor cremation.<sup>119</sup> Photograph 278, the clearer one, was shown at the Höss trial as attachment 33 of the expert report prepared by Roman Dawidowski on September 26, 1946, on the alleged extermination installations.<sup>120</sup>

Before we examine this photograph, we should look at its origin. It is necessary to state that the reproductions of this photograph, as they normally appear in publications, are cropped. The originals are those published by Jean-Claude Pressac,<sup>121</sup> they were taken through the open door of a ground-floor room.

The origin of this photograph – and of two others which we shall discuss later – is described in the following way in a secret message by a member of the camp resistance movement who signed “Stakło” (Stanisław Kłodziński), dated September 4, 1944:<sup>122</sup>

<sup>117</sup> In photograph No. 174 of *L'Album d'Auschwitz* (Peter Hellman, Anne Freyer, Jean-Claude Pressac (eds.), Éditions du Seuil, Paris 1983) there is a group of deportees on the southern edge of the pond (towards the *Effektenlager*); in the foreground one can see the gentle slope that went down to the surface of the water, and, on the left, an old man with a sort of jug who is about to fetch water.

<sup>118</sup> RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 2. Cf. my article op. cit. (note 1)112.

<sup>119</sup> APMO, negatives No. 277 and 278. For convenience, I will refer to the photographs by their respective classification numbers.

<sup>120</sup> AGK, NTN, 93, p. 49.

<sup>121</sup> J.-C. Pressac, op. cit. (note 113), p. 422.

<sup>122</sup> APMO, Ruch Oporu, t. II, p. 136a (original text) and p. 136 (transcription).

“Send us soonest two rolls of film with metal spool for cameras 6 by 9 [cm].

*We have sent you photographs of Birkenau – of the gassing action. One photograph shows one of the pyres<sup>[123]</sup> in the open air on which corpses are burnt when the crematorium is not able to cope with the cremations. In front of the pyres lie corpses which wait to be thrown on the pyre. Another photograph shows a place in the woods where people undress, supposedly for a bath, and then go into the gas. Send us a roll asap. Send the attached photographs to Tell soonest. We think we can send you enlargements later.”*

This message does not contain any information on the subject of the person who took the pictures but indicates clearly that they were developed and printed within the camp. According to Jan Sehn the man behind the camera was the detainee David Szmulewski.<sup>124</sup> Yuri Suhl has written about the alleged “mission” of this detainee, a self-styled member of the secret resistance movement in the camp who is claimed to have been able to penetrate into the area of the crematoria with the excuse of repairing a roof in order to take those photographs.<sup>125</sup> There is no independent proof of this very general account. Szmulewski did not even say from where he shot the pictures. Furthermore, even though he was a Polish Jew, Szmulewski did not participate in the Höss trial, or in the trial of the camp garrison. According to the present version proposed by Henryk Świebocki, a researcher at the Auschwitz Museum, the photographs mentioned were not taken by Szmulewski but by a Greek detainee named Alex:<sup>126</sup>

*“The Jews who participated in the production of the photographs were part of the detainees in the Sonderkommando assigned to this crematorium. In particular, the detainee Alex from Greece (the last name of this detainee is not known), as well as Szlojme (Szlama) Dragon, his brother Abram Dragon, and Alter Fajnzylber from Poland were involved. Indirectly, Dawid Szmulewski, already mentioned in the preceding chapter as being involved in the conspiracy, who was working as clerk in a barrack of the men’s camp at Birkenau (BIId), was also involved in this undertaking.”* In a long note, Świebocki adds:<sup>127</sup>

*“Dawid Szmulewski had secretly handed the camera to the members of the Sonderkommando mentioned in the text and received the film from them once the shots had been taken. [...] In some publications, Dawid Szmulewski himself is reported to have been the author of the photographs [...]. This is not true in all respects. Dawid Szmulewski cannot have taken*

<sup>123</sup> “jeden ze stosów”

<sup>124</sup> J. Sehn, op. cit. (note 75), p. 142.

<sup>125</sup> Y. Suhl, *Ed essi si ribellarono. Storia della resistenza ebraica contro il nazismo*, Mursia, Milano 1969, pp. 209-212. Original title: *They Fought Back: The Story of the Jewish Resistance in Nazi Europa*, Crown Publishers, New York 1967.

<sup>126</sup> H. Świebocki, “Ruch oporu,” (resistance movement), chapter IV.4.2, in: *Auschwitz 1940-1945. Węzłowe...*, op. cit. (note 92), vol. IV, p. 132; Engl. ed.: *ibid.*, p. 280.

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.* (Polish), pp. 133.

*those pictures himself; he was merely part of the undertaking, as was exposed hereinabove. When Dawid Szmulewski came to Poland after the war, persons from the staff of the Auschwitz National Museum tried several times to clarify with Dawid Szmulewski the question of authorship; they did, however, not succeed in doing so.”*

The Szmulewski report published by Y. Suhl is therefore incorrect, and that explains why he always evaded a direct confrontation with the staff of the Auschwitz Museum.

Hence, the story of his “mission” is completely unsustainable and the author of the photographs remains unknown, because nothing is known about this mysterious “Alex.” There is no doubt, however, that the images stem from the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz and were developed and printed in the camp.

### 7.1.2. The Localization of the Images and the Position of the Photographer

Jean-Claude Pressac affirms that the photographs 277<sup>128</sup> and 278<sup>129</sup> were taken from the inside of the “northern gas chamber” of crematorium V, looking north-west.<sup>130</sup> Leaving aside the reference to the “gas chamber,” Pressac’s localization is no doubt correct. The wooded background of the two photographs is compatible with the wooded area of the zone beyond the northern enclosure near crematorium V, called “fence 35” (*Zaun 35*),<sup>131</sup> as is the distance between the enclosure and the camera. Another element compatible with the area mentioned is the concrete post visible on the left side of photograph 278 behind the enclosure between two supporting pillars of the fence.<sup>132</sup> A Polish photograph of 1945 shows, in fact, a row of posts lined up behind fence 35.<sup>133</sup> A site visit I did in 1991 has confirmed the presence of those posts.<sup>134</sup>

Finally, in both of the full-size photographs one can see (top left) the rectangular outline of one of the wooden beams which supported the roof above the entrance. They appear in the foreground in the Polish photograph taken of the ruins of crematorium V in 1945.<sup>135</sup>

### 7.1.3. The Dating of the Photographs

The only element on hand for the dating of the photographs is the date of the secret message mentioned earlier: September 4, 1944. Taking into account

<sup>128</sup> Cf. document 4.

<sup>129</sup> Cf. document 5.

<sup>130</sup> J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 113), p. 422.

<sup>131</sup> *Absteckungsskizze der Wachtürme um das K.G.L. Plan Nr. 3512* drawn by the detainee 138038 on February 7, 1944. GARF, 502-2-95, p. 19.

<sup>132</sup> Cf. document 6.

<sup>133</sup> Cf. document 10.

<sup>134</sup> Cf. document 11.

<sup>135</sup> APMO, negativo 21334/132. The little roof can be inferred from the shadow projected also in photograph 20995/509, which shows the east side of crematorium IV in mid-April of 1943. Cfr. J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 113), p. 418.

the time needed for developing and printing and the fact that the cremation trenches were filled in on August 30, 1944 – according to the camp resistance movement that sent the photographs to the outside – one may assume that the pictures were taken some time in the last ten days of August of 1944.

#### 7.1.4. The Field of View of the Images

In order to establish the orientation of the photographs, I proceeded as follows. The concrete posts mentioned above are 90 cm high, they stand behind each pillar of fence 35 at a distance of about 115 centimeters. However, the post visible on photograph 278 is apparently located in the center between two pillars of the fence. At the time of my visit, the area was thickly covered with vegetation. I placed myself to the south of the fence near crematorium II (fence 26) which is parallel to fence 35, and I moved until the post behind one of the pillars appeared in the center between two pillars. From that point I established, by means of a compass, the bearing as being 310 degrees.

Projecting this bearing upon an enlargement of an air photo taken on May 31, 1944, (cf. chapter 10) and computing, on the basis of plan 2036(p), the location of the door through which the photographs were taken, the fence at the point where the post is visible stands at some 35 meters from crematorium V. Photograph 277 shows, on the left, four pillars of fence 35, which are 3.30 meters apart on the ground. Taking into account the increasing distance between the pillars when moving from left to right, it can be stated that on the right-hand side of the photograph, hidden by smoke, there were three more pillars plus about one meter of fence.

On the extreme left a pillar is slightly outside the field of view, therefore that stretch of fence netting can be taken to be some 3 meters. Hence, the field of view at the level of the enclosure can be taken to correspond to the distance between 7 pillars plus some 4 meters or about 24 meters. Compared to No. 278, this photograph has a field of view more extended to the left (west) by 2 pillars or (with the corresponding fence netting) about 8 meters. The bearing of the left edge of the fence from the camera is about 305° in photograph 277, and its distance, as measured on the air photo, is about 42 meters from it. About 75% of the field of view of photograph 278 can be superimposed on that of photograph 277, the area to the right (east) covered by the smoke contains another two pillars of the enclosure, or, in practical terms, another 7 meters of fence. Hence, the field of view of both photographs together, projected on the enclosure, is roughly 31 meters.

The width of the foreground scene on photograph 278 is about 9 meters, which means that the front line of the foreground, on the basis of the corresponding triangulation, was parallel to the outside wall of the crematorium and about 8 meters away from it. The distance between this wall and fence 35 was about 24 meters, but in front of that enclosure there was an effluent ditch whose internal edge was about 6 meters inside the enclosure. The smoking

area and the corpses in front of it thus had a depth of some 10 meters up to the edge of the ditch.

The triangulation of the photographs refers to the photographs as they appear. I shall come back to this question in chapter 10.2 below.

#### 7.1.5. The Contents of the Images

Let us now consider *the order of magnitude* of what *is* on the photographs. Number 278 shows a space of some 9 meters filled with corpses and/or smoke of which the smoke takes up some 7 meters. Photograph 277 shows, likewise, a foreground space of some 9 meters, but extends the field of view of the former image by about 2 meters towards the left, i.e. to the west. Here, we have a space of some 4 meters without smoke. On the extreme left there is a somewhat blurred figure of what could be a guard with a gun strapped over his shoulder. In this area there is no smoke, hence this is the limit of the smoking zone.

In photograph 278 there are eight human figures, standing, in civilian clothes, involved in the cremation. At the extreme left we have the leg of a ninth figure, certainly the guard shown on photograph 277, where we can distinguish six human figures in civilian clothes involved in the cremation plus the guard. As the two pictures overlap by about 75%, it is clear that the persons shown are the same, thus we have on the two photographs eight persons involved in a cremation of corpses.

The author of the two photographs, no doubt, wanted to illustrate the “atrociousness” of the SS, and we may assume that he chose the sight that he thought to be the most atrocious – or something that the recipients of the pictures would have considered to be most atrocious. If, therefore, to the right of the field of vision of the first photograph there had been an even more atrocious scene, the detainee behind the camera could not have missed out on it. From where he was, all it would have taken was for him to move half a step to the left instead of half a step to the right. The fact that, instead, he chose to have the two images overlap on the left, wasting 4 meters of “atrociousness” (the 4 meters without smoke), signified that on the right there was nothing particularly “atrocious.” It signified that the smoke began on the right hand side of the first photograph. Hence, the smoking area had a length of about 7-8 meters.

As we will see in chapter 10, the air photo of August 23, 1944, confirms fully the validity of this interpretation.

As for as the number of corpses, it is impossible to count them, because their contours are very blurred, but on the extreme left of photograph 278 the layer of corpses starts with three bodies, and there are about 10 bodies in the foreground, so that we would have a total of about 30 to 40 bodies.

Whose bodies are we dealing with here? The enlargement of photograph 278 shows bodies that are decidedly monstrous, such as the one shown in document 7 or the hair dress without a face of document 8. Most of the bodies

are twisted and indistinct – a strange difference with respect not only to the man in the center of photograph 278,<sup>136</sup> whose baldness is clearly distinguishable, but also with respect to the enclosure, of which we can see the electrical insulators and even the wires, although it ran some 16 meters behind the corpses. In photograph 277, the corpses form a shapeless heap, quite different from the relatively well defined shapes of the people standing.

There is therefore no doubt that the two photographs have been grossly re-touched. Everything leads one to believe that this was done by the secret resistance movement of the camp which, as we have seen, developed and printed the photographs.

According to the official history, the corpses shown in the two photographs belong, for reasons of chronology, to the Jews who were deported to Auschwitz from the Lodz ghetto from August 15, 1944, onwards. This question will be treated in greater detail in chapter 10.3. below.

So what do we really see on the photographs in question?

1. An area with some 7-8 meters wide
2. Eight men involved in the cremation
3. Some 30-40 corpses ready to be burned.

This view does not actually fit in with a *mass cremation of more than a thousand corpses* (1,200 according to Filip Müller's system) of allegedly gassed victims, but agrees perfectly well with the cremation of a few *dozen* corpses of detainees who died in the camp.

According to H. Tauber, the personnel of crematorium IV, at the time, was 60 detainees, that of crematorium V 300 detainees,<sup>137</sup> therefore 240 detainees would have worked on the alleged cremation trenches. But only eight of them can be seen on those two photographs!

## 7.2. Photo of Women “Sent into the Gas Chambers”

As we have already noted, Stanisław Kłodziński added to his message of September 4, 1944, a further photograph showing

*“a place in the woods where people undressed supposedly to go to take a bath and then went into the gas.”*

The photograph in question<sup>138</sup> is the one corresponding to negative 282 of the Auschwitz Museum.<sup>139</sup> It was likewise attached by R. Dawidowski to his report of September 26, 1946.<sup>140</sup> In 1961, Jan Sehn published it with the following caption:<sup>141</sup>

<sup>136</sup> Cf. document 9.

<sup>137</sup> Deposition by H. Tauber on February 27-28, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-13, p. 10.

<sup>138</sup> Cf. document 12.

<sup>139</sup> Negative 283 shows only trees.

<sup>140</sup> AGK, NTN, 93, p. 49, attachment 34.

<sup>141</sup> J. Sehn, op. cit. (note 75), p. 131. Cf. document 16.



*“Naked victims proceeding to gas chambers. Photograph taken surreptitiously in August 1944, by inmate David Szmulewski, member of the resistance movement.”*

The authorship of Dawid Szmulewski for this photograph was soon repudiated. In 1979, it appeared in an album of photographs published by the Auschwitz Museum with this caption:<sup>142</sup>

*“Birkenau. Women driven to the gas chambers photographed from hiding by a member of the camp resistance movement. The photo was illegally sent to Kraków (Unknown author, 1944).”*

Jean-Claude Pressac analyzed this photograph and asserted that it had been retouched. He mentions two further versions, besides the original, in which faces had been added to the three women in the foreground whereas in the original they had been indistinct, and their bodies, originally of old women and hence unfit for work, had been altered to show young women, fit for work, thus yielding an “embarrassing contradiction,” which had escaped the retoucher. Pressac added:<sup>143</sup>

*“What is more, contrary to popular belief, the women are not ‘running towards the gas chambers’, but are waiting to enter them. The two on the left are taking a few steps and the one on the right is walking normally. The location of the scene makes it possible to state that the western part of Krematorium V, containing the gas chambers, is behind them, not in front.”*

Pressac supposes that the photograph was taken near the south-east corner of the crematorium, looking south-west from a point north-east.<sup>144</sup>

Let us look, first of all, into the location of the scene. Pressac’s hypothesis is clearly wrong, because the sun is in front of the women and also very high above the horizon, as can be deduced from the fact that the shadow of the alleged victims’ heads is projected on their trunks near the neck. Also, the sun illuminates the right side of the faces only partly. Hence, the picture was taken around noon and looking north-west from the south-east. The original photograph has a slightly larger field of view than the one normally shown<sup>145</sup> and in it, in the lower right-hand corner, one of the chimneys of crematorium V appears behind a tree. That it is crematorium V and not crematorium IV is beyond doubt, because otherwise the photograph would have been taken in the opposite direction, from north-west towards south-east.

An analysis of the contents of the photograph furnishes us with further elements for a localization. We see about 15 persons, and at least three men dressed like the ones who appear in the photographs we have just examined. In the foreground, there are four naked women, three grouped on the left and a

<sup>142</sup> Kazimierz Smoleń (ed.), *KL Auschwitz. Fotografie dokumentalne*, Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza, Warsaw 1980, p. 184. Caption in five languages.

<sup>143</sup> J.-C. Pressac, op. cit. (note 113), p. 423.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid., Photo 18a.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid., Photo 17.

single one on the right. The picture is sufficiently clear, showing young faces and bodies.

The alterations of which Pressac has spoken do exist, but in a sense contrary to his interpretation: for the very reason that the original showed faces and bodies of young women – hence fit for work – the “retoucher” has clumsily tried, in line with the official credo, to make them look like those belonging to old women, unfit for work and hence destined to be gassed! This falsification is particularly evident in the picture published by Jan Sehn.<sup>146</sup>

Why are these young women naked in the vicinity of crematoria IV and V? The answer is in the picture itself. It shows, in fact, in the center two large tubs into which two persons, from the rear, are pouring water from two vessels, and from which water runs over.<sup>147</sup> A little further to the right, a hand holds a vessel<sup>148</sup> similar to the one held by the old man in the foreground in the photograph contained in the *Auschwitz Album* mentioned above.<sup>149</sup> Moreover, the man on the right holds a large cylindrical bucket from which water pours out.<sup>150</sup> The scene, shot in August of 1944, therefore contains many elements of a real outdoor bath and no signs of an imminent gassing. The young women were close to the fire-fighting pond located to the east of crematorium IV and the picture was taken from the south-east to the north-west with a bearing of about 330 degrees.

Why this outdoor bath? As the presence of the tubs and the pails show, it was an organized affair, probably a makeshift bath due to the overcrowding of the regular showers in the *Zentralsauna* during the deportation of the Jews from the Lodz ghetto.

S. Kłodziński’s message is therefore mendacious, because the women in the picture did not undress “allegedly to take a bath,” but to take a real bath. The person behind the camera tried to hide the truth by moving the camera while shooting his scene, which thus became blurred. The fact that it is blurred is therefore not accidental, but intentional.

### 7.3. Origin of the Photos According to Alter Fajnzyberg

In his account of August 28, 1985, already cited, Alter Fajnzyberg” made precise statements on the origin of the photographs we have just examined:<sup>151</sup>

*“From the vestibule which led to the gas chamber we took – we, meaning Alex, a Greek Jew, myself, and others – one of the three photographs known as those of the resistance movement – which shows nude women coming from a wood. The other two photographs which show corpses lying in front of smoking trenches were taken from the inner door of the gas*

<sup>146</sup> Cf. document 16.

<sup>147</sup> Cf. document 13.

<sup>148</sup> Cf. document 14.

<sup>149</sup> *L'Album d'Auschwitz*, op. cit. (note 117), photograph on p. 194.

<sup>150</sup> Cf. document 15.

<sup>151</sup> Account of Alter Fajnzyberg on August 28, 1985. APMO, Zespół Oświadczenia, vol. 113, p. 6.

*chamber. We took all those pictures with a camera we received from Dawid Szmulewski. It came from the luggage of victims, and there were only three pictures left. Szmulewski took the finished roll and we buried the camera near the crematorium. At the moment, I am not in a position to say where.*

*The cremation trenches, which had an enormous capacity, were situated to the west of the gas chambers of crematorium V, a few tens of meters away from it. There were two trenches, and each one could take up 2000 corpses. The bodies were placed on a layer of wood, in alternating layers of men and women, because they burned better that way. Children's bodies, too, were burned there. The cremation trenches operated at the same time as the ovens. Next to the trenches, channels had been dug for the effluent human fat, but I never saw any fat in there – the bodies burned practically completely.”*

The drawing, which Fajnzylberg-Jankowski has attached to his account, shows the area around crematorium V, which was shielded from view on the south and west sides by a fence made of branches beyond which (to the west) there are two perpendicular cremation trenches.<sup>152</sup> In the drawing of the crematorium the witness has indicated the points, from which the photographs were taken. Those with the corpses are said to have been taken towards the west from the door located in the north-west corner (marked “A” by myself) but that cannot be true, because in that case the enclosure in the background would have run perpendicularly to the line of sight of the camera, whereas in the two photographs it runs at an angle of 310 degrees (from north), not to mention the fact that no air photo of Birkenau shows any smoke in this area.

The photograph of the women is instead said to have been shot from the vestibule door on the south side of the crematorium (marked “B” by myself), but that, too, is wrong, because in that case the view would have been north to south with the sun shining towards the photographer.

The assertion of the witness is ludicrous that each of the trenches, which were 20 meters long, 2 wide, and 2 deep, could have accommodated 2,000 corpses in alternating layers of wood and corpses. If we assume an average area of 0.75 sqm per corpse, the bottom area of a trench (40 sqm) could have taken up roughly 50 corpses, and if we assume the height of a layer of wood plus a layer of corpses to be about one meter, 2,000 corpses would have formed a (2000÷50 =) tower 40 m high!

Finally, the assertion that there were only three empty pictures left in the camera is likewise wrong, because there exists a fourth photograph taken in the area of the women which, however, shows only trees.<sup>153</sup>

The reference to Dawid Szmulewski – with a different function – is nothing but a concession to the legend about the author of the pictures, which prevailed in the post-war period.

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<sup>152</sup> Cf. document 1.

<sup>153</sup> This photograph was published by J.-C. Pressac, op. cit. (note 113), p. 423.

## 8. Official Analyses of Air Photos

### 8.1. The Analysis by Dino A. Brugioni and Robert G. Poirier

The existence of air photos of Auschwitz-Birkenau was revealed in 1979 by Dino A. Brugioni and Robert G. Poirier, who published 14 photographic images<sup>154</sup> in their well-known 19-page booklet. Their analysis was not only superficial but tainted by a propagandistic desire, which they made precious little attempt to hide. In the photograph of June 26, 1944, they designated as “pits” two points in the northern yard of crematorium V and as “burning” a point in the area of the “*Kläranlage*” (waste water treatment site) located between crematorium III and the *Effektenlager* (the so-called “*Kanada*”).<sup>155</sup> This is their comment:<sup>156</sup>

*“Several indications of extermination activities can be identified in the camp. Smoke can be seen near the camp’s main filtration facility. While this is to be expected near the camp crematoria, where bodies had to be burned in open pits during the hectic days of the Hungarian Jews’ influx, it is a surprise to see it here. There are a number of ground traces near Gas Chambers and Crematoria IV and V which could also be connected with extermination activities. Ground scarring appears to the rear of Gas Chamber and Crematoria IV and is very noticeable to the immediate north and west of Gas Chamber and Crematorium V. These features correlate with eyewitness accounts of pits dug near these facilities; they were no longer present on coverage of 26 July and 13 September 1944. The small scale of the imagery, however, prevents more detailed and conclusive interpretation.”*

In practice, the only plume of smoke present in the picture is situated in a zone, which is not in keeping with the testimonies, whereas in the zone that is, Brugioni and Poirier “identify” pits because according to “eyewitnesses” those pits had to be there!

