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THE "OPERATION REINHARDT" CAMPS

TREBLINKA
SOBIBÓR
BEŁŻEC

BLACK PROPAGANDA, ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, EXPECTED MATERIAL EVIDENCE

CARLO MATTOGNO

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Treblinka, Sobibór, Bełżec

Black Propaganda,
Archeological Research,
Expected Material Evidence

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Foreword

By now, the study of the camps of "Operation Reinhardt" by Carlo Mattogno and his colleagues Jürgen Graf and Thomas Kues has a history of its own, which deserves to be explained before delving into the present study.

Strictly speaking, this history started in 1998, when the first German edition of Jürgen Graf's and Carlo Mattogno's monograph on the labor camp at Majdanek appeared, which was a trail-blazing study based primarily on a plethora of original German wartime documents never before systematically analyzed by any historian (Graf/Mattogno).

Although the Majdanek Camp is generally not considered one of the "Operation Reinhardt" Camps, it is nonetheless true that many original German wartime documents clearly indicate that this camp was deeply involved in the activities of the so-called Operation Reinhardt (as was the Auschwitz Camp).

In a narrower sense, only three camps are usually referred to as *the* Operation Reinhardt Camps: Treblinka, Sobibór and Bełżec. All three are said to have served exclusively for the purpose of mass-murdering Jews. They were pure extermination camps, or so the orthodoxy claims.

After several years of research and writing, Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf submitted their text for a book on the first of these camps, Treblinka, to this editor in early June 2002. The book appeared a little more than two months later in German, and in January 2004 also in an English translation (Mattogno/Graf).

When Carlo Mattogno was done writing this book, he turned his attention to another of the three Operation Reinhardt Camps: Bełżec. Since much less primary source material exists about this camp, and because many observations about Treblinka also apply to Bełżec, Mattogno initially only planned to publish a lengthy journal article on that camp, which would have referred to his study on Treblinka many times. However, the project became too lengthy for a mere article after all, so it ended up being a proper, albeit slender book, which refers frequently to the Treblinka book in order to avoid repeating many things the author had already written before. He submitted the Italian typescript of this work in January of 2004. This time, our translator for the English edition was faster than the translator for the German edition, so the English edition already appeared in June of 2004, while the German edition only came out six months later in December (see Mattogno 2016).

During the next several years, Mattogno focused his razor-sharp mind on writing several studies on the Auschwitz Camp. When the focus returned to the Operation Reinhardt Camps in order to tackle the last of the three – Sobibór –

Mattogno was joined by Jürgen Graf and Swedish researcher Thomas Kues. Since there were many more primary sources available on that camp, and also because new insights had been gained in general about all matters concerning the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" as pursued by the Third Reich in general and Operation Reinhardt in particular, we decided to bring all the issues involved up to the current state of knowledge, which meant repeating many of the things already written in the 2002 Treblinka monograph, but then integrating all the new findings into that framework. Handling three authors using three different languages turned out to be a challenge. Eventually, the English edition appeared in May of 2010, followed by the German edition in December of that same year (Graf/Kues/Mattogno).

All three studies of these camps, written more-or-less-independently from each other, had not been planned originally to be parts of a whole, let alone a series, so they inevitably contain duplications. Yet they all ended up as entries to our prestigious series *Holocaust Handbooks* (Vols. 8, 9 and 19).

The three studies eventually became the focus of a major attempt at refutation by mainstream scholars, which in turn triggered a massive response by Mattogno, Kues and Graf with their 1,400-page-work on *The "Extermination Camps" of "Aktion Reinhardt"* – clearly an overkill for most readers, in particular since that two-volume work does not develop its own self-contained story line, but for the most part is a point-by-point response and rebuttal of the attempted mainstream refutation (Mattogno/Kues/Graf). Fully comprehending that rebuttal requires first or concurrently reading the 700-plus-page mainstream "refutation", which is yet another challenge for the reader. Yet still, considering that this massive tome is an astounding demonstration of the full-spectrum dominance of revisionism over its opponents with regard to knowledge and mastery of the source material, that it is a sort of handbook featuring detailed answers to many objections against Holocaust revisionism, and because it contains major updates and upgrades to all three monographs on the Operation Reinhardt Camps, we decided to integrate it into the series *Holocaust Handbooks* anyway (as Vol. 28), albeit with some disquietude.

One advantage of this massive two-volume tome was that it reported about ongoing archeological digging on the grounds of the former Sobibór Camp. However, the book project was wrapped up in 2013, while the research at Sobibór was still going on. In fact, it reached its pinnacle (or climax, if you will), only in 2014 with the (re-)discovery of bricks in the soil alleged to be the remnants of the claimed "gas chambers." The researchers involved in the Sobibór digs kept reporting about their results until 2017, when the project was finally concluded. For Mattogno, this meant that more research needed to be discussed, and more revisions to be made. Would his new book comprise 2,500 pages this time?

Well, the good news is, no. Instead of revising the initial three monographs, which was deemed too much of a challenge, as a revision would mean that they all three had to be closely realigned, and instead of revising the two-vol-

ume-1,400-page doorstop, which has not exactly been any reader's favorite judging by sales figures, Mattogno decided to write a new book which would discuss the current, updated state of knowledge about all three camps, reduced down to the very essentials. This book with its systematically built, self-contained story line, which you are holding in your hands, is now the new Volume 28 of the *Holocaust Handbooks*. The former Volume 28 will be reissued as a slightly revised stand-alone work sometime in the future.

This raises the question: what exactly *is* essential about those three camps? First of all, a general discussion of the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" in general and Operation Reinhardt in particular is not included in this book. This has been covered *ad nauseam* in the books on Treblinka, on Sobibór and in the two-volume doorstop. Furthermore, the present study has its focus only on witness testimony recorded during the war and in the immediate post-war era for two reasons. First, this is when the myth was created, and this is where its true origin can be found. And second, the nature of the human memory dictates that recollections older than several years are simply too unreliable, and when it comes to events that are highly publicized, and where there are strong expectations by the general public as to what has to be remembered – at times even at gunpoint – witness testimony tends to get increasingly contaminated by second-hand "knowledge" as time goes on.

Hence, in the first part of this study – in particular in the chapter about Sobibór and even more-so in the one focusing on Treblinka – the reader will find numerous early witness testimonies about the claimed extermination activities of the Reinhardt Camps, many of which have not been quoted, let alone discussed, in earlier revisionist works on this topic.

The second part of this book brings us all up to speed with the various archeological efforts made by mainstream scholars in their attempt to figure out what exactly happened at those camps – or rather, their attempt to prove that the myth based on wartime and post-war testimonies is true.

The third part compares the findings of the second part with what we ought to expect, and reveals the chasm that exists between archeologically proven facts and mythological requirements.

Some of what the reader will encounter in this book has already been said in one of the earlier four books on these camps. In fact, when I translated the present book from the Italian, I sometimes copied considerable parts from one of the three individual camp monographs, in particular when it comes to witness testimonies, because some of them have been quoted before. We tried to keep repetitions like this to a minimum, but since we all want to read the present book as a self-contained unit without having to constantly grab another book in order to understand, laying out the basics was a must.

I think the present book is a more-accessible replacement for the two-volume doorstop as Volume 28 of our series *Holocaust Handbooks*, and also one that we can easily update in the future, should the need arise.

I hope you can enjoy the read at least as much as I enjoyed the translating and editing of it.

Germar Rudolf
Red Lion, June 17, 2021

Introduction

The study of the sources dating back to the period of the Second World War shows unequivocally that the history of the alleged National-Socialist extermination camps, especially regarding the killing system that is said to have been used in them, developed over the years from evidently unfounded rumors through various intermediate stages to the "historical" version currently considered "true," and legally enforced as such in twenty or more countries.

When it comes to the genesis of the regnant historical account about the "gas chambers" purportedly located at the alleged "Operation Reinhardt" extermination camps – Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka –, the same literary process occurred as I have described regarding the creation of the officially authorized account about the alleged "gas chambers" of Auschwitz (see Mattogno 2021). The preconditions are identical, and so is the starting point. This is explicitly recognized by orthodox Holocaust historiography, which nevertheless stubbornly insists on attributing probative value to these fables.

Pierre Vidal-Naquet wrote that "[i]n the flow of information coming from the occupied territories were to be found the true, the less-true, and the false." This less-true and false information consisted of inaccuracies of all kinds as well as of fantasies and myths which, however, "did not exist in isolation, like some creation suo generis or 'rumor,' a hoax hatched by a specific milieu, such as the New York Zionists. They existed as the shadow projected by—or prolonging—reality" (Vidal-Naquet, pp. 83f.).

In the specific case, this presupposes that there was actually a well-defined "reality" – here the extermination of Jews in the aforementioned camps perpetrated in gas chambers using exhaust gas of a motor – that could cast "fantasies and myths" like shadows.

But it is a fact that this alleged reality, due to the total lack of documents and material traces, is exclusively based on testimonies, that is to say, precisely on pieces of literature. In practice, therefore, this "reality" consists of nothing other than the choices made by the courts and historians from among the various propaganda versions that circulated during the war. Hence, the judges and the historians decided that the extermination must have occurred in the aforementioned manner rather than by any other means claimed by the wartime sources, for example, by electrocution, steam chambers or chlorine chambers. And this did not happen because it was ascertained after the war on the basis of any kind of irrefutable evidence that this one version had been the reality, and

all the other claims were only "shadows," precisely because such evidence did not exist. There were no orders to establish extermination camps, original plans of the camps, documents on their construction, administration or operation, aerial photographs taken during their activity, and so on – nothing.

And here the fundamental problem arises: how did the "fantasies and myths" arise? At this point, only two answers seem possible. Either these fantasies and myths were inventions of the Jewish and Polish black propaganda, and for this reason already, they could not, in principle, reflect any kind of "reality", even if deformed. Or they came from "eyewitnesses", but if that was so, how is it possible that these testimonies had been twisted into delusional tales?

The problem is even more serious, because each of these (rejected) "fantasies and myths" had their own claimed "eyewitnesses", meaning direct witnesses of the actual crime – rather than just indirect witnesses. Hence, rejecting the electrocution, steam-chamber, and chlorine-gas-chamber narratives characterizes the corresponding "eyewitnesses" to these myths as premeditated liars – and this not only from the revisionist perspective, but also from that of today's orthodox Holocaust narrative.

From this it follows that the usual subdivision between direct witnesses, indirect witnesses and perpetrators is a schematic simplification that may be useful for categorizing the various statements, but it absolutely cannot solve the underlying problem.

For eyewitnesses, the conflict mentioned earlier remains intact. Indirect witnesses, since they have not witnessed the crime itself but only some aspects which they "interpreted", at best could have seen and/or heard mere external aspects from a distance, for example the arrival of transports, mass graves, the stench of corpses, the smoke of fires, etc. But what specifically would turn these camps into extermination camps is not the mere presence of these elements, but their order of magnitude, and no indirect witness, a mere temporary observer from a distance, could establish that these elements concerned hundreds of thousands rather than only hundreds, thousands or even tens of thousands of dead people.

The claimed perpetrators, meaning the SS men and their auxiliaries working at the Reinhardt Camps, testified, if at all, only at a point in time when the literary reality created by courts and historians had already been declared a "self-evident fact" that could no longer be challenged in court. Hence, the fact that many of these alleged perpetrators confirmed this "reality" with their statements ex post facto does not make this "reality" less literary in nature.

Considering the flood of claims that have been circulated since 1942, the elements that happen to end up conforming to the eventually agreed-upon version – the killing by gas, with more-or-less-fanciful add-ons – must therefore not be considered as partial truths that were somehow percolated out of the camps. In fact, the claims that eventually "stuck" were nothing but stereotypes which had been lavishly and indiscriminately attributed to anything in sight.

For example, A "toxic gas" was even invoked with regard to the alleged "extermination camp" of Trawniki!

In the reports under discussion, the Polish term "gaz" is extremely generic, somewhat as in English. The gas was also frequently correlated with "cylinders" and "tanks", and we must not forget that even "vapor chambers" were called "gas chambers."[1] Commonly used in the plural, the term did not reveal anything about the nature of the gas –the killing gases alleged also included chlorine, "chloride," ether, and Zyklon B.

It is easily explained where the idea of asphyxiating gases came from. The First World War saw extensive deployment of aggressive chemical weapons on all fronts by all belligerents. Between 1914 and 1918, 250,000 tons were manufactured. 1,000,000 soldiers were affected by this, 78,000 of whom died (Izzo, p. 7). In the summer of 1917, on a front of 10 kilometers between Neuilly and the left bank of the Meuse, more than 400,000 gas projectiles were launched, thousands more in August and October 1917 at Verdun, and in December 1917 along the Russian front (*ibid*., p. 31). In 1918, the German artillery depots contained 50% gas shells. In the first major offensive of 1918, 200,000 mustard-gas shells were fired by the Germans on a single day (*ibid*., p. 32).

Unlike the Germans, the French used hydrogen cyanide on the battlefield in the form of Vincennite, a mixture of 50% hydrogen cyanide, 30% arsenic trichloride, 15% tin tetrachloride and 5% chloroform, of which they prepared about 4,000 tons (*ibid*., p. 66).

In Germany, research for chemical warfare was conducted by the *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für physikalische Chemie und Elektrochemie* (Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry), directed by Prof. Fritz Haber, in whose field of research of "combat gases" (*Gaskampfmittel*) the chemist Bruno Tesch worked from October 1915, who later became the owner of the Hamburg Tesch & Stabenow Company (Kalthoff/Werner, p. 11).

British black propaganda famously exploited this theme as well. In 1916, *The Daily Telegraph* published an article headlined "Atrocities in Serbia," allegedly transmitted by its Rome correspondent, which reported that two Italian prisoners of war had escaped from Austria through Serbia and had taken refuge in Romania. They had reported that the Austrians and Bulgarians had killed 700,000 people, claiming that women, children and old men had been locked up in churches and had been stabbed to death with bayonets or "suffocated by means of asphyxiating gas," and in this way 3,000 people had also been murdered in a church in Belgrade. "Serbian refugees," the article continues, "not on oath, have stated that they were present at a distribution of bombs and machines for producing asphyxiating gas to the Bulgarians by the Germans and Austrians, who instructed the former how to utilize these instruments to exter-

[1] See Subchapter 3.4. For example, in the "Tremblinki" report, published in 1944 by Rabbi Abraham Silberschein, the "steam chambers" were called "gassing installation," and the water vapor was called "gas."

minate the Serbian population. The Bulgarians used this method in Nish, Pirot, Prizrend and Negotin, the inhabitants of which places died of suffocation. Similar means were employed by the Austrians in several parts of Montenegro."

After the end of the war, although the Geneva Gas Protocol of 1925 forbade the use of aggressive chemicals in warfare, they continued to be studied – especially from a tactical point of view – in all the countries that had been involved in the conflict, giving rise to instructions and government manuals[2] as well as to a rich technical literature summarizing the studies and experiences made during the war.[3]

By the beginning of World War II, all belligerents had entire arsenals of chemical weapons.

On April 20, 1942, the British War Cabinet received a detailed report dated April 13 from the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs on possible future chemical warfare that was feared, with a precise description of the British chemical arsenal, including 95,000 phosgene-loaded bombs. The report drew attention to the fact that:

> *"the Russian may be tempted to accuse the Germans of having used gas against them, without their having done so, in order to bring our countermeasures into play. We shall have no check whether the story is true or false."*[4]

Such a situation arose when the Polish propaganda explicitly accused the Germans of having used war gases against Russian PoWs, which had happened already half a year earlier, on October 24, 1941, when the Information and Propaganda Office of the *Armia Krajowa* (National Army) of the Polish Government-in-Exile received the following message ("Obóz…", p. 11):

> *"At Oświęcim* [Auschwitz], *in early October, 850 Soviet officers and noncoms (POWs) who had been taken there were killed by gas as a test of a new type of combat gas, which is to be used on the eastern front* [*jako próbe być użyty na froncie wschodnim*]*."*

As is well-known, subsequently Jews were identified as the primary victims of the use of poison gas.

In several other studies, I have already outlined the storylines invented and spread by the Polish-Jewish black propaganda since 1942 for all three camps of Operation Reinhardt.[5] Ever since these studies were published, I have acquired a considerable number of additional documents. Since this is a fundamental subject, I deemed it appropriate to devote a specific in-depth study to

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2 Already in 1937, the British government published the 100-page manual *Air Raid Precautions Handbook No. 1*.

3 In addition to the already cited Izzo, see the works by Sartori, Prentiss as well as Flury/Zernik. Prof. Flury was a researcher at the *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut*, and together with Dr. Albrecht Hase he had invented Zyklon A.

4 War Cabinet. Chemical Warfare. Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and Annex 1. Report. TNA, CAB 66-24 (War Cabinet. Memoranda W.P. (42) 171 – W. P. (42) 220, Vol. XXIV, pp. 4-28).

5 Mattogno 2016, Chapter II, pp. 35-50; Graf/Kues/Mattogno, Chapter 3, pp. 63-76; Mattogno/Graf, Chapter II, pp. 47-76.

how these propaganda stories emerged and developed, which constitutes Part One of the present study.

Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues and I have already dealt with archaeological research and material evidence about these three camps in greater depth in another study (Mattogno/Kues/Graf). However, when this study was published, archaeological investigations at Sobibór and Treblinka were still in progress. Some of their results have been made accessible since then. Together with the additional documents acquired in the meantime, this not only allows me to come to a final conclusion on the matter, but also to revise previous tentative conclusions regarding mass graves and cremations. These issues constitute the subject matter of Parts Two and Three of this study.

Part One:

Black Propaganda

The Literary Genesis of the "Extermination Camps"

1. Bełżec

1.1. The Impossible Ignorance of "Reality"

The case of the alleged Bełżec Extermination Camp illustrates in an emblematic way the instrumental and mendacious character of the propaganda stories created and spread by Polish-Jewish black propaganda that I outlined in the Introduction. In this camp, everything took place in the light of day, so that the legendary narratives I will expound in this chapter cannot constitute a "shadow projected by—or prolonging—reality" at all.

Michael Tregenza, one of the foremost experts on the history of Bełżec, noted (Tregenza, pp. 241f.):

> *"Whereas Sobibór and Treblinka lay hidden and isolated and were removed from public view, this extermination camp lay right next to the heavily traveled rail and road links between Lublin and Lemberg, directly next to the village of Bełżec. Fences and watchtowers were clearly visible to the traffic passing through, as well as to the villagers. Thus, it is not surprising that both the camp and what happened inside were known to the local population from the beginning. After all, a group of workers was charged with the construction, which included the first gas chambers."*

This camp was in fact adjacent to a major road (today's State Road 17) and to the railway line connecting Lublin to Rava Russkaja and continuing on to Lviv, which the Germans call Lemberg and the Poles Lwów. Since the camp was located on the side of a small hill, and the allegedly homicidal gas chambers of the second phase, as well as the mass graves, are said to have been located in the upper part, the 3-meter-high fence, even if pine and fir branches were woven into it as claimed by some,[6] would not have prevented anyone from observing all the phases of the alleged extermination from a certain distance. Therefore, the "terrible secret" of Bełżec would have been on full display from the outset.

During the camp's period of existence, passenger trains continued to pass through Bełżec Station, and some testimonies come from their passengers. The bulletin *Oneg Szabat* of July 18, 1942 contains the following statement (Bańkowska/Epsztein, p. 255):

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[6] Interrogation of S. Kozak dated October 14, 1945. Libionka, p. 147.

> *"Eyewitnesses* [*naoczni świadkowie*] *say that, when passing by train through Bełżec Station, conductors ordered the windows of the cars to be closed for six minutes to prevent the stench of the rotting corpses of murdered Jews from fouling the air in the cars."*

A collection of notes dated August 31, 1942 with the general headline "Observations on the 'resettlement['] of the Jews in the General Government" ("*Beobachtung über die 'Umsiedlung*['] *der Juden in General-Gouvernement*") is attributed to a certain Wilhelm Cornides. However, the original typescript lacks any indication of the author.[7] It was published by Hans Rothfels only in 1959, claiming without evidence that Cornides was the author (Rothfels 1959).

According to one of the short notes, the author was at the Rawa-Ruska [Rava Russkaja] railway station on August 31, 1942, where a train had stopped. He learned from a policeman that such trains had been transiting for three weeks.[8]

> *"I asked: 'How far will they still go?' He then: 'To Belcec.' 'And then?' 'Poison.' I asked: 'Gas?' He shrugged. Then he also said: 'In the beginning, I think they have always shot them.'"*

Then the scene shifts to a passenger train which the author had boarded at Rawa-Ruska:[9]

> *"We drove past the Belcec Camp. Before that, we drove through a forest of tall pine trees for a longer period of time. When the woman called out 'now it's coming', all you could see was a high hedge of pine trees. A strong, sweet smell was clearly noticeable. 'They are stinking already,' said the woman. 'Oh nonsense, that's the gas,' laughed the railway policeman. In the meantime – we had driven about 200 meters – the sweet smell had turned into a pungent smell of burning. 'This is from the crematorium,' said the policeman. Shortly afterwards, the fence ended. A guardhouse with SS posts in front of it could be seen. A double railroad track led into the camp. One track was a branch from the main line, the other led via a turntable out of the camp to a row of sheds about 250 meters away. A freight car was currently parked on the turntable. Several Jews were busy turning the turntable. SS guards, rifle under their arms, stood next to it. One of the sheds was open; one could clearly see that it was filled to the ceiling with bundles of clothes. As we drove on, I looked back at the camp. The fence was too high to see anything. The woman said that sometimes smoke could be seen coming out of the camp when driving by, but I could not see anything like that. My estimate is that the camp measures about 800 by 400 meters."*

Another source claimed the following for as late as April 1943:

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7 YVA, O.33-1784.
8 *Ibid.*, p. 1.
9 *Ibid.*, p. 2.

> *"Travelers on the railway line Zawada-Rawa Ruska close the windows, for this awful stench penetrates into the compartments and causes the people to vomit."* (Silberschein 1944b, p. 21; see the next subchapter)

Regarding Bełżec's "terrible secret," M. Tregenza, who also interviewed the local population, is even more explicit (Tregenza, pp. 246f):

> *"From the very beginning, every single villager knew what was going on in the camp. This resulted from the fraternization between the camp staff and the Ukrainian village population, many of whom entertained members of the SS and 'Trawniki men' in their homes and were well paid for their 'hospitality'. This apparently included prostitution as well. Some young women – according to statements by local people – were said to have done so with the 'Trawniki men' for jewelry and other valuables. Furthermore, prostitutes from other towns came to Bełżec. In the files of the Polish People's Police there are indications concerning a number of villagers who served in various departments of the camp SS. In particular, three sisters of the J. family worked in the SS staff kitchen and in the SS laundry which belonged to the B. family. The village bakery, owned by the Ukrainian N. family, provided the daily supply of several hundred loaves of bread for the SS staff, the 'Trawniki men,' and the thousand or so Jews working in the camp. A number of villagers took the bread by farm cart to the camp gate. One of them was the Jew Mojzesz Hellman, who lived clandestinely in Bełżec under the name of Ligowski. The wages consisted of valuables and cognac.*
>
> *Four men were employed within the camp proper, among them Dmitri N., who checked and repaired the showers and baths of the 'Trawniki men.' Mieczyslaw K. and Waclaw O. worked as mechanics in the garage of the SS or as electricians. The electrician Michał K. installed cables and lighting in the second gas building, the so-called 'Stiftung Hackenholt'* [Hackenholt Foundation] *and is said to have occasionally assisted in the gassings. To the knowledge of the author, this is the only case of a Pole directly* [involved] *– voluntarily and with pay – in the mass murder of Jews in an extermination camp. It is also worth mentioning that the villagers Eustachy U. and Wojciech I. were not only allowed to own cameras but were even allowed, nay, encouraged, to take pictures of the guards of the extermination camp. Some of the photographs were even taken within the camp. The SS men and the 'Trawniki men' would also take pictures of one another and give the films to Wojciech I. for development and printing."*

Tregenza adds that the 20 men who were allegedly forced by the SS to build the first gas chamber at Bełżec – were in fact paid voluntary employees (*ibid.*, pp. 247f.)

> *"These workers were not forced to build the camp, rather, they were recommended by the village administration and were well paid."*

To this image we can add what Patrick Desbois wrote in 2007 (Desbois, p. 45):

> *"In Bełżec I meet the baker who brought bread to the camp staff, the bricklayer who built the gas chambers, and the daughter of the town's mayor. Her father*

had been chosen by the commandant of the death camp to temporarily run the municipality. Decisions were made in the presence of the camp commandant. One time he had to provide barbed wire, another time he had to provide workers, yet another time he had to provide horses. When the SS stables were bombed, the camp commandant ordered the mayor to gather forty horses in the central square of the town. A German vet inspected them and chose the best eighteen. Each of the owners was given a receipt. I met the son of one of these farmers. As time passed, his father began to worry, so eventually he decided to go to the camp in order to retrieve the requisitioned horse. He told of having seen threshing machines in operation inside. The Nazis used them to sift through the ashes and find tooth gold."

These circumstances show, on the one hand, that everyone in Bełżec knew everything, so that the legends put into circulation already in early April 1942 had no reason to exist except, precisely, as propaganda legends. On the other hand, they demonstrate that the SS in Bełżec had no "terrible secret" to hide, and most certainly did not feel at all involved in anything even remotely similar to such a monstrous crime as mass extermination, because they allowed Polish civilians and peasants access to the camp and even allowed themselves to be photographed by them!

1.2. Extermination by Electricity

In the stream of information on the Bełżec Camp which emerged during the Second World War, the alleged system of murder later to be embraced by the official historians – gas chambers using the exhaust gas from a Diesel engine – does not appear at all. Instead, we find all manner of methods, not only diverse in nature, but in part quite fantastic. The only specific reference to a killing with gas – and a very unusual one to boot – is found in a note published under the title "A policeman tells a tale in the town-hall basement of Cholm on September 1, 1942", which is one of the stories attributed to W. Cornides:[10]

"When asked how the Jews were being killed, the policeman replied: 'They are told that they have to be deloused, and then they have to take off their clothes, and then they come into a room where a heat wave is first let in, and there is already a small dose of the gas in it. That is enough for anesthesia. The rest follows then afterwards. And then they are burned straight away.'"

The first news about Bełżec spread as early as April 8, 1942, hence a few weeks after the camp had opened. Zygmunt Klukowski noted in his diary on this date:[11]

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[10] *Ibid.*, p. 3.

[11] Klukowski, p. 254, entry for April 8, 1942. Extracts from Klukowski's diary were published three years earlier with the title "Niedola i zagłada Żydów w Szczebrzeszynie" ("The Misfortune and Extermination of the Jews in Szczebrzeszyn"), where the quoted passage can be found on p. 223.

"Among the Jews terrible desperation. We now know that every day there is a train arriving at Bełżec from Lublin and one from Lvov, each with twenty cars. The Jews must get off, are taken behind a barbed-wire fence and murdered by an electric current [*prądem elektrycznym*] *or poisoned with gas* [*gazami*], *and then the corpses are burnt* [*zwłoki palą*]*."*

A report of the *Delegatura* (the clandestine representation in Poland of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London), which I translate in full, also dates from April 1942 (Caban/Mańkowski, pp. 34f.):

"Bełżec Camp. As far as the Jews are concerned, terror has been imposed for many weeks. Cases of beatings and shootings of Jews are the order of the day. Among them is observed the fear of being taken to Bełżec Camp. The camp was completely finished a few days before March 17, 1942. From that day on, the transportation of Jews by trains from Lwów and Warsaw began. On the first day, five transports arrived, and then they came from one of the two areas. One transport entered Bełżec Station below the camp.[12] *After an unloading of half an hour, the train comes back empty. The train crew is German and* [there is] *only one Pole, the fireman,* [who] *gets off at the station before entering the siding. The observations of the population (the camp is within visual and auditory range of the inhabitants of the railway buildings) all lead to one conclusion, that the Jews are killed en masse at the camp. The following facts support this:*

1) 52 transports arrived at the camp between March 17 and April 13 (one transport [has] *18-35 freight cars* [with] *an average of 1,500 people).*

2) No Jews are brought out of the camp – neither during the day nor at night.

3) No provisions are delivered to the camp (bread and other foodstuffs were provided for the Jews who previously worked on the construction [of the camp]*).*

4) Lime is brought to the camp.

5) Transports arrived at the camp at every hour. Prior to the arrival of a transport, no Jews are observed at the camp.

6) Approximately 2 railway cars of clothing are taken from the camp after each transport, which are deposited in the railroad warehouses (clothing is looted by the Selbstschutz [self-protection: Ukrainians on duty at the camp].

7) In the camp area, Jews were seen in underwear.

8) There are 3 barracks in the camp area, in which not even a tenth of the Jews is accommodated.

9) On the hottest days, one can smell a strong stench in the camp area.

10) For vodka, which the Selbstschutzes drink in large quantities, they pay any amount requested, often with watches and precious objects.

11) […] *It is not known by which kind of death the Jews perish in the camp. There are three hypotheses: 1) with electricity* [*elektrycznością*], *2) with gases* [*gazami*, plural], *3) with rarefied air* [vacuum] *with the help of a suction pump. Regarding 1) – lack of an efficient source of electricity, regarding 2) – neither the delivery of gases* [*gazów*, plural] *was observed, nor the action of gas resi-*

12 Meaning the camp was located on a hill above the station.

> *dues* [*gazu*, singular] *after ventilation, regarding 3) – this hypothesis has no elements that can refute it. Instead, there is confirmation that the walls and floor of one of the barracks were covered with thick sheet metal during their construction (apparently on purpose).*
> *In the camp area large excavations were carried out in the fall. At that time, it was assumed that there would be underground warehouses. Today the purpose of these works was explained. From the airtight barracks into which the undressed Jews are forced, presumably for disinfection, a narrow-gauge railroad track leads to these excavations. It was seen that the Jews carried their 'disinfected' co-religionists to a mass grave on this track.*
> *In Bełżec, the term 'Totenlager'* [camp of the dead] *was heard in regard to the Jewish camp. The camp is run by 12 SS (kom*[mandant] *hauptmann* [captain] *Wirth), who have 40 Selbstschutz as aides."*

I will not dwell on this hearsay description,[13] but point out that the report's resistance authors would have done better to ask for first-hand information from the inhabitants of Bełżec who had access to the camp and allegedly even built the claimed "gas chambers" for pay! This confirms precisely that, from these sources, they knew or could have known everything from the very beginning, but instead they intentionally put out a grim story of black propaganda. The aforementioned hearsay description itself is the result of such propaganda, because the story of the trains entering the Bełżec Camp full of people but always leaving the camp empty, even at night – which implies a very improbable system of careful surveillance by the civilian population, with lookouts watching the camp around the clock – was the prerequisite for creating the story of an "extermination camp," but then there was still the crucial issue of the killing system, which was "solved" not with any demonstrable facts but with a lot of imagination.

In June 1942, Emanuel Ringelblum, Hersz Wasser and Eliahu Gutkowski prepared a report for the *Oneg Szabat* underground archives of the Warsaw Ghetto titled "The Purgatory of Polish Jews under the Nazi Occupation," where we read:[14]

> *"From mid-March 1942 to the present day, the extermination of the Jews of the Lublin District of Bełżec continues, where, according to the information provided, they kill by means of electricity* [*przy pomocy prądu elektrycznego*] *and then cremate in installed furnaces* [*w zainstalowanych piecach*]*."*

On July 10, 1942, the Polish Government-in-Exile in London received the following report:[15]

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13 For a discussion of these kinds of claims I refer the reader to Mattogno 2016 and Mattogno/Kues/Graf.

14 "Gehenna Żydów polskich pod okupacją hitlerowską," in: Bańkowska/Epsztein, p. 326.

15 *Meldunek nadzwyczajny z miejsca tracenia w Bełżcu z 10.VII.42r.* SPP, Jcha 15, poz. 81. The report was later included as "Annex 3" in a long report (Sprawozdanie Nr. 6/42) written in London on December 23, 1942 by the Minister of the Interior, St. Mikołajczyk, of the Polish Government-in-Exile. HILA, Stanford University, Box 3, pp. 63f.

> *"According to information from a German who is employed there, the place of execution is located in Bełżec, near the railway station, and is fenced off with barbed-wire fences. Inside and outside the barbed-wire fences, the Ukrainian guard detail stands sentinel. The execution takes place in the following manner: The train of Jews, after arriving at Bełżec Station, approaches on a siding the wire fences surrounding the place of execution, where the train personnel get replaced. From the fences* [onward], *the train is driven by German engineers to the unloading point, where the tracks end. After being unloaded, the men go to a barracks on the right, the women to a barracks located on the left, where they undress, purportedly for a bath. After undressing, both groups enter the third barracks, with an electric plate* [*z płytą elektryczną*], *where the execution takes place. Then the corpses are taken by rail to the pit, about 30 meters deep, which is located outside the fences. This pit was dug by Jews, all of whom were executed. The Ukrainian guard personnel serving there must be killed after the end of the operation. The Ukrainians on guard duty are overloaded with stolen coins and jewelry: they pay 400 złoty for a liter of vodka, and 2,000 złoty and also jewelry for having an affair with a woman."*

On July 25, Wehrmacht Captain Wilm Hosenfeld described in his diary the Jewish-Polish black-propaganda tales circulating at the time (Roth, p. 228):

> *"This week already 30000 Jews are to be led out of the ghetto, somewhere to the east. What will be done with them is already known, despite all secrecy. Somewhere, not far from Lublin, there are buildings with electrically heated rooms, which are heated by high-voltage current, similar to a crematorium. The unfortunate people are herded into these heating chambers and then burned alive. Thousands can be killed this way in one day."*

These fables later developed into a wide range of mutually contradictory fantasies.

In a report compiled after August 22, 1942 and titled "The Liquidation of the Jews in Warsaw" we read that in Bełżec

> *"within a month (March-April 1942) 80,000 people were killed with electricity."* (Tyszkowa, p. 53)

On November 15, 1942, Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, a member of the National Council of the Polish Republic, made a statement in which he paraphrased the July 10 report (Apenszlak *et al*., p. 131):

> *"The methods applied in this mass extermination are, apart from* [individual] *executions, firing squads, electrocution and lethal-gas chambers. An electrocution station is installed at Belzec Camp. Transports of settlers arrive at a siding, on the spot where the execution is to take place. The camp is policed by Ukrainians. The victims are ordered to strip naked ostensibly to have a bath and are then led to a barracks with a metal plate for floor. The door is then locked, electric current passes through the victims and their death is almost instantaneous. The bodies are loaded on the wagons and taken to a mass grave some distance from the camp."*

The July 10, 1942 report reappeared on December 1 in an English-language Polish magazine under the title "Extraordinary Report from the Jew-Extermination Camp at Bełżec."[16]

Dr. Schwarzbart's statement was picked up ten days later by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's *Daily News Bulletin* in an article titled "250000 Warsaw Jews led to mass execution: electrocuting introduced as new method of mass killing of Jews."

On December 5, 1942, Schwarzbart sent a telegram to the Jewish Congress in New York stating:[17]

> *"Special official envoy gentile escaped and arrived here left capital this October saw Warsaw ghetto on last August and September witnessed mass murder of one transport six thousand Jews at Belzec spoke to him yesterday 3 hours confirm all most horrible mass atrocities still living all remnants of Jews facing death."*

This envoy was Jan Karski, whom I discuss at length in Subchapter 1.3.

On December 20, 1942, *The New York Times* published an article headlined "Allies Describe Outrages on Jews" on the alleged extermination of the Jews in German-occupied Poland in which we read, among other things:

> *"Actual data concerning the fate of the deportees is not at hand, but the news is available – irrefutable news – that places of execution have been organized at Chelm and Belzec where those who survive shootings are murdered en masse by means of electrocution and lethal gas."*

In 1944, the story of the electrocution installation at Bełżec was embellished with new and fantastic details. On February 12, the *New York Times* wrote once more about the camp, publishing a more-detailed report headlined "Nazi Execution Mill Reported in Poland: Fugitive Tells of Mass Killings in Electrically Charged Vats":

> *"Stockholm, Sweden. Feb. 11 (AP). A young Polish Jew who escaped from a mass execution in Poland with the aid of false identification papers repeated today a story that the Germans operated an 'execution factory' in old Russian fortifications in eastern Poland.*
>
> *The Jews were forced naked onto a metal platform operated as a hydraulic elevator which lowered them into a huge vat filled with water up the victims' necks, he said. They were electrocuted by current through the water. The elevator then lifted the bodies to a crematorium above, the youth said.*
>
> *The youth said he personally had seen trainloads of Jews leave Rawna Luska* [Rawa Ruska] *in eastern Poland in the morning for the crematorium at near-by Beljec* [Bełżec] *and return empty in the evening. He was told the rest of the story, he said, by individuals who escaped after actually being taken inside the factory. The fortifications, he added, were built by the Russians after they had occupied eastern Poland."*

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16 *Polish Fortnightly Review*, December 1, 1942, p. 4.
17 TNA, FO 371-30924, p. 29.

In 1944, Dr. Abraham Silberschein, a member of the Polish parliament and delegate of the World Jewish Congress, published a series of mimeographed brochures titled *Die Judenausrottung in Polen* (*The Extermination of Jews in Poland*), in which he included even more-horrifying propaganda stories. From these, I shall present two reports on Bełżec Camp in their entirety. The first one has the title "*Die Hölle von Belzec*" ("The Bełżec Hell"; Silberschein 1944b, pp. 21f.):

> *"Jews deported to Belzec were ordered to undress, as if they were going to take a bath. They were, indeed, taken to a bathing establishment able to contain several hundreds of people. However, they were executed en masse by means of an electric current. A boy who managed to escape from such an establishment told me what happened after the electrocution: The fat from the corpses was drained in order to – make soap from it.*
>
> *The remnants of the corpses were then thrown into anti-tank ditches which had been laid out along the Russian border by the arch-henchman Major Dollf. Burial of the slaughtered had to be done by the strongest of the Jews, selected from among the doomed. It often happened that these people had to bury their own relatives. Not much later, these Jews, too, who had been assigned the task of burying their dead brethren – a task which they did against their will and by being forced – were killed in the same way. The Jews buried at Belzec came mainly from Lublin, Lemberg* [Lvov], *and other towns in Eastern Galicia. Some 300,000 Jews were interred there.*
>
> *Far too many corpses having been thrown into these mass graves, it was impossible to cover them with a sufficiently thick layer of earth. This caused a stench of rotting flesh to spread over the whole area. This smell is still perceptible (i.e., in April, at the time of writing of this eyewitness report). Travelers on the railway line Zawada-Rawa Ruska close the windows, for this awful stench penetrates into the compartments and causes the people to vomit. I myself had to travel along this line on several occasions and have thus been able to convince myself of this state of affairs. As late as April 10, 1943, I passed through there one last time. The Christian population of Belzec has left this place for the sole reason of this stench.*
>
> *The men of the Gestapo and the Ukrainians who commit these murders have magnificently enriched themselves by taking the gold and the jewelry which some Jews had sewn into their clothes. Those butchers had so much money that they were able to pay 20 gold dollars to the farmers for a bottle of vodka."*

The second report published by A. Silberschein was called "*Hinrichtungs- und Vernichtungslager Belzec*" ("Execution and Extermination Camp Bełżec") and mentioned an undefined "electric furnace" as the means of execution (Silberschein 1944a, pp. 41-44):

> *"<u>The Victims.</u>*
>
> *Starting in 1942, so-called actions took place in all Polish cities and towns. Based on a well-defined plan, they were repeated at almost regular intervals and became the horror of the Jewish population. In general, such actions con-*

sisted of a number of local Jews being rounded up and deported. The number was often specified in advance, and the local Jewish council was compelled to provide this number. Special commando units were organized for this purpose. They traveled from one town to the next to carry out their hounding of the Jews. The Jews caught in this way were normally taken to the Belzec extermination camp. Without exception, this was the fate of all Jews caught in Eastern Galicia.

Belzec is a little town, formerly a border crossing between Galicia and Poland, situated on the railway line from Lemberg [Lvov] *to Lublin. The camp that existed here was a most extraordinary one. While all other camps were officially designated as prison camps, concentration camps, or work camps, this camp was a pure extermination camp. Jews were sent there for this purpose only. It would not be wrong to say that all Jews from Galicia, certainly all who came from Eastern Galicia, died there with the exception of the few who were able to save themselves. However, not only were transports of Polish Jews from Galicia taken there, Belzec was also the destination for many convoys of foreign Jews, in particular Jews from Holland and from Germany.*

Installations.

Belzec and its surroundings have become a fortress of the Inquisition as never before seen in the history of mankind.

Special buildings for gassing experiments were built here, special factories for the production of soap and shoe polish from Jewish fat, hospitals were built for the purpose of a prior withdrawing of blood transfusions of Jewish children [sic]. *Special types of equipment for hanging were devised. Even soldiers of the Wehrmacht would not believe it, but still, those installations were observed by reliable eyewitnesses.*

Murder Procedure.

Not a single one of all the hundreds of thousands brought to Belzec ever managed to escape. We are, therefore, unable to know the details of what was going on inside the camp.

According to a German employed there, the camp is protected by a barbed-wire fence and is situated in the immediate vicinity of the station. Within the barbed wire, Ukrainians are on guard duty.

The executions take place as follows: On arrival, the train with the Jews is taken to a siding right next to the wire fence. Then the crew is changed. After unloading, the men are directed to the right, the women into the barracks on the left. They were ordered to undress and to prepare for an end. They then must enter a third barracks, which contains an electric oven. The executions take place in this barracks. After that, the corpses are taken by train to a ditch beyond the barbed-wire fence. The ditch has a depth of some 30 meters. It was dug by Jews.

Travelers and tourists who have passed through Belzec have confirmed that the fields all around have become mass graves. At every step one notices traces of lime and gore. The fields are strewn with skeletons in various stages of decom-

position. The air reeks with a pestilential stench. Therefore, the farmers in the area have fled from their villages. The town itself is deserted and ghost-like. There is only the occasional SS policeman loitering about, yawning.

On the basis of the number of Jews caught during the actions, who were all taken – as previously mentioned – to Belzec, it can be assumed that no fewer than six hundred thousand Jews from Galicia died as martyrs there. Adding the other transports, one can safely say that the number is much higher still, perhaps twice as high."

The paragraph relating the method of execution appears nearly word-for-word in another book, also published in 1944. However, instead of the term "furnace" ("*Ofen*") we have here "stove" ("*Herd*"; *Soll ich*…, p. 56):

"Then they move on into a third barracks with an electric stove where the execution takes place."

In a book published in Stockholm in 1944 and translated into English and German a year later, Stefan Szende gives the following account of Bełżec camp:[18]

"Belzec was a little place to the north of Rawa-Ruska, just on the 1939 Russo-German frontier. Immediately this frontier line had been agreed on, the Russians had begun to erect fortifications on a big scale. When the German troops crossed the frontier in June, 1941, the fortifications were still incomplete.

It was from these half-finished Russian fortifications that the Nazis made their slaughter-house in which millions of Jews were exterminated.

To exterminate 5 million people is an enormous task, and even in our age of technical perfection it needs a lot of preparing and organizing, and there are many problems to be faced by those planning to carry it out. Tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of Jews had been taken to 'Pjaski.' Further tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands had died as a result of ill-treatment, starvation and disease. But there were still millions left and they all had to be killed in accordance with the orders of the Fuehrer.

Even the effective killing of bed-bugs or lice on a large scale demands a certain technique. However, no one can doubt that the Germans are a highly talented people in all technical matters. Amongst them there were highly efficient engineers of death. These men were given their instructions by the Gestapo, and they set to work to solve the technical problems to which the mass slaughter of millions of defenseless men, women and children gives rise. They solved the problem. They solved it brilliantly. Their Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, and Himmler, the head of the Gestapo, must be well satisfied with them and their work.

Months of planning and building operations were necessary, but the Germans are a patient people and the objective was worth the time spent on achieving it. The extermination of millions of Jews with the very latest modern technical means -what an enticing aim! Hundreds of thousands of labor hours were expended. Tens of thousands of tons of valuable materials were used in the pro-

[18] Szende 1944, pp. 263-265; 1945, pp. 290-292; Szende/Folkmann, pp. 159-161.

cess. But at last, in the spring of 1942, the scientific slaughter-house at Belzec was ready.

The mass-killing installation at Belzec occupies an area almost five miles across. This area is surrounded by barbed wire and every other modern device for keeping prisoners in and others out. No one is permitted to come near the place except properly authorized persons or those who will never leave the place alive. But despite all these precautions there were one or two people who saw the inside of Belzec and nevertheless succeeded in escaping. Despair and desperation make a man ingenious.

Specially chosen S.S. men guard the Belzec killing plant. They are men without nerves. There is much to do in a slaughterhouse and it gives sadists great pleasure to compel their victims, to do as much of it as possible. For instance, the clothes and the belongings of the millions of victims had to be collected and sorted out. For this purpose, the S.S. chose certain Jews out of each transport that arrived. These Jews were not spared, of course. It was merely that their execution was postponed. Two such Jews actually succeeded in making their escape. They escaped into the Ghetto which still existed in Rawa-Ruska at the time. In Rawa-Ruska they reported the details of the technically perfected slaughter going on in Belzec.

As far as I know, no Jew ever succeeded in escaping from Belzec and reaching neutral or Allied territory. The two Jews who made their escape from Belzec to Rawa-Ruska in the summer of 1942 were probably killed subsequently when the Ghetto there was liquidated, but a number of people who heard the evidence of these two fugitives from Belzec did escape. The following description of the Belzec slaughterhouse comes from them.

The trains coming into Belzec loaded with Jews were driven into a tunnel in the underground premises of the execution building. There the Jews were unloaded and ordered to divest themselves of all their things. In 1942 Jews arriving at Belzec came dressed and carrying all sorts of belongings with them. Fully loaded trains from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland, France and the Balkan States arrived in Belzec, and they were all treated in the same way. These Jews were told to take all their things with them, as they were going to be 'settled' in the East. Thus, tens of thousands of Jews arrived, bringing all sorts of property with them, typewriters, sewing machines, crockery, silver and so on.

Everything was taken away from them. The goods seized in this way were carefully sorted out, listed and ticketed and subsequently used for the benefit of the master race. It was to spare the staff at Belzec this tremendous task, which, of course, hindered them in their real job, that later on all Jews were sent to Belzec naked.

When trainloads of naked Jews arrived, they were herded into a great hall capable of holding several thousand people. This hall had no windows and its flooring was of metal. Once the Jews were all inside, the floor of this hall sank like a lift into a great tank of water which lay below it until the Jews were up to

their waists in water. Then a powerful electric current was sent into the metal flooring and within a few seconds all the Jews, thousands at a time, were dead.
The metal flooring then rose again and the water drained away. The corpses of the slaughtered Jews were now heaped all over the floor. A different current was then switched on and the metal flooring rapidly became red hot, so that the corpses were incinerated as in a crematorium and only ash was left.
The floor was then tipped up and the ashes slid out into prepared receptacles. The smoke of the process was carried away by great factory chimneys.
That was the whole procedure. As soon as it was completed, it could start up again. New batches of Jews were constantly being driven into the tunnels. The individual trains brought between 3,000 and 5,000 Jews at a time, and there were days on which the Belzec line saw between twenty and thirty such trains arrive.
Modern industrial and engineering technique in Nazi hands triumphed over all difficulties. The problem of how to slaughter millions of people rapidly and effectively was solved.
The underground slaughter-house spread a terrible stench around the neighborhood, and sometimes whole districts were covered with the foul-smelling smoke from the burning human bodies."

A variant of the underground extermination was published in the infamous *Black Book* of the well-known Soviet propaganda writers Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasily Grossman, compiled in 1945 and 1946. A certain corporal (*Obergefreiter*) Erik Heubaum, a German prisoner of war, is said to have declared in a statement, about which no particulars are given, not even a date (Ehrenburg/ Grossman, p. 542):

"In addition, I saw peaceful residents exterminated with gas. I would drive telephone operators to a small station located twenty kilometers from the city of Rava Russkaya. An underground barracks had been built at this station in the woods. Once when I was at the station a group of Jews was brought in. The traincars were closed and the people, with their hands stretched out the windows, pleaded for some water, but no one was allowed to go near them. In the evening these people were herded into the woods. All the strangers were forced into the station. The woods were surrounded by S.D. units.
There these people, regardless of sex and age, men and women, the elderly and the children, were stripped naked and herded into the underground barracks. Three quarters of an hour later men from another group were sent in there to carry out the corpses. Then the next group was herded into the barracks… This is the way three hundred people were exterminated every evening.
I saw this go on for eight days. That people were being gassed there I learned from an SS man, Carl Horst from Saxony. He took part in it. The executions were supervised by Sturmbannführer (SS Major) Herbst, from the city of Breslau."

But even the story of the descending or collapsible floor took on further variations. The files of the Soviet commission of inquiry for the Sokal Territory,

dated October 7, 1944, contain the statement of a certain Rozalja Schelewna Schier:[19]

> *"My husband, who was working at Bełżec Station at the time, told me the following:*
> *At Bełżec Station two transports consisting of fifty to sixty cars arrive every day. Each car holds 100-120 persons. The train is taken to a siding in the forest, about one kilometer away. There a movable shed has been placed on the rails. It is marked 'Baths for Jews.' The people who have arrived are ordered to undress and enter the baths; they are promised work afterwards. When the bath house is completely full with 100-120 people, gas and high-voltage electric current are fed into it. Within 5 minutes, all the people in the bath house were dead. Inside the shed, the floor folds automatically, and the corpses fall into a previously dug trench where the victims are doused with a flammable liquid and burnt."*

A year later, the extraordinary collapsible floor at Bełżec has changed again. On October 16, 1945, the witness Jan Głąb declared to the investigative judge of Zamość:[20]

> *"The naked Jews were urged into an alleged bath, i.e., the gas chamber, where they were killed with gas* [*gazem*]. *The killing lasted about 15 minutes. It is difficult to determine what the Jews were asphyxiated with in the gas chamber. At the time when the Jews were urged into the gas chamber, a large engine of 250 HP was running in the camp area. It was said that the Jews were killed with combustion gases. It is not true that the Jews were killed with electricity in the extermination camp. The voltage of the current was too weak for the mass killing of people. During the period of operation of the death camp, the blacks* [Soviet PoWs] *manufactured 48 pairs of special hinges in my railway workshop and bent a large number of narrow-gauge railway rails on the turntable. From this I gather that the hinges were used for the floor of the gas chamber, which, after the killing of the Jews, was opened and the corpses fell down, from where they were taken to mass graves in wagons."*

In 1945, Dr. Jérome Guérin, a former French PoW, reported on an encounter he had had three years before in the ghetto of Rawa Ruska with a member of the German Security Police during a round-up of Jews (Guérin, p. 148):

> *"He then pulled out a map and pointed to the name of a village: Belsetz* [sic]. *The means of extermination: electrocution. Women, old people, and children were taken on foot, naked, into a hall with metal plates in the floor. When a certain number of people had been assembled, a high-voltage current passed through the plates. The name of Belsetz was confirmed on two occasions by other Germans but none of those we approached was able to confirm that he had personally witnessed such executions. Others held that the executions took*

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19 GARF, 7021-67-82, p. 3.
20 Minutes of the interrogation of J. Głąb on October 16, 1945. Libionka, p. 175.

place in gas chambers, but here, too, the exact place could not be ascertained."

In 1945, Stefan Tadeusz Norwind wrote (Norwind, pp. 102f.):

"Major corpse factories existed at Belzec, at Sobibor, at Majdanek, and also, it is said, at Palmyry in the region of Warsaw. […]
The factories had two types of installations. Some of them were electrical, i.e., naked people were pushed onto a steel plate and then killed by a high-voltage current (this took place e.g. at Belzec). Others consisted of hermetically sealed gas chambers where, again, naked people were killed by means of steam or gas (this took place at Tremblinka [sic]*)."*

The story of extermination by means of electricity also appears, with other fanciful details, in the above-mentioned *Black Book* (Ehrenburg/Grossman, p. 117):

"Belzec was a terrible extermination spot for the Jews, and the Germans kept it top secret. The railroad personnel who worked on the trains carrying the doomed victims, however, told their friends and relatives of how the Jews were being massacred in Belzec.
Jews were led into an enormous hall which held up to one thousand persons. The floors and walls of the hall were electrically wired and without insulation. As soon as the hall was filled with naked people, the Germans switched on a strong electrical current. This was an enormous electric chair[21] *– something that no criminal imagination could ever have invented."*

The electrocution story even appears in the "Chronicle of Auschwitz by an unknown author," which was allegedly unearthed in that camp in 1953 ("Kronika oświęcimska…," p. 307):

"Sadism in the years 1940-1941.
In Bełżec, near the Soviet border, there was a camp that surpassed Auschwitz in sadism. For example, every day Jews were taken and forced to dig a deep, narrow pit, then they were thrown into it one at a time. Then each prisoner was forced to relieve himself inside the pit, on the victim's head. Those who refused received 25 strokes. In this way, the prisoners' needs were performed on him throughout the day until he was finally suffocated by the stench.
The Soviet sentry, on the other hand, begged the Jews to take advantage of every possible moment to cross the border into the Russian zone. Whoever took advantage of a moment of the SS's inattention succeeded: in fact, when the SS realized it, they could no longer shoot, because the bullet would have ended up on the other side of the border. Therefore, the SS used to lurk next to the fences and shoot the hand or the protruding foot of those who crawled, at which point the Soviet sentry would protest again. But the SS would shout, 'The hand or leg is still on our territory!'
At that time, the job was to dig a long, deep, continuous trench as a border line. Later, when the Germans had penetrated deeply into Russia, eight large

[21] This fable was also repeated about Treblinka; see Subchapter 3.3.

> *barracks were built in the forest, in which they installed tables and benches; there, the Jews from Lublin, Lvov and other districts were crammed in together and electrocuted* [*elektryzowano*]*."*

1.3. From Electrocution to the "Trains of Death": Jan Karski's Impostures

Another story about Bełżec, widely circulated during the Second World War, concerned the "trains of death." It was most successfully disseminated by Jan Karski (his real name was Kozielewski), a courier with the Polish government in exile in London, who reworked with powerful imagination the rumors circulating at that time about quicklime or chlorinated lime sprinkled on the floor of deportation cars, another popular propaganda theme. Walter Laqueur writes that

> *"Karski lived underground in Warsaw in 1941-2, engaged in 'black propaganda' among German soldiers, printing and distributing leaflets in German."* (Laqueur, p. 230)

In fact, the story told by Karski is a rather crude form of "black propaganda." It was the final product of a literary development which can readily be sourced in the surviving documents. The first version of this story, dating back to November 1942 – of which Karski was the bearer (but also the accomplice), as I shall make clear below – did mention the death trains, but only as an instrument of torture taking the Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto "to special camps at Treblinka, Bełżec and Sobibor," where they would be killed. With respect to the camp at Bełżec, Karski not only did not yet pretend to have visited it but ascribed to it the method of extermination in vogue at the time – electrocution. However, by December 1942, Karski had invented the story of his phantom visit – disguised as a Polish policeman – to a "sorting camp" fifty kilometers from Bełżec, rehashing 'the trains of death' motif, the trains having now become a means of extermination in themselves, although he was still assigning to Bełżec the processes of murder by poison gas and electric current. In the final elaboration of his story, Karski transformed the "sorting camp" into the camp at Bełżec, which he now pretended to have visited disguised as an Estonian guard!

Karski arrived in London illegally on November 25, 1942, and for this reason he was detained and interrogated at the Royal Patriotic School until November 28, when he was released due to the intervention of the Polish Government-in-Exile. This had a long diplomatic aftermath.[22] On November 26, the day of his arrest, Richard Law, British Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, wrote in a file memo that on that morning two British Jews, Mr. [Syd-

[22] The pertinent documentation can be found in: TNA, FO 371-32231.

ney] Silverman and Mr. [Alexander] Easterman, had asked him for an audience to talk "about the extermination of Jews in Europe," and the latter had handed him a document "which was handed to him last night by a member of the Polish Government,"[23] no doubt Karski, who had evidently met with them before his arrest.

The report in question was a two-page typescript titled "News is reaching the Polish Government in London about the liquidation of the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw," the full text of which I quote:[24]

> *"The persecution of the Jews in Poland, which has been in progress from the very first day of the German occupation, has taken on extremely acute forms since March 1942, when Himmler ordered the extermination of 50% of the Jewish population in the Government General, to be carried out by end of 1942.*
>
> *Though the German assassins had started this work with extraordinary gusto, the results apparently did not satisfy Himmler for during his visit to the General Gouvernement in July 1942 he ordered new decrees personally, aiming at the total destruction of Polish Jewry.*
>
> *The persecution in Warsaw started on 21st July 1942, when German police cars suddenly drove into the ghettos. The soldiers immediately started rushing into houses, shooting the inhabitants at sight, without any explanation. The first victims belonged mostly to the educated classes. On that day almost all the members of the Jewish Municipal Council were arrested and held as hostages.*
>
> *On 22nd July 1942 the Jewish Council was ordered to proclaim the decree of the German authorities dealing with the re-settlement of all the Warsaw Jews, regardless of sex or age, in the eastern part of Poland, with the sole exception of persons working in German factories or members of the Jewish militia. The daily quota of people to be re-settled was fixed at 6,000 and members of the Jewish Municipal Council were ordered to carry out the order under pain of death.*
>
> *By the next day, however, on 23nd July, the German police again appeared in the Jewish Municipal Council and demanded to see the chairman, Mr. Czerniakow. After the police had left, Czerniakow committed suicide. From a note left for his wife, it became clear that he had received orders to deliver 10,000 people the next day and 7,000 daily on the following days, in spite of the fact that the quota had been fixed originally at 6,000. The victims to be delivered to the Germans are either dragged out of their homes or seized in the streets. As the zeal of the Jewish police to perform these duties against their own people was slight and did not give a guarantee of efficiency, the Germans have mobilised temporary security battalions for the man-hunts, consisting of Ukrainians, Latvians, and Lithuanians. These battalions, under the command of SS men, are characterised by their utter ruthlessness, cruelty and inhumanity.*

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23 TNA, FO, 371/30923, p. 73.

24 TNA, FO, 371/30923, pp. 74f. (original typed text) and 76-79 (two transcripts).

The Jews, when caught, are driven to a square. Old people and cripples are then singled out, taken to the cemetery and there shot. The remaining people are loaded into goods trucks, at the rate of 150 people to a truck with space for 40. The floor of the truck is covered with a thick layer of lime and chlorine sprinkled with water. The doors of the trucks are locked. Sometimes the train starts immediately on being loaded, sometimes it remains on a siding for a day, two days or even longer. The people are packed so tightly that those who die of suffocation remain in the crowd side by side with the still living and with those slowly dying from the fumes of lime and chlorine, from lack of air, water and food. Wherever the trains arrive half the people are dead. Those surviving are sent to special camps at Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor. Once there, the so-called 'settlers' are mass murdered.

Only young and relatively strong people are left alive, for they are valuable slave labour for the Germans. However, the percentage of these is extremely small, for out of a total of about 250,000 're-settled' only 4,000 have been sent to auxiliary work on the battlefronts.

Neither children nor babies are spared. The orphans from asylums and day-nurseries are evacuated as well. The director of the biggest Jewish orphanage in Warsaw and well known writer Janusz Korczak, whom the Germans had given permission to remain in the ghetto, preferred to follow his charges to death.

Thus under the guise of re-settlement in the east, a mass murder of the Jewish population is taking place. Started on 22nd July 1942, it has been in progress ever since. By the end of September 1942 250,000 Jews had been eliminated. The extent of this action is best characterised by a few figures: In the Warsaw ghetto there lived, according the official German statistics of March 1942, about 433,000 people. In spite of the extremely high mortality caused by bad hygienic conditions, epidemics, starvation, executions etc., the number of Jews in the ghetto remained more or less stable, for to replace the dead, Jews from other parts of Europe, Germany, Austria, Holland, were sent to Warsaw. According to information leaking from the Arbeitsamt [Labor Office], *only 40,000 people are to remain in the Warsaw ghetto, only highly skilled workers, to be employed in German war industry. The most convincing proof of the dwindling numbers in the ghetto lies in the fact that for September 1942 120,000 ration cards were printed. For October the number issued was only 40,000.*

Simultaneously with the extermination of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, ghettos in the provinces, at Falenica, Rembertow, Nowy Dwor, Kaluszyn and Minsk Mazowiecki are being liquidated. In the district of Wilno only one Jewish community has remained, in the city itself, numbering only 12,000 people. According to news which reached London some time ago the Germans have murdered 60,000 Jews in Wilno, 14,000 in Kowno and 50% of the Jewish population of Lwow; similar news reaches us from cities in S. Eastern Poland, such as Stanislawo, Tarnopol, Stryj.

The methods applied in this mass extermination are, apart from executions by firing squads, electrocution and lethal gas-chambers.

An electrocution station is installed at Belzec camp. Transports of 'settlers' arrive at a siding, on the spot where the execution is to take place. The camp is policed by Ukrainians. The victims are ordered to strip naked, – to have a bath, ostensibly – and are then led to a barracks with a metal plate for floor. The door is then locked, electric current passes through the victims and their death is almost instantaneous. The bodies are loaded on the waggons and taken to a mass grave some distance from the camp.

A large digging machine has been installed recently at Treblinka. It works ceaselessly digging ditches – mass graves for Jews who are to meet their death there. The Ukrainian guards, witnesses of the mass murders, are allowed to keep the money and jewellery robbed from the victims. These bestial murders sometimes take place in the presence of the local non-Jewish population, who are helpless and overcome with horror at the sight of such inhuman violence. What the Poles' reactions to these unspeakable crimes are, is best proved by a pamphlet by the 'Front for the Liberation of Poland', containing a strongly worded protest against the terrible extermination of the Jews. According to the pamphlet, the total number of Jews murdered in Poland since September 1939 exceeds one million."

The text of the report on Bełżec is identical to the one by Ignacy Schwarzbart mentioned above, which, however, dates from November 15, 1942, and therefore precedes it by ten days.

Another portion, the section dealing with the transports of the Jews, appeared with some modifications and with the inevitable reference to the electrocutions in the report of the Polish Government-in-Exile at London of December 10, 1942:[25]

"The floor [*sic*] *of the trucks were covered with quicklime and chlorine. As far as is known, the trains were dispatched to three localities, Tremblinka* [sic], *Belzec and Sobibor, to what the reports describe as 'extermination camps.' The very method of transport was deliberately calculated to cause the largest possible number of casualties among the condemned Jews. It is reported that on arrival in camp the survivors were stripped naked and killed by various means, including poison gas and electrocution."*

This shows that Jan Karski's "mission" was in fact a "black-propaganda" operation carried out in grand style and orchestrated from London. Sure enough, the story of the trains of death, attributed to a "courier who reached London in December 1942," surfaced in London that December (Apenszlak *et al.*, pp. 135-138).

In March of 1943, the periodical *Voice of the Unconquered* published the report in question under the title "Eye-Witness Report of a Secret Courier Fresh from Poland." It also referred to a courier who "reached London at the beginning of December, 1942" ("Eye-Witness Report…," p. 5). This courier, just like the other one, had brought back "a personal eye-witness account"

[25] TNA, FO, 371/30924, pp. 121-124.

(*ibid.*), which was published in that periodical. The part on Bełżec is set forth below, with subtitles added by the periodical's editors (*ibid*., p. 8):

"Roads Paved With Dead

I want to return to the question of 'deportations': I saw in Warsaw the first part of this act and later on the outskirts of Belzec the second and last part. From Warsaw the Jews are driven to the tracks on the outskirts of the city where a long train of cattle cars is already waiting for them. Before they reach the tracks, however, many are shot for one reason or another. Particularly those who lag behind. The whole route is literally strewn with corpses. When they finally reach their destination they are robbed of all their possessions (officially the deportees are urged to take along their most valuable possessions). Then they are loaded in cars, a hundred people in a car, and the first lap of the journey which lasts from two to eight days begins. Not once during the journey are the doors of the cars opened with the result that many die before they reach the 'sorting point' (Obóz Rozdzielczy) which is located about fifty kilometers from the city of Belzec. Nevertheless the first stage of this journey is mild, almost human, in comparison with what awaits them at the second stage.

Belzec the Slaughter House

In the uniform of a Polish policeman I visited the sorting point near Belzec. It is a huge barracks only about half of which is covered with a roof. When I was there about 5,000 men and women were in the camp. However, every few hours new transports of Jews, men and women, young and old, would arrive for the last journey towards death.

It is humanly impossible to convey the impression that these 5,000 people made upon me: they are no longer in the image of men. Skeletons with eyes dead with resignation. Naked, frightened, they are in constant motion with convulsive, nervous movements. A child is lying with his face towards the roof. It is in the last agony of death. But no one pays any attention to it. I spot amidst this indistinguishable mass an old man completely nude. He was probably stripped of his rags. No one looks at him. He makes no impression upon the people that surround him. The guards keep on shooting at the throng. Corpses are scattered everywhere. Men, in their convulsive moving about, step over them. They hardly notice the dead. Every few minutes the guards pick a number of men to clear the dead which are piled up alongside the fence. This, too, is done without any emotion, without a single expression, in their faces as though they are completely oblivious of what they are doing. These are no longer normal beings but one large convulsive mass breathing its last.

The people are kept in this camp for several days. By the time they start on the last leg of their death-journey most of them have had nothing to eat for days since they are not given any food and have to subsist on whatever they manage to bring along with them.

The second and the most gruesome stage of their journey commences. Accompanied by the lashing of whips and the shooting of guns the 'deportees' are suddenly, without any warning, beginning to be driven to the railroad tracks which are several dozen meters from the camp. A wild stampede of human be-

ings begins. In the meantime, the Germans have made all the preparations to intensify their torture.

The route from the camp to the tracks is a specially constructed narrow passage lined by a weak fence of boards. On both sides of the fence are stationed armed guards. From behind the people are driven by guards who lash out mercilessly with their whips. Everything is designed to create a panic and stampede. But at the same time 'order' is demanded and no one dare touch the fence. Anyone who as much as touches the fence is shot by the guards who are lined alongside of it. The shooting, the blood and the groans and shrieks of those who have been hit only increases the stampede and this gives the guards additional reason for shooting. In this manner, hundreds are killed on a stretch of several meters. But these are the lucky ones. An even more horrible death awaits the survivors.

The narrow passage leads to an open door of a cattle car. These are the famous cars designed for '40 people or 8 horses.' We have measured these cars and found that if human beings were to be loaded there tightly pressed together and completely nude they could hold only 90. Yet 140 people are loaded in these cars. On both sides of the entrance are stationed special S.S. men with guns and whips. It is their job to force the people into the cars.

In Area of 50 Kilometers Corpses of Jews Are Being Burned Day and Night

In panic and fear the emaciated skeletons perform acrobatic feats. A moment comes when the last inch of a car is loaded to capacity. But human beings are still being driven into it: einsteigen, einsteigen! [German in original] *People begin to climb over the heads of their neighbors holding on by the hands, feet or hair of those who are already inside. Thus fifty more manage to get into the car which is then locked. Soon another takes its place…*

A long train thus packed with several thousand men, women, and children is switched to a side line where it remains from two to eight days. The doors are never opened. Those inside suffer inhuman agony. They have to perform natural functions over the heads of the others. Many cars are painted with lime which begins to burn from the dampness of the urine and increases the tortures of the barefooted and nude.