Since 1979, such a propagandistic use of the air photos has become the rule in official circles. With even more pronounced propagandistic spirit, the claims of the two above authors were taken up by John C. Zimmerman, first in two articles on the Internet,<sup>157</sup> to which I have replied extensively,<sup>158</sup> and then in a book.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>154</sup> *The Holocaust Revisited: A Retrospective Analysis of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Complex*, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington D.C. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Service. 1979.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>157</sup> “Body Disposal at Auschwitz: The End of the Holocaust Denial,” [www.holocaust-history.org/auschwitz/body-disposal/](http://www.holocaust-history.org/auschwitz/body-disposal/), and “My Response to Carlo Mattogno,” [www.holocaust-history.org/auschwitz/response-to-mattogno/](http://www.holocaust-history.org/auschwitz/response-to-mattogno/).

<sup>158</sup> “John C. Zimmerman and ‘Body Disposal at Auschwitz’: Preliminary Observations” and “Supplementary Response to John C. Zimmerman on his ‘Body Disposal At Auschwitz,’” both published online: <http://www.vho.org/GB/c/CM>. All reprinted in a slightly revised version in Germar Rudolf, Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz-Lies*, op. cit. (note 7).

## 8.2. The Analysis by Mark van Alstine

This overly complacent analysis was ordered by Zimmerman from a member of one of the many Jewish anti-revisionist organizations with a propagandistic aim. He states the following in this respect:<sup>159</sup>

*“Late Holocaust History Project member and computer programmer Mark van Alstine examined the May 31 photo for the author and confirms Brugioni’s observation that the White Bunker is in the wooded area where the eyewitnesses said it was. He has identified three pits in the area of the White Bunker that could be used to burn and dispose bodies during the Hungarian operation, which lasted from mid May to mid July 1944. Van Alstine was able to confirm from the photo the existence of three huts that were used for prisoner undressing near the White Bunker. Van Alstine also confirms the existence of the three pits near Krema V each of which he estimates to be about 1150 square feet [ $\approx 106.8 \text{ m}^2$ ] for a total of 3450 square feet [ $\approx 320 \text{ m}^2$ ] of pit space.”*

The source given for this analysis is a “communication” from Mark van Alstine to Zimmerman “dated April 13, 1999”!<sup>160</sup>

## 8.3. The Analysis by Carroll Lucas

This analysis was likewise commissioned by Zimmerman who also gives the following background information:<sup>161</sup>

*“In the Spring of 1998 I began to search someone who could analyze the Auschwitz photos taken by the Allies in 1944. It was quite by accident that I had the good fortune to run across Carroll Lucas. His 45 years of experience with the Central Intelligence Agency and private industry make him one of the world’s foremost experts in the field of photo interpretation. I was interested in the contents of the photos and whether they had been tampered with as alleged by Holocaust deniers. Mr. Lucas agreed to undertake the project and what follows is his comprehensive analysis of the photos.”*

Zimmerman actually published the entire report by C. Lucas of 23 pages,<sup>162</sup> but as we shall see, the essential problem of the “cremation pits” of Birkenau is dealt with in only a few lines. Furthermore, the report is not accompanied by any air photos. The reason for this odd fact, which makes the report absolutely incomprehensible to anyone not having those photographs at their disposal, will become clear later.

As far as the period of the alleged mass extermination of the Hungarian Jews is concerned, there are only two photographs, taken on May 31, 1944,

<sup>159</sup> J.C. Zimmerman, op. cit (note 8), p. 243.

<sup>160</sup> Ibid., note 201 on p. 393.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid., p. 275.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid., pp. 276-298.

which show the camp at a sufficiently large scale (1:16,167), one of them has also good coverage of the area around the alleged “Bunker 2.”<sup>163</sup>

This is C. Lucas’ respective technical analysis:<sup>164</sup>

*“Smoke plume.*

*A long thin smoke plume can be observed emanating from disturbed earth alongside a long rectangular building adjacent to the northwestern perimeter of the Birkenau complex. The plume is drifting to the northwest and is most noticeable where it crosses over the perimeter fence. This building had been identified as Crematorium IV [sic!] in several reports.”*

And that is all as to the smoke and the “cremation pits”! C. Lucas then asserts to have identified, in an area south of the crematoria IV and V, an array of trenches which he describes as follows:<sup>165</sup>

*“Twelve of the trenches (having a total length of approximately 800 feet [≈ 240 m]) are open, whereas another 9 trenches (totaling approximately 650 feet [≈ 200 meters]) appear to have been filled in. The open trenches appear to be shallow but precisely oriented, with little scattered soil. They appear to have been dug by hand, with the excavated soil stored between the trenches. These have all the appearances of hand dug, mass grave sites used to dispense the residue from the adjacent crematoria.”*

Aside from these trenches, C. Lucas asserts to have observed more trenches outside the Birkenau camp:<sup>165</sup>

*“Outside the Birkenau complex, situated in a vegetated area near the northwest corner of the perimeter fence, are four, possibly five large, recently bulldozed, linear excavations. They are connected to the complex by a bulldozed trail leading to, and through, the perimeter fence to the area of the above mentioned hand dug trenches. The total length of these excavations is between 1200 [≈ 366 m] and 1500 [≈ 457 m] feet. All appear to have recently been covered over, since no shadows are evident. These excavations have the classic appearance of a mass grave site, and their connection with the trenches within the perimeter fence lends credence to their affiliation with the crematoria.”*

#### 8.4. The “Addendum” to Carroll Lucas’ Analysis

Zimmerman was obviously dissatisfied with this report and tried to induce Carroll Lucas to make some concessions to the official thesis of gassings and cremations. Lucas, obligingly, furnished the following details by “E-Mail”(!):<sup>166</sup>

*“In answer to your question on ‘the Structure.’ You are correct in stating that it exists. In my notes I recorded the existence a small cluster of two, possibly three buildings that are situated approximately 550 feet [≈*

<sup>163</sup> Cf. document 18.

<sup>164</sup> J.C. Zimmerman, op. cit. (note 8), p. 290.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid., p. 291.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid., p. 299.

168 m] outside of the Eastern Security fence of the Birkenau complex, approximately 1500 feet [ $\approx$  457 m] from the northeastern corner of what has been identified as Crematorium III. It can be seen on the 31 May photographic image and also on the 21 December image. On the photography, the structures appear as a small farm house and a couple storage buildings. There is no evidence of security, and nothing that would indicate, or negate, the structure being a gas chamber.”

## 8.5. The Analysis by Nevin Bryant of NASA

U.S scholars Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman have published a book entitled *Denying History. Who Says the Holocaust never Happened and Why Do They Say it?*<sup>5</sup> The authors had approached Dr. Nevin Bryant, head of the Cartographic Applications and Image Processing Applications department of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (managed by the California Institute of Technology) of NASA at Pasadena, California, for an analysis of the Birkenau air photos “by digital technology.” They explain that

*“the photographic negatives were converted to digital data in the computer, then enhanced with software programs used by NASA for aerial and satellite images.”* (p. 143)

However, in spite of such sophisticated technology the authors say absolutely nothing about the presence of mass “cremation trenches” in the air photos, whereas they devoted a full seven enlargements to the identification of columns of detainees marching through the camp!<sup>167</sup>

Robert Jan van Pelt says that when M. Shermer and A. Grobman met with Nevin Bryant he was present as well. Here is what he tells us about the matter:<sup>168</sup>

*“The original CIA analysis was based on study of analog enlargements. With new digital technologies it has become possible, however, to revisit the issue of the evidentiary value of the photos. In April 1996 I visited Los Angeles to meet with Michael Shermer, the editor of Skeptic magazine, and Alex Grobman, the director of the Martyrs’ Memorial and Holocaust Museum. Together we went to NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena to meet with Dr. Nevin Bryant, Supervisor of Cartographic Applications and Image Processing Applications. One of the world leaders in the analysis of aerial and satellite images, Dr. Bryant agreed to analyze with his computers the photos, enhancing the data using software programs used by NASA. The most important results were that the four shaded markings on the roofs of morgue 1 of both crematorium 2 and 3 did belong to the original negative, and were not added later on. Furthermore, Dr. Bryant discovered through comparison of various consecutive exposures taken on*

<sup>167</sup> Cf. my observations in this respect in “Denying Evidence,” op. cit. (note 7), chapter 2.2.8. “Aerial Photographs.”

<sup>168</sup> “The Pelt Report,” p. 211. On: [www.fpp.co.uk/Legal/Penguin/experts/Pelt/index.html](http://www.fpp.co.uk/Legal/Penguin/experts/Pelt/index.html). Van Pelt has briefly related this incident also in his book, op. cit. (note 6), p. 84.

*May 31, 1944 a long line of people moving into the compound of crematorium 5."*

And that is all!

## 8.6. Comments on the Analyses of Air Photos

I must state, first of all, that I have quoted the three analyses mentioned in the reverse order of their importance. The first, Mark van Alstine's, is an amateurish analysis for propaganda purposes. The second is a scientific analysis done by a specialist with a good store of technical equipment. The third was done by a specialist using one of the best technologies available world-wide. This sequence shows that the higher the qualifications of the scientist are, the lower the relevance of the results become as far as the Holocaust is concerned:

- Van Alstine claims to have identified in the photographs of May 31, 1944, three trenches and three "huts" in the area of the so-called "Bunker 2" and "3 cremation trenches" with a surface area of 106.8 sqm each and a total of some 320 square meters.
- Lucas mentions only "a long thin smoke plume" in the northern yard of crematorium V in his report. Later, prodded by Zimmerman, he added "two, possibly three buildings" in the area of the so-called "Bunker 2."
- Bryant, according to M. Shermer and A. Grobman, has identified only columns of detainees within the camp.

This shows the purely propagandistic nature of the first analysis and of the "addendum" of the second.

Actually, Mark van Alstine's analysis is completely wrong. In this respect, we note that:

1. The presence of a small house in the area of the "White Bunker" (the alleged "Bunker 2") does not prove in the least that this small house was used as a homicidal gas chamber.
2. The presence of three trenches in the area around the so-called "Bunker 2" is completely false as shown by an enlargement of the air photo of May 31, 1944, and as results from the fact that Carroll Lucas does not even mention it.
3. The presence of three trenches in the northern yard of crematorium V is clearly false, because C. Lucas did identify a full 21, but:<sup>169</sup>

*"situated within the northwestern perimeter of the Birkenau complex, across the road from a line of barracks and adjacent to, but south of, the two buildings designated as Crematoria IV & V,"*

hence to the south of the crematoria, whereas van Alstine's three alleged trenches are in the north where Lucas, instead, has seen only a smoke plume.

This question will be dealt with in more detail in chapter 10. Let us now move on to C. Lucas' report, on which I have the following remarks to make:

<sup>169</sup> J.C. Zimmerman, op. cit. (note 8), p. 291.



1. C. Lucas does, in fact, not mention the area of the so-called “Bunker 2” where, according to the testimonies, one, two, or four cremation trenches existed on May 31, 1944.
2. In the yard of crematorium V (which he confused with crematorium IV!) C. Lucas has identified only “a long thin smoke plume” and nothing else. He did not even measure the smoking area on the ground!
3. The presence of 21 trenches south of crematoria IV and V appears somewhat improbable, whereas their total length of 1450 *feet* (= about 442 meters) is nonsensical. Crematoria IV and V each had a length of 67,50 meters, thus the overall length of the alleged trenches would have been 6.5 times the length of one of them!
4. The photographs of May 31, 1944, outside the Birkenau camp area, some 160 meters north of crematorium V, actually show traces of four long trenches running north-south.<sup>170</sup> Starting from the west, the first two trenches were 100 meters long, the other two 130 meters. Each of them was about 10 meters wide. What is totally false is that the trenches had been “recently bulldozed” if by “recently” is meant a period of time less than a few months, because the trenches appear to be overgrown to a large extent.

It is clear that the adverb “recently” is a friendly concession by C. Lucas to Zimmerman. Actually, we have here mass graves used in 1942 for the burial of the corpses of registered detainees who died on account of the tragically deficient sanitary conditions in the camp. During 1942, some 48,500 detainees died. From the coke supplies to the crematorium of the main camp we can deduce that some 12,000 were incinerated there, so that some 36,500 corpses had to be cremated in the open, many of them after they had first been buried. Because of the groundwater level, the mass graves could not be made deeper than one meter. Hence, their total volume (some 4,600 m<sup>3</sup>) fits in with the number of persons buried.

The assertion of “two, possibly three buildings” in the area of “Bunker 2” found in the “addendum” is another friendly concession. Actually, J.C. Zimmerman needed three undressing barracks to confirm the respective assertions of R. Höss,<sup>171</sup> and so here the analysts saw what Zimmerman wanted them to see. On inspection, it is clear that on the photographs of May 31, 1944, no barracks can be seen.<sup>172</sup>

The analysis of Nevin Bryant is known to us only through M. Shermer and A. Grobman, two strong opponents of “negationism” who in their book seized every legitimate or, more often, illegitimate means for their reply to the revisionists. It is thus obvious that the analysis of Neville Bryant did not offer them the least holocaustical pretext, otherwise they would have hastened to publish the results of the analysis as “converging evidence” of the alleged extermination at Auschwitz. This is fully confirmed by the fact that – as I have

<sup>170</sup> Cf. document 29.

<sup>171</sup> J.C. Zimmerman, *op. cit.* (note 8), p. 243.

<sup>172</sup> Cf. below, chapter 10.

stressed – not even Robert Jan van Pelt, who was even more interested than Shermer and Grobman to find “converging evidence,” makes the slightest mention of the essential question of cremation trenches.

Therefore, the *Jet Propulsion Laboratory* managed by the *California Institute of Technology* of NASA at Pasadena, California, did not find any cremation trenches or undressing barracks. It is clear that the smoke plume rising from the north yard of crematorium V could not have escaped Nevin Bryant’s eye, therefore one has to conclude that both Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman as well as Robert Jan van Pelt have preferred not to mention it at all, obviously because they realized that such a small outdoor cremation activity is in absolute contrast with all the testimonies of the members of the so-called “*Sonderkommando*”!

## 9. What Air Photographs Should Show

### 9.1. The Deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz

According to the most recent results of revisionist historiography, the number of Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz amounted to a total of about 398,400, of whom 106,700 were immediately registered or admitted into the transit camp of Birkenau without registration and then transferred to other camps;<sup>173</sup> hence the percentage of those allegedly gassed would be about 73%.

The existing documents allow us to sketch the following table of the deportation of the Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz up to May 31, 1944:

Date	Total deportees	Total trains	Incremental no. of deportees	Average daily no. of deportees	Incremental no. of trains
May 25	138,870 <sup>174</sup>	44	-	-	-
May 28	184,049 <sup>175</sup>	58	45,179	15,600	14
May 31	217,236 <sup>176</sup>	69	33,187	11,062	11

The first trains from Hungary left on May 14 and arrived at Auschwitz on May 17. Moreover, the first trains that left the country on June 25, after a pause of four days, arrived at Auschwitz on June 28. Finally, the last deportation trains – which left on July 8 – reached Auschwitz on July 11. One may therefore assume that for the trip from Hungary to Auschwitz three days were needed on average.<sup>177</sup> It follows that the 184,049 persons deported by May 28 would have reached Auschwitz by May 31. Furthermore, as another 11 trains

<sup>173</sup> C. Mattogno, “Die Deportation ungarischer Juden von Mai bis Juli 1944. Eine provisorische Bilanz,” *Vierteljahresshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung*, 6(4) (2001), pp. 381-395, here p. 385 and 389.

<sup>174</sup> NG-5608.

<sup>175</sup> T-1163.

<sup>176</sup> NG-5623.

<sup>177</sup> This results from a comparison of the departure date of the trains and the dates of the registration of the deportees at Auschwitz. C. Mattogno, op. cit. (note 173), pp. 392f.

left Hungary between May 29 and 31, with 33,187 deportees on board, there would be at least three or four trains arriving at Auschwitz on May 31 with a departure date of May 28, i.e. 9,051<sup>178</sup> or 12,068<sup>179</sup> more deportees. On May 30, on the other hand, 4 or 5 trains arrived with 12,908<sup>180</sup> or 16,135<sup>181</sup> deportees.

In conclusion, using rounded figures, at least some 12,900 deportees arrived on May 30, and at least another 9,050 on May 31. The list of deportees published by R.L. Braham<sup>182</sup> cannot be used because it does not correspond to the Veesenmayer reports, neither with respect to the number of deportees nor with respect to the number of trains.

The persons allegedly gassed would therefore be:

- up to May 31, 1944:  $(184,049 \times 0.73 =)$  roughly 134,300
- on May 30, 1944:  $(12,908 \times 0.73 =)$  roughly 9,400
- on May 31, 1944:  $(9,050 \times 0.73 =)$  roughly 6,600.

## 9.2. Number and Distribution of Cremated Bodies

The maximum theoretical capacity of the Birkenau crematoria, taking into account a possible presence of children among those cremated, would have been 1,104 corpses per day.<sup>183</sup> Hence, between May 17 and 31, over 15 days, the crematoria would have been able to handle  $(15 \times 1,104 =)$  roughly 16,600 corpses at the most. This, however was impossible in practice, because – as we shall see in chapter 10.4 – all the Birkenau crematoria were undergoing repairs, their capacity was therefore in the best of cases seriously impaired.

But let us leave that aside. Out of the 134,400 allegedly gassed persons, 16,600 would then have been incinerated in the crematoria. That would leave about 117,700 for the cremation trenches, i.e., within those 15 days roughly  $(117,700 \div 15 =)$  7,850 corpses per day on average for outdoor cremation.

## 9.3. Surface Area Required for Cremation Trenches

As results from the study of the groundwater level at Birkenau, the depth of the cremation pits was limited to one meter or less, which means that they could, at best, contain one layer of wood and bodies. The only system of cremation that could be realized in this way was the pyre: arrangement of the corpses on a layer of wood and setting it on fire. The kind of continuous operation described by some witnesses (corpses thrown into a trench already on fire) could not have been implemented for two reasons:

<sup>178</sup> 33,187:  $11 = 3,017$  persons per train;  $3,017 \times 3 = 9,051$  persons in three trains.

<sup>179</sup>  $3,017 \times 4 = 12,068$  persons in four trains.

<sup>180</sup> 45,179:  $14 = 3,227$  deportees per train;  $3,227 \times 4 = 12,908$  persons in four trains.

<sup>181</sup>  $3,227 \times 5 = 16,135$  persons in five trains.

<sup>182</sup> C. Mattogno, op. cit. (note 173), p. 394.

<sup>183</sup> C. Mattogno, F. Deana, "The Crematoria Ovens of Auschwitz and Birkenau," in: Ernst Gauss (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust. The Growing Critique of "Truth" and "Memory,"* Theses and Dissertations Press, Capshaw, Alabama, 2000, p. 398.

1. The temperature of the trench would not have permitted an approach close enough for a body to be thrown into the fire.
2. Even if the persons assigned to this job had worn protective clothing (something no witness has ever mentioned), they could only have launched the bodies to within a few meters of the trench. Such corpses would have accumulated outside of the edge of the trench without increasing the cremation capacity in any way.

For the cremation of an average of 7,850 bodies per day, assuming a surface area of 0.75 square meters per corpse, one would have needed a total area of roughly ( $7,850 \times 0.75 =$ ) 5,900 sqm (7 times the floor area of crematorium IV or V) corresponding to

- 11 trenches as described by H. Mandelbaum (35 m  $\times$  15 m)
- 13 trenches as described by Cz. Mordowicz and A. Rosin (30 m  $\times$  15 m)
- 14 trenches as described by F. Müller (50 m  $\times$  8 m)
- 19 trenches as described by D. Paisikovic (30 m  $\times$  10 m) and by M. Nyiszli (50 m  $\times$  6 m)
- 39 trenches as described by Sz. Dragon (25 m  $\times$  6 m)
- 82 trenches as described by S. Bendel (12 m  $\times$  6 m)
- 118 trenches as described by J. Rosenblum (10 m  $\times$  5 m)
- 147 trenches as described by S. Jankowski (20 m  $\times$  2 m).

#### 9.4. Earth Removed from Pits

The depth of the mass cremation trenches being limited to one meter by the groundwater level, it would have been necessary to excavate a theoretical volume of ( $5,900 \times 1 =$ ) 5,900 cubic meters of earth. In practice, the effective volume would have been higher, up to 6,500 m<sup>3</sup> because of the well-known expansion of excavated earth, which may reach 10 to 25% of the original volume.<sup>184</sup>

#### 9.5. Fire Wood Needed for Corpse Cremation

The cremation of a corpse in a cremation trench would require an average of some 200 kg of wood (taking into account the presence of children).<sup>185</sup> Hence, total wood consumption up to May 31, 1944, would have amounted to ( $117,700 \times 200 =$ ) 23,540,000 kg or 23,540 metric tons of wood, with an average daily consumption of ( $7,850 \times 200 =$ ) 1,570,000 kg or 1,570 metric tons of wood. To help the reader visualize what this quantity of wood really means, I include a photograph taken by me in 1997 near the former camp at Sobibór.

<sup>184</sup> Guiseppe Colombo, *Manuale dell'ingegnere civile e industriale*, Ulrico Hoepli Editore, Milano 1926, p. 237.

<sup>185</sup> Cf. my article "Combustion Experiments with Flesh and Animal Fat," *The Revisionist*, 2(1) (2004), pp. 64-72.

One can see enormous piles of wood.<sup>186</sup> In the foreground, we have a pile some 30 meters long and on average 2.5 meters high, constituted by pine trunks about 3 meters long and 10-15 cm in diameter. The weight of this pile is about 120 tons, sufficient to burn about 600 corpses. The *daily* requirements for the alleged Birkenau cremations – 1,570 tons – would have been equivalent to 13 piles of wood such as the one shown in the photograph.

A growth of fir trees will produce, over a period of 50 years, about 496 tons per hectare<sup>187</sup> or about 200 tons per acre. Thus, the total consumption of wood up to May 31, 1944, would have been equivalent to the deforestation of over 47 hectares (or about 120 acres or 0.18 square miles) of fir growth, and the daily needs would have required all the wood grown on over 3 hectares (or about 8 acres) of forest. According to sources in India, the cremation of 21,000 Hindus who die each year in a certain region, calls for some 8,100 tons of wood (385 kg of wood per corpse on average), the equivalent of about 227 hectares (or a little less than 600 acres or almost a square mile) of forest area.<sup>188</sup> Assuming these data to be valid for our case, the supply of 23,540 tons of wood to the camp would have resulted in the deforestation of about 660 hectares (or roughly 1,500 acres or 2.6 sq miles) of forest!

According to another source, a 20-year-old tree furnishes four metric quintals (or 900 lbs.) of wood.<sup>189</sup> The 23,540 tons would thus have come from 58,850 felled trees. Where did this enormous quantity of wood come from?

It is known that the series of documents for the “*Arbeitseinsatz*” (labor deployment) for the men’s camp at Birkenau – partly preserved – mentions from July 29, 1944, onwards among the personnel of the crematoria a “*Kommando 61B*” constituted by 30 “*Holzabloader* (wood unloaders) *Krematorium IV*.”<sup>190</sup> From August 5, 1944, onwards “*Kommando 61B*” operated at crematoria II and III (“*Holzabloader Krem. I. u. II.*”), the wood was therefore unloaded also near crematoria II and III, and not only near crematorium V where the alleged mass cremation trenches were located. Thus, the wood was primarily intended for the crematoria. Actually, as early as September of 1943 the crematoria were also being to run on wood. In the list of “Coke and coal for the crematoria in tons” compiled by the Auschwitz Museum on the basis of the original “*Bescheinigungen*” (vouchers), the following deliveries of wood to the crematoria are noted:

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<sup>186</sup> Cf. document 45

<sup>187</sup> G. Colombo, op. cit. (note 184), p. 161.

<sup>188</sup> *Hinduism Today*, June 1994. [www.hinduismtoday.com/1994/6/1994-6-14.html](http://www.hinduismtoday.com/1994/6/1994-6-14.html).

<sup>189</sup> R. Sharma, “The environmental cost of cremation by wood,” in: *The Tribune, Chandigarth, India. Online edition*, April 2001; [www.tribuneindia.com/2001/20010404/edit.htm](http://www.tribuneindia.com/2001/20010404/edit.htm).

<sup>190</sup> Reports “*Arbeitseinsatz*” of the men’s camp at Birkenau. APMO, D-AuI-3/1.; D-AuII-3a/16; D-AuII-3a/25-49. In these reports the crematoria are numbered I-IV rather than II-V.

September 2, 1943:	16 m <sup>3</sup>
September 9, 1943:	20 m <sup>3</sup>
September 12, 1943:	10 m <sup>3</sup>
September 16, 1943:	30 m <sup>3</sup>
October 19, 1943:	20 m <sup>3</sup> . <sup>191</sup>

A pile of wood located between the ruins of crematorium V and the drainage channel still existed in May of 1945 and was photographed by the Poles.<sup>192</sup> It is also visible on the photograph taken on February 19, 1945.<sup>193</sup> It had a length of some 50 and a width of some 3 meters. Assuming a height of 2 meters, the total volume of the pile would be 300 m<sup>3</sup> and its weight about 135 tons – enough to burn 675 corpses in the open air. The *daily* requirements of 1,570 tons of wood for the outdoor cremation of the corpses of allegedly gassed persons would correspond to a volume of about 3,490 m<sup>3</sup> of wood (or close to 1000 cords U.S.), i.e. a pile as long as the one shown, but about 12 times as wide – 35 meters!

Let us now examine this conclusion within the hypothesis of a mass extermination. The report of the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz for the period of May 5-25, 1944, already cited, states the following with respect to the trains bringing the Jewish deportees from Hungary:<sup>194</sup>

*“To the trains of the ‘settlers’ are attached two cars with structural wood<sup>[195]</sup> which they unload at the ‘ramp of death’ and then carry elsewhere to pile it up [...] for themselves.”*

Leaving aside the absurdity of using precious structural wood for purposes of cremation, let us look at the amounts. One open *Güterwagen* (freight car) usually carries a load of 25 tons;<sup>196</sup> therefore each of those trains brought a total of 50 tons of wood to Birkenau. Up to May 31, 1944, 58 trains from Hungary arrived at Birkenau with a maximum of 116 cars of wood or (116 × 25 =) 2,900 tons. However, up until that date, the requirements of wood for the outdoor cremation of the allegedly gassed would have been 23,540 tons, the equivalent of (23,540 ÷ 25 =) 942 freight cars! In actual practice, 24 trains with 40 cars each would have been needed for the necessary fuel. The *daily* load of 1,570 tons of wood would have called for about 63 freight cars, but instead, there were (58 trains ÷ 14 days =) 4 trains per day on average, with a total of only eight freight cars carrying lumber.

The comparison of the photographs taken on May 31 with those taken on December 21, 1944,<sup>197</sup> tells us that the wooded areas to the north and west of the crematoria IV and V outside the camp had remained untouched, thus no wood for the alleged cremation trenches was removed from them.

<sup>191</sup> “Koks i węgiel dla krematoriów w tonnach.” APMO, D-Aul-4, p. 5.

<sup>192</sup> Cf. document 44.

<sup>193</sup> Cf. document 43.

<sup>194</sup> Dodatek nadzwyczajny do okresowego sprawozdania za czas od 5 – 25 V 1944. APMO, D-RO/91, vol. VII, p. 440.

<sup>195</sup> “drzewa budulcowego”

<sup>196</sup> *Meyers Handbuch über die Technik*, Bibliographisches Institut, Mannheim 1964, p. 441, 443.

<sup>197</sup> Cf. documents 30 and 42.

## 9.6. Quantity of Ash Produced

The combustion of this enormous amount of wood, if we assume an experimental content of 8% of ash,<sup>185</sup> would have produced ( $23,540 \times 0.08 =$ ) 1,883.2 tons of ash overall, or some ( $1,570 \times 0.08 =$ ) 125.6 tons of ash per day, corresponding to about ( $125.6 \div 0.34 =$ ) 370 m<sup>3</sup> or 26 truckloads.<sup>198</sup>

The cremation of a corpse yields about 5% of incombustible ash with a density of 0.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.<sup>199</sup> Up to May 31, 1944, we would thus have ( $117,700 \times 58 \times 0.05 =$ ) 341,330 kg or 341.33 tons of human ash. The daily amount would be ( $7,850 \times 58 \times 0.05 =$ ) 22,765 kg or 22.7 tons. Hence, the total amount of ash from both sources would be ( $1,883.2 + 341.3 =$ ) 2,224.5 tons with an average daily rate of ( $125.6 + 22.7 =$ ) 148.3 tons. According to official historiography, the ash was loaded on trucks and dumped into the Vistula river or used as fertilizer on the farms!<sup>200</sup>

For the sifting of the ash, eight “*Siebe*” (sieves) similar to those used for sand were available. Thus each sieve would have been used for ( $148.3 \div 8 =$ ) 18.5 tons or some 52 m<sup>3</sup> of ash per day!

Hence, if the story of the cremation of the Hungarian Jews were true, then the air photos taken on May 31, 1944, would have to show:

- 5,900 sqm of cremation trenches
- 6,500 m<sup>3</sup> of earth extracted from the trenches
- at least 1570 tons of wood for the cremations of the day
- dozens of trucks for the transportation of the wood and the removal of the ash

The question of the trucks, because of its importance, merits our particular attention. The responsibility for the transportation of materials and machinery for construction work around the camp – including the coke supply – lay with the transport section of the Central Construction Office called “*Fahrbereitschaft*” (motor pool). This section was responsible also for the alleged logistical back-up for the extermination: it excavated the trenches, brought in the wood for the cremation, took away the ash etc.

In May of 1944, the motor pool had 18 trucks and 8 tractors available. In the period of March 15 through June 15, 1944, these vehicles undertook a total of 6,315 trips over a total of 86,774 km and transported 30,653 tons of materials, an average of 4.85 tons per trip.<sup>201</sup> In the months of April, May, and June of 1943, the vehicles of the Central Construction Office had gone on 2,389, 2,548, and 2,946 trips respectively, rolling a total of 78,083 kilometers.<sup>202</sup> In

<sup>198</sup> At the rate of 4.85 tons per truckload. The source of this value will be given below.

<sup>199</sup> *Enciclopedia Italiana*, Roma 1949, entry “cremazione,” vol. XI, p. 825; W. Huber, *Die Feuerbestattung ein Postulat kultureller Entwicklung und das St. Galler Krematorium*, published by author, St. Gallen 1903, p. 17.

<sup>200</sup> F. Piper, op. cit. (note 10), p. 171.

<sup>201</sup> *Bericht über den Einsatz der Lastfahrzeuge und Baumaschinen für die Zeit vom 15.3. – 15.6.1944*. RGVA, 502-1-188, p. 83.

<sup>202</sup> *Abschlussbericht über die Tätigkeit der Fahrbereitschaft der Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz für das II. Vierteljahr 1943*. RGVA, 502-1-188, p. 27.

September of 1943, there were 3,237 trips covering a total of 20,516 kilometers.<sup>203</sup> One may, therefore, reasonably assume that within the period of March 15 through June 15, 1944, at least 4,000 trips were effected in the first two months, i.e. between March 15 and May 15, 1944 and that some ( $4,000 \times 4.85 =$ ) 19,400 tons of material were transported.

Hence, between May 15 and June 15 there were 2,315 trips at the outside, for the transportation of 11,253 tons of materials, which agrees perfectly well with the activity of the other months. However, for the cremation of the allegedly gassed persons alone, some ( $23,540 : 4.85 =$ ) 4,853 trips with wood and 40 trips with coke<sup>204</sup> would have had to be made, plus ( $2,224.5 : 4.85 =$ ) 458 trips for the ash, or about 5,350 trips altogether for the sole period of May 17-31, 1944. If we include the further 76,900 Hungarian Jews deported in the first half of June,<sup>205</sup> 60,300<sup>206</sup> of whom are said to have been cremated outdoors, there would be a further requirement for ( $60,300 \times 0.2 =$ ) 12,060 tons of wood necessitating ( $12,060 \div 4.85 =$ ) 2,486 trips and producing another ( $12,060 \times 0.08 =$ ) 965 tons of wood ash, corresponding to ( $965 \div 4.85 =$ ) 199 trips, and ( $60,300 \times 58 \times 0.05 =$ ) 174.8 tons of human ash, equivalent to 36 trips, to which we must add another 40 trips for coke, yielding a total of another 2,761 trips.

If the story of the extermination of the Hungarian Jews were true, then the vehicles of the Central Construction Office would have effected at least 8,111 trips transporting about 39,200 tons of various materials during the period of May 15 through June 15, whereas there were actually, as we have seen, at the most 2,315 trips (and a load of 11,253 tons), a figure even less than the corresponding one for the second quarter of 1943.

The official historians and the witnesses, as has been stated above, quote figures of allegedly gassed and cremated victims that are far higher (F. Piper speaks of 20,000 gassed and cremated persons per day!) and which would make it necessary to multiply by a factor of three all the parameters investigated here (number of persons cremated, surface area of the trenches, amount of wood and ash etc.).

The witnesses describe, moreover, other installations linked with the alleged extermination process, which would have to appear on the aerial photographs:

- a narrow-gauge railway in the area around crematorium V for the transportation of the corpses to the trenches (Tauber, Mandelbaum),

<sup>203</sup> *Tätigkeitsberich der Fahrbereitschaft der Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz O/S für den Monat September 1943*. RGVA, 502-1-181, p. 192.

<sup>204</sup> According to *Aktenvermerk* by Jährling of March 17, 1943 (APMO, BW 30/7/34, p. 54): 7,840 kg in 12 hours = 13,067 kg in 20 hours = 196,000 kg or 196 tons from May 17 to 31, or ( $196 : 4.85 =$ ) 40 trips.

<sup>205</sup> By June 13, 1944, the number of Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz was 289,357 (NG-5619).

<sup>206</sup>  $1,104 \times 15 = 16,560$  (maximum theoretical number of corpses burned in the crematoria);  $76,900 - 16,560 \approx 60,300$  corpses cremated outdoors.



- a fence of branches south and west of crematorium V some 150 meters long<sup>207</sup> (Fajnzyberg-Jankowski),
- a concrete platform measuring 60 by 15 meters (Müller).

Now that we have established what the air photos *would have to show* if the story of the mass extermination of the Hungarian Jews were true, we shall examine what these photographs *actually do show*.

## 10. What Air Photos Really Show

### 10.1. The Area of “Bunker 2”

The technical means employed by C. Lucas and N. Bryant have allowed the discovery of details on the air photos not identifiable by the naked eye, as for example the columns of marching men in the camp. However, there should be objects of such a size, that an unaided analysis is not only possible but even profitable. This is in particular true regarding the alleged cremation trenches together with the mounds of earth excavated from those trenches, the barracks and the smoke. Therefore, let us examine first of all the area of the so-called “Bunker 2.” Mark van Alstine claims that the photographs taken on May 31, 1944, show in this area

1. “Bunker 2” itself;
2. three undressing barracks near “*Bunker 2*”;
3. three non-smoking trenches.

Let us look at the individual points.

1. The presence of a small house in these photographs is not in doubt, but that does in fact not prove that this was “Bunker 2,” i.e. that it contained homicidal gas chambers, in the same way as the presence of crematoria II-V in the same photograph does not prove that there were homicidal gas chambers inside of them.

In my recent book *The Bunker of Auschwitz. Black Propaganda versus History*<sup>208</sup> I have demonstrated that the story of the so-called Birkenau “Bunkers” has no foundation in reality, and this also goes, obviously, for the alleged “Bunker 2.”

I wish to add here that the two air photos taken on May 31, 1944, refute most strongly the thesis of the official historiography. To the west of the house there is in fact an area surrounded by a thick fence which, however, also blocks the road leading from the camp to the house.<sup>209</sup> The trucks with the victims therefore had to stop at the end of this road, the victims had to get off and somehow cross the fence to enter the yard of the house with the risk of escapes and shootings, and all that in full view of the camp. It would have been sufficient to open up a gate in the fence to allow the trucks to enter the yard directly and avoid any such problems.

<sup>207</sup> Length derived from the respective drawing.

<sup>208</sup> Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004.

<sup>209</sup> Cf. document 22.

2. The presence of three trenches in the air photos of May 31, 1944, is clearly wrong, as we can easily see from the fact that Mark van Alstine gives neither their location nor their dimensions. He wants to sell as cremation trenches the three dark zones that are visible to the west of the house which I have numbered 1, 2, and 3 on the corresponding enlargement.<sup>210</sup> The three dark areas have, furthermore, a shape too irregular and too blurred for them to be rectangular trenches. They cannot be the shadows cast by the edges of the trenches either, because the direction of the sun rays, from south-east to north-west,<sup>211</sup> follows more or less the direction of dark zone no. 1, therefore the three dark zones would have been fully illuminated. Mark van Alstine's claim is, moreover, at variance with the testimonies that speak of one (Chasan, Venezia), or two (Nyiszli, Paisikovic) or four trenches (Müller), but not of three. We have seen earlier in this book that Paisikovic claimed to have worked for two weeks – between May 23 and June 6 – near “Bunker 2,” which means that on May 31, 1944, he was in the area where the extermination activity was going on day and night. The two cremation trenches (30 by 10 or 30 by 6 meters) should have been running full blast, cremating some 5,000 corpses per day according to F. Piper. The daily wood requirements would have been about 1,000 tons and about 94 tons of ash would have been generated. However, neither in this nor in any other air photo showing the area around the alleged “Bunker 2” do we see any traces of smoke or any kind of activity on the part of the 100 or 150 detainees who were allegedly working there. On the contrary: we have seen that the road leading to the outer yard of the alleged “Bunker 2” was blocked off by a thick fence and it was therefore impossible to bring these 1,000 tons of wood into that yard, close to the cremation trenches, and it would likewise have been impossible to move away the daily load of 94 tons of ash. Thus, the air photo of May 31, 1944, shows not only no cremation trenches around “Bunker 2,” but demonstrates also that a mass cremation in that area was not feasible.
3. The claim that the images in question show “the existence of three huts that were used for prisoner undressing near the White Bunker” is an overt lie, obviously based on the false testimony by Filip Müller who asserted that near “Bunker 2” (which he calls “Bunker V”) there existed indeed “three wooden barracks,” and so Mark van Alstine, urged by Zimmerman, *had* to find them! We know that Zimmerman solicited C. Lucas in the same way, who had not quite grasped what he was *supposed* to find in the photographs, however, and later remedied that mistake in his “addendum,” speaking of “two, possibly three buildings.” Actually only three rectangular shapes of leveled ground appear near the little house. The smallest one measuring about 12 by 32 meters, the other

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<sup>210</sup> Cf. document 21.

<sup>211</sup> This is derived from the shadow projected by the chimneys of the crematoria

two about 12 by 42 meters. We have here a leveling of the ground for the installation of barracks, certainly not barracks already erected. There is not the least doubt regarding the absence of barracks in the images of May 31, 1944 – all one has to do is to compare the three rectangles just mentioned with the real barracks of the camp, such as those of the *Effektenlager*. Document 19 shows (from east to west) barracks 8-13 and 28-30 of the *Effektenlager*. The three barracks in the first row below the *Zentralsauna* (i.e. to the east of it) and two in the second row were “*Effektenbaracken Typ 501/34*,” also called “*Luftwaffenbaracken*” (air-force type barracks), which measured  $12.64 \times 41.39$  meters,<sup>212</sup> whereas one in the second and three in the third row were “*Pferdestallbaracken Typ 260/9*,” (horse-stable barracks) having dimensions of  $9.56 \times 40.76$  meters.<sup>213</sup> In section 3 below, I shall come back to the question of the barracks.

In conclusion it can therefore be said that none of the three experts called up by Zimmerman has identified in this area (or along the road leading to the camp) any real trace of an extermination activity. The zone appears to have been completely abandoned (to the point that the fence around the house blocked the access road) and, as Carroll Lucas has pointed out, “there is no evidence of security.”

## 10.2. The Area of Crematorium V

With respect to the area of crematorium V, Mark van Alstine claims that the photographs of May 31 show the existence of three cremation trenches, each having a surface area of about 106.8 square meters. Carroll Lucas, on the other hand, has seen only a “thin smoke plume,” whereas R.J. van Pelt, M. Shermer, and A. Grobman have preferred to keep quiet about Nevin Bryant’s observations. The smoke plume is, in fact, visible, but the smoking area on the ground does not exceed 50 sqm and could not have accommodated more than about 60-70 corpses for cremation.<sup>214</sup> The smoke rises over roughly 7-8 linear meters near the (eastern) extremity of a dark rectangle some 25 meters long and 6 meters wide.<sup>215</sup>

If, on the other hand, the gassing and the cremation of the Hungarian Jews were an actual fact, the air photos would have shown an inferno – with cremation trenches that burned continuously for 48 hours (H. Tauber), 24-48 hours (H. Mandelbaum) or 24 hours (Sz. Dragon) – described by the witness Otto Wolken<sup>216</sup> in the following terms:<sup>217</sup>

<sup>212</sup> “*Bauantrag zum Ausbau des Kriegsgefangenenlagers der Waffen-SS in Auschwitz O/S. Errichtung von Effektenbaracken*,” BW 33. RGVA, 502-1-230, p. 108.

<sup>213</sup> “*Bauantrag zum Ausbau des Kriegsgefangenenlagers der Waffen-SS in Auschwitz O/S. Errichtung von 25 Stck. Effektenbaracken*,” March 4, 1944. RGVA, 502-1-230, p. 100.

<sup>214</sup> If we assume a surface area of 0.75 sqm occupied by one corpse.

<sup>215</sup> Cf. documents 23 and 24.

<sup>216</sup> Austrian detainee No. 128828 was deported to Auschwitz on June 20, 1943. Transferred to Birkenau at the end of July and worked at walk-in camp clinic (*Ambulatorium*) of quarantine camp BIIa from October 2.

“The 4 chimneys<sup>[218]</sup> of the crematoria belched smoke day and night, day and night the heavy smoke of the cremation trenches hung over the camp and at night the sky was tainted bright red.”

In his famous “Chronicle” of the Birkenau camp, the witness adds:<sup>219</sup>

“This was the time of the large Hungarian transports. The crematoria turned out to be too small for the incineration of so many thousands of people and two large pits were therefore excavated which allowed the simultaneous burning of 5000 and more corpses. The stifling smoke hung over the camp day and night. At night, the sky was colored dark red far and wide.”

This is in contradiction not only with the air photos, but also with the following statement by Rudolf Höss:<sup>220</sup>

“On account of enemy air activity from 1944 on, burning at night was no longer allowed.”

This decree had come into force already in December of 1943. In the *Standortbefehl* (garrison order) Nr. 55/43 dated December 15, 1943, the camp commander at the time, *SS-Obersturmbannführer* Liebehenschel, specified:<sup>221</sup>

“Blackout. On the basis of the strengthening of air-defense measures for the Auschwitz area, immediate total blackout is hereby ordered.”

### 10.3. The Photo of August 23, 1944

In early 2004, a new photograph of the Birkenau area, taken by an RAF aircraft on August 23, 1944, appeared on the Internet.<sup>222</sup> Compared to the photographs known until then, it presents some interesting particulars.

#### 10.3.1. The Area of “Bunker 2”

Two barracks appear in the area of the alleged “Bunker 2.”<sup>223</sup> A new road from the western gate of the camp (next to the *Effektenlager*) passes between the two barracks after having joined up with the old road a little earlier to form the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle. There is now a passage in the fence, which according to in earlier photos had blocked access to the yard of the house, now allowing access to the inner yard (the one towards the camp) and to the outer yard on the other side. The fence of the inner yard extends some

<sup>217</sup> AGK, NTN, 88 (Höss trial), p. 45.

<sup>218</sup> Actually, there were 6 chimneys at the 4 crematoria because crematoria IV and V each had 2 chimneys.

<sup>219</sup> “*Chronik des Lagers Auschwitz II/BIIa nach orig. Dokumenten von Dr. Otto Wolken, Wien, Hftl. 128828.*” AGK, NTN, 88 (Höss trial), p. 61.

<sup>220</sup> Martin Broszat (ed.), *Kommandant in Auschwitz. Autobiographische Aufzeichnungen des Rudolf Höss*, Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, Munich 1981, p. 165.

<sup>221</sup> Norbert Frei, Thomas Grotum, Jan Parcer, Sybille Steinbacher, Bernd C. Wagner (eds.), *Standort- und Kommandanturbefehle des Konzentrationslager Auschwitz 1940-1945*, K.G. Saur, Munich 2000, p. 380.

<sup>222</sup> On site [www.evidenceincamera.co.uk/images/Large/concl1.htm](http://www.evidenceincamera.co.uk/images/Large/concl1.htm). Cf. document 36.

<sup>223</sup> Cf. document 37.

twenty meters towards the camp, up to the end of the barrack in the north, with a corresponding enlargement of the yard area.

The two barracks are already apparent on the photograph of June 26 1944.<sup>224</sup>

Were those the undressing barracks that the witnesses spoke about? Let us examine this hypothesis, beginning with the number of the barracks. The three essential witnesses on the subject of “Bunker 2” are M. Nyiszli, D. Paisikovic, and F. Müller.

As we have already seen, for M. Nyiszli the so-called “Bunker 2” was not a gas chamber but merely an undressing room for the victims who were killed by a shot in the back of the neck with a small-caliber gun, hence the undressing barracks never existed. Paisikovic does not mention them at all in the two declarations noted above. At the Auschwitz trial in Frankfurt, he states the following:<sup>225</sup>

*“The victims first went into the undressing room. Then they were led by the SS into the Bunker and we had to take their clothes out. [...]”*

*We had to carry out the clothes. The trucks were already waiting outside and all had to be done quickly.”*

The witness speaks of a single “*Auskleideraum*” (undressing room) and says nothing about any barracks. It is important to remember that Paisikovic claims to have worked at “Bunker 2” for only two weeks (hardly eight days according to his statement of 1963),<sup>226</sup> from the end of May through the beginning of June of 1944, therefore the undressing room (just as the two cremation trenches on fire) should already appear on the photograph of May 31, 1944, but there is no trace of it.