Because there are not enough cars to kill the Jews in this relatively inexpensive manner many of them are taken to nearby Belzec where they are murdered by poison gases or by the application of electric currents. The corpses are burned near Belzec. Thus within an area of fifty kilometers huge stakes are burning Jewish corpses day and night."

On August 9, 1943, Karski, in his capacity as "the Delegate of the Polish Government to the Underground in Poland," met in New York with members of the World Jewish Congress. On this occasion, he gave a speech that was recorded in the minutes:[26]

[26] "Minutes of meeting of representation of Polish Jewry held in office of World Jewish Congress August 9, 1943 – on occasion of the visit of Mr. Jan Karski – the Delegate of the Polish Government to the Underground in Poland," in: Friedlander/Milton 1990, Document 79, pp. 287-294.

"Mr. Karski then took the floor, and after having thanked Dr. [Aryeh] *Tartakower for his warm welcome, gave the following report:*
'I have come here as a delegate of the people of Poland. Until February 1943, I was in Poland where I was in close contact with the leaders of the Jewish Underground movement. Prior to my departure from the country, they entrusted to me a number documents and reports which I have since handed over to the competent Jewish bodies in London.
During the time I was in Poland, I visited the Warsaw Ghetto twice – the first time in October 1942 and the second, in January 1943. I also had occasion to be in the Concentration Camp for Jews 12 miles outside of Belzec near Lublin. It was there that the Germans, in one single day, murdered 5,000 Jews in cold blood.
I have given a report of the Jewish situation in Poland to leaders of the British Government as well as the British Labor Movement. I gave them a complete and comprehensive report. They can make no pretense of ignorance of the true state of affairs.
I have been asked by the leaders of Polish Jewry to tell you of Jewish suffering and to inform public opinion of plight of the Jews in Poland – so that at some later date, no-one may arise and claim that the world was unaware of the tragedy of Polish Jewry.
I can give you my personal guarantee that everything I report to you now is authentic and true. I speak from personal knowledge as well as from well authenticated reports given to me. I am ready to testify to the veracity of all I tell, under oath.
A special and vicious system has been implemented by the Germans in their plan to exterminate both Jews and Poles. […]
In a death camp 12 kilometres outside of Belzec (near Lublin) I myself witnessed the following horrible scenes: about 5,000 Jews had been brought there. About one fourth of them were quartered in very primitive barracks, the rest had to remain outdoors under the open sky. They had been permitted to bring along with them 15 kilograms of baggage (food, clothing and valuables). […] *I was able to be a witness to all this because I was there as a Latvian policeman."*

The Jews were then forced into train cars via a footbridge, as in the previous story:

"Each of these freight-cars is ordinarily intended to accommodate either 8 horses or forty persons. But the Jews were driven in, tightly packed ranks and as many as 130-140 people were pushed into one car, although the utmost capacity could not possibly have been more for than 100 people. The last car was filled first. When it was filled to the bursting limit, the next group (for the car ahead) were literally forced to clamber over the heads of the Jews in the previous car to reach their own. There were some 50 or 60 of these cars. About 300 Jews were shot or choked to death then and there. The floors of the car had been covered with a layer of quick-lime and chloride. As the packed mass of humanity performed its normal physical needs, the lime and chloride reacted

chemically and the fumes from the floor ultimately asphyxiated the Jews. In this way, the Germans rapidly 'liquidated' the 6,000 Jews whom they had deported from the Warsaw Ghetto. Dante's Inferno is as nothing to the hell which prevailed there. The cars reechoed with shrieks and wild cries. This lasted for about 8 hours. The trains were dispatched to some point 'North' – where, I do not know. After a journey of several days, the cars were shunted off somewhere in a field and eventually their human freight perished. I have heard that the Germans utilized those bodies for the manufacture of fertilizer."

Karski also provided mind-boggling statistical figures:

"1,800,000 Jews have perished in Poland at the hands of the Nazis – 1,500,000 bloodily (sic) massacrated and 300,000 due to sickness and starvation. There are about 500,000 Polish Jews in Russia. A number of them have managed to escape abroad. More than 500,000 Jews have been deported to Poland from other European countries. In February [1943], *scattered over 55 towns and villages, there were still close to 3,000,000 Jews in Poland."*

And here's another unique piece of news:

"Letters have arrived from Jews deported to the East. Some were written under German pressure. The arrival of these letters can be ascribed to the desire of the Nazis to create the impression that nothing is amiss. One must admit, that such letters do serve in a measure to allay the dread of the Jews in the ghettoes."

During this meeting of August 9, 1943, Karski lied to the members of the World Jewish Congress by stating that he had remained in Poland until February 1943 and that in January he had made his second visit to the Warsaw Ghetto.

In 1943, a booklet was published in London whose three authors were given as Alexei Tolstoy, Thomas Mann and a "Polish Underground Worker" who was undoubtedly Jan Karski. Karski's account, which I reproduce below, is written in the first person (Tolstoy *et al.*, pp. 9-11):

"The Jewish Mass Executions. Account by an Eye-Witness.

I was a member of the Polish Underground Movement. It was my duty to keep in touch with all underground parties, including the 'Bund' – the Jewish Social Democratic Organisation in Poland, and I left Warsaw in October, 1942, on a mission from the Underground Front to the Polish Government in London.

Among my other duties, I collected matter on the Jewish mass-exterminations carried out by the occupying power. I should perhaps explain why we paid special attention to the Jewish questions. I am not a Jew myself, and before the war I had very little contact with Jews; in fact, I knew practically nothing about them. But, at present, the extermination of the Jews has a special significance. The sufferings of my own Polish compatriots are terrible, and they are, of course, nearer to my heart; but the methods employed by the enemy against Poles and against Jews are different.

Us, the Poles, they try to reduce to a mediaeval race of serfs. They want to deprive us of our cultural standards, of our traditions, of our education, and reduce us to a nation of robots. But the policy towards the Jews is different. It is not a policy of subjugation and oppression, but of cold and systematic extermination. It is the first example in modern history that a whole nation (not 10, 20 or 30, but 100 per cent of them) are meant to disappear from this earth.

The methods of this process are known to a certain extent, but the details are not. The method is, as you know, to collect the Jews from all over Europe, to dispatch them to the Ghettos of Warsaw, Lwew [sic] *and Soon* [sic], *where they stay for a certain time. From the ghettos they are 'taken East' as the official term goes, that is, to the extermination camps, at Belzec, Treblinka and Sobibor. In these camps, they are killed in batches of 1,000 to 6,000, by various methods, including gas, burning by steam, mass electrocution, and finally, by the method of the so-called 'death train'.*

In the course of my investigation I succeeded in witnessing a mass-execution in the camp of Belzec. With the help of our underground organisation, I gained access to that camp in the disguise of a Latvian policeman. I was, in fact, one of the executioners. I believe that my course of action was justified. I had no means of preventing the event, but by becoming a witness, I was able to carry a first hand account into the civilised world.

I arrived at the camp on a certain day in July, 1942. The camp, at that moment, contained roughly 6,000 Jews of both sexes and all ages. They had arrived a few days previously from the Ghetto of Warsaw. They did not know what fate was awaiting them. They had been told, like all detachments sent away from the Ghetto, that they were to be employed on field work and to dig trenches. On arrival at the camp, they had been encouraged to write letters to their friends left behind in the Warsaw Ghetto – letters stating that they were being treated correctly, and that deportation was not at all as bad as they had feared. This is part of the German technique to reassure the victims and keep them in ignorance until the last possible moment, thus avoiding unnecessary fuss.

Had these people known with certainly what was awaiting them, the Germans would have to use much bigger forces to deal with them. Later, when all these manoeuvres proved of no avail, and the fate of those 'going East' became known in the Ghetto of Warsaw, the Ghetto revolted. This happened in the Spring of 1943, and the Germans lost about 1,000 killed before they finally overcame and massacred the last survivors.

But the events I am speaking of took place almost a whole year earlier, and, as I say, the Jews in the camp did not know what fate was awaiting them. The executions took place on the day after my arrival.

The camp of Belzec is situated about 15 kilometres south of the town of that name. It is bounded by an enclosure which runs parallel to the railway track at a distance of some 30 yards. A narrow corridor about two yards in width, formed by a wooden palisade on either side, leads from the gate of the camp to a point on the railway track where the trains halt. At about 10 o'clock in the morning, a freight train halted alongside the camp. At the same moment, the

guards at the farther side of the camp started shooting into the air, and yelling at the Jews to get into the trucks. They thus created a deliberate panic in order to prevent any hesitation or resistance among the prisoners.

They were driven in a frantic hurry through the wooden palisade into the first truck which had halted opposite the gate. It was the standard army truck, marked for 'six horses or 36 men.' The floor of the truck was covered with chloride of lime about two inches thick, but the Jews had no time to realize what this meant. When about 100 had been driven into the truck, they could only stand packed like sardines. It seemed physically impossible to press more people into the truck, but at this moment, the guards, aided by the prisoners themselves who were half crazed with fear of the shots fired at their backs, began lifting those next to the truck and throwing them in bodily. Thirty individuals (men and women) were thrown in on top of the heads of those already inside. Some of the standing women had their necks broken, and the horror of the scene can be left to the imagination.

I counted 130 people thrown into the truck – the truck marked 'for 36 men.' Then the sliding doors were closed and bolted. The next truck was shunted into its place, and the same procedure carried out again. Altogether I counted 51 trucks, which absorbed the whole 6,000 people in the camp, with the exception of about 20 or 30, who had been shot dead during the rush.

When the camp was empty and the trucks all filled, the train moved on. The end of this story I learned from my 'comrades', that is, the executioners in the camp, who had done this sort of thing for several months, dispatching one or two trains each week. The train moves on for about 25 miles and then halts in an open field. There it remains standing, hermetically closed, for six to seven days. When, at length, its doors are opened by the grave-diggers' squad, the people inside are all dead, and their bodies in an advanced state of decomposition.

The details of how they die are simple and revolting: the chloride of lime on the floor has the property of developing chlorine gas when coming into contact with humidity. The people jammed into the trucks for many hours are compelled, at some time, to urinate, and this (on the lime), instantaneously produces a chemical reaction. Death must in the end be welcome, for whilst they are dying by the chlorine gas their feet are being burned to the bone by the chemically active chloride. As I said, the number executed in one death train is about 6,000 at a time.

I do not want to add any comments to what I have seen and described. I, myself, have not witnessed the other methods of mass-killing, such as electrocution, steaming, and so on, but I have heard first-hand eye-witness accounts, which describe them as equally horrible. The latest estimate of the number of Jews executed by these methods, in the systematic carrying out of Himmler's orders, is in the region of two million."

The story was published by the "National Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror," which included British politicians, clergymen and intellectuals, under the title "News-talk on European Service of the British Broadcasting Corpora-

tion." The source was undoubtedly Karski, but what statement was he referring to? The text was written after the uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto, which began on April 19, 1943 and ended on May 16. Karski embarked from Scotland for New York on June 10 and arrived there on the 16th (Wood/Jankowski 1994, p. 182). The declaration would therefore have been made in London between the last ten days of April and the first ten days of June, but nothing is known about it.

In 1944, a book of memoirs by Karski titled *Story of a Secret State* was published. He relates that in early October of 1942 he slipped into the ghetto of Warsaw and established contact with the local Bund, the union of socialist Jews. The head of this organization informed him about the deportation of "over three hundred thousand" Jews into "execution camps" (Karski 1944a, p. 324).

The story goes as follows (Karski 1944a, pp. 339-351):

> *"A few days after my second visit to the Warsaw ghetto, the Bund leader was to arrange an opportunity for me to see the Jewish death camp. The camp was located near the town of Belzec about one hundred miles east of Warsaw and was well-known all over Poland from the tales of horror that were circulated about it. The common report was that every Jew who reached it, without exception, was doomed to death. The Bund leader had never been in it but had the most detailed information on its operations. I was to go on a day when executions were scheduled. The information was easy to obtain because many of the Estonian, Latvian, and Ukrainian attendants who worked there under Gestapo supervision were in service of Jewish organisations. Not from any humane or political consideration, but for money. I was to wear the uniform of one of the Estonians who would stay home while I went in with his papers.* […] *Early in the morning of the day we had selected, I left Warsaw in the company of a Jew who worked outside the ghetto in the Jewish underground movement. We arrived in Belzec shortly after midday and went directly to the place where the Estonian was supposed to be waiting to give me his uniform."*

Karski's story is quite verbose, so I will only quote the essential points. Accompanied by an (actual) Estonian guard, he approaches the camp:

> *"As we approached to within a few hundred yards of the camp, the shouts, cries, and shots cut off further conversation.* […] *We passed through a small grove of decrepit-looking trees and emerged directly in front of the loud, sobbing, reeking camp of death. It was on a large, flat plain and occupied about a square mile. It was surrounded on all sides by a formidable barbed-wire fence, nearly two yards in height and in good repair. Inside the fence, at intervals of about fifteen yards, guards were standing, holding rifles with fixed bayonets ready for use. Around the outside of the fence militia men circulated on constant patrol. The camp itself contained a few small sheds or barracks. The rest of the area was completely covered by a dense, pulsating, throbbing, noisy human mass."*

Karski then dwells on the description of the crowd, repeating and enlarging on themes already dealt with in his paper of December 1942, but with an important addition: "They were all former inhabitants of the Warsaw ghetto." As in the preceding report about the "sorting camp" located at 50 km from Bełżec, Karski mentions the trains of death and the narrow passages the Germans had set up to funnel the crowd into the cars, and then continues:

> *"And now came the most horrible episode of them all. The Bund leader had warned me that if I lived to be a hundred I would never forget some of the things I saw. He did not exaggerate. The military rules stipulate that a freight car may carry eight horses or forty soldiers. Without any baggage at all, a maximum of a hundred passengers standing close together and pressing against each other could be crowded into a car. The Germans had simply issued orders to the effect that 120 to 130 Jews had to enter each car."*

After another digression describing the loading of the victims into the cars, Karski writes emphatically:

> *"I know that many people will not believe me, will not be able to believe me, will think I exaggerate or invent. But I saw it and it is not exaggerated or invented. I have no other proofs, no photographs. All I can say is that I saw it and that it is the truth. The floor of the car had been covered with a thick, white powder. It was quicklime. Quicklime is simply unslaked lime or calcium oxide that has been dehydrated. Anyone who has seen cement being mixed knows what occurs when water is poured on lime. The mixture bubbles and steams as the powder combines with the water, generating a large amount of heat. Here the lime served a double purpose in the Nazi economy of brutality. The moist flesh coming in contact with the lime is rapidly dehydrated and burned. The occupants of the cars would be literally burned to death before long, the flesh eaten from their bones. Thus, the Jews would 'die in agony', fulfilling the promise Himmler had issued 'in accord with the will of the Fuehrer', in Warsaw, in 1942.*[27] *Secondly, the lime would prevent decomposing bodies from spreading disease. It was efficient and inexpensive – a perfectly chosen agent for their purposes. It took three hours to fill up the entire train by repetitions of this procedure. It was twilight when the forty-six (I counted them) cars were packed."*

After three hours, the train started to move. Karski continues:

> *"My informants had minutely described the entire journey. The train would travel about eighty miles and finally come to a halt in an empty, barren field. Then nothing at all would happen. The train would stand stock-still, patiently waiting while death penetrated into every corner of its interior. This would take from two to four days. When quicklime, asphyxiation, and injuries had silenced every outcry, a group of men would appear.*
> *They would be young, strong Jews, assigned to the task of cleaning out these cars until their own turn to be in them should arrive. Under a strong guard*

27 This promise was another one of Jan Karski's puerile inventions.

they would unseal the cars and expel the heaps of decomposing bodies. The mounds of flesh that they piled up would then be burned and the remnants buried in a single huge hole. The cleaning, burning and burial would consume one or two full days. The entire process of disposal would take, then, from three to six days. During this period the camp would have recruited new victims. The train would return and the whole cycle would be repeated from the beginning."

On October 14, 1944, Karski presented in *Collier's Weekly* magazine, under the title "Polish Death Camps", a teaser for his book, whose publication was announced as imminent (end of October 1944). This text presents some additions and some variations with respect to the printed version. Karski laid out the background of his mission as follows (Karski 1944b, pp. 18f., 60f.):

"As a member of the underground, I was ordered to leave Warsaw and report to the Polish government and the Allied authorities about conditions in Poland. My orders came from the delegate of the Polish government acting somewhere in Poland and from the commander in chief of the underground army. Jewish leaders confided to me their written report but they insisted in order to be able to tell the truth I should see with my own eyes what actually happened to the Jews in Poland. They arranged for me to visit one of the Jewish death camps.

The camp was near to the town of Belzec, about 100 miles east of Warsaw, and was well known all over Poland because of the tales of horror that were circulated about it. […]

Early in the morning I left Warsaw in the company of a Jew who worked outside the ghetto in the Jewish underground movement. We arrived in Belzec shortly after midday and went directly to the place where the Estonian was supposed to be waiting."

Karski confirmed that the camp "was on a large, flat plain and occupied about a square mile," or some 2.6 square kilometers, and that the Jews deported to Bełżec "were all former inhabitants of the Warsaw ghetto" (*ibid.*, p. 19).

Here the train stopped "about eight miles" away from the camp (*ibid*., p. 61), while in his book, this happened "about eighty miles" away (Karski 1944a, p. 350).

The literary development of Jan Karski's impostures is another typical example of how anti-German black propaganda was orchestrated.

At first, he "knew", by hearsay, that Bełżec was an extermination center using electrocution. Then he invented the fable of a visit, first to a "sorting camp" which was located 50 kilometers from Bełżec, then to the Bełżec Camp itself, which according to him was located 12 miles/12 kilometers/15 kilometers (!) south of the town, finally to the Bełżec Camp without further specification. He secretly entered the camp disguised as a Polish, a Latvian and then as an Estonian policeman. This occurred "shortly after midday," but he nevertheless witnessed the arrival of a train at "about 10 o'clock in the morning." There were either 5,000 or 6,000 victims; one car was arranged for 8 horses and 40 persons, but also for 6 horses and 36 persons, and had a capacity of 90 and 100 persons, but were loaded with either 130-140 or 120-130 people. During the

loading of the railway cars alone, some 300 people died, or maybe only "20 or 30." The cars were painted with lime and at the same time had their floors covered either with quicklime and chlorine/chloride/chloride of lime, or with quicklime only.

The train had either between 50-60 cars, or exactly 51 cars, or exactly 46 cars. The victims in the cars died mainly either from asphyxiation by "chlorine gas" or from burns caused by quicklime.

As for the destination of the "death trains", the contradictions are even more-glaring:

> *"A long train thus packed with several thousand men, women, and children is switched to a side line where it remains from two to eight days."*
> *"The trains were dispatched to some point 'North' – where, I do not know. After a journey of several days, the cars were shunted off somewhere in a field and eventually their human freight perished."*
> *"The train moves on for about 25 miles and then halts in an open field. There it remains standing, hermetically closed, for six to seven days."*
> *"My informants had minutely described the entire journey. The train would travel about eighty miles and finally come to a halt in an empty, barren field. Then nothing at all would happen. The train would stand stock-still, patiently waiting while death penetrated into every corner of its interior. This would take from two to four days."*

Even if Karski's account, in its various literary iterations, is a simple fabrication, someone tried to improve on it, arguing that Karski had simply been wrong, that instead of visiting Bełżec he had gone to Izbica, a place some sixty kilometers farther north (Wood/Jankowski 1994, pp. 128f.). That could be true with respect to the "sorting camp" of December 1942, but in 1944, as we have seen, Karski spoke specifically of Bełżec Camp:

> *"The camp was near to the town of Belzec,* […]. *We arrived in Belzec shortly after midday* […]*."*
> *"A few days after my second visit to the Warsaw ghetto, the Bund leader was to arrange an opportunity for me to see the Jewish death camp. The camp was located near the town of Belzec about one hundred miles east of Warsaw* […]*."*

This is so clear that the book was advertised in the United States with a poster by William Sharp containing four drawings summarizing its contents; the fourth bore the following caption:[28]

> *"He visited notorious Jewish death camp, disguised as Estonian guard."*

During a 1987 interview with Macjei Kozłowski, a journalist of the Polish weekly newspaper *Tygodnik Powszechny* (*Universal Weekly*), Karski confirmed that he had entered Bełżec Camp:[29]

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[28] Reproduced in Wood/Jankowski 1996, unpaginated appendix of documents.
[29] "Niespełona misja," no page number shown in the photocopy in my possession.

> *"We went together* [with a guide] *to Lublin, then changed trains and finally arrived in Bełżec. It was the middle of October* [1942]*."*

At this time, Karski added a further lie to the earlier narrative:

> *"I thought, then, that Bełżec was a transit camp. It was only after the war that I convinced myself that Bełżec was the final point of extermination."*

In his 1944 description he inevitably made serious errors, due to the fact that he had never actually seen Bełżec Camp. For example, that camp is not "on a large, flat plain," but on the side of a hill, and no Estonian or Latvian guards were ever on duty there. Furthermore, the very basis of the story – that the camp guards could be bribed – is in flagrant contradiction to their being described, in the report of July 10, 1942, and others, as having been "overloaded with stolen coins and jewelry" and being able to pay 20 gold dollars for a bottle of vodka.

That the whole account has been completely invented is also evident from its basic premises. In October 1942, in order to investigate how the deportees from the Warsaw Ghetto were allegedly exterminated, Karski allegedly went – on the specific instructions of the head of the *Bund* – not to Treblinka but to Bełżec! And at a point in time at which the first wave of deportations had been over for a month, he "saw" crowds of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto there! Thus, for Karski's fable to be plausible, it would be necessary for the Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to have been deported to Bełżec via Izbica! With total disregard for the intelligence of the victims of his impostures, Karski had not even bothered to check the geographical whereabouts of Bełżec. He places it at a distance some 160 km east of Warsaw, whereas in reality it is nearly 300 km to the south-east of the Polish capital.[30]

In its August 1, 1943 issue, the clandestine French newspaper *Notre Voix* published a free adaptation of Jan Karski's "testimony" titled "The Horrible Massacre of 6,000 Jews in the Belcek [sic] Extermination Camp" which begins as follows:[31]

> *"It was in Belcek. 6,000 Jews of both sexes and all ages had arrived from the Warsaw Ghetto."*

Apart from these isolated historiographical paroxysms, the story invented by Jan Karski has fallen into total disrepute among orthodox historians, but not the man himself, who enjoyed high regard among them until his death in July 2000.[32] As Theodore O'Keefe correctly stated,

> *"few alleged eyewitnesses to the Nazi 'extermination' camps have been as influential, and as honored, as Jan Karski."* (O'Keefe, p. 1)

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30 This information is also in error for Treblinka, which is located some 80 km northeast of Warsaw (by rail).

31 Courtois/Rayski, pp. 203-205.

32 During a visit to the United States between September 9 and 15, 2002, Polish Foreign Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz unveiled a monument to Jan Karski at Georgetown University (*Yearbook…*, p. 219). In 1999, Karski's book was published in Polish (Karski 1999).

Thus, although the *Enzyklopädie des Holocaust* has an entry on Karski, it puts in doubt the reliability of his testimony:[33]

> *"It is not quite clear whether Karski, disguised as a guard, actually did view the mass murder in the Bełżec extermination camp, as he later wrote."*

In Western countries, on the other hand, he was always careful, enjoying the purloined fame of being an 'eye-witness' of the 'extermination camp' at Bełżec, to give support to the official story by his presence or his signature, without, however, detailing his 'testimony.' With the tacit complicity of official circles, he surreptitiously became the guarantor of the alleged exterminations in the gas chambers of Bełżec allegedly operating with Diesel-exhaust gases. In this role he appeared, for example, in an Italian TV broadcast.[34] In Claude Lanzmann's famous documentary *Shoah*, Karski elaborates about his various "missions" during the war, but without ever mentioning Bełżec Camp (Lanzmann, pp. 183-196).

In October 1978, the French-Jewish filmmaker had conducted a lengthy interview with Karski, the transcript of which has 73 pages. In it, Karski elaborated in detail about his alleged visit to Bełżec, with the usual preamble: In the Warsaw Ghetto, he had met two Jewish leaders who had proposed the fateful mission to him; this took place "at the beginning of October" or "possibly the end of September" of 1942.[35]

But then he was forced to postpone the alleged visit to the end of October or even November (p. 35). In fact, Lanzmann alluded to Rudolf Reder, another shameless impostor (see Mattogno 2021a), yet without explicitly mentioning him, and emphasized:

> *"When you went to Belzec, he was there. He escaped in November."*

The dialogue continued as follows (pp. 28f.):

> *"Karski – Well, a few days later contact was made – with some Jews whom I did not know, of course. We took a train to Belzec.*
> *Claude Lanzmann – From Warsaw?*
> *K. – From Warsaw. It's quite a long trip. About 4 hours, as far as I remember.*
> *C.L. – Belzec is 150 km south of Lublin.*
> *K. – Yes, so Sobibor is north of Belzec, which will enter the scene. So, we went to Belzec."*

Therefore, Karski confirmed once more that he had visited Bełżec Camp. Lanzmann then asked him whether he had any idea what he would see there, to which he replied:

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33 Gutman *et al*., Vol. II, p. 741; the earlier English edition of this encyclopedia does not mention Bełżec in its entry on Karski at all: Gutman, Vol. II, p. 787.

34 The "Speciale-Mixer" of Giovanni Minoli, broadcast for the first time by RAI 2 on June 21, 1989, at 8:30 PM. Cf. in this respect my comments in Mattogno 1991, pp. 208-219.

35 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, RG 60-5006, Interview with J. Karski, transcript, p. 8. All subsequent page numbers from there unless indicated otherwise.

> *"No. Well, I had heard* [talk] *about Belzec; I knew there was a camp there. However, what I heard at the time, even from some Jews, was that it was what was then called a 'transit' camp. As I understood after the war, at that time they* [the Germans] *were liquidating the camp as such. By November, there was no longer a camp. I don't know the reason, whatever it was, but apparently the last transport of Jews was taken out of Belzec and was sent to Sobibor, which became an extermination camp; or Jews who had been taken out of Warsaw or other ghettos were sent to Belzec for a short time and then again went somewhere else."*

Karski's claim that prior to his trip to Bełżec he had assumed that Bełżec was a 'transit camp' was a transparent lie, because in the report he brought to London at the end of November 1942, he explicitly stated:

> *"An electrocution station is installed at Belzec camp. Transports of settlers arrive at a siding, on the spot where the execution is to take place. The camp is policed by Ukrainians. The victims are ordered to strip naked ostensibly to have a bath and are then led to a barracks with a metal plate for floor. The door is then locked, electric current passes through the victims and their death is almost instantaneous. The bodies are loaded on the wagons and taken to a mass grave some distance from the camp."*

And in his book, he had recounted just as explicitly:

> *"A few days after my second visit to the Warsaw ghetto, the Bund leader was to arrange an opportunity for me to see the Jewish death camp. The camp was located near the town of Belzec about one hundred miles east of Warsaw and was well-known all over Poland from the tales of horror that were circulated about it. The common report was that every Jew who reached it, without exception, was doomed to death."*

Why would the *Bund* leadership have sent Karski on a mission to a transit camp instead of an extermination camp?

Lanzmann did not object and merely pointed out to Karski that Bełżec was initially intended for the Jews of the Lwów and Krakow area, and that the Jews of Warsaw were not deported to this camp, but to Treblinka. Karski answered evasively (p. 29):

> *"I wasn't aware of all these details at that time."*

This gross nonsense alone is enough to invalidate the fable invented by Karski. As I will document in Chapter 3, self-proclaimed escapees from the Treblinka Camp had returned to Warsaw as early as the end of August 1942, and had written reports about the "Treblinka Extermination Camp" there, so it is utterly demented to claim that the *Bund* leadership would have sent Karski to investigate *in Bełżec* the fate of the Jews he knew had been deported from Warsaw *to Treblinka*.

Lanzmann also noted that Bełżec is said to have become operational as a death camp already in March 1942. Karski was therefore forced to emphasize the "transit camp" thesis (p. 30):

> *"Yes, apparently, only at the time I visited it really became a transit* [camp], *meaning that the Jews were sent somewhere else. The Germans announced that they* [the Jews] *would be deployed at forced labor, they would have good conditions…"*

Karski reiterated that he had entered Bełżec Camp disguised as an Estonian militiaman, and Lanzmann commented (*ibid*.):

> *"Because the camps were guarded by Ukrainians."*

Karski's response was:

> *"Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Polish policemen and regular German Gestapo, SS etc."*

With this broad sweep of including everyone, he perhaps wanted to blunt the contradictions of his earlier statements on the subject.

The visit, Karski recounted, had been organized by the Jewish Resistance. He entered the camp with a "Jewish guide," about whom he clarified (p. 31):

> *"I had some kind of identification papers. And so I followed him* [the guide], *he goes his way, I go his way, so I only followed him, and he led me to an officer, and I simply showed him* [the documents]*… he got in as a civilian. Only I was in disguise."*

Later, however, he completely forgot about this guide (p. 35):

> *"I entered the camp in the company of an Estonian militiaman, who wore the uniform of an Estonian militiaman and had a kind of 'Ausweis'* [ID] *that allowed me to enter the camp and leave the camp after showing the Ausweis."*

With his "eyewitness account," Karski tried to follow the plot of his book, with some confusion (the ordinary freight car was designed for 16 horses instead of 8; p. 33) and further contradictions. The number of train cars equals the number given in the book (p. 37):

> *"At the gate, in front of it, was a cattle train. I counted 46 cars."*

But the time he spent at the camp was "probably no more than 20, 25 minutes" (p. 32), "20 minutes, half an hour" (p. 39); in the book, however, Karski had written:

> *"It took three hours to fill up the entire train by repetitions of this procedure. It was twilight when the forty-six (I counted them) cars were packed."*

The cars were filled with 120 or 130 people each, and here as well the floors had been previously covered with quicklime, but Karski changed the fate of these Jews once again (p. 34):

> *"K. – What I understood was that the train was going somewhere and that they* [the Jews] *really died in these cars. Some of them were taken to Sobibor, as I later learned. And in Sobibor they were finished off.*
> *C.L. – They were gassed.*

K.– Yes. For what reason they were not gassed in Belzec, I do not know. Because they did it first in Belzec for months. Before that, they really gassed the Jews.
C.L. – In Belzec there were six gas chambers.
K. – Yes. Now, the date is important. When trying back then to investigate how it was, the camp was liquidated altogether apparently at the end of October or in November. The last remaining Jews were sent to Sobibor, and secondly, in the final phase, Jews from other ghettos passed through Belzec to be sent elsewhere."

Karski had stated in the book that his alleged visit to Bełżec took place "a few days after" his second visit to the Warsaw Ghetto, which was at the beginning of October 1942 ("it was now the beginning of October, 1942"; Karski 1944a, p. 324), thus in the first ten days of October.

In order to avoid having to deal with the "gas chambers", and in particular with Rudolf Reder's testimony, who reported nothing about "death trains", Karski first of all introduced another self-contradiction by postponing the date of his alleged camp visit to the end of October or November 1942, suggesting that it had taken place after Reder's escape. However, Reder claimed to have escaped from the camp at the end of November 1942,[36] but Karski arrived in London on November 25, following this route: from Bełżec he went to Warsaw, then to Berlin (!), then to Brussels, then to Paris, to Lyon, to Perpignan, crossed the Pyrenees, went to Barcelona, to Gibraltar and from there embarked for London (Karski 1944a, pp. 352-378). In practice, Reder remained in Bełżec even after Karski's alleged visit.

Karski (or his "handlers" – he had become a "hot property") next invented the fable that the camp was being liquidated at the time of his visit, and in this context, the story of the "transit camp" was also introduced. In practice, he claimed that Bełżec had previously functioned regularly as an extermination camp using "gas chambers," but in the final phase had become a "transit camp." Here, too, Karski was forced to provide nonsensical explanations. The Jews he had seen during his alleged visit were the last remaining contingent at the camp; they were either sent to Sobibór, which "became an extermination camp"; or they came from the Warsaw Ghetto (in November 1942!) or other ghettos, and were temporarily transported to Bełżec in order to be transferred elsewhere shortly thereafter. Karski then claimed that the Jews he had seen (as he claims to have learned later) were sent to Sobibór, and that other Jews passed through Bełżec in the final phase of the camp's existence, which he evidently had learned later as well (one learns *so much* "later").

There is no need to emphasize that the fable of the "death trains" contradicts both hypotheses.

The procacity of these explanations is perfectly worthy of the character. According to Robert Kuwałek, 51,559 Jews are said to have been gassed in

[36] Reder 1946, p. 63; see Mattogno 2021a, Part 1.

Bełżec in October 1942, and in November between 49,234 and 53,232 (Kuwałek, p. 170).

Lanzmann's interview therefore confirms that Karski was a conscious and intentional impostor, which is further reaffirmed in exemplary fashion by another fact. In 1997, J. Karski wrote the foreword to the new, 1999 edition of a translation of Rudolf Reder's book about Bełżec, which had first appeared in 1946, needless to say without giving the slightest hint of his alleged visit to that camp.[37] With his "authority," he therefore endorsed a testimony that radically contradicted his own. Thus, the imposture was also a hoax!

Before the World Jewish Congress, Karski had declared:

> *"Prior to my departure from the country, they entrusted to me a number documents and reports which I have since handed over to the competent Jewish bodies in London."*

One of these documents was precisely the report "News is reaching the Polish Government in London about the liquidation of the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw", which mentioned only the killing method by electricity with regard to Bełżec ("An electrocution station is installed at Belzec camp").

Assuming that Karski had actually visited the Bełżec Camp and had actually seen the "death trains," this would imply that he endorsed the report in question even though he knew it to be false. It follows that he was an impostor in any case, even if, absurdly, he had told the truth at some point. As such he was treated more or less explicitly by some Holocaust scholars. For instance, Raul Hilberg, in the chapter dedicated to the "Messengers" in his 1992 book *Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders*, Hilberg first outlines Karski's testimony, and then states the following about it (Hilberg 1992, pp. 223):

> *"In fact, Jewish transports from Warsaw were routed to Treblinka, not Bełżec. No transport left Warsaw in October. The guards in Belzec were mainly Ukrainian, although a few Baltic nationals may have been among them. The same composition applies to the guard force in Treblinka. Above all, trains did not leave Belzec or Treblinka so that the passengers could die in the cars. Belzec and Treblinka were death camps with gas chambers, and these facilities were not mentioned in Karski's account."*

Consistent with this critique, he did not mention Karski at all in his 2003 monumental work *The Destruction of the European Jews*.

Michael Tregenza was very critical of Karski in an unpublished typescript of 2006 titled "Only the dead. Christian Wirth and SS-Sonderkommando Belzec," where he pointed out the many contradictions in Karski's various statements, but apparently believed that Karski had actually visited a real "sorting camp", namely the one in Izbica.[38] I have already mentioned earlier that in

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[37] Reder 1999, pp. 5, 77; Karski's foreword (*przedmowa*) is dated Washington, July 4, 1997.

[38] The Wiener Library, MS 183/98237. The typescript is marked with: "Presented to The Wiener Library Institute of Contemporary History by Gerald Fleming 2006."

such a case Karski's mission would have been senseless, because from the very beginning that mission was about visiting a "death camp."

The position of Polish historiography is deliberately ambiguous; it was expressed by its top Bełżec expert, Robert Kuwałek, in the following terms (Kuwałek, p. 199):

> *"For many years, the opinion persisted that Karski had been an eyewitness to what happened at the Bełżec Death Camp. He himself was convinced of this. On the other hand, when Jan Karski had already arrived in London, he said about the place he actually visited and where he saw the brutal preparation of a transport that it was a 'sorting camp' located in the vicinity of Bełżec, 12 miles from the village. Only in 1944 did he begin identifying it with Bełżec itself. Years later, it was established that in fact Jan Karski had been in Izbica Lubelska, where he witnessed the moment when a rail transport was put together and sent off to the nearby extermination camp. At that time, a transit ghetto existed in Izbica, where thousands of Polish and foreign Jews arrived who were kept there by the Germans only to be deported later to the Bełżec and Sobibór extermination camps. We do not know why Karski later claimed that he actually was at* [had gone to] *Bełżec. It is certain that he was informed about the local extermination camp, and that he passed on similar news to London as the Polish and Jewish agents. It may be that he wanted to further substantiate the information he had communicated from the country* [Poland], *since in the 'Extraordinary Communication' this information was relatively vague, and as a rule, news that had a general circulation was hectographed. It may also be that later the 'sorting camp' became confused in his memory with the Bełżec Extermination Camp."*

Without going into details, even this explanation is completely nonsensical on the whole, because – as pointed out earlier – it implies that the *Bund* leadership would have instructed Karski to investigate the alleged extermination at Treblinka of the Jews deported there from the Warsaw Ghetto by sending him *to Izbica*! And one cannot seriously believe that Karski had visited the Izbica *Ghetto* believing it to be the Bełżec *Camp*, especially since these two locations are 66 km apart.

In conclusion, Karski's testimony is absolutely untenable. It is simply a convolution of silly lies.

1.4. The "Soap Factory Using Human Fat" at Bełżec

Even before the Second World War had ended, the legend of a factory established at Bełżec for the manufacture of soap from the corpses of the allegedly exterminated Jews was being circulated.

A report sent on August 30, 1942 by the Geneva Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine to the US government and forwarded by the latter to the

Holy See on September 26, 1942, contains the first germs of this legend (*Foreign Relations…*, p. 775):

> *"Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto is taking place. Without any distinction all Jews, irrespective of age or sex, are being removed from the Ghetto in groups and shot. Their corpses are utilized for making fats and their bones for the manufacture of fertilizer. Corpses are even being exhumed for these purposes. These mass executions take place, not in Warsaw, but in especially prepared camps for the purpose, one of which is stated to be in Belzek* [sic[39]]*."*

The legend then resurfaced in a report by the messenger Jerzy Salski dated April 18, 1943:

> *"d. Stage 4: Transport to Belzec. I have not been there myself, but people from the district said that there is a stench of corpses in the air. Rumors circulate that the Germans make soap from the fat of the corpses."* (Rudorff, Document 66, p. 255)

As we saw in Subchapter 1.2., by 1944 the legend of a factory for human soap at Bełżec had already started to take shape, and was disseminated in its initial form by A. Silberschein. In fact, the reports on Bełżec mentioned above state that in this camp "[t]he fat from the corpses was drained in order to – make soap from it" and that the Germans had set up "special factories for the production of soap and shoe polish from Jewish fat."

This juicy story then appeared in the *Black Book* in the following form (Ehrenburg/Grossman, p. 117):

> *"In a different area of the Belzec camp was a soap works. The Germans selected the plumpest individuals, killed them, and boiled them down for soap. 'Jewish soap' was printed on the labels. Izraelevich Rozenstrauch, a bank clerk from Lvov, actually held a bar in his hands, and he was one of the witnesses who provided us with this testimony."*

However, the most enthusiastic storyteller and spreader of this legend of human was none other than Simon Wiesenthal. In 1946 he wrote an article titled "RIF," which opened with these words (1946a):

> *"In the last week of March, the Rumanian press published a unique piece of news: In the little Rumanian town of Folteceni, twenty boxes of soap were laid to rest in the Jewish cemetery with all the traditional pomp and circumstance of a funeral. The soap had recently been found in a former German army depot. The boxes were clearly labeled 'RIF – Rein jüdisches Fett'* [RIF – pure Jewish fat]. *The boxes were destined for the Waffen SS, and on the wrappers it said with full and cynical objectivity that the soap had been made from Jewish bodies."*

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[39] The text received by the Vatican has the spelling "*Belick*" (*Actes et documents…*, p. 52). This is the only mention of Bełżec Camp in the whole book; clearly it has been confused here with the Treblinka Camp.

In reality, the acronym RIF stands for "*Reichsstelle für industrielle Fettversorgung*" (National office for industrial fat supply) and has nothing to do with human fat, much less Jewish fat, a fable which "most historians do not believe" anymore.[40] Still, Simon Wiesenthal recounts profusely the fantastic story of the alleged manufacture of soap from human fat:

> *"Toward the end of 1942, the terrible words 'transport for soap' were uttered for the first time! It was in the Government General, and the factory was in Galicia, at Belsetz*[sic]. *In this plant, between April of 1942 and May of 1943, 900,000 Jews had been used as raw material. The Jews were brought from two districts: Lublin and Galicia."*

The clothes and shoes of the victims – continues Wiesenthal – were sent to Germany, the hair to a factory in Brandenburg and

> *"certain solids* [of the corpses] *were separated and sent to northern Germany, and there, a special oil for U-boat engines was produced. The human bones went into the Lemberg bone mill, and there they were turned into fertilizer. Golden teeth were sent to the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office, Office Group D, Berlin-Oranienburg.*
> *What was left, the residual fat, was needed for soap production. In parallel with the human transports, other substances such as soda, colophony, and sand were transported as secondary raw materials. The Belsetz plant had a daughter company at Danzig; a portion of the intermediates were sent there. Belsetz was a model plant. Therefore, transports to this location had priority with the Ostbahn* [Eastern Railroad]*. The plant needed raw materials … and wheels turned for victory!* […]
> *Since 1942, the General Government knew exactly what RIF soap meant. For the cultural world, the pleasure may be incomprehensible with which the Nazis and their women in the General Government looked upon this soap. In every piece of soap, they saw a Jew magically turned into soap who thus was prevented from growing up to become a second Freud, Ehrlich or Einstein.*
> *This soap was perhaps meant to help clean off the stains of murder and blood. But it was unable to wash away that stain. It remained and lingered. This soap should actually be sent to Nuremberg, so that the dead may appear on trial as witnesses…* […] *And before the world tribunal, a small piece of soap appears and – bemoans these millions!"* (Wiesenthal 1946a)

In the next issue, the same magazine published another article by Wiesenthal titled "*Seifenfabrik Belsetz*" ("The Belsetz Soap Factory"), about which he explained (Wiesenthal 1946b):

> *"The great feedback to my article 'RIF' prompts me to provide further details of the events in the Generalgouvernement."*

The title only served to attract readers' attention, because he said nothing about the alleged human soap. In fact, in this article he outlined an imaginary history

[40] Shermer/Grobman 2002a, p. 115. In the Italian translation (2002b, p. 162), the term "most historians" is translated as "molti storici" – "many historians."

of Bełżec Camp that is riddled with historical falsehoods. In January 1942, Wiesenthal claims, the Bełżec area was inspected by a commission of top SS officials, among them Adolf Eichmann, whom Wiesenthal promotes to the rank of "SS General" for the occasion! The commission decided to make "the existing installations the starting point for the erection of a place of extermination." For this purpose, "a site of 3 square kilometers" (300 hectares, or about 750 acres) was fenced in. In reality, the camp's area was about six hectares (some 15 acres), hence just 6% of a square kilometer, or only 2% of what Wiesenthal claimed.

Wiesenthal also claimed that trains of 40-50 wagons departed from Lemberg (Lwów) Station, each loaded with 110-140 people were, initially dressed, but since August 1942 half-naked. Needless to say, the floors of the railway cars were allegedly covered with "quicklime" ("*mit ungelöschtem Kalk*").

And here is the description of the alleged extermination plant:

> *"The people, squeezed together, hounded by the SS, the Latvians and Ukrainians, ran into the 'bath' through the open gate. It could hold 500 persons at a time. The floor of the 'bathhouse' was made of metal, and showers hung down from the ceiling. When the room was full, the SS delivered a 5,000-volt current to the metal plate. At the same time, the showers spewed out water. A brief scream, and the execution was over. An SS head physician by the name of Dr. Schmidt ascertained the death of the victims by looking through a peephole, the second door was opened, the 'corpse commando' arrived and quickly removed the dead. – There was now room for the next load of five hundred."*

A good half of the article fictionalizes events as described by Rudolf Reder, spelled "Rechter" by Wiesenthal, who states that Reder arrived at "Belsetz" in August 1942 and escaped to Lemberg on an unspecified date. In retaliation for this escape, the SS allegedly shot 150 adult Jews and 45 children! "Rechter" drafted a report that circulated clandestinely, then was sent to Warsaw with false documents. "He fell during the Warsaw Uprising in 1943" (Wiesenthal 1946b, p. 14). In fact, Reder died in Toronto in 1968.

1.5. The Witnesses

The only known eyewitnesses who have left written reports or whose testimonies were recorded are are Rudolf Reder, Kurt Gerstein and Chaim Hirszman. Stanisław Kozak would technically be included in this list, but his is a separate case which I will discuss later. Mieczysław Garfinkiel, on the other hand, is the most-important of the indirect witnesses who reported the accounts of alleged eyewitnesses.

I have written a specific study about Reder and Gerstein, in which I reproduce and critically analyze their statements, showing their internal contradictions, absurdities and blatant lies – in Gerstein's case also delusional rantings –

and highlighting the contradictions of the two testimonies, the most insurmountable of which concerns the alleged killing system (Mattogno 2021a).

Kurt Gerstein's account is well-known. He spoke of a Diesel engine whose exhaust gases presumably asphyxiated the victims (Diesel exhaust, for all its odor, is relatively non-toxic). Rudolf Reder, on the other hand, described a fictitious "machine" in his various declarations that included a gasoline engine with a compressor, gas cylinders, spoked wheels and glass tubes, whose exhaust gases, however, did *not* asphyxiate the victims.

In the interrogation of December 29, 1945, he declared:

> *"On the opposite side of the building, that is, behind the wall in front of which the corridor ended, there was a small room in which the machines* [*maszyny*] *were located. I personally saw that in this small room there was a gasoline-powered engine which seemed very complicated. I remember it had a drive wheel* [*koło napędowe*]*, but I didn't observe any other structural or technical details."* (*ibid.*, pp. 24f.)
>
> *"I am unable to say what the chemical aspect* [*chemizm*] *of the mechanism of killing people in the Bełżec chambers consisted of. I only know one thing, that from the engine room a pipe of one inch in diameter went into each of the gas chambers* [*z komór gazowych*]*. The outlets of these pipes ended in the individual chambers. I don't know whether any gas was released through these pipes into the chambers, whether the air in the chambers was compressed* [*zgęszczano*] *or whether the air was pumped out of the chambers. I was often on the ramp when the doors were opened. However, I never smelled any odors, and entering the rooms immediately after opening the door never had any harmful effects on my health. The corpses found in the chamber did not show an unnatural color at all* [*żadnego nienaturalnego zabarwienia*]*. They all looked like living people, mostly their eyes were open. Only in a few cases did it happen that the corpses were stained with blood. The air in the rooms, after their opening, was clean, transparent and odorless* [*szyste, przeźroczyste i bezwonne*]*. In particular, no smoke or combustion gases from the engine could be perceived. These gases were discharged by the engine directly to the outside and not into the chambers* [*Gazy te były odprowadzane z motoru wprost na dwór a nie do komór*]*."* (*ibid.*, p. 26)

Chaim Hirszman was interrogated in Lublin on March 19, 1946 by members of the local District Commission for Jewish History. He was deported to Bełżec in September 1942 from the village of Zaklików, about 75 km southwest of Lublin, and remained at the camp until its liquidation. He escaped from a transport of the last inmates who were being transferred to Sobibór in May 1943. Hirszman was killed on the day of his deposition by a group of anti-communists and anti-Semites.

Despite his having stayed in Bełżec for eight months, Hirszman's deposition is very terse. I reproduce the part that refers specifically to his stay at the camp:[41]

> *"We were loaded onto a train and transported to Bełżec. The train entered a grove. Then all the train personnel were changed. Instead of the trainmen, SS men from the death camp took over. At that time, we were still unaware of the situation. The train arrived at the camp itself. Other SS men took us out of the train. They led us all together into a barracks – women, men and children. They told us that we were going to the bathroom, and ordered us to undress. I understood immediately what this meant. After undressing, we were ordered to line up, on one side the men, on the other side the women with the children. There was an SS man with a whip, and by striking them with it, he indicated to the men whether they should go to the right or to the left, to death* [or] *to work. I was chosen for the death side,* [but] *at that time I did not know it yet. After all, I believed that one side or the other meant the same thing: death. However, when I leapt in the direction indicated, an SS man called me and said: 'Du bist ein Militärmensch, dich können wir brauchen'* [*'You are a military man, we can make use of you'*]. *We who had been chosen for the job were ordered to dress. I and some other men were designated to lead the people to the furnaces* [*do pieca*]. *I was assigned to the women. At the entrance to the gas chamber* [*do komory gazowej*] *was the Ukrainian volksdeutsch Schmidt, who struck with his whip every woman who entered. Before the door was closed, he fired a few times with the pistol, then the door closed automatically* [*automatycznie*], *and after 40 minutes we went in and took the corpses away to a special* [*illegible word*] *and cut the hair off the corpses, and the Germans took them away* [*Niemcy je zabierali*]. *The children were thrown into the chamber* [*do komory*] *directly over the heads of the women. In one of these 'transports' from the gas chamber* [*z komory gazowej*], *there was the corpse of my wife; I had to cut her hair. The corpses were not buried immediately, but were held to accumulate a larger batch. Therefore, we did not bury them that day. As I saw, there were many people in the camp, only Jews. There were so-called 'clean' barracks and 'dirty' barracks. I was directed to a 'clean' one. The block leader* [*blokowy*] *assigned me a cot."*

Hirszman spoke of only one "gas chamber" (instead of the six canonical ones), and because the investigators took the gas chambers' existence and their own knowledge about it already for granted, they abstained from having Hirszman as a self-proclaimed eyewitness describe this chamber himself, so he said nothing about it, not even what sort of gas was used in it. The account contains other elements that are in conflict with Reder's account, but also with the current orthodox narrative: the door of the "gas chamber" closed "automatically", the gassing lasted 40 minutes (for Reder exactly 20 minutes by the clock), and the Jewish slave-labor inmates cut the victims' hair after the gassing instead of prior to it (Reder, Gerstein). Hirszman's claims regarding the burial of the

[41] Minutes of the interrogation of Chaim Hirszman dated March 19, 1946. Libionka, pp. 93-95.

corpses is not very clear; apparently, he meant to say that sufficient corpses had to pile up before they were buried in mass graves. He mentions "furnaces," although there never were any at Bełżec, but he says nothing about the exhumation and cremation of these corpses, which he would have been forced to participate in, or at least to have witnessed, if he really had remained at the camp until May 1943.

More information about this, along with much other information, comes from the deposition of his wife or rather widow, Pola Hirszman, which she made in April 1946. Since he claims to have cut the hair off his wife's corpse, it must be assumed that he had remarried in the meantime. The other alternative – that his wife also survived Bełżec, and that Chaim Hirszman lied about her death by gassing, and his cutting her hair afterwards – is a little too far-fetched to be considered seriously.

Pola testified as to what her husband had told her. Hence, it is a hearsay account of low value. Still, it is much more-detailed than Chaim's recorded testimony. In particular she mentioned the burning of the corpses, but it is not explained why Chaim himself had not mentioned it during his deposition. Her account is even more-clearly influenced by the rumors circulating at the time, including ridiculous stories such as the one about a deportation transport of children up to three years of age who were buried alive in a pit! Pola also hinted at gassings and "the gas chamber," but she knew as little about it as her husband, meaning nothing. The only reference to this is as follows:[42]

> *"The camp was like a city. There were wooden barracks, except for one barracks, in which the gas chamber* [*komora gazowa*] *was located."*

Hence, these two testimonies merely echo the black propaganda described earlier.

Other stories presumably told by alleged eyewitnesses who are said to have escaped from Bełżec were related by the hearsay witness Mieczysław Garfinkiel, who had chaired the Zamość Jewish Council in 1942, in his interrogation on October 5, 1945.[43] In the camp area were "a few wooden barracks," on which the first story centers:

> *"However, at the end of March* [*pod koniec marca*] *of 1942, 2-3 unknown Jews approached me who stated that, together with others, they had been brought to Bełżec the day before from Lublin, and had escaped from there, miraculously avoiding death, since, according to their account, all Jews who are brought to Bełżec are killed there by gassing in the aforementioned barracks."*

The second story is better articulated. A Jewish council member named Wolsztajn had a 17-year-old daughter and a 13-year-old son who was deported to Bełżec. Garfinkiel stated:[44]

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42 Minutes of the interrogation of Pola Hirszman of April 1946; *ibid.*, pp. 96-99.
43 Minutes of the interrogation of Mieczysław Garfinkiel dated October 5, 1945; i*bid.*, pp. 116-120.
44 *Ibid.*, p. 117.

> *"This young man came to me early in the morning on Monday, April 13, 1942; he seemed noticeably fatigued and frightened, and related that on Sunday morning he had been taken to Bełżec. There, after the unloading of the cars, an SS officer had told the people gathered on the spot that, since they had to go East to work, they all had to go through disinfection and bathing, and for that they had to undress without delay and go to the barracks in front of them. In the meantime, he managed to hide in a cesspool that was nearby, where he stayed until late at night. He saw and heard that naked people were being beaten and pushed into the barracks, from where no one came out, but he saw that on the other side of the barracks, after a while, naked corpses were being taken out on carts. Such a procedure took place a few times during that entire Sunday, with other transports arriving in the meantime. During the night, he crawled under the fence and regained his freedom, and with the help of Gypsies who lived not far away he went to Zamość. This was the first real and reliable report that we received from the Bełżec Death Camp."*

Garfinkiel asserted that the camp was located in a "heavily guarded area, surrounded by several rows of barbed wire." Nevertheless, by the end of March, about ten days after the camp had opened, two to three deportees had already escaped from the camp, and another one in mid-April – and these were only those who returned to Zamość. It is not clear, then, why the outlandish rumors I have outlined earlier immediately arose about Bełżec. The story of young Wolsztajn is obviously ficticious.

According to all the maps drawn by witnesses after the war, there was no cesspool anywhere in the Bełżec Camp. Any such cesspool had to be in the vicinity of the latrines, but, if we are to believe the camp map of May 1942 as published by the "Aktion Reinhard Camps" website,[45] the only latrine of the camp was in the sector reserved for Jewish service personnel, which makes perfect sense, but this was far away from the alleged gassing barracks. On the other hand, if this cesspool was used for the excreta of hundreds of people working at that camp, such a pool must have been several meters deep, and it is not explained how the boy could see what was happening around him while submerged therein. It is not even clear whether the alleged gassing took place in one or more barracks, because the text uses both the plural and the singular. In other words, Garfinkiel invented the "cesspool" for this occasion, so this alleged deportee could hide in it near the claimed killing site. The young man, who is said to have been just 13 years old, escaped late Sunday night by evading the very tight security and overcoming several rows of barbed wire, yet on Monday "early morning," he was already in Zamość, which is 42 km north of Bełżec via the main road (which was no doubt guarded by the Germans). When he arrived in town, he did not go to his father's house, which any normal 13-year-old boy would have done, but to Garfinkiel's! However, as a reaction to the boy's mind-boggling revelations, Garfinkiel – despite his official func-

[45] Online at http://www.deathcamps.org/belzec/pic/bmap18.jpg.

tion in the local Jewish council – did not alert anyone, and he did not see to it that the young man's terrible story was recorded in any way and made accessible to others, because it remained unknown to all until Garfinkiel mentioned it in his 1945 deposition. Precisely because he had invented it then.

1.6. The Contest between Electric Current and Exhaust Gas

On the eve of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, the version of extermination at Bełżec by electric current had vanquished the other versions and had been officially adopted by the Polish and Soviet authorities.

In 1945, Dr. Litawski, officer in charge of the Polish War Crimes Office, drafted a report on the alleged German extermination camps in Poland for the coming trial, in which he wrote:[46]

> *"The camp of Bełżec was situated in the neighbourhood of the railway station and was linked with it by a special track on which the trains carrying arrested Jews were brought close to the barbed wire of the camp. In the beginning only smaller transports of Jews amounting to several hundreds of people were sent to this camp. But early in April 1941 a bigger group arrived, about 5,000 Jews picked up in a street chase in the ghetto of Warsaw.*
> *Early in 1942 the first reports have been leacked* [sic] *out that special electric installations were used in this camp for a quick mass killing of Jews. On the pretext of bathing, completely undressed Jews were brought to a special building called 'baths,' whose floor consists of slabs through which flows electric current of high voltage. In this way big masses of Jews were killed; their corpses were cremated or buried in huge common graves."*

The Polish government, in their official report on German crimes in Poland, presented by the Soviets as Document USSR-93 at the Nuremberg IMT, wrote the following about the camp at Bełżec:[47]

> *"The camp at Belzec was set up in 1940 to take in deportees, mostly Jewish deportees. By and by, however, it was converted to other ends and used for the execution of countless Jews. In the early months of 1942, reports came in that in this camp, special installations for the mass execution of Jews were being built. Under the pretext that they were being taken to a bath they were undressed completely and pushed into the building. A strong electric current passed through the floor of this building. Thousands of human beings were killed here. The guards plundered and robbed the inmates while they were still alive; after they had been killed, they took anything that the Jews had left behind."*

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46 AGK, MSW Londyn, 89, pp. 3f.

47 "Die Republik Polen in der Sache gegen: 1. Deutsche Kriegsverbrecher; 2. deren Körperschaften und Organisationen bezeichnet unter Anklage Nr. 1 vor dem Internationalen Kriegsgericht," p. 42; IMT Document USSR-93, pp. 41f.

The following passage from the official report of the Polish government, Document USSR-93, was quoted at Nuremberg by Soviet Prosecutor L.N. Smirnov during the session of February 19, 1946 (IMT, Vol. 7, pp. 576f.):

> *"I end my quotation here, and I call the attention of the Tribunal to Page 136, on the reverse side, of the document book; this is from a report of the Polish Government, which shows that the Camp Sobibur*[48] *was founded during the first and second liquidation of the Jewish ghetto. But the extermination on a large scale in this camp really started at the beginning of 1943. In this same report, in the last paragraph on Page 136 of the document book, we may read that Camp Belsen*[49] *was founded in 1940; but it was in 1942 that the special electrical appliances were installed for mass extermination of people. Under the pretext that the people were being led to the bath-house, the doomed were undressed and then driven to the building where the floor was electrified in a special way; there they were killed."*

On the other hand, the investigations conducted toward the end of 1945 and in early 1946 by Regional Investigative Judge Czesław Godzieszewksi of the court at Lublin and by the prosecutor of the Zamość Court, Jan Grzybowsky, who interrogated dozens of witnesses, not only failed to determine what the alleged method of extermination had been, but managed to create total confusion in this regard. In fact, the indirect witnesses who reported hearsay mentioned a jumble of various methods of execution without, however, being able to state which one was the actual or the prevailing one. For example, on October 14, 1945, the Pole Eugeniusz Goch declared:[50]

> *"Out of fear for my life, I did not ask the blacks employed in the Bełżec Death Camp how the Jews were killed. Some people said that the Jews in Bełżec were killed in the camp with gas, others with electricity, still others that they were killed in a chamber from which air was pumped out, and in this way, they died of asphyxiation."*

On March 20, 1946, another Polish witness, Edward Ferens, testified as follows:[51]

> *"They* [the Ukrainians serving in the camp] *told me that Jews were crammed by the hundreds into a barracks where they were killed with an electric current, and that their corpses were then taken to a pit by a small train."*

However, the final blow to the determination of the presumed methods of extermination came from the only person who claimed to have been an eyewitness: Rudolf Reder.

On April 11, 1946, the Zamość prosecutor issued a report with the title "Report on the results of the investigation in the matter of the extermination

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48 Phonetic transliteration of Sobibór.

49 The German version has here more correctly "Beldjitze" for Russian "Белжец," which is an approximate transliteration of the Polish name Bełżec; IMG, Vol. 7, pp. 633f.

50 Interrogation of Eugeniusz Goch dated October 14, 1945; Libionka, p. 153.

51 Interrogation of Edward Ferens dated March 20, 1946; *ibid.*, p. 231.

camp at Bełżec," in which he summarized the results of his investigation. On murder method, he wrote:[52]

> *"It was not possible to ascertain how people were killed in the gas chambers. In particular, it was not ascertained whether the pipes that connected the engine to the gas chambers served to introduce any gas into the chambers, to compress the air in the chambers, or to pump air out of the chambers. The witness Rudolf Reder, who worked at the camp during the time of the killing of the Jews, stated that he was on the ramp* [next to the gas chambers] *at the moment of the opening of the doors immediately after the killing of the people who were in the chamber, but he never smelled anything. The corpses that were in the chamber did not show any unnatural discoloration. They had the appearance of living people, usually these corpses had their eyes open. The air in the chambers, on opening, was pure, clear and without odor. In particular, there was no smoke or combustion gases from an engine."*

As pointed out earlier, Reder categorically ruled out the gassing of the victims in the death chambers, because he explicitly stated that the exhaust fumes from the gasoline engine did *not* enter the chambers, but were vented outside. The Polish investigative judge thus ended up with an extremely prolix eyewitness, but without the murder weapon.

In 1947, *the Główna Komisja Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce* (Central Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland) tried to fraudulently remedy this serious shortcoming. In the article "*The Bełżec extermination camp*" that appeared in the official bulletin of the commission, Eugeniusz Szrojt wrote (Szrojt, p. 36):

> *"It has not been possible to ascertain for how long the execution chambers, in the construction of which the witness Kozak was employed, functioned. However, there is no doubt that the chambers in the new building mentioned by witness Reder were functioning in August of 1942. Nonetheless, within a span of two months, during which the camp did not operate – the period between the middle of May and the middle of July – the new building was put up, a more solid and more spacious building for mass murder of the victims in order to be ready for the major operation of the liquidation of the Jews in the Government General, which had been scheduled for the autumn."*

Szrojt was referring to two items from the evidence given by Stanislaw Kozak and Rudolf Reder, whom he called "the two most authoritative witnesses in this respect." (*ibid.*, p. 35). Neither item in evidence explained what had been the alleged method of extermination. The second testimony is Reder's already-quoted statement before Judge Jan Sehn on December 29, 1945.

Despite this, Szrojt adds a few pages later (*ibid.*, p. 41):

> *"All of the witnesses who have testified on this point – except one – agree that the Germans killed by means of the exhaust gases from an engine set up in the*

[52] *Ibid.*, p. 234.

> *execution building. The gases from the engine were fed into the chambers through special pipes with outlets in the chambers."*

This was a lie on several counts. First of all because, as we have seen, none of the witnesses had named this method of murder as the only or even the prevailing method. Second, because Szrojt equates self-styled eye-witnesses and witnesses who had never set foot into the camp and who provided only hearsay. Third, because "the two most authoritative witnesses in this respect," Kozak and Reder, in fact had not mentioned this method, and fourth, because Reder had categorically ruled it out.

The Polish judiciary's choice was dictated partly by judicial and partly by literary concerns. On the one hand, they could not openly admit that they were ignorant of the "weapon of crime," and on the other hand, its article on Treblinka, which had declared the engine-exhaust method as true, had already been published in 1946 (see Chapter 3). For the sake of literary coherence, this method therefore had to be attributed also to Bełżec (and Sobibór).

In 1948, in a subsequent official publication of the Polish government (which had given official sanction to high-voltage current as the murder method three years earlier), asphyxiation with carbon monoxide produced by the exhaust gas of an engine became "history" (*Polish Charges…*, p. 226):

> *"With the victims in the gas-chambers, the final stage of the liquidation process commenced. The doors were securely locked behind the victims who were closely packed in the chambers. The engine was started up, and carbon monoxide introduced into the chambers through special exhaust pipes. In a few minutes, the cries of the suffocating people died down, and after 10-15 minutes, a special team of Jews opened the outer doors of the chambers."*

At first, the Polish judiciary did not specify what kind of engine produced the carbon monoxide, and apparently, they were not interested in it either. Western judges and historians, on the other hand, had known Kurt Gerstein's testimony since 1946, but took notice of Rudolf Reder's testimony only much later. When they did, they were confronted with the insurmountable contradiction explained earlier: a Diesel engine that killed victims and a gasoline engine that did not kill them, with the further complication first pointed out by engineer Friedrich Berg that Diesel-engine exhaust gas is utterly inefficiency for the mass killing of human beings (see Mattogno 2021a; Berg 1984/1994/2019).

The significance and the outcome of the metaphorical contest described in this subchapter have an importance that goes well beyond the specific matter dealt with, because they pose a general problem of historiographic methodology that concerns all the fanciful accounts that circulated about all three alleged extermination camps.

By the time the trial against the former SS men who had operated Bełżec Camp was held in Munich in 1965, the official historico-judicial picture of this camp was well established and considered "self-evident," hence beyond legal challenges, in spite of all contradictory testimony. In order to try to obtain min-

imum sentences, the defendants then had no choice but to perform false "confessions" that conformed with it (see Mattogno 2016, Subchapter III.3., pp. 62-69).

2. Sobibór

2.1. The First Clues in the Jewish-Polish Underground Press

Józef Marszałek notes that the espionage service of the *Delegatura*, which was the branch of the Polish Government in exile in London during World War II that operated within Poland, and the intelligence service of the Polish National Army (the *AK*, or *Armia Krajowa*) "had a good knowledge of the Treblinka and Bełżec Death Camps, much less so with respect to Sobibór" (Marszałek, p. 47), which is attributable essentially to the extreme scarcity of self-proclaimed eyewitnesses for the camp's period of existence.

Bogdan Chrzanowski affirmed in 1985 that "the underground press wrote rather vaguely about another camp of immediate extermination, meaning Sobibór, even though first indications had already surfaced in August of 1942" (Chrzanowski, p. 103).

Wartime information about this camp was indeed sparse and vague from the first such "news" item onward, which was described by Ruta Sakowska as follows (Sakowska, pp. 40f.):

> *"In early July of 1942, Oneg Szabat's*[53] *group managed to identify the location of the second extermination camp located in the General Government: Sobibór. The first news item about Sobibór – which went into operation in early May – was brought into the Warsaw ghetto by two couriers of the Dror,*[54] *'Frumka' Płotnicka und 'Chawka' Folman. In early June of 1942, on orders of the Dror, they went to the Lublin region, i.a. to Werbkowice near Hrubieszów, where there was a commune of Jewish youths. The two women arrived at Rejowiec on 6 June 1942. However, the Rejowiec Jews were no longer there, as they had been deported to the extermination camp in mid-May.*
>
> *The following day the two young women reached Hrubieszów. On the way into town they met a column of several thousand Jews from Hrubieszów and its surroundings who were being herded to the station by the Germans.*
>
> *A few days later 'Frumka' Płotnicka reported about this to Eliahu Gutkowski, the second secretary of the underground archives of the ghetto, who recorded the accounts of the two couriers: 'I almost fainted, the people marched in rows of four, more than 2,000 persons, men, women, and youngsters, no children. I*

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53 Hebrew for "Joy of the Sabbath," code name of a group of Jews dedicated to chronicling life in the Warsaw Ghetto, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ringelblum_Archive.