Müller, on the other hand, does speak of barracks, but for him there were three:<sup>227</sup>

*“The undressing rooms, in which the victims had to remove their clothing before being gassed, were located in three wooden barracks”*

Hence, the three essential witnesses do not only contradict one another regarding the barracks, but the only one who speaks of them mentions three, whereas on the air photo of May 31, 1944, there are none, and on the one taken on August 23 one can see two.

Let us look at the function of these barracks:

On August 30, 1944, two members of the secret resistance movement of the camp, “Stakło” (Stanisław Kłodziński) and “J.,” sent the following secret message to the outside:<sup>228</sup>

*“The gassing of the Jews still continues. Transports from Lodz, Holland, and Italy. The trenches, in which the people gassed at Birkenau are*

<sup>224</sup> Cf. document 31.

<sup>225</sup> H. Langbein, *Der Auschwitz-Prozess. Eine Dokumentation*. Europa Verlag, Vienna, 1965, vol. 1, p. 98.

<sup>226</sup> ROD, c[21]96, p. 1.

<sup>227</sup> F. Müller, op. cit. (note 61), p. 212.

<sup>228</sup> APMO, D-RO/85, vol. II, p. 126.

*burned when the crematoria are insufficient, are now being filled in<sup>[229]</sup> to hide the traces.”*

This means that the outdoor cremation activities for the corpses of the allegedly gassed came to a stop at that time, as did, for the same reason, the activity of “Bunker 2.”

However, the two barracks are still visible on an air photo taken on November 29, 1944,<sup>230</sup> which shows also the house (the alleged “Bunker 2”). According to the normal practice at Auschwitz, the availability of barracks being insufficient, barracks would be dismantled and rebuilt elsewhere for other uses as soon as they no longer had a function. But if the barracks were undressing rooms for the alleged victims of “Bunker 2,” why were they left in place for another three months after the end of their usefulness? The matter is all the more mysterious as, according to Danuta Czech, the alleged order “stop gassings” arrived at Auschwitz on November 2, 1944.<sup>231</sup>

No known document mentions those two barracks and it is therefore difficult to say what their function was. It seems certain, though, that they had some sort of direct relationship with the deportation of the Hungarian Jews.

The two barracks stood on two leveled rectangles that can be seen on the photograph of May 31, 1944, thus, the decision to build them had been taken earlier. They were erected between May 31 and June 26, 1944. The Hungarian Jews were deported between mid-May and early June and brought with them to Birkenau enormous quantities of personal objects, which were piled up in front of the barracks of the *Effektenlager* as shown by various photographs taken at the time.<sup>232</sup> It is possible that the two barracks, erected not far from the *Effektenlager*, were to take up those goods that had to be sheltered from the weather. The enlargement of the yard of the alleged “Bunker 2” could have the following explanation: the yard was the place where the goods were unloaded and where they were then sorted by detainees and stored in the two barracks.

### 10.3.2. The Area of Crematorium V

As opposed to the zone around the alleged “Bunker 2,” there is a column of smoke in the yard north of crematorium V.<sup>233</sup> When comparing this image with the photograph taken on May 31, one can see that the smoking area is now some 30 meters further west.<sup>234</sup> The location of this area with respect to the north door of the alleged gas chamber corresponds exactly to the field of view of photographs 277 and 278 which show a scene of outdoor cremation.<sup>235</sup>

<sup>229</sup> “obecnie zasypujq”

<sup>230</sup> NA, Record Group no. 373, Mission: 15 SG/887 5 PG. Can: D 1610. Exposure: 4058. Cf. document 41.

<sup>231</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), p. 921.

<sup>232</sup> *L'Album d'Auschwitz*, op. cit. (note 117), photographs 121-125 on pp. 150-155.

<sup>233</sup> Cf. document 38.

<sup>234</sup> Cf. document 25, encircled area.

<sup>235</sup> Cf. document 27.

The photograph of August 23, 1944, therefore shows from the air what photographs 277 and 278 show on the ground. The cremation area stood at about 7 by 7 meters in size, and this order of magnitude agrees perfectly well with my analysis of the two terrestrial photographs mentioned.

At the western corner of fence 35 there was a guard tower which still exists today.<sup>236</sup> Starting from there and going east, on the fourteenth pillar a lamp to illuminate the fence had been installed, which is also present on the second pillar from the left in document 26. Photograph 278 clearly shows two pillars of the enclosure, but without lamps. For that reason, it covers a field of view which begins to the right (to the east) of pillar 14. This is confirmed by the fact that the field of view of this photograph meets fence 35 a few meters before the 14th pillar.<sup>237</sup> Therefore the field of view of photograph 278 matches well with the area between the third pillar (from the left) and the eighth of document 26.

The new cremation site already appears on the air photo taken on July 8, 1944.<sup>238</sup> There is, in fact, a column of white smoke rising from it, whereas the chimneys of the crematoria actually do not produce any smoke. The area of the alleged "Bunker 2" is outside the picture.

Thus, there were two cremation sites in the yard of crematorium V, but they were used in succession. This point of fact is at variance with all the testimonies, which speak of between two and five trenches in that area (J. Sehn even has 6). Of these testimonies, the most important one is the one by Fajnzylberg-Jankowski, the only witness to have indicated the number, the locations, and the dimensions of the alleged cremation trenches, but his drawing<sup>239</sup> is completely refuted by the air photos.

### 10.3.3. The Historical Framework

Chronologically speaking, the newly discovered photograph fits into the period of the deportation to Auschwitz of the Jews from the Lodz ghetto. According to the Holocausters it should therefore show a scene of outdoor mass cremation of corpses belonging to persons from this ghetto who had been gassed.

However, even a man like Robert Jan van Pelt<sup>240</sup> has contested F. Piper's<sup>241</sup> official figures of 60,000-70,000 persons claimed to have been brought to Auschwitz from this ghetto, reducing it to 25,000. In a separate article<sup>242</sup> I have demonstrated *on the basis of documents* that the Jews from Lodz taken to

<sup>236</sup> Cf. document 28.

<sup>237</sup> Cf. document 26, where the 14th pillar is designated by the letter L.

<sup>238</sup> NA, Record Group no. 373. NA, Record Group no. 373. Film: 14/44 /LGK VIII) B. Nr. 123 (German photograph)

<sup>239</sup> Cf. document 1.

<sup>240</sup> R.J. van Pelt, *op. cit.* (note 6), p. 112.

<sup>241</sup> F. Piper, *op. cit.* (note 10), p. 166.

<sup>242</sup> C. Mattogno, "Das Ghetto von Lodz in der Holocaust-Propaganda. Die Evakuierung des Lodzer Ghettos und die Deportationen nach Auschwitz (August 1944)," *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung*, 7(1) (2003), pp. 30-36.

Auschwitz numbered some 22,500, of whom no less than 11,500 adult women were transferred to Stutthof without having previously been registered. There were at least some forty-odd children among them aged between 6 months (the youngest one being Jacob Gittel, born March 6, 1944!) and 14 years, whom I have listed and who were obviously not gassed.

Of the men, 3,076 were registered; the fate of the 7,900 others is unknown. Up to August 22, 1944, five transports from Lodz arrived at Auschwitz (on August 15, 16, 17, 21, and 22) with some 12,500 Jews, 1,100 of whom were registered and 6,400 sent on to the transit camp at Birkenau without registration, waiting to be moved on. Even under the assumption that the remaining 5,000 were gassed (but if the children mentioned above were not gassed, why should the adult men have been gassed?), this would have happened within the span of eight days. On August 22, about 1,200 Jews are said to have been gassed, a load, which the crematoria could have swallowed without choking, if we follow F. Piper. As we have seen above, he has, in fact, dared to write that the Birkenau crematoria were able to cremate 8,000 corpses per day! Furthermore, according to D. Czech's *Kalendarium*,<sup>243</sup> no transport at all arrived on August 23. Thus, on that day there were absolutely no gassed victims to be burned outdoors. How can we then explain the column of smoke visible on the photograph taken on August 23? It could only have been registered detainees who had died in the camp.<sup>244</sup>

#### 10.3.4. The Problem of the Absence of Smoke Rising from the Chimneys of the Crematoria

Another important problem which arises from the air photos is that of smoke coming from the chimneys of the crematoria. This is particularly evident in the two photographs taken on May 31, 1944, and on the one taken on August 23, 1944. In an article written in 1998, Jean-Claude Pressac has stated the following:<sup>245</sup>

*"A crematorium does not emit smoke, because the manufacturers have banned smoke as early as the very first European congress on incineration held at Dresden in 1876. For the Topf Co., the will to manufacture ovens which would not generate smoke was a constant preoccupation ever since the foundation of the company; in fact, the first two patents filed by Johann Andreas Topf (No. 3855 filed March 16, 1878 and No. 7493 filed February 14, 1879) concern smoke-absorbing ovens. The technical leaflets for prospective customers promised them that 'Topf type 'ovens ensure a complete and smoke-free combustion'. Prüfer was under the obligation to fulfill this double requirement (professional and legislative) even with the concentra-*

<sup>243</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), p. 861.

<sup>244</sup> As we have seen above, H. Mandelbaum asserted that also registered detainees who had died in the camp were burned in the trenches, which does not make sense from the point of view of the extermination of Jews.

<sup>245</sup> Jean-Claude Pressac, "Enquête sur les chambres à gaz," in: *Les Collections de l' Histoire*, supplement to magazine *L' Histoire*, No. 3, October 1998.



tion camp ovens, as he confirmed to the Smersh officers who interrogated him on March 5, 1946.

*That is why none of the photographs taken by the American air force show smoke coming from the six chimneys of the four crematoria.*"

In a previous article,<sup>71</sup> I have already demonstrated that Pressac's claims are not only technically unsound – because the chimneys of civilian crematoria, especially coke-fired ones, inevitably smoke – but also in contradiction with his own correct observations of 1989. In the caption of a photograph of crematorium II from the Kamann series, he had in fact noted:<sup>246</sup>

*"The Krematorium had already been at work, as we can see by the soot at the top of the chimney."*

And the soot can also be observed at the top of the western chimney in a photograph of crematorium V.<sup>247</sup>

The Auschwitz Album contains at least six photographs – taken on May 26, 1944 – which show the chimneys of the four Birkenau crematoria: the upper edges are black with soot but none of them smoke.<sup>248</sup>

Robert Jan van Pelt fully agrees with my point of view and substantiates it with arguments taken from the "history of cremation technology."<sup>249</sup> Also, the fact that the Birkenau crematoria, when operating, emitted smoke, and lots of it, is even evidenced by an air photo, which no scholar has yet discussed: that of August 20, 1944,<sup>250</sup> which shows a dense column of smoke rising in a spiral from the chimney of crematorium III.<sup>251</sup>

In the following table, I have summarized the situation as presented by the air photos of Birkenau with respect to the presence of smoke:

Date in 1944	Smoke from the chimneys of any of the crematoria	Smoke from the north yard of crematorium V	Smoke from the area of "Bunker 2"
May 31	No	Yes	No
June 26	No	No	No
July 8	No	Yes	No
August 20	KIII	Yes	No
August 23	No	Yes	No
August 25	No	No	No
September 13	No	No	No

Therefore, no photograph shows any smoke in the area of the so-called "Bunker 2," one photograph shows smoke over one chimney of a single crematorium, and three photographs show smoke over the northern yard of crematorium V.

<sup>246</sup> J.-C. Pressac, op. cit. (note 113), p. 341.

<sup>247</sup> Ibid., p. 419. The chimney is covered by a branch.

<sup>248</sup> *L'Album d'Auschwitz*, op. cit. (note 117), photographs 6, p. 51, 7, p. 53, 17, p. 63, 157, p. 182, 99, p. 131 and 125, p. 155.

<sup>249</sup> R.J. van Pelt, op. cit. (note 6), pp. 503f.

<sup>250</sup> Cf. document 34.

<sup>251</sup> Cf. document 35.

In the light of what has been said above, the absence of any smoke rising from the chimneys of a crematorium *is proof* of its inactivity. Other documents show that during the entire period of the deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz, the crematoria of Birkenau, far from being in operation 24 hours a day as the witnesses have declared, were again and again under repair.

As early as May 4, 1944, the head of construction of the Birkenau camp asked the local *Kommandantur* for a “*Bescheinigung auf der Ausweiskarte*” (entry on the ID card) for the civilian employee Jährling, giving the following reason:<sup>252</sup>

“[Civilian employee] *Jährling* has to do mounting supervisions in sections I, II, and III. Besides, *Jährling* has been charged with the supervision of repair works in the crematoria.”

On May 9, the head of construction submitted to the *Kommandantur* of concentration camp II another request for “permission of access to crematoria I-IV,” worded as follows:<sup>253</sup>

“*This office requests permission of access to be granted for the ID cards joined, as the Koehler Co. has been ordered to perform urgent repairs on the crematoria.*”

On May 13, the head of construction requested a specific permit for a bricklayer of the Koehler Co., giving the following reason:<sup>254</sup>

“*The bricklayer Apolinary Golinski, born Aug. 5, 1904, has been ordered by the Koehler Co. to perform repairs on the crematoria. We request to endorse his temporary ID card with a permit to enter same.*”

The Koehler Co. had built the chimneys and the flues of the crematoria, hence in early May of 1944 all four Birkenau crematoria showed brickwork damage on these structures. But at the time, the cremation ovens, too, were damaged, as results from the following work list of the inmate locksmith workshop:<sup>255</sup>

- “Apr. 13, 1944. No. 1483. *Crematory administration. Object: Repair of 20 oven doors a. 10. scrapers in crematories I and II [...]. Finished: Oct. 17, 1944.*”
- “June 1, 1944. No. 1600. *Crematory administration. Object: Repair of 30 oven doors in crematoria III and IV, as well as supply of 4 pcs. fire hooks [...]. Finished: June 7, 1944.*”
- “June 7, 1944. No. 1617. *Crematory administration. Object: Daily repairs on crematoria 1 – 4 from June 3 – July 20, 1944. Finished: July 4, 1944*”<sup>256</sup>

<sup>252</sup> RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 380.

<sup>253</sup> RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 377.

<sup>254</sup> RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 375.

<sup>255</sup> *Höss trial*, vol. 11a, p. 96. Spelling errors in the originals.

<sup>256</sup> This date is surely in error. If the repairs were to run from June 3 through July 20, they could not have been terminated by July 4. One should read July 24.

Order no. 1617 refers to the request by SS garrison administration no. 337/4 of May 31, 1944, which means that the damages to be repaired had been observed prior to that date.

Hence, these documents prove that on May 31, 1944, the four Birkenau crematoria were under repair, and that explains why they do not emit any smoke on the corresponding photographs.

The photograph taken on August 20 is particularly important because it does show smoke, both from the chimney of crematorium III and in the north yard of crematorium V. On that day, according to D. Czech's *Kalendarium*, no homicidal gassing was implemented,<sup>257</sup> and the outdoor fire could thus not have any criminal character. Moreover, if the Birkenau crematoria were all four in an operational state, what need was there for an outdoor cremation?

We must furthermore remember that the actual order of magnitude of the outdoor cremations visible on these air photos was about 60-70 corpses per day, a figure that is absolutely out of balance with the story of alleged mass cremations. As we saw in the beginning, F. Piper claims that in the summer of 1944 about 20,000 Jews were gassed each day, with 10,000 of their corpses being cremated in the crematoria and the other 10,000 in the cremation trenches!

## 11. Recapitulation

1. Official historiography knows nothing specific about the cremation trenches and is not in a position to say anything about their number, their location, their dimensions, or their capacity.
2. The testimonies of the former detainees contradict each other regarding the number, location, dimensions, and capacity of the cremation trenches.
3. The testimonies of the former detainees are radically refuted by the air photos of Birkenau.
4. If the story of mass exterminations at Birkenau were true, it would have been necessary and even indispensable during the deportation of the Hungarian Jews to Birkenau to carry out the projects for installations of mass cremation envisioned in early 1943, as is demonstrated by the corresponding fabrications of Jan Sehn and Franciszek Piper.
5. An outdoor cremation activity does emerge from the documents for the summer of 1944, but its order of magnitude is far lower than, and absolutely incompatible with, the enormous figures brandished by official historiography.
6. The ground-level photographs do show an outdoor cremation activity in the north yard of crematorium V, but its dimensions are extremely small and absolutely incompatible with the immense order of magnitude argued by the official historiography.

<sup>257</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), pp. 855-856.

7. The reports of the motor pool of the Central Construction Office for the period March 15 through June 15, 1944, show a perfectly normal activity of the vehicles. For the month of May 15 through June 15 there is a maximum of 2,315 trips with a total load of 11,253 tons of materials (in September of 1943 there were 3,237 trips!). However – assuming the hypothesis of a mass extermination – 8,111 trips for a total load of 39,200 tons would have been necessary merely for the transportation of the firewood and coke and for the removal of the ash. In the same way, the report in question should show at least 14,426 trips instead of 6,315, with a load of at least 69,853 tons instead of 30,653 tons for the three-month period covered.
8. If the story of a mass extermination at Birkenau were true, the air photos would show:
  - cremation trenches with a minimum surface area of 5,900 square meters in the area both around “Bunker 2” and around crematorium V,
  - piles of earth excavated from the trenches with a total volume of at least 6,500 cubic meters,
  - a supply of at least 1,570 tons of wood for the cremation of May 31, corresponding to a pile of wood 50 m long, 35 m wide and 2 m high, i.e. a total surface area larger than crematoria IV and V put together,
  - dozens of trucks for the transportation of the wood and the removal of the ash,
  - a camp railway with flatcars for the transportation of the corpses from the gas chambers to the cremation trenches,
  - a concrete platform 60 by 15 meters (or 900 sqm) i.e. a surface area larger than crematorium V in the yard of this very crematorium,
  - a fence made of branches running south and west of crematorium V, some 150 m long,
  - smoking chimneys at the crematoria.

Actually, however, the air photos show:

- a smoking area on the ground of some 50 sqm near crematorium V and no trace of trenches or smoke around “Bunker 2,”
- no trace of any earth excavated from the trenches and piled up near them,
- no trace of any stock of wood for the cremation,
- no trace of any trucks,
- no trace of a camp railway,
- no trace of of a concrete platform 60 by 15 meters,
- no trace of a hedge made of branches allegedly some 150 meters long to the south and west of crematory V;
- a single smoke plume rising from the chimney of crematorium III visible only on the photograph of August 20, 1944.

All the documentary and photographic evidence examined in this study converges on a single and irrefutable conclusion:

The story of the gassing and the cremation of the Hungarian Jews at Birkenau has no foundation in history. It is a simple propaganda story invented and structured on the basis of the elements provided by the real but insignificant and sporadic cremation of registered detainees in the yard of crematorium V.

## Part Two: The Birkenau Crematoria in 1944

### 12. The Crematoria Personnel at Birkenau and the Alleged Extermination of Hungarian Jews

#### 12.1. The Problem

In Part One of this study I have demonstrated that the story of the mass extermination of the Hungarian Jews in the period of May through July of 1944 has no historical basis. In this context, however, two important questions regarding the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” remain to be clarified. As Franciszek Piper has noted:<sup>258</sup>

*“the ‘Sonderkommando’ reached its maximum numerical strength (about 900 persons) in early summer of 1944 at the height of the extermination of the Hungarian Jews.”*

Except for F. Piper, the other official historians have only an incredibly superficial knowledge of the documents concerning (*inter alia*) the strength of the personnel of the crematoria. For example, John C. Zimmerman knows no more than two such documents. He writes:<sup>259</sup>

*“However, a camp document dated July 28, 1944 lists 870 stokers (heizer)[sic] and 30 wood unloaders (holzablader)[sic] assigned in two shifts to the four crematoria. A similar report from August 29 shows 874 workers assigned to the four crematoria in two 12 hour shifts. These two reports on the strength of the crematoria detail further reinforce the credibility of the eyewitnesses. This extremely high number is far beyond any amount that would be needed for a normal death rate. There is no benign explanation for this number, and deniers have never addressed the issue.”*

As far as the “credibility of the eyewitnesses” is concerned, I have demonstrated in Part One of this study that *all* testimonies of *all* self-styled “eyewitnesses” (members of the “*Sonderkommando*”) concerning the alleged cremation trenches are – purely and simply – propagandistic lies. I will add that *all* testimonies of *all* self-styled “eyewitnesses” on the subject of the cremation capacity of the Birkenau crematoria are technically ludicrous – starting with D. Paisikovic (“the corpses burned completely within about 4 minutes”) and

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<sup>258</sup> F. Piper, “Lo sterminio massivo degli Ebrei nelle camere a gas,” in: Franciszek Piper, Danuta Czech, Teresa Świebocka, *Auschwitz. Il campo nazista della morte*, Edizioni del Museo Statale di Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1997, p. 154.

<sup>259</sup> J.C. Zimmerman, *op. cit.* (note 8), p. 242.

ending with M. Nyiszli (“each day, a total 20,000 persons move through the gas chambers and from there into the incineration ovens”).<sup>260</sup>

As I have explained elsewhere,<sup>261</sup> these absurd testimonies were concocted by the witnesses together with the experts of the Extraordinary Soviet Commission of Inquiry on Auschwitz and were used to prop up the propaganda story of the extermination of four million persons – a figure which would have found little credence if the “eyewitnesses” had not attributed a decidedly absurd capacity to the Birkenau crematoria.

The other question waiting to be clarified is the following: in the documents that speak of the strength of the crematorium personnel, the latter are subdivided into day and night shifts. Hence, one could argue that the ovens were running day and night, which would be a further confirmation of the mass extermination of the Hungarian Jews.

Let me first state that the term “*Sonderkommando*” as used in connection with the personnel of the crematoria does not appear in any document. These workers, as we will see in the section to follow, were called “*Krematoriums-personal*” in the documents or were indicated by the designation of the corresponding “*Kommando*.” On the other hand, there were at Auschwitz-Birkenau at least 11 “*Sonderkommandos*,” which had nothing to do with the crematoria.<sup>262</sup> There was nothing special about the “*Kommando*” for the crematoria.

## 12.2. Strength and Composition of Crematorium Personnel in 1944

The documentation regarding the strength of the personnel of the crematoria in 1944 is very fragmentary, except for the month of August. I have assembled the data contained in all available documents in the tables in the appendix.

## 12.3. Explanations and Comments

1. We see, first of all, that the increase in the strength of the crematorium personnel is undeniable, but it has no undeniable relationship with the deportation of the Hungarian Jews. On May 15, 1944, the workforce was brought up from 214 detainees (for the period between April 20 and May 3) to 315, but it is not known when it rose to 900 detainees. The latter figure appears for

<sup>260</sup> M. Nyiszli, op. cit. (note 49), p. 38. The English translator writes wrongly: “This meant that several thousand people could be cremated in a single day” (M. Nyiszli, op. cit. (note 50), p. 48) and leaves out the preceding sentence without an explanation: “This means the daily cremation of 5000 persons.”

<sup>261</sup> “The Four Million Figure of Auschwitz. Origin, Revisions, Consequences,” *The Revisionist*, 1(1) (2003), pp. 387-392.

<sup>262</sup> Cf. in this respect my study *Special Treatment in Auschwitz. Origin and Meaning of a Term*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004.

the first time in a document dated July 28, i.e. 17 days after the last transport of Hungarian Jews had arrived at Auschwitz.

2. As we have seen above, John C. Zimmerman finds no “benign explanation” for the increase of the crematorium personnel to over 900 detainees – but does the hypothesis of the mass extermination furnish us with a reasonable explanation?

During the questioning by the Soviet officers, Szlama Dragon and Henryk Tauber agreed on the following distribution of the personnel for one shift (day or night) in crematoria II-III:<sup>263</sup>

Task	# of detainees
Cleaning undressing room, including removal of victims' clothes	15 detainees
Removal of the corpses from the gas chamber	15 detainees
Loading of the corpses into the elevator	2 detainees
“Barbers”	4 detainees
“Dentists”	2 detainees
Operating the gasifiers (i.e. hearths)	2 detainees
Operating the elevator	2 detainees
Unloading the elevator	2 detainees
Transportation of the bodies to the ovens	2 detainees
Introduction of the bodies into the ovens	10 detainees
Assistants to “shift leader”	4 detainees
Total	60 detainees

Henryk Tauber, moreover, has furnished us with the following distribution of detainees to the crematoria:<sup>264</sup>

Crematorium II	120 detainees (in 2 shifts of 60 detainees each)
Crematorium III	120 detainees (in 2 shifts of 60 detainees each)
Crematorium IV	60 detainees
Crematorium V	300 detainees
“Separate gas chamber no. 2 and pyres near it”	300 detainees
Total	900 detainees

Let us look first of all into the personnel of the crematoria. The framework drawn by the witnesses is based on the assumption that 3,000 persons were gassed and cremated each day in each of crematoria II and III.<sup>265</sup> This means that in crematoria II and III alone, 6,000 persons were gassed and cremated on a daily basis. Sixty detainees were assigned to crematorium IV for the gassing of  $(3,000 \div 15 \times 8 =)$  1,600 persons, and crematorium V was not in operation. Based on these proportions, the personnel for the four crematoria and for

<sup>263</sup> Minutes of interrogation of Henryk Tauber on February 27-28, 1945, GARF, 7021-108-8, p. 9;

Minutes of interrogation of Szlama Dragon on February 26, 1945. GARF, 7021-108-12, p. 193.

<sup>264</sup> Minutes of interrogation of Henryk Tauber on February 27-28, 1945, GARF, 7021-108-8, p. 10.

<sup>265</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.



(3,000 + 3,000 + 1,600 + 1,600 =) 9,200 victims per day should have been (120 + 120 + 60 + 60 =) 360 detainees.

However, on January 15, 1944, the personnel of the crematoria amounted to 383 detainees, to 414 detainees on January 31, 1944, and to 405 detainees on February 15, 1944.

According to Danuta Czech's *Kalendarium*, about 5,800 detainees were gassed in all of January of 1944, and some 5,400 in February, i.e. some 190 each day on average. It follows that for an activity 50 times lower than that of the summer of 1944, the workforce in January and February of 1944 was even larger than it was to be later! This clearly shows that there is no relationship between the workforce in the crematoria and the claimed gassings. This is all the more evident because the first documented increase in the workforce occurred at a time – on May 15, 1944 – when the Birkenau crematoria were in a state of repair.<sup>266</sup>

Tauber states furthermore that some 600 detainees worked on the alleged cremation trenches, 300 of them around crematorium V and another 300 near the so-called “Bunker 2.” However, as I have demonstrated in Part One, there has never been any outdoor cremation site in the area of “Bunker 2,” whereas near crematorium V a single site of some 50 sqm is documented. Aside from that, in the two ground-level photographs which show it, we can see only eight detainees at work, a number that is perfectly adequate for the outdoor cremation of a few dozen corpses, But then, what were the other 592 detainees allegedly employed at non-existent cremation trenches doing all day?

3. According to official historiography, the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” was from time to time totally or partially eliminated by the SS as “*Geheimnisträger*” (carriers of secrets) and the detainees making up this unit were perfectly aware of this. M. Nyiszli even goes so far as to state that they were completely eliminated every four months.<sup>267</sup> Danuta Czech writes that on September 23, 1944, “200 Jewish detainees of the *Sonderkommando* who had been assigned to the cremation of corpses in open pits,” were gassed in the disinfection chamber of the so-called *Kanada 1* storage area, “now that the pits have been filled in and leveled.”<sup>268</sup> There is no documentary proof that these detainees were actually killed. The only thing one can say with any certainty is that on September 7 the crematorium personnel numbered 874 and was down to 662 on October 3. Nothing prevents us from believing that the 212 missing detainees were transferred to another camp or assigned to other *Kommandos*. Let me add that the motivation for the alleged massacre – the elimination of witnesses of the alleged mass outdoor cremations – is numerically unconvincing: if we are to believe H. Tauber, then there would have been 600 detainees working on the alleged cremation trenches. From the end of August onwards, once these trenches had become inactive and had been

<sup>266</sup> Cf. Part One, chapter. 10.3.4.

<sup>267</sup> M. Nyiszli, op. cit. (note 50), p. 36: “...and every four months...they were liquidated.”

<sup>268</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), p. 886.

filled in,<sup>269</sup> these 600 “carriers of secrets” were out of work, but in spite of this, they were maintained in the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” up to September 23, the day on which only 200 of them were allegedly killed!

It should be mentioned in passing that Danuta Czech attributes the following motivation to the revolt of the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” of October 7, 1944:<sup>270</sup>

*“On Saturday morning, the resistance movement of the camp informs the head of the fighting section of the Sonderkommando that it had received word about plans by the camp commanders to liquidate soonest the Sonderkommando members still alive. This information probably coincides with the news of a few days back that a move by the SS to reduce the strength of the Kommandos of crematoria IV and V by 300 named detainees, allegedly destined for a transport [elsewhere], is to be carried out around noon. The detainees named decide to resist.”*

So the SS at Auschwitz that is said to have assassinated 200 detainees of the crematoria personnel on September 23 is claimed to have decided to reduce that *Kommando* by another 300 detainees. Under those conditions, the possibility of an insurrection of the intended victims loomed large. How did the camp authorities react to prevent it? In no way at all!

On July 28, 1944, the 903 detainees of the crematorium personnel were watched over by 22 SS guards! The number of guards stayed practically constant throughout the month of August, with a peak of 24 guards on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> for 903 and 897 detainees respectively. On average, there was one guard on duty for 40 detainees. On September 7, the camp authorities which, as alleged, were already planning to exterminate 200 detainees of the crematorium personnel, even reduced the number of guards to 12 for 874 detainees instead of increasing it! On October 3, after the alleged extermination, which is said to have made the SS aware of a revolt among the detainees at the crematoria, there were still only 12 guards for 662 detainees.

The revolt of the “*Sonderkommando*” on October 7, 1944, is not mentioned in any document. The only document which is cited in this context is the garrison order no. 26/44 of October 12, 1944, which states:<sup>271</sup>

*“On active service in the fight against the enemy and true to their oath on the Führer lost their lives on October 7, 1944.”*

This is followed by the names of three *SS-Unterscharführer*, Rudolf Erler, Willi Freese, and Josef Purke. The circumstances of the deaths of these three non-coms are not known.

The strength of the crematorium personnel fell from 661 detainees on October 8 to 212 on the October 9<sup>th</sup> and to 198 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Besides, from the 10<sup>th</sup> onwards, crematorium V remained unmanned, which confirms that it had suffered irreparable damage. On the photograph of December 21, 1944, it ap-

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<sup>269</sup> Cf. Part One, chapter 10.3.1.

<sup>270</sup> D. Czech, *K op. cit.* (note 3), p. 898f.

<sup>271</sup> N. Frei et al. (eds.), *op. cit.* (note 221), p. 499.

pears to have been completely demolished.<sup>272</sup> However, no Central Construction Office document speaking of the causes and the extent of the damage has been found, although such considerations would have entered into the competence of this office. There is no documentary proof that the 463 detainees missing had been killed.

According to D. Czech, a “selection” was made among the 200 detainees assigned to the crematoria on November 26, 1944: 30 were sent to crematorium V, 70 were assigned to the “*Abbruchkommando*” for the demolition of the crematoria and 100 were killed.<sup>273</sup> Danuta Czech tells us that “they were probably shot in one of the cremation trenches at Birkenau,”<sup>273</sup> but she forgets that she had written earlier that these alleged cremation trenches had been filled in at the end of August.

As far as the remaining detainees are concerned, the *Kommando* “53-B Heizer Krematorium IV,” on January 16, 1945, was, in fact, made up of 30 detainees, among whom the Poles Józef Ilczuk (ID 14916), Waław Lipka (ID 2520), and Mieczysław Morawa (ID 5730), all housed in barrack 16 of camp BIIId, had had the functions of Kapo and foremen.<sup>274</sup> But according to the worksheet of January 16, 1945, this *Kommando* did not have any guards!<sup>275</sup>

This document mentions also an “*Abbruchkommando Krematorium*” (demolition commando crematorium) designated 104-B, made up of 70 detainees. It, too, did not have any SS-guards, which proves that the crematorium personnel may well have been assigned to some other *Kommando* and that the reduction in strength did not necessarily mean that those detainees had been killed.

All of the future “witnesses” of the alleged extermination, that is to say: Henryk Tauber, Szlama Dragon, Stanisław Jankowski, Miklos Nyiszli, Henryk Mandelbaum, and Sigismund Bendel, belonged to these two *Kommandos*, but instead of being exterminated as “carriers of secrets,” those hundred detainees were quietly evacuated on January 18, 1945.<sup>276</sup> Another five “carriers of secrets” – Józef Ilczuk, Waław Lipka, Mieczysław Morawa (see above), Władysław Biskup (ID 14501), and Jean Agrestowski (ID 74545) had been transferred to Mauthausen on January 5, 1945, where they are said to have been shot on April 3<sup>277</sup> (but there is no document to sustain this), which means that these detainees were moved from a mass extermination camp to an ordinary concentration camp only to be shot there later on!

Actually, the insignificant number of SS-guards assigned to the crematorium personnel and the normal evacuation of at least 105 detainees that had

<sup>272</sup> Cf. document 42.

<sup>273</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), p. 934.

<sup>274</sup> Irena Strzelecka, “Obóz męski w Brzezince (BIIId). Lipiec 1943-styczeń 1945 rok,” in: *Zeszyty Oświęcimskie*, Wydawnictwo Państwowego Muzeum w Oświęcimiu-Brzezince, 1998, 22, pp. 253, 275.

<sup>275</sup> RGVA, 502-1-67, p. 17a. Cf. document 48.

<sup>276</sup> D. Czech, op. cit. (note 3), p. 971.

<sup>277</sup> “‘Inmitten des grauenvollen Verbrechens.’ Handschriften von Mitgliedern des Sonderkommandos,” *Hefte von Auschwitz*, special issue I, 1972, p. 44.

been part of it demonstrates that the SS at least believed they had nothing to fear from these detainees. Hence, the crematorium *Kommando* was never party to a “terrible secret” (Walter Laqueur’s expression) and was therefore never treated as such.

It is thus clear that the alleged mass extermination did not, in fact, justify the increase of the crematorium staff to over 900 persons, nor did, even less so, the normal cremation activity of the corpses of detainees who had died a natural death. But then why this increase?

The most plausible motive is an administrative one. In the “File memo on inmate deployment in the POW” written on March 1, 1943, by *SS-Untersturmführer* Jährling we can read:<sup>278</sup>

*“On the basis of a meeting of the camp commander, SS-Obersturmbannführer Höss, with the head of Central Construction Office, SS-Sturm-bannführer Bischoff, additional Kommandos in addition to those already assigned to the POW camp should be called in, because several thousand detainees in the camp have [as yet] no assignment.”*

As early as September 4, 1943, the head of Office DII of SS-WVHA, *SS-Obersturmbannführer* Maurer, had complained to *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Schwarz, head of department for labor deployment at Auschwitz, that out of the 25,000 Jewish detainees at Auschwitz only 3.581 were registered as working and had asked:<sup>279</sup>

*“What are the other 21,500 Jews doing all day?”*

As evidenced by *Kommandanturbefehl* (garrison headquarter order) no. 6/44 of April 22, 1944, and no. 8/44 of July 14, both signed by *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Schwarz, head of the Monowitz camp,<sup>280</sup> the SS, in their effort to improve the work output of the detainees, had decreed to make sure that each detainee worked in his profession. At the same time it was necessary to raise the number of detainees employed (“*Beschäftigte*”) and to reduce the number of those unemployed (“*Unbeschäftigte*”). In the Birkenau camp, in fact, the “employed” increased considerably from early May onwards, as shown by the following table:

Date	Strength	Employed	Percentage
March 3, 1944	18,403	6,179	33.57
May 11, 1944	17,589	6,269	35.64
May 14, 1944	17,358	6,460	37.21
May 15, 1944	17,529	6,804	38.81
July 28, 1944	15,298	8,830	57.71
July 29, 1944	15,266	8,882	58.18
Aug. 1, 1944	16,082	9,582	59.58

<sup>278</sup> “*Aktenvermerk über den Häftlingseinsatz im KGL*,” RGVA, 502-1-67, p. 161.

<sup>279</sup> Photocopy of the letter in: Jüdisches Historisches Institut Warschau (ed.), *Faschismus-Getto-Massenmord. Dokumentation über Ausrottung und Widerstand der Juden in Polen während des zweiten Weltkrieges*, Röderberg-Verlag, Frankfurt/Main 1960, p. 365.

<sup>280</sup> N. Frei et al. (eds.), op. cit. (note 221), pp. 438 and 468.

All *Kommandos* of the camp were strengthened. For example, the *Kommandos* which were part of “*Baumaßnahmen im Standort*” (garrison construction measures) – *Kommandos* 101-B/124-B with another three being added later – went from 1,530 detainees on May 3 to 2,140 detainees on May 15, 1944. The “*Landwirtschaft*” (agriculture) *Kommandos* grew from 160 to 373 detainees. From May until August of 1944, the detainee hours worked at the Central Construction Office went up by almost one million, from 1,955,754 to 2,943,320.<sup>281</sup> New *Kommandos* were formed and others were reorganized. Among them, there were those of the crematorium staff, which went from an initial two (206-B and 207-B) to nine (57-B/61-B).

## 12.4. The Day and Night Shifts

We still have to explain why in the documents cited the detainees were working in two shifts, day and night. Does this mean that the crematorium ovens functioned 24 hours a day? Let us look into this.

The continuous operation of the ovens had primarily a reason in heat technology, because by keeping an oven warm as long as possible with cremations in series, the fuel consumption went down considerably. In this regard, one can use as an example the operation of the Terezín (Theresienstadt) crematorium. This crematorium had four oil-fired ovens built by Ignis Hüttenabu A.G. of Teplitz-Schönau, now Teplice in the Czech Republic, then located in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. One can see from the respective list of cremations that only one furnace was normally used and was kept hot for 14 hours at a time. The operators worked two shifts, from 6 am to 1 pm and from 1 pm to 8 pm. After some 3 weeks of operation the oven was taken out of service and the activity was shifted to another one, and so on.<sup>282</sup>

At Birkenau, such a practice was even more necessary because of the scarcity of coke. As I have pointed out in Part One of this study, this problem had caused the camp authorities to supply the crematoria with fire-wood, and for that reason the *Kommando 61-B Holzabblader* (wood unloaders) was formed.

The second reason for a night shift was the decree by *SS-Standartenführer* Mrugowski of July 31, 1943, stating:<sup>283</sup>

*“the corpses are to be removed to the mortuaries of the crematoria twice a day, i.e. in the morning and in the evening.”*

These dispositions, approved by the commander of the camp, were still in force on May 25, 1944, when garrison physician *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Wirths stressed.<sup>284</sup>

<sup>281</sup> “*Aufstellung über den Gesamt-Häftlingseinsatz per 31.Mai 1944*”; “... per 21.August 1944,” RGVA, 502-1-256, p. 102, 84.

<sup>282</sup> “*Krematorium. Tagesausweise vom 16.XI.1942 bis 31.XII.1942 von Sarg N° 4493 bis N° 8086*,” PT, A1194. (Translator’s note: *Sarg* (coffin) refers to the stretcher of raw wooden boards on which the corpses were placed)

<sup>283</sup> Cf. in this respect my article “The Morgues of the Crematoria at Birkenau in the Light of Documents,” *The Revisionist*, 2(3), (2004), pp. 271-294.

“removal [of the corpses] to the crematoria has been organized and occurs twice a day, in the morning and in the evening.”

The transportation of corpses to the crematoria in the evening hours<sup>285</sup> justified – even necessitated – the continuous operation of a limited number of ovens and hence a night shift for the crematorium staff.

There still remains a final point: was the practice of running two shifts a permanent measure? The air photos of August of 1944 allow us to give a definitive answer to this question.

In chapter 10, I have shown that the absence of smoke from the chimneys of the crematoria *is proof* of their inactivity. Therefore on August 20, 1944, only crematorium III (and the cremation site in the yard of crematorium V) were in operation. On August 25 all four crematoria and the cremation site were inactive and the same conditions hold for September 13. However, according to the work sheets there were still two regular shifts (day and night) specified for the crematoria,<sup>286</sup> hence those shifts do not necessarily show that the crematoria were in active operation 24 hours a day.

As I have pointed out above, the photograph of August 20 is of particular importance in this respect because it shows smoke both over the chimney of crematorium III and over the north yard of crematorium V, but on that day no alleged homicidal gassings were carried out.<sup>287</sup> Then what did the crematorium personnel on the day shift do in crematoria II, IV, and V? Furthermore, the smoke rising from the chimney does not necessarily tell us that all 5 of the triple-muffle furnaces of crematorium III were in operation, because the chimney was divided into three sections, each connected to a pair of ovens; the smoke, therefore, might also have come from only 2 triple-muffle ovens.

It is thus clear that the essential reason for the practice of day and night shifts in the work sheets mentioned was closely linked with the need for a maximum employment of the detainees: The crematorium staff was on duty day and night, but would effectively work, in limited numbers, only as necessary, but this did not happen every day.

In conclusion it can be said that the increase in the workforce of the so-called “*Sonderkommando*” and its assignment to day and night shifts does not prove anything with respect to mass exterminations at Auschwitz.

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<sup>284</sup> Letter from *SS-Standortarzt* to camp commander of May 25, 1944, concerning “*Bau von Leichenkammern im KL Auschwitz II.*” RGVA, 502-1-170, p. 264.

<sup>285</sup> Cf. below, chapter 12.5.

<sup>286</sup> The report for September 13, 1944, has not been preserved; however, day and night shifts were specified in the report for September 7 and in those for October (2-31). One may therefore assume that this was also the case for September 13.

<sup>287</sup> D. Czech, *op. cit.* (note 3), pp. 855f.

## 12.5. The Birkenau Mortuaries and the Alleged Extermination of Hungarian Jews

The witnesses who had been part of the crematorium staff hardly ever speak of the cremation of registered detainees, as if there had not been any such incinerations and as if it had not been necessary to use the mortuaries of the crematoria precisely for what their name implied, but only and at all times as “undressing rooms” and “gas chambers.”

In a separate article I have demonstrated on the basis of previously unknown documents that the mortuaries of the Birkenau crematoria were not used – nor could they have been used – as “undressing rooms” and “gas chambers” within a mass extermination by means of gas from March of 1943 onwards.<sup>283</sup> This aspect becomes particularly important for the second half of May of 1944, during which the death rate among the registered detainees was threateningly high. Conditions were, in fact, so serious that on April 12, 1944, the head of the Gestapo, Heinrich Müller, sent a letter to the SS-WVHA concerning “Internment of female detainees of German Reich nationality at the women’s concentration camp Auschwitz,” in which he prohibited such internments and ordered the transfer to concentration camp Ravensbrück<sup>288</sup> of those already present at Auschwitz.

From the surviving, rather fragmentary documents results that some 800 inmates died at Birkenau in May 1944, but the real figure was probably twice as high.

On May 22, 1944, a meeting was held at Auschwitz, attended by *SS-Obersturmbannführer* Höss, *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Baer, who had been named commander of Auschwitz I on May 11, *SS-Sturmbannführer* Bischoff, then head of Construction Inspection of Waffen-SS and Police Silesia, and *SS-Obersturmführer* Jothann, head of Central Construction Office. In the minutes of the meeting, written by Jothann the following day, we read:<sup>289</sup>

*“SS-Obersturmbannführer Höss points out that according to a decree in force the daily load of L.[= corpses] is to be collected by a specifically appointed truck in the morning hours of each day, therefore an accumulation of corpses cannot occur if this decree is respected and no necessity exists as far as the erection of the above-mentioned halls is concerned.”*

The “decree in force” was the one mentioned by Bischoff to the *SS-Standortarzt* dated August 4, 1943:<sup>290</sup>

*“SS-Standartenführer Mrugowski declared in the meeting of July 31 that the corpses are to be transferred to the mortuaries of the crematoria twice a day, in the morning and in the evening, which obviates the need for the separate erection of mortuaries in the subsections”*

<sup>288</sup> “Einweisung reichsdeutscher weiblicher Häftlinge in das Frauen-Kl.Auschwitz,” RGVA, 504-2-8, p. 60.

<sup>289</sup> Aktenvermerk by Jothann of May 23, 1944 concerning “Errichtung von Leichenhallen im Bauabschnitt II, Lager II Birkenau.” RGVA, 502-1-170, p. 260.

<sup>290</sup> Letter from Bischoff to Wirths dated August 4, 1943 concerning “Hygienische Sofortmaßnahmen im KGL: Erstellung von Leichenhallen in jedem Unterabschnitt.” RGVA, 502-1-170, p. 262.

On May 25, SS garrison physician Dr. Wirths sent the camp commander a letter, in which one can read the following:<sup>291</sup>

*“In the detainee sickbays of concentration camp Auschwitz a certain number of corpses accumulate naturally each day whose removal to the crematoria has been organized and takes place twice a day, in the morning and in the evening. In view of the scarcity of vehicles and, at times, of fuel, it does, however, occur that the corpses remain where they are for up to 24 hours.”*

However, the second half of May of 1944 was also the period during which the deportation of the Hungarian Jews was taking place, which was known to all persons present, particularly to Rudolf Höss. The first transports arrived on May 17. Up to May 22, the day of the meeting just mentioned, some 62,000 Hungarian Jews had arrived at Auschwitz,<sup>292</sup> more than 45,000 of whom were allegedly gassed and cremated, if we follow official historiography.<sup>293</sup>

If this were true, the mortuaries in the crematoria at Birkenau would have been permanently swamped with victims during the period that interests us. But then how could Rudolf Höss blithely re-invoke the order of moving to those mortuaries the bodies of registered detainees who had died of natural causes in the camp?