54 Hebrew for freedom, name of a group of socialist Zionists in the Warsaw Ghetto.

noticed two or three children holding the hand of an adult. There was a deadly stillness in the ranks, people marched quietly, looking down with eyes that no longer saw anything…' This column was followed by a second group: old people and sick women, some eight to twelve people each on farm wagons; one could hear their subdued complaints and their prayers: 'Save us, oh Lord.' As 'Frumka' Płotnicka learned later, the children had been taken away from their parents and were taken 'to an unknown destination' in sealed [railway] *cars.*
The next day, the two liaison women were present at the station of the nearby town of Miąciń. And here, for the first time, they heard the name: 'Sobibór.' 'Frumka' Płotnicka told Eliahu Gutkowski: 'From morning till nightfall people arrived here with their wagons and their possessions. In the evening the Jews were herded into special cars; they could not take their possessions along […]. *The train left for 'an unknown destination.' There are rumors that the Germans had built another death camp at Sobibór, modeled on Bełżec.' 'Frumka' Płotnicka died during the defense of the ghetto at Będzin (Bendsburg, Upper Silesia). 'Chawka' Folman survived and later published her memoirs in Israel."*

The beginning of the black propaganda about this camp was decidedly sluggish, but the subsequent news was just as evanescent. On July 1, 1942, the journal *Polish Fortnightly Review* published an article which mentioned Sobibór in connection with the "destruction of the Jewish population" in Poland ("Documents from Poland," pp. 4f.):

"The German press reported that the ghetto had been transferred from Lublin to the village of Majdan Tatarski [Majdanek], *but in fact almost the entire population was exterminated. For instance, it is generally known that a certain number of Jews from the Lublin Ghetto were shut up in goods trucks, which were taken out beyond the town and left on a siding for two weeks, until all inside had perished of starvation.*[55] *The majority of the Jews of Lublin were carried off over a period of several days to the locality of Sobibór, near Włodawa, where they were all murdered with gas, machine-guns and even by being bayoneted. It is an authenticated fact that Lithuanian detachments of* szaulis,[56] *who have recently been brought into Poland, were used for these mass executions. The fetor of the decomposing bodies in Sobibór is said to be so great that the people of the district, and even cattle, avoid the place. One Pole working in Sobibór wrote a letter pleading to be granted a transfer elsewhere, as he could not remain in such conditions."*

A report dated September 7, 1942 contained this brief reference:[57]

"In spring the news came through that a new camp of tortures had been set up in Sobibór (Włodawski District). The winding up of the ghetto was expected al-

55 As explained in Chapter 1, this black-propaganda theme was later picked up and imaginatively embroidered by Jan Karski.

56 Term for Lithuanian volunteers in the service of German armed forces during WWII.

57 "Report on conditions in Poland." Report received by the Polish Government-in-Exile in London on November 27, 1942. Annex No. 7. Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto dated 7.IX.1942, p. 4. HILA, Box 29.

ready by the middle of April, and then, later, by the end of May. In June the rumor spread that it had been put off for some time. But the visit of Himmler to the General Government in the middle of July this year hastened the execution of the plan, and his former orders were even made stricter."

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country for the Period October 11 – November 15, 1942" reported tersely that "Sobibór near Włodawa is temporarily inactive" (Gmitruk *et al.*, p. 273).

The newspaper *Rzeczpospolita Polska* (*Polish Republic*) wrote in its edition of November 19, 1942 (Chrzanowski, p. 103):

"Das Lager Sobibór bei Włodawa ist zeitweise nicht in Betrieb, wird aber noch erweitert."

The first vague mention of the extermination method used at Sobibór – unidentified "gases" – appeared in an official report of the Ministry of the Interior of the Polish Government-in-Exile, dated December 23, 1942:[58]

"At that time – April/May – the first vague news about the camps of Sobibór, in the Włodawski District and Bełżec, in eastern Lesser Poland, reached Warsaw, indicating that there was mass poisoning with gases [*gazami*] *and assassinations with electric current of transports of hundreds of Jews who were moved there from the territory of western Lesser Poland.* […]
They are taken to three killing places, Treblinka, Bełżec and Sobibór, where the transports are unloaded, the condemned are stripped naked and murdered, probably with gases [*gazami*]*."*

The report entitled "The General Government under the Axe of the Occupier's Atrocious Terror," which was sent to London on January 6, 1943, contained these fleeting references (Gmitruk *et al.*, pp. 279, 284):

"Lately, the Jewish execution camp in Sobibór (Włodawa District) was also put back into operation. […] *The train was directed to Włodawa. The threat of the situation is magnified by the fear that it may be headed to Sobibór, which is located on this line, the notorious slaughterhouse hidden in the woods."*

In 1943 the Polish underground press published more news about Sobibór Camp. The paper *Informacja Bieżąca* stated on April 1 (Marszałek, p. 46):

"The death camp of Sobibór has again been in operation since 10 March. At the moment, transports from Holland and France are arriving there. These Jews arrive in passenger trains and are convinced that they are to work in factories of the war industry further east. On Sunday, 14 March, Dutch Jews were even received at Sobibór by an orchestra; the next day, not one of them was alive."

[58] Ministry of the Interior of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London. Report No. 6/42 dated London, December 23, 1942, and signed by Minister Stanisław Mikołajczyk, pp. 50, 53. HILA, Box 29.

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country. General Government and Eastern Territories for the Period March 25 – April 23, 1943", drafted on April 24, 1943, reported the following (Gmitruk *et al.*, pp. 323, 340):

> *"Recently, several large transports of Jews from France and Holland were sent to Sobibór.* […] *Over 300 people were shot on the spot, and over 4,000 were sent to Zwierzyniec Camp, from where those fit for work were directed to the Reich, and those unfit for work* [were sent] *to the Bełżec and Sobibór Camps, where they were apparently liquidated in gas chambers."*

A report of May-June of 1943 stated that, after the deportation of Jews to the work camps at Trawniki and Lublin, "women, old people and children were moved to Sobibór" (Marszałek, p. 46), which suggests that at this camp not everybody was exterminated but only for those unfit for work.

In the report of the *Delegatura* for the first three months of 1943 we read (*ibid.*):

> *"Some transports of Jews from France arrived during March of 1943. A train for Sobibór passed through the station of Radom on 3 March, on 6 March* [there was a train] *at Częstochowa for Oświęcim* [Auschwitz], *and on 11 and 18 March (a train of 30 cars) for Sobibór."*

The *Informacja Narodowa* No. 3 dated September 30, 1943 reported that, out of the transports of Jews which had reached the camp between 19 and 25 September, "90% were killed and 10% sent to the camp at Trawniki" (*ibid.*). In its No. 1 edition of September 3, the same paper had already written about "200 persons sent to the Sobibór death camp," which had been selected from Jewish transports directed from Białystok to Trawniki on 15-21 August (*ibid.*). At Trawniki, after yet another selection, "old people, women, and children were sent to their death at Sobibór" on September 27 (*ibid.*).

An unknown "eyewitness" composed a report on November 1, 1943 in which he said, among other things (Silberschein 1944b, p. 25):

> *"On the last day of the* 'Aktion,' [campaign] *9 June* [1942], *some 5,000 persons were assembled on the market square* [of Hrubieszów]. *The district supervisor appeared and carried out a selection according as he saw fit. The people he selected were allowed to remain in the town and work, the others were loaded on trucks, taken to Sobibór and executed there. (These Jews were sent to Sobibór because Bełżec was, by then, 'overcrowded.') Out of the 5,000 persons, 1,000 were moved to Sobibór."*

In November of 1943, the underground press devotes a few lines to the revolt at Sobibór. *Informacja Bieżąca* No. 44 of 10 November states for example (Marszałek, p. 47):

> *"The Jews have destroyed Sobibór Camp and escaped into the woods."*

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country. General Government and Eastern Territories for the Period October 24 – November 21, 1943, as well as

supplementing the previous period", sent by the *Delegatura* to London on November 29, 1943 contains some additional information (Gmitruk *et al.*, p. 499):

> *"Revolt at Sobibór. In the second half of October, there was a bloody event, a successful uprising of Jews at the Sobibór Execution Camp. The inmates of the camp, numbering several hundred, killed a few dozen of their German and Ukrainian executioners. After burning down the camp, all the inmates escaped."*

A passing reference to Sobibór is made in the report from the *Delegatura* for November/December 1943 (Berenstein, p. 366):

> *"In Lemberg* [Lwów], *the labor camp with several thousand Jews still remaining in it was dissolved. Two other small groups were also liquidated. This fact could not be changed* [avoided] due to *the fact that a Jewish group destroyed the camp and the execution site in Sobibor – as had happened once in Treblinka."*

In the "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country. General Government and Eastern Territories for the Period November 22 – December 18, 1943, with supplements for the previous period," sent to London on January 27, 1944, we read (Gmitruk *et al.*, p. 524):

> *"Also in November the Germans killed about 8,000 Jews in the famous Sobibór Execution Camp, and a smaller number of people, numbering between a couple and a few hundred, among them 600 Jews employed in the Puławy sawmill."*

2.2. The Testimonies of Former Deportees

A number of testimonies of former deportees did not find the slightest echo in the Polish-Jewish resistance press of the time.

The first known testimony is that of an anonymous Slovak Jew who was deported from Sabinów on May 27, 1942 and, through successive stages, arrived in Sobibór, where he was selected to work with a group of 155 other Jews, after which he was transferred first to Ossowa, then to Krychow. After his escape, he returned to his homeland where he wrote a text on August 17, 1943 titled "Factual report of a Jew deported from Slovakia who returned." The most important information about the alleged death camp is this:[59]

> *"In the vicinity of Sobibor, fire can always be observed at night, and a stench of burnt hair can be perceived in the wider area. Various indications suggest (at least the population claims so) that the corpses which were previously executed by electricity and gas – and later buried – are now exhumed and burned in order to leave no traces behind."*

[59] *Tatsachenbericht eines aus der Slovakei* [sic] *deportierten und zurueckgekehrten Juden*, dated "Slovakei, 17. August 1943." Moreshet Archives, Givat Haviva, Israel, p. 4. The German text has no umlauts.

Notwithstanding the fact that burials or outdoor cremations, as explained in the Introduction, do not by themselves prove any kind of mass extermination at all, because the question is purely quantitative in nature, here it can be observed that real mass cremations do not produce any perceptible "stench of burnt hair", because hair constitutes a negligible quantity compared to that of a corpse, it burns first and within a few seconds, and because its stench would be covered by the much more intense and lasting stench of burning flesh.

The burning of hair is also in contrast with the practice of shearing the deported Jews before the alleged gassing. If this hair-cutting practice was done as a result of following Richard Glücks's order of August 6, 1942, the hair was also to be cut from the men, provided that it was at least 20 millimeters long, so that the alleged victims were cremated basically without much hair.

On October 7, 1943 the partisan commander ZACHAR FILIPOWICZ POPŁAWSKI transmitted to the Plenipotentiary of the Communist Party of Belarus in the Brest District a report of a Ukrainian guard who had deserted from Sobibór and had joined the partisans. The witness described therein in detail the alleged extermination procedure:[60]

> *"Eight to ten railway cars are uncoupled from the train and moved to the camp grounds. Jewish workers open the cars and throw out the people – the living and the dead. Everyone falls onto the embankment. All that can be heard are the moans or cries of adults and children, the screams of the Germans and the hissing of whips. People run from the embankment through a corridor made of barbed wire. There is the first barracks (see map), where they throw down all their things: clothes, suitcases, packages. After exiting this barracks, they meet a German, who stands there with a whip and directs the men to the left, the women to the right. The women are led further down the corridor, towards Camp II, to the last two barracks, where they strip naked; money, watches, gold, silver, diamonds are taken from them. After the women, they lead to the barracks the men, where they, too, strip naked, and go to the 'bath' through the same corridor.*
>
> *The 'bath'* [*łaźnia*] *is divided into eight rooms. Each chamber holds 500 people. The doors close tightly, the valve* [*zawór*] *is opened. Gas from the engine* [*gaz z silnika*] *flows forcefully into the chamber. The wailing, crying and shouting of people can be heard through its wall. After 5-10 minutes, they are thrown, not yet completely dead, onto narrow-gauge carts, and at this time their teeth are pulled out, the remaining rings are removed from their hands. The corpses are taken to the hearth* [*do ogniska*]*, they are dumped on the ground, and instantly they are placed on rails in sets of 1,000-1,500 people. A small fire is lit under them, and the people themselves catch fire and burn."*

This account cannot be considered a first "revelation" of the "truth", but is simply one of many versions of black propaganda – undoubtedly the one that comes closest to the final version that was arbitrarily chosen by judges and his-

[60] Bem 2014, reproduction of the document between pp. 224 and 225. The camp map mentioned in the testimony can be found on p. 85.

torians. However, it differs in significant respects from the official version of the Hagen Trial (see Chapter 5), according to which there were six gas chambers and not eight; 80 people could enter each chamber and not 500; the gassing lasted 20-30 minutes and not 5-10. The last sentence is patently absurd: under a pile of 1,000-1,500 corpses, "a small fire" was lit, thanks to which they caught fire and burned by themselves! This testimony, however, remained completely in the shadows.

In the years 1944-1946, witnesses attributed the most-imaginative killing methods to the alleged extermination facilities at Sobibór.

On August 10, 1944, BER MOISEYEVICH FREIBERG, a former Sobibór inmate, told a Soviet investigator the following during an interrogation in Chełm (Ehrenburg/Grossman, p. 439):

> *"When a group of eight hundred people entered the 'bathhouse', the door closed tightly.* […] *In a separate building there was an electric machine which released deadly gas. Once released, the gas entered tanks, and from there, it came through hoses in the chamber to be asphyxiated* [sic]. *There were no windows in the building. A German, who was called the 'bathhouse attendant', looked through a small glass opening on the roof to see if the killing process was completed. Upon his signal, the gas was shut off, the floor was mechanically drawn apart, and the corpses fell below. There were carts in the cellar, and a group of doomed men piled the corpses of the executed onto them. The carts were taken out of the cellar to the woods in the third camp. A huge ditch had been dug there, and the corpses were first thrown into it and then covered up with dirt. The people who delivered and disposed of the corpses were immediately shot."*

Also known from this witness is a statement in Russian dated August 18, 1944, which presents a more-concise description:[61]

> *"When a portion of the people, 800, had entered the premises, the doors were hermetically closed. In the building there was an electric machine* [электрическая машина, *elektricheskaya mashina*] *which produced the asphyxiating gas. The gas produced passed into cylinders and from them through pipes into the room. Generally, all those who were in the room were asphyxiated in 15 minutes. The building had no windows."*

On August 10, 1944, CHAIM PODROZNIK, a Polish Jew who had been deported to Sobibór in March 1943, was also interrogated in Chełm. Even before his arrival, he knew that this was a "death camp," and that it was also called "the eternal camp." However, during his stay at the camp, he did not learn much more about its alleged exterminating function, because in the more than four pages of his account, he limited himself to this fleeting reference:[62]

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61 YVA, P.21.1-56, p. 2.
62 YVA, P 21.1.-160, p. 1.

> *"At Sobibur* [sic] *120 men and 60 women arrived. The women and children, however, were immediately separated and taken to the 'bathhouse.' Many of us saw our wives and children for the last time."*

On September 17, 1944, HERSZ CUKIERMAN, another former inmate, stated:[63]

> *"The camp was divided into three parts. The first and second were in contact with each other. The third part was isolated, located in the woods, and access to its area was prohibited. In this camp, everyone went to be liquidated. In Camp 3, a part of the men, women and children were gathered, as many as the gas chambers could contain.* […]
> *In September, new gassing facilities were built. They had 8 chambers that held 100-120 people. In this way, 1,000 people could be killed at a time. After the construction of this complex, new transports began to arrive."*

Five years later, on September 14, 1949, Cukierman made a "Declaration" ("*Erklaerung*") at the Office of the Judicial Section of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the U.S. zone of [occupied] Germany in Munich. In it, Cukierman, who had stayed in Sobibór from May 1942 to October 1943, described the alleged killing of a transport of 1,600 Jews from Majdanek Camp on the orders of SS *Oberscharführer* Hubert Gomerski. In this context, the witness stated:[64]

> *"These 1,600 people were interned in our camp to be gassed. On the very day the gassing was to be carried out, there was a breakdown* [*ein Schaden*] *at the crematorium* [*im Krematorium*], *so that the cremation plant* [*die Verbrennungsanlage*] *could not be used."*

From this we can infer that the witness purported that a real crematorium existed inside Sobibór Camp.

On July 27, 1945 another former inmate, BERISCH FREIBERG, stated the following:[65]

> *"The bathhouse looked like this: a stone building, the size I can't indicate exactly, because we were not allowed to enter the third camp. Those who ever entered it were killed. Only once, when the gate was open, did I see a pile of corpses. So, the building was made of masonry, in front adorned with a red Star of David decorated with greenery, a window and iron doors, a flat roof, and on the roof a small window, where an SS man, whose name was Oberscharführer Getzinger, used to sit. He used to sit there, looking through the little window, observing, and when he saw that people were dead, he used to give further instructions.* […]

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63 AŻIH, 301/14, pp. 1-4.

64 Sąd Apelacyjny (Court of Appeals) Lublin, 193, Vol. III, p. 697a.

65 Report of Berisch Freiberg recorded by Bluma Wasser in Łódź on July 25, 1945. Translation from Yiddish into German by accredited interpreter Gabriel Miller. Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Ref. JS 27/61, Aktenband VIII, pp. 2637-2638. Some of the court documents related to Sobibór can be consulted in the NIOD Archives (*Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies*) at Amsterdam.

> *He used to sit on the roof and enjoy the view of the gassed Jews. Inside there were pipes, just like in a shower room, and the people believed that water for taking a shower would come out of these pipes. When the people were inside, about 1,000 people at a time, the doors were bolted – there were no windows – gas, chlorine or talen* [?]*, came out of the shower pipes. It took between 15 and 20 minutes until all the people were dead. When the sadist saw from the little window that everyone was dead, the floor was opened with an electrical device, and the dead fell through, so that the next group of people could be brought in immediately afterwards. At the same time, the corpses under the floor were loaded onto trams, these are small wagons that run on narrow-gauge tracks, and they were taken to a place not far from the house."*

Here the witness pointed out that he had never entered Camp III. He had only seen a pile of corpses through the open gate to Camp II. But he contradicted himself later by stating that he had been selected to work as a barber in Camp III.

During an undated interrogation by the Israeli police, which was probably conducted for the Eichmann Trial, hence perhaps in 1960, Freiberg said that a German led the group of selected prisoners to a barber shop,

> *"to the last barracks, in front of the gas chambers, gave each of us scissors, and forbade us to make even a sound. In the barracks, there were two rows of benches, and I stood behind them. Groups of naked women were brought inside. The first ones recoiled when they saw men, and covered their* [intimate] *body parts with their hands. The Germans ordered them to sit down, and we shore off their hair."*[66]

A few years later, when testifying during the Sobibor Trial at Hagen on December 21, 1965, the witness reiterated:[67]

> *"I had to cut the hair of naked women in a barracks in front of the gas chamber."*

In 1945, the Dutch Red Cross published a summary of the testimony of URSULA STERN, who had been deported to Sobibór on April 9, 1943. We read there:[68]

> *"There was a gas chamber that could hold 600 people; gas was fed into the chamber through showers; after the people had died, the floor folded down, and they fell down. The gassing of a group took about a quarter of an hour."*

In October-December 1945, the investigating judge of the Lublin District Court, Sergiusz Urban, questioned several former Sobibór inmates, some of whom are completely unknown to Holocaust historiography.

On October 10, 1945, JOSEF TRAJTAG reported the following, among other things:[69]

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66 Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Sobibor 85 PM IV, p. 18.
67 Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Sobibor 66 PM dec '65, p. 833.
68 Het Nederlandsche Roode Kruis. Afwikkelingsbureau Concentratiekampen. *Sobibor*. 'S-Gravenhage, 11.4.1945, p. 11.

> *"We were not allowed to enter the camp where the death chamber* [*komora śmierci*] *was located. Approximately 700 Jewish men worked there exhuming, transporting and cremating corpses. From the accounts of those who were employed there,* [it appears] *that the chamber itself had a large underground room, the walls, ceiling and floor of which were lined with iron plates that were hermetically connected together. People were poisoned there with gases* [*gazamis*], *but what gases were used no one knew, except the Germans. It was said that people died in this chamber* [*w tej komorze*] <u>*within five minutes*</u>*. Then the workers entered the pit* [*do dołu*] *that was under this chamber into which the corpses of the murdered people fell thanks to the automatic opening of the iron floor; they transported the corpses of those killed on wagons* [*na wagonetki*] *and took them to a large pit, about 50 meters away from the chamber. The corpses were doused copiously with gasoline and burned."*

SAMET MOTTEL, who had been deported to Sobibór in the summer of 1943, was most-likely interrogated in October 1945. In the related undated interrogation minutes, he also spoke of a "death chamber" ("*komora śmierci*"), without further details, but his comrades had calculated that "about two and a half million people had been liquidated at the camp."[70]

SRUL JANKIEL FAJGIELBAUM, also interrogated by Judge Urban, stated on November 5, 1945 that he had been taken to the "Sobibór Death Camp" in the winter of 1942-1943. He provided a detailed description of the extermination facility:[71]

> *"The death chamber* [*komora śmierci*] *proper was built near me* [at his workplace]. *It was lined with iron plates, and together with other workers, I carried these plates to the site. The ceiling, the walls and the floor were covered with plates. The work was directed by a German engineer whose name I do not know. The capacity of this room was very large; the size of 4 large rooms. I am convinced that these iron plates were insulated. Each time, 200 people, stripped naked, were pushed into the chamber. They were urged from the barracks through the corridor. The electricians stated that the people in this chamber were also killed with electric current* [*za pomocą prądu elektrycznego*], *which was produced inside the chamber by means of a special motor and machine. The current was conducted by means of special cables enclosed in tubes that led inside the chamber. After the people were locked into this chamber, you could hear screams and shouts coming from them, but they lasted very briefly, a few seconds, then silence followed. After that, 8-10 Jewish workers were brought into the chamber, who carried the corpses out to the narrow-gauge railway. These workers did not return to the barracks, and I got the impression that the Germans later killed them. When I worked together with other selected* [*inmates*], *we selectees worked by transporting the corpses on carts*

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69 YVA, O.21-27, pp. 1f.
70 *Ibid.*, pp. 10-12.
71 *Ibid.*, pp. 3-6.

and taking them to a pile. The corpses were black [*czarne*], *because, as I said, the people were killed with electricity."*

In an undated "Official Note," Judge Urban summarized the contents of an article on Sobibór that had appeared in the fourth issue of 1945 of the Russian magazine *Znamja* [*Flag*]; Urban wrote, among other things:[72]

"In the third [camp] *was the so-called 'Banja'/'bathroom,' which was a masonry room with an iron door."*

JAN PIWOŃSKI, a Polish railroad employee, was questioned by Judge Urban on November 10, 1945, and reported rumors spread about the camp:[73]

"In my opinion, the extermination chamber for human beings was in operation right from the start, meaning during the period when the construction of the other rooms was still in progress. Because already then, I heard the sound of some engine. Regarding the way in which the people were exterminated, various things were said about it in Sobibór at that time. Some said that the Germans would use some kind of gas, others talked about pumping the air out of the chamber. A certain BIELECKI, a Pole taken prisoner by the Germans in Lwów, whom the Germans had forced to guard the chamber, stated that some gas was emitted from this engine, which was led though pipes into the chamber. The people inside are said to have perished within 15 minutes by this gas."

SALOMON PODCHLEBNIK, who was interrogated on December 6, 1945, claimed to have stayed at the Sobibór "Death Camp" from April 28 to July 25-27, 1943. About the extermination system, he stated:[74]

"The people in the chamber [*w komorze*] *were asphyxiated with gas* [*gazem*], *and then the corpses were burned on pyres* [*na stosach*]. *In my opinion, about half a million people were annihilated in Sobibór."*

He also knew only of one "gas chamber" in which the victims were killed with an undetermined gas.

The witness had already been interrogated in Lublin on September 15, 1944. On that occasion, he stated that he had been deported to the camp on April 28, 1943, and had escaped on July 20. Another prisoner had told him that already by then the number of victims amounted to about one million. He had been assigned to the *Waldkommando* (forest labor unit), which had 40 inmates. A transport of 3,500 Jews arrived twice a week. Podchlebnik said nothing about the killing method.[75]

JÓZEF MALIŃSKI, a Pole who had worked at the Sobibór railway station, stated on December 13, 1945:[76]

"I was never in the death chamber, not even in its vicinity, [but] *I know that it was made of bricks and fixed with cement. It was opined that 500-600 people*

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72 *Ibid.*, p. 13.
73 Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Sobibor 85 PM II NO 109, pp. 1f.
74 *Ibid.*, p. 8. AŻIH, 301/5355.
75 AŻIH, sygn. 301/10.
76 AŻIH, sygn. 301/5372, p. 2.

> *were liquidated at a time in the death chamber. How people were killed, whether by means of a current or an electric current* [sic]*, I do not know, but I exclude the killing by electric current because of the low voltage. When people were being killed, a motor could be heard, but I do not know what its practical use was."*

On December 18, 1945, ICEK LICHTMANN, who had been deported to Sobibór May 15, 1942, made a statement in Krakow in which he reported:[77]

> *"In the middle of the forest, however, there was a small house with a red roof* [*domek z czerwonym dachem*] *into which about 1,500 people could fit. This little house was surrounded by a garden, above the house was the inscription 'Badehaus.' It was the gas chamber* [*komora gazowa*]*, in which thousands of people were asphyxiated. It was located about 200 meters from the camp. After the gassing, the floor* [*podnaszono podłagą*] *was raised, the corpses fell into pits* [*do dołów*]*, carts arrived at the bottom of these pits* [*and*] *took away these corpses, which were buried in pits* [*w dołach*] *in the woods. We were told about this by our fellow prisoners who had done this, and then they were killed as well,* [*and also*] *the Ukrainians who were guarding them.* [...] *In these conditions, I spent 17 months in the workshops, during which about a million people perished in the furnaces* [*w piecach*] *of this building with the red roof."*

According to the witness, there was a "gas furnace" ("*piec gazowy*") in Camp III.

On an unspecified date, most likely in 1945, EDA LICHTMAN, a Polish Jew deported to Sobibór in May-June 1942, wrote a short handwritten report in Polish titled "Sobibór Death Camp." According to her, there was a sign reading "*Seuchen-Bekämpfungsstelle*" ("Pest-Control Center") at the gate to Camp III. The gassing plant is described as follows:[78]

> *"It was a whitewashed building. On the roof, one could see the Star of David* [with] *a large inscription 'Nur für Juden'* ['Only for Jews']*. Two hundred people were pushed in and gassed. Oberscharführer Karl Bauer and Karl Bollender* [sic] *supervised the gassing. The gassed and sometimes even the living were thrown into pits, and the condemned were buried, then shot* [*rozstrzeliwano*]*."*

So, they were first buried, and then shot…?

In another undated but undoubtedly later statement, which was published by Miriam Novitch, the witness merely reported:[79]

> *"SS Scharführer Erich Bauer, master of camp No. 3, supervised the executions from a roof window of the gas chamber."*

The testimony by CHASKIEL MENDEL [MENCHE], who later became a questionable witness for the judiciary of the Federal Republic of Germany, probably dates back to 1945. He stated on August 22, 1950 that he had been in the

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77 AŻIH, sygn. 301/1204, pp. 3-5.
78 E. Lichtman, "*Sobibór Obóz Śmierci*." YVA, O 33-14.
79 "From Mielec to Sobibor. Testimony of Eda Lichtman," in: Novitch, p. 56.

Posen forced-labor camp since June 1940, and from June 1941 until the beginning of May 1945 in the Gross-Rosen Concentration Camp. On July 7, 1958, he stated that he had been in Posen until August 1943 and then in Gross-Rosen. On March 15, 1960, he stated that he had been in Koło from October 1939 to June 1941, in Posen until August 1943, and in Sobibór until mid-October 1943. His Displaced-Person Card of October 1945 mentioned only "KZ Gross-Rosen," and in his application for an identity card of October 1946 he wrote that he had been in Koło from 1939 to July 1, 1942, in Sobibór from this date until 1943, and that he had been active as a partisan from 1943 to 1945.[80]

In the testimony in question, he stated:[81]

> *"The whole camp was surrounded with wires and by watchtowers. We went through Camp No. 1 and passed through a gate into Camp No. 2. In Camp No. 1, the SS men had selected 12 men for work, including me. My wife and children had been taken away. Shortly after that I saw the women being led down a narrow path. After that, I saw a few Jews busy sorting clothes. But they did not want to explain to me what was going on there. Then I saw how women and men stripping naked in a fenced-in area, cuddling up to each other due to the cold. A Scharführer said to them, 'You are going to work in your own country. It will be good there.' After that, people walked down a narrow path to a red house labeled 'Bath Room,' but no one came out from there.*
>
> *At the end of May a transport from Lvov arrived. There were many corpses in the railway cars. The living were led into a hall with a sliding floor. The people fell in and perished instantly. A few hours later we came in small carts and took the corpses to the furnaces. Meanwhile, the music played, and the Germans then ordered us to dance. They brought in women so that we had partners to dance with. Then the Germans pulled the gold teeth out of the mouths of the corpses, and threw the corpses onto the grate. Even some of us 100 workers were taken every day for the fire."*

In 1947 a journal in Yiddish edited by Israel Kaplan published a short testimonial account written by Yechezkel Menche (the Chaskiel Mendel mentioned earlier). Here he asserted that he had been deported to Sobibór from Izbica with a transport of 6,000 Jews, at a time when the cremation pits already existed, thus not before September-October 1942. However, in the list of transports to the camp from the General Government as compiled by Marek Bem, only one transport left Izbica at that time – on October 8 – with 2,500 Jews (Bem 2014, p. 266-268). The witness spoke of extermination, but had no idea how it was carried out, because he mentioned twice the term "bad-anshtalt", the equivalent of the German term *Badeanstalt* (bathing facility), and four times

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[80] Verdict of the *Bayerisches Oberlandesgericht*, Munich, of May 25, 1972 on an appeal by Menche for reparations (*wegen Entschädigung*). Wiederaufnahme-Verfahren Frenzel. Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Ref. Js 27/61, Aktenband VIII, pp. 1162f.

[81] Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Sobibor 85 PM4 NO 186, unpaginated. This is an official translation from Polish.

"gaz-oyvns", in German *Gas-Öfen*, gas furnaces. The most significant sentence in the entire testimony is this:[82]

> *"After the Oberscharführer's speech, the people were led to the bathing facilities, and from there to the five gas furnaces. The gassed corpses were burned in four large prepared pits. Up to 300 SS directed the work.*
> *By my estimate, over one and a half million people were cremated in the camp."*

Menche was interrogated on April 22, 1975 in Melbourne on behalf of the German judiciary. His previous contradictory "knowledge" had now evaporated. He now merely reported the following:[83]

> *"As I have already stated, my wife and child were sent to Camp 2, and from there to Camp 3 for liquidation. I did not see this myself, but on the basis of my later experiences in the camp I know that this must have been the case, and as already stated, I did not see my wife and child again from that time on.* […]
> *Camp 3, the actual extermination camp, with gassing facilities and crematorium.*
> *I myself never went to Camp 3, but each of us knew what was happening there. We constantly saw at night the red fire from the burning facilities."*

BRONISŁAW LOBEJKO, who had been a Polish railway employee at Sobibór Station from the spring of 1942 to July 1944, was questioned by District Judge F. Zieliński on January 8, 1946, and reported the following:[84]

> *"According to reports of the Ukrainian guards, there were five gas chambers in the camp with electric light – in the form of baths. 500 people were herded into each gas chamber, which was then hermetically sealed. The killing was presumably done with the help of gas. This was evidenced by bottles similar to oxygen cylinders, which were delivered in large quantities."*

JULES SCHELVIS, the author of one of the best orthodox Holocaust studies on Sobibór, made a statement in Amsterdam on January 21, 1946, in which he stated that he had been deported to this camp on June 1, 1943. On arrival he was selected to work with a group of 81 deportees; after three hours he was transferred to Trawniki, and from there to Dorohucza. Therefore, he could not know anything about the fate that had been reserved for the rest of the transport. He claims that this had been revealed to him by one of his acquaintances, a certain Julek Monchait from Warsaw:[85]

> *"He had escaped from Sobibor and arrived at the Radom concentration camp, where I met him. He told me the following: 'After the men and women had undressed, they were led to a large barracks, the so-called bathhouse. In front of the barracks, on a lawn, stood a loudspeaker. It announced that they would*

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82 See Menche; translation from Yiddish by Kladderadatsch. The title page is in English.
83 Wiederaufnahme-Verfahren Frenzel. Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Ref. Js 27/61, Aktenband VIII, pp. 2005f., 2008.
84 Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Sobibor 85 PM IV NO 178, pp. 3f.
85 ZStL, 208 AR-Z 251/59, Vol. 5, pp. 857f.

now take a bath. […] *The hair was indeed cut off, and everyone was given a piece of soap with a towel, and they went into the barracks in groups. After 7 minutes, however, everyone was gassed. Special persons went into the barracks to examine the corpses for gold teeth. These were knocked out of the mouths. This way, the SS received a large quantity of kilograms of gold. We Jews had to drag the corpses to the crematorium, where they were burned.'"*

On June 22, 1946, SAARTJE WIJNBERG made an affidavit in which she stated that she had come to Sobibór from the Dutch camp in Westerbork on April 1, 1943 with a transport of 2,000 Jews. She described the fate of the alleged victims after the selection as follows:[86]

"The women's hair was cut, and they had to strip naked. The women had to undress in the barracks, the men outside in the open air. Afterwards, they were taken together with the children to the gas chamber of Camp III, without knowing what awaited them there. This barracks consisted of a large room in which showers were installed. However, no water flowed from these showers, but gas poured out, causing them all to suffocate.

I was in Camp II and could see how the victims entered the gas chamber. From outside, the familiar sounds of people being together in a confined space could be heard. The sound soon changed to wailing and crying, until it finally became silent. I know that the floor of the gas chamber consisted of two parts. These parts were lifted apart, and the bodies of the victims were thrown into carts that drove underneath and took the victims to the crematorium. A few hours later, a large fire could be seen in Camp III, and a horrible smell hung over the camp. The crematorium consisted of a furnace located in the ground."

Saartje Wijnberg was the wife of CHAIM ENGEL, who had also been deported to Sobibór, but already on November 6, 1942. Both husband and wife were interrogated in Zwolle on July 19, 1946, and their statements were summarized in a report. The fate of the alleged victims is described as follows:[87]

"Most of the time, the unfortunates were told that they had to take a bath. For this purpose, they were led to a special barracks, which was divided into a number of cabins that were equipped like shower cabins. Before entering, everyone had to undress completely. After undressing, the women had their hair cut off. This was not done with care, but in a crude manner. The hair was collected and shipped away. It was probably processed by some industry.

Gas poured into the cells from the shower openings. After the execution, the corpses were removed through trapdoors located in the floors of the cells."

Three years later, on August 29, 1949, Saartje Wijnberg confirmed these fables in another statement:[88]

"The people who arrived had to undress in one barracks, in the 2nd barracks their hair was cut, and in the 3rd barracks about 400 to 500 people had to take

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86 Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund 49/58, XV, p. 50.
87 ZStL, 208 AR-Z 251/59, Vol. 5, p. 890.
88 *Ibid.*, pp. 882f.

a so-called bath together. However, gas flowed in from the showers, and everyone was gassed. After that, the floor of the hall was opened, and the bodies fell into waiting carts which drove away. There were crematoria underground where everyone was burned. My husband heard from Ukrainians how the gassing and burning was done."

The claim that some undetermined gas flowed from the showers was repeated on July 4, 1965 by KURT THOMAS in a statement for the Hagen District Court:[89]

"The showers blew gas instead of spraying water and the people suffocated a horrible death. […] *All those murdered in the gas showers were burnt in the crematorium hole with help of coal and other flammables; the ashes were loaded into barrels and shipped to Germany as fertilizer."*

In 1946 another witness, LEON FELDHENDLER, stated (Blumental, p. 204):

"The bathroom was equipped as if it were really intended for washing (shower taps, comfortable furniture). The bathrooms were gassing rooms [*gazowniami*]. *They gassed 500 people at once. Sometimes a stream of chloride was released* [*czasem puszczano prąd chlorku*]*; other gases were continuously tested."*

Also in 1946, ALEXANDER PECHERSKY (a.k.a. Pieczerski, a.k.a. Pechorskii, a.k.a. Peczorskij) published a booklet in Yiddish titled *Revolt in Sobibór* (Pechorskii 1946), an excerpt of which appeared in English in a book by Yuri Suhl, from which I take the following illuminating passage:[90]

"He [the witness] *was an old-time inmate who worked at sorting out the clothing of those who were killed. He was well-informed. From him we learned where our comrades had disappeared and how the whole thing operated. He spoke simply, as though it were a conversation about ordinary matters, and we, the new arrivals, who had lived through some unusual experiences ourselves, shuddered as we listened to his story.*

'As soon as you were separated from them,' he said, 'they were taken to a second yard where everyone, without exception, must gather. There they are told to lay down their bundles and undress before going to the 'bath.' The women's hair is cut off. Everything is done quietly and efficiently. Then the bareheaded women, wearing only their undergowns, and the children, go first. About a hundred steps behind them go the men, completely naked. All are heavily guarded. There is the 'bath,'' he pointed with his hand, 'not far from where you see the smoke. Two buildings are standing there, one for women and children, the other for men. I myself have not seen what it looks like inside, but people who know have described it.

'At first glance everything looks like a bath should look—faucets for hot and cold water, basin to wash in… As soon as the people enter the doors are clamped shut. A thick, dark substance comes spiraling out from vents in the ceiling. Horrible shrieks are heard but they don't last long. They are soon

89 YVA, O.33-717.

90 Pechersky 1967, p. 12. In the original Yiddish text, this passage is on p. 9.

transformed into gaspings of suffocation and convulsive seizures. Mothers, they say, cover their little ones with their bodies.
The 'bath' attendant observes the entire procedure through a small pane in the ceiling. In fifteen minutes it is all over. The floors open up and the dead bodies tumble down into small wagons that are standing ready below, in the 'bath's' cellars. The full wagons roll out quickly. Everything is organized in accordance with the last word in German technology. Outside the bodies are laid out in a certain order. They are soaked with gasoline and set aflame. There is where they are burning,' he pointed again."

An undated manuscript in Polish dates to the immediate post-war period, maybe to 1945, which was drafted by Pechersky under the name Pieczerski, and is titled "Memoirs of the Sobibór Death Camp." A few words are indecipherable, and in the below translation, I fill in the relevant gaps with my educated assumptions (underscored in the text). In it, Pechersky reported a story similar to the one just quoted, which he said had been told to him by a prisoner named Alosza:[91]

"Women and children entered one bathroom, men another. Armed security personnel stayed behind, closing the doors behind them the doors lined with sheet iron. And there one could hear the muffled hum of electric motors [*elektrycznych motorów*]*. Some went to the water taps… And a wild, inhuman scream ordered them to stop and hurry back. Everyone looked up. And from the ceiling, through large metal fans* [*przez szerokie metalowe wentylatory*] *they were engulfed by black, dense wafts of gas pumped in by electric motors* [*czarne, gęste kłęby gazu wtłaczane przez elektryczne motory*]*. By now everyone understood that they were condemned to a martyr's death. The heart-rending cries, the frightened screams of the children mingled into a terrible ensemble. The mothers clutched their children to their chests; they lay down on the floor covering them with their own bodies. They died in terrible torments. Women instinctively protected their children, wanting to prolong their lives even for a brief moment, protecting them from death. Some wandered around like birds in a cage looking for some place and way of salvation. This gas was creeping lower and lower. The death of the people asphyxiated by this gas was terrible. Some people were desperate enough to throw themselves into the dense wafts of the gas, others tried to push it away by mindlessly waving their hands. After 15 minutes, it was already all over. In the two bathrooms, only the corpses of the murdered were left…* [illegible word]*. Through a small glass window at the top, 'the bath attendant'* [*łazienny*] *watched the process of asphyxiation unfold. Then, with a loud humming sound, the fans began to clear the air in the bathroom. After not too long, the special guard looked into the bathroom space through the large glass window in the ceiling. As soon as the air was purified, he gave a signal, and by means of another mechanism, the floor opened, and the corpses tumbled down into the basement* [*i przy pomocy innego mechanizmu otwierała się podłoga i trupy zwalały się w dół w piwnicę*].

[91] A.A. Pieczerski, *Wspomnienie z Obozu Śmierci Sobibór*. APMM, sygn. VII-353, pp. 124f.

And there, little carts [*wagonetki*] *were already waiting for them* [the corpses…]. *Then the carts, loaded with corpses, took them out into the courtyard."*

During the following years, Pechersky abandoned these tales completely. In 1961, his new version read as follows:[92]

"From the second zone of the camp, the completely undressed people were taken to the third zone, which was equipped with special chambers, where even water pipes and small water basins were installed, supposedly for cleaning purposes. However, this was all a pretense, because as soon as the people had entered the chamber, the door of the same was closed, and gas was ducted into the chamber, by which these people suffocated."

Then a group of 30 workers presumably took the bodies out of the chambers on carts, piled them up, and burnt them.

The themes of chlorine gas and collapsing floors were later merged into a new version by witness ZELDA METZ, who recounted (Blumental, p. 211):

"[The victims] *went naked to the cash register. They handed over their money, jewelry and valuables. The Germans gave them tin badges or assigned numbers by voice, so that they could collect their money and belongings on their return. Then they entered the barracks, where the women's hair was cut off, then into the 'bath,' the gas chamber. They were asphyxiated with chlorine* [*dusili chlorem*]. *After 15 minutes, they were all asphyxiated. Through a small window, it was verified whether they were all dead. Then the floor opened automatically. The corpses fell into a railroad car that passed through the gas chamber, and took the corpses to the furnace. Before cremation, their gold teeth were extracted. The furnace was a huge hearth with an open-air grill."*

The chlorine-murder method was also asserted by SALOMEA HANEL, who arrived at the camp on January 17, 1943. She declared (Borwicz/Rost/Wulf, p. 64):

"Of 3000 people, 7 women and 18 boys were selected for work, the rest were sent to death. There were barracks; on one was the sign 'cashier.' The women were urged 'to the cashier,' their heads were shaved, they were ordered to strip naked, then they were given tickets to the bathroom. Men from the Gestapo told them that they were all going to the bath because they were full of lice. They had to put their shoes and clothes together, and in return they got a receipt. Once there was an incident because something had broken in the room. The people who got out ran around naked and hid outside. The Germans killed them with chloride [*chlorkiem*]*."*

There is another statement by this witness, likewise in Polish, yet undated; the passage equivalent to the one just quoted sounds as follows in this statement:[93]

"The transport had 2,800 people, of whom 25 people were taken to the camp. Barracks [sic]. *The women were led to the barracks, their hair was shorn, they stripped naked, and received tickets for the bath. The Gestapo men said they all*

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92 Interrogation of Alexander Petscherski. Kiev, August 11, 1961. ZStL 251/59-13, p. 2674.
93 YVA, O.62-27, pp. 2f.

had to take a bath, because they were full of lice. The women went first. They had to arrange their shoes and clothes properly, and they got a receipt. There was one case where something went wrong in the chamber [*w komorze*]. *People got out and ran around naked, screaming at the top of their lungs. They were poisoned with chloride* [*chlorkiem*]*."*

According to HELLA FELENBAUM-WEISS, chlorine was used to kill deportees during transports (Novitch, p. 50):

"The arrival of another convoy distressed me in the same way. It was thought to come from Lvov, but nobody knew for sure. Prisoners were sobbing and told us a dreadful tale: they had been gassed on the way with chlorine, but some survived."

These conflicting rumors were reflected in the initial attempt at reconstructing the camp's history. In 1945, the Polish War Crimes Office attempted to sketch an initial "historical" picture of the camp as follows:[94]

"The third torture place for Jews was the 'death camp' of Sobibór, near Włodawa on the river Bug, to the south of Brześć Litewski, in the district of Lublin. This camp was used for the concentration of Jews during both the first and the second period of the liquidation of ghettos. In the first period – August 1942 – enormous masses of Jews from the General Government were brought to this camp to be destroyed in gas chambers. Besides Jews from foreign countries, especially from Low Countries and France, were brought there, who are given the assurance of being send to factories in the Reich, but in fact share the fate of the Polish Jews in the gas chambers, whilst their luggage and other movables become a booty of the warders. In summer 1943 large numbers of Jews from the district of Lublin and especially from the neighbourhood of Włodawa and Hrubieszów are brought to Sobibór. In the first half of 1943 a group of 1,000 Jews were murdered in Sobibór who were employed in war factories and brought from the Warsaw ghetto. These people had been previously promised by the German authorities their lives would be spared in recognition of their war effort. During the same period thousands of Russian Jews were destroyed in Sobibór who had been deported in masses from Mohilew, Smoleńsk and Bobrujsk districts. In the second half of October 1943 a sedition broke [out] *in the camp of Sobibór among several hundred of surviving Jews, who killed a number of hangmen, SS men and Ukrainians, burned down the barracks and escaped."*

This "historical reconstruction," which is decidedly insulting to any person with a critical mind, passed into the official report of the Polish government for the Nuremberg IMT in an even less-specific form (USSR-93, p. 42):

"This camp was used for the concentration of Jews during the first and second extermination periods of the ghettos. The Jews were killed here in gas chambers. Under the pretext of being led to factory work in the Reich, the foreign

[94] Report of the Polish War Crimes Office, Dr. J. Litawski, officer in charge, on German crimes in Poland. 1945. AGK, MSW Londyn, 113, p. 626.

Jews, especially from Holland and France, were brought to Sobibór and executed. The strongest wave of executions in this camp was in 1943. Thousands and thousands of Jews were brought and killed in gas chambers."

At the Nuremberg IMT, this passage was summarized even more tersely by L.N. Smirnov, deputy prosecutor for the Soviet Union, who stated during the hearing of February 19, 1946 in relation to the Polish government's official report (Document USSR-93; IMT, Vol. 7, p. 576):

"I end my quotation here, and I call the attention of the Tribunal to Page 136 on the reverse side of the document book; this is from a report of the Polish Government, which shows that the Camp Sobibur was founded during the first and second liquidation of the Jewish ghetto. But the extermination on a large scale in this camp really started at the beginning of 1943. "

In October 1946, the Rescue Committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine drafted a bulletin dedicated to Sobibór that summarized the "knowledge" of the time:[95]

"Three huts were reserved for the women: in the first, they had to take off their shoes; in the second, they undresses [sic]*; in the third, they had their hair cut; all this – they were told – for the sake of hygiene. They were ordered to put their money and their valuables into large boxes. The women, stripped of everything, were then led into an enclosure made of ropes; as they passed by, the Germans, lined up in several ranks and armed with rifles and whips, assaulted them; little children were torn from their mothers, thrown to the ground and trampled upon with nailed boots until their skulls were smashed. Women who tried to cover their nakedness with some rag or another had their breasts cut off.*

The men were marched at the double to a third field. There, in front of the entrance to the bath-house, they were addressed by one of the officials, who told them that they were going to be sent to Ukraine, but had first to undergo a thorough cleaning, for everybody would be employed on the same kind of work. The men listened and believed; they suspected nothing, even as they were led through long railed passages which were camouflaged with tree-branches.

At first, when there were no more than two or three transports daily, the victims were put to death by asphyxiating gases. Two Soviet tanks were placed between the two halls mentioned above, and when enough people were assembled in the halls, the motor-engines of the tanks were started up and the waste fumes diverted through a pipe into the halls. Twenty minutes later, the doors were opened and Jewish workers dragged the half-suffocated men outside, where the bodies were thrown into vast pits, strewn over with lime and covered with ashes.

In due course, an electrically driven machine was constructed for the production of asphyxiating vapours which entered the bath-house through a rubber-tube. A German was watching the agony of the men through a little window in the roof, in order to ascertain whether death occurred within the fixed time. Af-

[95] YVA, M.4-87, pp. 5f.

> *ter 15-20 minutes, at a given signal, the gas was turned off. The floor parted and the bodies fell into a cellar, from where they were collected to be buried in pits. Water was pumped into the halls, the floors were washed, the doors opened and all started over again.*
> *The prisoners who had been employed to help in the work were shot on the spot.*
> *When the number of transports increased to seven or eight daily, Germans at Sobibor found they were unable to keep up with the influx and transports were diverted to Wlodawa. The first transport to be sent there comprised 3,000-4,000 men from Kalish and the surrounding area.* […]
> *Part of the transports were destined for work in the camps. One of the prisoners operated the electrical machine which filled the cabins of the bath-house with fumes, poisoning his brethren."*

A report by Nachman Blumental titled "*Obóz śmierci – Sobibór*" ("Death Camp – Sobibór"), also dating back to 1946, describes the extermination system as follows:[96]

> *"The people 'very politely' receive towels and soap. The engine is started, one can hear its noise; sometimes there are cries, moans, but they are muffled* […]. *After 20-30 minutes, the motor is turned off. In the bathroom, the floor opens automatically* [*rozsuwa się automatycznie podłoga*], *all 'those who have bathed' – in fact, they have been gassed (with chlorine or another gas)* [*chlorem lub innym gazem*]*."*

2.3. The Birth of the "Gas Chambers"

The killing method using exhaust gas from an unidentified "engine" was made official only in 1947. In the course of Polish investigations into Sobibór Camp, the following was "ascertained" (Łukaszkiewicz 1947a, p. 52):

> *"Inside, this* [gassing] *building had masonry walls. It probably* [*prawdopodobnie*] *contained 5 chambers that held a total of 500 people. They were killed by the exhaust gas produced by an engine installed next to the chambers and connected to them by pipes."*

The inconsistency of the Polish judges' historical claims with the available evidence is demonstrated by the collection of testimonies edited by Miriam Novitch. She published 30 testimonies, almost all of former Sobibór inmates (Tomasz Blattj, Stanislaw Szmajzner, Hella Felenbaum-Weiss, Eda Lichtman, Abraham Margulies, Simha Bialowitz, the widow of Joseph Dunietz, Selma Wijnberg, Ber Freiberg, Kurt Thomas, Itzhak Lichtmann, Ilana Safran, Alexander Pechersky, Lea Reisner-Bialowitz, Aizik Rottenberg, Herschel Zukerman, Jehuda Lerner, Haim Lejst, Haim Treger, Elihahu Lieberman, Jacob Biskubicz, Moshe Hochman, Haim Powroznik, Yehezkiel Menche, Salomea

[96] AAN, 212-III-1, p. 4.

Hanel, Zelda Metz, Michael Knopfmacher, Esther Raab and Samuel Lerner, Moshe Bahir), which she introduced by describing the alleged extermination facilities as follows (Novitch, pp. 24, 26):

> *"Each new chamber was ten meters square, and had two doors, one on the east and one on the west. The victims entered by the western door, the dead were evacuated by the eastern one.* […]
> *In order to build the new gas chambers, old houses were pulled down and new ones were erected, each 4 x 12 meters. Five rooms were prepared to hold 70 to 80 people. Thus, 400 victims could be put to death at the same time, if children were included."*

However, none of the witnesses whose testimonies she presents provided even a vague description of the alleged gassing facilities (with the exception of Moshe Bahir, to whom I will return below, who repeated the widespread tale of gas flowing from showerheads and of collapsible floors). For the first gassing facility claimed for Sobibór, Novitch did not mention the number of chambers, while for the second, later facility, the density of victims is greatly underestimated: each room measured (4 m × 12 m =) 48 square meters and could contain 70-80 people; five rooms therefore measured (48 m × 5 m =) 240 square meters and could contain 400 people. The maximum density of victims was therefore (80 ÷ 48 m² or 400 ÷ 240 m² =) 1.7 persons per square meter, including children!

Novitch had derived the new facility's number of chambers – five – from Z. Łukaszkiewicz's reconstruction, who had ignored the history of the two alleged gassing buildings, and had mentioned a number of gas chambers that was irreconcilable with the number established by the Hagen District Court in its verdict of December 20, 1966: according to this, the first building contained three gas chambers measuring 4 m × 4 m, while the second facility had six chambers, also measuring 4 m × 4 m (see Chapter 5).

Ultimately, the claimed structure of the two alleged extermination facilities simply followed that attributed to Bełżec. In Volume III of the *Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce*, the article on Sobibór immediately follows the one on Bełżec, for which the Polish investigating judges had arbitrarily opted for a killing system by engine-exhaust gas, as demonstrated in the previous chapter; this same method was also attributed to Sobibór for the simple reason of literary consistency.

Despite this choice by the Polish judiciary, the other legends continued to circulate after 1947.

In a memoir written around 1950, MOSHE BAHIR, a former Sobibór inmate, resurrected the fable of the killing rooms with a collapsible floor, and a basement below with carts hauling away the victims (Novitch, p. 147):

> *"Lager 3 was closed on all sides to the prisoners of Sobibor. It was impossible for us to see what was going on in that Lager because of the grove of pine trees which surrounded it. We saw only the roof of the 'bathhouse' which protruded*

through the trees. Thus we saw the murderous face of Oberscharführer Bauer who used to stand on the roof of that building and peep through the little window, into the death-chambers.

We all knew what was done inside the building. We knew that Bauer looked through the window in order to regulate the amount of death-gas which streamed through the ducts, which were in form of an ordinary shower. He was the one who saw the victims suffocating from the gas that was showered upon them and he was the one who ordered that the flow of gas be increased or stopped. And he was the one who used to see the victims in their final agony and in their death. At his order the machinery which opened the floor of the 'bathhouse' was activated, and the corpses fell into small carts which took them at first to mass graves and, later when time was short, to cremation ovens instead. Two hundred Jews worked in the gas chambers Lager."

This tale was repeated and made official by the only former Sobibór inmate who claimed to have seen the gas chambers with his own eyes: YA'AKOV BISKOVITZ. On June 5, 1961 he testified as follows under oath at the Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem:

"[Attorney General] *Q. Below, on the left, there are the gas chambers, and on the extreme left you wrote 'Fire Pit'. What is that?*

[Biskovitz] *Yes, that is the fire pit in which the victims who were brought out of the gas chambers were burned. After some time, a buzzing sound would be heard, the floor opened up, and the victims fell into the deep hollow below and were conveyed in this little train into the pit where the eighty men of Camp 3 were working, and they burned the bodies."* (State of Israel, p. 1184)

"President Judge: You described the inside of the gas chamber. For example, you told us how the floor opened up and the bodies fell below into the railway waggons.

Witness Biskovitz: Into the hollow below.

Q. Did you see this with your own eyes, or are you talking of things that you heard from others?

A. I will describe a shocking scene here.

Q. But first of all – did you, in general, have an opportunity of seeing these things from the inside?

A. Not everybody had the opportunity, but I, by chance, did. By chance I was taken to bring a cart with a barrel of chloride. When I was passing by the two larger stores in Camp 2, I detached the cart and pushed it towards Camp 3. I was supposed to leave it near the gate, but I could not hold the vehicle back. The gate opened and it pushed me inside. Since I knew I would not get out alive from there, I began to run back at top speed and managed to reach my place of work without anyone noticing. I kept this a secret – I am stressing this – even from the inmates of the camp who worked with me. From a distance, I saw the pit and the hollow and the small train that carried the dead bodies. I did not see the gas chamber from the inside; I only saw, from the outside, that there was a very prominent roof, and that the floor opened and the bodies fell below.

Q. You came to this conclusion from the nature of the structure?

A. Not from the nature of the structure – I saw it from afar even while I was running away quickly, although I cannot describe it exactly, after nineteen years.
Q. Please understand me. You are somewhat familiar with these matters. Did you see the floor when it had opened up?
A. I did not see that – I merely saw that underneath the gas chamber, there was a hollow which already contained bodies." (*Ibid*., p. 1188)

So, Biskovitz first stated "I only saw, from the outside, that there was a very prominent roof, and that the floor opened and the bodies fell below," then, contradicting himself, he stated that he "merely saw that underneath the gas chamber, there was a hollow which already contained bodies" and "the pit and the hollow and the small train that carried the dead bodies." Even if one wanted to stick to the last statement, since the victims could not be gassed by remaining suspended in mid-air, the floor must have been collapsible, or tippable, or must have contained some kind of trap door, and this could well be a mere inference; but all this is irrelevant to this "eyewitness" statement:

"From a distance, I saw the pit and the hollow and the small train that carried the dead bodies."

On November 9, 1965, at the Sobibór Trial held in Hagen (September 6, 1965-December 20, 1966), the witness, who at that time called himself Jakob Biscubicz, stated:[97]

"I was able to see the gas chamber from Camp II from above. The roof shone like metal. From the forest I could see the pits. I worked not far from Camp III. I did not look much because I was afraid. From the gas chambers one could hear the sound of the engines. The fire was also clearly visible."

On this occasion, the witness stated that he had never entered Camp III, so that he committed perjury either at the Eichmann Trial or at the Hagen Trial – or both.

Miriam Novitch published a statement by the witness (under the name Jacob Biskubicz) which is undated, but was recorded undoubtedly prior to 1961. In it, he asserted that he had been deported to Sobibór in May 1943 with a transport of 3,000 Jews, of whom 80 were selected and "the others were sent into a forest to an unknown destination." Then he stated:[98]

"I couldn't believe in the reality of camp No. 3. One day, I was pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with chlorine and, eager to know what was happening in the camp, I went beyond the limit. I was nearly killed."

It is clear that the witness did not know anything about the alleged extermination at that time; here he entered Camp 3 with a "wheelbarrow" rather than a

[97] 11 Ks 1/64 Staatsanwaltschaft Hagen. Strafsache gegen Kurt Bolender und Andere (Sobibór Trial), p. 147.
[98] "From Hrubieszow to Sobibor. Testimony of Jacob Biskubicz," in: Novitch, pp. 120f.

cart, but he saw nothing. Later, he invented the fable reported above, developing the theme merely outlined in this early statement.

Even statements exist by witnesses who were convinced that the gassings were carried out using Zyklon B. LEON (JEHUDA) LERNER, who had been deported to Sobibór in the summer of 1943, stated the following in a deposition made in Haifa on December 16, 1959:[99]

> *"SS man Getzinger was the head of the gas chambers, and he threw in the cyclone gas to kill the people. After half an hour, there was no trace left of all Jewish-Russian prisoners of war, as well as of the other Jews from the Minsk ghetto; they were all gassed.* […]
> *One day they placed a hand grenade between the cyclone gas shafts, and as soon as Getzinger went to get new gas for the gas chambers, the grenade exploded and Getzinger was torn to pieces."*

The former deportee STANISŁAW SZMAJZNER stated the following as late as in 1966:[100]

> *"Bauer threw cyclone into the 'bath', which killed the people. Only at the beginning, the people are said to have been killed by exhaust fumes."*

[99] Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Sobibor 85 PM V NO 17, p. 6.
[100] Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Sobibor 66, p. 909.

3. Treblinka

3.1. Treblinka prior to Treblinka

According to orthodox Holocaust historiography, the alleged gas chambers of Treblinka started operating on July 23, 1942, the day on which the first transport of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto is said to have been exterminated in them (Arad 1987, pp. 37-43, 81). However, Jewish black propaganda had already qualified that camp as a "death camp" almost two months earlier. The *Oneg Szabat* bulletin of May 29, 1942 described the events in Otwock, a town in the Warsaw District, as follows (Bańkowska/Epsztein, p. 228):

> *"More than 500 Jews were captured in the streets and houses and sent to Treblinka, to the death camp* [*do obozu śmierci*] *(in Treblinka there are 2 camps, a labor camp and a death camp* [*obóz pracy i obóz śmierci*]*). At the death camp, the murderers do not kill by shooting; no bullets are wasted for them* [the Jews]*; the execution is done with clubs* – [by] *torture to death. Part of the group of 500 captured Jews were* [sent] *to the labor camp for various jobs."*

The theme was taken up again in the bulletin of June 18, 1942 (*ibid.*, p. 236):

> *"Treblinka (camp) – From an eyewitness comes the following information: 'We dug huge pits. Every day, the Germans brought a group of 300 Jews, who were ordered to strip naked and enter the pit. Then the pit was filled up with the living people. I was in the camp for three weeks (May).'"*

The bulletin of July 2, 1942 contains a chapter entitled "Treblinka," which picks up and further develops the previous propaganda themes (*ibid.*, p. 247):

> *"In the first half of May, there was a mass execution of Jews. The number of victims reached 300 per day. Poles who had been rounded up were used to bury the victims. The Germans shot many of the Polish grave-diggers."*

On July 11, 1942, the *Dziennik Polski* (*Polish Newspaper*) published a "Report of Minister Mikołajczyk, delivered at the British Ministry of Information" on its page 3 which contained the following chapter titled "*Rzeź Żydów*" ("Slaughter of the Jews"):[101]

> *"The situation of the Jews appears to be even worse. The matter of the Warsaw Ghetto is well known. Hunger, death and disease continuously and systematically threatened the population. In the Lublin area, on the night of March 23-24* [1942]*, the Jewish population was deported. Sick and disabled people were killed on the spot. All the 2-3-year-old children of the orphanage, 108 in num-*

[101] "Sprawozdanie…" At that time, Stanisław Mikołajczyk was the Minister of the Interior of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London.

> *ber, were sent out of the city together with their nannies and killed. A total of 2,500 people were killed that night, while the remaining 26,000 were sent to the camps in Bełżec and Tremblinka* [*wywieziono do obozów w Bełżcu i Tremblince*]. *From Izbica Kujawska, 8,000 people were deported in an unknown direction. Reportedly, in Bełżec and Tremblinka the killing is carried out by means of toxic gases* [*za pomoca gazów trujacych*]*…"*

But the first Jewish transport only arrived at Treblinka 12 days *after* the date of the report. The Polish historian Dariusz Stola describes the background of the report as follows (Stola, p. 163):

> *"At the National Council's extraordinary meeting on July 7 Mikołajczyk presented an extensive report which officially confirmed the facts already known and included new ones. The Council voted to add to its Appeal of June 10 a passage on 'the planned extermination of almost the entire Jewish population.' Mikołajczyk specified executions of Jews in Lublin, Izbica Kujawska, Rawa Ruska, Biłgoraj, Wąwolnica, Mielec, Lwów, Wilno, Tarnopol, Radom, Stryj, and Przemyśl that demonstrated the scale and the organized character of the anti-Jewish action. He also mentioned that 'apparently, in Bełżec and Trawniki,* [the Germans] *murder* [Jews] *with poison gas.'"*

However, this does not explain anything and only complicates the matter, as David Engel noted (Engel, Note 123, p. 298):

> *"Mikołajczyk also spoke of executions of Jews by gas taking place at another location as well; according to the account in* Dziennik Polski, *this was Treblinka, whereas according to the* Polish Fortnightly Review, *15 July 1942, it was Trawniki. Both readings are problematic. Most of the available evidence indicates that the Treblinka gas chambers began their operation with the arrival of the first deportees from Warsaw two weeks after Mikołajczyk's speech. Trawniki, on the other hand, was a labor camp, at which no installations for gas killing were erected. It is thus not clear to what Mikołajczyk was referring, or where he got his information."*

A 1942 propaganda pamphlet of the Polish government-in-exile in London, under the title "Statement of the Polish Vice-Premier," quotes Mikołajczyk's speech he gave on July 9, 1942 at a press conference in the British Ministry of Information. Here is the passage under discussion (*Stop them Now*, p. 6):

> *"Altogether, in that night 2,500 people were massacrated,*[sic] *and the remaining 26,000 Jews of Lublin removed to the concentration camps at Bełżec and Trawniki.*
>
> *'Eight thousand people were deported from Izbica Kujawska to an unknown destination. In Bełżec and Trawniki murders are also carried out by means of poison gas'."*

The identical text appeared in the report published by the *Polish Fortnightly Review* on July 15, 1942 ("A Press Conference…").

Now, where did this happen, in Treblinka or in Trawniki?

The editors of *Dziennik Polski* informed in a note that the text they published was the one that Minister Mikołajczyk had delivered to the National Council of the Polish Republic (*Radzie Narodowej R.P.*). Since the Polish text clearly states "Tremblinka," the problem only arises with its English translation. The pertinent Polish phrase reads "*w Bełżcu i Tremblince*," where the two nouns are in the locative case; "Trawniki," which falls into the category of pluralia tantum, turns to "Trawnikach" in the locative case. One cannot believe that the editors of *Dziennik Polski* had confused a supposed locative "*w Bełżcu i Trawnikach*" in Mikołajczyk's original text with "*w Bełżcu i Tremblince*." This is already excluded by the fact that, in the chapter "22 Concentration Camps" ("*22 obozy koncentracyjne*") – which was not printed by the *Polish Fortnightly Review* – the Polish text mentions "Tremblinka" and Bełżec, without any mention of Trawniki.

3.2. Phantom "Death Camps"

On the other hand, Trawniki had its own propaganda connotation which made it even more "problematic" than Treblinka. On April 14, 1942 the *Biuyletyn Informacyjny* (*Information Bulletin*) published an article titled "The Killing of Jews in the Lublin Area", in which the following was reported:

> *"*[The Jews] *who remained alive, about 25,000 in number, were transported to the camps of Bełżec and Trawniki* [*w obozów Bełżcu i Trawnikach*]. *In these camps, according to the most-reliable reports* [*wedle najwiarygodnicjszych relacji*], *the mass killing of Jews by means of toxic gases took place* [*przy pomocy gazów trujących*]*."* (*Biuletyn Informacyjny,* p. 902)

On April 30, the same newspaper reported again about sealed railway cars arriving "at the Bełżec or Trawniki Camp" (*ibid*., p. 916). This news even appeared in the bulletin of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of July 10, 1942 ("Nazis Slaughter…," p. 1):

> *"The suffocating of the 26,000 Polish Jews by poison gas took place in the two 'Jewish' concentration camps which the Nazis have established at Belzec and Trawniki."*

The editors of the *Polish Fortnightly Review* were undoubtedly inspired by it. In fact, Trawniki had been depicted by Polish-Jewish black propaganda as an extermination camp as early as June 1942:[102]

> *"Trawniki.*
> *On the Lublin-Chełm railway line, there is the small station of Trawniki and a hamlet of the same name. At the time of the outbreak of the German-Soviet war,*

[102] AŻIH, ARG [*Archiwum Getta*] 33.Ring.I/261 Mf. ŻIH-836, Bulletin of the *Oneg Szabat* containing information on the subject of the situation of Jews in various localities in the territory of the Polish Republic in the period April-June 1942 (June 24, 25, 30, 1942). Cf. Bańkowska/Epsztein, pp. 244f.

> *a camp for Soviet citizens and prisoners was established in Trawniki. This camp was soon 'liquidated' by killing most of the inmates, and during this operation, the local Jewish population* [was killed] *as well, numbering several hundred souls. For some time now, larger gas chambers* [*większe komore gazowe*] *and a primitive crematorium had been installed on the grounds. Since the installation of these gas chambers and the crematorium, trains of resettled Jews (mainly from Slovakia and the Czech Republic) arrived at Trawniki almost every day, about 1,500 per day. Upon arrival of the resettlers, they are stripped of everything they own, stripped naked, and then pushed into the aforementioned chamber. After the chamber is filled with victims, it is hermetically sealed, and a toxic gas is injected into the chamber using appropriate devices. After 15-30 minutes have passed, all those inside do not live* [anymore]. *Then, after adequate cleaning of the chamber from the remains of the gas, the asphyxiated Jews are burned in the crematorium. The clothes, underwear and shoes left behind by the Jewish victims are occasionally loaded onto railway cars and taken to the SS clothing factories, among others in Lublin (on the grounds of the old airplane factory) where these clothes are sorted and processed. The personnel employed in the Trawniki gas chamber and crematorium were exclusively SS men."*

The specification "on the Lublin-Chełm railway line" leaves no doubt that this was indeed Trawniki. Thus, the Jewish Resistance invented an "extermination camp" with gas chambers and a crematorium in Trawniki. This claim is even more-seriously flawed than the claimed transfer of victims to Treblinka a few weeks before the camp was actually opened, because it unequivocally shows that the Polish-Jewish propagandists who spread the first information about the "extermination camps" were deliberate liars.