On the contrary, Rudolf Höss' order to take those bodies to the mortuaries of the crematoria twice a day demonstrates that the mortuaries were, in fact, not clogged or used for other purposes and refutes categorically the story of the mass extermination of the Hungarian Jews allegedly committed in those crematoria.

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<sup>291</sup> Letter from *SS-Standortarzt* to *SS-Standortälteste* dated May 25, 1944 concerning “*Bau von Leichenkammern im KL Auschwitz II.*” RGVA, 502-1-170, p. 264.

<sup>292</sup> NG-5604, report by Veesenmayer dated May 20, 1944. The exact number of deportees is 62,644.

<sup>293</sup> Cf. in this respect my paper, *op. cit.* (note 173), pp. 381-395.



## Appendices

### Tables

Table 1: Strength of Crematorium Personnel, January-February 1944

Date	Strength
January 1, 1944	383 <sup>294</sup>
January 31, 1944	414 <sup>295</sup>
February 15, 1944	405 <sup>296</sup>

Table 2: Strength and Composition of Crematorium Personnel, April-September 1944<sup>297</sup>

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
Apr. 20	206-B	I and II	2	1	120		
	207-B	III and IV	2	3	84	3	214
May 3	206-B	I and II	2	1	100		
	207-B	III and IV	2	2	104	3	214
May 11	206-B	I and II	2	1	100		
	207-B	III and IV	2	2	105	3	215 <sup>298</sup>
May 14	206-B	I and II	2	1	39		
	207-B	III and IV	2	2	38	3	87
May 15	206-B	I and II	2	1	150		
	207-B	III and IV	2	2	155	3	315
July 28	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		

<sup>294</sup> "Übersicht über Anzahl und Einsatz der Häftlinge des Konzentrationslagers Auschwitz II am 15. Januar 1944," GARF, 7021-108-33, p.124.

<sup>295</sup> "Übersicht über Anzahl und Einsatz der Häftlinge des Konzentrationslagers Auschwitz II am 31. Januar 1944," GARF, 7021-108-33, p. 128.

<sup>296</sup> "Übersicht über Anzahl und Einsatz der Häftlinge des Konzentrationslagers Auschwitz II am 15. Februar 1944," GARF, 7021-108-33, p. 132.

<sup>297</sup> Sources: April 20 - July 29: APMO, D-AuI-3/1; July 29 - August 7: D-AuII-3a/16; August 8: D-AuII-3a/25-49; August 30: AGK, NTN-94, pp. 151-153.

<sup>298</sup> Nachman Blumental (ed.), *Dokumenty i materialy*. Tom I: "Obozy. Wydawnictwa Centralnej Żydowskiej Komisji Historycznej w Polsce," Łódź 1946, pp. 100-105.

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>		
July 29	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	2	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>900</b>		
July 29	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>		
July 30	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>		
Aug. 1	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	109		

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>		
Aug. 2	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>			
Aug. 3	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	1	109		
	60-B	IV Day	3	-	110		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>			
Aug. 4	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. IV	/	-	30		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>			
Aug. 5	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. I & II	/	-	30		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>		
Aug. 6	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	100		
	61-B	Wood unloa- ders Cr. I.	2	-	30		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>			
Aug. 7	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. I & II	1	-	30		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>			
Aug. 8	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. I & II	1	-	30		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>			
Aug. 9	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
	58-B	II Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	61-B	Wood unloaders Cr. I & II	2	-	30		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>894</b>		
Aug. 10	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 11	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 12	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 13	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	-	109		

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
	59-B	III Night	3	1	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 14	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>			
Aug. 15	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>			
Aug. 16	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>			
Aug. 17	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>			
Aug. 18	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	3	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	2	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 19	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 21	57-B	I Day	2	1	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 22	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 23	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		

DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 24	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 25	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 26	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 27	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 28	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		



DATE	KOMMANDO	STOKERS OF CREMATORIA	POSTS	SPECIALISTS	HELPERS	TOTAL	
						Specialists	Helpers
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 29	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Aug. 30 <sup>[299]</sup>	57-B	I Day	2	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	3	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	3	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	3	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	2	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	3	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	3	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	3	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Sept. 7	57-B	I Day	1	2	109		
	57-B	I Night	2	-	104		
	58-B	II Night	2	-	110		
	58-B	II Day	1	-	110		
	59-B	III Day	1	1	109		
	59-B	III Night	2	-	109		
	60-B	IV Night	2	-	110		
	60-B	IV Day	1	1	109		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>870</b>		
Oct. 3	57-B	I Day	1	-	84		
	57-B	I Night	2	-	85		
	58-B	II Night	2	-	85		
	58-B	II Day	1	-	84		
	59-B	III Day	1	1	84		
	59-B	III Night	2	-	85		
	60-B	IV Night	2	-	84		
	60-B	IV Day	1	-	70		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>661</b>		

<sup>299</sup> Cf. document 46.

Table 2: Strength and Composition of Crematorium Personnel, October 1944<sup>300</sup>

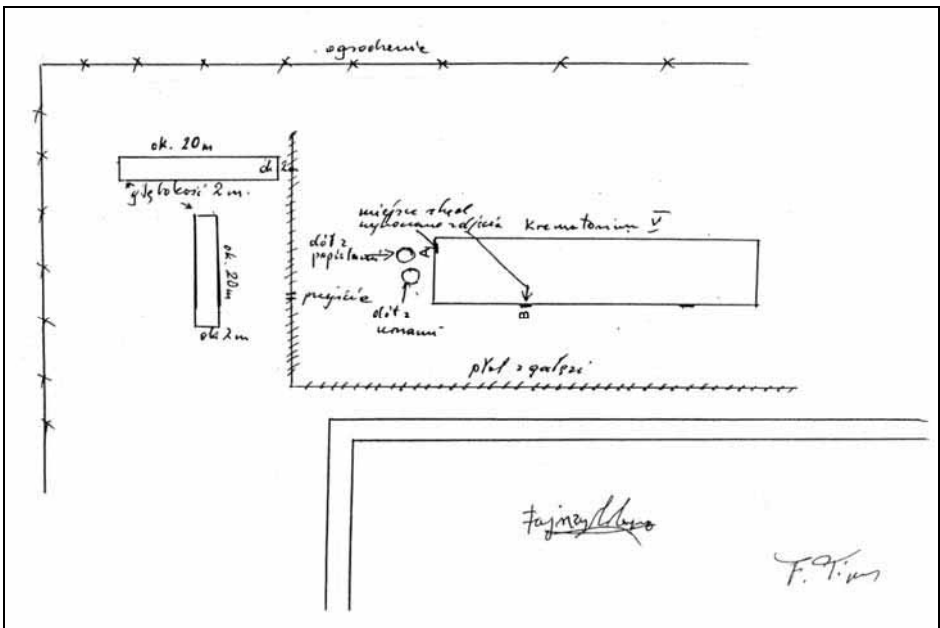
Date	Crema II		Crema III		Crema IV		Crema V		Total
	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	
2	84	85	84	85	84	85	84	70	661
3	84	85	84	85	84	85	84	70	661
4	84	85	84	85	84	85	84	70	661
5	84	85	84	85	84	85	84	70	661
6	84	85	84	85	84	85	84	70	661
7	84	85	84	85	84	85	84	70	661
8	84	85	84	85	84	85	84	70	661
9	27	26	26	27	27	26	26	27	212
10	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
11	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
12	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
13	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
14	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
15	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
16	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
17	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
18	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
19	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
20	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
21	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
22	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
23	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
24	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
25	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
26	33	33	33	33	-	-	33	33	198
27	33	33	33	33	-	-	34	33	199
28	33	33	33	33	-	-	34	34	200
29	33	33	33	33	-	-	34	34	200
30	33	33	33	33	-	-	34	34	200
31	33	33	33	33	-	-	34	34	200

Total for Jan. 16, 1945: 30<sup>301</sup>

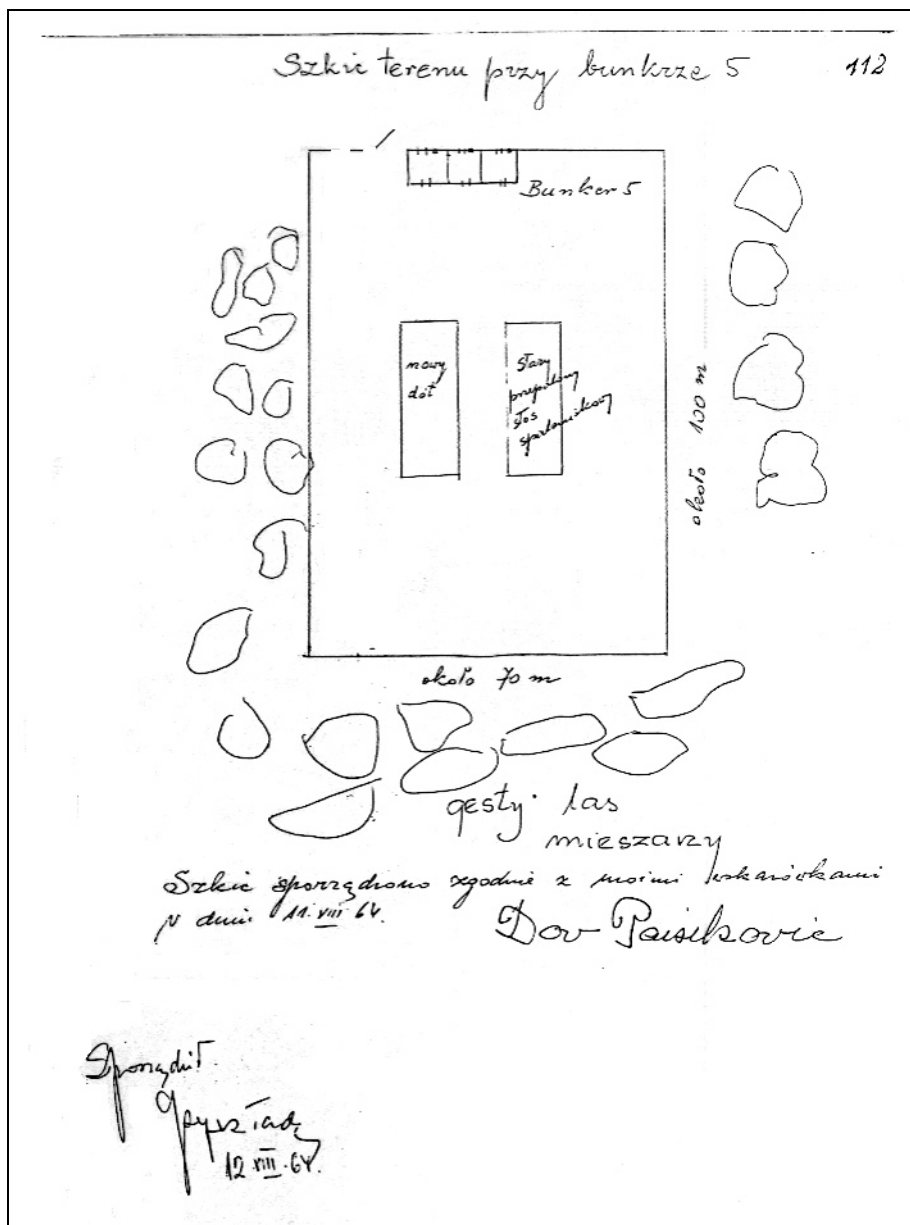
<sup>300</sup> GARF, 7021-108-20, pp. 142-144, 163-168. Cf. document cremation 47.

<sup>301</sup> 53-B. Heizer Krematorium IV. RGVA, 502-1-67, p. 17a. Cf. document 48.

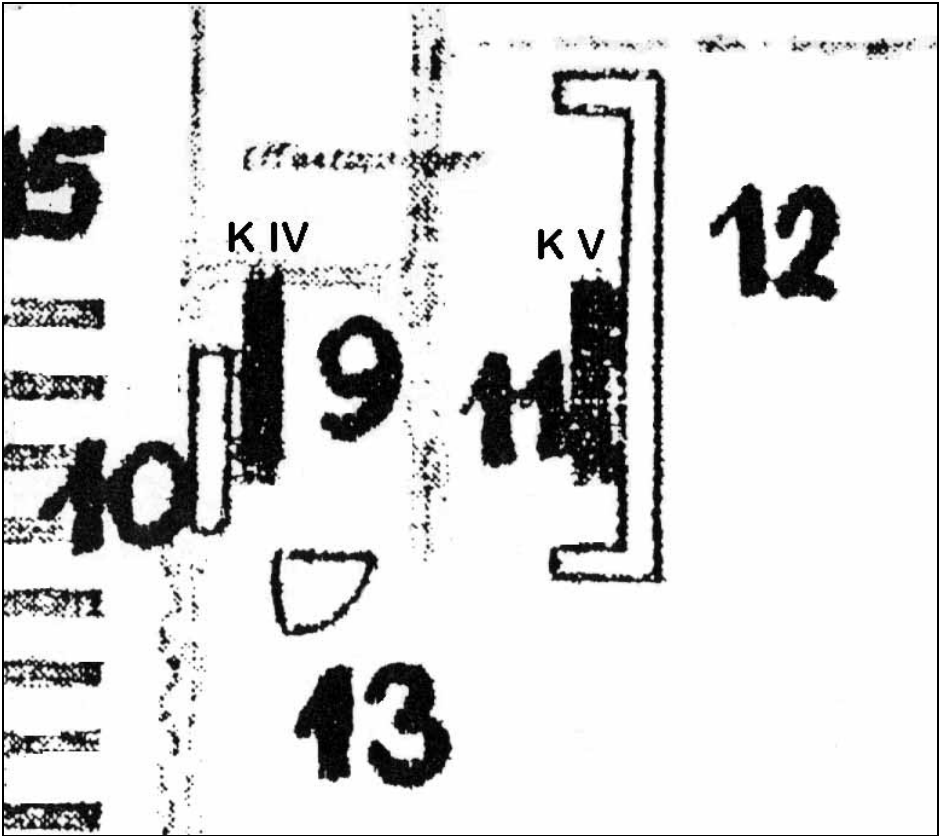
## Documents



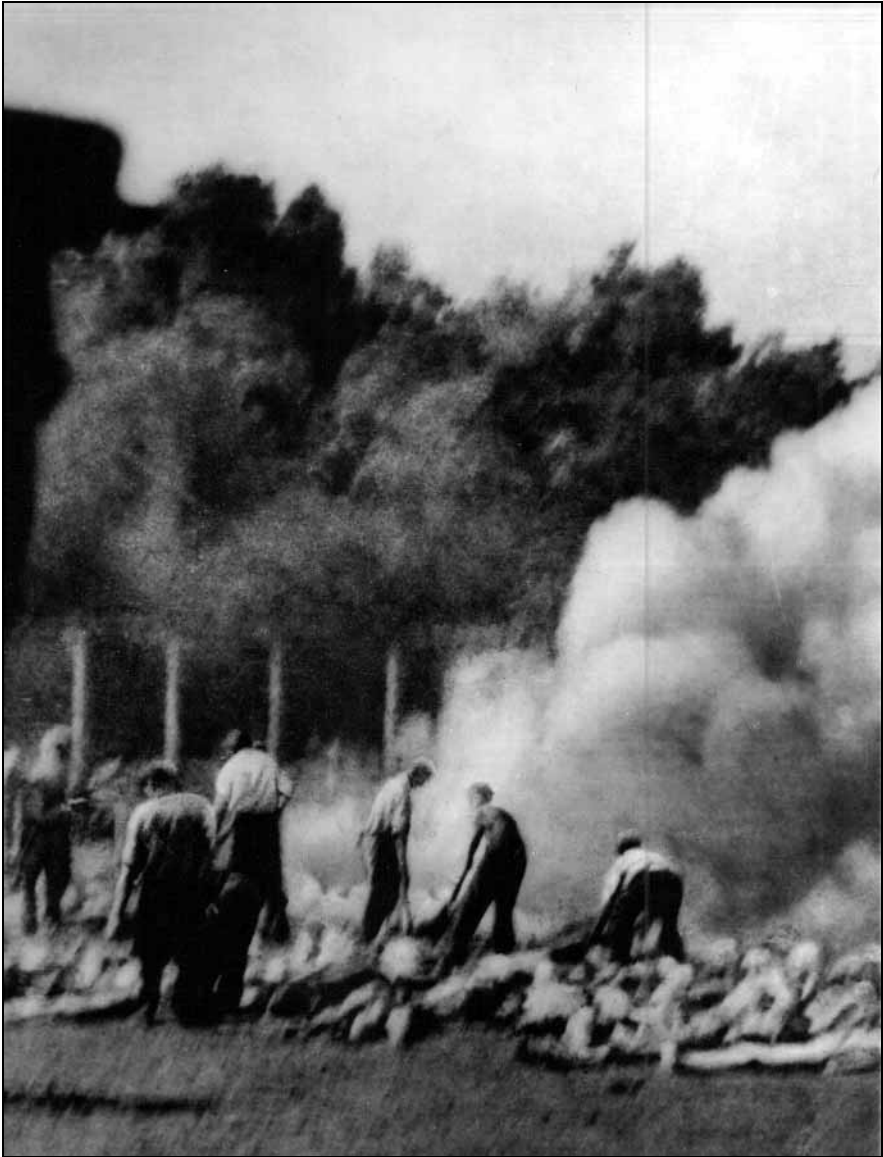
**Doc. 1:** Drawing by Alter Fajnzylberg (alias Stanisław Jankowski)  
 August/September 1985. APMO, Zespół Oświadczenia, vol. 113, p. 9.



Doc. 2: Drawing by Dov Paisikovic, August 10, 1964. APMO, Zespół Oświadczenia, vol. 44, p. 112.



**Doc. 3:** Locations of the alleged cremation trenches around Krematorium V. Kazimierz Smoleń (ed.), *Auschwitz vu par les SS*, Edition du Musée d'Etat à Oświęcim, 1974, plate without page number.

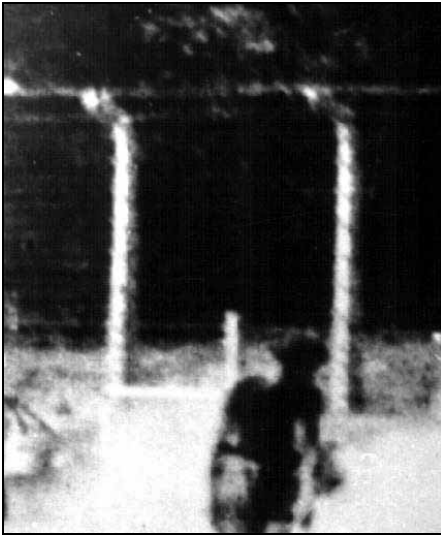


**Doc. 4:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz.  
APMO, negative 277.

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**Doc. 5:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz. APMO, negative 278.



**Doc. 6:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, detail. APMO, negative 278.



**Doc. 7:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, detail. APMO, negative 278.



**Doc. 8:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, detail. APMO, negative 278.



**Doc. 9:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, detail. APMO, negative 278.





**Doc. 10:** Polish photograph, spring 1945. Birkenau, area of crematorium V, fence 35. APMO, negative 21334/137.



**Doc. 11:** Birkenau, area of crematorium V, fence 35, 1991. Detail of fence 35. © Carlo Mattogno

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**Doc. 12:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz.  
APMO, negative 282.

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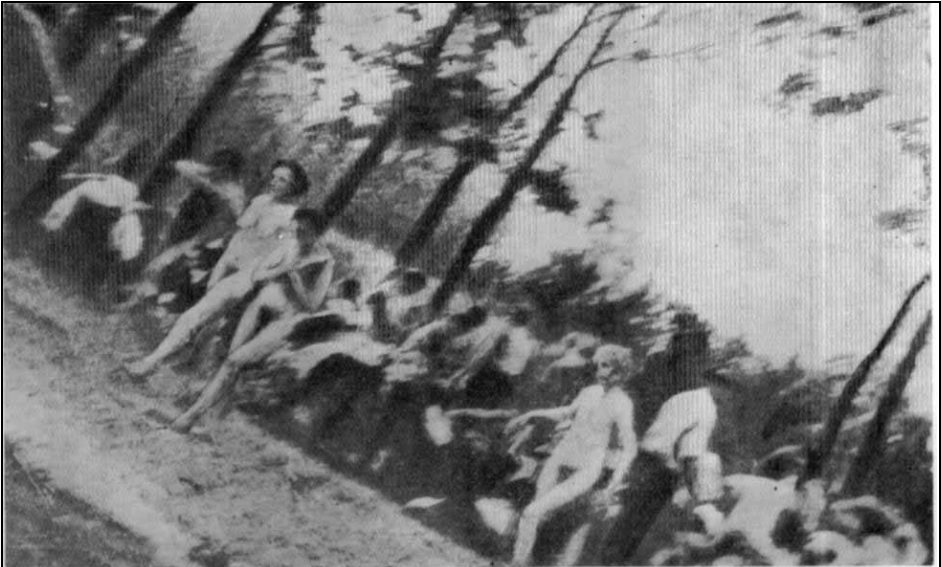
**Doc. 13:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, detail: bathtubs at detainee bath. APMO, negative 282.



**Doc. 14:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, detail: water jug. APMO, negative 282.



**Doc. 15:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, detail: man with cylindrical vessel. APMO, negative 282.

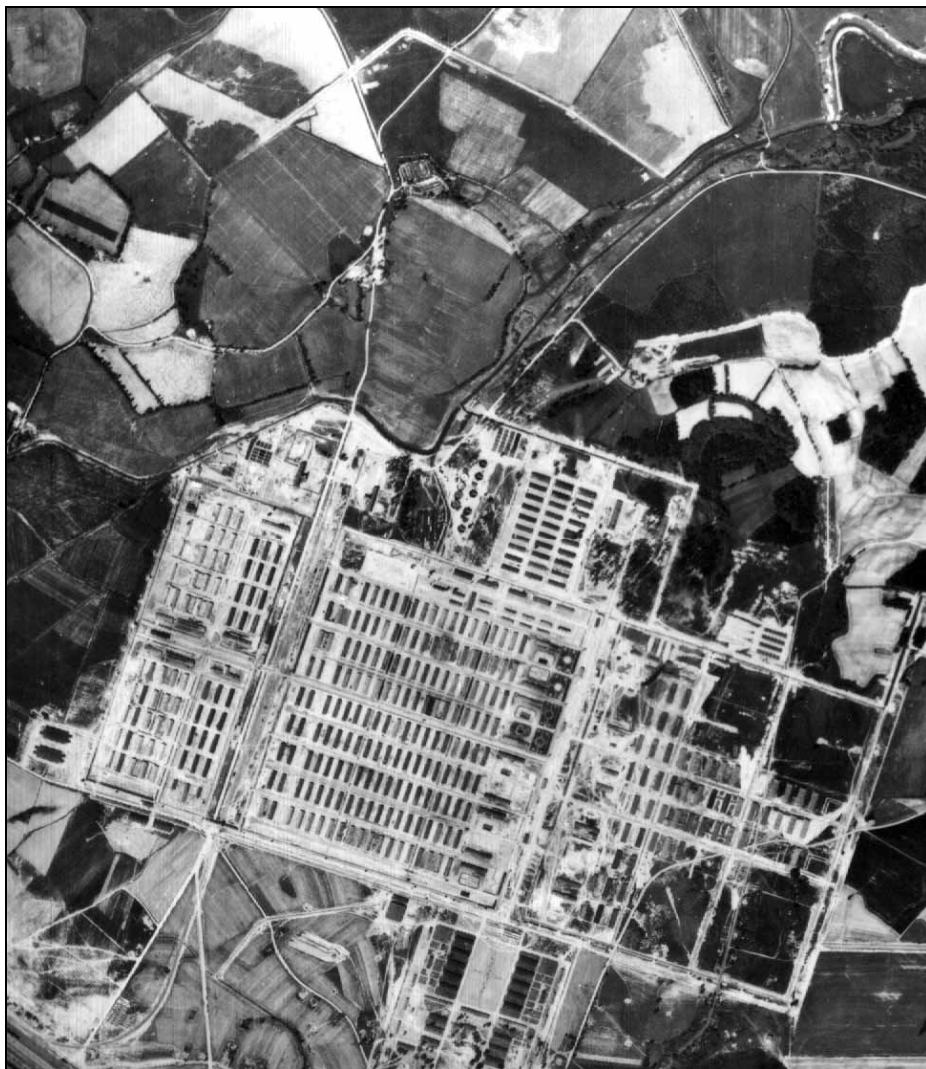


(31) Naked victims proceeding to the gas chambers. Photograph taken surreptitiously in August 1944, by inmate David Szmulewski, member of the resistance movement.

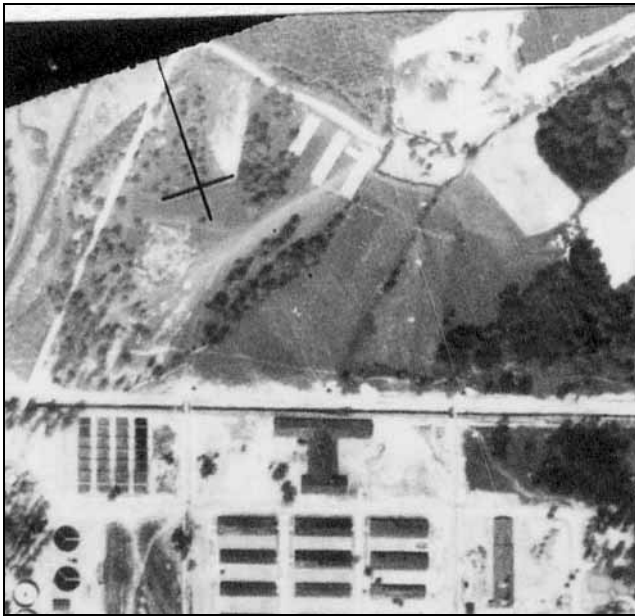
**Doc. 16:** Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz, (document 12). In the version published by Jan Sehn. J. Sehn, *Oświęcim-Brzezinka (Auschwitz-Birkenau) Concentration Camp*, Wydawnictwo Prawnicze, Warsaw 1961, p. 131.



**Doc. 17:** Fire-fighting pond west of the ruins of crematorium IV. 1991. © Carlo Mattogno



**Doc. 18:** Air photo of Birkenau area taken May 31, 1944. NA, Record Group no. 373, Mission 60 PRS/462 60 SQ. Can D 1508, Exposure 3055.

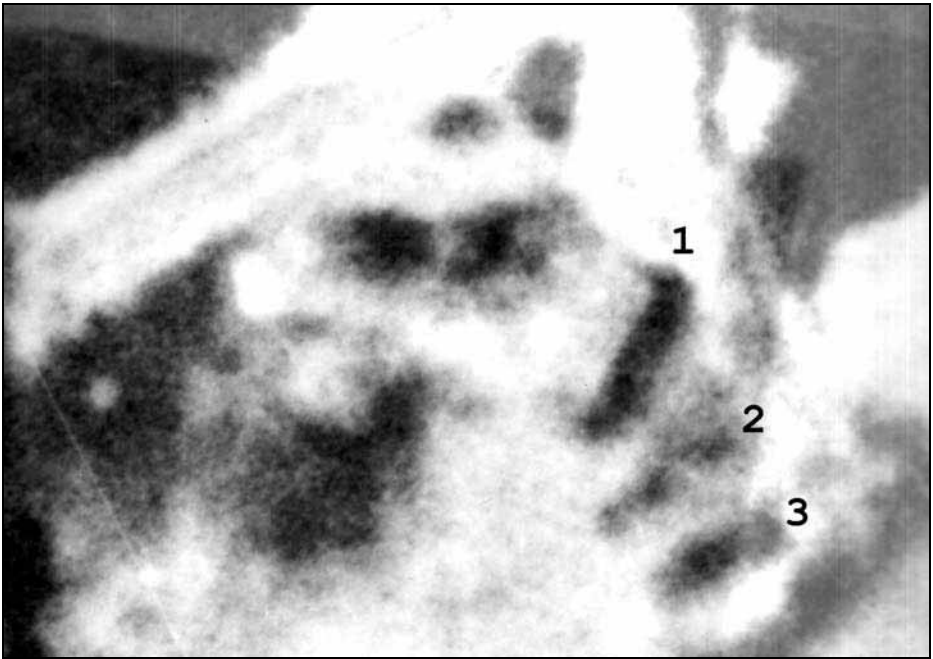


**Doc. 19:** Enlargement of document 18. Area of alleged “*Bunker 2*” and part of *Effektenlager*



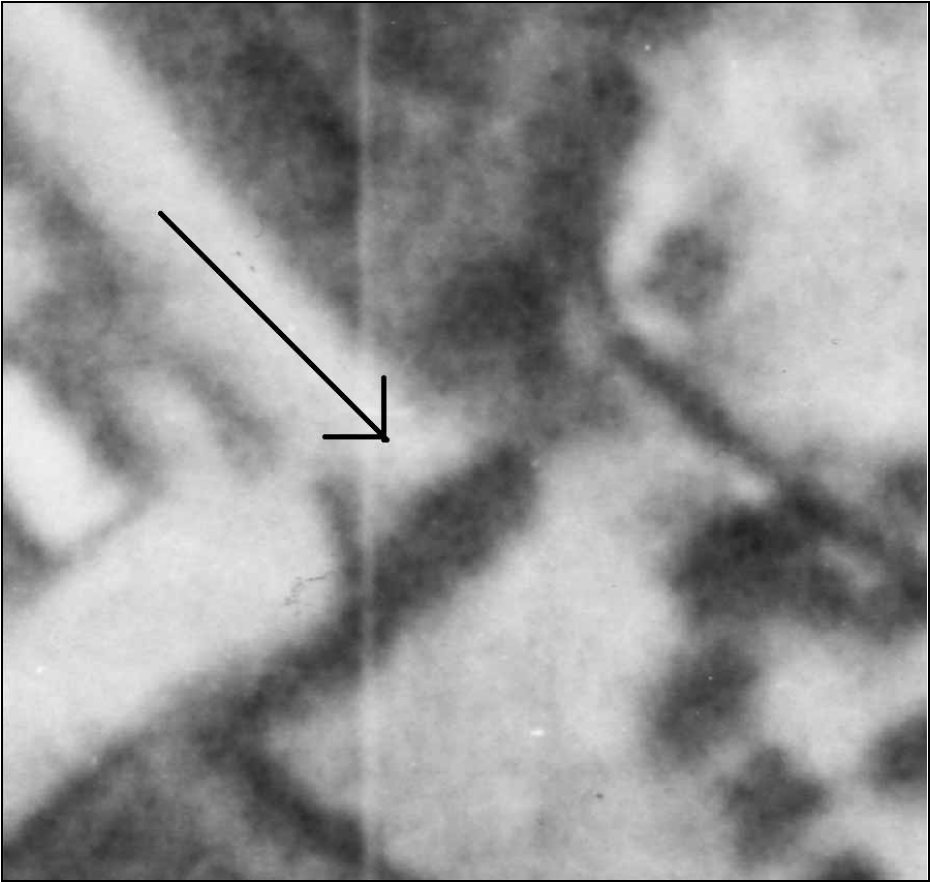
**Doc. 20:** Enlargement of document 18. Area of alleged “Bunker 2.”





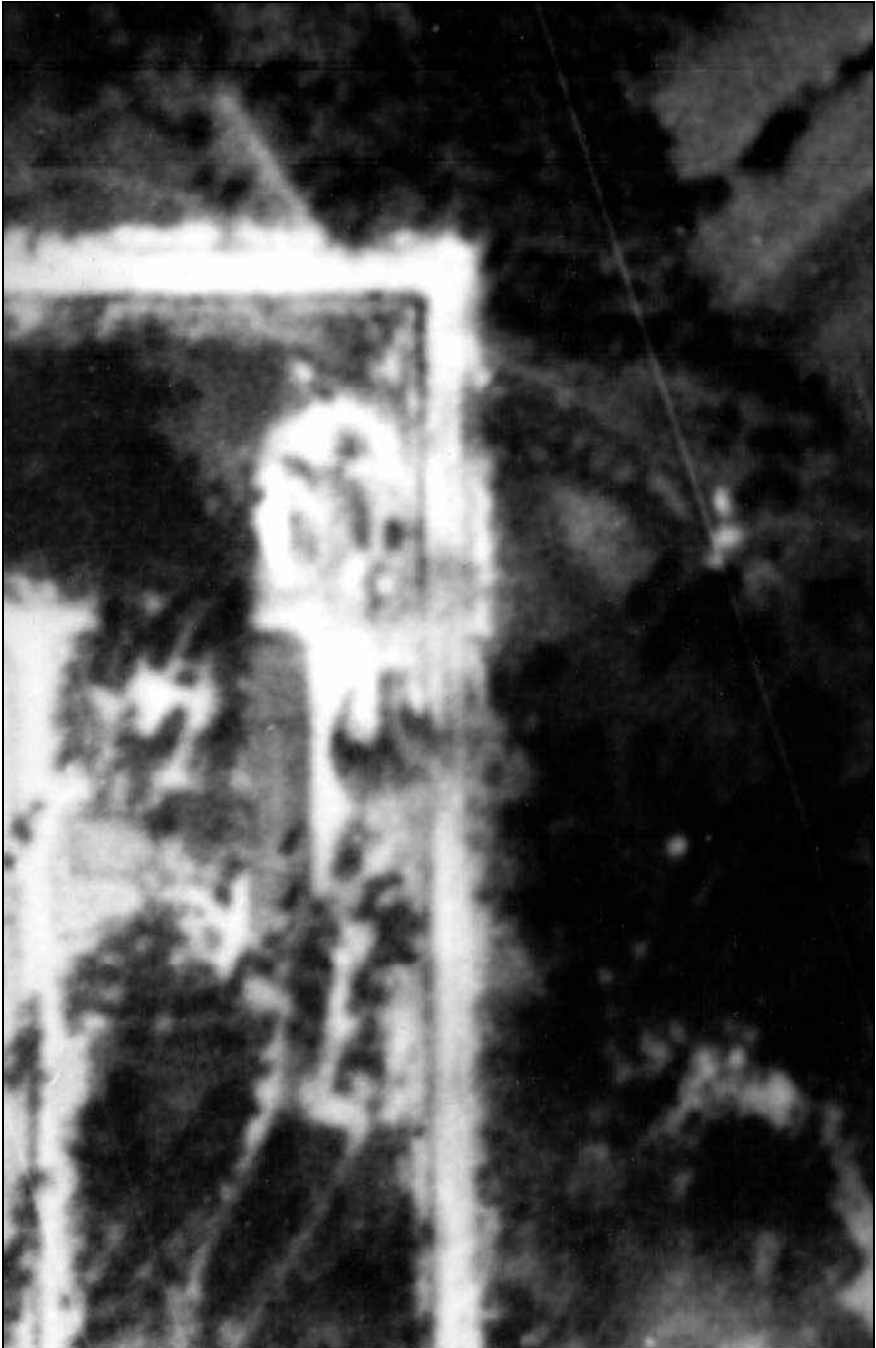
**Doc. 21:** Enlargement of document 18. Area of alleged “Bunker 2”: the 3 alleged cremation trenches.

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**Doc. 22:** Enlargement of document 18. A fence blocks the entry to the area of alleged "Bunker 2" from the road leading to the camp (indicated by arrow).

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**Doc. 23:** Enlargement of document 18. Northern yard of crematorium V. Outdoor cremation site.

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**Doc. 24:** Northern yard of crematorium V. Outdoor cremation site. Enlargement of second photograph taken May 31, 1944. NA, Record Group no. 373, Mission 60 PRS/462 60 SQ. Can D 1508, Exposure 3056.

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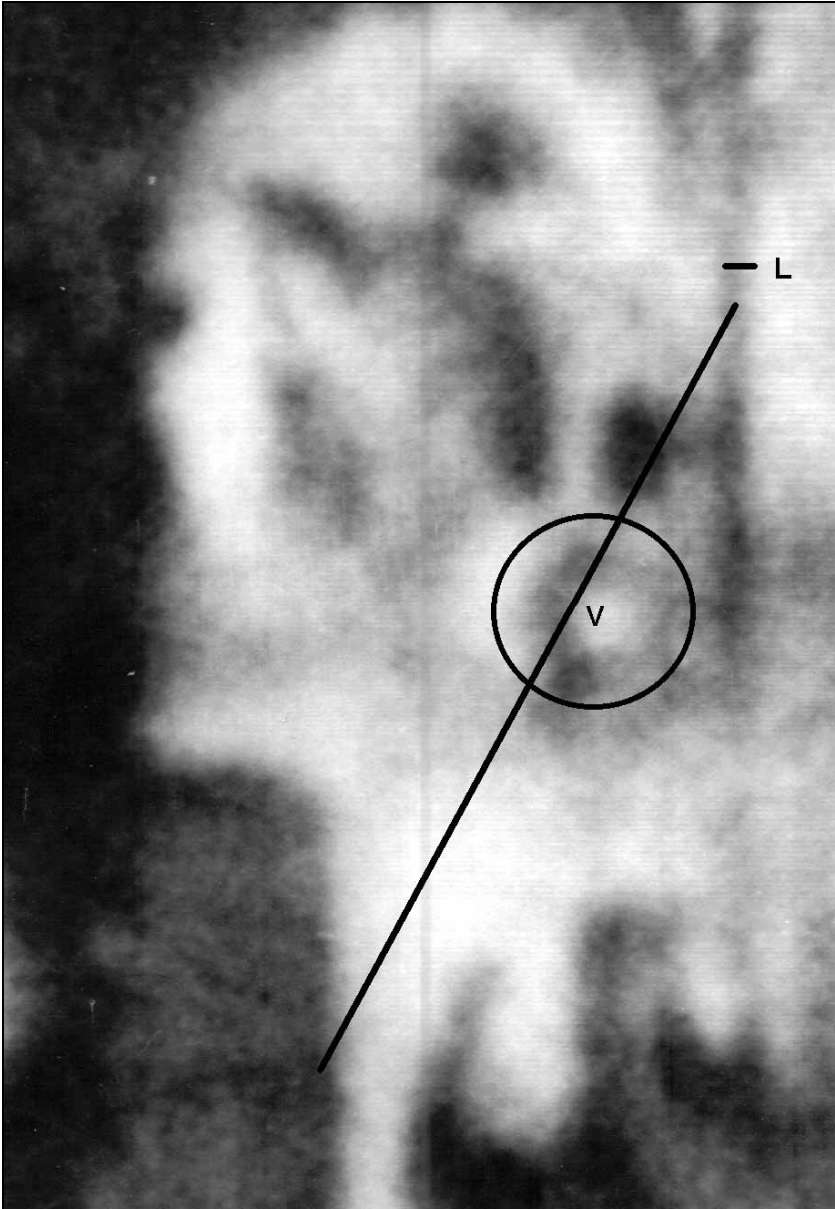
**Doc. 25:** Enlargement of document 18. Northern yard of crematorium V. Outdoor cremation site in lower portion. In upper portion, the circle encloses the smoking area which appears in air photo of August 23, 1944 (cf. document 35).

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**Doc. 26:** Birkenau, northern yard of former crematorium V, in 1997. Area where cremation site was located in August of 1944. © Carlo Mattogno

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**Doc. 27:** Enlargement of document 18. Northern yard of crematorium V. Outdoor cremation site. Triangulation of photograph 278 (document 5). Letter "V" in circled area is cremation site shown in photograph of August 23, 1944.

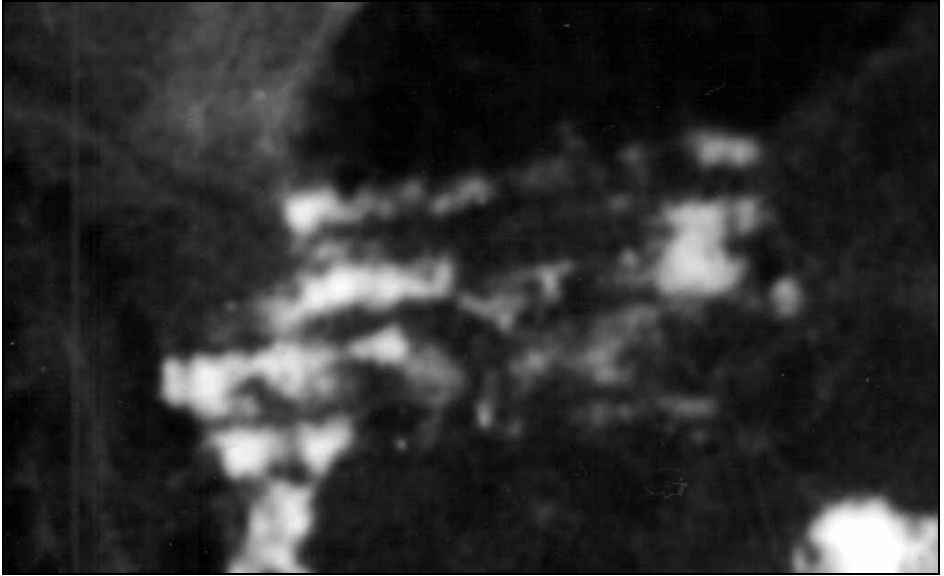
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**Doc. 28:** Birkenau, northern yard of former crematorium V, in 1997. Area in which cremation site was located in August of 1944. © Carlo Mattogno

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**Doc. 29:** Enlargement of document 18. Area of the 4 mass graves.



**Doc. 30:** Enlargement of document 18. Wooded area to the west of the camp.



**Doc. 31:** Air photo of Birkenau taken June 26, 1944. NA, Record Group no. 373, Mission 60/PR 522, 60 SQ. Can C 1172, Exposure 5022.



**Doc. 32:** Air photo of Birkenau area taken on July 8, 1944. NA, Record Group no. 373. Film: 14/44 /LGK VIII) B. Nr. 123 (German photograph).



**Doc. 33:** Enlargement of document 32. Northern yard of crematorium V. Outdoor cremation site.



**Doc. 34:** Air photo of August 20, 1944. NA, Mission USEC/R 86. Can B 10658, Exposure 5018.

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**Doc. 35:** Enlargement of document 31: crematorium III with smoking chimney (arrow).

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**Doc. 36:** Air photo of Birkenau area taken on August 23, 1944. Website [www.evidenceincamera.co.uk/images/Large/conc1.htm](http://www.evidenceincamera.co.uk/images/Large/conc1.htm)

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**Doc. 37:** Enlargement of document 36.  
Area of alleged "Bunker 2"

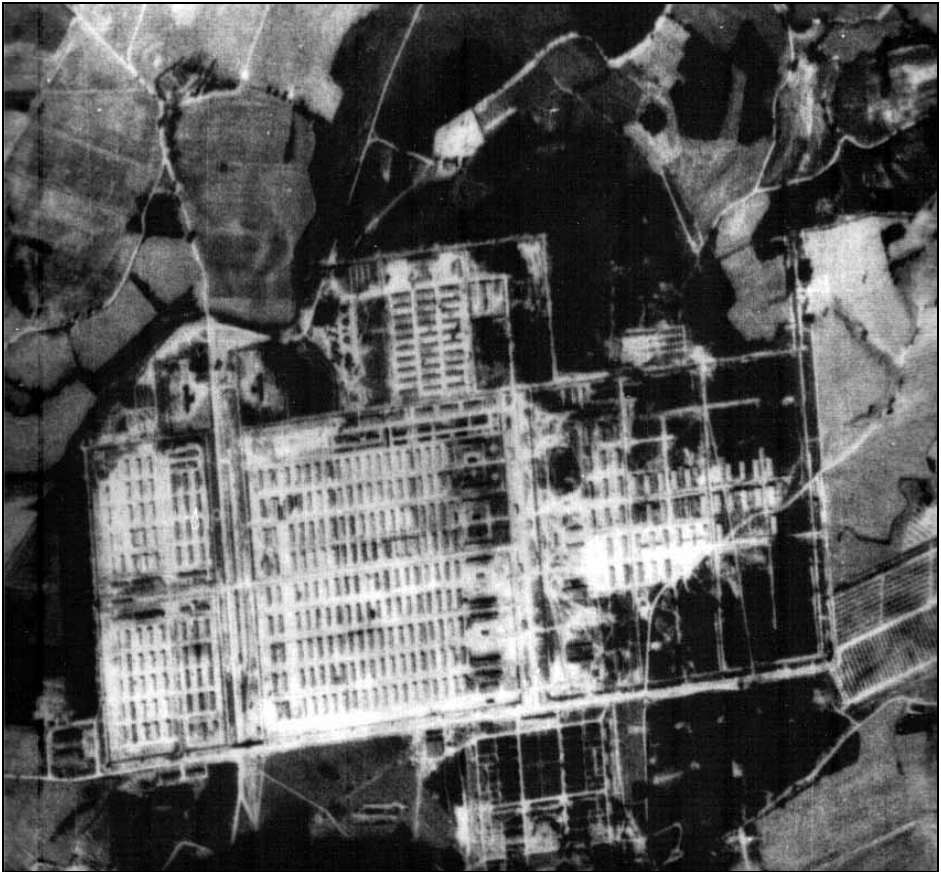
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**Doc. 38:** Enlargement of document 36. Northern yard of crematorium V.  
Outdoor cremation site.