A report by Israel Lichtenstein titled "Ten days of the 'trans-settlement action' of Warsaw Jewry," probably written in August 1942, speaks of the departure of railway cars with 120-200 people (Kermish, p. 698):

> *"In what direction? Nobody knows. Brest, Bobrójsk, Smoleńsk? – these are precisely the names. But anyone who knows the history of* Chełmno, Trawniki, *is aware of the way in which these unfortunates must perish: Machine guns, gas, electricity – these must be the redeemers of their suffering. And then mass graves for one thousand or one thousand five hundred bodies."* (Emphasis in original)

Here, too, Treblinka was ignored, and Trawniki was considered an extermination camp. On December 6, 1943, the *Daily News Bulletin* of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency wrote the following ("Germans have…," p. 4):

> *"The 'Jewish camps' are located at Belezec, Starogard, Potulice, Sobibor, Kosow-Podlaski, Treblinka, Trawniki, Poniechowek and also between Chelo* [Chełm] *and Wlodawa. Of these, Treblinka, Trawniki and Poniechowek are 'death camps' to which the Jews are sent to be executed. It is known that Treblinka has extensive execution facilities, such as gas and steam chambers."*

From this it is clear that this was not a confusion with the Bełżec and Sobibór Camps. In addition to Trawniki, it contains a reference to a phantom "death camp" at Poniechówek, a location a few kilometers from Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki and about 35 km northwest of Warsaw.

This news was reprised by the same bulletin on November 24, 1946 ("Jewish Mass Graves…"):

> *"Warsaw, 22 November (JTA). Police authorities today launched a campaign to put an end to looting of mass graves of Jews in the areas of Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor and Trawniki where Nazi extermination camps formerly existed."*

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country for the Period July 16 – August 25, 1942" (Bulletin No. 12) mentions another fictitious "extermination camp", Kosów Podlaski (Gmitruk *et al.*, pp. 217f.):

> *"Death Camps. The fate of the Jews deported from Warsaw is not exactly known. But the following facts are beyond doubt: a part of the deportees died in the railway cars of exhaustion, starvation, overcrowding and stench; the physically fitter ones were sent directly to work, it seems in the eastern territories in the rear of the front; the majority were sent to special Jewish camps that earned the name of death camps. These are the camps of Bełżec, Treblinka II, Sobibór in the Włodawa District and Kosów Podlaski. In these camps, Jews were killed in gas chambers built for this purpose."*

Other products of Polish-Jewish black propaganda were collected by Karl Yngve Vendel, an officer of the Swedish Consular Corps. On August 9, 1942, he visited some friends at their estate in East Prussia and stayed there until the 14th. Then he went to the Swedish Embassy in Berlin, where he wrote a report on the 20th on what he claimed to have seen and heard during his trip. Among other things, he reported the following:[103]

> *"The picture of the treatment of the Jews in Poland that I received from an informant* [*sagesman*] *is such that it can hardly be written down. Therefore, I want to limit myself to a few brief remarks. The treatment is different in different places, depending on the number of Jews living there. In some cities, there are Jewish quarters, in others, the ghettos are surrounded by a high wall, which the Jews can cross only at the risk of being shot, and finally in others, the Jews enjoy a certain freedom of movement. However, the intention is to exterminate them gradually. In Lublin, the number of Jews killed is estimated at 40,000. The extermination mainly affected Jews over 50, and children under 10 years of age. The others may remain alive to make up for shortages of manpower, and then, when they are no longer needed, they will be liquidated. Their possessions are confiscated, and mostly end up in the hands of the SS.*
>
> *In one town* [*stad*]*, all the Jews were rounded up for what was officially announced as 'delousing.' At the entrance, they had to leave their clothes, which*

[103] RAS, HP 324-84, p. 4. Long excerpts of the letter were translated into Polish by Lewandowski 1992.

> *were immediately sent to the 'textile collection'; the delousing procedure consisted instead of gassing* [*förgasning*]*, and then they could be put in a specially prepared mass grave. The source of all the information about the situation in the General Governorate that I have received is such that there can be no doubt as to the truthfulness of the informant's descriptions."*

Hence, "in a town" equipped with disinfestation facilities that "in reality" were homicidal gas chambers, the Jews were gassed and buried.

According to black-propaganda sources, an extermination camp equipped with homicidal gas chambers was also located in Lemberg [Lwów]. On May 18, 1943, the British received a "Memorandum" from Stockholm containing the statements of "two Belgian prisoners of war, L.H. and R.C., who escaped from Germany on 28th April and arrived in Sweden on 5th May [1943]," and who had been "in the penal camp at Rawa Ruska." They stated that "the Germans themselves boasted that at Lemberg they had specially constructed gas chambers where the Jews were systematically killed and buried. The total number was said to exceed 80,000."[104]

Another imaginary extermination camp was located "in the vicinity of Pinsk, for the eastern areas" (see the next subchapter). Finally, a Polish monthly published the following news in November 1943:[105]

> *"In the area of the former Warsaw Ghetto, the Germans built gas chambers* [*komory gazowe*]*, which went into operation for the first time on October 17 of this year. Since then, they have been killing ten* [sic] *people a day there."*

All this shows that the creativity of the Jewish-Polish black propagandists knew no bounds.

3.3. Treblinka in the Jewish-Polish Underground Press: Reports of Anonymous Eyewitnesses

As early as August 1942, the Polish-Jewish underground press began to spread far-fetched or patently false stories about Treblinka, purportedly based on eyewitness accounts. In this mishmash of information and disinformation, the most-varied killing methods appeared, including generic "gas chambers," but without special emphasis and often in correlation with other fanciful elements.

One of the first stories mentioning mobile gas chambers was published on August 17, 1942 in the *Informacja bieżąca* (*Current Information*), an internal bulletin prepared by the *Delegatura's* Information and Propaganda Office (Marczewska/Ważniewski, pp. 136f.):

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[104] Memorandum. To: Political Intelligence Department. From: Press Reading Bureau, Stockholm. 18th May, 1943. TNA, FO 371-34430, C 5895, May 26, 1943.

[105] *Wieś i Miasto*, Vol. IV, No. 7, November 1943, p. 7.

> *"After the departure of the locomotives, the Jews are forced to undress, supposedly for the bath; then they are led into the gas chamber and executed, whereupon they – sometimes still living – are buried in excavated pits. The pits are excavated by machine; the gas chamber is mobile and moves back and forth over the pits* [*kamera jest ruchoma i przesuwająca się nad dołami*].
> *The camp strength amounted to 40,000* [!] *Jews on August 5* [1942]*; about 5,000 are executed daily. The liquidation is carried out by Ukrainians under the leadership of SS men. The operation on the Warsaw Ghetto is supposed to be completed by September of this year."*

This tale reached the ears of Wehrmacht Captain Wilm Hosenfeld, who wrote in his diary on September 6, 1942 what one of his subordinates had told him about the atrocities presumably committed by a *Sonderkommando* in Siedlce. The Jews were dragged through the streets, some of them killed straight away, others taken to the railway station (Roth, p. 229):

> *"Then they were taken away, 200 people in a cattle car that usually holds 42. Where to, nobody knows. What do they do with them? Nobody knows either! But it cannot remain hidden. Several of them always manage to escape, and through them the insane acts become public. The place is called Triplinka* [sic] *in the east of the Generalgouvernement. There the cars are unloaded. Many are already dead. The whole area is closed off with walls. The cars drive in and are unloaded. The dead are piled up next to the tracks, the arriving healthy men have to carry away the piles of corpses, have to dig new pits and cover up the filled ones, then they are shot. Other transports arrive and carry away the previous ones. The women and children, numbering in the thousands, are forced to undress and are herded into a mobile barracks where they are gassed. The barracks moves to a pit* [sic]*, and the corpses are dumped into the pit by means of a device by which a side wall opens and the floor rises. This has been going on for weeks now."*

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country for the Period July 16 – August 25, 1942" (*Bulletin* No. 12) reported the following (Gmitruk *et al*., p. 218):

> *"Recently, the news came from Treblinka that on average the Germans are killing 5,000 Jews a day there. For the mechanical excavation of the pits in which the murdered Jews are buried, two dredgers* [*bagrownice*] *have been brought in which are working continuously. However, since the corpses are buried at a shallow depth and their number is enormous, one can smell the terrible stench of the rotting corpses five kilometers around Treblinka."*

In the following bulletin, No. 13, titled "Report on the Situation in the Country for the Period August 26 – October 10, 1942," this news was picked up and rehashed as follows (Gmitruk *et al*., pp. 250f.):

> *"In Treblinka, Bełżec and other camps* [sic]*. The Jews deported from the Warsaw Ghetto and from the ghettos near Warsaw were directed to the territory covered by the report, still primarily to the Treblinka and Bełżec Camps, where*

they underwent atrocious mass extermination in gas chambers. According to information from people who arrived from Treblinka, 300-500 people per day perish from gases [*od gazów*] *in this death camp. The Jews are transported to Treblinka Camp not only from Warsaw and its surroundings, but also from other territories. On the arrival of each train with the jam-packed cars sprinkled with chlorine and lime,*[106] *20-30% of the deported Jews are usually found dead. It is rumored that, in addition to Treblinka and Bełżec, the Germans have established yet other killing camps for Jews in the General Government. Part of the deported Jews, the healthiest and strongest people, were sent to special camps in the East in order to be deployed there in particularly strenuous and often dangerous work."*

Therefore, according to this report, Jews of Warsaw were also deported to Bełżec!

The report published by the *Informacja bieżąca* on September 8, 1942 mentioned the use of an undefined gas with a delayed effect as a method of killing (Marczewska/Ważniewski, pp. 137f.):

"The extermination of the Jews takes place entirely independently from the events in the camp. The locomotive pushes the cars with the Jews under the ramp, all in sequence. The Ukrainians pull the Jews out of the cars and lead them to the 'bath' in the bathhouse. This is a building surrounded by barbed wire. They enter in groups of 300 to 500 persons. Each group is immediately locked up hermetically and gassed. Of course, this gas is not immediately effective, for the Jews have to walk to the pits afterwards, which are about ten to twenty meters away and 30 m deep. There they lose consciousness and fall into the pits, and the excavator sprinkles a thin layer of earth upon them. Then the next group follows."

The same text was republished in Issue No. 34/59 on September 15.[107]

On September 20, 1942, an article titled "The Jews of Warsaw Are Killed in Treblinka" appeared in the *Bund*'s periodical *Oif der Vach* (*On Guard*) that reported the following tale (Arad 1987, pp. 244-246):

"During the first week of the 'deportation Aktion' Warsaw was flooded with greetings from the deported Jews. The greetings arrived from Bialystok, Brest-Litivsk, Kosov, Malkinia, Pinsk, Smolensk. All this was a lie. All the trains with the Warsaw Jews went to Treblinka, where the Jews were murdered in the most cruel way. The letters and greetings came from people who succeeded in escaping from the trains or from the camp. It is possible that in the beginning, from the first transports, some of the Warsaw Jews were sent to Brest-Litivsk or Pinsk, in order that their greetings would mislead, deceive, and provoke false illusions among the Jews in Warsaw.

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106 This fable, along with the one about Bełżec having been the destination of Jews deported from Warsaw, inspired Jan Karski to spin his yarn; see Subchapter 1.3.

107 AAN, 202-III-7, p. 148.

Actually, what was the fate of the deported Jews? We know it from the stories of the Poles and those Jews who succeeded in escaping from the trains or from Treblinka. […]

The women and children from the arriving transport were divided into groups of 200 each and were taken to the 'baths'. They had to take their clothes, which remained on the spot, and were taken naked to a small barrack called the 'bath', which was located close the digging machine. From the bath nobody returned, and new groups were entering there constantly. The bath was actually a house of murder. The floor in this barrack opened up and the people fell into a machine. According to the opinion of those who escaped, the people in the barrack were gassed. According to another opinion, they were killed by electrical current. From the small tower over the bath, there were constant shots. There was talk that the shots were aimed at the people inside the barrack and those who survived the gas. The bath absorbs 200 people every fifteen minutes, so in twenty-four hours the killing capacity is 20,000 people. That was the explanation for the incessant arrival of people in the camp, from where there was no return, except a few hundred who succeeded in escaping during the whole time… During the daytime women and children were liquidated and during the nights, the men…

The escape from the camp was difficult and dangerous, but there were people who tried to do it, in spite of the fact that the camp was strongly illuminated during the night. […]

There were three such camps: one in the vicinity of Pinsk, for the eastern areas, another in the area of Lublin at Belzec, and the third, the largest, was Treblinka near Malkinia."

On October 5, 1942, *Informacja bieżąca* circulated the following report (Marczewska/Ważniewski, pp. 138f.):

"Treblinka. The death camp is once more in operation. Transports arrive from the entire country (most recently Radom, Siedlce, Międzyrzec). At present 10 trains, rather than 20, are allowed to approach at a time, for it takes a long time until the bodies of those who died on the way (20-30%) have been unloaded. The gas chamber [*komora gazowa*] *functions as follows: Outside of the barracks is a 20 HP internal-combustion engine, which is in operation around the clock. The end of its exhaust pipe is mounted in a wall of the barracks; the exhaust gases, with the admixture of toxic fluids* [*z domieszką płynów trujących*] *which have been specially mixed into the fuel of the engine, kill the people locked up in the barracks. Besides the Jewish workers, there is a Jewish orchestra as well as a group of Jewish women in the camp area with whom the staff enjoys itself. Up to the end of August, 320,000 Jews were exterminated in Treblinka."*

This account was later repeated in a series of reports on Treblinka sent to the Polish government-in-exile in London on March 31, 1943 (*ibid.*, p. 153):

"After arrival in the camp, the Jews receive the order to completely undress, under the pretext that they are being led to a bath. They are brought into a

sealed chamber, a barracks, approximately 100 people at a time. Outside the barracks stands an internal-combustion engine of 20 HP, which runs around the clock. The engine's exhaust pipe leads through the barrack's wall, and the people locked up in the barracks are killed by exhaust gases channeled through it that contain toxic fluid additives, which have been especially mixed with the engine fuel."

At this point, there was still only one "gas chamber," located in a barracks, which killed with the exhaust fumes of an internal-combustion engine, to whose fuel were added mysterious "toxic fluids." Different stories also circulated at the time, however. As Samuel D. Kassow wrote (Kassow, p. 192):

"[O]*n October 9 Opoczynski reported rumors of a 'giant electric chair' in Treblinka, designed to kill ten thousand Jews and Poles a day. 'The Germans like to brag about their industrial prowess, and so they also want to run their killing industry with American efficiency.'"*

On October 8, 1942 the *Biuletyn Informacyjny* (No. 39; p. 1104) reported:

"In the course of two months of the horrible operation, about 90% of the ghetto's 370,000 inhabitants were taken away. It is probable that some of the deportees – the healthiest and most-robust – were employed somewhere in camps on the territory of Soviet Russia, but the vast majority were killed – mainly in the Treblinka Concentration Camp near Małkinia in special gas chambers."

A brief report on Treblinka that appeared in the *Informacja bieżąca* of October 23, 1942 mentioned the construction of new barracks at the camp and the alleged killing of hundreds of Jews at the Treblinka railway station by Ukrainians. It also contains this sentence (Marczewska/Ważniewski, p. 139):

"The death chamber was expanded from a capacity of 350 people to 750."

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country for the Period October 11 – November 15, 1942" (*Bulletin* No. 14) reproduces in the first person the eyewitness account on Treblinka of "a Jew who was sent there and managed to escape." In the account, the designations Treblinka I and Treblinka II refer to Camp 1 and Camp 2. I translate the essential part of the report (Gmitruk *et al*., pp. 272f.):

"After 15 minutes of travel, we arrived at Treblinka I Camp. We quickly left the railway cars. We were taken to a huge square surrounded by a very high barbed-wire fence. This square is located inside the camp, which in its entirety is also surrounded by a wire net interwoven with fir branches. After we were led through the square, the men were separated [and placed] *on the right, the women and children on the left. The women were ordered to enter the barracks on the left, and to hand over their shoes before entering and to tie them in pairs. Inside the barracks, the women had to strip naked, and together with the naked children, they were pushed through a side exit onto the road leading to the huge barracks of Treblinka II Camp. This road is surrounded on both sides by a high wire fence. In these barracks, one is supposed to bathe; in reality, there looms death by gas asphyxiation* [*śmierć od uduszenia gazem*]*. I do not*

> *know what gas is used, but I know from a colleague who worked at Treblinka II Camp for 3 weeks that the corpses have a bluish color* [*zabarwienie sinoniebieskie*]*. I don't know how the barracks are emptied after the gassing, but I know that a special machine that can be heard all day is digging pits. After the women are brought into the death barracks* [*do baraków śmierci*]*, the men are ordered to strip naked on the spot. I managed to join the group of Jews who were working, employed to take away the belongings left by the people pushed into the death barracks; this is done by a group of Jewish workers selected from the daily* [arriving] *new transports. I don't know the number of people killed in Treblinka, but the piles of clothes and shoes are enormous, reaching a height of 2 floors, occupying an immense space."*

The "death barracks" – instead of a single gassing facility – and even-more-so the "bluish color" of the corpses are precise indications of the made-up character of this tale. According to the current orthodox Holocaust narrative, the alleged gas chambers of the Reinhardt Camps were operated with the exhaust gases of gasoline engines, in which the toxic agent was carbon monoxide. The discoloration of victims who died from this gas is notoriously cherry red, not bluish, and after Thomas Kues's masterful treatment of this topic, there can be no doubt about this (Mattogno/Kues/Graf, pp. 856-868).

This account was later reworked and sent to London as "Treblinka (report of an officer who had participated in the 1939 campaign; his wife perished at Treblinka; he remained at the camp five days)." The last page of the original typescript features a sketch of the camp (Document 1) in which two rectangles marked with the number 13 are labeled as "*Baraki śmierci/komory gazowe*" ("Death Barracks/Gas Chambers"; Marczewska/Ważniewski, pp. 146-149). This confirms the false character of the tale.

On December 4, 1942, Abraham Stupp, a representative of the Jewish Agency in Tel Aviv, sent a telegram to Aryeh Tartakower and Rabbi Yosef Miller of the World Jewish Congress in New York, which states, among other things (restoring punctuation and implied words):[108]

> *"Warsaw deportations* [unfold] *since 22 June* [sic]*. 7000* [deportees] *daily, once 20000. stop by October, 36000 remained. stop deported carried* [to] *Treblinka, there everey* [sic] *day trainloads* [of] *Jews arrive, they are stripped naked, clothes given tailors* [to] *be cut through* [in] *search* [of] *jewellery* […] *heaps* [of] *clothes lie about; then Jews taken* [to] *socalled bathhouse, hermetically closed chamber, air* [is] *pumped away, people suffocate. other reports say Jews killed* [with] *poison gas."*

An anonymous witness, who was deported from Częstochowa to Treblinka on September 21, 1942, was assigned to sorting clothes, yet he escaped on the sixth day and wrote a report (no date is given), in which he merely stated that the victims were sent "*do kaźni*" (which can mean both "to torture" and "to execution"), that "throughout the day, every 15-30 minutes, new transports went

[108] TNA, FO 371-30924.

do kaźni", and finally that "muffled screams came for about 3-4 minutes from the torture [site], especially when there were women." The original text includes four maps of Treblinka. The most-detailed one also has a legend that mentions as No. 28 the "Women's road *do kaźni*," and as No. 30 the "Men's road from the undressing place to the road *do kaźni*."[109] 41 sites are numbered on the map and the legend, but no number or legend entry for "*do kaźni*" appears anywhere, which confirms the false character of the account.

Among the reports on Treblinka sent to London on March 31, 1943 mentioned earlier, one states that the Jewish extermination took place in "gas chambers", without indicating with what gas they operated, but it specifies that there were one hundred "gas chambers" in Treblinka (Marczewska/Ważniewski, p. 151):

> *"In this gigantic wooden house, where there were approximately 10,000 people in standing positions, an SS officer greeted them very politely and said the following, word-for-word: 'You have worked too little up to now for the German State, and because of this, the German Reich has decided to resettle you in the Ukraine, so that you work more. You are in a transit camp here. You will proceed directly to the bath.'* […]
> *They finally reach their destination – apparently baths, but in reality gas chambers. They walk, a few of them at a time, into one chamber, and there are probably a hundred of these chambers* [*a tych komór jest pewnie ze sto*]. […] *The bodies are piled up in even layers, a hundred at a time, and chlorine is sprinkled on them."*

Among the reports delivered to London on March 31, 1943 was one titled "*Charakterystyka metód Treblinki*" (Characteristics of the Treblinka Methods), in which three further murder methods were listed: shootings, trains with car floors covered with quicklime, and water vapor (*ibid.*, pp. 153f.):

> *"At the beginning of the so-called resettlement operation, when the technical preparations of the machinery of death were still not perfected, the Germans killed their victims in Treblinka in an extremely simple manner: a machine gun opened fire upon a crowd of men, women, and children who were brought forward, and they were shot down, each and every one of them. A crew of gravediggers threw all – the bodies of those killed, the critically wounded, as well as those lightly wounded – into the pits prepared up to that time and strew them over with earth.*
> *In August as well as the following months, as the acceleration of the campaign exceeded the possibilities of the steam chambers, the transports were loaded into cars, which were sprinkled with a layer of lime and chlorine, so that after the arrival in Treblinka, only corpses of a violet-blue color were tossed out of the cars. All had suffocated in torment in the cars. For these transports (for example from Międzyrzec Podl., Kielce) Treblinka was but the place of burial. From this information it emerges that a punctual and precise execution of the*

[109] AŻIH, ARG, 300.Ring II/297. Mf. ŻIH-800. The handwritten document was transcribed into the article "Relacje dwóch…"

determined plan was important to the Germans. The methods described above were practiced when the capacity of the machinery of death in Treblinka was faltering. The teeth of the corpses pulled out of the steam chambers in Treblinka were examined. Gold teeth and bridges were extracted by means of dental instruments."

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country. General Government and the Eastern Territories for the Period of March 25 – April 23, 1943" (Bulletin No. 19, drafted in Warsaw on April 24, 1943) contains a paragraph titled "The Horror of Treblinka," where we read (Gmitruk *et al.*, p. 323):

"According to information that could be ascertained only recently, the technical installations in Treblinka for mass killings are so perfected that at the peak of the intensity of Jewish transportation, in the autumn of last year, 15,000 Jews were murdered in Treblinka every day. The killing of 800 people in the barracks [*w baraku*]*, which imitates a bathhouse, but in reality is a gas chamber* [*komorę gazową*]*, lasts barely 10 minutes. At a certain stage of the existence of the Treblinka Death Camp, i.e. in the summer and autumn of last year, the corpses of the Jews killed with gas were buried in the ground or* [covered] *with a layer of lime cement.*[110] *During the winter and recently, the corpses are not buried in the ground, but* [are treated] *with powdered lime with the addition of corrosive acids so strong that the body together with the bones becomes shapeless and gets reduced to dust. Evidently for the purpose of eliminating any evidence of the mass murders, the excavation of the graves filled with earth has begun, and the corpses are destroyed with that corrosive powder. From the abyss of these tomb-pits, an unbearable smell and stench is released that can be smelled in a radius of more than 10 kilometers."*

There is no need to comment on such fantasies, which moreover completely ignored the claimed outdoor cremation of corpses. These fantasies reappeared in the "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country. General Government and the Eastern Territories for the Period of April 24 – May 21, 1943" (Bulletin No. 20, drafted in Warsaw on May 22, 1943; *ibid.*, p. 359):

"Also from Treblinka came the news that the Germans have begun to reopen the huge local graves of the Jews exterminated en masse there; the exhumed corpses are sprinkled with a certain corrosive mixture that completely reduces the bodies together with the bones to ashes. In this way, the corpses of the Jews murdered in Treblinka are currently annihilated continuously."

The next testimony of a Jew deported to Treblinka dates back to August 1943 and was published the following year. About the alleged extermination, he stated (Stone, p. 20):

"Behind the fence was what was called the 'camp of corpses' and there we were not permitted to approach. Two young men managed to get over from

[110] This fantasy was also attributed to Bełżec. Robert Kuwałek writes: "At first, the corpses were sprinkled with chlorine. Then, an attempt was made to cover them with wet cement, but the pits' cement cover cracked because of the gases." (Kuwałek, p. 160)

there to our side. From what they told us I can relate the following: There were about 500 Jews working there and eight barracks built for 7,000 men. The naked persons who were brought there were herded into the barracks and told they were going to be bathed. When a group of victims had been assembled in the building, it was flooded with gas. Those outside comprehended… and refused to enter. The S.S. men, the Ukrainians and the dogs got to work… This was the source of the screaming we had heard on every occasion. When everybody was inside, the doors were closed for 15 minutes… The 500 Jews were occupied in removing the bodies to a fire trench… those men lived under horrible conditions, and every day 10 or 12 killed themselves (to be replaced from the healthier-looking of the new arrivals)."

From this it follows that there were eight gassing barracks, in which 7,000 people could be killed at a time, but then the witness speaks inexplicably of one building that was "flooded" with gas: by which gas and in which way is unknown.

In November 1943, Marek Ptakowski mentioned the "electric furnace engines" ("*motory elektrycznych pieców*") of Treblinka, which, in one half year, had produced three million victims! These had been killed in various ways:[111]

"Some transports went directly in front of machine-gun fire. Others were burned in electric furnaces, but the majority were asphyxiated in gas chambers."

Among the claimed gassing systems was also this one:

"Then, when the intensity of the movement [of transports] *increased considerably, the transports entered directly into a huge hall, from where they returned full of corpses."*

The "Memorandum on the Situation in the Country. General Government and the Eastern Territories for the Period of July 26 – August 26, 1943," sent to London on September 8, 1943, contains a paragraph on the August 2, 1943 uprising (Gmitruk *et al*., pp. 437):

"Bloody uprising in Treblinka. In the Jewish Treblinka [sic]*, there were recently several hundred Jews, craftsmen employed by the Germans in various activities, or laborers used in camp work. Recently, they were employed in the reopening of large mass graves with Jews executed in Treblinka, and in the cremation of the exhumed bodies. Some of these Jews still alive in Treblinka created an underground fighting organization. One day, at the beginning of August, the right moment was chosen for the uprising: a part of the German-Ukrainian staff went to the bath. The Jews threw themselves on the rest of the staff, disarmed them, killed about 50 Germans and Ukrainians, then set fire to the barracks. All the Jews in the camp fled to the wooded area around Treblinka. The Germans carried out large roundups in these woods. Some of the Jews were captured and killed, some escaped."*

[111] See Ptakowski; GFHA, Catalog No. 3177, Collection 11254, pp. 188, 193.

According Yitzhak Arad, it may be assumed that "about 100 fugitives managed to get clear of the Treblinka region and scatter throughout occupied Poland, or even beyond its borders" (Arad 1987, p. 298).

This means that already in August 1943 about 100 former inmates, many of them "eyewitnesses," should have been able to provide detailed, consistent and more or less identical descriptions on the alleged gas chambers of Treblinka and their operation, but in fact even after that mass escape, the same more-or-less-senseless stories continued to circulate, starting with the extermination by water vapor, on which I will focus in the next subchapter.

3.4. Water-Vapor Extermination Chambers

All the claimed killing system – engine-exhaust gas with toxic liquids mixed in, stationary and mobile gas chambers, delayed- and immediate-effect gas, shootings, trains with the cars' floors covered with quicklime, electricity, an electric chair – were mentioned sporadically and very briefly in the "information" spread about Treblinka. The killing method *par excellence*, however, which was described most often and in great detail, was that of water vapor.

The story about the water vapor was reported by the witness Jakub Rabinowicz already in the second half of September 1942 (see next subchapter), but it became official (propaganda) "truth" only two months later.

On November 15, 1942, the resistance movement of the Warsaw Ghetto, operating in the underground, composed a long article entitled "*Likwidacja żydowskiej Warszawy*" (Liquidation of Jewish Warsaw), which contained a detailed description of Treblinka; because of its importance, it deserves to be quoted in full despite its length. The report, which was sent to the Polish government in exile in London on January 6, 1943, was accompanied by an "orientation sketch," of which at least two versions exist (Documents 2 and 3).[112] A complete English translation was published in 1943 in the anthology *The Black Book of Polish Jewry* with the headline "Treblinka. Official Report Submitted to the Polish Government" and reads as follows:[113]

> *"The village of Treblinka is situated near the Warsaw-Bialystok railroad line, a few kilometers from Malkinia, in a sandy and wooded area. The population consists of Polish peasant-farmers and forest workers. In 1940,* [correct: 1941] *the Germans established a penitentiary concentration camp, Treblinka A, on the sandy stretches near the village, for Poles who were guilty of transgressions against the occupant, of not supplying the demanded amounts of agricultural produce, or who were caught smuggling. The discipline at the camp is*

[112] AŻIH, ARG 300.Ring II/192. Mf. ŻIH-836, pp. 24-29. Cf. Bańkowska/Epsztein, pp. 357-364; Marczewska/Ważniewski, pp. 139-145; "Likwidacja…"

[113] Apenszlak *et al.*, pp. 141-147; the numbers in parentheses, not included in the Apenszlak's English translation, are from the Polish original and refer to the sketches appended to the report.

very strict; prisoners are shot on any pretext. The camp is as notorious as the penitentiary camp at Oswiecim.

In March, 1942, the Germans began the construction of another camp, Treblinka B, in the vicinity. That camp has become the slaughter-house for the Jews of Poland and of other European countries. Poles from the nearby Treblinka A, as well as Jews caught in the neighboring villages, were put to work at the preparatory construction. That work lasted until the end of April when the central building of the camp, death-house No. 1, was built. (14).

Treblinka B is situated on the sandy hills among woodland.[114] *The area of the camp is comparatively small, some 5,000 hectares (about 12,500 acres).*[115] *It is entirely surrounded by a green fence interwoven with barbed wire entanglements (3). Part of the fence runs through a young forest in the north (25). At the four corners of the camp, observation points were placed for the* Lagerschutz *(Camp Guard). The* Lagerschutz *consists mostly of Ukrainians armed with machine-guns. At the observation points strong searchlights have been placed to light the entire place at night. Observation posts are also set in the middle of the camp and on the hills in the woodlands. The western border of Treblinka B is formed by the rail embankment along which runs a side-track that connects the camp with the main railroad-line (1). The side-line (2) was constructed in recent months, in order that the trains of transports might be delivered directly to the slaughter-house. The northern border of the camp is formed in the forest; east and south the border cuts through sandy hills. In the area of the camp, bushes form a long stretch parallel to the railroad tracks starting in the north (25).*

A railroad-crossing (4) is adjacent to the side-track; trains with transports halt there.

*From that barrier there is an entrance to a square which holds two to three thousand persons. The square is fenced in with barbed-wire. On the square, not far from the northern border, there is a wooden barracks. In the south-western corner of the square there is a guard-house with a military post on 24-hour duty (7). South of the square, outside of the fence, there is a cloth-sorting place (*Lumpensortierungsplatz*) (21), and further south, there is the execution place of the camp-commandant and the graves of the victims murdered by him (22). The arrival square (6) is connected with the rest of the area by an entrance in the north-eastern corner of the fence (8). From there, a path runs through the woods for about 200 meters eastwards (9) and then turns at right angles to the south and runs along the forest, parallel to the western limit of the arrival-square. This road stops at a large building (10) of an unusual shape; it is an unfinished one-story brick-construction, about 40 meters long and 15 meters wide. (When we received the information concerning Treblinka B in the first half of September, this building was about to be finished.) The Germans began the construction of that building after the action*[116] *started, probably in the*

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114 The former camp area is known to be flat.

115 The size of Treblinka amounted to 13.45 hectares. See the following chapter.

116 The operation of relocating the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto.

middle of August, with the help of Jewish artisans picked out from among the Jews brought to Treblinka for slaughter. It is significant that the bricks for the construction had been brought from as far as Warsaw, in trucks attached to each transport. The bricks were loaded in the Warsaw Umschlagplatz *by Jewish workers. According to the report of an eyewitness, the interior of the building is as follows; a corridor 3 meters wide runs through the middle; there are five chambers on each side; the height of each chamber is about 2 meters; the area is about 35 square meters. The execution chambers are without windows, but they have doors opening on the corridor and a type of valve*[117] *on the outside walls. Next to these valves there are large scoops (they remind one of large vessels). In the walls pipes were installed from which water-steam is supposed to pour into the chambers. This was to have been death-house No. 2.*

A path (9) skirts the building and runs along its western wall finally ending at the next building (12) near death-house No. 1 (14). This building is at right-angles to the death-house No. 2. It is a brick construction much smaller than the other. It consists of only three chambers and a steam-room. Along the northern wall of this house runs a corridor from which there are doors to the chambers. The outside walls of the chambers have valves (until recently doors which had been changed into valves for utility reasons). Also here a scoop in the shape of a shallow vessel is placed at the height of the valves (15). The steam-room (15a) is adjacent to the building. Inside the steam-room there is a large vat which produces the steam. The hot steam comes in to the chambers through pipes installed there, each having a prescribed number of vents. While this machinery of death is in action, the doors and valves are hermetically closed. The floor in the chambers has a terra-cotta inlay which becomes very slippery when water is poured over it. There is a well next to the steam-room (16), the only well in the whole area of Treblinka B. Not far from the death-house, south of the barbed-wire and wooden fences, there is a grave-diggers' camp. The grave-diggers live in barracks (19) next to which are the kitchen buildings. On both sides of the camp there are two guard-houses (17, 20). The remaining area of Treblinka B is destined for the murdered victims. A part of that area is already a large cemetery (22, 23, 24). At first, Poles employed in the camps dug the graves; later, as the slaughter was intensified and the need for more ditches grew, special digging-machines (bulldozers) were brought, which ran day and night at grave-digging. A Diesel-motor supplies the energy and its rattle is a characteristic sound at Treblinka B.

The supervisors and execution-staff are small in numbers. The slaughter-house is commanded by an S.S. man of the rank of major (his name is Sauer). The German staff, consisting of S.S. men, are in terror of their chief. The moment they see him from the distance they drive the Jewish workers as well as the victims on their way to death with even greater energy. Altogether, there are ten Germans and thirty Ukrainians.

117 "*Klapa*", flap, trap door.

The German crew changes from time to time; sometimes S.S. men from various towns of the General Government who were active at the deportations there, arrive at the camp.
In addition to the German-Ukrainian Lagerschutz*, there is also the Jewish auxiliary, part of whom are busy at the sorting place for the clothing of the victims (*Lumpensortierungsplatz*), and part of whom act as grave-diggers. They empty the execution chambers and bury the dead; the rest work at the arrival-square. The groups of the Jewish auxiliary service are headed by group-leaders whom the Germans call '*kapos*.' They are relatively better fed than the rest and wear a triangular yellow patch at their knees to distinguish them from the others.*
The personnel of the Jewish auxiliary service undergoes almost daily changes. Rarely can a Jew stand that service for more than two weeks, due to the inhuman treatment they receive at the hands of the Germans. They are constantly tortured and whipped; corporal punishment (25 strokes) is very frequent as well as the shooting of the weak ones who lose their fitness to work. This is done mostly by the chief himself. Every day there is a roll-call. The German asks who does not feel strong enough to carry on with the work? A few men step out of the row, report their unfitness and beg him – as though for a favor – to be shot. The executions take place at a special spot; the victim himself stands erect over a grave while the chief shoots at the back of the victim's head. The next victim has to step nearer and throw the body of the murdered one into the ditch, and then a few moments later, share the fate of his predecessor. These young Jews are so overworked that all will to resist is gone; on the other hand, the German terror is so atrocious that it makes them even want to die so as not to suffer further inhuman tortures. In one of the first days of September, the chief of Treblinka thus murdered 500 young Jews by shooting them one after another with his gun; what is startling is that not one of this group of a few hundred men attempted to resist death. The execution lasted from 7:30 to 3 p.m.
The relatively lightest work in the death camp is the sorting of the clothing of victims. While assigned that work, one can eat to one's heart's content, for the 'deported' Jews took along large food-stocks: bread, marmalade, fat, sugar. But the chief does not leave the men at this work for any length of time; after a few days, he transfers them to grave-digging.
*The gaps in the Jewish auxiliary service are supplemented from among the transports arriving in Treblinka. As a rule, two transports arrive daily: one in the morning and one toward evening. In the period of greatest of the action a few transports arrive daily. Each train consists of a few score of freight cars. Some of the cars halt at the side-track straight across from the arrival-square, while the remaining cars are shifted to the side to wait until the first part is taken care of. The cars are quickly emptied. The tortured and excited throng breathes with relief when let out on the square. They are immediately taken over by the Jewish auxiliary guard headed by the '*kapos*.' These give orders in Yiddish. The women and children are ordered to enter the barracks immediately while the men remain in the square. Looking around, they see a high pillar*

with a poster bearing a large inscription: Achtung Warschauer *(Attention, natives of Warsaw) despite the fact that transports of Jews from many other towns of the General Government, from Germany and the states of Western Europe are also brought to Treblinka. 'Do not worry about your fate,' continues the poster. 'You are all going eastward for work; you will work and your wives will take care of your households. Before leaving, however, you have to take a bath and your clothing must be disinfected. You have to deposit your valuables and money with the cashier (of Treblinka) for which you will get receipts. After the bath and disinfection, you will receive everything back unharmed.'*

In the first period of murder in Treblinka an S.S. officer with a kind, confidence-inspiring face used to come to the square and hold a speech along the same lines. However, when in the course of action ever larger transports arrived from the various parts and the crowds had to be quickly liquidated, the Germans cancelled the speech as superfluous.

To make the Jews believe that actual classification according to trades would take place at the arrival-square in order to send occupational groups for labor, they placed small signs with the inscriptions: Tailors, Shoemakers, Carpenters, etc. It goes without saying that such segregation never took place.

*The '*kapos*' quickly put the men in rows of ten, ordering them to take off their shoes, undress completely and prepare for a bath. Everybody is permitted to take along a piece of soap and his documents* [sic]. *In the meantime the sorting-service men take away the clothing to the sorting-place. Women and children also have to undress completely. Now comes the last act of the Treblinka tragedy. The terrorized mass of men, women and children starts on its last road to death. At the head a group of women and children is driven, beaten by the accompanying Germans, whips in their hands. The group is driven ever quicker; ever heavier blows fall upon the heads of the women who are mad with fear and suffering. The cries and laments of the women together with the shouts and curses of the Germans interrupt the silence of the forest. The people finally realize that they are going to their death. At the entrance of death-house No. 1 the chief himself stands, a whip in his hand; beating them in cold blood, he drives the women into the chambers. The floors of the chambers are slippery. The victims slip and fall, and they cannot get up for new numbers of forcibly driven victims fall upon them. The chief throws small children into the chambers over the heads of the women. When the execution chambers are filled the doors are hermetically closed and the slow suffocation of leaving people begins, brought about by the steam issuing from the numerous vents in the pipes. At the beginning, stifled cries penetrate to the outside; gradually they quiet down and 15 minutes later the execution is complete.*

Now comes the turn of the grave diggers. Shouting and cursing, the German overseers drive the diggers to their work, which consists of getting the bodies out of the execution chambers. The grave-diggers stand at the scoop, near the valves. The valves open but not a body falls out. Due to the steam all the bodies have become a homogenous mass stuck together with the perspiration of the victims. In their death agonies, arms, legs, trunks are intertwined into a gigan-

tic macabre entanglement. To make it possible for the grave-diggers to get out single bodies, cold water from the near-by well is poured over the mass. Then the bodies separate and may be taken out. As a rule the surfaces of the bodies are not defaced; only the faces and buttocks are purple. The grave-diggers, constantly beaten and driven by the Germans, place the corpses on the scoops until the chambers are empty. The bodies lie piled up like slaughtered cattle. Now the burying takes place. Formerly (during the first half of August), the Jewish grave-diggers had handcarts to convey the bodies to the ditches, which had to be done at top speed. Lately, however, the chief did away with them. 'Ein Mann – zwei Leichen' *(one man, two corpses), meaning that each grave-digger has to bury two corpses. He ties the legs or the arms of the body with his belt and running, pulls it from the scoop to the ditches, throws it in and, again running, returns for the next load. Formerly the graves were right at the death-house so that the burying of corpses could take place quickly. As new victims were added, the grave-line moved ever further to the east and the pulling of the corpses to the graves takes longer and longer. After the ditch is filled, the grave-diggers quickly cover the bodies with earth and the digging-machine nearby prepares the next grave.*

The execution of the men is identical. They also are driven through the road in the woods to their death. The victims react differently while being driven in the direction of the death-house; some repeat loudly psalms of penitence, confess their sins; others curse God; but a sudden shout of the Germans and the blows falling upon the backs of the doomed men immediately brings silence on the whole crowd. Sometimes all the victims cannot get into the overcrowded chambers; then the Germans keep the rest in the woods near the slaughter-house. These people see and hear everything but there is no attempt at self-preservation.

This is irrefutable proof of the atrocious terror wielded over their victims by the Germans.

The new death-house provides for the liquidation of 8,000 to 10,000 victims. If we consider that right now 2,000,000 murdered Jews, or the greater part of Polish Jewry, are already buried in the area of Treblinka, the disturbing question arises: for whom do the S.S. intend that new house of death; who are to utter their last breath in the slaughter-house? Most probably the death-machine, once started, will not limit itself to murdering Jews. At present, the specter of death in steam chambers rises before the Polish population; there have already been some signs of it: according to a report of an eyewitness, the Germans exterminated a group of Poles in death-house No. 1, in the second half of August." (Underscoring added)

This report was immediately considered reliable and thus was widely disseminated, both because it was said to be based on eyewitnesses, and above all because it was incomparably more detailed than all the other reports that circulated at that time, plus it was also accompanied by a detailed map.

In December 1942, the newspaper *Głos Warszawy* (*Voice of Warsaw*), organ of the Warsaw Committee of the Polish Workers' Party, published an arti-

cle headlined "*Obóz śmierci w Treblince*" ("The Treblinka Death Camp") that presented a somewhat different story of the "steam chambers."[118]

> *"The description of the Treblinka Death Camp is based on recorded eyewitness testimonies* [*na zaprotokółowanych zeznaniach naocznych światków*], *primarily former local grave diggers* [*grabarzy*].
> *The village of Treblinka is located several kilometers away from Małkinia. In 1940, the Germans established a concentration camp near this village. In March 194*[2], *the Germans began to build a new camp in the vicinity of the concentration camp, which was to be used, like Bełżec and Sobibór near Włodawa, for the mass murder of people, but was to be considerably larger in size. The construction of this monstrous slaughterhouse was completed after two months, when* [construction of] *Death House No. 1* [*dom śmierci nr 1*] *had reached the roof. It is a windowless masonry building, which consists of a corridor, three chambers* [*komór*] *and a boiler room* [*kotłowni*]. *Doors lead from the corridor to the chambers. On the outside, the chambers have trapdoors that open onto the hollowed-out ramp of a large boiler* [sic]. *From the boiler, pipes go to the chambers; they are provided with openings, from which water vapor* [*para wodna*], *after overheating in the boiler, escapes into the chambers. Doors and hatches in the chambers close tightly.* […]
> *This building is Death House No. 2* [*dom śmierci nr 2*], *a building that the Germans began in August of this year, but it was still not finished in September. Death House No. 2 is to contain 10 chambers. Further south is Death House No. 1, where the Germans over the past five months have exterminated 2 million people, mainly Jews from various locations in Poland, Germany and Austria. But not only Jews. Eyewitnesses* [*naoczny świadkowie*] *report that in the second half of August a group of Poles were killed in Death House No. 1. The pits of those murdered occupy the entire eastern part of the camp."*

Until April 1943, the journalist Eugenia Szajn-Lewin lived in the Warsaw Ghetto and kept a diary of important events during this time. She recorded what was said about Treblinka in the ghetto until the end of 1942 (Szajn-Lewin, pp. 83f.):

> *"The worst thing is death in Treblinka. By now, all know of Treblinka. There they cook people alive. They know by now that Bigan has escaped from Treblinka.* […]
> *He* [Bigan] *will build halls like the ones in Treblinka. Everything will be modern: the boilers that are heated by current, the steam-gas in there, the floor movable and sloping. 'There I will drive in the Germans, all naked. Many, many Germans, so that every corner is made use of, every centimeter.' And from the boilers the gaseous steam is conducted through the pipes, the boilers are red, and the steam… a hellish boiling bath. Four minutes suffice, then the*

[118] AŻIH, ARG, 432.Ring. II/319. Mf. ŻIH – 801 (this is an undated typewritten transcript of the article with the annotation "Reproduction from Głos Warszawy, organ of the Provincial Committee of the Polish Workers' Party"); cf. Wiatr *et al.*, pp. 219f.

floor flap automatically drops down,[119] *and the slimy mass of red, curled bodies flows away into the cesspit. And finished, the pits are simply filled with chlorine, and there is no more trace of what was once alive. 'All this lasts only seven minutes, you hear me?'"*

Information Note No. 3 of the *Oneg Szabat* of December 22, 1942 ("Wiadomości" Nr 3 22.12.1942 r.) reported the following (Wiatr *et al.*, p. 271):

"Information from survivors [*od ocalałych*] *of the Treblinka massacre affirms irrefutably and unmistakably* [*w sposób niezbity i nie pozostawiający żadnych wątpliwości*] *that 1. at the beginning of the so-called resettlement operation from Warsaw and places in the provinces, probably because of the still technically inadequate set-up of the death machine in Treblinka, the Germans killed their victims in too-simple a manner: they opened fire with machine guns on the crowd of men, women and children who had arrived in Treblinka, and they were exterminated one by one. The group of grave diggers threw everyone – the corpses of the killed, the seriously wounded and the lightly wounded – into pits prepared in advance, where those who were still alive would die in inhuman agony. 2. In August and the following months, when the intensity of the 'resettlement operation' led to the possibility of the steam chambers of Treblinka, the Germans organized themselves in this way: they loaded the transports of people from the localities covered by the operation onto railway cars sprinkled with a layer of lime and chloride, so that, after the arrival from the trip* [sic] *to Treblinka, only corpses of a characteristic purplish-blueish color, with swollen bodies, were thrown to the ground from the cars of the transport in question – they had all died amid terrible torments, suffocated in the death cars. For these transports (e.g. the group from Międzyrzec Podlaski, from Kielce) Treblinka was already only a cemetery. From the above, it is clear that for the Germans it was a matter of punctual and careful execution of a* [well] *laid-out plan. The mass-killing methods mentioned above were considered auxiliary when for these or other reasons the capacity of the Treblinka death machine was insufficient."*

In Information Note No. 5, covering the period January 1-8, 1943 ("Wiadomości" Nr 5 1 stycznia-8 stycznia 1943 r.), we read (*ibid.*, p. 285):

"Treblinka. In 'Information' #4, we reported on an innovation introduced at Treblinka, consisting of cutting the women's hair before they were sent to their death in the steam chambers."

Information Note No. 6 (January 9-15, 1943) also returned to the topic (*ibid.*, p. 295):

"Treblinka. From the series of macabre German figments: music at Treblinka. As a further demonstration of German cynicism at the Treblinka torture site, we note the following fact: a little Jewish orchestra often accompanies the march of the naked men and women on their way to the steam chambers playing various lively Jewish melodies and cheerful marches."

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119 This fable is commonly attributed to Sobibór.

In Issue 1(10) of January 1, 1943, *Głos Warszawy* reported:[120]

> *"Of the 400,000 Jews of Warsaw killed over two months in the steam chambers of Treblinka – 40,000 (10%) remained alive."*

On April 21, 1943, the story of the Treblinka "steam chambers" was also picked up by *Pravda*, with the appropriate adaptations (Sergeeva):

> *"The Central Death House at Treblinka B encompasses an area of 5,000 square meters. It is surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence. The execution chambers are windowless rooms that can be sealed hermetically. In the center of the camp are ten execution blocks. Next to these blocks is a boiler room, from which steam is brought into the blocks through pipes. Human beings are sent to the central death house in large numbers every day. Long lines of trains arrive every day, completely filled with people.*
>
> *These horrible caravans resemble transports of cattle sent to the slaughter. Upon arrival, the deportees are ordered to line up and strip naked; they are told that their clothes will be disinfested, and that they are going to bathe. Women and children undress a couple of steps away from the men. Then a frightening march begins. Along their way, these people begin to realize that they are being sent to their deaths. The women begin to scream, the children begin to cry. However, this does not last long.*
>
> *The German machine works like clockwork. There are no traffic jams. The guards speed up the march of the column. Those who fall are killed on the spot, the others are urged forward. A German officer stands at the entrance to the rooms. Adults are pushed into the chambers, children are thrown in onto their mothers' heads.*
>
> *The floors of the rooms are slippery. Usually, people fall and never get up again. When everyone has been pushed into the chambers, the doors are sealed hermetically. Then, the boiler room supplies the steam that is blown into the rooms.* […]
>
> *In this way, the population of Poland is exterminated. Day after day, according to a premeditated plan, systematically and in accordance with cannibalistic theories on the annihilation of the Slavic peoples, horrible, hair-raising operations are perpetrated."*

Jews were not mentioned at all! The victims of this alleged extermination were the Slavic peoples and in particular Poles!

On August 8, 1943, *The New York Times*, with reference to an article that appeared in a London newspaper, headlined on page 11: "2,000,000 Murders by Nazis Charged. Polish Paper in London Says Jews Are Exterminated in Treblinka Death House." The subtitle reads:

> *"According to report, steam is used to kill men, women and children at a place in the woods."*

[120] AŻIH, ARG, 432.Ring. II/319. Mf. ŻIH – 801 (reproduction of the periodical, p. 3).

The article was based upon a contribution published on August 7 in the magazine *Polish Labor Fights*, which was nothing other than the report of November 15, 1942. This is indubitably clear from the quotes in the *NYT* article.

On the same day, August 8, a Polish newspaper published in London, the *Wiadomośći Polskie* (*Polish News*), reported a very colorful version of the steam-chamber fable (No. 32 (178), p. 2):

> *"Treblinka. In the vicinity of Małkinia, in the middle of the sand, among hills and pine trees, since the beginning of the occupation, there has been a penal camp for Poles who have committed administrative crimes. It is called Treblinka.* […] *In March 1942 the Germans near this camp began to build another one, called Treblinka B, to distinguish it from Treblinka A. The camp lay on sandy hills in the middle of groves; up to it the Germans brought a track from the main railway, in order to deliver the victims to the torture center itself. The peculiarity of Treblinka is large chambers in which,* [when] *full* [of people], *from a boiler numerous pipes carry water vapor. It escapes from the pipes directly into the chambers through numerous sufficiently large openings. The transports were unloaded quickly. The living were lined up and the dead were thrown onto the platform, checking first with a few kicks that no one simulated death.* […]
>
> *They would line up the semi-conscious men and a short distance away the women and children, ordering them to strip naked in front of the bath. And then the hissing of the whips intensified, the swearing and shouting intensified, and the victims were led quickly and with the greatest agitation into the chambers. At the entrance, they were greeted by the camp commandant, the notorious sadist Sauer, who pushed the women and children inside with a large leather whip with several tails. The floor of the chamber was slippery, the unfortunates could barely stand on it, their feet burned, people fell and then could not get up again, because others trampled them down. And so the strange human block grew up to below the ceiling of the room. Only when the whole floor was already full of people lying down, those who came next could stand on their backs. But not even for long. They fell with any movement, finding the floor terribly slippery, they tumbled. In this jumble of human bodies, Commandant Sauer threw the children over the heads of the men and women; the swearing of the SS came from the corridor, the hissing of the whips ceased, until finally the door to the chamber was sealed, filled to the ceiling with people, who were writhing in agony before death.*
>
> *The steam filled the space, becoming in this chamber the agent that hastened death, which would have ensued even without it – by asphyxiation. A collective agony began.*
>
> *The flaps of the chambers were opening upward* [*Klapy komór uniosły się na górę*]. *Young Jewish boys were already standing in front of them with buckets of cold water, without which the corpses could not be separated. The SS set their whips in motion to hasten the emptying of the chambers."*

On August 18, 1944 Joseph Linton of the Jewish Agency sent the British Foreign Office a memorandum dated November 5, 1943, describing the fate of the Warsaw Jews, but without explicitly mentioning Treblinka:[121]

> *"They were made to undress in a hut, and were told that they were to be given a bath. Some of them had to remain outside. When the naked Jews had gone inside the hut, steam was turned on for a quarter of an hour. At the end of this time the hut, which was on wheels, was rolled by SS men over an open pit. The floor of the hut was withdrawn and the corpses fell into the pit. Those who were left outside were told to fill the pit with earth. During this process one of the Jews escaped and told one of the Polish sources what he had seen. It was estimated that ten waggon-loads of Jews were murdered every day in this manner for a period of three weeks: the total would have been between 40,000 and 50,000."*

In 1944, Rabbi Abraham Silberschein published an eight-page report on the camp of "Tremblinki." This report contains many new elements compared to the report of November 15, 1942. Because of its importance, the document, deserves to be reported in its entirety (Silberschein 1944a, pp. 33-40):

> *"<u>Tremblinki – The Main Extermination Camp</u>*
> *The small village of Tremblinki lies on the Warsaw-Bialostock* [sic] *rail line. The main extermination camp, three times as large as that of Lublin, was located not far from the village. It was at first set up as a concentration camp for Jews and Poles; but in March 1942, the Germans transformed it into an extermination camp for Jews only. They reconstructed the camp expressly for this and equipped it with gas experimental rooms and furnaces.*
>
> *<u>The Camp</u>*
> *The camp was situated in the midst of dense forests, entirely cut off from the outside world, and was reachable by means of a railway track with the Warsaw-Bialostock main line. It encompassed an area of 100 Morgen*[122] *and is surrounded by the thickest barbed wire.*
> *It consisted of three sections: the actual camp; the extermination camp, and an open square. The actual camp has three blocks: a men's camp, a women's camp, and between these two, a children's camp (see map).*[123] *A three-meter-wide anteroom divides the inside of each block* [Blöcke] *into two parts. From the anteroom, doors open into the cells. Each cell measures 36 m² with a height of no more than two meters* […two illegible words]. *Each structure was 40 × 50 m in size. Aside from this, two more elongated buildings, each about 120 × 150 m in size, were constructed later as a men's camp (not shown in the plan).*
> *The extermination facilities took up approximately the same space as the accommodation spaces and contained a dressing room (see plan). The dressing room contained a reception room for the camp administration, an anteroom,*

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121 Political Memorandum. From: Press Reading Bureau, Stockholm. To: Political Intelligence Department, London. Poland, No. 14. 5th November, 1943. TNA, FO 371-34551.

122 Archaic measure of area. 1 Morgen corresponds to 0.6178 acres.

123 See Documents 4f.

and the actual undressing room. The entrance to the dressing room was from the open square. A door led from the dressing room to the baths, from there a door led to the experimental chamber for asphyxiating gases, and from there a door to the furnaces. The furnaces were connected with a railway, which led to the cemetery (see plan).
A large pedestal had been erected on the open square. There were almost no workshops and only a few job positions in this camp.

The Guard Service – The Treatment
An SS detachment under the command of Hauptmann Sauer supplied the guard service in the extermination camp of Tremblinki. The composition of the staff of the detachment changed frequently.
The inmates performed various tasks in connection with the requirements of the camp. They were terribly maltreated and abused at this and had to endure the most inhuman punishments imaginable for every petty violation of the house rules or other mistake. Not all worked, most of them waited in the cells until the gassing facility was able to take them. But sometimes they were killed even sooner in another manner. The Germans shot several Jews on a daily basis, above all the commandant Sauer himself. Every afternoon he had his executioners assemble the Jews who still remained alive. Then he asked: 'Who is weak, who can no longer work?' The Jews made no answer at all to this: whoever had had enough simply stepped forward from the line – and was shot down. In this manner, Hauptmann Sauer murdered 500 Jewish youths, one after the other, on a single day in the beginning of September 1942.

The 'Kapus'
The 'Kapus' occupied a special position. It was these Jews upon whom many important mechanisms of the camp were imposed. Most Kapus had sorted through the clothing of those who had been transported out of this life. They did this task at a place called the 'rag sorting place.'
Others were also working at the railway station with the reception of those freshly arriving. Others, again, had to work as gravediggers. It happened not rarely that the Jews so occupied lasted no longer than two weeks and committed suicide.

The Delivery
Day after day two trains arrived in Tremblinki, completely filled with Jews. Jews were carried off from all parts of Europe to this place; but the main contingent was made up of the Jews from Warsaw, north Poland, and the Baltic.
Every train was 30 to 50 cars long. The emptying of the cars proceeded at lightning pace. Then the Kapus received the arrivals and read to them the camp regulations in the Jewish language. At the station building, the following appeal was displayed: 'Have no concern about your fate! You are all traveling only to work in the east. You yourselves will perform the work and your women will do the housework. Before traveling on, you have to bathe and remove the germs from your clothes. Gold and other valuables are to be deposited at the counter, where you will get a receipt for them.' And really, in order to lull the

belief in these promises into a feeling of security, the Germans had established an office at the train station, where each new arrival had to appear and report his professional training. After fulfillment of these 'statistics,' the people were brought into the camp and at first only sent into the disinfection baths. After the bath they were temporarily sent to the individual cells. There they were supposed to wait until it was their turn. But for the most part, those instructed didn't know what fate awaited them. They still believed that they would soon be traveling on to a place of work. This belief was even strengthened by the fact that there were no large factory facilities in the camp and that it had all seemed as if it were only a transit station.

The Murder Work

But when the rooms could no longer accept new arrivals, the most-senior inmates were gassed. Every day groups of a thousand people each were brought into the gas and furnace chambers. At first, as at their arrival, they were led into the bath by the Kapus. Everyone had to take off clothing and shoes and remained naked. For the further deception of the victims, each was handed a little piece of soap. In the meantime, the work of putting the discarded clothing and shoes in order was performed. Hauptmann Sauer took them over in the reception room of the extermination facilities. He did not miss any opportunity to flog every single person. Then the Germans drove the women and children as the first ones into the extermination cells. Now the final act of the extermination began:

Men and women, old people and children, all naked, take their last walk into death. At the fore stride the women and children, then the men, old and young, follow behind. To impel them to run faster, the Germans strike them on head and body. Now the victims are running, tormented by fear: their cries of dread, especially those of the women and children, ascend to the sky. Now everybody knows where this is leading – to death. The floor is slippery, one slips and falls. But those fallen can no longer even stand up; for continually new victims are flung over them. The children are thrown into the room, above the heads of their mothers. The extermination cells fill up. When they are full, then they are hermetically sealed, from every side the pipes open, out of which flows gas. The death of asphyxiation reaps a quick harvest. Within a quarter hour it is all over. Then the Kapus must go to work. With pitiless blows, the guard personnel force them to perform their work.

The gates of death open – but the dead bodies somehow cannot be pulled out individually: for they have all clumped together with one another and stiffened under the influence of the water vapor.

Water is fetched from a nearby well and the bodies are sprinkled with it so the gravediggers can carry away the corpses. These are loosened by it, one from the other, and it is easier to remove them. Their appearance has not changed, aside from a violet coloration of the head and the back side [sic].

Now the dead are loaded onto the ramp, conducted over a railway to the cemetery in the mass graves, where the Kapus bring their task to an end. (See the

almost identical description in the article by Tymon Terlecki 'Alle Juden raus,' cited by us on page 18 in 'L'extermination des Juifs polonais IV').[124]
By many hundred thousands, Jews from all regions of Europe have been exterminated in this way in Tremblinki alone.

The Camp Orchestra
But the camp of Tremblinki had another 'specialty.' To wit, the Jewish Arthur Gold Orchestra (see plan) gave concerts there, and it had the duty of playing for those who were being led to their death!!!! At the same moment as thousands of Jews were perishing in the gas chambers, the musicians had to play cheerful melodies. Whichever of them refused to do it was hanged up by his feet with his head down. Several of the musicians were seized by madness in the middle of playing. The artists, one after the other, jumped willy-nilly amongst the crowd of people who were waiting for their turn, and they bellowed with voice breaking and face madly distorted 'Frait och, yidelach, ir got zum tot mit klezemer!' (Enjoy yourselves, you Jews, you are going to death with music). Then the German bullets whizzed, and they sank under them to become a lifeless lump on the ground. After this the orchestra was brought up to strength again and the performance was repeated every time."

This account is clearly based on the report of November 15, 1942 with the addition of new fanciful elements, such as the "furnaces" and the "experimental chamber for asphyxiating gases."

The text published by Silberschein is the result of a reworking of two very short drafts titled "Extermination Camp Treblinka" and "Extermination Camp Treblinki" ("*Vernichtungslager* Treblinka"/"*Vernichtungslager* Treblinki").[125] The measurements of the alleged extermination building (40 m × 15 m instead of 40 m × 50 m) and the killing chambers (35 m² instead of 36 m²) also change here. The total number of victims is "many hundred thousands" instead of 2,000,000. The same archival source also contains a French translation, "*Treblinki Camp d'extermination des Juifs*," according to which the extermination building measured 40 m × 15 m, was divided into two parts by a 3-meter-wide corridor, and each part contained five "cells" ("*cellules*") 3.5 meters wide and 18.5 meters long. These two senseless figures are accompanied by a question mark.

In February 1945 the fable of the steam chambers, with other imaginative variations, appeared in a pamphlet in French that saw the light of day in Belgium (*L'extermination des Juifs de Varsovie*, p. 40):

"When the room is so full that nothing can be added anymore, the doors are locked tightly, and the other rooms are filled in the same way. The boiler is then set in motion (all the barracks are arranged in a circle around a central boiler and are connected to it by numerous pipes). Boiling water steam is

[124] This article appeared on November 7, 1943 in No. 45 of the political newspaper *Wiadomośći Polskie*, published in London, in which Tymon Terlecki quoted longer sections from the already-cited report of November 15, 1942.
[125] YVA, M.20/160.

gradually introduced through the pipes, and the unfortunate people, suffocating more and more, end up succumbing amidst unimaginable suffering."

3.5. Testimonies of Former Treblinka Inmates (1942-1945)

The accounts presented in the previous subchapter were explicitly based on the statements of allegedly anonymous eyewitnesses who are said to have managed to escape from Treblinka. But already by the end of August 1942, reports of self-proclaimed eyewitnesses also existed, whose names and surnames are known, which should make them more-reliable than the anonymous ones. The fact that the fable of the steam chambers was nevertheless widely spread, is incomprehensible from an orthodox perspective, but has its own incontrovertible reason in the framework of the Jewish-Polish black propaganda, as I will explain in Subchapter 3.8.

One of the first witnesses was DAWID NOWODWOSKI, who was deported to Treblinka on August 18, 1942, but managed to escape after a few days. On August 28, 1942, he wrote a "Report of the stay at the extermination camp of Treblinka" ("*Relacja z pobytu w obozie zagłady w Treblince*"). However, no reference to mass extermination or killing chambers appears in the text. The only allusion, somewhat enigmatic, says: "2 executions after 15 minutes up to 40 minutes." (Wiatr *et al*., pp. 126-129)

On the same day, August 28, Abraham Lewin, who had been among those who had recorded Nowodwoski's testimony, gave the following account of it (Lewin, p. 95):

"Today we had a long conversation with Dawid Nowodwoski, who returned from Tr[eblinka]*. He told us exactly all the suffering he had endured from the moment he was captured until his escape from the place of execution and his return to Warsaw. His words once again confirm what we know, and reaffirm beyond doubt that people of all transports were killed, and none of them could survive. And so, both those who are captured and those who voluntarily show up. This is the naked truth. Terrible. And to think that in the last few weeks at least 300,000 Jews from Warsaw, Radom, Siedlce, and many, many other places have been killed. Based on your account, we have written a testimony that is so terrible and gruesome that it cannot be expressed directly in human language. This is undoubtedly the greatest crime that has ever been perpetrated in the history of mankind."*

This account, full of drama but without any hard data, confirms that Nowodwoski's account was generic and vague.

The testimony of JAKUB RABINOWICZ dates to the second half of September 1942. Only a fragment of the original report is known, but it does not contain any reference to extermination facilities or killing methods.

There is, however, an important element in the development of the history of the gas chambers, the first reference to a Diesel engine, although it had a completely different function (*ibid*., pp. 136f.):

> *"The lights were turned off, the Diesel engine stopped running for the duration of the bomber flyover."*

Hence, this engine was connected to an electric generator that produced the electricity for the camp.

The Ring II/298 file in the Ringelblum archive, which contains the handwritten fragment in Polish, refers to two additional sources. The first is A. Lewin's "Diary of the Warsaw Ghetto," which contains a report dated September 27, 1942. It states that "Rabinowicz, relative of the Rabinowicz who returned from Treblinka, spoke for hours on end of the horror of Treblinka." The subject of the narrative is this (Lewin, p. 105):

> *"Completely naked women go to the bathroom – the house of death* [*dom śmierci*]. *Condition of the corpses of the killed. How do they kill people? With ordinary steam* [*zwykła parą*]. *Death follows after 7-8 minutes."*

The second source is Emanuel Ringelblum's "Chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto," in which the following entry appears for October 15, 1942 (Ringelblum, p. 416):

> *"Message from the gravediggers (Jakob Rabinowicz), the Jews from Stoczek, who have escaped from railway cars loaded with objects, gold, and cash. Unanimous description of the 'bathhouse,' the gravediggers with golden patches on the knees.*
>
> *Method of killing: gas, steam, electricity."*

ABRAM JAKUB KRZEPICKI was deported to Treblinka on August 25, 1942. He managed to escape after 18 days by hiding in a railway car full of clothes, and he returned to Warsaw, where he wrote two different reports. In the shorter one, to which he also attached a camp map, the description of the presumed extermination plant is very poor (Wiatr *et al*., p. 212):

> *"From the central square a road through the woods leads to the bathhouse* [*do łaźni*]. *It is a small building hidden in the thickets, concealed by a green net placed on the roof.* […]
> *They let 800-1000 people enter into the bathhouse. None of us, workers, knew exactly how death was administered. However, there seemed to be a barely perceptible smell of chlorine around the bathhouse. I never worked on the evacuation of the bodies from the chamber, I did know, however, that it involved nearby pits, where they were then burned* [*spalane*] *along with all the camp waste. But before that, in a small hut located next to the bathhouse, the corpses have their gold teeth removed."*

The plan of Treblinka (Document 6)[126] is accompanied by a caption (Wiatr *et al*., p. 215): from the "undressing barrack" (No. 6) a narrow road (No. 7) leads

[126] Wiatr *et al.*, p. 216. The original is at: AŻIH, ARG 378.Ring. II/295. Mf. ŻIH-800

to the "bath building" ("*budynek łaźni*," No. 8); between the two structures, next to the road, is the "building designed for a crematorium" ("*budynek przeznaczony na crematorium*," No. 9); further up, to the right, are two "pits" ("*doły*"), to the left the "pit digger's shack."

Krzepicki's other report, written after December 26, 1942, is much longer and devotes a separate chapter to the Treblinka "bathhouse," but other references to it are scattered here and there. It states there that the victims undressed "before going into the gas" ("*do gazu*," *ibid*., p. 162); the witness specifies later (*ibid*., p. 171):

> *"After a couple of days of work sorting the objects – the new transports were not yet arriving all the time – after the noon roll call, I was taken away with four other people to sweep the road leading to the gas chamber* [*do komory gazowej*]*, or, as the Germans called it, the Badenanstalt* [*bathing facility*]*. We were terribly afraid of this place. Until then, I had never been there."*

One day, Krzepicki was traipsing around with a "column" of Jewish workers, when he managed to get a glimpse through "the open door of the gas chamber [*komory gazowej*]," a structure shortly before defined as "a large masonry building [*wielki murowany budynek*] that stood in the center of the death camp – the gas chambers [*komory gazowe*]." A detailed description follows, which is titled "Bath [*Łaźnia*] in the middle of the green forest. What can be seen through the open door" (*ibid.*, pp. 173f.):

> *"It seems, as I have already said, that this building stands among the trees. I have now observed that a green wire mesh has been stretched over its flat roof, which reaches behind the building with its edges. Could this be an anti-aircraft camouflage? Underneath the netting, one could see tangled pipes running through the roof. The walls of the building were covered with concrete on the outside. I cast a glance inside through one of the two* [*z dwojga*] *sturdy iron* [*żelaznych*] *doors painted white that was open. I saw a not very spacious hall – an ordinary bathing hall with all the normal equipment of a public bath* [*Zobaczyłem niezbyt obszerną salę – zwykła salę kąpielowaną z całym normalnym wyposażeniem publicznego kąpieliska*]*. The walls were very nice and carefully covered with white tiles* [*białymi kafelkami*]*. The floor was made of red-yellow terracotta tiles* [*Podłoga ułożona była z czerwono-żółtych płytek terakoty*]*. From the ceiling hung showers ... and ... nothing else. A cozy, well-cleaned bathhouse in the middle of the green woods. There was nothing else to see there. Instead, in front of the entrance to this 'bathhouse' you could see a lot. Not far away were mountains of clay and below them – still open, huge mass graves, in which already then rested tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of 'people who had bathed.'*
>
> *As I was told, cremation of corpses was also carried out there.*
>
> *As a further improvement to the disposal of the dead – who knows if only of the dead – a new building had to be introduced, and we worked on its construction. It was said that it would be a crematorium* [*krematorium*]*."*

This text is similar to that of Abraham Krzepicki's report "Eighteen days in Treblinka" as published by Alexander Donat (Donat, pp. 77-145; although the original title is "A man who escaped from Treblinka… Interview with a returnee"). Arad states that the Yiddish manuscript was handed over by the leaders of the ghetto's clandestine archives to Rachel Auerbach "with the task of recording the testimony provided by Krzepicki," who died during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in April 1943 (*ibid.*, p. 77).

The first report mentions only one "bathhouse," which could accommodate 800-1000 people, but specifies that "[n]one of us, workers, knew exactly how death was administered."

The second report introduces blatantly conflicting elements; it speaks indiscriminately of a "gas chamber" (*komora gazowa*) and many "gas chambers" (*komore gazowe*), in the singular and plural, but the relevant building is described as a real "bathing facility" ("*Badenanstalt*"), consisting of a single room, with only two doors, showers, tiles on the walls and on the floor. On the roof, there was a tangle of pipes running through it that could only be connected with the showers. Besides that, "[t]here was nothing else to see there" – in particular, there was no cabin with the engine that was supposed to produce the lethal gases. This description is clearly incompatible with homicidal gassings, so that the term "gas chamber" in this story is a conspicuously extraneous element, probably introduced by Rachel Auerbach out of overzealousness.

In both accounts, the witness refers to the cremation of the corpses, which, from an orthodox perspective, is contradictory, because that cremation is said to have started only in April 1943. Krzepicki also spoke of a masonry crematorium he was helping to build, which also appears in the plan attached to the first report (Document 6), although it is known that no such facility ever existed in that camp.

JANKIEL WIERNIK is the best-known and most-important witness. He was deported to Treblinka on August 23, 1942, and escaped on August 2, 1943, but the first known mention of his writing *A Year in Treblinka* (*Rok w Treblince*) dates to June 6, 1944. On this date, Henryk Woliński, a Pole with a Jewish wife who had been working in the propaganda sector of the *Delegatura* since 1942, drafted a memo "Jews, materials for S.B." ("*Żydzi mater. do S.B.*"),[127] undoubtedly intended for the Government-in-Exile in London, in which he wrote that he enclosed the 21-page text "Rok w Treblince." He mentioned this in passing in connection with the fate of a transport of Jews transferred in 1943 to the Bergen [Belsen] camp, part of whom had been sent to Treblinka.[128] Evidently the report had been compiled recently. (Woliński or other informants would not have waited several months before sending such a propagandistically important document to London.) It is unknown why Wiernik waited so long to write his report. In fact, it was published in Polish in 1944 in the form of a

[127] "S.B." probably stands for "Sonderbehandlung" – special treatment, which is said to have been a German war-time code word for execution.

[128] Ghetto Fighters House Archives, Catalog No. 5966, Collection 23192, p. 50.

23-page pamphlet (Wiernik 1944a), and also as an English translation that same year (Wiernik 1944b).

There exists moreover a 22-page typewritten text with the same title, and also a 3-page manuscript titled "Report of a Jew, escaped from Treblinka, Janik Wiernik, residing in Warsaw, at 23 Wołyńska Street, 53 years old" ("*Relacje Żyda, uciekinieraz Treblinki, Janika Wiernika, zamieszkałego w Warszawy przy ul. Wołyńskiej 23, lat 53*"). In it, the alleged killing facility is described as follows:[129]

> *"Plaza* [sic] *built with 13 gas chambers (bath). Gas chamber 2m high 7m long and 7m wide. On one side a (normal) entrance door. On the opposite side – a flap which is opened after gassing people, the corpses are taken out through this flap. On the roof – a safety hatch used in the case of killing people with chlorine. After throwing the appropriate amount of chlorine, the hatch closes hermetically."* (Emphases added)

The typewritten text, from which I draw the following quotations, is almost identical to the published, printed text:[130]

> *"When I arrived at the camp, there were already 3 gassing chambers* [*komory do zagazowywania*]*. During my stay, 10 more chambers were added. The size of one chamber was 5 x 5 meters, a total of 25 square meters, the height was 1.90 meters. On the roof, an outlet with an airtight closure* [*wylot na dachu z hermetycznym zamknięciem*] *and pipe outlets, the terracotta floor* [*podłoga terakotowa*] *was sloping towards the ramp. The building, made of masonry, is separated from Camp No. 1 by a wooden wall. These two walls, wooden and masonry, together formed a corridor raised 80 centimeters above the horizontal plane of the entire building. The rooms had a connection to the corridor. A hermetically closed iron door* [*żelazne*] *led to each room. The chambers, on the side of Camp No. 2, were connected to a ramp* [*rampą*] *4 meters wide along all three chambers. The height of the ramp from the* [*ground*] *level was about 80 centimeters. From this same side led hermetically closed wooden doors. The door of each room on the side of Camp No. 2 – measuring 2-2.50 x 1.80 meters – could only be opened from the outside from the bottom upwards by means of iron posts. They were closed by means of iron hooks installed in the frames and wooden posts. The victims were pushed through the doors from the corridor side. The doors on side no. 2 were used to pull out the corpses* [of the] *gassed. Alongside the chambers was the electric-power station* [*elektrownia*]*, almost the same size as the chambers, but higher than the height of the ramp. In the power station, there was the engine of a Soviet tank which was used for the introduction of gas into the chambers. This gas was fed in by connecting the engine to intake pipes.* [*Gaz ten wpuszcano, łącząc motor z rurami włotowymi*.] […]

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[129] J. Wiernik, "Relacje Żyda, uciekinieraz Treblinki, Janika Wiernika, zamieszkałego w Warszawy przy ul. Wołyńskiej 23, lat 53." Ghetto Fighters House Archives, Catalog No. 3166, Collection 11261, p. 2. The term *"normalne*" is speculative.

[130] Wiernik 1944, pp. 5f., 8-10; Wiernik 1944a, pp. 6-10.

Into one chamber measuring 25 square meters, 450 and 500 people were pushed. [=18 to 20 people per square meter! …]
They start the engine, connect it to the intake pipes [*Puszczają motor, łączą z rurami włotowymi*]. [After] *25 minutes at most, all are lying side by side.* […] *Neither pretty nor ugly, everyone is yellow and poisoned* [*Nie ma ładnych i brzydkich, wszyscy żółci i zatruci*]. […] *10 to 15 thousand people were gassed every day* [*Gazowano dziennie po 10 do 15 tys. ludzi*]. […]
The new facility between Camp No. 1 and Camp No. 2, on which I worked, was built very quickly. It turned out to be 10 new chambers. These chambers were larger than the previous ones, 7 x 7 meters, about 50 square meters. After completion, 1,000 to 1,200 people were crammed into each chamber [20 to 24 people/m²!]. *The chamber system was corridor-based. On each side of the corridor 5 chambers. Each chamber had two doors. One on the side of the corridor, through which the victims were pushed in, the other on the side of the camp, parallel to the first, was used for extracting the corpses. The construction system of door one and two* [the two doors to each chamber] *was as in the previous chambers. The view from Camp #1 was as follows: 5 wide concrete steps, on the steps on either side were carefully arranged flower pots. A long hallway. On top of the roof on the camp side the star of David /magen* [Hebrew term: star] *David/. The building looked like an ancient temple. When it was completed, the Hauptsturmfuehrer told the subordinates: 'endlich die Judenstadt fertig'* ['At last the Jewish city is finished']. *Construction on these chambers lasted five weeks.* […]
The number of transports increased every day, because there were already 13 gassing chambers. More than once 20,000 [people] *were gassed in one day."*

At the end of November 1943, an anonymous report on Treblinka appeared in the newspaper *Kraj* (*Country*) that has close similarities with Wiernik's report ("Świadkowie zbrodni," pp. 30f.):

"Witnesses to the Crime
From a Jewish escapee from Treblinka, who remained in this camp for a period of about 10 months thanks to fortunate coincidences, we received the following report, which concerns the method of mass liquidation of the Jews in this 'factory of death.'
Our informant managed to escape together with a group of about 2,000 Jews after disarming and killing a part of the camp's guard personnel and after setting fire to the barracks. A part of the fugitives survived. They would be the only witnesses to the German crimes at Treblinka.
'I was arrested during a raid in the Warsaw Ghetto on August 22, 1942. Our transport – as we were told – was destined for work [deployment] *in the East. We were crammed into the railway cars under guard. The Lithuanians who were escorting us took money and valuables from us. I don't really understand how we believed in these work deployments at the time, since there were women and children among us. But nobody foresaw reality. It was only when we were on the very site that our eyes were opened.*

In the camp on the ground, there were literally piles of corpses. We were separated: 'women and children on the left, men on the right.' We were ordered to hand over money, documents, valuables. We were ordered to sort clothes, suitcases and bundles into piles.
After a couple of hours, a transport arrived from Międzyrzec. Then we were taken to carry the corpses out of the cars (this was mostly a transport of corpses). Then we were beaten mercilessly. When this work was finished, we were made to sit in a semicircle and were targeted by machine guns. We were ordered to change places, to go to the right, to the left, in the end about 100 were 'pardoned' because of the random grouping, the rest (hundreds) were hit by the gunfire. This ended at midnight.
In the morning the work – sorting of clothes, bundles etc. or burying the corpses in pits prepared with machines. The corpses were partially rotten; it happened that a hand or a leg of a corpse remained in the hand of the worker. I worked for two days on the corpses, then I was deployed as a skilled carpenter in the construction of the gas chambers under the direction [*pod kierunkiem*] *of Ukrainians. There were already three of them –* [another] *10 chambers were built.*
The killing procedure was as follows: the transport that had arrived was ordered to undress for the bath, and was directed to the chambers. The Ukrainian who stood at the door encouraged those hesitant by poking them with his bayonet, and he killed the recalcitrant ones. After about fifteen minutes, the corpses were removed from the second door. The 'baths' worked more and more every day until February. In addition to the chambers, the 'sickbay' was used, especially for the old and sick. The person in charge wore a white coat with a red cross. Those who were directed to the 'sickbay' were made to sit on benches at the edge of a large pit, and with a blow were thrown into the pit. There were also transports from abroad. I estimate the number of corpses in the camp at about 3,000,000. The average length of a worker's life was 3-4 days, sometimes a week.[131] *About 40 people remained from my transport, skilled workers. Many committed suicide. There were periods – epidemics of hangings. Because even the sadism of the guards was inhuman. There was a Ukrainian who cut off ears, nose, drove nails into the rectum… One cannot imagine this reality of the camp. Not even if you tried to describe it, only a film could illustrate it. We were also mistreated by our compatriots – the Kapos.*
In February, according to rumors, Himmler came to the camp. He began the clean-up. The corpses were exhumed – they were burned. During this period, mass liquidations also ceased. We built observation towers. I was also 'honored' with the duty to build a small house in 'Zakopane style' by order of the camp commander. During this period, we were fed a little better and were not tormented much. The 'liquidation' of the pits was proceeding; 3/4 of the pits had already been liquidated. We had no illusions – we knew that the moment this work was finished, we would be finished too. Plotting began. The special-

[131] The witness survived for about 10 months or about 43 weeks, so his survival was, in fact, 43 times longer than ordinary survival! He was therefore a veritable continuous-miracle worker.

ized craftsmen who worked in the area of the entire camp were the liaison men, the grave diggers, when cleaning up the corpses, 'stole' something several times. Coins and valuables buried in hidden places attracted the Ukrainians. The guard detail was enticed to 'trade,' and in this way their surveillance was diverted.

By the end of May, we were ready, but the deadline was postponed. Five men had specific tasks (assault on the guard personnel, liquidation of the sentries after having previously lured them down from the turrets, burning [the barracks], *removal of the barbed-wire barrier). Our 'revolt' broke out on the 28th, at 5:30. I do not know the details of the fight, because the main fight took place on the grounds of Camp II, where our five attacked the barracks of the guard detail, took up arms and began the fight. We only had tools. The fight lasted about 15 minutes; the camp fell. I killed with an axe a Ukrainian who was chasing me, whose gun jammed, and I ran with my comrades into the woods. In the woods, we dispersed. Thanks to the help and information of the peasants, I managed to get to Warsaw. My personal life is shattered, but I have a wish that gives me the strength to live: that the truth about Treblinka will not be lost.'"*

This account appears to be an early, outline draft of Wiernik's later report, as evidenced by comparing the opening part of both:

– Wiernik:

"It was August 23, 1942 in Warsaw, at the time of the blockade. […] *Order to enter the railway cars. They crammed 80 people into them.* […] *I had prepared everything, because there were rumors that we were going to the Ukraine, where we were going to work.* […] *In the meantime, the Ukrainians were having a great time, their loud and cheerful laughter reaching our ears.* […] *The place was littered with corpses, they were dressed and naked.* […] *The women and children were ordered to stand on the left, and the men to sit in the courtyard on the right.* […] *Before dusk, another train arrived from Międzyrzec. There were 80% corpses. We began to unload them."* (Wiernik 1944a, pp. 1-3)

– Anonymous:

"I was arrested during a raid in the Warsaw Ghetto on August 22, 1942. Our transport – as we were told – was destined for work [deployment] *in the East. We were crammed into the railway cars under guard. The Lithuanians who were escorting us took money and valuables from us.* […] *In the camp on the ground, there were literally piles of corpses. We were separated: 'women and children on the left, men on the right.' We were ordered to hand over money, documents, valuables. We were ordered to sort clothes, suitcases and bundles into piles.*

After a couple of hours, a transport arrived from Międzyrzec. Then we were taken to carry the corpses out of the cars (this was mostly a transport of corpses)."

It should be pointed out that the similarities concern only the content: there are no matching Polish expressions in the two texts, although both are written in the first person. Moreover, they have some differences (the date of the arrest: August 23 and 22; the date of the uprising: August 2 versus May 28, 1943; the number of victims: "millions"[132] and "3,000,000"). All things considered, there is no escaping the conclusion: either the anonymous witness was Wiernik, or Wiernik was inspired by the anonymous author's account. But it is clear that the anonymous witness knew nothing specific about the alleged gas chambers, although the stated purpose of his narrative was to preserve "the truth about Treblinka." It follows that either Wiernik knew nothing precise about the alleged gas chambers in November 1943, just four months after his escape from Treblinka, or he subsequently plagiarized the anonymous witness's account.

In 1945, OSKAR BERGER wrote a memoir about Treblinka.[133] According to this, he had been deported from the Kielce Ghetto "in June 1942," and "two days later," he arrived in Treblinka, therefore when the camp was not yet in operation. On his arrival, he saw hundreds of corpses scattered on the ground; he was chosen with a group of 20 Jews to clean the railway cars; all the other members of the transport had to lie down on the ground in a square and were machine-gunned from the roof of the barracks. After 30-40 minutes, they were all dead, and Berger's group was forced to carry the corpses to a mass grave. Berger continues as follows:

> *"At the end, we were 200 Jews, who were goaded as the Sonderkommando in T II by our dehumanized henchmen from dawn until late at night to gather the countless victims of their daily massacre. Two to three transports daily, and each one brought 5000 men, women and children."*

Transports filled only with corpses also arrived:

> *"On occasion, transports arrive with corpses only. We suspect that these people were killed by gas in the railway cars, because we did not notice any wounds. Their bodies are convulsively intertwined, the skin is discolored bluish."*

After 20 days, the camp commander chose from three transports 200 craftsmen, and the head of the *Sonderkommando* declared "that the large gas chambers should be ready within a few weeks." Then, "this inconspicuous little house of bricks" was built near the mass graves, and was called "bathing facility":

> *"From now on, arrivals at T II were no longer shot. They now have to undress inside the fence of the 'bathing facility' and line up there naked – men, women and children, all together. They themselves have to bundle shoes into pairs. And then, subjected to beatings and maltreatment, which the SS again dishes out most 'liberally', they move forward toward the 'bathing facility'. Those who do not hurry are beaten so badly that they reach the building half-dead.*

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132 "Świadkowie zbrodni," p. 23: "*oni zgładzili miliony*," "they killed millions."

133 "T II geschildert von Oscar Berger." YVA, M.9-530.

> *Now, with a disgusting carnage, most of the victims are driven into the 'bath-house'. Already after ten minutes, the Sonderkommando has to assemble and empty the gas chambers. We take the corpses on carts to the mass graves for burning."*

And here is the story's epilogue:

> *"In September 1942, I and my comrade Karl Gottlieb make a desperate attempt to carry out our escape plan. Between blankets, bundles of clothes and piles of suitcases, which we had to stow in the railway cars, we hide shortly before the departure of the train. We succeed. We remain unnoticed, and the escape is successful. Thus, we could both escape from the inferno of TII."*

This "eyewitness" was therefore deported to Treblinka before the camp was opened, and escaped in September 1942. There were no gas chambers initially, and the killing of the deportees was done by machine-gun fire. After about twenty days, a gassing facility made of bricks, the "bathing facility," was built, in which he, as a member of the *Sonderkommando*, worked on removing the corpses. Despite this, he did not even know how many gas chambers there were nor what gas they operated with. The reference to the cremation of the corpses is clearly anachronistic. I have already commented on the claimed blue color of the alleged gassing victims' skin.

On December 12, 1945 SILVIA KERSCH, who had been deported from Grodno to Treblinka on January 18, 1943, wrote to her relatives in the United States a letter in which she stated:[134]

> *"Tremblika* [sic] *was called the people's factory* [*fabryka ludzi*], *where thousands of people perished every day. There were '4 big furnaces'* [*4 wielkie piece*] *in which people were thrown alive for cremation. The sight was terrible. In a dense forest* [was] *a red ground-level building and 4 tall chimneys."*

The case of SAMUEL WILLENBERG is especially important because of what the witness did *not* report. According to him, he was deported to Treblinka in October 1942 and remained there until the day of the uprising. Donat reports his long testimony, which he introduces with these words (Donat, p. 189):

> *"The excerpts published here are part of his memoires* I Survived Treblinka, *which were written in 1945 in Lodz, and are now in the archives of the Israeli semi-annual* Moreshet. *The full memoirs will be published shortly."*

Although these "extracts" cover 25 pages (*ibid*., pp. 189-213), they do not contain the slightest mention of the alleged extermination procedure carried out at the camp. The Yad Vashem Archives preserve a long report by Willenberg in Polish in two parts: the first consists of 23 consecutively numbered pages, the first of which shows as a header the personal data of the witness, with the indication that at the time he lived in Łódź. The text is interrupted at page 23. The second part has seven pages numbered from 1 to 7, which begins with the sentence I report below. A handwritten note in Polish that is difficult to decipher

[134] YVA, O.33-2117, p. 4.

refers to Willenberg and Treblinka. This text should be the logical continuation of the one mentioned above, but in the archives' folder it has been placed before it.[135] The unique and remarkable fact is that the extermination procedure is not given on any of these 30 pages; the only veiled reference is this (I, p. 17):

> *"After each transport, they took away the clothing that was in a yard behind the barracks. This was the sorting process. After the performance of their workday, these people were directed naked to the chambers* [*do komór*]*."*

The Polish text is only partially similar to the one published by Donat. For example, Willenberg's opening sentence: "In the spring of 1943, we began to expand Treblinka" (II, p. 1), is rendered by Donat as follows: "In the meantime, we continued to expand the camp" (Donat, p. 199).

The following sentences, which are certainly not irrelevant, do not appear at all in the English translation (I, p. 1):

> *"Toward the end of 1943, when transports were arriving increasingly rarely, the Germans began to liquidate the Treblinka staff with great ferocity. If in the first months after my arrival at the camp the number of workers reached up to 2,000 – this was already in the winter of 1942-1943 – our number had decreased to 900. These 900 people were joined by 100 people from the transport from Warsaw that arrived in January 1943."*

The differences are also evident at the ends of the two texts; Polish text (I, p. 7):

> *"We quickly crossed a grove. We crossed a road. There were about 200 of us. We split up. Most of us, including Wiernik, ran along another road. The rest, along with me, went along the railroad and the road. Along the road, a small group of people from the surrounding villages were walking about. I shouted to them: 'Hell has burned down,' and looked towards the woods. Above the woods there was an intense glow. The cemetery of millions of Polish Jews had burned down."*

English text (Donat, pp. 212f.):

> *"In front of me and behind me, men are running. It is difficult today to figure out how many were saved. I presume that about 200 men broke out the route along which I escaped.*
> *On another side, about 150 escaped.*
> *Now I am running with all my might among the trees. I feel a pain in my leg. I am wearing boots, and I feel blood filling up my right boot. The woods come to an end. I cross a highway and am once again swallowed up in a thick damp forest.*
> *Warmth and pleasant odors all around me. Night falls."*

Willenberg's memoirs were published in 1986 in a Hebrew translation in Tel Aviv with the title *Mered be-Treblinka* (*Revolt at Treblinka*), then in an Eng-

[135] YVA, M-49.P-247, pp. 1-7 and 1-23. To distinguish the two texts, I refer to them as II and I, respectively.

lish translation in 1989, titled *Surviving Treblinka*. But even this text displays a profound omission of the alleged extermination system, regarding which it presents two passages evidently taken from the Holocaust literature of the time (Willenberg, p. 52):

> *"Soon the yard was clean and tidy. A moment later, the racket of an engine reached us from afar.*
> *'Now they poison the people with gas', I was told with terrifying simplicity. 'With gas made by a diesel engine'."*
> *"This is how they pack about 400 people into each gas chamber. A diesel motor from a Soviet tank is started up, producing burning gas which is piped into the chambers. The man in charge of the motor is Ivan, the same brute who stuffed everyone into the gas chambers in the first place."* (*Ibid.*, p. 59)

Be that as it may, despite these late hints, Willenberg remains the least-informative witness to the extermination procedures allegedly used at Treblinka.

3.6. The Soviet Investigation (1944)

In the middle of August 1944, the 65th Soviet Army conquered the region around Treblinka. The camp had been dissolved a year earlier. The military investigating judge of this army's Military Office of Prosecution, First Lieutenant of Justice Jurowski, went to work immediately, supported by other officers – Major Kononyuk, Major V.S. Apresian, First Lieutenant F.A. Rodionov, Major M.E. Golovan, and Lieutenant N.V. Kadalo – and conducted investigations on the grounds of the camps Treblinka I and Treblinka II between August 15 and 23. They furthermore questioned witnesses: Samuel Rajzman, Lucjan Puchała, Marianna Kobus, Stanisław Zdonek, Barbara Zemkiewicz, Józef Pukaszek, Stanisław Krym, Cheni Trać, Hejnoch Brenner, Abe Kon, Stanisław Kon, Mieczysław Anyszkiewicz, Tadeusz Kan, Franciszek Wesolowski, Max Lewit and Kazimierz Skarżyński.[136]

On August 24, 1944, a mixed commission composed of the Soviet officers mentioned above as well as representatives of the local Polish authorities produced the first official report concerning the camps Treblinka I and II. Regarding Treblinka II it states:[137]

> *"The Treblinka II Camp was an enormous death combine. The entire Jewish population of all the nations of Europe occupied by the Germans, was brought here for burning, besides many 'unfit' people of other nationalities. The death factory in which the SS men ruthlessly and zealously exterminated millions of people was in operation around the clock for 13 months, from July 1942 until September 1943. This diabolical undertaking ceased to exist only after the prisoner revolt in the Jewish camp.*

[136] GARF, 7021-115-11, pp. 15-43.
[137] *Akt*, August 24, 1944. GARF, 7021-115-9, pp. 103-110.

Dozens of witnesses attest to having seen how up to three transports of Jews, with 60 cars each, arrived in the camp on a daily basis. The trains left the camp either loaded with sand or empty.

Martyrs of the camp who survived recount that they were delivered in railway cars in which there were 150, 180, or even 200 persons each. While traveling they were dying of hunger. There was no water. They drank urine. […]

At the railway branch line at Treblinka there was something in the camp which resembled a fine train station; the length of the platform was reckoned for 20 cars. All special buildings, where people were murdered, were carefully camouflaged on the outside as beautiful facilities. The avenues were sprinkled with sand and bordered by flowers, garden beds and fir trees – all this in order to deceive the 'passengers.' […]

Some persons, who escaped the pyre through a miracle, have portrayed the nightmarish images of the incineration of people:

The Jews delivered to the camp were received by the SS unit. The men were led to a special square, but the women and children were taken to the barracks. Beautiful and young Jewesses were taken by the Germans for themselves for a night. All men, women, and children were told to undress. The women's hair was shorn and it was sent to Germany as raw material. The clothes were sorted and likewise sent to Germany. The victims were ordered to take along valuables – gold, paper money, documents. The naked people were shown to a cashier's counter one by one, and they were told to deposit everything. After they had done this, they were allowed to go on and were led along the sand-strewn, flower-bordered avenue into the 'bath,' where they were given soap, a towel and underclothing. After depositing of the valuables, already on the way to the 'bath,' the polite tone gave way to roughness. Those who were walking were urged on by rods and beaten with canes.

The 'bath' was a house, which consisted of 12 chambers, each 6 × 6 m in size. 400 to 500 people were driven at a time into one chamber. It had two doors, which could be sealed hermetically. In the corner, between ceiling and wall, were two openings connected with hoses. Behind the 'bath' stood a machine. It pumped the air out of the room. The people suffocated within 6 to 10 minutes. The second door was opened and the dead were brought on wheelbarrows to the special furnaces.

In these, important scholars, physicians, teachers, musicians, the relatives of noted personalities were cremated. In such a way the sister of the famous psychiatrist Sigmund Freud, the brother of the French Minister Sourez [?] *and others were incinerated. (Witness testimony of Abe Kon, Hejnoch Brenner, Samuel Rajzman).*

The report ends with six "conclusions," of which the most-important is the first:

"On the basis of the preliminary facts, the cremation of people has been determined beyond a doubt. The extent of the extermination of human beings was monstrous: about three million."

On September 11, a "Report of the front-line press TASS" was issued, bearing the title "The Death Camp in Tremblinka" (sic). I reproduce the most-significant excerpts:[138]

> *"Tremblinka! At this word people tremble and look fearfully around. People who lived in the vicinity of Tremblinka could not sleep at night: the screams of the men, women, and children whom they were murdering ripped through the darkness. The stench penetrated from there. They were burning people there.* […]
> *Tremblinka – that is the same as Majdanek. It is one of the numerous factories of death, with which the Germans thickly covered Polish soil.*
> *The 'Tod-Lager'* [German in original; correct: *Todeslager; death camp*], *as the Germans themselves officially called it, was established close to Tremblinka sometime in June 1942.* […] *By the beginning of July, the first transport arrived, filled to bursting with people – with 'living raw material,' as the doomed were officially called. The camp gate opened to the sound of a lively march, and the stream of living people poured inside. From this point on, this stream was uninterrupted for two years. The voracious gate consumed up to two thousand people daily.* [[139]…]
> *A fat Unterscharführer sent the human chain into the 'bath.' This was a low square room without windows, with a heavy entrance door. A large hose, through which gas was carried, led into the 'bath.' The people were forcibly pushed into the 'bath,' the door was tightly closed with a steel bar, the Unterscharführer gave a signal, and the 'bath-master' switched on the machinery of death.*
> *In the beginning, the 'bath' had three compartments and could hold 1,200 people. The Germans, however, were not satisfied with this capacity, and they quickly constructed a new building three times as large. Here there were 8 chambers, and the bath could accommodate 4,800 people at a time.*
> *The people in the 'bath' died under horrible tortures after ten minutes. The 'bath-master' observed this by means of a small glass window in the door. Here, every minute was costly – after all, thousands of other people were waiting their turn. For this reason, the 'bath' functioned with German thoroughness. Those for whom there was no room were beaten dead or flung onto the pyre alive.*
> *The corpses were retrieved from the 'bath' by a special squad; they were stacked upon rails which ran across wide pits. In the pits a fire burned that was never extinguished. This was the final stage of the 'processing.' The corpses were cremated and the human ashes were brought to Germany to fertilize fields. Even the roads inside the camp were sprinkled with it.* […]
>
> *K. Egorov*
> *1. Byelo-Russian Front*
> *September 12*

[138] GARF, 7021-115-8, pp. 217-221.
[139] In the text originally "up to 7,000 people," then corrected by hand.

Tass Special Correspondent"

On September 15, 1944 a Polish-Soviet Commission of Investigation of German Crimes consisting of the secretary, Dr. P. Sobolewski, the representative of the information and propaganda sector of a Polish institution, M. Chodzko, and the representative of the War Office of the 2nd Belorussian Front, G.E. Levakov, authored a "Protocol of a preliminary investigation and a provisional inspection in the former concentration camp 'Tremblinka'," which summarized the investigations carried out by the Soviet military judiciary. I quote the relevant passages of the report:[140]

> *"The site of Tremblinka lies 7 km from the railway junction of Małkinia in the Sokolowski District. The German criminals built a railway line to the place where the camp was located, in order to be able to bring the transports of prisoners directly and unobserved into the concentration camp.* […]
> *The concentration camp Tremblinka consisted of two sections, which were at a distance of one-and-a-half kilometers from each other. The first section was named 'Death Camp No. 2.' This camp, on whose grounds only two burned-down farm buildings can now be found, was divided into two parts, and a railroad track led to this Camp No. 2. Here, something along the lines of a train station was constructed in order to disguise the actual mission – extermination. A three-layer fence was camouflaged with tree branches. For this reason, the people taken here believed initially that they were at a transit point on their journey to the east.*
> *In the first section of Death Camp No. 2, the prisoners who had been interned there had to undress. They were instructed to deposit their clothing at a certain place, and then forced to run naked with arms raised in the direction of the so-called bath. This was only a sham bath; it was actually a gas chamber consisting of three rooms. In the beginning, the method of pumping the air out of rooms by means of a small car motor was employed. Then, as a result of the great number of those destined for death, they began to use chemicals. About 400 people could be crowded into this space at a time. On the roof of this – hermetically sealable – building was a small window, through which the death struggle of the dying could be observed.* [[141]…] *Approximately 400 Jews worked at this chamber; they dragged out the corpses of those asphyxiated and threw them into enormous trenches which were located in the area of Death Camp No. 2 and which had been prepared beforehand and dug out by an excavator.*
> *In the winter of 1943, the German murderers proceeded to exhume and burn the corpses. For this purpose, they also used an excavator. The personal documents found here, torn into pieces and thrown away, prove that citizens of Poland, of the Soviet Union, of Czechoslovakia and other nations, members of the intelligentsia as well as simple workers, were killed here.*

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[140] GARF, 7021-115-11, pp. 43-47.

[141] A similar device, as I showed in the previous chapter, was also attributed to the alleged killing chambers of Sobibór.

The second section of the concentration camp was named 'Camp No. 1' and was located one-and-a-half kilometers away from the Death Camp. […]
The objects found bear witness to the fact that here men, women, and children of every age were interned here, entire families. The things found, such as violin parts, children's toys, devices for waving the hair [hair curlers], *books and the like, show that many came to this place who did not suspect their journey's destination. Pieces of burned and destroyed passports confirm that citizens from Poland, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and other nations occupied by the Germans were interned here."*

On September 24, the Soviet investigative commission drew the first official map of the Treblinka Camp.[142]

What did the interviewed witnesses know about the extermination system alleged used at the Treblinka Camp?

ABE KON, a former Treblinka prisoner, stated on August 17, 1944:[143]

"I was sent into the Treblinka Camp in October 1942 with my relatives – father, mother, two sisters, a brother. […] *The naked people walking by were struck by whips. They were walking to a building, which had been nicely built with cement. A Jewish symbol, the 'Star of David,' was attached to the house. At the entrance to the 'bath' stood a Ukrainian with a knife and whip. He stabbed those who did not want to enter with the knife and dragged them into the building. The service staff named this Ukrainian 'Ivan the Terrible.'*
Plan of the 'Bath': The bathhouse consisted of 12 compartments. Each compartment measured 6 × 6 m. The height amounted to 2.5 m. They drove 400 people in each cabin. The people stood. They threw the children on their heads. The compartmentshad two doors, which could be sealed hermetically. In the corner between ceiling and wall two openings were connected with hoses. Behind the 'bath' stood a machine. It pumped the air out of the compartments. The people suffocated within 6 to 15 minutes. The second door was opened and the people were dragged out. Their teeth were examined and golden teeth were ripped out. From there the bodies were carried away on stretchers and were buried in the ground. They weren't buried any farther than 100 m away from the 'bath.' People were driven into the 'bath' three times a day. In this way 15,000 to 18,000 persons were destroyed each day. That's how it went for two months. Later, machines dug these bodies up and they were cremated in furnaces. There were no fewer than one million burned.
Later, the extermination process proceeded as follows: suffocation and burning. They were incinerated in a specially manufactured furnace, which could hold up to 6,000 bodies. The furnace was filled with corpses. Gasoline or petroleum was poured over them and burned. The cremation lasted up to an hour. […] *Those who could not walk to the 'bath' – invalids, old people – were sent to the 'hospital'; they went there. They were placed at the edge of a deep pit on the bottom of which was a pyre made up of human beings. The victims were*

142 Reproduced in: Mattogno/Graf, p. 337.
143 GARF, 7021-115-11, pp. 33f.

shot in the back of the neck, whereupon they fell into the pit and burned. So it went, day after day."

On August 22, Abe Kon gave another deposition, in which, strangely enough, the description of the "bath" presents a different element, as is evident from the following comparative analysis of the two texts:

– Deposition of August 17, as just quoted:

"The bathhouse consisted of 12 compartments. Each compartment measured 6 × 6 m. The height amounted to 2.5 m. They drove 400 people in each compartment. The people stood. They threw the children on their heads.

The compartments had two doors, which could be sealed hermetically. In the corner between ceiling and wall two openings were connected with hoses. Behind the 'bath' stood a machine. It pumped the air out of the compartments. The people suffocated within 6 to 15 minutes."

"Баня состояла из 12 кабин. Каждая кабина 6 х 6 метров. Высота 2,5 метра. В кабину загоняли по 400 человек. Люди стояли. Сверху на них набрасывались дети.

Кабина имела двое дверей герметически закрывавшихся. В углу между потолком и стеной было два отверстия соединенные шлангами. За "баней" стояла машина. Она выкачивала воздух из камер.

Люди задыхались через 6 – 15 минут."

– Deposition of August 22:[144]

"The bathhouse consisted of 12 compartments of about 6x6 meters each, 2.5 meters high. They used to put 400 people in each compartment. People stood there huddled together. Children were thrown on top of them. The gas was turned on. After 6 to 15 minutes – death."

"Баня состояла из 12 кабин примерно 6х6 метров каждая, высотой 2,5 метра. В кабину загоняли человек по 400. Люди стояли там тесно прижавшись друг к другу. Сверху на них бросили детей. Пускали газ. Через 6 – 15 минут – смерть."

The underlined words are identical or differ only in case or position in the sentence. Basically, the witness replaced the machine that sucked air from the chambers with an indeterminate gas.

On August 22, 1944, the Pole KAZMIERZ SKARŻYŃSKI gave the following statement:[145]

"Incarcerated Jews in the camp reported that many hundreds of prisoners at a time were penned in hermetically sealed chambers and were asphyxiated by pumping out the air. The people died very quickly – in 10 or 12 minutes. According to the stories of the Jews, the furnace was a pit of 25 m in length, 20 m wide and 5-6 m deep, with a grate made out of train rails on the bottom of the pit, which served as an air vent. The bodies were piled on the rails and burned. The glow from the fire was visible at a distance of 15 km. During the day a

[144] Sverdlov, p. 106. The statement is signed "R. Kon," but it is undoubtedly Abe Kon.
[145] GARF, 7021-115-11, p. 16.

> *black smoke spread. In a strong wind, the smell of burning was still perceptible 30 km from the camp."*

Kazimierz Skarżyński also gave another deposition – the day after the one mentioned above, hence on August 23 1944, in which, like Abe Kon, he removed the reference to pumping the air from the death chambers:[146]

> *"The Jews died in a special chamber* [в специальной камере] *in 10-12 minutes. The pit in which they were burned was 250 meters long, 20 meters wide and 5-6 meters deep, with a grate of rails at the bottom that formed an air vent. The corpses were thrown onto the rails in piles. The fire was visible at 15 kilometers, and the stench of burning could be smelled at 30 kilometers. The screams of the Jews, who were taken to the gas chambers* [к газовым камерам], *could be heard 2-3 kilometers away."*

The impetus for these significant changes is not apparent. It could be assumed that at the beginning the two witnesses had only indirect knowledge and that after the first interrogation they changed their version by talking to other survivors who had more-direct knowledge. However, together with Rajzman, they were undoubtedly the most-direct witnesses in the group of those interrogated by the Soviets. Lucjan Puchała was a railway employee;[147] Marianna Kobus was a resident of a nearby village;[148] Stanisław Zdonek was a former inmate of the Treblinka I Camp,[149] as was Barbara Zemkiewicz;[150] Józef Pukaszek worked on filling railway cars with sand;[151] Stanisław Krym had been interned at Treblinka I;[152] Cheni Trać spoke only about a shooting at Treblinka I on June 23, 1944.[153] Regarding the alleged extermination method, HEJNOCH BRENNER was even less-specific than Kon and Skarżyński:[154]

> *"Each convoy consisted of 6,000 people. The 'bath'* ['баня'] *killed 5,000 people at a time."*

STANISŁAW KON stated that he had been deported to Treblinka on October 2, 1942, but he knew nothing about the alleged extermination method:[155]

> *"The camp for the extermination of the Jews was established in July 1942.* […] *Over the course of 13 months, 15,000 to 18,000 people were killed every day. For about 2 months, fewer transports arrived: for 1 or 2 there were no transports at all. I think that in total about 3 million were exterminated."*

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146 *Ibid.*, p. 109.
147 *Ibid.*, p. 15, undated interrogation protocol.
148 *Ibid.*, p. 19, interrogation protocol of August 15, 1944.
149 *Ibid.*, p. 20, undated interrogation protocol.
150 *Ibid.*, p. 21, undated interrogation protocol.
151 *Ibid.*, p. 26, undated interrogation protocol.
152 *Ibid.*, p. 28, interrogation protocol of August 23, 1944.
153 *Ibid.*, p. 29, interrogation protocol of August 26, 1944.
154 *Ibid.*, pp. 30-32, interrogation protocol of August 17, 1944; quote from p. 30.
155 *Ibid.*, p. 35, interrogation protocol of August 18, 1944.

Mieczysław Anyszkiewicz was only a former detainee of Treblinka I,[156] just as Tadeusz Kan[157] and Franciszek Wesolowski.[158] Even Max Lewit was only interned at the Treblinka I Labor Camp, although he was a Jew from Warsaw.[159]

None of the other witnesses questioned by the Soviets up to August 23, 1944 had more precise knowledge than Kon and Skarżyński, and their subsequent introduction of "gas" or "gas chambers" was even less-detailed than the fabulous air-suction machine they had previously mentioned, but it was to this latter version that the Soviet investigators adhered in their report of August 24, 1944.

This demonstrates that neither Kon nor Skarżyński knew anything about any killing system notionally used on millions of Jews was, and that they were limited to imaginative conjecture, a fact that is moreover explicitly confirmed by Abe Kon in his interrogation by Polish official of October 7, 1945, which I discuss in the next subchapter.

But this also applies to SAMUEL RAJZMAN. On July 28, 1944, he made an 8-page statement in Lublin in Polish that bears the heading "Report from the Treblinka Death Camp. Personal experience." The following narrative appears in it:[160]

> *"After the women's hair was cut, they passed into the bathing facility, which consisted of 10 compartments, each of which contained 700-800 people. In these compartments were even hung towels and the rules of the bathing establishment. After people had been let into the compartments, they were hermetically sealed and with a machine the air was sucked out / at first, then they began to use toxic gases* [*gazy trujące*]. *People were asphyxiated in this way. People stayed in the compartments 10-20 minutes, because the time or the mass of people waiting did not allow* [taking] *the "bath" for a longer time. After 20 minutes they were thrown onto the hearth* [*na palenisko*] *and it often happened that after being thrown into the fire the victims would utter cries, but the German criminals did not react to this; at most they ordered them to cover them with corpses and on rare occasions they would take pity and shoot these people."*

The witness also presented a count of the camp's alleged victims, which shows 2,774,000 casualties.[161]

This statement was published in English translation in March 1945 by the U.S. government's Committee on Foreign Affairs with the title "Uprising in Treblinka" (Rajzman, pp. 120-125).

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156 *Ibid.*, p. 36, interrogation protocol of August 15, 1944.
157 *Ibid.*, p. 37, interrogation protocol of August 16, 1944.
158 *Ibid.*, pp. 38f., undated interrogation protocol.
159 *Ibid.*, pp. 40-42, undated interrogation protocol.
160 S. Rajzman, "Sprawozdanie z obozu śmierci w Treblince. Przeżycie własne." AAN, 212-III-2, p. 105.
161 *Ibid.*, p. 109.

In August of 1944, Rajzman wrote a 16-page report titled "'*Kombinat smerti' v Treblinke*" ("The Treblinka 'Death Factory'"), in which he described this camp's extermination method as follows:[162]

> *"After the shearing* [of their hair], *the women were sent into the 'bathing facility,' which consisted of a row of chambers, each of which could hold 700 persons. In the chambers, towels were hanging and a sign with the inscription 'Rules for using the bath'! The people were led in, and the doors were hermetically sealed. In the beginning, the method of pumping out the air was employed: the people died the death of asphyxiation under frightful torments. As time went by, the Germans switched to poisoning with gas, which went more rapidly. Each group stayed in the chamber from 12 to 20 minutes, no longer, for masses of new arrivals were waiting for their turn in the 'bath.' After twenty minutes, the bodies were already afire on an enormous pyre. Sometimes, desperate lamentation sounded from the fire. The Germans paid no attention to it – an expression of the 'extraordinary German tenderheartedness.' There were instances when one of the Germans delivered the coup de grâce to one of those thrown alive into the fire. Before the bodies fell into the fire, they were examined by a group of 'dentists', who checked whether perhaps there were teeth, crowns, or fillings of gold present; all of it was torn from the mouths of the dead with pliers.*
>
> *The corpses were burned in a huge pit. Cement foundations were erected on its bottom, upon which a grate made from railway rails was fixed. Under the grate burned an intense fire, into which some kind of fluid dripped* [from the corpses]. *The workers at the furnace* [sic] *were changed every two days, and only rarely did anyone remain more than a week at this 'work.' They were replaced by a fresh labor force, which came in with the new trains day after day. In 'reward' for their days of labor, these prisoners were not sent into the 'bath,' but were killed instead by a shot to the back of the neck."*

Later, on September 26, 1944, Rajzman was interrogated by Lieutenant Jurowski. The witness stated that he had arrived in Treblinka on September 27, 1942 and had remained there until August 2, 1943. Therefore, according to his statement, he spent more than ten months in the camp and must have known all about the gas chambers and their function, if there were any. Yet he reported the following:[163]

> *"Dr. Horonschitzki likewise had no access to the chambers, but of what was known to him, he told me the following: the people were driven in large parties into the chambers of the so-called 'baths.' These chambers were hermetically sealed. In the first period, the killing occurred by means of pumping out the air from the chambers; then one resorted to other methods – poisoning by chlorine gas and Cyclon gas. On the camp territory there was a special store of materi-*

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[162] S. Rajzman, "'Комбинат смерти' в Треблинке." GARF, 7021-115-8, pp. 7f. This deposition, mentioned in the August 24, 1944 report by representatives of the Soviet 65th Army, was acquired by the Soviets as evidence.

[163] USSR-337, p. 9 of the German translation.

als with a large amount (up to 15 tons) of so-called Chloren.[164] *Chloren came in blocks, white in color. I saw how barrels of this Chloren were carried into the second section every day."*

A few days earlier, on September 21, Jurowski had interrogated another witness, ABRAHAM ISAAK GOLDFARB. His report became one of the documents prepared by the Soviets for the Nuremberg IMT. It was later translated into German. The witness claimed that he had been deported to Treblinka from "Mensischez Podlaski", probably Międzyrzec Podlaski, on August 18, 1942. On an unspecified date, Goldfarb made another statement in Hebrew and Yiddish of which Yitzhak Arad is the only one to report excerpts. Since Goldfarb mentions "Ivan Demaniuk [sic]," it can be considered certain that this statement was made after 1986, the year in which John Demjanjuk was extradited from the United States to Israel on the charge of being "Ivan the Terrible," whose surname Goldfarb did not know in 1944.

In the two statements, the antecedents – the journey and the arrival – are narrated with significant differences. In 1944, he recounted:[165]

"On August 18, the transport, which consisted of about 80 cars, pulled in [to the camp]. *The cars were so crowded with people – suffice it to say that in my car there were 215 men.* […]
We left the town of Mansischez on August 18 at 11:00 in the morning. We arrived at Treblinka Station at 5:00 a.m. on the 19th of August. We were forced to stand at all times; not only were we not given food and water, but any attempt to obtain water from outside was prevented by shooting us on the spot. We had to defecate in the cars themselves. […]
From Malinka [Malkinia] *Station onward, our transport no longer consisted of 80 cars, but only of 20. The remaining 60 cars stayed behind temporarily at Malinka Station until the 20 cars were unloaded. When the doors of the cars were opened at the station – Treblinka Camp – it turned out that in 9 car 50-100 people each had died along the way. In the remaining 11 wagons, almost all died of asphyxiation. On the other hand, only a few corpses showed traces of gunshot wounds – this was the work of the gendarmes en route. For example, in our car, the mortality was relatively insignificant – 15 men – and all of them died of asphyxiation – because there were 8 little windows. The cars were intended for the transport of birds."*

At Treblinka, the witness learned from a certain Leib Czarny that the guards had fired bullets filled with toxic gases [*Giftgase*] at the deportees in the railway cars!

And here is the later version for the Demjanjuk Trial:[166]

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164 The term has the signification of "chlorination" (sterilization with chlorine), but evidently is used here as a synonym for chlorine.

165 USSR-380. "*Zeugenvernehmungsprotokoll*" of A.I. Goldfarb, pp. 2-4.

166 Arad 1987, pp. 64 and 84 (two different quotes from Goldfarb's testimony). The archival reference is: "YVA, 0-3/1846, testimony of Abraham Goldfarb."

> *"At the end of August 1942, the Germans carried out the expulsion from Mazaritz.* [sic…] *When the Jews were brought to the railway station, the Germans forced 150-200 of them into a freight car designed for sixty or seventy. The cars were closed from the outside with boards. Water and food were not provided. People were suffocating; there was no air to breathe. Before we moved off, the Germans sprinkled chlorine in the cars. It burned the eyes. The weaker among us fainted. People climbed on top of each other and banged on the walls with whatever they could find. The children were so thirsty they licked their mothers' sweat. … There were 150 people in our freight car. During the two-day trip to Treblinka, 135 suffocated.* […]
> *When we reached Treblinka and the Germans opened the freight-car doors, the scene was ghastly. The cars were full of corpses. The bodies had been partially consumed by chlorine."*

It should be pointed out first of all that Arad writes that Goldfarb arrived at Treblinka on August 25, 1942 (Arad 1987, p. 84). This information was undoubtedly taken from the witness's statement. However, in 1944, Goldfarb had claimed to have arrived at Treblinka on the 19th. This is only the first of multiple contradictions. The journey lasted either "two days" or 18 hours. Goldfarb's car contained either 215 people, of whom 15 died, or 150 people, of whom 135 died. Furthermore, in the 1944 version there is no mention of the cars having been sprinkled with "chlorine." Finally, it should be noted that, according to the ruling of the Düsseldorf Jury Court of September 3, 1965, Treblinka Camp's railway platform could accommodate 20 railway cars, but any surplus cars waited at Treblinka Station, not Małkinia Station (Rückerl, p. 217).

This beginning already shows that the reliability of the witness is highly doubtful.

In his 1944 deposition, Goldfarb described the alleged extermination facilities at Treblinka in great detail. As soon as he arrived at the camp, he was assigned to unload the corpses from the railway cars and take them to mass graves. He was then part of the group of 980 male inmates and 25 female inmates who worked at the camp. He always remained in Camp 2, and was in charge of transporting corpses from the gas chambers to the mass graves, together with a group of 200-300 Jews. In this context, Goldfarb also mentions the "later author of the booklet 'Death in Treblinka' Jakob Werni [*sic*]" (USSR-380, p. 5).

Since this testimony is practically unknown, I present the essential part of his account despite its length (*ibid.*, pp. 5-7):

> *"One week after my arrival in the camp I was employed together with 25 other prisoners in the construction of the building with compartments in which people were murdered later. Already at my arrival at the camp, there was a building which contained 3 compartments for murdering people. The building was located in the forest, 200 meters from the platform of Treblinka Station. Access to the building was controlled by a fence made of barbed wire, which was cov-*

ered with pine branches for camouflage. In itself, this building was an ordinary one-story brick building with an iron roof.
From the entrance steps, one first entered a wooden annex, which resembled a corridor. Both the entrance door and the three iron doors leading from this annex to the three chambers of this house were hermetically sealable. Each of these three chambers has the size of 5 meters long, 4 meters wide and 2 meters high. The floor and the walls were covered with tiles in a cement-like fashion. Each chamber had an opening in the ceiling, which was covered with a net. Along the wall of the chamber was a pipe with a peculiar branch and a net-like bottom. This branch was almost at the wall itself. The wall had a significantly sooty area at this spot. Opposite this entrance door is an equally hermetically sealable exit door. All three doors of these chambers open sideways. At the house, there is a cement ramp. This is the brief description of this building.
Once at night – in mid-September 1942 – I and a group of prisoners were given the task of carrying the bodies of murdered people out of this building. I can tell something about the method of this murdering. Each of these chambers was extraordinarily densely packed with corpses. Both the chambers themselves and the corpses emitted a mixed smell of processed gases and burning, and most of the corpses had traces of significant bruising coming from their mouths. During the first period, a narrow-gauge track led to the building, upon which we transported corpses in small carts to the pits. On the question of the building's equipment and the mechanics of extermination of people, it is extremely important to add that in the annex of the building, an ordinary tractor-engine was set up, which was put into operation in two cases: when the chambers were filled with people, and for lighting purposes. From this generator, a pipe originated, through which the gases flowed out. This pipe led into the building through the floor to each chamber – as I said already – through the branching pipe. The second pipe of the generator led directly to the street. That is clear. When the engine served the purpose of exterminating people, the gases were introduced into the chambers through the system of pipes, but when it served the basic purpose of supplying the electric network, the gases went directly to the outside. The engine was operated by 2 guards – the first of them was Ivan, who was called 'Ivan the Terrible' in the camp."

The other guard's name was Nikolai. Goldfarb explains that, before entering the chambers, many people had had their ears, noses and other body parts cut off, and women had had their breasts cut off; then he continues as follows (*ibid.*, pp. 8-10):

*"Now I would like to proceed to the description of the construction of the new building, which was designated for suffocating people, that is, go back to that point where I started the narration of the tragedy of the old house. The new building was built 20 meters away from the old one. 120 workers – Jews – were employed on its construction. In charge of the construction was the German engineer – Scharführer (I no longer remember his name). The construction lasted from the last days of August and was finished in the last days of November 1942. The new building '*Gasierungsgebaeude*'* [a non-existing German

term] *differed from the old one only by its size. It was significantly larger. It was also a one-story brick building. There were no wooden annexes. A road led to this building, which led from Camp No. 1 to our Camp No. 2. Around the building was a fence with barbed wire, which was covered with pine branches. The entrance to this building was reminiscent of a religious institution: on the top of the roof was a sign of David – Zion's Star – and on the sides, a peculiar altar was located. All this was decorated with flowers, so that externally no one could think that the tempting institution was a gassing building. The stairs led to a long corridor with 5 chambers on the right and on the left, with the only difference that on the left side, next to the last chamber, there was a small room for the engine. The chambers were connected with the corridor by doors covered with absorbent cotton and cloth, and hermetically sealable. Light fell into the corridor through windows located in the roof itself. Each chamber was 6 x 6 m square, 2 m high. The walls were covered with lime* [plaster?], *the floor was made of cement. The chambers were illuminated by windows located in the roof. In the wall in the corridor there were special small round openings and little spy windows for observation from the corridor, namely to see what was going on in the chamber.*

Opposite the entrance door was an exit door; however, these were not opened sideways, but from the illuminated bottom up, and they were on special hinges. Near each door was a ramp made of cement, on which the corpses were piled up for removal. The poisoning of the people was done in the same way as in the first building. From the engine, the pipes from which the gas flowed ran along the corridor to the chambers. One such pipe led to each chamber. There were special openings in the roof for the gas to flow out of the chamber. In fact, when this gassing building started its activity, it turned out that the engine would not be able to supply all 10 chambers with enough gas. It was sufficient only for 2 chambers. Then, for some time, while the engine was being repaired, another method of extermination – even more torturous – was introduced.

A significant amount of chlorinated lime was hurriedly brought to the building. A certain amount of chlorinated lime in a moistened state was put inside the chamber, which was then hermetically sealed. The extermination process of the people in the chamber lasted incomparably longer, and therefore was much more torturous. The people were kept in the chambers for 24 hours, and sometimes some remained alive. In connection with the fact that the gas supply to the chambers completely met the 'requirements', this [type of] *exterminating the people in this cheap way lasted the whole winter. The engine was started up in April 1943. This engine was operated by the German named Thomasch and the already-known Ivan and Nikolai. Thus, the extermination of many hundreds of thousands of people went on with the help of their poisoning by the gases produced by the engine."*

Regarding the number of victims, Goldfarb affirmed (*ibid.*, p. 11):

"The number of people exterminated in the camp is difficult to determine. Every 24 hours, up to 5,000 people were killed on average. There were also days

when transports of 1,000 people arrived, and there were days when their number reached 10,000 and 15,000."

In the later statement made in Israel, Goldfarb described the alleged gassing procedure in a very superficial manner, but added a few new elements that he had learned in the meantime:[167]

"At the entrance to the gas chambers stood the two Ukrainians, Ivan Demaniuk [sic] *and Nikolai, one of them armed with an iron bar, the other with a sword. Even they drove the people inside with blows… As soon as the gas chambers were full, the Ukrainians closed the doors and started the engine. Some twenty to twenty-five minutes later an SS man or a Ukrainian looked through a window in the door. When he had made sure that everyone had been asphyxiated, the Jewish prisoners had to open the doors and remove the corpses. Because the chambers were overcrowded and the victims had held on to one another, they were all standing upright and were like one single mass of flesh."*

I will return to the testimonies of Wiernik and Goldfarb in Section 3.9.2.

The journalist Vasily Grossman went to Treblinka in September 1944, during the Soviet investigation, and drafted a long article titled "Треблинский ад" ("*Treblinskij Ad*", "Treblinka Hell"). The 36-page typescript[168] appeared two months later in the Soviet newspaper *Znamja* with the same title (Grossman 1944). In 1946, this article was summarized in the *Black Book* under the headline "Report from Treblinka." It opens with a kind of preface with a description of the background (Grossman 1946, p. 398), which in the original typescript is found within the text:[169]

"Everything written below was compiled on the basis of the accounts of living witnesses, the testimonies of people who worked in Treblinka from the first day of its existence until August 2, 1943, when the rebellious, doomed inmates burned down the camp and fled into the forest; on the basis of the depositions of arrested guards,[170] *who confirmed word-for-word and supplemented the witnesses' accounts in many respects. I myself saw these people, spoke with them at length and in detail; their written accounts are before me on the table."*

Grossman conducted a journalistic investigation, parallel to the judicial one, to which he had access. In his report, he described the first alleged extermination facility as follows:[171]

"The first 3 concrete chambers were not large, 5 x 5 meters, or an area of 25 square meters [each]. *The height of a chamber was 130* [190[172]] *centimeters. In*

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167 Arad 1993, pp. 126f.; in Arad 1987, p. 86, he quoted only the initial, rather irrelevant, part of this text.

168 V. Grossman, "Treblinskij ad," GARF, 7021-115-8, pp. 168-203.

169 *Ibid.*, pp. 170f. (pp. 3f. of the typescript).

170 The Soviets did not arrest any Treblinka guards.

171 *Ibid.*, pp. 184f. (pp. 17f. of the typescript).

172 The typescript has 130, but this was changed to 190 in the subsequent article. Grossman 1944, p. 133.

each chamber, there were two doors, one through which people were let in, the other for the removal of the corpses [of those] *gassed. This second door was very wide, about two and a half meters. The chambers were installed together on a foundation."*

Regarding the second facility, Grossman wrote:[173]

"The area of each chamber was 7 x 8 meters, or 56 square meters. The total area of the ten new chambers was 560 meters [square], *and including the area of the three old chambers, which continued to operate in case of the arrival of small groups, Treblinka had an industrial killing area of 635 meters* [square]. *400-500 people were put together in one chamber. Thus, when fully loaded, an average of 4,500 people were exterminated in 10 chambers with each batch."*

On the alleged killing system, he elaborated in even-more detail:[174]

"Various means were used to bring about death. One was to push into the chambers the exhaust gases of an engine, taken from a heavy tank, which was used to produce electricity for the camp. These gases contained 2-3% carbon monoxide, which combines with the hemoglobin in the blood to form a stable compound known as carboxyhemoglobin. Carboxyhemoglobin is far more stable than the compound of oxygen and hemoglobin that forms in the alveoli in the process of respiration. In 15 minutes, all the hemoglobin in the blood combines with carbon monoxide, and breathing ceases to have any real effect. A person gasps for air, but the oxygen does not reach their body, and they begin to suffocate; the heart beats frantically, carrying blood to the lungs, but this blood, poisoned as it is by carbon monoxide, is unable to absorb oxygen. Breathing becomes shallow and labored, consciousness becomes clouded. The people show all the symptoms of agony from suffocation, and die as if strangled.

The second method adopted at Treblinka, the one used most-frequently, was pumping the air out of the chambers with special pumps [откачивание с помощью специальных насосов воздуха из камер / otkačivanie s pomoš'ju spetzial'nykh nasosov vozdukha iz kamer] – *death began from causes roughly similar to carbon-monoxide poisoning: people were deprived of oxygen."*

Grossman was clearly inspired by Jankiel Wiernik's account, which was already known to the Soviet investigating judge Jurowski (see Subchapter 3.8.).

Similar information can also be found in an undated report, yet undoubtedly from 1945, by a certain JANINA BUCHHOLCOWA (Bukolska) titled "The Treblinka Death Camp", where we read:[175]

"At the beginning of the camp's existence (at the end of July), the gassing chambers were not yet ready, and the 'elimination' of the transports took place in this way: on the railway platform, machine-gun fire was immediately opened on the people climbing out. Very quickly, the first 3 chambers were built, which

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[173] *Ibid.*, p. 186 (p. 19 of the typescript).
[174] *Ibid.*, pp. 186f. (pp. 19f. of the typescript).
[175] J. Buchholcowa (Bukolska), *Obóz śmierci w Treblinke*. AAN, 212-III-1, p. 11.

could 'liquidate' 1,200-1,500 people at a time. But this 'yield' did not satisfy the Germans, who shortly afterwards (in September) built a large building with 10 chambers, which could swallow 6,000-7,000 people at a time. The average daily 'production' was 12,000 corpses, but in the periods of greater intensity, it reached 20,000.

In the chambers, they killed by pumping out the air and injecting into the chambers exhaust gas from a motor [*przez wypompowywanie powietrze i wpuszczanie do komór gazu z motoru spalinovego*]*, then toxic 'cyklon' gas was also used instead."*

3.7. The Polish Investigation (1945-1946)

On November 6, 1945, Investigating Judge Zdzisław Łukaszkiewicz inspected the site of the former Treblinka Camp in the presence of Jerzy Maciejewski, prosecutor of the Siedlce District Court, the accredited surveyor Karol Trautsolt, the witnesses Samuel Rajzman, Henryk Reichman-Romanowski and Stanisław Kucharek, and the mayor of the village of Wólka Okrąglik.[176] I will return to the results of the inspection in Chapter 6.

In January 1946, RACHEL AUERBACH wrote a report in Yiddish in Łódź about the visit titled "*Oyf di felder fun Treblinke*" ("On the Fields of Treblinka"), which was published in 1947.[177]

Already in 1943, she had written a long manuscript, in which she referred to Treblinka in this way:[178]

"The steam chambers [*komory parowe*] *i.e. the 'baths', as well as the 'furnaces'* [*piece*] *are built – that much is clear – so that from the inside of them no one comes out alive."*

By 1946, Auerbach already had access to a range of literature and testimonies about Treblinka (the writings of Krzepicki, Wiernik, Grossman, Łukaszkiewicz; Donat, pp. 26f.). Nevertheless, her description of the "bathing establishment" still had imaginary elements, such as the suction pump, the "tank" of combustion gases, and the blue corpses (*ibid*., pp. 34-36):

"This was a gray-white building with all the accoutrements of a regular public bath in the inside: 'cabins,' plus a few chimneys protruding from the roof.

You entered the cabins from a corridor through doors just big enough to admit one person at a time. The door had been made so narrow on purpose, so that people who were already inside would not attempt to break down the door and escape. The cabins were lined with white tiles halfway up the walls. The floor

176 AGK, NTN 69, pp. 90f.

177 Auerbach 1947. On p. 13, the editing date is given as "Lodzsch, Januar 1946."

178 R. Auerbach, "Oni to nazwali wysiedleniem… (Rzecz o wytępieniu Żydów w Polsce)" ("They called it resettlement… (The truth about the extermination of the Jews in Poland)"). GFHA, Catalog No. 3168, Collection 11237, p. 23.

sloped down to wide, hermetically sealed chutes,[179] *facing the entrance gate. Real showers were set in the ceiling of the rooms, but they were not connected to any water pipe. They were connected to something else: Initially, in the first building, there were three cabins. Later, when the enterprise had proven 'viable', it was expanded. A second 'bathhouse' of the same type was constructed, bigger and nicer than the first one, with 10 cabins inside.* […]

The motor, installed in a workshop near the bathhouse, could be started now. First, a suction pump was brought into play to draw the pure air from the chamber. After that, the pipe to the reservoir of exhaust gas from the motor could be opened.[180]

'A few minutes later,' Jews who had worked in that part of the camp recalled, 'we would hear terrible screams from that building.' The screams of human pain, terror and despair. At the last moment, it seems, when the pumps started to suck out breathable air, all self-control broke, and there was an outbreak of collective hysteria inside the gas chamber.

Later… in due time… all was quiet again…

Perhaps 25 to 45 minutes later, the chutes[179] *on the other side could be opened and the corpses tumbled out. The bodies were naked; some of them were white, others were blue and bloated."*

In his final report titled "The Treblinka Extermination Camp," Łukaszkiewicz mentioned the following witnesses: Jankiel Wiernik, Henryk Poswolski, Abe Kon, Aron Czechowicz, Oskar Strawczyński, Samuel Reisman [sic], Alexander Kudlik, Hejnoch Brener [sic], Stanisław Kon, Eugeniusz Turowski, Henryk Reichman, Szyja Warszawski and Leon Finkelsztein (Łukaszkiewicz 1946a, p. 133). In this report, the Polish judge reported excerpts from some of the testimony; other excerpts were published by Marian Muszkat in 1948 (*Polish Charges*…, pp. 187-196).

JANKIEL WIERNIK (who also called himself Jan Smarzyński) was interrogated by the Polish judge on October 12, and made a brief statement,[181] to which I will return in Section 3.9.1.

On January 4, 1947, Wiernik was heard as a witness during the trial of Ludwig Fischer, the German wartime governor of the Warsaw District, which took place from December 17, 1946 to March 3, 1947.[182] He claimed the following about the alleged gas chambers:

"Ten such chambers were built; previously there were only three. When the chambers were newly built, work began in them as [only] *the Germans could do: normally, systematically, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and, after the lunch break, until 6* [p.m.]. *When larger transports arrived, 12,000-15,000 and even 18,000*

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179 The original Yiddish text has here "קליאפע" ("*kliape*"), equivalent to German *Klappe* = a hinged lid/flap.

180 Yiddish text: "Then the tank reservoir [*rezervuar*], where the engine's combustion gas is collected, is attached"; Auerbach, p. 39.

181 AGK, NTN 69, pp. 31f.

182 AGK, NTN 75, pp. 6-17.

> [people] *were killed daily* [sic]. *From January 1, 1943, 8,000-12,000 began* [to arrive], *and then increasingly more.*
> *President – So there were up to 18,000 murdered per day?*
> *Witness Wiernik – Yes.*
> *President – How many chambers were there?*
> *Witness – Three and then thirteen. These new gas chambers were 7 x 7 meters and therefore about 50 square meters, or 95 m³ in volume. 1,000 or even 1,500 people were pushed in at a time. They were thrown in as long as there was room. Once they* [the Germans] *had enough chambers available, they worked systematically, as I say. When a transport arrived after 6 o'clock, when the chambers were already closed, the people were let into the chambers without releasing the gas, so that the people suffered all night long. In the morning, they would open the chambers … (the witness cries). When they opened the chambers in the morning, there were often people still alive, mostly children of 10, 13, 14 years of age. When the children tried to escape, they* [the Germans] *would shoot them one by one. He who managed to shoot a child was happy."*

Wiernik further stated that "in late January or early February 1943, Himmler arrived. He was accompanied by three people in military uniforms," one of whom was Ludwig Leist, at that time mayor of Warsaw, who was a co-defendant during the Fischer Trial.