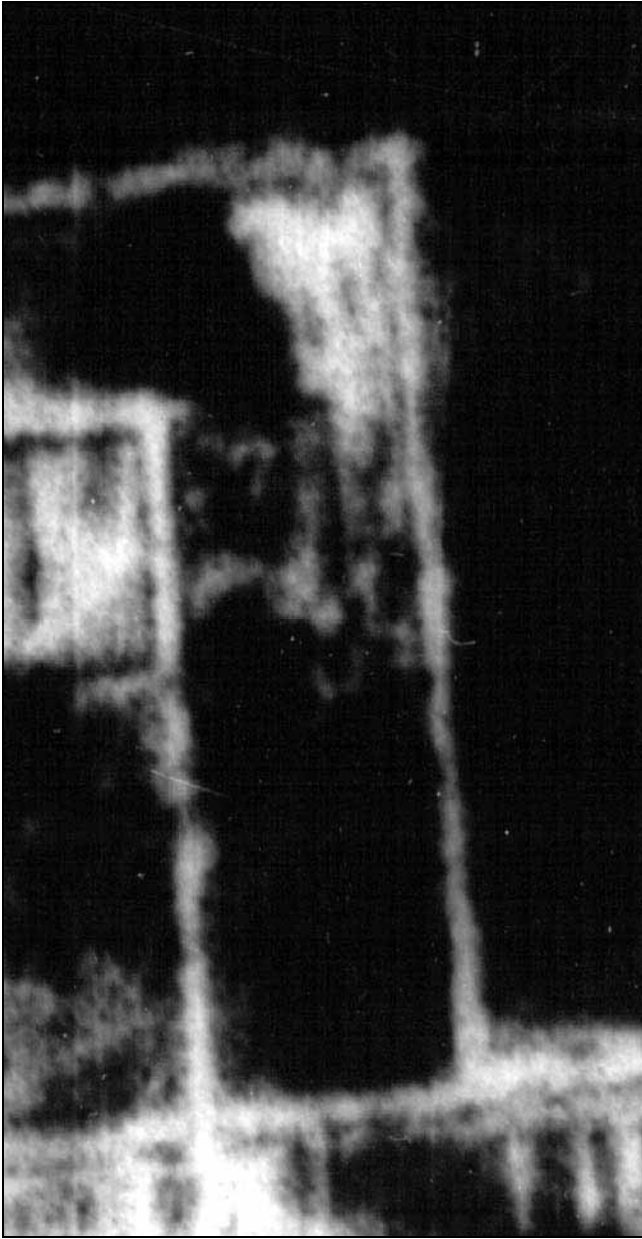
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**Doc. 39:** Air photo of Birkenau taken on August 25, 1944. NA, Record Group no. 373, Mission 60/PR 694 60 SQ. Can F 5366, Exposure 5027.

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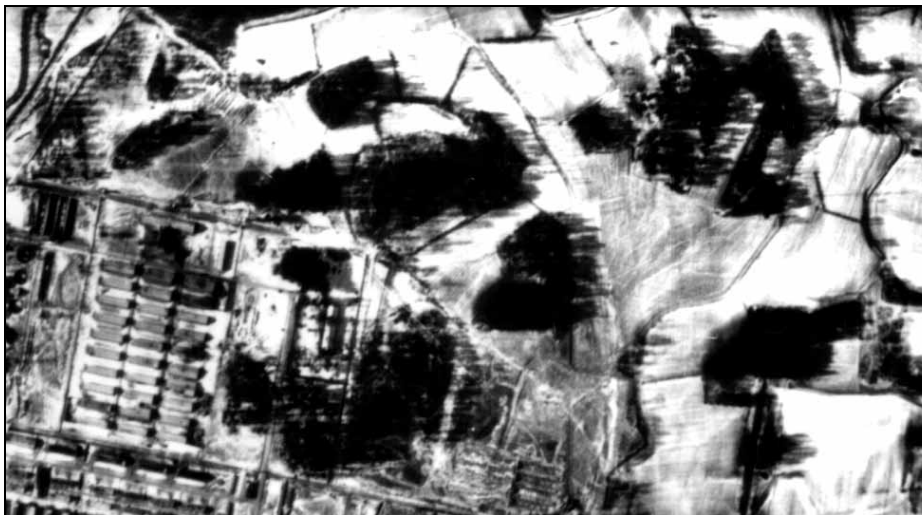
**Doc. 40:** Enlargement of document 39. Northern yard of crematorium V.

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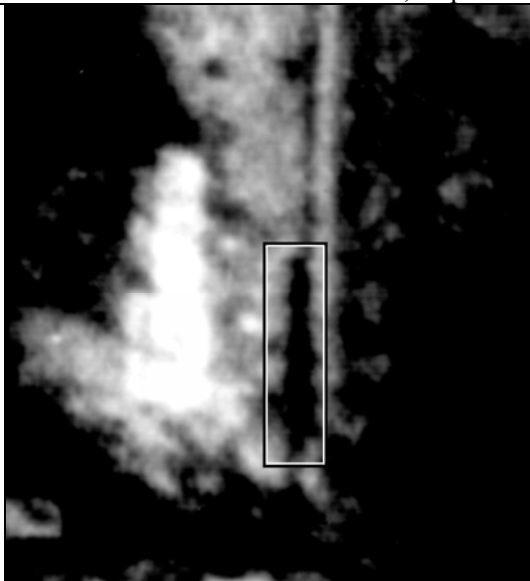
**Doc. 41:** Air photo of November 29, 1944. Area of alleged “Bunker 2.” NA, Record Group no. 373, Mission 15 SG/887 5PG. Can D 1610, Exposure 4058.

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**Doc. 42:** Air photo of December 21, 1944. Area of crematoria IV and V and wooded zone to the west of Birkenau camp. NA, Record Group no. 373, Mission 15 SG/994 15 PG. Can D 1533, Exposure 3021.

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**Doc. 43:** Air photo taken February 19, 1945. Birkenau, northern yard of crematorium V. Wood piled up along drainage ditch. NA, Record Group no. 373, GX 12337/145.

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**Doc. 44:** Polish photograph from spring 1945. Birkenau, area of crematorium V, pile of wood along drainage ditch APMO, negative 4798.



**Doc. 45:** Photograph of pile of wood near Sobibór camp. 1997. © Carlo Mattogno

No. Nr. Arbeitskommando		Arb. Ort.	Post.	Fach-Hilfs-	Fach-Hilfs-
		Arb.	Arb.	Arb.	Arb.
<b>Uebersicht:</b>				33	1942 642
<b>H - Dienststellen - Verwaltung:</b>					
51-B.	Baubetriebsdienststellen	Lager	-	55	62
52-B.	Aufraumungsabtd. Au. I.	Ausschw.	-	-	500
53-B.	Aufraumungsabtd. Au. II. H. Entw.	Lager	-	-	350
54-B.	Aufraumungsabtd. Au. II. a.d.R.	Lager	-	-	200
55-B.	Kassensammlerabtd. a.d.R.	Lager	-	-	40
56-B.	Rollkommando a.d.R.	Lager	-	-	40
57-B.	Heizer Krematorium I.	Tag Lager	2	2	109
57-B.	Heizer Krematorium I.	Nacht Lager	3	-	104
58-B.	Heizer Krematorium II.	Nacht Lager	3	-	110
58-B.	Heizer Krematorium II.	Tag Lager	3	-	110
59-B.	Heizer Krematorium III.	Tag Lager	2	1	109
59-B.	Heizer Krematorium III.	Nacht Lager	3	-	109
60-B.	Heizer Krematorium IV.	Nacht Lager	3	-	110
60-B.	Heizer Krematorium IV.	Tag Lager	3	1	109
				22	186
<b>Abt. W. 5 Landwirtschaft (aussen):</b>					
3-B	Fischteiche	Harmonze	5	-	50
2-B	Schilffischer	Erzessese	4	-	30
3-B	Kompostierung I	Plawy	3	-	20
4-B	Kompostierung II	Lager	5	-	60
				19	16
<b>Laufposten</b>				<b>La gerber. 1</b>	

Doc. 46: "Arbeitseinsatz" report of Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp dated August 30, 1944. AGK, NTN, 94, p. 153.

получено  
Освободил 2  
/Ирина/

3А  
НИ

16

**ПРОГРАММНЫЕ РАБОТЫ В КРЕМАТОРИИ**  
1 до 4, от 2 октября 1944 года до  
31 октября 1944 года /Средн. рабоч./

2/10-11/10	K 1	K 2	K 3	K 4	12/X-21/X	K 1	K 2	K 3	K 4	22/X-31/X	K 1	K 2	3	K 4
2/X	10	10	10	13	12/X	66	66	-	66	22/X	66	66	-	66
3/X	10	10	10	13	13/X	66	66	-	66	23/X	66	66	-	66
4/X	10	10	10	13	14/X	66	66	-	66	24/X	66	66	-	66
5/X	10	10	10	13	15/X	66	66	-	66	25/X	66	66	-	66
6/X	10	10	10	13	16/X	66	66	-	66	26/X	66	66	-	66
7/X	10	10	10	13	17/X	66	66	-	66	27/X	66	66	-	66
8/X	10	10	10	13	18/X	66	66	-	66	28/X	66	66	-	66
9/X	50	50	50	50	19/X	66	66	-	66	29/X	66	66	-	66
10/X	66	66	-	66	20/X	66	66	-	66	30/X	66	66	-	66
11/X	66	66	-	66	21/X	66	66	-	66	31/X	66	66	-	66
	135	136	126	126		66	66	-	66		66	66	-	66

В течение 30 дней / с 2 до 31 октября 1944 года / работали :

В Крематории 1	-	2.675	временная работа
" " 2	-	2.675	" "
" " 3 / с 2/X до 9/X -	-	1.226	" "
" " 4	-	2.568	" "
<b>Всего :</b>		<b>9.197</b>	" "

Doc. 47: Strength of crematoria personnel at Birkenau between October 2 and 11, 1944. GARF, 7021-108-33, p. 163. Soviet elaboration on basis of "Arbeitseinsatz" report series.

No. Nr.	Arbeitskommando	arb.	Ort.	Post.	Fach-Hilfs-	Fach-Hilfs-	Hilfs-
					arb.	arb.	arb.
<b>Übertrag:</b>					12	225	947
<b>Dienststellen-Verwaltung:</b>							
51-B. <del>...</del>	Lager	-	28	72	28	72	
53-B. Heizer Krematorium IV.	Lager	-	-	50	-	50	
					-	28	162
<b>Rüstungsbetriebe:</b>							
51-B. <del>...</del>	Lager	-	194	406	194	406	
502-B. DAW, Flechterei u. Weberei	Lager	-	11	139	11	139	
503-B. DAW, Pfuhleausbankdo B.III.	Lager	3	-	20	-	20	
					3	207	565
<b>ab W. 5. Landwirtschaft (außen)</b>							
1-B. Kompostierung I.	Lager	3	-	10	-	10	
2-B. Kompostierung II.	Lager	3	-	10	-	10	
					6	-	20
<b>Käufer Posten:</b>		<b>Lagerbar. 2</b>					
<b>Gesamt:</b>				23	468	1654	
<b>Beschäftigte:</b>							
a) Facharbeiter:	- 468						
b) Hilfsarbeiter:	1674						2102
<b>Nicht einsatzfähige Häftlinge:</b>							
1. Stationäre Kranke	954						
2. Schonungskranke	57						
3. Invaliden	400						
4. Jugendliche bis 18. Jhr.	770						
5. Arztmelder	45						
7. Vernehmung	2						2228
<b>Unbeschäftigte:</b>							
1. Auf Transport	96						375
2. Vorges. f. Transport	53						428
3. Zugang (Neugebor.)	3						152
<b>Insgesamt</b>						<b>4482</b>	
Wegen Nebel sind die Arbeitsakdos erst um 8.30 Uhr ausgerückt.							
Abteilung III a: 01							

Doc. 48: "Arbeitseinsatz" report of Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp for January 16, 1945. GARF, 502-1-67, p. 17a.

## Abbreviations

- AF: Friedman Archive, Haifa  
 AGK: Archiwum Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej (Archive of the Central Commission of Investigation of Crimes against the Polish People – National Monument), Warsaw  
 APK: Archiwum Państwowego w Katowicach (Katowice state archive)  
 APMO: Archiwum Państwowego Muzeum w Oświęcimiu (Archive of the National Museum at Auschwitz)  
 BAK: Bundesarchiv Koblenz  
 GARF: Gosudarstvenni Archiv Rossiskoi Federatsii (State Archive of the Russian Federation), Moscow  
 NA: National Archives, Washington D.C.  
 PT: Pomník Tereziín (Monument of Terezin)  
 RGVA: Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennii Vojennii Archiv (Russian State War Archive), Moscow  
 ROD: Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (Imperial Institute of War Documentation), Amsterdam

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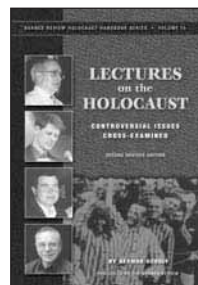
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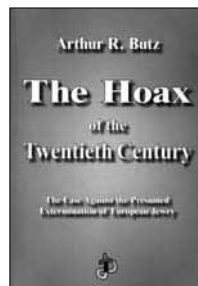
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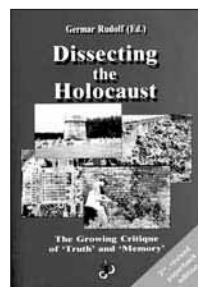


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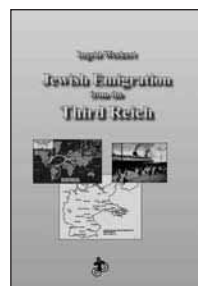
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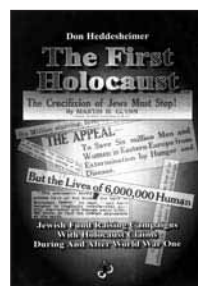


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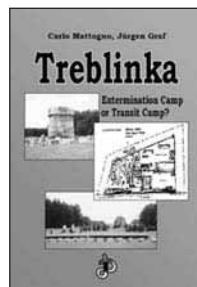


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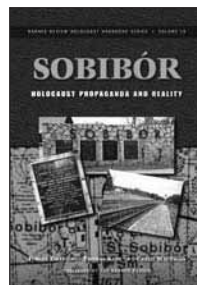
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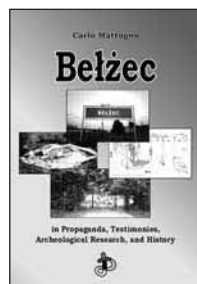
***Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*** By Carlo Mattogno and Juergen Graf. It is alleged that at Treblinka in East Poland between 700,000 and 3,000,000 persons were murdered in 1942 and 1943. The weapons used were said to have been stationary and/or mobile gas chambers, fast-acting or slow-acting 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: it was a transit camp. Even longtime revisionism buffs will find a lot that is new in this book, while Graf's animated style guarantees a pleasant reading experience. The original testimony of witnesses enlivens the reader, as does the skill with which the authors expose the absurdities of Holocaust historiography. Softcover, 365 pages, B&W illustrations, bibliography, index, #389, \$25 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



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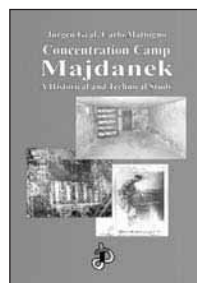


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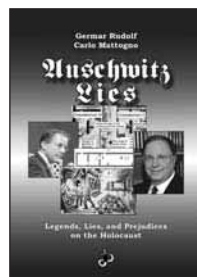
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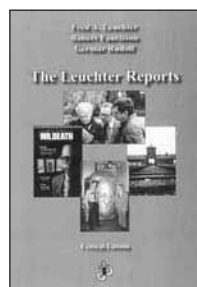


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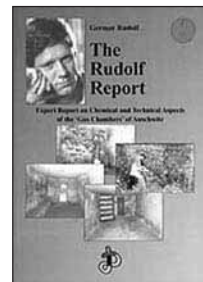
***The Giant with Feet of Clay: Raul Hilberg and His Standard Work on the "Holocaust."*** By Juergen Graf.

Raul Hilberg's major work *The Destruction of European Jewry* is generally considered the standard work on the Holocaust. The critical reader might ask: what evidence does Hilberg provide to back his thesis that there was a German plan to exterminate Jews, to be carried out in the legendary gas chambers? And what evidence supports his estimate of 5.1 million Jewish victims? Juergen Graf applies the methods of critical analysis to Hilberg's evidence and examines the results in light of revisionist historiography. The results of Graf's critical analysis are devastating for Hilberg. Graf's *Giant With Feet of Clay* is the first comprehensive and systematic examination of the leading spokesperson for the orthodox version of the Jewish fate during the Third Reich. Softcover, 128 pages, B&W illustrations, bibliography, index, #252, \$11 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



***The Rudolf Report. Expert Report on Chemical and Technical Aspects of the 'Gas Chambers' of Auschwitz.*** By Germar Rudolf.

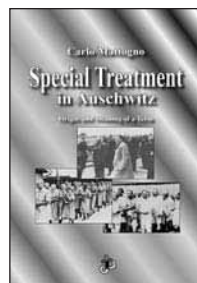
In 1988, Fred Leuchter, American expert for execution technologies, investigated the alleged gas chambers of Auschwitz and Majdanek and concluded that they could not have functioned as claimed. Ever since, Leuchter's claims have been massively criticized. In 1993, Rudolf, a researcher from the prestigious German Max Planck Institute, published a thorough forensic study about the alleged gas chambers of Auschwitz that irons out the deficiencies and discrepancies of "The Leuchter Report." *The Rudolf Report* is the first English edition of this sensational scientific work. It analyzes all existing evidence on the Auschwitz gas chambers. The conclusions are quite clear: The alleged gas chambers of Auschwitz could not have existed. In the appendix, Rudolf describes his unique persecution. Softcover, 455 pages, B&W & color illustrations, bibliography, index, #378, \$33 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



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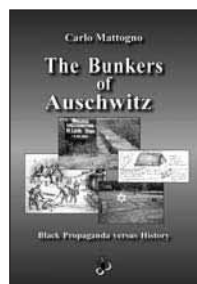
***Special Treatment in Auschwitz: Origin and Meaning of a Term.***

By Carlo Mattogno. When appearing in German wartime documents, terms like “special treatment,” “special action,” and others have been interpreted as code words signifying the murder of inmates. While the term “special treatment” in many such documents did indeed mean execution, the term need not always have had that meaning in German records. This book is the most thorough study of this textual problem to date. Publishing and interpreting numerous such documents about Auschwitz—many of them hitherto unknown—Mattogno shows that, while “special” had many different meanings, not a single one meant “execution.” This important study demonstrates that the practice of deciphering an alleged “code language” by assigning homicidal meaning to harmless documents is no longer tenable. Softcover, 151 pages, B&W illustrations, bibliography, index, #543, \$15 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



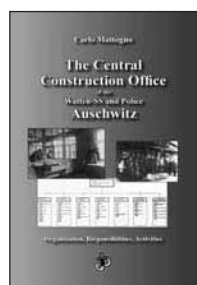
***The Bunkers of Auschwitz: Black Propaganda vs. History.***

By Carlo Mattogno. The so-called “Bunkers” at Auschwitz are claimed to have been the first homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz specifically equipped for this purpose in early 1942. With the help of original German wartime files, this study shows that these “bunkers” never existed; how the rumors about them evolved as black propaganda created by resistance groups within the camp; how this propaganda was transformed into “reality” by historians; and how material evidence (aerial photography and archeological research) confirms the publicity character of these rumors. Softcover, 264 pages, illustrations, bibliography, index, #544, \$20 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



***Auschwitz: The Central Construction Office.***

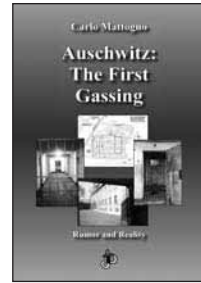
By Carlo Mattogno. Based upon mostly unpublished German wartime documents from Moscow archives, this study describes the history, organization, tasks and procedures of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Auschwitz Police. Despite a huge public interest in the camp, next to nothing was really known about this office, which was responsible for the planning and construction of the Auschwitz camp complex, including those buildings in which horrendous mass slaughter is erroneously said to have occurred. Softcover, 182 pages, B&W illustrations, glossary, #545, \$18 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



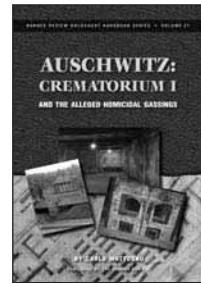
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***Auschwitz: The First Gassing—Rumor and Reality.*** By Carlo Mattogno. The first gassing of human beings in Auschwitz is claimed to have occurred on Sept. 3, 1941, in a basement room. The accounts reporting it are the archetypes for all later gassing accounts. This study analyzes all available sources about this alleged event. It shows that these sources contradict each other in location, date, preparations, victims etc, rendering it impossible to extract a consistent story. Original wartime documents inflict a final blow to the tale of the first homicidal gassing. Softcover, 157 pages, B&W illustrations, bibliography, index, #515, **\$16** minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



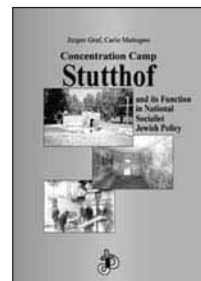
***Auschwitz: Crematorium I and the Alleged Homicidal Gassings.*** By Carlo Mattogno. The morgue of Crematorium I in Auschwitz is claimed to have been the first homicidal gas chamber in that camp. This study thoroughly investigates all accessible statements by witnesses and analyzes hundreds of wartime documents in order to accurately write a history of that building. Mattogno proves that its morgue was never used as a homicidal gas chamber, nor could it have served as such. Softcover, 138 pages, B&W illustrations, bibliography, index, #546, **\$18** minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



***Auschwitz: Open Air Incinerations.*** By Carlo Mattogno. Hundreds of thousands of corpses of murder victims are claimed to have been incinerated in deep ditches in the Auschwitz concentration/work camp complex. This book examines the many testimonies regarding these incinerations and establishes whether these claims were technically possible. Using aerial photographic evidence, physical evidence and wartime documents, the author shows that these claims are untrue. A must read. Softcover, 132 pages, B&W illustrations, bibliography, index, #547, **\$12** minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



***Concentration Camp Stutthof and its Function in National Socialist Jewish Policy.*** By Carlo Mattogno and Juergen Graf. The concentration camp at Stutthof near Danzig in western Prussia has never before been scientifically investigated by Western historians. Polish authors officially sanctioned by their Communist government long maintained that Stutthof was converted to an “auxiliary extermination camp” in 1944 with the mission to murder as many Jews as possible. This book subjects this concept to rigorous critical investigation based on literature and documents from various archives. It shows that extermination claims contradict reliable sources. Second edition, 128 pages, B&W & color illustrations, bibliography, index, #379, **\$15** minus 10% for TBR subscribers.



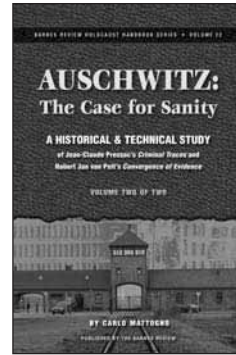
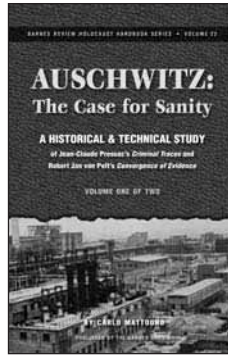

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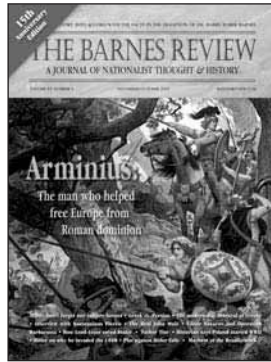
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