Defense attorney Sliwowski then asked the witness why, in his booklet *A Year in Treblinka*, he did not mention Leist's presence when reporting on Himmler's visit to Treblinka. Wiernik replied:

> *"This was a surprise to me. I didn't know Leist, I see him now for the first time.*
> *President – Does the witness know him by sight?*
> *Witness – Yes."*

Meaning that he did not know Leist's name, but that he had recognized him in the dock. In his booklet, Wiernik had written in this regard (Wiernik 1944a, p. 13):

> *"It was the time when Katyn was a topic* [of conversation] *for the Germans. It was useful as propaganda. Once by chance we happened upon a newspaper and we believed these atrocities. At this same time, it seems, under the influence of these same events, Himmler arrived at Treblinka and gave orders to burn all the bodies of those killed."*

In the 1947 interrogation, the witness stated:

> *"I will talk more about how the burning was done. At first, the corpses were thrown into pits, until February* [of 1943], *there were already more than 2.5 million corpses. When Himmler visited the camp and gave the order to exhume and burn all the corpses, even dredgers* [*bagry*] *arrived, the pits began to be opened, railroad tracks were placed on metal supports, the corpses were placed on top, and the fire was lit."*

Previously, he merely stated that the Germans had exterminated "millions" (Wiernik 1944a, p. 22). The figure of 2,500,000 is more than three times the figure currently in vogue: about 781,000 (see Subchapter 7.1.).

Several partially burned documents concerning proposals for promotions of certain German leaders of the Reinhardt Camps suggest that Himmler visited Sobibór Camp on February 12, 1943.[183]

A letter from the *SS-Hauptamt, Personalhauptamt* (SS Main Office, Main Office Human Resources) in Berlin concerning Christian Wirth, undated but probably from April 1943, states (Friedlander/Milton, 1992, Doc. 432, p. 340):

> *"After an inspection of Sobibor Camp, where W. is currently working, the Reichsführer SS has agreed to a promotion…"*

On May 22, 1943 the SS and Police Leader in the Lublin District, Globocnik, wrote to the SS Main Office Human Resources that the men proposed for promotion did not have police ranks but ranks of the general SS, "and these [promotions] were granted to them by the RF-SS personally on the occasion of his last visit and detailed inspection of all facilities on February 12, 43" (*ibid.*, Doc. 435, p. 343). A little later, Globocnik again mentioned a visit by Himmler to all the installations of "Operation Reinhardt" ("after his thorough inspection of all installations of Operation 'Reinhard'"; *ibid.*, p. 344).

In a letter to the RSHA, probably written by the SS Main Office Human Resources, it is reported that, "after a visit to Sobibor Camp, the Reichsführer SS agreed to a promotion…" (*ibid.*, Doc. 438, p. 348).

Finally, the *Adjutantur* (the aide-de-camp's office) of the Reichsführer SS advised the SS Main Office Human Resources on August 19, 1943 as follows (*ibid.*, Doc. 439, p. 349):

> *"During his last visit to Lublin on February 2, 1943, the Reichsführer SS ordered the promotion of…"*

Himmler's visit is also mentioned in Globocnik's letter to the head of the SS Main Office Human Resources, SS *Gruppenführer* Maximilian von Herff (Berenstein, p. 301):

> *"On the occasion of his visit in March, the Reichsführer SS visited facilities of Operation 'Reinhard'…"*

Himmler's visit to Sobibór on February 12, 1943 is therefore documented. But did he also visit Treblinka?

To get a definite answer, one has to look at Himmler's service diary (*Diensttagebuch*) of 1943. The entry of February 12 informs us that Himmler, accompanied by three SS officers – SS *Hauptsturmführer* Grothmann, SS *Obersturmführer* Kiermaier and SS *Oberscharführer* Koch – departed from Lötzen Airport (East Prussia) at 10.30 a.m. and landed in Lublin at 12:00 p.m., where he was met by SS *Obergruppenführer* Krüger and SS *Gruppenführer*

[183] Some promotions to SS ranks encountered bureaucratic obstacles because the persons to be promoted did not belong to the SS, but to the police (*Kriminalpolizei*).

Globocnik. After "lunch at the airport hotel" ("*Essen im Flughafenhotel*"), he left at 12:30 p.m. "by car to Cholm" ("*mit Wagen nach Cholm*"). This was followed at 2:00 p.m. by the "departure from Cholm by special train to the SS Sonderkommando ("*Start von Cholm mit Sonderzug zum SS-Sonderkommando*"), then from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. by the "inspection of the SS Sonderkommando" ("*Besichtigung des SS-Sonderkommandos*"). At 4:00 p.m. "return trip to Cholm" ("*Rückfahrt nach Cholm*"), and finally, between 17:00 and 18:30, "return trip by car to Lublin" ("*Rückfahrt mit Wagen nach Lublin*").[184] The next day at 10:00, Himmler left for Lublin Airport ("*Fahrt zum Flughafen*"), where his plane took off at 10:30 ("Start Lublin"); after landing at 12.30 p.m. in Rastenburg, he drove to the Hitler's headquarters ("*Landung Rastenburg; Fahrt zur Wolfsschanze*").[185]

Neither these nor the following entries contain any reference to a visit of the Reichsführer SS to Treblinka, which therefore never took place.

The testimonies to this effect are therefore unfounded: Himmler never visited Treblinka, and the "eyewitnesses" who saw him with their own eyes lied through their teeth, starting with Wiernik.

When Wiernik wrote his booklet, he reported practically nothing about Himmler's alleged visit. From the related account I quoted earlier it appears that he reported mere rumors, but did not see the Reichsführer SS himself. In his 1947 interrogation, however, he claimed to have seen both Himmler and Leist:[186]

> *"I saw Leist in the company of Himmler, I do not remember exactly whether it was at the beginning of February 1941* [sic] *or in December; I declare one hundred percent that he was with Himmler /he points at him with his finger."*

It is clear that Wiernik had to implicate the defendant Leist in some way, so he embroidered the story of Himmler's visit according to the fable, widespread in the immediate post-war period, that the discovery of the mass graves near Katyn induced the Reichsführer SS to give the order for the exhumation-cremation of the corpses of those allegedly gassed. But this discovery occurred only on April 13, 1943, one or two months *after* his alleged visit to Treblinka.

Wiernik further exaggerated the capacity of the alleged gas chambers – 1,000-1,500 persons at a time on 49 square meters. In his booklet, as I have shown earlier, he claimed 1,000-1,200 persons per chamber, so that the upper limit of the claimed density was 30 persons per square meter!

On October 9, 1945, SAMUEL RAJZMAN made detailed statements about various aspects of the camp's operation, but said nothing about the essential one of the gas chambers. He spoke vaguely of a road leading "to the gas chambers" ("*do komór gazowych*") and of chambers, pits and hearths (*komory*, *doły*,

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184 Uhl *et al*., Chapter "Januar bis März 1943", entry "Freitag, 12. Februar 1943". Original: NARA, T 84, Roll 25, February 12, 1943.

185 *Ibid.*, "Sonnabend, 13. Februar 1943."

186 AGK, NTN 75, p. 12.

paleniska) which were allegedly located in the camp's second sector.[187] His other claims are disproportionate and unbelievable. According to him, the Jewish service personnel ranged from 500 to 800 people.

> *"During my stay, several tens of thousands of people passed through this group (constant changes* [with people coming] *from the new transports), of whom at least 25,000 were killed or died of wasting away."*

Rajzman arrived at Treblinka on September 28, 1942 and escaped on August 2, so that his stay at the camp lasted a little more than ten months. In this period, at least 25,000 Jewish staff members allegedly perished, which means that, during this entire period of time, the staff was completely replaced no less than (25,000 ÷ 800 =) 31 times! Of course, Rajzman miraculously escaped death every time.

According to anecdotal evidence of the time, the witness asserted:

> *"I am convinced that Himmler made a visit to the camp in February 1943, arriving by airplane and landing near the camp. I also assume that in March 1943 the camp was visited by Governor Frank. SS generals made constant visits, and were shown the entire camp and its operation."*

Rajzman was also questioned at the Nuremberg IMT, during the afternoon session of February 27, 1946. In the transcript of the hearing, the interrogation, conducted by the tribunal's president, covers six pages.[188] He repeatedly spoke of "gas chambers," but never explained how they were structured and how they worked, and no one asked him. The president was only interested in secondary issues:[189]

> *"*[Rajzman] *The workers immediately took up all the clothes and hauled them to barracks, and the people then were obliged to go out to the gas chambers naked.*
>
> [President] *I would like you explain how the Germans called the gas chambers?*
>
> [Rajzman] *This street was called Himmelfahrt Street; that is to say, Ascension Street; that is to say, the road to heaven."*

The questioning continued wearily, but seemingly with some doubt on the part of the presiding judge:[190]

> *"*[Rajzman] *The procedure of undressing and introduction into the gas chambers lasted, for the men, about 10 minutes, and for the women not more than 15 minutes. The women lasted 15 minutes because before they went to the gas chambers their hair was cut off.*

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187 AGK, NTN 59, pp. 13-15.

188 Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal in the matter of The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al., Defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany, on 27 February 1946, 1400-1700, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding, pp. 5097-5102.

189 *Ibid*., p. 5097.

190 *Ibid*., p. 5098.

The President: Do you mean that there was only 10 minutes between the time that [they] *were landed out of the trucks and the time they were put into the gas chamber?*
The witness: As far as men were concerned, I am sure it did not last long than 10 minutes."

This implies, moreover, that the haircuts of all women entering a "gas chamber" lasted only five minutes! The interrogation also fleetingly touched on the subject of the "gas chambers", but Rajzman evaded one of the very few important questions asked of him:[191]

"[The President] *Tell, us, Witness, how many persons were exterminated in the camp on an average daily?*
[Rajzman] *On an average I believe they killed ten to twelve thousand persons daily.*
[The President] *In how many gas chambers did the killing take place?*
[Rajzman] *At first there were only three gas chambers, but then they built more gas chambers. It was planned to increase this number to twenty-five.*
[The President] *But how do you know that? Why do you say, Witness, that they planned to increase the number of the gas chambers?*
[Rajzman] *Because all the building material had been brought and put in the square. I asked, 'Why? – there are no more Jews' and I was told that they would bring other nationalities."*

However, this does not explain the number – 25 "gas chambers" – and it is clear that the witness did not know what to say about the alleged new killing building.

It is not apparent why the Soviet prosecution preferred this witness over Abraham Isaak Goldfarb, who only two years earlier had given a far-more-detailed deposition.

Also in 1946, Rajzmann wrote a long essay titled "My Stay at Treblinka" ("*Mój pobyt w Treblince*"), which covers eight and a half pages in the printed version (Blumental, pp. 182-190). Although he claimed in this essay that 25,000 people were exterminated in Treblinka daily (*ibid*., p. 186), he did not describe any extermination system, and made no mention of the alleged death chambers.

By the 1950s, Rajzman had happily associated himself with the official version of the 'gas chambers,' but he remained quite silent about the details. In his report, published in English by Donat, he contents himself with the following remarks:[192]

"The women had to line up, and all their hair was clipped off. It was destined for use in German mattresses. Naked, they went the road of no return, into the gas chambers. While they undressed and walked into the gas chambers, the

[191] *Ibid*., p. 5102.
[192] Donat, p. 232. Donat states that this text is based on an English translation by a certain Howard Roiter of an eyewitness report given by Rajzman in Yiddish and recorded on tape (p. 251). The date is not given, but on p. 250, the witness mentions 1950.

> *Germans hit them very hard; many died from the beatings alone. Everybody was pushing to get to the gas chamber fast, because the Ukrainians and the Germans were beating them so hard. Everybody was stampeding forward. The whole place was covered with blood. People didn't know that it would be the end there; the idea was simply to get out of the place where they were beating you. And in doing that, they went straight into the gas chambers."*

In these few sentences, Rajzman thus mentions the "gas chambers" four times, but spares not a word as to their structure and manner of functioning.

STANISŁAW KON, who had been deported to Treblinka on October 1, 1942 and assigned to collecting the clothes of the alleged victims in Camp 2, testified on October 7, 1945.[193] Although Kon mentioned nothing about the killing system during his interrogation of August 18, 1944 (see previous subchapter), this changed during his actual testimony on trial, where he mentioned the two alleged killing systems then-most-in-vogue among the rumor-mongering witnesses:

> *"As for the chambers, I saw them from a distance while working on palisade repair. They looked like sheds. Above them was the star of Zion and, as I heard, the word 'Judenstaat'* [Jewish State] *was posted. The shed was set on high concrete foundations, so it was accessed by a few steps. Inside there were concrete chambers on either side of a corridor,* [from] *where each chamber was entered through hermetically sealable doors. On the outside, each chamber had a liftable shutter that was raised after the people had been killed, so that a considerable portion of the corpses fell out by force of gravity. The individual chambers were so full of people that the doors were closed with great force. The killing itself was done by pumping* [extraction] *of air or by the introduction of exhaust gas* [przez wypompowanie powietrza lub puszczanie gazu spalinowego]. *I do know, however, that near the shed* [*obok szopy*] *an engine was installed. I do not know whether it was for pumping* [out] *air or for the production and introduction of exhaust gas."*

Kon described the beginnings of the alleged exterminating activity by appealing to one of the fanciful themes then in vogue:

> *"As far as I know, the extermination of Jews in Treblinka began in June 1942; then there was an initial period in which people were killed with machine guns and buried with their clothes. Often, during work on the camp grounds, pits full of dressed corpses were found."*

And finally, here is the inevitable reference to Himmler:

> *"Comrades recounted that Himmler visited* [the camp] *in March 1943, and supposedly gave the strict order to burn all the corpses."*

ABE KON was interrogated on October 9, 1945 (pp. 16f.). He was deported to Treblinka on October 2, 1945 from Częstochowa, in a transport of 60 railway

[193] AGK, NTN 69, pp. 4-6. Subsequent page numbers from there, unless mentioned otherwise.

cars with 100 persons in each. Upon arrival, he was selected as part of a group of 60 persons to sort clothes.

> *"Two weeks after arriving at the camp, I had the opportunity to speak with a bricklayer who had worked on the construction of the chambers built during the camp's initial organizational period, and who had managed to get into the camp's first part. He said that there was a total of 12 chambers, made of concrete, with a corridor system. From the corridor, narrow doors led to individual chambers, but on the outside walls there were shutters* [*klapy*] *for the removal of corpses. They killed by extracting the air from the chambers* [*przez wyciągania powietrza z komór*]*."*

Thus, the witness reverted to the version of his Soviet interrogation of August 17, 1944. On that occasion, he had also stated that "for two months" 15,000-18,000 people a day were killed at Treblinka, or about 900,000-1,080,000. But to Judge Łukaszkiewicz, he said:

> *"From the time of my arrival to December 1942, an average of three transports of 60 wagons each arrived at the camp non-stop,"*

and, from his description of these transports, it is to be understood that each car contained 100 people. Therefore: 18,000 deportees per day for three months (October-December 1942), that is, 1,656,000.

Apparently, Kon knew nothing about any visit of Himmler to Treblinka, because regarding visits he stated merely:

> *"At the camp, there were often visits from generals, among them, in particular a general of small stature, slender, came often from Lublin."*

HEJNOCH BRENER, questioned on October 9, 1945 (pp. 20f.), stated that he had arrived at Treblinka from Koniecpol on October 15, 1942 with a transport of 60 railway cars, each with 180-200 persons. (The interrogation protocol incorrectly gives 1943 as the year of arrival). As soon as he arrived at the camp, he was picked as part of a group of 200 men who were temporarily assigned to sort clothes. By a stroke of luck, he was able to join the group of permanent workers who performed the sorting.

> *"On the third or fourth day after arrival, I was assigned to the group of barbers who were obliged to cut the women's hair before death. On the very first day of this group's work, we were sent to the so-called Lager 2 (there were chambers, pits and staff barracks), where a barbers' room was set up in one of the chambers intended for the extermination of persons. At that time, I had the opportunity to observe the arrangement of the chambers, as I worked during the liquidation of the victims of a 60-car transport. The chambers were located in a long building, they were made of concrete, the access to the chambers was from a corridor through small doors* [*małe drzwiczki*]*. There were two holes in the ceiling to pump the air out (people were killed by pumping the air out with a motor located next to the chambers)* [*W suficie były dwa otwory, którymi wypompowano powietrze (zabijano ludzi przez wypompywanie powietrza motorem, umieszczonym obok komór)*]*. The floor of the chambers was sloped to-*

ward the outer walls, in which raised [liftable] *shutters were located. After the killing (it took about 15 minutes after the chambers were closed) the shutters were lifted, and the bodies fell out lifelessly, from where they were taken to the pits."*

There were 16 benches in the chamber-turned-"barbershop," with four to five barbers working at each bench. This means at least 64 places to sit, and as many barbers working concurrently. If the rooms measured 7 m × 7 m (= 49 m²), as Wiernik claimed, and if a bench was 3 m long and 40 cm wide, two benches could fit side-by-side in that chamber, with 8 rows of them taking up (8 × 0.4 m =) 2.4 meters of space, leaving ([7 m – 2.4 m] ÷ 9) 42 cm of space in front and behind each row of benches, which is barely enough room for the legs of the women sitting on them, let alone for any barbers to move around cutting hair. The number of benches and barbers therefore made no sense, but Brener, being a self-proclaimed eyewitness to this set-up, should have known precisely. This rather silly idea of transforming a gas chamber into a barber-shop was later taken up and developed by the notorious impostor Abraham Bomba.[194]

Brener provided further details:

"As far as I know, all the rooms were of the same size, and each held over 400 people."

But Wiernik claimed that each chamber contained between 1,000 and 1,500 people! Brener further specified that the burning of the corpses began about six weeks after his arrival (October 15, 1942), which brings us to the end of December, hence two months *before* Himmler's alleged visit to Treblinka and his alleged order to exhume and burn the buried corpses. Of this alleged visit, however, Brener knew nothing, because on visits by outsiders he only stated:

"During my stay at the camp, there were frequent visits from SS generals, who were shown the entire camp and the system of exterminating people."

OSKAR STRAWCZYŃSKI, who was questioned on October 7, 1945 (pp. 7-10), stated that he had arrived in Treblinka on October 5, 1942 with a transport of 60 railway cars, each carrying 150 people from Częstochowa. Fifty young men, including the witness, were selected for work at the camp.

On the alleged gas chambers, he reported that "in the hut where the women undressed, there were roughly a dozen (*kilkunastu*) barbers who immediately cut the women's hair," which contradicts Brener's silly claim that this took place in one of the gas chambers. The witness's claims about the alleged gas chambers are all from hearsay:

"From the accounts of Hersz Jabłkowski, who was a blacksmith and came from Stoczek Węgrowski, I know what the gas chambers looked like. Jabłkowski worked on the gas chambers, and then for some time he was in our group (I

[194] Robert Faurisson drew attention to this false witness already in 1985 (Faurisson 1985). See also Smith 2003; Kues 2009b.

clarify that Jabłkowski was brought to the camp early, in May 1942, and at that time the camp was not yet thoroughly set up, so he could be in the first part of the camp, although he worked on the construction of the chambers in the second part). From his account it appears that there were concrete chambers on high concrete foundations, square-shaped, about 3 meters on each side [*betonowe komory o boku około 3-ech metrów, kwadratowe*],[195] *the floor was actually tiled. During the construction, showers were installed on the ceiling, but they were not connected to any water pipe, and Jabłkowski said that, when he was working on the construction, he asked the German overseer why the showers were not connected to pipes; the German replied that this would be done later. Jabłkowski worked on the construction of four rooms that were located in a building. The entrance to the building was served by steps on the aforementioned foundations.*

From the corridor, which was in the center, a small door [*małe drzwiczki*] *led to each room. The small doors were so narrow that only one person could enter at a time. They were made that way so that no one could back out, because the crowd following and the narrowness of the space did not allow it. On the outside, each chamber had a large shutter that rose up, through which the bodies were removed. The floor was actually covered with tiles and sloped toward the shutter. This had two purposes: first, to facilitate the corpses to fall* [outside], *and second, to facilitate the flow of blood. I don't know exactly what the system was for killing people in the chambers. In my opinion, this was done either by pumping out the air* [*przez wypompywanie powietrza*], *or by introducing gas from an internal-combustion engine into the chambers. I assume that no poisonous gas was used."*

Regarding transportation, the witness stated:

"Again from Jabłkowski's accounts, I know that mass transports of Jews began arriving at Treblinka at the Jewish holiday 'Tyszbeaf' [*Tishah b'av*]. *This holiday is in July. I do not remember on which day it fell in 1942* [July 22-23, 1942]. *From the time of this holiday to the end of November or beginning of December 1942, an average of three transports of people arrived every day, each one with 60 railway cars."*

Assuming a load of 100 people per railway car (although Strawczyński claims there were 150 people in each car), 18,000 deportees would have arrived every day at Treblinka, and over a period of about 130 days a total of 2,340,000!

HENRYK REICHMAN (alias Romanowski) asserted during his interrogation on October 12, 1945 (pp. 29f.) that he arrived at Treblinka on October 10, 1942 with a transport from the Lublin District which contained 12,000 persons. 150 people had been crammed into each car, meaning that the train must have consisted of 80 railway cars. Upon arrival at the camp, the witness was temporarily selected with a group of men to take away the clothes of the deportees. When the work was done, a German asked if there was a barber in the group,

195 Hence, each "chamber" had an area of 9 square meters.

whereupon Reichman came forward and was subsequently sent "to the area of Lager No. II (where the chambers were) to cut the hair of the naked women." In this regard, the witness reported a story similar to Brener's:

> *"The haircutting took place in a chamber, the first one, used as a barbershop. The building in which the chambers were located contained 10 chambers, with dimensions of eight-by-eight meters, the height was about two meters. The entrance to the chambers was from a corridor, but each chamber had a lift-up shutter toward the outside for the removal of corpses. The killing of people was done by extracting air from the chambers and introducing gas from the engine* [*przez wyciąganie z komór powietrza i wprowadzanie gazu z motoru*]. *The engine was located in an annex near the chambers. I remember that once, when the size of a transport was smaller, the Germans made an experiment: they did not introduce gas, they only extracted air. After 48 hours, when the chamber was opened, there were still people showing signs of life. Next to this building with 10 chambers was another smaller building with three chambers, also with an engine. In the large chambers, in the building that contained 10 chambers, about 1,400 people entered at a time. At the time of maximum extermination, all 13 chambers were used."*

After working for three days as a barber, Reichman was permanently assigned to Camp II, at first charged with transporting corpses, then with extracting gold teeth from the corpses. Regarding the exhumation-cremation of the alleged victims, the witness asserted anachronistically:

> *"The burning of corpses began on a larger scale in January 1943, when the new head of Camp No. II arrived, an SS expert at burning corpses. At that time, five or six furnaces* [*pieców*] *were built which looked like this: iron rails were placed on concrete bases on the surface of the ground. With dredgers, they put about 2,500 corpses from the pits at a time* [*kładziono bagrami z dołów około 2,500 trupów na raz*] *on top of this grate, and lit it from below."*

The witness evidently was unaware of the story of Himmler's alleged visit to Treblinka in February or March 1943 and of the alleged exhumation-cremation order, since he placed the start of the burnings in January.

In contrast to many of his colleagues, who spoke of an average daily influx of 18,000 deportees, Reichman asserted:

> *"From the time I arrived at the camp until about December 25, 1942, about 10,000 people arrived at the camp every day for extermination, sometimes as many as 18,000."*

The undated deposition of SZYMON GOLDBERG was published in 1946. The witness had been deported to Treblinka from Częstochowa in the first half of September 1942. He remained at Camp 1 for six months, then was transferred to Camp 2, where he worked for five months at the "gassing compartment":

> *"There, I carried the corpses from the gassing compartments* [*z kabin gazowych*] *to the blaze."*

The victims were sent "to the bath" [*do kąpieli*], which the witness describes as follows (Blumental, p. 179):

> *"They were even given a piece of soap. And then it was taken away from them at the gassing compartments. There were also showers in the compartments, but they didn't work, so* [they were only] *'for pretense'. One compartment contained a crowd, about a thousand people. They were stuck to each other; one person stuck to another person. They would kill by pumping out the air* [*przez wypompowanie powietrza*]*; one machine was for pumping* [*jedna maszyna była do wypompowywania*]*; and by introducing gas from a vehicle* [*przez wpuszczenie gazu z samochodu*]*. Ether (!) was burned, and this smoke was introduced* [*Eter (!) się palił i wpuszczali ten dym*]*. There was also chloride* [*Chlorek*]*. When I was working in the second camp at the removal of the corpses, I saw that the corpses were pale* [*blade*]*, the women often had hemorrhages, many had blood coming out of their mouths; their eyes looked distraught."*

There is no need to comment on these puerile fantasies of Polish-Jewish black propaganda.

HENRYK POSWOLSKI was interrogated by Judge Łukaszkiewicz on October 9, 1945 (pp. 18f.). He had been deported to Treblinka on January 19, 1943 with a transport of 3,000 people from the small Warsaw Ghetto. He was saved because an inmate of the service staff, who had an armband with the inscription "*Aelteste der Juden*" ("The Eldest of the Jews"), gave him the job as a bricklayer and stoker on his own initiative. There, he became part of the service staff, but he was *not* assigned to Camp 2. He told this hearsay story:

> *"Regarding the construction and installation of the chambers, my information is based on the accounts of workers who, in the initial period of the camp, had the opportunity to access the location of the chambers and pits. The chambers were made of concrete, I heard that they were even covered with tiles. On the walls were installed washbasins, which were meant to imitate a real bathhouse. On the ceiling were dummy shower heads, not connected to the water mains. I am sure that I was told that among the rooms there were two that had open* [collapsible] *floors. Under the floor passed carts with which the corpses were carried away* [*pod podłogę pojeżdzały wagoniki, ktorymi wywożono trupy*]*. They killed in this way: with a Diesel engine, placed near the chambers, first they pumped out the air, and then they introduced the exhaust gases of the engine.* [*wypompowywał najpierw powietrze a później wprowadzono spalinowy motoru*]*."*

Speaking of the so-called "sickbay," the witness reported that the sick and disabled were killed there.

> *"After the killing, all the corpses were burned. A certain white powder* [*jakiegoś białego proszku*] *was used for burning (I think it facilitated the burning)."*

Poswolski also took up the tale of Himmler's visit to Treblinka, which he described as follows:

> *"It seems that in March 1943 the camp was visited by Himmler. The camp staff and the Jewish workers gathered in the courtyard at 4 p.m., and a report was made, which was received by SS Man Küve. The latter in turn reported to the camp commandant, who then reported to Himmler. I assume that Himmler's visit was the start of the main operation, the purpose of which was to erase all traces of the crime. From this moment on, the corpses were exhumed from the pits by means of dredgers and burned."*

Poswolski therefore limited himself to expounding the trite propaganda themes that were in vogue in 1945 among Polish-speaking witnesses, including the fable of the gas chambers with collapsible floors, which was most-widespread among witnesses testifying about Sobibór Camp.

On December 28, 1945, Judge Łukaszkiewicz interrogated LEON FINKELSZTEIN,[196] who made statements that were as detailed as they were implausible. Finkelsztein had arrived at Treblinka on July 22, 1942 with a transport of 7,000 people from Międzyrzec Podlaski. Each railway car contained 200 people:

> *"Since the cars were sprinkled with chlorine, many people died during the journey, so that there were up to 50% dead bodies in the cars on arrival at Treblinka."*

A similar tale was told by Abraham Isaak Goldfarb, who had been deported to Treblinka from the same location on August 18, 1942.

When Finkelsztein arrived at the camp, where the transport was met by an orchestra, he managed to join a group of deportees who had received a red mark, and this saved him. He described as follows the work he was assigned to initially:

> *"When I was brought to the camp, the land was not yet fenced in and on the second day after my arrival I was immediately assigned to the group of workers who worked on the construction of the palisades. I worked there for three weeks."*

But because the first transport of Jews from Warsaw arrived at Treblinka the next day, July 23, one cannot seriously believe that the camp was still without a fence when it opened operations, and that those fences were built only during the following three weeks.

The account of the witness continues as follows:

> *"After this period* [of three weeks], *SS Man* [Kurt] *Franz chose the 200 strongest among us, and sent our group to the second part of the camp, where the chambers were. There I learned from a cook that 200 workers had been shot the day before who had rebelled and refused to work in the chambers. We had to replace them. At the time, there were three chambers in operation that were located in one building. The entrances to the individual chambers opened from a corridor, and were sealed with airtight doors. On the outside were large raised* [liftable] *doors, through which the bodies were taken out. The chambers*

[196] AGK, NTN 70, pp. 285f.

> *were lined with tiles. Next to the chambers, in an annex, was an engine, whose exhaust poisoned the victims. Death occurred after about 20 minutes. Sometimes, when the engine failed, the chambers were sprayed with chlorine, and the victims suffered greatly. I remember that once, after a whole night of such a poisoning, some people were still alive, and were buried anyway. It is not true that the floors of the chambers were open* [collapsible]*."*

The anecdote of the 200 workers shot was clearly a pretext to justify the witness's assignment to Camp 2. The description of the alleged gas chambers follows Wiernik's pattern, including the reference to the killing with chlorine, which the witness embroidered according to the version that had developed in 1944, particularly by Abraham Isaak Goldfarb. Burying people alive is one of the silliest black-propaganda themes.

Although this witness claimed that he had remained in Treblinka from the first to the last day (that of the uprising), he told very little about the alleged second gassing plant:

> *"As far as I remember, in November 1942 the new building containing 10 chambers was put into operation; the killing took place there likewise by means of exhaust gases; the capacity of these chambers was considerably greater."*

He furthermore stated that

> *"for a time, there was a railroad with carts for transporting the corpses, but it was soon eliminated, because, in the judgment of our executioners, loading and unloading the carts was very time-consuming. The corpses were simply dragged by the workers* [grabbing them] *by the limbs."*

Given that there were allegedly 21 mass graves in Camp 2, and that each contained up to 200,000 corpses (a total of 4,200,000!), the alleged substitution of a narrow-gauge railway system by dragging corpses individually by the arms or legs seems demented.

The witness added:

> *"As for the number of victims killed in Treblinka, it is difficult to establish it exactly. In my opinion, from the time of my arrival at the camp to the time of the uprising, transports of 3,000 to 12,000 people* [per day] *arrived continuously."*

The time limits are July 22, 1942 and August 2, 1943, or some 370 days, so the number of deportees would range from a minimum of 1,110,000 to a maximum of 4,440,000, where the second figure corresponds best to the number of those allegedly buried (4,200,000), if we follow this witness's fictitious account. Finkelsztein also spoke of the elimination of the corpses:

> *"As for the burning of corpses, at the beginning (still in 1942) they tried to burn the corpses on piles* [*na stertach*]*, but this did not give* [good] *results, so already in 1943, they began to build furnaces in pits* [*piece w dołach*]*, where special fans were used to blow in air. However, even these furnaces did not work well, so in the end the usual grates of iron rails on concrete bases were built. On such a grate, many corpses were placed together, and the burning*

> *gave good results. Such a grate was lit with a small amount of wood or rags soaked in gasoline, and then the corpses burned by themselves."*

Leaving aside the anachronism of the beginning of cremations already in 1942, the system described by the witness, which is the same as the one allegedly adopted at Auschwitz (albeit without any fans that would have made it much-more-effective), did not work at Treblinka, although it is said to have worked perfectly fine at Auschwitz. On the contrary, the method that allegedly gave good results at Treblinka was based on the fable of the autocombustion of corpses.

As regards fables, in this context the witness tells another one. During the exhumation,

> *"large quantities of corpses still remained in the pits, because the workers did their best to sabotage the pits in this way: at every moment of inattention on the part of the Germans or Ukrainians, they covered large quantities of corpses with sand, which thus were never burned."*

The expression "large quantities", if it is to make any sense, should be related to the number of those alleged to have been buried – over four million – meaning that huge numbers of corpses should still be there today. But such corpses have not been found.

ARON CZECHOWICZ testified on October 11, 1945 (pp. 27f.). He arrived at the camp on September 10, 1942 with a transport of 8,000 people from the Warsaw Ghetto. On arrival, the camp commandant selected 80 men, among them the witness, who recounted:

> *"On the first day, I worked sorting clothes, then I was sent to the part of the camp where there were chambers (the so-called Totenlager). I worked there for two weeks and one day, while I was busy carrying lumber toward a group of workers from the first part of the camp (where there were no chambers, only warehouses and housing barracks); taking advantage of the inattention of a Ukrainian, I managed to sneak into the group of workers from the first part of the camp. I stayed there, working on sorting clothes.*
>
> *I can give the following details about my work in the so-called Totenlager. At the time of my arrival, there were three chambers in operation. On the outside, the building containing the chambers was similar to a shed. On each side in the walls of this building there were three large raised* [*liftable*] *shutters at the top, through which the corpses were removed after the killing. On the roof of the building, there were three openings surrounded by a tube in the shape of a small chimney* [*trzy otwory otoczone rurą w kształcie kominka*], *and I saw with my own eyes that, after the chambers had been filled, through these openings a Ukrainian poured some liquid* [*jakiś płyn*] *into them from a sheet-metal canister (an ordinary canister like those used for heating oil). At the same time, the engine in the adjoining building, which was also operated by Ukrainians, began to run. At first, shouts could be heard from inside the chambers, but then there was total silence. More than 500 people entered each room, I believe.*

During my presence in this camp, the chambers were filled with people four times a day."

Hence, the witness saw with his own eyes small chimneys on the roof of the alleged gas chambers, through which a Ukrainian poured an undefined liquid from a canister! For what purpose is unknown.

Each alleged gas chamber contained more than 500 people, a figure identical to the maximum figure given by Wiernik (450-500 people). If the dimensions were the same (5 m × 5 m = 25 m²), one chamber contained 20 people per square meter. Since there were three chambers, and four batches of killing were carried out in one day, the daily figure of victims was 6,000. The time limits should be September or October 1942. This figure contradicts the huge influx of deportees imagined by several of Czechowicz's colleagues, starting with Oskar Strawczyński, according to whom, from the opening of the camp to the end of November 1942, 18,000 deportees arrived at Treblinka every day, only a third of whom could have been killed in the alleged gas chambers, if using Czechowicz's figures.

EUGENIUSZ TUROWSKI was heard by Judge Łukaszkiewicz on October 7, 1945 (pp. 11f.). He reported that he had been deported to Treblinka on September 5, 1942 in a transport of 50 railway cars from the Częstochowa Ghetto. Each car is said to have contained 100 persons. Upon arriving at the camp, he was selected with a group of 25 men as a mechanic, then assigned to the machine shops, where he worked until the uprising on August 2, 1943. From a Ukrainian named Grigor and a Jewish inmate named Jankiel, he learned that the first Jewish transports had arrived at Treblinka in June 1942, hence before the camp was opened.

"At that time, an extermination system had not yet been organized, so people from the transports were rounded up in the yard and killed with machine guns. They were buried in the pits with all their clothes. In mid-August 1942, or perhaps earlier, the gas chambers were installed. At first, there were four gas chambers, but by the time I arrived at the camp, another 10 chambers had already been built."

Similar fantasies were also conveyed by Oskar Berger as shown earlier. Turowski added to them the presence of fans to ventilate the alleged gas chambers. He did not know when the influx of mass transports began, but since his arrival in early December 1942, "at least three transports per day of 60 cars each" arrived at the camp, presumably with 100 persons per car, or 18,000 per day. He did not report, however, "how the extermination of people in the gas chambers took place."

Turowski further stated:

"As far as the erasure of traces of the crime is concerned, it is known to me that during the initial period, I presume more or less until June 1942, the corpses were exclusively buried in pits; later on, the corpses began to be burnt partially on piles [*na stertach*]*; then, already in the winter of 1942-1943, the*

burning began in special pits with grates installed [in or on them], *and with the help of fans* [*przy użyciu wentylatorów*] *which blew air under the grates. During the period of maximum intensity of the corpse burning, dredgers* [*bagry*] *were used to extract the corpses from the old pits."*

These are more anachronistic claims and fanciful stories (such as the fans, this time to stoke the fire) that each witness used to season their tale according to the whim of the moment.

On October 9, 1945, Łukaszkiewicz questioned SZYJA WARSZAWSKI (pp. 22f.), who had been deported to Treblinka on July 23, 1942 with a transport of 1,800 people from Kielce (in 18 cars with 100 people each). The circumstances under which he was saved are quite unique. Upon arrival at the camp, the deportees were forced to lie on the ground, and were shot in the back of the head. Fortunately, the witness was only wounded in one hand and remained among the corpses until the evening. Then he was taken to a pit, where Jewish workers made him join them, and in this way, he became a member of their group. The story continues as follows:

"At first, I worked for two days with the corpses. From this period, I remember the fact of the arrival of a transport from Międzyrzec of about 20 cars. In these cars, there were mainly corpses of men, women and children who had perished from chlorine poisoning [*skutkiem zatrucia chlorem*], *because the floors of the cars, as well as the victims of the upper part, were sprinkled with a layer of chlorinated lime."*

Hence, this chlorine myth was not only bandied about by Goldfarb and Finkelsztein, but also by Warszawski.

The witness told the following about his own activity:

"I lived all the time in the area of '*Lager II*'. *We were 6 specialists, joiners-carpenters, always employed in construction (Wiernik was also in this group), and we were able to pass from Lager II to I and vice-versa while working. Working in the vicinity of the chambers, I had the opportunity to carefully observe their layout. By the time I arrived at the camp, four* [*czetery*] *concrete chambers on high foundations were already finished. The corridor in the center of the building that contained these chambers had entrances to the individual chambers of such size that only one person* [at a time] *could pass through the small doors. On the outside, each chamber had a raised* [liftable] *shutter* [*klapę*] *at the top, through which the corpses were thrown out. In principle, about 300 people could be brought into each chamber, but in order to hasten* [the killing process], *up to 600 were put in, often on the heads of the first victims who were already in the chamber. The poisoning was done by ducting in exhaust gases from an engine that was installed next to the chambers in a special wooden room."*

This witness was therefore able to "carefully observe" four gas chambers (instead of the usual three). Although each chamber was designed to hold 300 people, twice as many were crammed in, even on the heads of the victims al-

ready inside. If the dimensions of these chambers were as indicated by Wiernik (5 m × 5 m × 1.90 m; see Section 3.9.1.), they would have contained 24 persons per square meter and, with such a low ceiling, it would have been at least difficult to fit still more people over the heads of those already inside.

ALEKSANDER KUDLIK was heard by Łukaszkiewicz on October 10, 1945 (pp. 24f.). He recounted that he arrived at Treblinka on October 12, 1942 from Częstochowa in a train of 60 cars, each containing 120 people. Upon arrival, the camp commandant selected 30 deportees for work, and the witness, taking advantage of the Germans' inattention, managed to sneak into this group, which was assigned to sorting clothes. Then he was assigned to sort fountain pens, of all things, a job he claims to have performed for eight months in the first part of the camp. Here is his tale on the gas chambers from hearsay:

> *"In the second part of the camp, to which I did not have access, were the chambers and pits. Some inmates who were carpenters (in particular Wiernik) had the ability to move from one part to another. I know from their account that in the chambers people were killed by pumping out the air and then pumping in combustion gas* [*przez wypompowywanie powietrze i wpompowania następnie gazu spalinowego*]. *There were 10 chambers that could hold a total of about 5,000 people",*

therefore 20 people per square meter. Following the fables in vogue at the time, the witness added:

> *"As for the number of transports, from my arrival to December 1942, an average of three transports of 60 cars arrived each day."*

Judge Łukaszkiewicz also questioned several indirect witnesses, mostly Polish railroaders or workers who had worked at Treblinka Station or in surrounding areas. These were Józef Kuźmiński (October 16, 1945; pp. 75f.), Wacław Wołosz (October 18, 1945; p. 77), Mieczysław Lasowski (October 18, 1945; p. 78), Stanysław Adamczyk (October 26, 1945; p. 85), Lucjan Puchała (October 26, 1945; pp. 86-88), Wacław Bednarczyk (October 27, 1945),[197] Stanysław Borowy (November 21, 1945; pp. 105f.), Władysław Chomka (November 26, 1945; p. 191) and Franciszek Ząbecki (December 21, 1945).[198] Only three of them made statements that have some relevance to the theme of this chapter.

LUCJAN PUCHAŁA was a railway worker who had worked at Małkinia Station until June 1942, and then at the construction of the track from Treblinka Station to the sand pit near the Treblinka I Labor Camp. He reported:

> *"I learned in particular that a building of brick and cement had been constructed in which, as I later became convinced, there were chambers for the extermination of people. I heard that there were eight such chambers, and about 700 people could enter in each one of them.* […]
> *Since the gravel pit was located near the site of the death camp, I was able to observe many facts about the operation of this camp. It is known to me that*

[197] *Ibid.*, p. 288.
[198] *Ibid.*, pp. 131f.

immediately after July 1, 1942 three dredgers [*bagry*] *were brought in, with which pits of several dozen meters in length, fifteen meters in depth and ten meters in width were dug. On the day when the work on the railway branch was finished, the building for the chambers was already almost ready. From the middle of July, railway transports of Jews began to arrive immediately. At first, there was only one transport per day, sometimes two. The transports were brought to the platform in groups of twenty cars, because no more could fit on the branch line. There were from 200 to 280 people in the cars /chalk inscriptions on the cars/. Working at the gravel pit, I was able to survey the terrain of the camp from a knoll. It is well-known to me that, when a transport arrived, the SS and Ukrainians would chase the Jews out of the cars, and separate the men on one side, and the women and children on the other. After the separation, they ordered them to strip naked, then took them to a square, and shot them with machine guns. The corpses were buried in pre-made pits. This situation lasted more-or-less until the middle of August 1942, when the pits full of corpses and covered only with earth opened up as a result of the decomposition of the corpses, so that a terrible stench spread. The transports were then stopped for a period of about two weeks, and during this time the surface of the pits was cemented over. More-or-less from September 1, 1942, the activity in the camp began to intensify. At that time, the chambers were already in operation, and the extermination of people began on a large scale. Every day, two or even three transports of 60 cars each arrived without surcease.* […] *As for the burning of corpses, this began as early as the fall of 1942. In the winter, apparently after Himmler's visit, mass burning began and, as I heard, Himmler gave the order to extract the gold teeth from the oral cavities of the victims."*

Puchała embroidered the chestnuts of black propaganda with his own interpretation: there were eight gas chambers (not three or ten or altogether thirteen); the depth of the mass graves, equivalent to the height of a five-story building, is clearly disproportionate, as is the normal number of occupants of a car: from 200 to 280! The machine-gunning of the victims is another recurring theme in the testimonies of the time, as well as the even-more-fanciful covering of the mass graves with a layer of concrete, which, as I showed in Subchapter 3.3., was also attributed to Bełżec (Note 110, p. 105).

The beginning of corpse cremation in the fall of 1942 is a blatant anachronism, while Himmler's visit to Treblinka is a pure invention.

WŁADYSŁAW CHOMKA was a railroad worker who maintained a track section from Małkinia up to two kilometers from Treblinka Station. Among other things, he stated:

"While working on the railroad tracks, I often had the opportunity to talk to Jews who were employed by the Germans in railroad work. They belonged to the working staff of the extermination camp. I know from their stories that, during the period of greatest transport intensity, 7,000-10,000 people were exterminated every day, but there were days when 30,000 were exterminated. I remember that one of these workers, whose name was Sadowski, told me that at

> *the chambers there was a Ukrainian who used a rod* [*drągiem*] *to drive the people inside, and at the same time he enjoyed cutting off various parts of the victims' bodies."*

According to the current version of this legend, the Ukrainian in question was armed with a dagger or bayonet. In this regard, Leon Finkelsztein stated:[199]

> *"When the victims were pushed into the chambers, the Ukrainians Iwan, Mjkolaj and Woronkow cut off the women's breasts with a saber* [*szabla*]*."*

FRANCISZEK ZĄBECKI had worked at Treblinka Station since May 1941 as a rail traffic controller [*dyżurny ruchu*]. He spoke among other things about the period following the closure of the camp:

> *"During the fighting in 1944, when the Germans retreated under the pressure of the Red Army, the front line remained in the vicinity of the station for some time; then the station was blown up and burned down by the Germans. At the station, the railway documents were destroyed, which would have constituted evidentiary material, but I managed to hide some of them at the risk of my life."*

In the interrogation of December 21, 1945 by Z. Łukaszkiewicz,[200] Ząbecki told the story of the recovery of the documents after the bombing of Treblinka Station in 1944, and said that he was handing them over now to the Polish judge, stating, "I am submitting [*składam*] them now as documentation for the present case."

In 1946, Łukaszkiewicz published the previously mentioned booklet *Obóz straceń w Treblince*, which is an attempt to outline the camp's history based on testimonies. Among these, Ząbecki's testimony is also mentioned several times, but without any reference to whether he had handed over documentation on rail transportation to the judge. The most-important content concerns the meanings of the abbreviations "P. Kr.", "PJ" and "Da" (Łukaszkiewicz 1946b, p. 37). In the appendix, the judge published three railroad documents, but without mentioning that he had received them from Ząbecki. Even if Ząbecki's account were true, it is not known how many and which documents the witness managed to secure.

3.8. The Significance of the Report of November 15, 1942

The wide circulation of the story of the steam chambers testifies to the fact that it was considered very reliable, indeed the most-reliable of all those circulating that I have reported above. It was even officially endorsed. In the Polish government's report on German crimes in Poland prepared for the Nuremberg

[199] *Ibid.*, p. 286.
[200] *Ibid.*, pp. 131f.

IMT and presented by the Soviets as Document USSR-93, we read about Treblinka:[201]

> *"When the process of exterminating Jews was initiated, Treblinka became one of the first camps to which victims were brought. They were put to death in gas chambers, by steam and electric current."* (Emphasis added)

The story of the Treblinka "steam chambers" was famously the subject of another official Polish government report, which was admitted to the IMT as Document PS-3311 (IMT, Vol. 32, pp. 153-158). It described as follows the "Charge Number 6" against Hans Frank, who had been the head of the General Government during the war:

> *"The German authorities acting under the authority of Governor General Dr. Hans Frank established in March 1942 the extermination-camp at Treblinka, intended for mass killing of Jews by suffocating them in steam-filled chambers."* (*Ibid.*, p. 154)

The certification of the report, prepared on December 5, 1945, are presented as follows:

> *"C e r t i f i c a t e*
>
> *This will certify that the document entitled 'Charge No 6, Camp of Treblinka,' concerning the extermination of Jews in this camp, is hereby officially submitted by the Polish Government to the International Military Tribunal by the undersigned under the provisions set forth in Article 21 of the Charter.*
>
> Dr. Cyprian
> *Dr. Tadeusz Cyprian*
> *Polish Deputy Representative*
> *on the United Nations War*
> *Crimes Commission in London"* (*Ibid.*, p. 153)

With this document, the steam-chamber claim became an indisputable fact, because the Nuremberg Tribunal simply took "judicial notice" of it.

The Polish government's Charge Number 6 against Hans Frank is based essentially on the November 15, 1942 report, of which it incorporates extensive passages, in particular those relating to the structure of the two "death-buildings" and the alleged killing system.

The report of November 15, 1942 is therefore the most-important historical source for Treblinka Camp during the time of its existence, and the entire subsequent orthodox historiography relies on this report, beginning with the description of the alleged "gas chambers," as I will demonstrate in the next subchapter. Nevertheless, it has been such a headache for orthodox historians that they occasionally cite it with blatant falsification. The Israeli historian Yitzhak Arad, for example, summarizes it as follows (Arad 1987, pp. 354f.):

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[201] USSR-93, English version. The Republic of Poland in the case against: 1. German war criminals. 2. Their corporate bodies and organizations, designated under Charge No. 1 before the International War Court, p. 44. An indication as to the report's credibility is given by the inclusion of a chapter entitled "A Soap Factory of Human Fat" following the section on Treblinka!

> *"In this document there is a description of the construction of the Treblinka extermination camp, its location, its size, and a detailed plan, including a sketch of the area. This report also includes a description of the dozens* [sic] *of new gas chambers and other structures in the camp. With regard to the camp staff, it states that, in addition to the Germans and Ukrainians there are also Jews, whom the document calls 'Jewish auxiliaries', who are employed at ancillary works, in sorting of clothes of the murdered and removing the corpses from the gas chambers and burying them. The document mentions the extremely difficult conditions under which the prisoners are kept, the daily killings among these Jews, and that their life expectancy in this camp was no more than two weeks. In the description of the way the transports were treated, there is reference to the deceptive ploys of the Germans and a description of the extermination process from the moment the people disembarked on the platform – the way they were tortured – until they were led into the gas chambers, as well as the system of burying the corpses. In conclusion, it stated that by then two million Jews had been murdered in Treblinka – the majority of Polish Jewry. The report concludes by asking why the new gas chambers were built, since indeed the majority of Polish Jewry had already been killed, and states that, according to one eyewitness, the Germans had already killed a group of Poles in the middle of August.*
>
> *This report is the first in which there is a comprehensive description of the Treblinka extermination camp. The facts are, for the most part, correct. Their source is escapees from the camp who reached the Warsaw ghetto and who gave testimony for the Ringelblum Archive and to Jewish underground groups in the Warsaw ghetto. This report is based therefore on the descriptions of witnesses who had seen for themselves the process of extermination, who had lived in the camp for days or weeks as prisoners, who had been employed at various jobs, and who had succeeded in escaping. The facts that they related on the basis of what they had seen were accurate, but the reference to two million Jews murdered was incorrect. In the period to which this report refers, one-fourth to one-third of the number cited in the report had been murdered. Also the detail about the murder of a group of Poles in Treblinka was incorrect."*

The gross falsification by way of omission committed here by the greatest orthodox expert on the Operation Reinhardt camps betrays his grave embarrassment in the face of this essential historical source which, on the basis of the testimonies of self-proclaimed eyewitness, undermines one of the fundamental cornerstones of orthodox historiography, namely the claim that the alleged gas chambers operated not with steam, as this source claims, but with engine-exhaust gases.

Arad claims, however, that the report contains "a description of the dozens of new gas chambers" as well as a description of the "extermination process," but he doesn't write a single word about the steam chambers; instead, he brazenly transforms them into "gas chambers"! Furthermore, he asserts that the claims in the report are "for the most part, correct" and that the witness testi-

mony was "accurate," although orthodox historiography had long since banished the steam chambers to the realm of myths.

No-less-dishonest is the summary that Polish historian Józef Marszałek gave of the November 15, 1942 report (Marszałek, p. 42):

> *"In this section* [of the report] *the site and topography of the camp are shown exactly, and the number of the gas chambers* [*komór gazowych*] *as well as their structure with the facilities for the gassing* [*do gazowania*] *of the victims are described."*

Ryszard Czarkowski, on the other hand, does not explicitly falsify the text, but omits the reference to "steam chambers," limiting himself to two short quotes ripped out of their context. By so doing, these quotes become completely meaningless (Czarkowski, p. 120):

> *"The execution rooms have no windows, but have doors that open to the hallway and some sort of folding door in the exterior walls."*
> *"The floor in the rooms is covered with terracotta tiles, which become very slippery when wet. Next to the boiler is the well – the only well on the entire Treblinka B grounds."*

But Czarkowski placed these quotes in a context that misleads the reader to assume they were "gas chambers."

In the following subchapter I will document how these fictitious "steam chambers" were literarily transformed into equally fictitious "gas chambers" operating with exhaust gases from an engine.

The first attempt at a literary reworking of the November 15, 1942 report is the text presented by Silberschein. Although his map of the camp is completely different (see Documents 4 and 5), the instrument of killing remains the same. The map shows a structure of four rooms with the victims' route indicated by arrows (see Documents 4f.): "*Garderobe*" (undressing room) → "*Bains*" (baths) → "*Versuchsraum für Erstickungsgase*" (experimental room for asphyxiating gases) → "*Oefen*" (furnaces), from which a "*Schienenweg zum Friedhof*" (a rail track to the cemetery) leads to the "*Friedhof*" (cemetery). This drawing has obvious inconsistencies with the current orthodox Holocaust narrative: the "baths" (which is supposed to be a euphemistic term for the "gas chambers") are evidently real here; the "experimental asphyxiant gas room" operated with "water vapor" according to Silberschein's text; the "furnaces," if they were cremation furnaces, constitute a double contradiction, first because no such furnaces were ever installed at Treblinka, and second because they would have made a "cemetery" quite superfluous.

3.9. The Literary Genesis of the Treblinka "Gas Chambers"

3.9.1. Jankiel Wiernik and the Report of November 15, 1942: Analysis of a Plagiarism

The starting point of the literary development of the Treblinka murder weapon is the report of November 15, 1942 with its "steam chambers". The importance of this report lies primarily in the fact that it constitutes the primary source of Wiernik's account, which precisely transformed the "steam chambers" into "gas chambers." Before proceeding, I should remind the reader that this witness wrote in his first draft of what later became the booklet *Rok w Treblince* that the victims were killed in gas chambers by throwing chlorine into them from a hermetically sealed trapdoor placed in the ceiling (see page 125). At that time, he had not yet decided what the alleged extermination system should be, and he collected the rumors about chlorine killings, which were also spread about Sobibór (Graf/Kues/Mattogno, pp. 63-76), and which were echoed by the witnesses Abraham Goldfarb, Szymon Goldberg and Samuel Rajzman for Treblinka.

But then, Wiernik changed his mind and resumed the description of the extermination procedure of the above-mentioned report, replacing, with a daring plagiarism, the steam chambers with the gas chambers using the exhaust gas of an engine.

The plagiarism is already evident from the fact that the map attached to the booklet *A Year in Treblinka* (Document 7) is identical to the one that illustrates the report of November 15, 1942 (Documents 2 and 3), has the same heading "*Treblinka. Szkic orjentacyjny*") and the same numbering. In this booklet, Wiernik wrote (Wiernik 1944b, p. 43):

> *"I, for one, resolved to give the world a description of the inferno and a sketch of the layout of that accursed hell hole."*

The typewritten Polish text is much-more-sober and precise (Wiernik 1944, p. 21):

> *"Ja za cel sobie obrałem żyć, by to opisać. Naszkicowałem plan miejsca zbrodni, by światu pokazać."*
> *"My goal was to live to describe it. I sketched a map of the crime scene to show the world."*

In the printed booklet, this phrase appears as follows (Wiernik 1944a, p. 22):

> *"Ja za cel sobie obrałem, by to opisać. Naszkicować plan miejsca zbrodni i światu pokazać."*
> *"My goal was to describe it. To sketch a map of the crime scene and show it to the world."*

However, the Polish booklet does not contain any map. Two legitimate questions arise: How can it be explained that a map supposedly drawn in order to "show the world" the Treblinka "crime scene" *was not* attached to the publica-

tion intended precisely to "show the world" the Treblinka "crime scene"? And was the map published in *A Year in Treblinka* really drawn up by Wiernik?

In the interrogation of October 12, 1945 Wiernik stated:[202]

> *"In the winter of 1943, I immediately wrote down all my memories and experiences of Treblinka, while they were still fresh, and my work was published in Warsaw in early 1944 by a Clandestine Organization as a paperback entitled 'A Year in Treblinka'."*

During the Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem, where Wiernik appeared as a witness for the prosecution, he made the following assertion at Session No. 66 on June 6, 1961 (State of Israel, Vol. III, pp. 1202f.):

> *"Q.* [Attorney General] *After the War, immediately following the War, you drew a sketch of Treblinka?*
> *A.* [Wiernik] *Yes. This is it, here. I drew it. I prepared it when I was still underground, after my liberation in 1943. I drew it."*

Therefore, Wiernik would have drawn his map already in 1943. He acknowledged as his the map accepted by the tribunal precisely as "Sketch of Treblinka drawn by Witness Ya'akov Wierkik [sic]"[203] (Document 8). This drawing had been published by Filip Friedman in 1946[204] (Document 9). On this reproduction, a small section of the camp is missing, perhaps caused by a double folding of the sheet. The curious fact is that the Polish edition of this book does not contain the map in question.[205] The original is in the GFH archives (Document 10)[206] and has the heading "*Plan sytuacyjny obozu śmierci w Treblice*" ("Location Map of Treblinka Death Camp").

The map that served as a model for the one published in the American edition of Wiernik's report was received by the British Foreign Office on August 18, 1944 (Document 11)[207] and evidently also reached the United States. The sender was the representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in London, Joseph Linton, who had received it, together with the report on the "steam chambers," from the Minister of the Interior of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London.[208] The map probably reached the United States through one of these channels.

However, the enigma of the absence of the map in the Polish booklet still remains: why did Wiernik not attach the drawing he claims to have drawn months earlier?

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202 AGK, NTN 69, p. 32.
203 T/1300.
204 Friedman 1946, pp. 82f. On p. 84 we read: "This is a detailed architect's plan of the death camp in Treblinka, drawn by Yankiel Wiernik, a survivor of the camp."
205 Friedman 1945. This 107-page book has no illustrations.
206 GFHA, Catalog No. 4441.
207 TNA, FO 371/42806.
208 "Allied Reports. Auschwitz and Treblinka," in: http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/revolt/Allied%20Reporst%20on%20Treblinka%20and%20Auschwitz.html (last accessed on May 24, 2021).

As far as the alleged extermination installations are concerned, this map clearly follows that of the November 15, 1942 report, as can be seen visually by comparing Document 12 (section from Document 2), which shows the two steam-extermination installations, and Document 13 (clipping from Document 9), which refers to Wiernik's gas chambers. The only thing that is different are the numbers designating the various camp facilities:

#	MAP OF NOVEMBER 15, 1942	#	WIERNIK'S MAP[209]
10	Central corridor of the second building with 5 steam chambers on each side	23	"A building with a large corridor, containing five gas chambers on each side, with a platform outside each chamber"
11	Second building with steam chambers		
	Non-existing	24	"Room with motor feeding gas into the chambers"
14	Three steam chambers	25	"Building divided into three gas chambers, with a platform outside the building."
13	Platform outside the building		
15a	Boiler room (*"kotłownia"*)	26	"Room with motor feeding gas into the three chambers, also electric dynamo for the two camps"
	Non-existing	27	"Room with dentists sorting teeth taken from the dead"
	Non-existing	28	"Workshops (carpenters, shoemakers, sheet-metal workers)"

Wiernik's plagiarism is further confirmed by comparing the relevant descriptions. I highlight in bold the common elements.

a. Report of November 15, 1942 (translated from the Polish original):

> *"According to the report of an eyewitness, the interior of the building looked like this:* ***a corridor*** *3 meters wide runs through the middle, and* ***on each side, there are 5 rooms, chambers****; each chamber is about 2* ***meters*** *high; the surface area of each chamber is about 35 square meters. The execution chambers are without windows, but they have doors opening on the corridor and a type of* ***shutter*** [*Klapa*] *on the outside walls. Next to these shutters there are large* ***ramps*** *with a slightly hollowed-out floor reminiscent of a large trough. Workers installed* ***pipes*** *from which water vapor was to be released. This is to be Death House #2. The street through the middle of the woods (9) curves around this house, runs along the western wall through the trees of the woods (12) and ends at the next building, Death House #1 (14).*
> *This building is* ***perpendicular*** *to Death House #2. It is a much-smaller* ***brick*** *building than the one previously described. It consists of only* ***three chambers*** *and a boiler room. Along the north side of this house runs a corridor from*

[209] The captions are by Friedman 1946, p. 81.

which, through doors, one can enter the rooms. The outer wall of the rooms has a ***shutter*** *(until recently it had a door, which has been replaced with a shutter for reasons of convenience). There, at the height of the shutter, there is also a* ***ramp*** *in the shape of a trough (15). A boiler room is connected directly to the building (15a).*

Inside the boiler room is a large boiler to produce water vapor, and through ***pipes****, which run along the death chambers and have an appropriate number of holes, the superheated water vapor is released into the chambers. While this machinery is in operation, doors and stutters are closed* ***hermetically****. The floor in the chambers is covered with* ***terra cotta tiles*** *which become very slippery when wet. Next to the boiler is the well – the only well on the entire Treblinka B grounds.* […] *They* [the excavators] *are driven by a* ***Diesel engine****, the roar of which is the characteristic noise of the Treblinka B Death Camp."*

b. Wiernik's Text (as quoted before):

"When I arrived at the camp, there were already ***3*** *gassing* ***chambers****. During my stay,* ***10 more*** *chambers were added. The size of one chamber was 5 x 5 meters, a total of 25 square meters, the height was* ***1.90 meters.*** *On the roof, an outlet with an airtight closure and* ***pipe outlets****, the* ***terracotta floor*** *was sloping towards the* ***ramp****.*

The building, made of ***masonry****, is separated from Camp No. 1 by a wooden wall. These two walls, wooden and masonry, together formed a corridor raised 80 centimeters above the horizontal plane of the entire building. The rooms had a connection to the corridor. A* ***hermetically*** *closed iron door led to each room. The chambers, on the side of Camp No. 2, were connected to a* ***ramp*** *4 meters wide along all three chambers. The height of the ramp from the* [*ground*] *level was about 80 centimeters. From this same side led* ***hermetically closed*** *wooden doors. The door of each room on the side of Camp No. 2 – measuring 2-2.50 x 1.80 meters – could only be opened from the outside from the bottom upwards by means of iron posts. They were closed by means of iron hooks installed in the frames and wooden posts. The victims were pushed through the doors from the corridor side. The doors on side no. 2 were used to pull out the corpses* [of those] *gassed. Along the chambers was the electric power station, almost the same size as the chambers, but higher than the height of the ramp. In the power station, there was the* ***engine*** *of a Soviet tank which was used for the introduction of gas into the chambers. This gas was fed in by connecting the engine to intake* ***pipes****.* […]

Into one chamber measuring 25 square meters, 450 and 500 people were pushed. […]

They start the engine, connect it to the intake pipes. [After] *25 minutes at most, all are lying side by side.* […] *Nothing is pretty or ugly, everyone is yellow and poisoned.* […] *10 to 15 thousand people were gassed every day.* […]

The new facility between Camp No. 1 and Camp No. 2, on which I worked, was built very quickly. It turned out to be ***10*** *new chambers. These chambers were larger than the previous ones, 7 x 7 meters, about 50 square meters. After*

> *completion, 1,000 to 1,200 people were crammed into each chamber. The chamber system was corridor-based.* ***On each side of the corridor 5 chambers****. Each chamber had two doors. One on the side of the corridor, through which the victims were pushed in, the other on the side of the camp, parallel to the first, was used for extracting the corpses. The construction system of door one and two* [the two doors to each chamber] *was as in the previous chambers. The view from Camp #1 was as follows: 5 wide concrete steps, on the steps on either side were carefully arranged flower pots. A long hallway. On top of the roof on the camp side the star of David /magen David/. The building looked like an ancient temple."*

Thus, the report of November 15, 1942 contains all the essential elements of the plagiarism:

– first extermination building: 3 rooms, 2 doors opposite of each other in each room that can be closed hermetically, the external ones as a shutter; the presence of pipes inside, terracotta floor, a ramp along the north side;
– second extermination building: 10 rooms, 5 on each side of a central corridor; doors, pipes and floor as in the first building, 2 ramps on either side of the building.

Finally, the Diesel engine should also be mentioned, although it was mentioned in connection with the excavators in the Nov. 1942 report.

In particular, according to Wiernik's description, the first gassing facility consisted of four rooms in all, three "gas chambers" and an "electric power station" which, according to the typewritten Polish text, "*wzdłuż kamer znajdowała się*", i.e. "was along the chambers" (Wiernik 1944, p. 5), not behind one of them, so in his drawing it corresponds to Structure No. 28. On Wiernik's map, the former Room 15a of Document 12, the "boiler room", and the adjoining small room – previously without number or name – are labeled with No. 26, and part of the ramp forms Room 27, which previously had no number or name either. These three rooms are not mentioned in Wiernik's description.

Second, in his drawing, a small circle appears at the lower right corner of Room 26 (Document 13), which, according to the caption, represents a "well." This is mentioned in the Nov. 1942 "steam-chamber" report (and labeled in the respective map with No. 16), but not in Wiernik's description, who therefore drew this detail from that source as well.

The reference to the "outlet with an airtight closure" and to the color of the alleged poisoners (they were "*żółci*", yellow), which is reminiscent of the yellowish color of chlorine, resulted from an oversight by Wiernik, since this clearly refers to his first version – that of killing with chlorine.

This type of "closure" was also used in later versions of the tale, but since they had lost their original function, they took on other, no less fanciful ones.

Wiernik's story is the link between the steam-chamber version and the gas-chamber version currently in vogue, but it has a significant discordance with respect to the current gas-chamber narrative: the engine that is said to have

produced the gases for killing the victims was not specifically intended for this purpose, but was the engine that drove the power station's electric generator, which was located "along the chambers" and was "almost the same size as the chambers" ("*prawie tej samej wielkości co komory*"), i.e., it was a facility parallel to the first alleged extermination facility with three chambers, hence precisely the one labeled with No. 28 in Wiernik's map.

In the typewritten version of Wiernik's text, the passage that interests us here is written as follows (*ibid.*):

> *"Wielkość kamery wynosiła 5 x 5 m, razem 25 m kw., wysokość 1,90m. Wylot na dachu z hermetycznem zamknięciem i wloty rury, podłoga terakotowa, pochyła ku rampie."*
>
> *"The size of the chamber was 5 x 5 m, total 25 sq m, height 1.90m. Roof outlet with airtight closure and pipe inlets, terracotta floor, sloping towards ramp."*

There are other noteworthy elements in this text. The first concerns the dimensions of the gas chambers, which are 5 m × 5 m × 1.90 m, while the handwritten text says 7 m × 7 m × 2 m. This comes from a reworking of the data contained in the report of November 15, 1942, which mentions (for the second gassing building) "gas chambers" of 35 square meters each and 2 meters in height. Wiernik may have apportioned the area into 5 m × 7 m (= 35 m²), using the 5 as the length and width of the chambers in the first gassing building (5 m × 5 m), and the seven for the second building (7 m × 7 m), allowing himself a little freedom with regard to height (1.90 meters instead of 2).

The second element is the terracotta floor (*podłoga terakotowa*) of the "gas chambers," which was also copied from the Nov. 1942 report:

> *"Podłoga w komorach wyłożona jest posadzką terakotową" – "The floor in the chambers is covered with a terracotta flooring"* (Marczewska/Ważniewski, p. 142).

Wiernik's plagiarism is thus an indubitable fact.

Before examining the subsequent development of the version of the gas chambers, one must ask how it is possible that two witnesses could have seen practically identical killing facilities, but that for one it was operating with water vapor, while for the other it was operating with engine exhaust. From an orthodox perspective, there can only be two possible answers:

Hypothesis #1: Initially there were actually steam chambers, which were later replaced by gas chambers. This is not possible, because Wiernik arrived at Treblinka on August 23, 1942, while the report on the steam chambers of November 15, 1942 refers to "the first half of September." The steam chambers would therefore have existed when Wiernik was already at the camp, but he does not mention them.

Hypothesis #2: The "eyewitness" of the steam chambers made a mistake: he observed openings inside real gas chambers, but mistook the exhaust fumes coming from them for water vapor and deduced that they were steam chambers. Even this explanation is impossible, because the description of the steam

chambers is not that of an external observer, but that of an "eyewitness" who saw everything from inside and describes it exactly. The text speaks explicitly of a "boiler room" ("*kotłownia*") containing "a large boiler to produce water vapor" ("*duży kocioł do wytwarzania pary wodnej*") that was fed into the chambers through pipes ("*za pomocą rur*", "through pipes"). Even the description of the opening of the steam chambers after the alleged murder categorically excludes killing with exhaust gases from an engine:

> *"Due to the steam all the bodies have become a homogenous mass stuck together with the perspiration of the victims. In their death agonies, arms, legs, trunks are intertwined into a gigantic macabre entanglement. To make it possible for the grave-diggers to get out single bodies, cold water from the near-by well is poured over the mass. Then the bodies separate and may be taken out."*

To the best of my knowledge, the plan of the "steam chambers" reproduced here as Document 14 was made in the "second half of 1942" (the exact date is not given).[210] It is almost identical with the plan in the Nov. 1942 report, except for the fact that the heading, the numbers and the captions are missing.

A later plan, drawn "after July 1942," is already very detailed (Document 15).[211] In it, the first building is referred to as "*stare kąpieliska*," the second as "*nowe kąpieliska*," meaning old and new bathhouses. In both facilities, the steam chambers are marked with the letter "K" (*Komora*), and the chambers of the old facility also with the Number 14. The old facility's Room 15a is explicitly labeled as "*kotłownia*", boiler room, and Room 13 as "*Korytarz*", corridor. The circle with the Number 16 is explained as "*studnia*", well. In the new building, the label "*Korytarz*" appears, and the two side ramps are also drawn in.

Such precision further excludes the possibility of an error on the part of an outside observer. The only possibility is therefore that the "eyewitness" saw real steam disinfection/disinfestation facilities (*Dampfentwesung*), which also explains Krzepicki's description of the "*Badenanstalt*":

> *"*[…] *a not very spacious hall – an ordinary bathing hall with all the normal equipment of a public bath. The walls were very nice and carefully covered with white tiles. The floor was made of red-yellow terracotta tiles. From the ceiling hung showers … and … nothing else. A cozy, well-cleaned bathhouse in the middle of the green woods. There was nothing else to see there."*

Rachel Auerbach also provides another important link between the steam chambers and the engine-exhaust gas chambers, as she mentions

> *"engines for the excavation of mass graves, engines for operating steam death chambers* [*motory do obsługi parowych komor śmierci*]*."*[212]

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[210] AŻIH, ARG, 384.Ring.II/300.1.Mf. ŻIH-800. "Second half of 1942. Unknown author, Warsaw Ghetto. Map sketch of Treblinka Extermination Camp."

[211] AŻIH, ARG, 384.Ring.II/488. Mf. ŻIH-809. "After July 1942. Warsaw Ghetto. Unknown author, map of Treblinka Extermination Camp."

[212] R. Auerbach, *op. cit*. (note 178), p. 16.

What I have outlined above also provides a probable and plausible answer to the question I posed earlier: why did Wiernik not include the map of Treblinka Camp in the Polish booklet which he had drawn several months earlier? In Poland, the report of November 15, 1942 on the "steam chambers" was generally known, and the relevant maps of Treblinka were also known in certain resistance circles. Publishing a camp map in *Rok w Treblince* that so blatantly followed the lead of the above-mentioned report would have made Wiernik's plagiarism too evident.

3.9.2. Abraham Isaak Goldfarb und Jankiel Wiernik: Plagiarizing a Plagiarist

Just as the story of the "steam chambers" was the primary source of Wiernik's account, Wiernik's tale became the source of Goldfarb's narrative.

At the time of the preliminary Polish-Soviet investigation into Treblinka (August-September 1944), the investigators were familiar with Wiernik's pamphlet, which they explicitly cited as a source of information in their report of August 24, 1944: "… and information from the book 'Год в Треблинке/ *God v Treblinke*'" (= *Rok w Treblince = A Year in a Treblinka*).[213] This was also known to Goldfarb, who mentioned his colleague "Jakob Werni [sic]" as the "author of the booklet 'Death in Treblinka'" – "death" rather than "year," an error perhaps due to a slip of the German translator (there is in fact a assonance between "Год/*God*" and "*Tod*").

Goldfarb did not limit himself to drawing the essential elements of his story from Wiernik's, but developed on his own initiative one of the most fantastic elements of it. Some obvious contradictions are probably due to misunderstandings on Goldfarb's part or to his own literary "ornaments."

The first gassing building for Wiernik contained 3 rooms measuring 5 m × 5 m × 1.90 m; Goldfarb changed that to 5 m × 4 m × 2 m, and added a first blunder: it was "an ordinary one-story brick building with an iron roof [*mit einem Eisendach*]"!

Wiernik's manuscript cited earlier contained an even bigger goof:

> *"On the roof – a safety hatch used in the case of killing people with chlorine. After throwing the appropriate amount of chlorine, the hatch closes hermetically."*

In the typewritten text of his booklet, from which all references to killing by chlorine have been deleted, this hatch is transformed into a device whose function is never explained:

> *"On the roof, an outlet with an airtight closure* [*wylot na dachu z hermetycznym zamknięciem*]*."*

Goldfarb embroidered the story of the hatch with vivid imagination:

> *"Each chamber had an opening in the ceiling, which was covered with a net."*

[213] GARF, 7021-115-9, p. 109.

He did not explain the function of these openings either, which must be deduced by analogy from the description of the second killing building:

> *"The chambers were illuminated by windows located in the roof."*
> *"There were special openings in the roof for the gas to flow out of the chamber."*

Since any lighting windows had to be made of glass, they are unlikely to have served as gas vents. On the other hand, to air out the chambers after a gassing, it would have made no sense to install gas-exhaust hatches in this unique iron roof, since it would have been sufficient to open the two doors of each room for ventilation.

Goldfarb developed to the point of absurdity the initial idea of killing by chlorine, which at the time was still circulating in Polish-Jewish black propaganda. To introduce this fable, he had to distort Wiernik's story, who had limited himself to writing:[214]

> *"The engine in the new chambers worked badly. The unfortunate people suffered for hours before they died.* […] *When the chambers were opened, many were often still half-alive and were killed with* [rifle] *butts, bullets or or mighty kicks. Often the victims were left in the chambers overnight, and the engine was not started. Lack of space and crushing played their part, killing a very large percentage* [of people] *amidst terrible torments."* (Emphasis added; see footnote)

Goldfarb then invented the additional story that "the engine would not be able to supply all 10 chambers with enough gas. It was sufficient only for 2 chambers" – which, by the way, implies that the German designers of the system were incompetent. Therefore, the killing system was temporarily changed:

> *"A significant amount of chlorinated lime was hurriedly brought to the building. A certain amount of chlorinated lime in a moistened state was put inside the chamber, which was then hermetically sealed. The extermination process of the people in the chamber lasted incomparably longer, and therefore was much more torturous. The People were kept in the chambers for 24 hours, and sometimes some remained alive."*

Calcium chloride is a white crystalline powder that was used as a disinfectant at the time – according to black propaganda, however, it was also the substance with which the floors of railway cars of Jewish transports were sprinkled. In this imaginative use, it appears as "chlorine" in Goldfarb's second story (Arad 1987, pp. pp. 64, 84):

> *"Before we moved off, the Germans sprinkled chlorine in the cars. It burned the eyes. The weaker among us fainted.* […] *The cars were full of corpses. The bodies had been partially consumed by chlorine."*

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[214] The printed text, which I use here, differs in this respect from the typescript, which does not contain the sentence I have put in italics. In addition, the opening sentence bears "nie" instead of "źle" (error for "źle"), i.e., "the engine did not work" instead of "the engine worked badly." Wiernik 1944a, pp. 9f; 1944, p. 10.

How calcium chloride was "put inside" into the alleged gas chambers and what lethal action it exerted, remains shrouded in mystery. According to Goldfarb, this fantastic killing system was used from the startup of the new gassing building (end of November 1942) until April 1943, therefore for at least four full months, but Goldfarb is the only guarantor of this extraordinary notion. None of his colleagues reported anything about it.

Goldfarb also expanded on Wiernik's account of the power station, but here too he added a touch of originality:

– Wiernik:

> *"Along the chambers was the electric power station, almost the same size as the chambers, but higher than the height of the ramp. In the power station, there was the engine of a Soviet tank which was used for the introduction of gas into the chambers. This gas was fed in by connecting the engine to intake pipes."*

– Goldfarb:

> *"From the entrance staircase, one first entered a wooden annex, which resembled a corridor.* […] *in the annex of the building, an ordinary tractor-engine was set up* […]*"*

What is certain is that for Wiernik the power station was a separate structure from the first gassing building and parallel to it, while for Goldfarb it was an integral part of the building; moreover, one mentions a tank motor, the other a tractor motor – and that difference is not insignificant.

Wiernik fleetingly mentions the system connecting the engine to the gas chambers:

> *"This gas was injected by connecting the engine to intake pipes.* […] *They start the engine, connect it to the intake pipes.* [After] *25 minutes at most, all are lying side by side."*

Goldfarb decorated this theme with his vivid imagination as well:

> *"Along the wall of the chamber was a pipe with a peculiar branch and a net-like bottom."*

The motor

> *"was put into operation in two cases: when the chambers were filled with people, and for lighting purposes. From this generator, a pipe originated, through which the gases flowed out. This pipe led into the building through the floor to each chamber – as I said already – through the branching pipe. The second pipe of the generator led directly to the street.* […] *When the engine served the purpose of exterminating people, the gases were introduced into the chambers through the system of pipes, but when it served the basic purpose of supplying the electric network, the gases went directly to the outside."*

Apparently – and this is how Jurowski interpreted it in his drawing of the installation (see below) – two pipes started from the engine: one went directly out onto the street, the other entered the building and had a branch on the wall of the first gas chamber; from here, via three other branches, it entered each chamber. It is not clear how the two pipes were connected to the engine.

There is no need to emphasize too much that the entire gassing pipeline, with its imaginative developments, was a mere literary evolution of the pipeline that is said to have carried water vapor to the individual "steam chambers."

Goldfarb's description of the second gassing building follows Wiernik's, but even here he takes some liberties: the chambers did not measure 7 m × 7 m × 2 m, but 6 m × 6 m × 2 m; moreover, as in the first building,

> *"Light fell into the corridor through windows located in the roof itself."*

The two witnesses' testimonies diverge even more from each other on the duration of the second building's construction. For Wiernik, work "on these chambers lasted five weeks," while Goldfarb asserted that "construction lasted from the last days of August and was finished in the last days of November 1942," hence 13 weeks.

Regarding the number of victims, Wiernik had written:

> *"10 to 15 thousand people were gassed every day."*

Goldfarb reworked this theme as well:

> *"Every 24 hours, up to 5,000 people were killed on average. There were also days when transports of 1,000 people arrived, and there were days when their number reached 10,000 and 15,000."*

At the time of his second statement, Goldfarb no longer remembered the fairy tales he had told in 1944, and tapped into the Holocaustic lore of the time, such as the gassing duration of 20-25 minutes (Wiernik had written: "25 minutes at most"), but on the killing system he was extremely vague, and it is not even clear whether he was referring to a real gassing. Goldfarb's reference to a "single mass of flesh" of the execution victims is instead a leftover of the description about the supposed result of executions in the steam chambers (see above, Subchapter 3.3.):

> *"Under the effect of the steam, the corpses formed a monolithic mass held together by the excrement of the slain. In the agony, many arms, legs and trunks became gruesomely entangled."*

3.10. The Judicial Triumph of the "Gas Chambers"

At the end of 1945, three different versions of the extermination technique presumably used at Treblinka were still competing for supremacy: the steam version, the suction-pump version and the engine-exhaust version. Jankiel Wier-

nik, with an impudent plagiarism, transformed the "steam chambers" into "gas chambers," and this version imposed itself as judicial "truth" especially for the Polish investigators.

The prevailing version among the witnesses questioned by the Soviets in the first phase of their investigation was sucking out the air from hermetically sealed chambers by means of a motor-driven suction pump, and it was thanks to Abraham Goldfarb's plagiarism that they zoomed in to the "gas chambers."

It is not known whether Lieutenant Jurowski, after questioning this witness on September 21, 1944, drafted a report on Treblinka, but it is certain that he drew two sketches representing the first and second extermination facilities.

The first sketch (Document 16) is clearly based on Goldfarb's testimony. I have added the numbering of Document 12 onto this drawing. Room 15a becomes the staff room (in Jurowski's sketch: #6), while the small adjacent room, which was previously a simple unnumbered vestibule, becomes the engine room (#2). The unloading ramp for corpses, which was previously a single ramp along the north side of the building (#13), now doubles, with the creation of a second ramp on the other side (#1: north ramp; #7: south ramp). Jurowski drew the system of pipes invented by Goldfarb, in red in the original and always highlighted in grey by me (red in the ebook version): he indicated with "a" the outlet of the pipes in the rooms, with (б, b) the openings on the ceiling of the rooms that in the original version of Wiernik's story were used for the introduction of chlorine, and that now, as mentioned earlier, remained without a comprehensible function.

As for the second building, the findings of the preliminary investigation had stopped at the alleged existence of 12 gas chambers measuring 6 m × 6 m, in which the victims were killed by pumping out the air. The relevant drawing by Jurowski (Document 17) also refers to Goldfarb's testimony, but strangely enough he drew the "12 compartments" from the testimony of Abe Kon. Here too, the structure of the building is practically identical with that which contained the steam chambers, hence identical with those on Wiernik's plan, with the only difference that Goldfarb, followed by Jurowski, invented the engine room at the end of the corridor.

However, these plans did not play any role in orthodox Holocaust historiography until they were discovered by Jürgen Graf and myself at the Central State Archive of the Russian Federation in Moscow and published in our study of the Treblinka Camp (Mattogno/Graf, Docs. 18f., pp. 344f.).

It was thus the Polish judicial "truth" that imposed itself, albeit with difficulty, as the historical "truth". In 1946, Judge Z. Łukaszkiewicz sanctioned it as follows in his official report "The Treblinka Extermination Camp," which was published in the *Bulletin of the Central Commission of Investigation into German Crimes in Poland* (Łukaszkiewicz 1946a, pp. 136f.):

> *"According to the witnesses Wiernik, Reichman, Czechowicz and Finkelsztein, the description of the chambers (in which the victims were gassed) is as follows: Both buildings were constructed with the corridor system, but in the*

> *larger building the entrances to the chambers were on both sides of the corridor, while in the smaller building only on one side. These entrances were small and closed with airtight doors. In the interior walls of the chambers were large hermetically sealed shutters* [*klapy*] *that rose up and were used for the removal of corpses. The chambers were lined with tiles; the floor sloping outward facilitated the removal of corpses. In the ceiling there were openings* [*otwory*] *connected by pipes with combustion engines, located in outbuildings* [*w przybudówkach*] *next to each building. These openings were used to introduce exhaust gas into the chambers with which the victims were asphyxiated. Witness Wiernik, who worked as a carpenter throughout his stay at the camp and who enjoyed a certain degree of freedom as a result of this qualification, gives the dimensions of the chambers: in the smaller building 5 x 5 meters, in the larger building 7 x 7 meters."*

As can be seen, Łukaszkiewicz imaginatively resolved the ambiguity of the openings in the ceiling of the chambers – in Wiernik's original version intended for the introduction of chlorine into the rooms – by turning them into the outlets of the gassing pipes, but in this case, there would have been simple outlets, not "openings", meaning hatches or small windows. He also arbitrarily distorted the testimonies he claims to rely upon, because two witnesses attributed completely different functions to these alleged openings, as indicated earlier. Aron Czechowicz stated in this regard:

> *"On the roof of the building, there were three openings surrounded by a tube in the shape of a small chimney, and I saw with my own eyes that, after the chambers had been filled, through these openings a Ukrainian poured some liquid into them from a sheet-metal canister (an ordinary canister like those used for heating oil)."*

And here is Hejnoch Brener's claim:

> *"There were two holes in the ceiling to pump the air out (people were killed by pumping the air out with a motor located next to the chambers)."*

The nonsensical story of the narrow entrance doors, which merely would have delayed the entry of the hundreds of victims who had to pass through them, came from Hejnoch Brener's and Oskar Strawczyński's depositions, but for the former there "were two holes in the ceiling."

The Polish judge eliminated any reference to "extracting air from the chambers" prior to gassing (Henryk Reichman). Apart from Wiernik, none of the other three witnesses he cited provided a "description" of the gas chambers, so that his reference to Reichman, Czechowicz and Finkelsztein was misleading. In his book, Łukaszkiewicz himself quoted the following passage from the statements of Aron Czechowicz, whom he questioned on October 11, 1945 (Łukaszkiewicz 1946b, p. 10):

> *"*[…] *I was employed at the camp transporting lumber. This lumber was intended for the construction of the new chambers, which were being completed at this time."*

Since the witness had been deported on September 10, 1942 and the event narrated referred to September 20, Łukaszkiewicz deduced that the new gas chambers had come into operation in October (Łukaszkiewicz 1946b, p. 10).

With regard to Leon Finkelsztein, who was interrogated on December 28, 1945, the Polish judge limited himself to a few brief remarks: the witness had arrived in Treblinka on July 22, 1942 and the first gassing building with three chambers was already in operation (*ibid.*). Łukaszkiewicz even had the impudence to report this atrocity tale of Finkelsztein (*ibid.*, p. 18):

> *"As they pushed the victims into the chambers, the Ukrainians Iwan and Mikołai, armed with sabers, cut off women's breasts."*

However, the trail leading to the triumph of the gas-chamber version was initially fraught with glaring contradictions.

Łukaszkiewicz's report, which was written on December 29, 1945, was accepted by the Soviets and submitted during the Nuremberg IMT.[215] However, as I pointed out earlier, in their official report on German crimes in Poland prepared by their government for the Nuremberg Trials and presented by the Soviets as Document USSR-93, the Poles stated that in Treblinka the victims were killed "in gas chambers, by steam and electric current," although they were well aware of Wiernik's pamphlet, so much so that they mentioned it in their report. In fact, this document reads (USSR-93, p. 45):

> *"As in other cases, a first-hand document is presented also in this one which describes the conditions and crimes in Treblinka. It comes from a former inmate who managed to escape from the camp. This was Yankiel Wieznik* [sic]*, a Jewish builder, who spent a year in Treblinka."*[216]

This evidently means that the Polish government did not endorse the killing method claimed by Wiernik, but neither did it want to give up a first-hand witness. Hence this peculiar compromise.

During the Nuremberg IMT, L.N. Smirnov mentioned this passage of the Polish report when presenting it as Document USSR-93, further distorting Wiernik's name:

> *"On Page 70 of the Russian text of this report, there is a quotation from the statement of Jacob Vernik, a carpenter from Warsaw, who spent a year in the extermination camp of Treblinka 2.* […] *This is what Vernik said in presenting a report on Treblinka to the Polish Government; a report which, as he stressed in his foreword, was his only reason 'to continue his pitiful life':* […]*"*

This is followed by two quotations from Wiernik's pamphlet which appear already in the Polish report and which were quoted again by Smirnov (IMT, Vol. 8, pp. 239f.). The Soviets played along with the Polish-government scheme, because instead of getting Goldfarb, who had given a detailed description of the "gas chambers" (Document USSR-380), into the witness stand, they called

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[215] USSR-344. "Vernichtungslager Treblinka. Eidesstattliche Versicherung der bisherigen Angaben der Voruntersuchung bezüglich des Vernichtungslager 'Treblinka'."

[216] Two quotes from the introductory chapter of Wiernik's pamphlet follow.

Samuel Rajzman, who gave a deliberately ambiguous statement: in the light of the official Polish report, his generic "gas chambers" could in fact also be interpreted as steam chambers.

As mentioned in the previous chapters, the case of Treblinka had a decisive influence for the Polish judiciary in attributing the killing system by means of engine-exhaust gas also to the Bełżec and Sobibór Camps, both due to the early date on which the first report on Treblinka Camp was finalized (December 29, 1945), and due to the presence of an "eyewitness" (Wiernik) who had expressed himself clearly and in detail on the alleged extermination method.

3.11. The Copycats

However, the gas-chamber version operating with engine exhaust was only slowly imposed. In the immediate post-war period, the fables invented by Polish-Jewish black propaganda continued to circulate, and others were added. The more-recent witnesses who had some knowledge of Wiernik's claims tried to follow it, but without renouncing their own personal contributions; those unfamiliar with Wiernik's tales unleashed their imagination even more.

In 1945, a memoir appeared in France by a certain BER BASKIND, a "Warsaw Ghetto survivor" who described as follows the alleged gas chambers of the "Tremblinki B" camp on the basis of the inevitable "eyewitness testimony" (Baskind, pp. 41, 43):

> *"On the outside, one might believe that these are just two bathing facilities. But in reality, these are gas chambers that can swallow 800 people at a time.*
> *The extermination technique is simple. After all openings have been plugged, it suffices to simply let the asphyxiating gases enter the chambers for 8 minutes. Not one minute more; the operation is minutely calculated and timed to avoid wasting precious gases!*
> *Once the operation is over, the doors are opened, and the terribly swollen corpses are removed; sometimes people in agony who don't wait to die. They are all burned together in immense holes previously dug. The work of a privileged few is carried out there who are selected as soon as they get off the train.* […]
> *The eyewitness who tells us what we have just read personally worked first at transporting the corpses, then loading the railway cars, for several days. With the help of his companions, he was able to hide in one of the carriages under a pile of clothes. Since these wagons were not guarded, he managed to abscond through an opening on the way to Lublin, and to flee."*

These "precious gases" certainly could not have been ordinary engine-exhaust gases.

In 1946, a Jewish historical journal written in Yiddish, *Fun Letztn Churbn* (*From the Last Extermination*) published the "eyewitness account" of a certain

SIMCHA BUNIM LESKY titled "In Treblinke." He arrived there at the end of July 1942 on a train that contained 10,000 deportees, 120-140 per car. On arrival at the camp, 800 young men, including the witness, were chosen to sort the deportees' clothes. The others were sent to a shed (*opdakh*), where they undressed, "then they were ordered to go to a fence woven of plants and wire, and from there to pass through a small door [*durkh a kleyn tirl*] on the other side." Machine-gun fire was heard throughout the night. The next day, the dead were collected and thrown into a pit:

> *"A layer of wood and a layer of men. And so, then, the bodies of our loved ones went up in flames."*

After three days, 17 of the original 800 prisoners remained alive. On the fourth day, the witness fortunately managed to escape by hiding in a train leaving the camp (Lesky; translated from Yiddish by Kladderadatsch).

The few clear facts of the testimony are at odds with those of the current orthodox narrative. The fence mentioned there should have been the so-called "hose" ("*Schlauch*") that connected Camp 1 to Camp 2, but it supposedly did not connect a shed to a "small door," but started outdoors and went to the alleged gas-chamber building. The cremation of corpses in late July-early August 1942 is also completely anachronistic. The system of killing is not explicitly stated, but it seems that machine gunning played an important role.

The following year, the same magazine published the eyewitness account of Henike Szperling titled "Treblinka." The witness claims to have been deported there in September 1942, and presumably remained there until early August 1943, when he escaped as a result of a prisoner uprising. He remained in Camp 1, where he worked in a unit assigned to sorting clothes. I translate the most-significant passage of the testimony (Szperling; translated from Yiddish by Kladderadatsch):

> *"Between Camp I and Camp II, three huge excavators work day and night, throwing huge piles of earth between the two camps. The blazing glow of the burning bodies rises day and night to the sky, and can be seen from miles away. When the wind blows in the direction of our camp, there is such a terrible stench that we cannot begin to do anything. Only when the wind changes direction can we resume our work normally. It is strictly forbidden to go from camp to camp. In the initial period, the food carriers used to come to us from Camp III and tell us the latest details of the atrocities taking place there. This churns our stomachs, makes our heads spin frantically. It often takes hours before we can get back to work. Our gushing tears cannot soothe our helpless rage and searing pain.*
>
> *They tell us how the path to the death camp passes through a garden. A short distance before the death camp is a booth, where everyone is ordered for the last time to hand over money and gold, and always under threat of execution: first* [comes] *the avarice of Nazism, not even the smallest value can be lost. At the death bath* [*totyn-bod*], *on which only the Star of David stands out, the victims are received with bayonets, and are taken to the bath chambers* [*bod-*

> *kamern*] *at bayonet points. While the men enter the chambers with more or less composure, the most terrible scenes take place among the women. Without any consideration, the SS men know how to silence the women with only the butt and bayonet of their rifle. When all the unfortunate women have been pushed into the chambers, the doors are shut tightly. After a few seconds, a frightening, terrifying scream bursts through the walls, a scream that is directed to the heavens, that cries out for vengeance. The scream becomes fainter and fainter, more and more dull. Eventually, everything falls silent. Then, the doors are opened, and the dead bodies are thrown into huge mass graves containing 60 to 70 thousand people. When there was no more room in the mass graves for fresh victims, a new order came to burn the bodies. A deep pit was dug, old crates, boxes, wood and the like were thrown into it. The whole thing was set on fire, a layer of corpses was thrown on top of it, then more branches, and on top of them more corpses, and so on. Later came the order to dig up the corpses from the mass graves and burn them as well."*

In this testimony the killing system remains a mystery: the victims entered the "bath chambers" alive and came out dead, and that is all. The capacity of the mass graves, 60,000-70,000 corpses (it is not clear if this refers to them all together or to each one), is in any case disproportionate, because it refers to Camp 1. The alleged practice of burning the corpses when there was no more space in the mass graves, besides being naive (the space available at Treblinka was enormous), is at odds with the current orthodox narrative; so too is the cremation method, which is also nonsensical: instead of first building a pyre of fuel and corpses in alternating layers, flammable material was thrown into a pit and then set on fire; only when this pyre was ablaze, were layers of corpses and additional wood thrown into the flames. This impossible cremation procedure was allegedly adopted before the exhumation-cremation of the corpses buried in mass graves started, which is another contradiction.

On December 24, 1947, ELIAS [ELA, ELIAHU] ROSENBERG made a detailed 12-page statement in German in Vienna titled "The Treblinka Death Camp," but it remained buried for decades in some archive,[217] and only reappeared during the Demjanjuk Trial.[218] The witness, who had been deported to the camp on August 20, 1942, described the first alleged killing building in detail:[219]

> *"The first thing that met our eyes was a building made of rough bricks in the shape of a tall barn. As I learned later, these were the gas chambers in which countless people died a horrible death. In this building were three compartments, about the size of a normal living room. The floor and half of the walls*

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[217] Eliahu Rosenberg appeared as a witness at the Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem (Session 66 on June 6, 1961), but in his deposition he made no mention at all of his earlier report of December 24, 1947. State of Israel, Vol. III, pp. 1212-1215. The report in question is not even mentioned by Donat in his biographical note on Rosenberg (Donat, p. 289).

[218] Elias Rosenberg, *Tatsachenbericht. Das Todeslager Treblinka*. Wien, am 24.12.1947. A copy of the signed and notarized document was reproduced in Rullmann, pp. 133-144. An unsigned transcript is in the Yad Vashem Archives, O.33-39, pp. 1-11.

[219] E. Rosenberg, *Tatsachenbericht*. pp. 4f.; Rullmann, pp. 136f.

> *were covered with red stone tiles, so that* [one] *would not see the blood that often stuck to the walls. In the ceiling. there was a small window, sealed airtight, that could not be opened and through which the man could look who controlled the gas supply. There was also a shower head on the ceiling, but there was no water pipe leading to it. Since it was dark in the chambers, one could not see that along the walls there were some pipes with a diameter of about five centimeters, through which the gas – it was the exhaust of a single Diesel engine – was led into the cabin. Four hundred people were squeezed into one chamber. Since they could not even move because of the terrible lack of space, it was not possible for them to fall down or to fight back in any way. The Ukrainians were interested in chasing as many people as possible into the gas chamber in one 'batch,' because then they needed less gas, and the victims also suffocated earlier. As a rule, the gas was fed into the chambers for about 20 minutes, and then* [they] *waited for another quarter of an hour until the last gasps of those dying could no longer be heard.* […]
>
> *Since it was not possible to see through the window mounted in the ceiling of the gas chamber whether the people were yet dead, during each gassing two Germans stood at a /door/ trap door visible only from the outside and listened until no sound could be heard inside. Then the trap doors were quickly opened, and the corpses of those gassed were taken out."*

The witness then recounts the following anecdote:[220] In March 1943, a transport of 6,000 Jews arrived from Grodek. Approximately 30 young men attempted to escape; 10 were shot down, while the rest were captured and

> *"they were pushed into the gas chambers, but as a punishment, no gas was introduced for them, but chlorinated lime was thrown into the chamber, which decomposed only slowly. It took a full twenty-four hours before their gasps could no longer be heard.*
>
> *Shortly thereafter, new gas chambers were built, with room for up to 12,000 people. In order to use as little gas as possible, the compartments were built very low, so that a taller person could stand in them only when bent over. It sometimes happened that in the larger compartments, where the light gases flowed mostly to the ceiling, single children remained alive. The little ones were led to the pit and were mercilessly shot down by the guards."*

The story is clearly inspired by Wiernik's tale, but Rosenberg also wanted to add his touch of originality.

I noted earlier that Wiernik, in his transformation of the "steam chambers" into "gas chambers," forgot to eliminate the chlorine-inlet hatch in the ceiling of the rooms, which became an enigmatic "outlet with airtight closure." Witnesses who later incorporated this device in their narratives interpreted it in various ways. Rosenberg added a further explanation: it was an observation window. On the one hand, this is in contrast to the testimonies according to which observation windows were built into the doors of the chambers or (ac-

[220] *Ibid.*, pp. 7f./pp. 139f.

cording to Goldfarb) into their walls along the corridor, and on the other hand, it is nonsensical, since from this window "it was not possible to see through the window mounted in the ceiling of the gas chamber whether the people were already dead": but then, how could the gas controller regulate the flow of gas on sight?

The structure of the two alleged gassing facilities is similar to that described by Wiernik: in the first, each of the three gas chambers could hold 400 persons (Wiernik: 450-500), the gassing lasted 20 minutes (Wiernik: 25 minutes), the 10 gas chambers of the second facility could hold a total of 12,000 persons (Wiernik: 1,000-1,200 persons each, or 10,000-12,000 in all).

Rosenberg suggests that the ceilings of the second facility were lower than those of the first facility, although these were already relatively low: 1.90 meters according to Wiernik. (He did not comment on the second facility.) A further reduction, as the witness explicitly says, would have forced tall people to stoop, thus reducing the capacity of the rooms.

In addition to these variations on Wiernik's theme, the witness also added two major absurdities of his own: he claimed that the second gassing building was built after March 1943, and, in a much-less-imaginative way than Goldfarb, he repeated the fable of killings with chlorinated lime.

The fantastic character of the story is evident from the fact that Rosenberg knew practically nothing in his first, brief statement, which he made earlier, probably in 1945, under the first name Ela to the Historical Commission of Warsaw. The original text is written in very bad French with horrifying spelling mistakes. In the Ghetto Fighters House Archives, the first page of the French text is preserved (the following page contained only a couple of lines), and the Hebrew translation of the entire text (to tell the truth, more of a paraphrase than a translation), which in turn was translated into English on the presentation page of the document, which I use only for the missing final lines. Some phrases make no sense, and I translate them according to the logic of the discourse, or report them as they are. I also restore punctuation and implied terms:[221]

> *"Ela Rosenberg, born in Warsaw in 1924 at 25 Gesia Street. My father was killed in 1940. In August 1942 my family and I* [were deported in a] *railway car of 100* [people] *to Treblinka. When the train stopped it was morning. I* [saw] *from the window with the barbed* [wires] *the Małkinia Station. The Germans separated the train cars and sent them to the camp.* [The doors] *were opened immediately* [and the Germans shouted] *RAUS, RAUS. Men and women were separated, I said goodbye to my mother and sisters. I went to the men's side. We were ordered to sit down and* [were told] *that we* [were to] *bathe there, then we would be reunited with our families. They would also give us new clothes and we would go to work elsewhere. At this moment a German came swaggering in* [*en courage*: in courage] *and selected 30 people, including me. I*

[221] GFHA, Catalog No. 248, Collection 10737.

was happy to return [to] *my mother. He* [led us to] *a large yard* [with] *many clothes, suitcases, bundles and even money and other things. We still had our coats, and he told us to take them off and get to work. I did not understand anything and I asked* [*jńai (j'ai) dń* (?)] *other people, I did not know that we were forbidden to speak. I saw a man who lived* [in] *my street, but he had been caught in a roundup four days before me* [and] *I asked him*[: ']*Where are ours* [family members?']. *He did not answer* [*il ne dit*], *with tears in his eyes he told me*[: ']*You no longer have your mother or your sisters*['] [*il me dit tu nńa plsu ni ta mere ni tes osuers*]. *He had not finished speaking* [when] *two Germans arrived; they had no doubt noticed our conversation, and beat us mercilessly on the head, 25 blows on his naked bodies, and I had to get up from the ground; I could hardly work, until 10 o'clock in the evening. At 10 o'clock we were driven into the barracks, suddenly voices in German. A knife was stuck in Max* [*on a mit un couteau a Max*], *and after a few* [minutes] *he died, he croaked* [*il mou* (?) *creva*]. *They started beating us angrily and shooting at us. I received a bayonet blow in the shoulder. 100 people were killed and our heroes* [sic]. *Then, having finally arrived in the barrack, I tore my shirt and* [with a] *piece* [I] *made oensemment* [? bandaged?] *my arm. With the bayonet on my fingers. He threw himself on the ground crying and in pain* [sic]. *The elders knew that one had to get up even before daylight and wait for them to* [leave] *the shack. They did not open it screaming until 11 o'clock, they lined up 200* [prisoners] *and killed them on the spot in front* [of us], *with the machine gun and the rest at work. They didn't have to give us food and drink for three days. I work at sorting shoes. A German comes* [and] *takes 50 men, he says only for 10 minutes. An easy job. He leads us through the whole place to a door which we go through*[:] *my blood freezes in my veins. I have* [there is] *a pile of corpses on the ground, prisoners* [were] *picking them up bleeding, going towards them, picking them up* [and] *putting them on a stretcher, laying them down and cutting* [*et de poser et couper* (?)] *to take them elsewhere. I have no lashes in my eyes, suddenly* [comes] *a whiplash on my head. We are told to each take one dead person and carry him* [to] *the pit. We had to go* [to the] *gas chamber* [*chażbre a gaz*] *to bring the dead to the street,* [with] *beatings and shouting.* ['][*Schnel*[l] *Hunde'* [Quickly, dogs]. *The dead had been placed badly, the Germans started beating us. There is so much blood in the pit, the dead were submerged. I worked there for five months. They threw chlorine on the dead. In February 1943 the order came to pull* [out] *with a dredger* [the corpses]*."*

The last sentence reads: "*En fevrier 43ż vient l rdre de detrer avec bagier*" [*En février 43 vient l'ordre de déterrer avec bagier*[222]], meaning "In February 43 come [came] the order to disinter [the corpses] with an excavator." The English translation of that sentence on that document reads:

"In February 1943 came the order to burn the bodies; we incinerated 8,000 bodies."

[222] Polish term meaning dredger (here in terms of excavator).

In 1948, in Buenos Aires, a testimony by SYMCHA POLIAKIEVICZ was published in Yiddish under the title *A tog in Treblinke* (*A Day in Treblinka*). The witness, who remained in Camp 1, thus reported what he came to know about the alleged extermination, which was practically nothing (Poliakievicz, p. 64; translation from Yiddish by Kladderadatsch):

> *"Out on the death square it is quiet now. The cries of those who were led off to 'bathe' have ceased. The screams have been swallowed up in the death chambers. Only for our suffering there still is no end. Around us, murderers mill about in a drunken state. In the distance, motors roar unceasingly, trucks drive in and out of the camp square. The hell has changed its appearance. A new arrival would not at all realize that he now found himself in such a terrible extermination camp."*

JERZY RAJGRODZKI was deported to Treblinka on September 12, 1942 and escaped on August 2, 1943. On an unspecified date, he wrote a lengthy report on his stay at the camp, which was published in 1958. Among other things, he gave a detailed description of the alleged gas chambers there (Rajgrodzki, pp. 105f.):

> *"At first there were only 3 gas chambers* [*komore gazowe*] *with a ramp facing our side. When I arrived at Lager II in mid-September, 10 new gas chambers were put into operation. They could hold about 4,000 people at a time. About 400 people could be crammed into each chamber. The gassing time was about one hour. Loading and unloading took a little longer. The pits were located to the east and west of the buildings. The new chambers were perpendicular to the old ones; there was a passageway between them. The building of the new chambers had massive walls. In the center was a long corridor, from which doors led to the 10 chambers, 5 chambers on each side. The doors* [*drzwi*] *of the chambers were narrow and had little glass panes* [peepholes] *to look through. It was ascertained whether the victims were already ready and whether the doors could already be opened from the opposite side, where the ramps were. The gates* [*bramy*] *were sturdy and sealed with a transverse wooden beam that allowed for interlocking closure. The gates were quite wide, about 2.5 meters, and fit precisely so that the gas would not escape. When the victims were now poisoned by the gas from engine combustion* [*zatrute gazem spalinowym od motorów*]*, the gates were opened, and the bodies were thrown out. I worked a few times on the removal of the corpses. They were entwined, sweaty, and one layer was about five feet high. The walls were covered with tiles. The area of such a room could be 30-40 m². On the ceiling was an installation that resembled showers. The entrance to the gas chambers on the 'Himmelstrasse' side was lavish. There was a porch. The whole thing was similar to the entrance of a synagogue. In the middle, above the entrance, was the Star of Zion at the end of the portico. Over a few steps, one reached the corridor. The gassing equipment was located between the old rooms and the new ones. A door on the side of our barracks led to the machine room. The following people worked in the machine room: Iwan (more rarely), Mikolaj (more often) – both*

> *Ukrainians – as well as a Jew, a young man, who was later married. Lager II was located on the southern side, to the north of us was Lager I. In 1943 the old rooms were converted into workshops."*

This testimony is a poor rehash of Wiernik's account with the addition of other fictional elements. The capacity that Wiernik attributed to each of the three rooms of the first gassing plant (400 persons) here passes to the second plant, which therefore has a total capacity of (400 x 10 =) 4,000 persons. The width of the external shutters (2.5 meters) corresponds to Wiernik's maximum width (2-2.5 meters), but not the area of the rooms: 30-40 square meters (for Wiernik 25 square meters in the first building and about 50 in the second), nor the duration of the gassing (about one hour against 25 minutes). The nonsensical story of the very narrow access doors had already been reported by Hejnoch Brener and Oskar Strawczyński. The witness also picks up on the theme of the peepholes in the doors (or walls) of the alleged gas chambers, which contrasts with that of the small observation windows in the ceiling, whereas for Rajgrodzki, there "was an installation that resembled showers" on the ceiling, another fairly common propaganda theme. From Wiernik, the witness also took the location of the gassing engine: "The gassing equipment was located between the old rooms and the new ones." Wiernik placed the engine in the "power station," which was parallel to the first gassing building, and thus indeed between the old and new chambers (see Document 13, No. 28).

Part Two:

Archeological Research

4. Bełżec

I have dealt with this issue in detail in two previous studies (Mattogno 2016; Mattogno/Kues/Graf, Chapter 11); here I merely summarize and integrate the main arguments I made there.

4.1. The Findings of Judge Godzieszewski (1945)

On October 12, 1945, the regional investigative judge of the District Court of Zamość, Czesław Godzieszewski, presented an "Account of the Diggings in the Cemetery of the Bełżec Extermination Camp," in which he set down the findings from the inspection of Bełżec Camp he had made that day, aided by 12 workers. In this context, he wrote (Libionka, p. 139):

> *"The pit labeled No. 1 was excavated to a depth of 8 meters and for a width of 19 meters; in this way, it was excavated to the bottom of the pits. During the excavation, at a depth of about 2 meters, the first layer of ashes from burned human corpses mixed with sand was found. This layer had a thickness of about one meter. The next layer of ashes was discovered at a depth of 4-6 meters. Among the ashes extracted were found some charred parts of human bodies such as: hands, arms, also female hair and human bones not completely burnt. Also, pieces of burnt wood were extracted. The layer of human ashes in Pit No. 1 ended at a depth of about 6 meters. The pit labeled No. 2 was excavated to a depth of 6 meters. In this pit, the layer of human ashes began at a depth of about 1.5 meters, and continued with small interruptions to a depth of 5 meters. Along with the ashes were also extracted human hair, a piece of human body, shreds of clothing and remains of human bones not completely burned. The pits labeled No. 3 and 4 were excavated to a depth of 3 meters. In Pit No. 4, at a depth of about 80 cm, a human skull with the remains of skin and hair as well as two tibias and a rib were found. In addition, in these pits, at a depth of one to three meters, human ashes mixed with sand and the remains of human bones that were not completely burnt came to light. The pits labeled with the numbers 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were excavated to a depth of 2 meters, and from them only sand mixed with human ashes and human bones were extracted, such as jaws and tibias.*
>
> *During the excavation of all the pits, it was ascertained that the soil of the camp cemetery had been excavated before, which is evident from the fact that*

the layers of human ashes are not homogeneous, but mixed with soil. The exhumed human bones, the parts of human bodies that were in a state of total decomposition and the ashes were deposited in one place until the arrival of the coroner."

The next day, October 13, 1945, the findings were inspected by the coroner. The subsequent report describes primarily the results of the examination performed by the judge and the coroner (*ibid.*, pp. 140f.):

"During the inspection of the death camp grounds and especially of the pits dug on October 12, 1945, a large quantity of human bones such as skulls, parts of skulls, ribs, clavicles, scapulae, arm bones, femurs, wrist joints, fingers, pelvises, and foot bones were found. Some of the above bones are only partially burned or not exposed at all to the action of fire.

Most of the bones are devoid of soft body parts, with the exception of a few skulls, in which there are remains of decomposed skin and hair.

Among the remains of human bodies exhumed on October 12, 1945 were recognized: two forearms and a part of the lumbar spine with soft body tissues and traces of charring. The part of the lumbar spine came from an adult man, while the forearms belonged to a child of a couple of years. Judging by the size of the individual bones, it can be ascertained that they come from people of various ages, starting from children of a couple of years to very old men; this is attested by the finding of jaws without teeth and numerous dental prostheses.

Among the jaw bones, a partially burned jaw was found in which, in addition to milk teeth, the presence of permanent teeth was found, which shows that it belongs to a child of 7-8 years. In the cranial bones there were no traces of entry holes or other mechanical wounds. Similarly, no traces of gunshot wounds or fractures were found in the long bones. Due to the advanced state of decomposition, it is difficult to determine to which organs the shapeless pieces of soft tissue of human bodies belonged that were found. Two femurs belonging to a child of about two years were found in one of the holes dug by the population of the surrounding areas in search of gold and valuables. These limbs had partly undergone decomposition and partly mummification. The ground of the cemetery and especially the excavated pits are covered with layers of varying thickness of human ashes from the combustion of human corpses and wood, and are mixed in various proportions with sand. The color of the ashes varies from ash white to dark gray, they are of unctuous consistency and smell of rotting human corpses.

In the ashes appear clearly charred human bones and pieces of charcoal. In the lower layers of the ashes there is a more-intense smell of putrefaction than in the upper layers. The hair that has been found is mostly female, as can be seen from its length and the type of hairstyle (braids and hairpins fixed with clips). In addition to natural hair, there are also wigs for women. This concludes the inspection."

The coroner's expert opinion, which comes at the end of the report, reached the following conclusions: The bones found were human in origin and came from

a "large number" ("*duża ilość*") of corpses; these corpses had been interred about three years earlier; some of them did not present traces of incineration; and the examination of the skulls and other samples excluded shooting as the cause of death (*ibid.*, p. 141).

As for the number of corpses, the report cited above does not give any precise data, but the general tone of the report, and its insistence on describing individual bones as if they were unique pieces, leaves one very perplexed as to the value that must be placed on the expression "large number" of corpses hypothesized by the coroner.

4.2. The Archaeological Investigations of Prof. Andrzej Kola (1997-1999)

4.2.1. The Mass Graves

In 1997, the *Rada Ochrony Pamięci Walk i Męczeństwa* (Council for Safeguarding the Remembrance of Struggle and Martyrdom) of Warsaw, together with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum of Washington, D.C., decided to undertake archeological diggings within the area of the former camp at Bełżec, with the principal aim of identifying the mass graves described by witnesses. The work was conducted by a team of archeologists from the Nicolas Copernicus University of Toruń, led by Professor Andrzej Kola; it was conducted in phases: in 1997 from October 12 through 25, in 1998 from April 27 through June 6 and from October 25 through November 14, and finally in 1999 from September 12 through 25. The historians Robin O'Neil and Michael Tregenza took part in the project in 1997 and 1998; the latter, on his own account, investigated the area with a metal detector. In 2000, Kola wrote a paper on the diggings titled *Hitlerowski obóz zagłady Żydów w Bełżcu w świetle źródeł archeologicznych. Badania 1997-1999* (Kola 2000a), which was also published in English under the title *Bełżec: The Nazi Camp for Jews in the Light of Archeological Sources: Excavations 1997-1999* (Kola 2000b). During the research, core samples of the soil were taken in the designated area at 5-meter intervals with a manual drill some 6 to 8 m long and 65 mm in diameter. Altogether 2,227 core samples were taken. The soil samples taken were then analyzed to determine their contents. Based on 236 core samples, 33 mass graves in two distinct areas of the camp were located. Kola provides a drawing and a brief description for each of them. He then summarizes his observations as follows (Kola 2000b, pp. 38-40; in labored English):

> *"The first zone, probably the older one, contained the graves appearing close to the other in western and north-western part of the camp.* […] *That was probably the place, where they started burying the victims. Generally 21 graves were reported in that area, which makes nearly 64% of the whole number in that site. The largest graves were also registered in that part. One can*

not exclude, however, that several of them (reported as graves of a big volume) were previously some separated smaller ones, which borders mixed either during covering them with soil, covering the traces of the camp up after closing the camp down or result of burglary searches after the war. […]
The other zone of the graves' appearance takes up the north-eastern area of the camp. 12 graves were reported here (about 36% of the total number), with more regular forms (mainly of a rectangle view), which differed from one other in size and appearing in significant scattering. In the area of those graves, transformation of ground, characteristic for the first zone does not occur at all, or very rarely. The other parts of the camp are free from graves. The majority of graves situated here reached the depth between 4,00-5,00 m. One can suppose that those depths were regarded as the optimum ones; underground waters appeared at bigger depths. In the first zone, as we can suppose, connecting smaller neighbouring graves into bigger ones by destroying earth walls separating them was observed. That is why the bigger graves show clearly former original pits. The structures of grave contents in both zones are similarly varied. One can report graves filled with bodies in wax-fat transformation (in bottom parts of the ditches, as a rule), over which there are layers of body ashes and charcoal. Similar structure was reported in 10 graves (No 1, 3, 4, 10, 13, 20, 25, 27, 28, 32). In the rest of the graves in number of 23 only the layers of crematory ashes as well as charcoal placed on a few levels with sandy ground were observed. In non crematory graves, there was often a layer of lime placed over the bodies, which purpose was to quicken the process of decomposition of the corpses. The total surface of the burial pits at the area of the camp amounts about 0,52[223] *ha, which states barely 9% of the camp territory in the present, enclosed shape.*[224] *The total volume of the graves is estimated for about 21,000 m³. The big number contains mainly ashes of bodies, which made killing and burying hundreds of thousands of people in one place possible."*[225]

In the table below I have summarized the details of the graves' dimensions:

[223] Actually 0.59 hectares (about 1.5 acres). Cf. below.

[224] In the southeast, the original surface area of the camp extended beyond the present boundary and measured about 6.2 hectares.

[225] The original Polish reads, translated: "Thus an important part of the volume of the pits consists mainly of ashes of bodies and this shows the fact that hundreds of thousands of people were killed and buried there."

#	Dimensions [m]	Depth [m]	Surface [m²]	Est'd. volume, [m³]
1	40×12	4.80	480	1,500
2	14×6	2.00	84	170
3	16×15	5.00	240	960
4	16×6	2.30	96	250
5	32×10	4.50	320	1,350
6	30×10	4.00	300	1,200
7	13–14×27	4.50	364.5	1,600
8	28×10	4.00	280	850
9	8×10	3.80	80	280
10	24×18	4.25–5.20	432	2,100
11	9×5	1.90	45	80
12	6×16×11.50×18	4.00	~132	400
13	12.50×11×17×18[226]	4.80	~200	920
14	37×10	5.00	370	1,850
15	13.50×6.50	4.50	87.75	400
16	18.50×9.50	4.00	175.75	700
17	17×7.50	4.00	127.5	500
18	16×9	4.00	144	570
19	12×12	4.00	144	500
20	26×11	5.00	286	1,150
21	5×5	1.70	25	35
22	9×15	3.50	135	200
23	16×8.50	4.00	136	550
24	20×5.50	5.00	110	520
25	13×5	4.00	65	250
26	13×7	4.00	91	320
27	18.50×6.00	5.00	111	450
28	?	?	~17.5	70[227]
29	25×9	4.50	225	900
30	5×6	2.70	30	75
31	9×4	2.60	36	90
32	15×5	4.00	75	400
33	9×5	3.00	45	120
		Total:	5,490	21,310

The 33 graves thus have a total surface area of 5,490 square meters and a total volume of 21,310 cubic meters.

4.2.2. Actual Mass-Grave Data

But are Kola's statements about the number, shapes and sizes of the mass graves reliable?

[226] Dimension taken from Kola's drawing.
[227] Assuming an average depth of 4 meters.

It should be pointed out immediately that the geometric shapes of the mass graves outlined by the Polish archaeologist are not a fact, but an arbitrary conjecture. He publishes a map of the mass graves (Document 18; Kola 2000a, p. 19) and a grid map of the boreholes drilled in the former camp area with sampling sites five meters apart from one another (Document 19; *ibid*. p. 70).

The circles represent the 2,227 boreholes drilled. Those colored in red are the boreholes where remains pointing to mass graves were detected, which should be 236, but this map only contains 229.[228] Combining these circles gives 21 areas from which Kola inferred the number and shape of the pits. However, these areas have nothing to do neither with the number nor with the shapes of these pits, as it is clear from the comparison between these areas and Robin O'Neil's related drawings (Documents 20f.; O'Neil, p. 59):

– Areas Nos. 1 and 2 should correspond to Pits Nos. 13, 33, 32 and 9
– Area No. 3 to Pit No. 29
– Area Nos. 4 and 5 to Pit No. 26
– Area No. 5 to Pit No. 25
– Area No. 6 to Pits Nos. 27, 28, 30 and 31
– Area No. 7 to Pits Nos. 12 and 24
– Area No. 8 to Pit No. 10
– Area Nos. 9 and 11 to Pit No. 14
– Area No. 10 to Pits Nos. 16 and 17
– Area No. 12 to Pits Nos. 15, 18 and 19
– Area No. 13 to Pit No. 20
– Area No. 14 to Pit No. 8
– Area No. 15 to Pit No. 7
– Area No. 16 to Pit No. 22
– Area No. 17 to Pits Nos. 6 and 23
– Areas Nos. 18 and 20 to Pit No. 5
– Area No. 19 to Pit No. 3
– Area No. 21 to Pits Nos. 1 and 4
– the three boreholes to the right of Area No. 19 to Pit No. 2
– the (one!) borehole in Area 14 to Pit No. 11
– the (one!) borehole in Area 15 to Pit No. 21

As can be seen, defining the exact contours of the mass graves, based on a sampling grid whose mesh size was way too large, was so difficult that Kola defined them in a completely fanciful and arbitrary manner. His drawings of the mass graves are therefore purely fictitious and are far from corresponding to the results of the boreholes. On the other hand, since the boreholes are oriented according to an orthogonal north-south and west-east grid, it is easy to find straight lines and right angles in the aforementioned areas, which, howev-

[228] This plan therefore contains an insignificant margin of error for the purposes of my demonstration; of the missing surveys, I have in fact identified two (Pits 1 and 11), so that those actually missing are only five out of 236, or merely 2.1%.

er, do not follow the contours of the pits, but rather those of the boreholes, and this can also be demonstrated.

I will take as an example Pit No. 1, the widest pit which Kola identified through 13 core samples, as can be seen in his related drawing (Document 22). In Document 23, I present my own elaboration of the drawing in which I have inserted the 5 m × 5 m grid adopted by Kola, the points of the positive core samples (1-13) and those of the negative samples (01-07). From this drawing, it appears that the delimitation of the pit made by Kola would have required that all core Samples 01 through 07 had to be positive, which they were not, so Kola's delimitation of the pit is not backed up by his data.

The actual contours are drawn in Document 24. The area delimited by Points A-F is about 245 m², almost half of the area given by Kola (480 m²). However, the strange conformation of this geometric figure is compatible with three small pits arranged as they appear in the drawing in Document 25. This is also the most probable situation. In fact, nothing shows any relationship between these three pits that would allow interpreting them as one single large pit. The three pits have a combined area of about 100 m². The survey plan also shows that this is the most probable situation (Document 26; in the area of Pit No. 1, the sampling location is not shown where the number XXII appears). In this plan, No. 4 refers to the corresponding pit, identified by Kola by means of the four indicated core samplings. The related drawing (Document 27) shows that Kola identified a simple rhombus (A-B-C-D) whose surface is about 30 m², but he considered it to be 16 m × 6 m = 96 m².

Another obvious abusive interpretation of the actual data is represented by Pit No. 11 (Document 28). How could Kola identify on the basis of soundings 5 meters apart a pit measuring 9 m × 5 m?[229]

The sampling map confirms the arbitrariness (see Document 29). Only one positive (red) sample appears here (the second is the one I have indicated with the letter "B"). The blue circles around it designate "ground disturbances – unidentified field objects or disturbances near pits" (p. 70). Kola therefore arbitrarily prolonged the limits of the pit on both sides by 2 m (2 + 5 + 2 = 9 m) and arbitrarily fixed its width at 5 m.

Other instances of arbitrary delineation of pit boundaries on the basis of soundings on the same line include Pit No. 2 (3 soundings, 14 m × 6 m; p. 22), No. 24 (4 soundings, 20 m × 5.5 m; pp. 34f.), No. 27 (4 soundings, 18.5 m × 6 m; p. 36), No. 28 (3 soundings, 12.5 m × 5 m),[230] No. 30 (3 soundings, 9 m × 4 m; p. 38), No. 31 (2 soundings, 9 m × 4 m; p. 38) and No. 33 (2 soundings, 9 m × 5 m; p. 38). The dimensions of all of these pits are arbitrary and much larger than can be inferred from the core-sample data.

[229] Kola 2000a, p. 27; subsequent page numbers in the text from there unless stated otherwise.
[230] *Ibid.*, p. 37. The measures, not indicated, are taken from Kola's drawing.

The greatest abuse of Kola's actual data concerns Pit No. 21: on the basis of a single core sample, Kola was able to "ascertain" that around this one sampling site there was a pit measuring 5 m × 5 m! (p. 33)

All other pits were delimited by Kola with these same fallacious procedures. I present two more examples: Pit No. 10, with its 24 m × 18 m (= 432 m²) is the second-largest. Kola delimited it by 16 soundings (p. 27), which I indicate in my elaboration of his drawing (Document 30). By joining the individual points, the result is Figure A-B-C-D-E-F-G, which has an area of about 237 m². From the 5-meter grid I added, it turns out that, in order to delineate Kola's geometric figure, Soundings 01, 02, 03, and 04 would have had to be positive as well, but they were negative.

One final example is Pit No. 7, with its 364.5 m² the third largest pit (Document 31). Here, too, the geometric figure resulting from the core samples is defined by the letters A-B-C-D-E and has an area of about 180 m². Kola abusively outlined the contours of the pit as if the core samples taken at 01, 02, 03, 04 and 05 had been positive, while instead they were all negative, meaning that there were no traces of mass graves at those points.

If one considers only the four pits I examined here (Nos. 1, 4, 7, 10), which represent about 23% of the total area, Kola abusively enlarged their surface by about 680 m², hence by 50%.

His demonstrative procedure is therefore arbitrary and fallacious in terms of the number, shapes and sizes of the mass graves. Moreover, the real areas of ground disturbances, *i.e.* those that actually result from the soundings, include the nine pits excavated by Investigative Judge Godzieszewski on October 12, 1945, as well as the wildcat diggings carried out for two decades by the local populace.

Kola himself admitted (Kola 2000b, pp. 39f., 65):

> *"One can not exclude, however, that several of them (reported as graves of a big volume) were previously some separated smaller ones, which borders mixed either during covering them with soil, covering the traces of the camp up after closing the camp down or result of burglary searches after the war.* […]
> *In the first zone, as we can suppose, connecting smaller neighbouring graves into bigger ones by destroying earth walls separating them was observed."*
> *"Additional disturbances in archeological structures were made by intensive dig-ups directly after the war while local people were searching for jewellery. The facts make it difficult for the archeologists to define precisely the ranges of burial pits."*

During the interrogation of October 14, 1945 by Judge Godzieszewski, Stanisław Kozak stated (Libionka, p. 150):

> *"After the removal of the fences, people from the surrounding area began digging up the camp grounds in search of gold, diamonds, and other precious items left behind by the Jews. This continues to this day. This also explains the*

> *large number of human bones scattered in the soil of the former camp and the large number of ditches dug* [*i wielka ilość rozkopanych dołów*]*."*

Again on April 11, 1946, the prosecutor of the Zamość District Court wrote in his report (*ibid.*, p. 235):

> *"Currently, the camp grounds are completely dug up by the surrounding populace looking for valuables."*

All things considered, one can therefore justifiably state that the order of magnitude of the real surface area of the mass graves on the grounds of the former Bełżec Camp is around 50% of that identified by Kola, in round figures approximately 3,000 square meters, for a volume of about 10,800 cubic meters.

4.2.3. Comparison of Research Results with Testimonies

Rudolf Reder and Kurt Gerstein, the two main witnesses on Bełżec Camp, both described the local mass graves in detail. I have dedicated a separate study to these two witnesses, where I translated all of Reder's known statements and summarized Gerstein's statements in detail (Mattogno 2021a). Here I will merely focus on their statements regarding mass graves.

Reder stated on September 22, 1944:[231]

> *"The corpses were dragged into* [already] *dug pits measuring 100 x 25 x 15 meters."*

In 1945, Reder reiterated:[232]

> *"One pit was 100 meters long and 25 meters wide. One pit held about 100,000 people. In November 1942 there were 30 pits, hence 3 million corpses."*

In his well-known "confession" of April 26, 1945, Gerstein wrote:[233]

> *"Then, the naked bodies were thrown into large pits of about 100 x 20 x 12 meters, located near the death chambers."*

Therefore, a pit had a surface area of 2,500 square meters for Reder and 2,000 for Gerstein, and a volume of 37,500 cubic meters for the former and 24,000 for the latter. However, Kola's claims that the largest pit (No. 27) had a surface area of only 540 square meters, and the most-voluminous one (No. 10) had a volume of only 2,100 cubic meters. Moreover, as Kola himself pointed out, most of the pits had a depth of 4-5 meters. Therefore, not even the depths of 12 or 15 meters asserted by the two witnesses are confirmed by the investigations. As far as Reder's testimony is concerned, the 30 pits he allegedly saw in the camp would have had a total surface area (7.5 hectares) that is greater than that of the camp itself (6.2 hectares)!

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[231] Interrogation protocol of R. Reder by the Soviet prosecutor's office of Lviv Oblast (district) (Lwów). GARF, 7021-149-99, p. 18.

[232] Neither month nor day is given; declaration titled "*Bełżec Rudolf Reder Komory gazowe*" made to the Krakow Section of the Central Jewish Historical Commission (*Centralna Żydowska Komisja Historyczna*); Borwicz/Rost/Wulf, pp. 56-59.

[233] PS-1553, p. 7.

A comparison of Kola's map of Bełżec Camp – in which the areas of the mass graves are indicated by vertical cross-hatching – with the corresponding drawing by Robin O'Neil (Documents 18 and 21), which more precisely indicates the position of the graves and their defined contours, shows that most of the graves were located along the camp's north-western border (on the left in the drawing). Some graves appear to be located in the center of the camp, and a few along the north-eastern border (at the top of the drawing).

In 1946, Reder wrote a memoir titled *Bełżec*, which was published in Krakow by the Central Jewish Historical Commission. On p. 43 of this booklet, there is a camp map drawn by J. Bau following Reder's description (Document 32; Reder 1946, p. 43). This drawing – reproduced by Kola without commentary (2000b, p. 7) – is oriented in the opposite direction to the norm, so it must be viewed upside down for a proper comparison with other camp maps. It shows 26 pits along the northeastern boundary and six in the camp's center.

The "official" camp map drawn by the Central Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland appeared in the article titled "The Bełżec Extermination Camp" by Eugeniusz Szrojt, a member of the aforementioned commission (Document 33).[234] In this map, the area of the mass graves is represented by a rectangle on the northeastern camp border.

Consequently, the locations of most of the mass graves indicated by Kola is in distinct contrast to both Rudolf Reder's testimony and the findings of the Polish Commission of Inquiry. On the other hand, if one examines the map of Bełżec published by Yitzhak Arad (1987, p. 437), one must conclude that the living quarters of the Ukrainian guards, the sanitary facilities (barbers, infirmary, dentists for SS and Ukrainians), the kitchen for the Ukrainian guards, the garage and the shoemaking and tailoring workshops (labeled with numbers 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 in the map) were located next to mass graves or even above them!

But these are not the only problems resulting from the locations of the pits. Kola's and O'Neil's maps (Documents 18 and 21) show mass graves scattered in bulk over almost the entire camp without any precise orientation or order. There is no need to invoke the proverbial German pedantry, which was well interpreted even by Reder. In fact, in his map, the 30 phantom mass graves all have the same size and orientation and are neatly arranged in two parallel rows. This is a question of simple common sense: an orderly arrangement of the pits obviously would have allowed for a more-rational use of the available space and greater sanitary protection for the camp personnel.

4.2.4. The Discovery of Corpses

Kola states that ten pits (Nos. 1, 3, 4, 10, 13, 20, 25, 27, 28, 32) are "filled with bodies in wax-fat transformation," but then immediately specifies that they are

[234] Szrojt, unpaginated insert. Kola reproduced this map as well (2000b, p. 7), likewise without any commentary.

found "in bottom parts of the ditches, as a rule," which means that these pits are not at all "filled" with bodies in a state of saponification.

Before addressing the problem of the number of corpses present in these pits, it is necessary to clarify what "fat-wax transformation" or saponification is. It consists in

> *"the transformation of cadaveric fats into an insoluble soap called adipocere. It is observed in cadavers stored in moist environments, in water, or in environments where putrefaction is hindered. The process begins after 2-3 months and is completed within a year."* (Strano, p. 254)

With reference to investigations performed at Bełżec during the period from April 28 to June 4, 1998, Robin O'Neil proposed a generic assessment of the number of bodies (O'Neil, p. 54):

> *"In two of these graves the bodies had not been exhumed and burnt as per the Himmler directive of 1942. How many bodies remain in these two graves is difficult to establish. To be sure, there are many thousands."*

Michael Tregenza, on the other hand, had the audacity to give a precise figure (Tregenza, p. 258):

> *"Although it is difficult to determine the number of unburned bodies, a conservative estimate is at least 15,000."*

The only way to dispel any uncertainty would obviously have been the exhumation of the bodies buried in the pits. The reason – or pretext – why this was not carried out is that Jewish law regarding burials allegedly prohibits it. The disturbance of the mortal remains of a buried Jew would somehow disturb his soul as well.

It is a fact, however, that this alleged law has been violated many times and even has been considered non-existent, without the exhumers ever reaping any serious rabbinical wrath. In another study, I documented this with two photographs of the exhumation of the surface layer of corpses from a mass grave in partial compliance with rabbinical law (as published by Patrick Desbois), and furthermore several cases in total disregard for rabbinical law with photographs and summaries of exhumation reports of Jewish corpses near Iasi (Romania), September 12, 1945; at Białystok (Poland), November 22, 1945; at Kerecsend and Budapest (Hungary), November 5, 1957; at Yurburg (Lithuania) in 1958; from mass graves in concentration camps in Germany in 1958; at Popricani (Romania) in 2004, and with other cases (Mattogno/Kues/Graf, pp. 1087-1091).

Kola published the results of 137 of the 236 samples taken. The related 137 graphs take up four and a half pages of a book of 84 pages in total (each page contains graphs of 32 samples), so all 236 samples would have taken seven and a half pages, or just three pages more. This leads to the assumption that he published the most-relevant ones – as any author does with the documents he reports in his book –, so that the remaining ones were undoubtedly less-relevant, if not irrelevant.

Of these 236 samples, only two (483/XV-30-60 and 486/XV-25-50) from Pit No. 10 bear the explicit indication "human corpses" (Kola 2000b, p. 15; in the Polish text: "*ciała ludzkie*"). The symbol designating "unburned human bones and saponified mass" ("*nieprzepalone kości ludzkie i masa woskowo-tłuszczowa*"), a kind of stylized double x, as well as in the above-mentioned samples, appears in only four other samples (485/XV-30-50, Pit 10, 286/XVI-90-40 and 332/XVI-85-40, Pit 3, and finally 1042/XIV-45-80, Pit 20; *ibid*, pp. 15, 17f.). This means that out of 236 only six were positive. The thickest layer was found in Sample 332/XV-85-40 (marked as "tooth/human hair/water/ human hair"/"*ząb/włosy ludzkie/woda/włosy ludzkie*"), which corresponds to approximately 15% of the depth of the pit, thus to about 0.75 meters of the total 5 meters. Kola also mentions the finding of human remains to a thickness of 1 meter in Pit 27 (*ibid*., p. 36), but without reporting the graph of any of the four boreholes performed in that area. But this does not change the order of magnitude.

If the descriptions of the individual pits are also examined, the following overall picture results.

GRAVE NO. 1: "the pit was filled with bodies in wax-fat transformation" (*ibid.*, p. 21). 13 core samples were taken, but Kola doesn't indicate the contents for any of them. Yet, as I mentioned above, Kola states that these human remains were "in bottom parts of the ditches, as a rule," and therefore this grave cannot be "filled with bodies."

GRAVE NO. 4: "The drilling was given up here at the depth of 2.30 m, because of a layer of bodies in wax-fat transformation" (*ibid.*, p. 23). The graphs of the four core samples (293/XVI/90-5, 294/XVI/90-0, 295/XVI/85-0 and 296/XVI-85-10; *ibid.*, p. 17) do not at all show the symbol for "bodies in wax-fat transformation," and therefore the related statement is either a mistake or a display of Kola's excessive zeal.

GRAVE NO. 10: "The grave was very deep (the drills in particular places were stopped at the depth of 4.25 to 5.20 m, because of bodies in wax-fat transformation and underground waters presence)" (*ibid.*, p. 27). Kola published the graphs of seven of the 16 core sample taken from this pit. Only three of them bear the symbol for human remains:

– 483/XV/30-60, with a layer of approx. 20 cm
– 485/XV/30-50, with a layer of approx. 20 cm and another layer of approx. 20 cm 1.5 m further below
– 486/XV/25-50, with a layer of approx. 30 cm.

In Kola's related drawing (see Document 34), I inserted the number of individual drillings, underlining the ones mentioned above. As is evident when comparing this drawing with the survey map (Document 20), Sample No. 485 (like Samples 499, 500, and 504) is not even part of those used by Kola to locate Pit No. 10, which he delineated based on 14 soundings. Furthermore, of the surrounding drillings, Nos. 481, 482, 484, 487 and 488 are negative. The last three

are less-deep, but the term marking them, "*blokada*" = "blocked", does not necessarily mean that they were blocked by the presence of human remains, because in such cases the term used is "blocked (human corpses)" ("*blokada (ciała ludzkie)*"), as for Samples 483 and 486 (*ibid.*, p. 15). This demonstrates the presence of some human remains in a state of saponification only in correspondence to the three above-mentioned sampling locations, and therefore it is wrong to speak of a layer of human remains covering the whole surface area of this pit.

GRAVE NO. 28: "In the deep parts of the core sample, we saw two layers of human remains in the state of saponification clearly outlined, from time to time covered with lime."[235] As can be inferred from Kola's related Figure 45, he refers to Sample 1647/IX/70-30, the only one located "in the deep parts" of the pit (the other two are in the shallower part).

To recapitulate, Pit No. 1 reportedly contains a layer of human remains of indeterminate thickness. The presence of human remains is not documented by the soundings for Pit No. 4. For Pit No. 10, human remains are present only in three out of the seven samples published by Kola; since he says nothing about the remaining nine, we have to limit ourselves to the reported data. In Pit No. 28, human remains were found in one out of three samples.

Therefore, the only legitimate conclusion that can be drawn from the core samples is that the above-mentioned pits contain only scattered human remains.

On the other hand, considering the small number of boreholes drilled, one cannot even exclude the presence of other layers of corpses around those identified by Kola; indeed, this is actually likely. If examining the location of the three boreholes in Pit No. 10 (underlined in the drawing) that revealed the presence of human remains in a saponified state, it turns out that they are concentrated in two small areas on the lower left: from Borehole 485 to 486 and around 483 (Document 34). This suggests that there were originally two small 40-50 square-meter pits in this area with a few layers of human remains at the bottom. The same could be true for Boreholes 286 and 332 of Pit No. 3, which are adjacent at the standard distance of 5 meters along the south-north diagonal of the pit (*ibid.*, p. 22), and for Borehole 1042 of Pit #20. In conclusion, the most-likely scenario is that the pits contained at most a few hundred corpses.

4.2.5. The Significance of the Presence of Human Remains

All orthodox commentators interpreted the presence of these human remains as proof of the reality of the mass extermination allegedly perpetrated at Bełżec. As I noted earlier, O'Neil launched the slogan as early as 1998: the human remains allegedly belonged to victims of the gas chambers who had not been exhumed and cremated, in disregard of a phantom order allegedly issued by

[235] Kola 2000b, p. 37. I translate from the Polish text (Kola 2000a, p. 36) myself, as the English translation is unclear.

Himmler.[236] In this way, O'Neil created a logical closed loop which started from the assumption that the human remains were victims of the gas chambers in order to "prove", on the basis of their presence, the reality of the gas chambers! These commentators' claim that the aforementioned human remains moreover refute the revisionist theses is not only unfounded, but also grotesque. In fact, no revisionist historian would ever claim that no deaths (nor even limited killings[237]) of people ever occurred in Bełżec. Inmates died in this camp from epidemics, hard work and hardship even before it became an extermination camp according to the orthodox narrative. On the other hand, when it became a transit camp according to the revisionist thesis, at least 441,000 Jews passed through it. There undoubtedly occurred both natural and non-natural deaths among them, the order of magnitude of which is difficult to establish. If one assumes with Dieter Pohl a mortality of some 5%,[238] the death toll would already be over 22,600.

This fact completely invalidates the orthodox commentators' interpretation, as it shows that the presence of human remains in the soil of the former Bełżec Camp is not at all irreconcilable with the revisionist thesis. In order to truly refute this thesis, it would be necessary to show that corpses in the order of magnitude of hundreds of thousands are or were buried in the camp grounds.

It should be remembered that Bełżec was a camp for Gypsies since April 1940, and at least 1,140 were interned there. In August of that year, this camp became the Main Camp (*Hauptlager*) of a network of forced-labor camps, with a total occupancy of about 15,000 Jews, as part of the so-called "Otto Program," which consisted of fortification work to protect the German-Soviet border by digging anti-tank ditches. Between 2,800 and 3,000 inmates were interned in Bełżec at that time. Various infectious diseases spread among the Gypsies and the other detainees, including typhus. Casualties numbered in the hundreds.[239]

All these events undoubtedly left traces in the ground, but these were studiously ignored in Kola's investigation.

4.2.6. The Alleged Gas Chambers

In addition to locating mass graves, Kola's archaeological investigations were also aimed at identifying the remains of the camp's architectural structures. The results were described by him in detail.

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236 On this, see Part Two of Mattogno 2018.

237 In another study, I argued that the only reasonable conclusion that orthodox historians could draw from the transfer of some of the personnel of Operation T4 to the Operation Reinhardt camps is the extension of the euthanasia program to the Jews who were to be deported to the East, and that this may well have happened; see Graf/Kues/Mattogno, Chapter 8.4. "Euthanasia and *Aktion Reinhardt*", pp. 270-281.

238 Pohl, p. 194. See Part Three.

239 Libionka, pp. 38-40 (A photograph in the unpaginated appendix shows "Gypsy children in the Bełżec Labor Camp in 1940" – about ten children in a rudimentary shack); Dziadosz/Marszałek, p. 61; Mattogno 2016, pp. 97-99.

In this case, unlike the procedure adopted for the presumed mass graves, excavations were carried out to bring to light the archaeological discoveries. Kola published 12 photographs of them. In this context, the identification of the remains of the alleged homicidal gas chambers was obviously of particular historical importance, but the need to find them at all costs pushed the Polish archaeologist to the most unlikely hypothesis.

After having described six objects (Buildings A – F) irrelevant to his agenda, Kola focused on "Building G". In this regard, the core samples

> *"revealed the existence of an undefined building negative, made completely of wood, partly buried in the ground, dismantled totally. In the bottom view the relicts had a shape of a regular rectangle with the size of about 3,5 x 15 m, which bottom was deposited horizontally to the depth of about 80 cm.* […] *The wooden building served probably as gas chamber in the second stage of the camp functioning* [sic], *in autumn and winter 1942. Such an interpretation could be confirmed by its location in the camp plan. The probing drills from the north-eastern and eastern part of the building excavated only mass grave pits. Location of the gas chamber close to the burial places in the second stage of the camp existence was confirmed by some of the witness reports."* (Kola 2000b, p. 61)

This is incredible. The only reason why this "*Building G*" must have contained the alleged homicidal gas chambers of the second phase of the camp is its location vis-à-vis pits whose own locations are inferred from bore samples! Kola evidently never even considered whether this wooden structure could have belonged to the initial phase of the camp, *i.e.*, the year 1940, and whether the pits could have been dug after the structure had been dismantled. Actually, everything stated above about this building contradicts the testimonies and the judicial findings. Kola is well aware of this, as he writes (*ibid.*, FN 28, p. 61):

> *"According to him* [Rudolf Reder], *however, the* [gas] *chamber was made of concrete. The excavations carried out in that area did not prove any traces of brick or concrete buildings, which makes that report unreliable."*

However, this assessment of Reder's testimony has two devastating consequences for orthodox Holocaust historiography.

First, it should be pointed out that in six statements, made between 1944 and 1956, Reder resolutely affirmed that the alleged gas chambers were "made of concrete" ("*z betonu*"), "of grey concrete" ("*z szarego betonu*"; see Mattogno 2021a, pp. 13-54), hence he was absolutely adamant about this fact. However, Reder's "report" (*i.e.*, his set of statements) still remains central in Polish historiography on Bełżec, and the only decent orthodox book on Bełżec Camp – written by Robert Kuwałek – draws extensively on it. Therefore, dismissing Reder's testimony generally as unreliable seriously undermines the entire orthodox narrative of that camp.

The second consequence is that one would have to classify all the witnesses and all the judicial findings on Bełżec as "unreliable," because they all agree

that the gas chambers of the camp's second phase were housed in a brick-and-concrete structure. For instance, for the second phase of the camp, the sentence handed down in the Bełżec Trial (January 18 to 21, 1965) mentions explicitly the construction of

> *"a solid stone building with a total of 6 gas chambers measuring 4 by 5 meters."* (Rückerl, p. 133)

And the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, under the entry "*Belzec*," chapter "*Second Phase*" states (Gutman, Vol. I, p. 178):

> *"The existing gas chambers were demolished and in their place a new building, made of brick and concrete and containing six 13-by-16-foot (4 × 5 m) cells, was erected."*

Kola's hypothesis contradicts the testimonies and judicial findings not only regarding the construction materials used for the alleged gas chambers, but also regarding their surface area. As is clear from the two quotes above, their official dimensions are 4 m × 5 m, thus 20 square meters, or 120 square meters for all six chambers together. Adding the central corridor (1.5 meters wide according to Reder), results in a building of (3×5 m=) 15 m × (2×4 m+1.5 m=) 9.5 m = 142.5 m², or (3×4 m=) 12 × (2×5 m+1.5 m=) 11.5 = 138 m², depending on the arrangement of the rooms. Building G as identified by Kola, on the other hand, left a footprint in the ground of 3.5 m × 15 m, or 52.5 m². It allegedly contained six gas chambers arranged on either side of a central corridor, as can be seen from the object in the center of the plan drawn by a certain J. Bau following Reder's descriptions (see Document 32). This corridor was one and a half meters wide and traversed the entire length of the structure (1.5 m × 15 m = 22.5 m²). Hence, for the six gas chambers remained only (52.5 m² – 22.5 m² =) 30 m², *i.e.* (30 m² ÷ 6 =) 5 m² for each room, which therefore measured 5 m × 1 m!

To recapitulate: On the one hand, the archeological findings contradict the testimonies and the judicial findings, making them inadmissible; on the other hand, Kola's hypotheses regarding the functions of "*Building G*" are in disagreement with the testimonies and the judicial findings. However, if we are to accept the official thesis, we cannot free ourselves from these sources: Either the gas chambers did exist the way the witnesses have described them, or they did not exist at all. And because the archeological findings contradict the witnesses, the gas chambers of the second phase of the camp never existed.

As for the alleged gas chambers of the first phase of the camp, their structure was described in detail by the witness Stanisław Kozak during his interrogation of October 14, 1945. Kozak claims to have participated in their construction (Libionka, pp. 146f.). This building presumably was a wooden shack measuring 12 m × 8 m, divided into three rooms measuring 4 m × 8 m (*ibid*., p. 146). It is said to have been located in the southern sector of the camp, near the inner railway siding. Kola therefore carefully examined this area of the camp for the remains of these first imaginary gas chambers.

In the area of the southwest corner of the camp, he located the remains of a large building which he called "Building D" (which I labeled with the letter D in the map of the findings in Document 18). In the sampling map, it appears as excavation 11/98 (Document 35, where I added the letter D). Note that the remains of this structure were identified by eight soundings, and its footprint is basically square, while in the mapping of the findings it is rectangular and much wider.

The foundations of this structure measure 26 m × 12 m. Kola describes it as follows (Kola 2000b, p. 55):

> *"The building had at least 6 equal rooms with the sizes of about 16.60 x 3.80 m, separated by inside wall. Only the southern (6th) room was additionally divided into two smaller ones."*

This contradicts the drawing of the diggings he presented (Figure 69 on p. 55; see Document 36), which shows foundations of about 16 m × 12 m, and walls dividing the structure into six main rooms (which I have numbered 1 through 6 in the drawing mentioned) with dimensions of about 5 × 3.80 meters. In Sector No. 2, there is a brick pit measuring 6 m × 1 m (labeled "K" in the drawing of the diggings) "serving originally as a canal [sic] for repairing cars" (*ibid.*, p. 56). And the two photographs published by Kola (*ibid*., pp. 55f., Photos 71f.), the first of which shows the entire excavation (see Document 37), leave no doubt about this. The conclusion is inescapable (*ibid*., p. 57):

> *"One can suppose the room served as a garage."*

I have dwelt on this point because, surprisingly, Kola clumsily tries to pass it off as the first extermination structure, with its three gas chambers!

Of this, Kola gives not even a vague hint on the four pages he dedicates to "Building D." The contrast between a real garage with a workshop for vehicle repairs and the alleged homicidal gas chambers is too glaring. He therefore introduces his nonsensical hypothesis underhandedly, in a different context. A few pages further on he says that he did three soundings in the area north of "Building D" in order

> *"to verify the location of the railway which served in the first stage of the camp functioning for removing the corpses from the gas chambers to the grave pits. It was connected with the interpretation of the function of Building D as gas chamber."* (*ibid*., p. 64/2000a, p. 63)

But what sort of a link could there be between "Building D" and the alleged gas chambers? Again, only its location!

The camp's alleged narrow-gauge railway that Kola was looking for was mentioned by Kozak, who declared (Libionka, p. 147):

> *"Along the northern side of the aforementioned barracks* [the one that contained the "gas chambers"], *a ramp of planks had been built at a height of about one meter, and along this ramp a narrow-gauge track had been laid*

leading to the pit that was located at the same corner as the northern and eastern border of the death camp."

And here is the result of Kola's search (Kola 2000b, p. 65):

"However, traces of that railway were not found."

Later, possibly a little discouraged by this resounding failure, Kola returns to his hypothesis in a slightly more moderated tone (*ibid.*, p. 66):

"Only the building D was relatively big. Can it be interpreted as a death chamber?"

Then Kola restates the description of the supposed first gassing structure given by the witness Kozak and comments (*ibid.*):

"They [the remains of *"Building D"*] *are different, much bigger building size, which were about 26.00 x 8.00 m,*[240] *and the interior was divided into 6 rooms.* […] *The function interpretation of building D and the witness's description is not fully in accordance with the observation made during archeological works. It concerns first of all its location inside the camp. That building was excavated in its western part, whereas, according to S. Kozak 's report the gas chamber described by him could have been placed several meters toward the south from that place. Moreover the witness mentioned erecting the hut with the destination of being a gas chamber, when in the case of building D could have only an adaptation of the existing building equipped with a garage canal. The division of foundation part of building D into 6 identical rooms indicate that its overground part had 6 frame-houses, one of which served as garage."*

To summarize: The barracks described by Kozak was at a different location than the traces of "Building D." It was built expressly as a gassing structure, whereas "Building D" evidently had a different purpose. It measured 12 m × 8 m as opposed to the latter's 26 m × 12 m. It was subdivided into three rooms rather than the six in "Building D," and finally there is no trace of a camp railway. Thus, Kozak's description is in absolute disagreement with the archeological findings. But Kola did not want to draw the logical conclusion that this witness, too, is unreliable. Instead, he opted for an unbelievable loophole (*ibid.*, p. 67):

"In such an interpretation the gas chamber in the first stage of the camp existence must have been situated south-east from Building D and south to it the changing room and the barber." (Emphasis added)

In other words, since the remains of "*Building D*" are in total disagreement with Kozak's description, and since the homicidal gas chambers must have existed, it follows that they were located "*south-east of Building D*"! However, neither the core-sample drillings nor the excavations indicated that such presumed remnants exist; in fact, absolutely no construction remains were found

[240] As I have indicated above, the remains measured 26 m × 12 m according to the survey by A. Kola.

there. Thus, in his attempt to salvage the official thesis at least partly, Kola is obliged to have recourse to an act of faith: There are no archeological traces of those elusive gas chambers, but nevertheless they did exist!

The actual results of the investigation were admitted candidly by O'Neil who wrote (O'Neil, p. 55):

> *"We found no trace of the gassing barracks dating from either the first or second phase of the camp's construction."*

And this is an incontrovertible fact. The results of Kola's investigations are that they radically refute the statements of the two Polish key witnesses to Bełżec Camp about both the mass graves and the alleged gas chambers.

5. Sobibór

5.1. The First Archaeological Investigations

The Central Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland began its investigation of Sobibór Camp in early October 1945, and concluded it in October 1946. The site was inspected, but no excavations were carried out.[241]

The first scientific archaeological research in the area of the former Sobibór Camp was carried out during the years 2000-2001 by Prof. Dr. Andrzej Kola,[242] after having concluded his research at Bełżec. The most-important results – the discovery of six burial areas of various shapes and sizes, a small cremation site and five structures (named A, B, C, D, E) related to buildings/barracks, except for Object C, which I will return to below – were carefully described and analyzed by Thomas Kues and myself in two other studies, to which I refer.[243] In the present context, it will suffice to recall that Kola thoroughly investigated four hectares of land of the so-called "*Lager III*" (which was allegedly used for exterminating Jews and therefore had to contain the remains of the alleged gas chambers), which he named XVII, XVIII, XXIV and XXVI. The technique of investigation was described by Kola as follows (Kola 2001, p. 116):

> *"Due to the considerable area to be explored, initially the drilling locations were determined by the intersections of a 5-meter grid, with an additional, narrower grid at sites where the drill cores had shown positive results (i.e., in places where man-made objects had been located – e.g., relics of buildings or graves). With this assumption in mind, at least 400 drillings would be required on each hectare.*
>
> *In the second phase, carried out from 19th August to 13th October, investigations of the camp's terrain using coring continued. Simultaneously excavations of selected structures (localized as a result of the Phase One drillings) were started.*
>
> *During the springtime phase, 4 hectares of the area of the former Camp III (i.e., hectares XVII, XVIII, XXIV and XXV) were fully investigated by coring. In each hectare 400 basic drillings were made; additional drillings enabling a*

241 Bem/Mazurek 2012a, pp. 27-31; see also 2012b; see Subchapter 5.4.
242 Kola 2001, pp. 116f.; 2000, pp. 89-92.
243 Graf/Kues/Mattogno, pp. 117-120; 126-138; 160-176; Mattogno/Kues/Graf, pp. 868-939.

more-detailed localization of the remnants of anthropogenic structures were made in places of soil disruptions. […]
Additional drillings were carried out: 90 in hectare XVII, 76 in hectare XVIII, 18 in XXIV, and 21 in XXV; thus, altogether 1,805 drillings were made on 4 hectares."

Despite this painstaking work, Kola was unable to find the remains of the alleged gas chambers. Searches continued in the following years; those of 2004 and during the years 2007-2011 were presented and discussed in detail by Thomas Kues.[243]

In July-August 2004, the Muzeum Pojezierza Łęczyńsko-Włodawskie (Museum of the Lake Region of Łęczna-Włodawa), under the direction of Marek Bem, resumed the archaeological research at the site of the former camp in cooperation with the television Discovery Channel, the German geophysics company Büro für Geophysik Lorenz and the Polish archaeological company Sub Terra Badania Archeologiczne. In October 2007, the original research group was joined by archaeologists from Israel's Ben-Gurion University, including Yoram Haimi and Isaac Gilead. None of these searches, however, led to the discovery of the remains of the alleged gas chambers.

The search was resumed in 2012 under the direction of Wojciech Mazurek, assisted by the company Sub Terra Badania Archeologiczne, with the assistance of Yoram Haimi, and lasted from November 26 to December 24. After a winter break, further work was carried out in May 2013. In his 2013 "Preliminary Report", Yoram Haimi wrote (2013, p. 1):

"At the end of the 2012 excavation season, we requested to continue archaeological research in Camp III and the Steering Committee granted approval to continue an additional excavation season. The purpose of the excavation was to examine Mass Graves Numbers 1, 2 and 7 as well as a location further to the east in the area of Camp III. Due to the sensitivity of this excavation area, we requested the rabbinical supervision of Alex Schwartz on behalf of Rabbi Schudrich from Warsaw.
The archaeological excavations were extended over an area of 1000 square meters in December 2012. They were interrupted by winter weather and renewed again in May 2013 when an additional 650 square meters in four separate areas were investigated."

The excavations revealed archaeologically important elements (fences, more mass graves, to which I will return below). Also worthy of mention is the discovery of the remains of a facility that has been interpreted as the "barracks of the Jewish prisoners," which Haimi describes as follows (*ibid.*, p. 17):

"East of the asphalt surface in Hectare XXV were found the remains of the barracks of the Jewish prisoners (Fig 2). This area requires further investigation. However, the present excavation season has revealed an area of 10 x 15 meters of the floor of the barracks (Fig 21). The remains of low pillars supporting the floor were discovered here similar to the Barrack Object 1714 uncov-

ered in the summer of 2012. Pieces of barbed wire were found along the exterior of the place in which the walls of the barrack stood (Fig 22). A surprising discovery was traces of an escape tunnel, located 1.60 m. below the floor of the barrack (Fig 23) oriented eastwards toward the exterior of Camp III (Fig 24). Further excavation is required in this area."

His Figure 2 (Document 38) is a map with the new findings marked in red (here as such in the ebook version), including the presumed "Barracks of the Jewish prisoners."

5.2. The Discovery of the "Gas Chambers"

Archaeological research continued the following year, and finally, in September 2014, the discovery of the foundations of four gas chambers was proclaimed with great fanfare in the European and American media. However, this momentous find brings with it very serious problems that no one has ever considered.

In the immediacy of this sensational discovery, Wojciek Mazurek published online a "Preliminary report from the pre-investment archeological excavation works at the former German-Nazi extermination camp in Sobibor conducted in the summer and autumn 2014. Second report of the period Sept. 1 – Sept 30, 2014" (Mazurek 2014). Together with all the other reports on the ongoing forensic research posted between 2011 and 2017 on the Sobibor Museums's website (http://sobibor.info.pl), this report, too, was deleted in 2018 and disappeared without a trace.[244] Peculiarly, Mazurek announced the discovery with much restraint in his 2014 report (*ibid*., pp. 2f.):

"During the September 2014 the excavation works in the area of the asphalt square with the stone tower and monument covered an area of about 10 ares [= 1,000 m²]. *First, the square was cleaned from the sand layer. Between the existing tower and monument numerous relicts of the first commemorating the victims of Sobibor from the year 1965 have been found. The current location of the tower and the monument was located in the early 80-ies of 20 century. Between the tower and the monument, which was removed on 1 September 2014 but without the concrete base, a row of the square footings of the crushed bricks bonded with cement mortar with dimensions of 60 x 60 cm, running from south to north at a distance of about 3 meters from one another, the last in the north at a distance of 4 m. In the region to the east of the monument, whose base has not yet been removed, the relics of the brick foundations with a width of about 30 cm (two bricks* ***longitudinally*** *or one brick crosswise) have been found. They comprise a group of 4 profiles of the rooms with dimensions of 5 m*

[244] While working on the 2017 edition of his *Lectures on the Holocaust*, Germar Rudolf saved copies of all the reports, and when the Sobibor Museum deleted them in 2018, he posted them all online: www.codoh.com/media/files/SobiborForensicReports.zip.

> *on the east-west* [recte: north-south] *axis and 7 meters on the east-west axis. From the eastern side the rooms were closed with the semicircular formed foundation benches with a width of about 30 cm, similar semicircle closes the extreme southern room. In the space of about 3 m, a row of pole holes (spaced at a distance of 2 to 3 m) is running. This is probably the area of the corridor separating two groups of rooms of* ***alleged gas chambers****, which is closed from the south with a wider space with dimensions of 5 x 3 m, where probably a petrol engine was located, whose exhaust fumes killed hundreds of thousands of people."* (Emphases in original)

5.3. The Layout of the "Gas-Chamber" Facility

Mazurek published two photographs of the remnants of the alleged gas-chamber facility. One drone photo shows the exact location of the remnants (Document 39). They are located close to the east side of a square, at the center of which stands a monument Mazurek calls the "stone tower," with a square base of 4 meters on a side. The photograph is taken from a north-eastern position looking toward the southwest. The other photograph, from ground level looking toward the south, shows the brick foundation walls brought to light (Document 40). The masonry remains are therefore located under the former paved road that led from the square to the monumentary mound of ashes, which can be seen in the background in Document 40 (top left), as it clearly appears in an aerial photograph from a higher altitude (Document 41).

At first, the discovery comprised only four rooms, which are clearly visible in photographs of the time. One of the most-widely used is Document 42, in which I numbered the individual rooms (11: alleged "engine room"; 2-4: alleged Gas Chambers 2-4; Chamber 1 is behind the photographer, hence not visible). On September 26, 2014, the daily newspaper *Spiegel Online* published a news report on the discovery, which was illustrated by a fairly sharp aerial photograph (Document 43; Hecking 2014). Here, the stone tower is referred to as the "Polish Monument (modern)."

In the aerial photograph published by *Der Spiegel*, the top is oriented to the west, rather than north. In Document 43a, I have restored the standard northward orientation. Document 44 depicts the same scene in much more detail; in both photographs I have tagged the stone tower (A), the shaft identified by Kola (B), which in Document 38 is referred to as "Object C," two benches on the edge of the excavation (C), the no-longer-existing road (D) that led to the monumentary ash mound, and the alleged gas chambers (1, 2, 3, 4). In Document 44, the east sides (to the right, on the side of the benches) consist of semicircular-wall remnants (a, b, c, d). Document 45 is a photograph taken looking westward. In the foreground, one can distinctly see the semicircular wall (c). Document 46 shows this wall looking eastward (Baran, p. 20).

In Document 47, the presumed Gas Chamber 1 with the semicircular wall (a) appears in the foreground. Document 48 shows the same scene a little closer, and Documents 48a and b explain this photo.

The find I have designated with the letter (B) is the well located by Kola (Hectare XXV, Area 35, Excavation 3/01) at a depth of about 40-45 cm below the asphalt surface, whose wall covering was initially unearthed about 50 cm from its upper edge; further searches were carried out inside the well, to a depth of 5-5.10 meters. This was the only well found in the *Lager* III area (Kola 2001, p. 119). In the final phase of the work, a large concrete cylinder with a lid was placed over the excavation of the shaft (Document 50), which, as I will point out below, is visible in various photographs in front of the remnants of the alleged gas chambers. This well is located about 6 meters from the northwest corner of the remnants, so one has to wonder how it is possible that Kola, with his 5-meter-by-5-meter drill grid, was able to locate this small circle, which has a diameter of 90-100 cm, but missed the remnants of the alleged gas chambers, which are located less than half a meter from the paved surface that covered them.

As far as the dimensions of these remnants are concerned, if one sticks to the aerial photograph published by *Der Spiegel*, the measurements mentioned in the pertinent article – 5 m × 7 m – turn out to be rather uncertain.

The western perimeter wall is about 20 meters long, hence each room a little less than 5 meters wide (considering the thickness of the outer walls and partitions). The northern wall (delimiting Room 4) also measures about 5 meters, however, Rooms 3, 2 and 1, as I explained above, have an arched eastern side, so their measurements are less than 5 m × 5 m, which is particularly evident in Room 1, whose southern wall is about 3.5 meters wide. The western wall is about 12 meters away from the stone-tower monument.

In 2015, the area of the find was cordoned off by a metal fence that also included the parallelepiped-shaped monument and the well, preventing access to the remains. Documents 51 and 52 show the remnants from south to north; Document 53 from west (next to the stone tower) to east; Documents 54 and 55 from north to south, Document 56 from the northeast corner; Document 57 shows the fenced-off area from the north at a distance, from the road that led to the ash mound, which is clearly visible in the background in Documents 51 and 52.

The masonry structure that stood on these foundations therefore had a very unusual floorplan, and the reason for the presence of four semicircular walls on the eastern side of the building remains completely unexplained. But this is only the beginning. The crucial problem is in fact the following: what makes it possible to establish that the above-mentioned remnants are those of a homicidal gassing facility consisting of four gas chambers? Obviously, the only possible point of reference – since there are no documents – is of an anecdotal nature. For years, archaeologists, blinkered by their "historical" fixations, searched for the alleged gas chambers because political correctness demanded

that they had to exist, so sooner or later – digging a little here, a little there – something was bound to be found that the researchers could stick the coveted label onto. In order to be a *condicio sine qua non* of validity, this ideological prejudice should require the conformity of the archaeological remains with the testimonial statements. However, as I will document below, this essential condition does not exist at all.

In 2014, before the fateful "discovery," historian Marek Bem wrote a general study of Sobibór Camp, which, partly because of the author's qualification (a historian, for many years director of the Sobibór Museum), constitutes the most-thorough work on that camp (Bem 2014). The following year its "updated" English translation appeared (Bem 2015) – I will explain later in what ways it was updated. This is thus the reference work on Sobibór Camp, the most-authoritative orthodox text.

Regarding the alleged gas chambers, M. Bem writes (Bem 2015, p. 59):

> *"On the basis of the several dozen very different, often too general and imprecise descriptions that are available, I consider the Hagen jury's description of the Sobibór gas chamber to be adequate to match a possible appearance of the chamber at the time. It is a highly general description, but it includes the most crucial matters, and suitably takes into consideration observations provided by eyewitnesses, whose testimonies were and still are the only descriptions of that building:* […]*"*

This is followed by a long quotation from the judgment of December 20, 1966, of which I translate only the passages relating to the alleged gas chambers (first and second gassing buildings) from its original German:[245]

> *"About 500 m west of this chapel, the advance unit built the gas chamber building, a small solid structure with a concrete foundation. Inside this building, three adjacent cells measuring 4 x 4 m were sealed off gas-tight.* […]
>
> *For two reasons, additional construction appeared necessary to the Lublin headquarters and the camp management in Sobibor in the fall of 1942. The gas chambers proved to be too small, making the 'capacity' of the Sobibor Camp too low. Under the technical supervision of the defendant L.*[ambert]*, a construction team from the Lublin headquarters partially demolished the old gas-chamber building, and replaced it with a new, larger solid building with twice the number of chambers. The cells – each with an area of 4 x 4 and a clearance height of 2.20 m – were arranged on both sides of the building either in such a way that they left a central corridor or that they formed only one row. Each of the cells could be filled with about 80 people standing close together. With now six chambers, about 480 people could be killed during each gassing operation after completion of the construction work, which proceeded quickly within a few weeks due to the use of Jewish prisoners as helpers."*

Bem then sets out his considerations (I remind the reader that he wrote his Polish text before the "discovery" of the alleged gas-chamber ruins): In his

[245] Rüter/de Mildt, 2001, pp. 92f., 98; cf. Rückerl, pp. 163, 172f.

opinion, one of the problems with the gas-chamber building was that of the construction system of the foundations. Given the sandy soil of the camp, he considered it very likely that the walls of the building rested on horizontal beams ("the foundations consisted of [horizontal] support beams [*z belek podwalinowych*], rather than on concrete foundations").

In this context, he specified (Bem 2015, pp. 59-61/2014, pp. 64-67):

> *"To a very limited degree, the only possible chance to find answers to these questions is through archaeological research. I am of the opinion that the excavations made in the spring of 2011 have, beyond doubt, shown the route of 'the road to Heaven' in its final stage, which 'ushered' victims into the gas chamber. Such findings increase chances of locating the remains of the gas chamber. Getting to know the place where the chamber was built offers a chance for a thorough analysis of its framework. Consequently, such an analysis enhances the probability of a factual description of its ground part and ways of functioning."*

The English translation of the original Polish text is abruptly interrupted by a supplement, well highlighted in bold type and between square brackets, which says (2015, p. 61):

> *"**[On 8 September 2014, the archaeologists unearthed remains of red brick walls. All the indications are that these are the remains of the gas chamber. The excavated area lies between the (so-called) 'road to heaven,' the crematorium, the remains of the barrack which, at the time when the camp was operational, belonged to the special commando unit, and the well. A panel of experts from the Museum of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German Concentration and Extermination Camp have officially confirmed the find. Undoubtedly, this remarkable discovery will be of vital importance in further research into the Holocaust because it might enable researchers to, firstly, arrive at a more accurate estimate of the Sobibór camp's victims, and, secondly, to obtain more precise information as to the exact way in which the victims were murdered.]**"*

This paragraph is full of scurrilous and even puerile propaganda. First of all, Bem does not mention the number of alleged gas chambers found – four – which is in open contrast to the "finding" of the Hagen District Court that staged the Sobibór Trial (September 6 – December 20, 1966), which Bem himself considered very close to reality: six chambers. Two "gas chambers" are therefore missing, and this cannot be an irrelevant fact. The reference to the "panel of experts from the Museum of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German Concentration and Extermination Camp" who are said to have "officially confirmed the find" is almost comical: how could this group, based on a few rows of bricks scattered here and there that belonged to a structure of which nothing is known, confirm that these were the remains of "gas chambers"? And why would that be "official"? The next comment instead borders on dementia: how could one possibly establish, again on the basis of a few rows of bricks, "a

more accurate estimate of the Sobibór camp's victims," and how could one "obtain more precise information as to the exact way in which the victims were murdered"?

Further on, Bem publishes a "map of archaeological finds made on the territory of the former German extermination camp in Sobibor in the years 2001 – 2014. Compiled by Wojciech Mazurek and Rafał Ratajczak," which was updated as of December 31, 2014 (Document 58; *ibid*., p. 105). It also shows the alleged gas chambers, as can be seen clearly in Document 58a, which is a cut-out of the map.

Here the authors have correctly drawn the four alleged gas chambers, which I have numbered 1-4 in Document 58b, even with semicircular eastern sides (a-b-c-d), but they have imaginatively added along the western side a long corridor (10) flanked by four other gas chambers (5-8), with the alleged access staircase behind the southern side (9) and the alleged small room with the gassing engine to the north (11). The resulting plan is not only arbitrary, but also asymmetrical, because the rooms on the West side (5-8) are clearly smaller than those on the East side. Moreover, the problem of the number remains: eight, instead of six rooms.

And precisely six rooms were also advocated by Jules Schelvis. In his opinion, "the first gas chambers in Sobibór were built according to the original Bełżec pattern. The layout and dimensions [of the chambers] were identical."[246]

For Schelvis, the Bełżec model was also adopted for the second extermination facility at Sobibór, so much so that he reproduced the Polish drawings of the Bełżec facility to illustrate the structure of the alleged gas chambers in Sobibór. The second plan shows a facility with six gas chambers arranged in groups of three on either side of a central corridor, with an access staircase at the front, an engine booth at the back, and two side "ramps" (Document 59). In his plan of the camp, Schelvis drew precisely a gassing facility with 3 + 3 gas chambers (Document 60). At this point, he adduces the testimony of former SS *Scharführer* Franz Hödl, who stated during his interrogation of April 18, 1963:[247]

> *"During my time there, the gas chamber was not concealed from aerial view by a camouflage net hung above it. The gas chamber itself consisted of an elongated concrete barracks with a central corridor. From this central corridor one entered the individual extermination cells, three or four of which were located to the left and right of the corridor. It was dark in these cells. There was a flat roof, in which, to my knowledge, there were no hatches. The outer walls were formed by foldable doors along the entire length, which were folded up after the gassing. This was also the way of ventilating the cell."*

[246] Schelvis, p. 118. The statement is repeated on p. 120.
[247] Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Protok. Vol. III, Gomerski Trial, p. 1278.

Hödl is said to have been the operator of the killing engine. The fact that he was not sure about the exact number of alleged gas chambers is surprising, to say the least. In his trial sketch of the Sobibór Camp of March 25, 1966, he was forced to decide on the number of alleged gas chambers, and opted for 3 + 3 (Document 61).[248] However, in order not to displease anyone, Hödl drew 4 + 4 gas chambers in the sketch of September 25, 1974 (Document 62).[249]

The Ukrainian auxiliary Vassily Pankov gave the following description (Graf/Kues/Mattogno, p. 149):

> *"At the camp there were 6 not-large gas chambers, sized about 3 × 4 meters, and 50-70 and even up to 100 detainees were put into each chamber, and then the doors would be hermetically closed and a diesel motor operated, from which the exhaust fumes would be piped into each chamber. For an hour or more the detainees were killed by the gas in the gas chambers."*

It is a fact that these are practically the only descriptions of the second gassing building at Sobibór. It is well known that there are no self-proclaimed (former) inmate eyewitnesses to the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (with the exception of the mythomaniac Ya'akov Biskovitz; see Subchapter 2.3.), so to get a description of the facilities, one has to rely on the post-war statements made by former SS men who, according to orthodox Holocaust historiography, played an important role in *Lager* III. However, they knew practically nothing about the new gas chambers, starting with their alleged builder, SS *Unterscharführer* Erwin Hermann Lambert. In the interrogation of October 2, 1962, he stated:[250]

> *"As I mentioned at the beginning, I was in the Sobibor death camp for about a fortnight to three weeks. It may have been in the autumn of 1942. However, I cannot be sure of the exact time.*
> *At that time, I received an order from Wirth to enlarge the gassing facility in Sobibor; in fact, I was to build the facility according to the model of Treblinka. At that time, I went to Sobibor together with Lorenz Hackenholt. Hackenholt was in Treblinka at that time. First, I drove together with Hackenholt to a sawmill near Warsaw. There Hackenholt ordered a larger consignment of lumber for the reconstruction work in Sobibor. Then the two of us drove to Sobibor. There we reported to the camp leader Reichleitner. He then gave us the pertinent instructions for the construction of the gassing facility.*
> *Before my arrival, the camp was already in operation, and a gassing facility had already existed. Probably the reconstruction had to be done because the old facility was not big enough or not solid enough."*

The narrative of this alleged event continues for another 28 lines, but without the slightest mention of structural details of the new "gassing plant."

As far as is known, SS *Hauptscharführer* Lorenz Hackenholt has never been interrogated.

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248 *Ibid.*, p. 60.
249 *Ibid.*, p. 1278.
250 Interrogation of Erwin Hermann Lambert, October 2, 1962. ZStL, 208 AR-Z 251/59, Vol. VIII, pp. 1542f.

SS *Oberscharführer* Hermann Erich Bauer, the alleged "*Gasmeister*" (gas master, gassing operator) of Sobibór, only mentioned the new gassing plant in passing:[251]

> *"Lager III was full of trees. I remember clearly that there was a camouflage net over the gas chamber.* […]
> *During the reconstruction of the gas chamber, the camouflage net was torn down. I don't know whether it was put up again later.* […]
> *The gas chamber was at first a purely wooden construction. During the time I was there, it was torn down and solidly rebuilt.* […]
> *I am completely sure that the gas chamber was built anew."*

SS *Unterscharführer* Hubert Gomerski, who served at *Lager* III, stated otherwise:[252]

> *"I do not remember any reconstruction of the gas chambers.*
> *At the chamber exits, only board walls were placed in front of the openings and then wedged shut. Trap doors were not installed. I know only of three doors – and three chambers. There was no corridor in the middle, where the chambers were on the left and right."*

However, as I pointed out in another study (Mattogno/Kues/Graf, pp. 762-768), Lambert and Hackenholt could not have taken the second gassing facility in Treblinka as a model for Sobibór, because the construction of the Sobibór facility is said to have been carried out in June-September 1942, while in Treblinka the work supposedly began only in late August/early September of that year. In this regard, Lambert stated (Arad 1993, p. 132):

> *"We must have worked for six or eight weeks on that job* [of building the large gas chambers]*."*

Therefore, the construction at Treblinka was completed in mid or late October, hence *after* the construction of the Sobibór facility. On the other hand, the design of the second gassing facility at Treblinka is said to have been different from the one claimed for Sobibór: six or ten "gas chambers" of 8 m × 4 m each at Treblinka, but six "gas chambers" of 4 m × 4 m each at Sobibór, so that the "model" for the claimed Sobibór facility should have been the claimed facility at Bełżec, not Treblinka.

Hence, if we insist on there being any logic to this, the alleged second gassing facility at Sobibór Camp was built on the model of that of Bełżec and contained 3 + 3 gas chambers, according to Schelvis's interpretation. However, there does not seem to be any logic in the matter, as the following summary shows:

1. Hagen District Court: six gas chambers measuring 4 m × 4 m, arranged on either side of a central corridor (3 + 3 chambers) or (!) in series one after the other.

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[251] Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Protok. Vol. III, Gomerski Trial, pp. 1129f.
[252] Interrogation of November 20, 1965. Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund-XI' 65, p. 711.

2. Franz Hödl: six or (!) eight gas chambers, arranged on either side of a central corridor (3 + 3 or 4 + 4 chambers).
3. Vassily Pankov: six gas chambers of 3 m × 4 m.
4. Hubert Gomerski: three gas chambers.

Returning to the initial topic, another surprising fact is that, despite the existence of a multiplicity of maps of the camp drawn by former inmates and former SS men indicating the location of the alleged gas chambers, twenty-five of which were published by Bem,[253] it took fourteen years of research to arrive at the alleged archaeological discovery.

What I have set out above confirms that the discovery – the remains of four alleged gas chambers – is at odds with conflicting witness statements and trial findings.

It is not necessary to insist too much on the fact that the only guarantors of the existence of a gassing facility at Sobibór Camp are the alleged eyewitnesses, who claim to have seen it with their own eyes. But if an archaeological discovery contradicts these testimonies, there are only two possibilities: either the discovery is bogus (in the sense that the remains of a structure of unknown purpose are attributed the status of gas chambers), or the eyewitnesses were blatantly mistaken about the alleged extermination facility, and this radically invalidates their related extermination testimonies.

However, there is also a third possibility, and it is the most-sensible, which is also valid for Bełżec: the eyewitnesses lied, therefore their fantasies cannot and do not match the archaeological reality.

Wojciech Mazurek's and Rafał Ratajczak's escape route from this dilemma, which adulterates the facts, to say the least, was to transform the remains of four rooms into the remains of eight rooms, plus an additional cell. This was clearly inspired by Hödl's map of September 25, 1974, as is evident from the comparison of the two drawings (Document 63), a map that was well-known to historians and archaeologists of Sobibór and is among those published by M. Bem.[254]

W. Mazurek was well aware that the alleged discovery of four gas chambers was in contrast to all the testimonies and trial verdicts. In fact, in the report quoted earlier, he left open a window for a future "adjustment" of the "discovery":

> *"In the space of about 3 m, a row of pole holes (spaced at a distance of 2 to 3 m) is running. This is probably the area of the corridor separating two groups of rooms of alleged gas chambers, which is closed from the south with a wider space with dimensions of 5 x 3 m, where probably a petrol engine was located, whose exhaust fumes killed hundreds of thousands of people."*

[253] Bem 2015, pp. 78-101; 2014, pp. 85-110.
[254] *Ibid.*, p. 107.

If the "space of about 3 m" wide was a corridor, it is utterly unclear why there is "a row of pole holes (spaced at a distance of 2 to 3 m)" in its center. Such a row of pole holes suggests the presence of a fence rather than a corridor.

The "adjustment" was made in 2016, when Teresa Mazurek, Wojciech Mazurek, Rafał Ratajczak explained:[255]

> *"In the area of the asphalt square the foundation outlines of 8 rooms used as the foundation for the older walls of the gas chambers. Three rooms on the south have dimensions of 4,00 x 5,30, the extreme northern room had the dimensions of 4,00 x 3,40 m. In the area east of the monument 4 outlines of brick foundations have been uncovered (dimensions: 5,05 m on the axis north-south and 6,80 m on the axis east-west). From the eastern side the rooms were closed with the semicircular formed foundation benches* [*ławami fundamentowymi* = foundation walls] *with a width of about 30 cm, similar semicircle closes the extreme southern room. Between the relics of western and eastern there was a space of about 3 meters, a row of pole holes (spaced at a distance of 2 to 3 m) is running. North from this corridor adjusted a wider space with dimensions of 5,05 x 3,50 m, where probably a petrol engine* [*silnik benzynowy*] *was located, whose exhaust fumes killed hundreds of thousands* [of] *people."*

I give the dimensions of the various rooms in Document 64. In this drawing, the real findings are those colored in red and dark green; those in orange are mere traces, and those in light green mere conjectures.[256] Hence, the real remnants of the alleged gas chambers concern only four rooms.

The plan that appears in the document clearly shows an asymmetric building, and the dimensions given for the rooms are certainly not accurate. In fact, none of the rooms has a clear rectangular shape; on the contrary, they all represent indefinable, oddly shaped geometric figures. The northern walls of Rooms 1-4 should all measure 6.80 m, but in fact they are all different; the eastern walls should be 5.05 m long, but they are even-more-different than the northern walls, with more-or-less-arched contours.

Rooms 6, 7 and 8 are supposed to be 5.30 meters long each, but Room 8 is longer than the other two, Room 5 is the allegedly smallest gas chamber (3.40 m × 4.00 m = 13.60 m², although it is not rectangular), and the alleged engine room (No. 11) is larger than this gas chamber: 5.05 m × 3.50 m (but it is not rectangular either), *i.e.* 17.67 m² versus 13.60 m²! As can be seen in Document 65, of this room only two pieces of foundation remain on the East and West sides (which I have indicated with the letters "E" and "O").

The four western rooms (Nos. 5-8) form a sort of isosceles trapezoid whose northern side measures 4 meters, while the southern side measures 3 meters.

The small room on the south side (9) is instead said to be the base of the staircase leading into the alleged gas-chamber building, similar to what is claimed for the Bełżec facility (see Document 59). If a simple staircase re-

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[255] Mazurek/Mazurek/Ratajczak, 2017, p. 33. The passage also appears in an earlier report in English by the same authors: *idem* 2016, p. 29, from which I quote the labored English here.

[256] For the re-colored printed black-and-white illustration see the caption of Document 58b.

quired such a foundation, it would be needed all-the-more-so for the two lateral "ramps" (also drawn in Document 59), meaning the two concrete platforms purportedly located on either side of the building that are said to have served for easier removal of the alleged gassing victims from the individual chambers. However, archaeologists found no trace of the two "ramps" but, apparently, did not even question their existence.

A photograph taken from the south (Document 66) shows the aforementioned Room 9 in the foreground: here, however, the small piece of masonry on the north side and the debris located on the sides clearly form a semicircle.

The remnants, as I noted above, contain other foundations of semicircular perimeter walls, a feature that is at least unusual and has not been explained by archaeologists.

The real discovery is therefore the one that appears in a photograph published in the "2015 Annual Report" of the Majdanek State Museum (Document 67; Kowalczyk-Nowak, p. 24): ruins of 4 rooms (Rooms 1-4) plus the two smaller ones to the north (11) and south (9), all (but especially the latter) with more-or-less-tampered wall remnants.

In 2014, Polish archaeologists knew perfectly well the testimonial-judicial "truth" of the alleged gassing facility's layout (3 + 3 or 4 + 4 rooms), so that, in their perspective, they discovered half a building at the time: but how can one seriously believe that it took them two years to unearth the other half (in a rectangular area of about 80 m² adjacent to the half building already discovered)?

It can therefore be concluded that the alleged discovery is in contrast with all the testimonies and the court findings, both for the number, for the shape and for the sizes of the alleged gas chambers. This discovery also has a surprising background.

5.4. The Discovery (1945), Covering-up (1960s) and Rediscovery (2014) of the "Gas Chambers"

In a valuable work, Marek Bem and Wojciech Mazurek have outlined, among other things, the history of the Polish judicial investigations on Sobibór Camp (Bem/Mazurek 2012a&b). Summarized succinctly, these investigations began on October 4, 1945, and concluded in October 1946, with camp inspections and the interrogation of witnesses. On November 23, 1945, the prosecutor of the Lublin District Court compiled a report for the Krakow office of the Central Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland, in which he noted, among other things (Bem/Mazurek 2012a, p. 31):

> *"The gas chamber was blown up; in the place where it was located, judicial inspection revealed only remnants of rubble* [*resztki gruzów*]*, which make it impossible to determine their surface and size."*

In 1947, Judge Łukaszkiewicz summarized the results of the investigation in an article, whose title translates to "The Sobibór Extermination Camp," in which he wrote (Łukaszkiewicz 1947a, p. 50):

> *"As a result of the measurements taken during the investigation, a drawing of the camp area was compiled, in which all the remains that have been preserved in the camp to date were indicated. Also in the records, there is a drawing of the camp at the time of its operation submitted by the Central Jewish Historical Commission and compiled by former inmates of the camp. The location of the rubble during the investigation is in general agreement with the site of the gas chamber in this reconstructive drawing."*

The map that accompanies the article contains the location of the "*Komory gazowe*" ("gas chambers") written inside a red rectangle (Document 68).

Bem and Mazurek publish a geodetic map made by engineer Marian Cudny in 1951, which contains "the location of the elements of the camp infrastructure detected and identified by the Central Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland in the course of local investigation and inspection in the years 1945-1946" (Bem/Mazurek 2012a, p. 36). Unfortunately, the map is not very clear (Document 69), however the two objects I have labeled A and B can be identified thanks to another document.

In the early 1960s, the Council for the Protection of Monuments of Struggle and Martyrdom (*Rada Ochrony Pomników Walk i Męczeństwa*) decided to establish a memorial on the grounds of the former Sobibór Camp. The project was awarded to the architect Romuald Dylewski. In 1962, he drew up a plan for a circular ash mound with a diameter of 50 meters. In addition, in the area where the alleged gas chambers were located, he designed a stone pillar with a square base measuring 4 m × 4 m, 8 meters high, and next to it a stone slab measuring 6 m × 6 m, 30 cm high, which was not built. A statue was erected in its place.

In the technical explanations of his project, architect Dylewski examined individual sections of the camp, including the "gas chamber site" ("*Plac komór gazowych*"). In the relevant paragraph he noted (*ibid*., p. 44):

> *"The gas chambers represented the quintessence of the crime; at the same time, they were the place of extreme torture of the victims. This place is therefore particularly worthy of being taken as a model and to be emphasized. The project involves covering the remains of the foundations of the chambers* [*pokrycie śladu fundamentów komór*] *– in strict accordance with the contours provided on a geodetic basis – with an asphalt square, in which a monument with a torch will be erected. The asphalted square will be an extension of the road at this location, with dimensions of 30 x 30 meters."*

In the center of this square, it was planned to place the two monuments mentioned above. In order to carry out his project, architect Dylewski drew a new map of the former Sobibór camp which is a reworking of engineer Marian Cudny's map. The title is "Sobibór Extermination Camp 1942-1943 Existing

Situation – 1962."[257] The caption lists various remains (*ślady*), including the "Ruins of the Gas Chamber Building" ("*Ślady budynku komór gazowych*"), indicated by the letter S. Document 71 shows a section of the map, in which the area of the presumed gas chambers appears in the shape of an L. I have rotated this section by 90°, so that it corresponds to that of Document 72, and I have added the letters A and B. In both maps, A indicates the area of the presumed gas chambers, B the chapel, still today existing on the road that runs along the east side of the former camp. Document 73 is an excerpt of Document 71, which shows the area of the presumed gas chambers: sides a and b measure about 30 meters; Side a faces south, Side b faces east, towards the chapel. As can be seen by comparing Dylewski's map with an aerial photograph (Document 74), and with the map published by Bem (Document 72), where A and B also indicate the area of the alleged gas chambers and the chapel, this area was already perfectly well-known at the beginning of the 1960s. Right above it, the asphalt square of 30 m × 30 m was indeed built, by adding the north-western Quadrant c to the L-shaped remnants of the alleged gas chamber (Document 75).

In the text quoted earlier, Mazurek himself confirms this fact:

> *"Between the* [still] *existing tower and monument numerous relicts of the first commemorating the victims of Sobibor from the year 1965 have been found."*

But already at that time, the soil covering the future memorial square had been largely removed in order to create the asphalt road that would pass over the remains of the alleged gas chambers, as can be seen by comparing the two photographs in Document 76, which show the road leading to the ash mound after the discovery (above) and during the work on the monument (below).

With that, the circle is closed: the remains of the alleged gas chambers were identified in 1945, covered with asphalt in the 1960s (and probably damaged in the process), and then rediscovered in 2014!

In the 1960s, such an operation had a predominantly memorial and symbolic character. From 2000 onwards, historical-archaeological interest prevailed, and the search for the gas chambers took on a decisive function: on the one hand, the hope was to find confirmation of the testimonies, on the other hand to refute the so-called "deniers."

As I have documented earlier, however, the discovery is in radical contradiction to the testimonies. It follows that either the eyewitnesses lied and there never was any gassing facility, or the remains discovered in 2014 do not belong to the alleged gassing facility. But since by now archaeologists have thoroughly sifted all possible and imaginable locations on the former camp grounds, it can safely be concluded that there never was any gassing facility.

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[257] See Document 70; "Sobibór obóz zagłady 1942-43. Projekt pomnika. 1962 r." ("Sobibór extermination camp 1942-43. Monument project. 1962"). Powiatowe Archiwum Państwowe w Chełmie, Zespół PGRN-Włodawa.

5.5. The Mass Graves

In the years 2000-2001, Andrzej Kola carried out an archaeological survey on the grounds of the former Sobibór Camp. The results were described by him in two articles (Kola 2000c, 2001), which in turn were summarized and analyzed by Thomas Kues, as mentioned earlier. On the basis of 1,805 soundings similar to those carried out in Bełżec, Kola identified seven pits. The following table summarizes the relevant data (Graf/Kues/Mattogno, p. 128).

For Pits Nos. 1 and 2, Kola uses the term "*grób ciałopalny*," "cremation grave," meaning a pit containing cremated human remains. Pits Nos. 3-6 moreover contained corpses in a saponified state. Pit No. 7 was a "cremation conglomerate" by which was meant a "cremation grave" or "a place where corpses were cremated" (Kola 2001, pp. 116f.), meaning a real "cremation pit."

In subsequent research, 13 more pits were discovered. One mass grave, south of Grave No. 7, measured 25 m × 5 m and was 1.9 to 2.1 meters deep (Mazurek 2011, p. 4). It was referred to as Pit No. 8 (Object 882). In addition, "3 other small cremation pits" were found which were numbered 9-11 (Mazurek 2013, p. 1).

In the spring of 2013, "two skeletal burials were discovered" which were assigned Numbers 12 and 13; the first contained the remains of six corpses, the other just of one body. Another single grave, No. 14, contained a single corpse. Common grave No. 15, to which I will return below, was also located. Grave No. 16 contained the remains of at least two corpses (*ibid*., pp. 11f.).

Excavations carried out in the fall of 2015 showed that grave No. 8 and No. 15 were one continuous L-shaped grave (*ibid.*, p. 8). The depth was over 2.5 meters (Mazurek/Mazurek/Ratajczak 2016, pp. 24f.); this measurement evidently applies to Section 15 (since the depth of Grave No. 8 was only 1.9-2.1 meters). The entire pit was given the Number 8/15. The dimensions of Section 15 are not indicated, but the maps showing the pits (see below) show a length of about 15 meters and a width of about 5. Therefore, the entire pit measured 40 m × 5 m = 200 m². In the course of research, the archaeologists came across a pit in which, at a depth of 70-80 cm, there were burnt bones. It became Pit No. 17 (*ibid*., p. 30). Pit No. 18 had already been surveyed in 2011 and was then considered a garbage pit; the discovery of human bones in it made it classified precisely as Pit No. 18 (*ibid*., p. 36). The series is closed by two other very small pits, Nos. 19 and 20 (*ibid*., pp. 37f.).

The pits were surveyed topographically, and the corresponding maps permit getting a fairly accurate idea of their dimensions (Documents 77 [Mazurek 2013, p. 3] and 78 [Haimi 2015, p. 5]).

Above I noted that Pit No. 8/15 had a surface area of about 200 square meters. Of the remaining pits (9-14 and 16-20), the largest were Nos. 17 and 18, which measured roughly 4 m × 5 m each; all others were much smaller, mostly single burials. Taken all together, these pits did not even reach 100 square me-

Dimensions, Locations and Contents of Mass Graves at Sobibór Camp							
#	DIMENSIONS [m]	AREA [m²]	VOLUME [m³]	# OF CORES	HECTARE #	HUMAN REMAINS	SHAPE
1	20×20×4.30	400	1,720	27	XVII	cremated corpses	
2	20×25×4.0	500	2,000	28	XVII	cremated corpses	irr.
3	20×12×5.80	240	1,392	17	XI-SW/ XVII-NW	cremated & saponified corpses	irr.
4	70×20-25×5.0	1,575	7,875	78	XI-S/ XVIII-N	cremated & saponified corpses	
5	10×12×4.90	120	588	7	XVIII-NW	cremated & saponified corpses	irr.
6	15×25×3.05	375	1,143.75	22	XVIII	cremated & saponified corpses	irr.
7	10×3×0.90	30	27	6	XVIII	cremated remains	
	Total:	3,240	14,745.75	185			

ters. The average depth could not have been greater than that of Section 15 of Pit No. 8/15, hence 2.5 meters.

Therefore, the total area of the pits results in (3,240 m² + 300 m² =) 3,540 m², which can be rounded up to 3,500 m².

The total volume is (14,745.75 m³ + [300 m² × 2.5 m =]) 15,048.25 m³, in round figures 15,000 m³.

However, in the above-mentioned maps, the pits are not regular geometric figures, such as rectangles or squares, as Jules Schelvis sensibly represented them (Document 79), but silhouettes with odd and uncertain contours. One cannot seriously believe that those were the real contours of the pits, nor that they had been dug without criteria and almost at random, which would also be contrary to any rational management of the camp's space.

In order to interpret this fact, it is necessary to know what happened in the period immediately after the war.

In July 1944, the Red Army occupied the territory of the former Sobibór Camp. In 1945, the Polish authorities used the barracks of the camp near the railway, left untouched by the Germans, as a sorting center for Ukrainians who were to be deported. Their deportations took place in the years 1945-1947. The Ukrainians who were waiting for the trains dismantled the remaining camp barracks in order to obtain wood for heating. The work of destroying the traces left by the Germans was most likely completed by undocumented "excavations on the grounds in search for hoped-for 'precious objects left behind by the Jews,'" which was carried out by the population of the surrounding area. A witness, Jan Doliński, recalled that he went there about a hundred times, and that there were about a hundred people looking for precious objects; the sand was sifted through with large sieves measuring 1.5 m × 1.5 m. Among other things, he saw a large pit two meters deep in which a person was at work (Bem/Mazurek 2012a, p. 24).

Therefore, just as the grounds of the former Bełżec Camp, the grounds of the former Sobibór Camp had also been disrupted by wildcat diggings, which favored the scattering of ashes and human remains even to areas that had not been mass graves.

More information on the activities of these wildcat diggers was gathered by Thomas Kues (Graf/Mattogno/Kues, pp. 130f.).

It can therefore be safely assumed that random excavations by "gold diggers" devastated the original, probably orthogonal margins of the mass graves, creating the irregular contours indicated by archaeologists.

In Document 80, which is Mazurek's map of the pits, I superimposed a vertical and horizontal scale bar of 50 meters each (oddly divided into eight segments of 6.25 meters each) onto Pit No. 4. The length of this pit is therefore less than 55 meters, its width less than 20. The total area is therefore less than 1,100 square meters. Since this pit is credited with at least (70 m × 20 m =) 1,400 square meters, it exceeds the presumed effective area by 300 m², which represents a 21% increase.

From this it may be reasonably inferred that the real area of the pits was at least 20% smaller, so it amounted to about 2,850 square meters; the order of magnitude of the volume was therefore about 12,000 cubic meters.

However, this assumes that the mapping of the mass-grave areas is accurate. Kola surveyed the first six pits, which comprise the vast majority of the total surface area and volume of all the pits: 3,210 m² and 14,718.75 m³, respectively. During the preliminary investigations, Kola carried out only ten soundings in Hectare XVII, west of the former monumental mound. Of these, five were positive, meaning that the contents of these core samples led him to conclude that they contained traces of mass graves. To the east of the mound, he took fifteen core samples, six of which were positive, two others contained human hair (Kola 2000c, pp. 90f.). Kola published a map (Document 81), in which the soundings related to the pits are represented by a small square with a black dot in the center. Comparison with the map of mass graves he published in 2001 (Document 82) and with the corresponding map by W. Mazurek (Document 83) shows that the easternmost core sample, which was positive, is outside the area of Pit No. 4, and the southernmost sample, negative, is at its lower limit.

Kola subsequently identified Pit No. 3 with 17 soundings and No. 4 with 78. Since the boreholes were drilled according to the 5 m × 5 m grid I reproduced in Document 83, they were all arranged orthogonally. It is not explained how he could trace asymmetrical, irregular contours of these pits with such a sampling pattern. Nor is it clear how he could distinguish Pit No. 3 from Pit No. 4, since they are represented as a single figure.

In the two short articles mentioned earlier, Kola merely published the results of his investigations, or rather his conclusions, without providing any data that allowed any kind of verification, as he had done in the case of Bełżec.

Therefore, we are asked to have blind faith in his claims about his core-sample data and the correctness of his interpretations and conclusions.

But there is also another issue. Thomas Kues pointed out that Sobibór Camp was located in a vast marshy area to such an extent that, according to J. Schelvis, railway traffic between Chełm and Włodawa (a little more than 10 km north of Sobibór Station) was interrupted from the end of July to October 1942 because the railway tracks had sunk into the marshy ground at several points. A Polish map of 1933 shows that the station was located 167 m above sea level, and the surface of Lake Spilno, about 1 km to the west, was 164 m above sea level. In this lake, the water table of the area surfaced. According to a map published by Kola, the area of the mass graves was at a height of 170 m above sea level, so there the water table was at most six meters below ground level (Graf/Mattogno/Kues, pp. 133-138).

A 1:100,000 Polish map of the area around Włodawa was used by the Wehrmacht for military purposes. It contains multiple German annotations and various symbols, plus detailed explanations on the right-hand side, including about the local climate (Document 84). On this map, the territory is described as a depression with the River Bug in the center and sandy flatlands surrounding it. The marshes (*Sümpfe*) usually froze from mid-December to mid-March. The bogs (*Moore*) froze starting at temperatures of -6 to -8°C, in case of snow cover starting at -12 to -16°C. Heavy rainfall and snowmelt placed "vast areas under water." Average temperatures ranged from -4°C (January) to +18°C (July). Frost generally took over from mid-October to late April; streams were frozen from mid-December to mid-March. Average rainfall was 30 mm in January, February, and March, 40 in April, 50 in May, 80 in June and July, 60 in August, 50 in September, 40 in October, 30 in November and December; a total of 550 mm of rain in a year. Snow fell an average of 45 days per year. The snowpack persisted from mid-November to mid-March. Thawing at the end of February, soil consolidation after 3-4 weeks, dry soil after another 14 days.

Next to the railway station near Sobibór, the map has a cogwheel drawn in, which is the symbol of a sawmill (Document 85). The elevation of the station is again 167 m above sea level, and that of Lake Spilno again 164 m. Next to Lake Spilno, to the west, is a large dotted area with the annotation "flooded in spring." This flood zone is bounded by elevation entries 168 (east of the lake) and 166.9 (northeast, near the top of this area), so during spring, following the snow melt, the water level almost reached the elevation of the railway station.

Thus, the climatic conditions set forth above show that the water table varied throughout the year, rising during the period of heavy rainfall and spring melt. From this picture it appears that the area in question was certainly not optimal for the establishment of an extermination camp requiring the excavation of huge mass graves.

In particular, it does not seem very likely that the camp SS had dug mass graves up to 5.8 meters deep. The putrid runoff inevitably would have polluted

the groundwater. That the Germans were not insensitive to such sanitary issues is apparent from the relevant observations found in the above-mentioned map:

> *"Healthcare*
> *Supply of aseptic water adequate. Water wells are monitored. Dairy products not hygienically safe; milk must be boiled. Typhoid fever and dysentery remediated (about 80% of population vaccinated against these), malaria and Wolhynia fever*[258] *possible but not endemic; no typhus."*

As for Kola, his statement that most of the pits he identified had a depth of 4 to 5.8 meters is at odds with what he himself wrote in reference to the well mentioned earlier (Kola 2001, p. 119):

> *"The further archaeological investigation was therefore continued not within the indicated excavation, but inside the well, reaching a depth of 5.00-5.10 m. At this stage, the exploration was terminated due to the rapid inflow of ground water, which appeared from a depth of about 3.60 m* [*Na tym etapie eksplorację zakończono z uwagi na gwałtowny napływ wody gruntowej, która pojawiła się już od głębokości około 3,60 m*]*."* (Emphasis added)

On Kola's preliminary survey map (Document 81), the quadrangle in which the well and the alleged gas chambers were located is bounded by elevations of 169.83 (NW, the closest point to the well), 170.07 (NE), 169.86 (SE), and 169.75 (SW). The mass graves are located in an area with elevations of 170.30 to 169.70 meters. In practice, the difference in elevation between the two areas is a few decimeters.

Hence, if the water table in the well was at 3.60 m from ground level, Kola should have encountered groundwater starting at about 4 m in the area of the mass graves; but then, why did he never mention any groundwater intrusion during his drillings down to depths of 4.30, 4.90, 5.00 and even 5.80 m?

5.6. Comparing Archaeological Data with Testimonies

Such a comparison is not easy, because the testimonies are mutually contradictory. Former SS *Oberscharführer* Heinz Kurt Bolender, who arrived at Sobibór on April 22, 1942 and remained there until July, stated during an interrogation on June 5, 1961:[259]

> *"A mass grave may have been about 60 m long, 20 m wide and 6 – 7 m deep. The side walls were sloped to avoid the danger of collapse. In response to an interposed question, I explain that, at the time of my stay in Sobibor, no cremations of corpses have taken place. I know this for a fact. During my time, the corpses were layered in order to be able to accommodate as many as possible in one grave."*

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[258] Also called trench fever and quintan fever.
[259] ZStL 252/59, Vol. II, p. 1322.

During an interrogation of February 24, 1964, former SS *Unterscharführer* Hubert Gomerski stated in reference to *Lager* 3:[260]

> *"There were a total of three large corpse pits there. I estimate the length of the pits to be about 30 – 40 m, the width to be 8 – 10 m, and the depth to be about 2 – 3 m. The dimensions may have been different in each case; I cannot say that exactly anymore today.*
> *There were three corpse pits in Lager 3, which were located in the order of their construction at the rear end of the camp (as seen from the entrance to Lager 3), and to the right of the fence behind the guard tower, and to the left of the fence diagonally behind the gas chamber. Of these three pits, the last one was no longer used, because in the meantime an incineration facility had been built in the area behind the watchtower.*
> *This consisted of a row of iron girders, over which the corpses were placed. Then a large fire was lit under this row of girders. Subsequently, both the Jews who had just been killed and the corpses from the two pits mentioned first were burned in this manner."*

During his December 2, 1966 interrogation in Hagen, Gomerski returned to the matter in the following terms:

> *"In the pit, a small projection, a kind of jetty, was built of wood, and the dead were dumped from the carts from there into the pits. The pits had a dimension of 25 x 40 x 2-2 1/2 meters.*
> *The earth consisted of sandy soil; the walls were sloped."*[261]
> *"After about 2-2 1/2 months, the first transports arrived. A total of three pits were made; the third pit was not used. When the first transports arrived, the first pit was not yet completely excavated. The second pit was dug only when the first one was almost full. The third pit was dug with an excavator; it was not filled."*[262]
> *"I witnessed the digging of Pit 3, as well as the beginning of the burnings. When Bolender left the camp, there were no burnings yet."*[263]

During an interrogation of December 10, 1962, Erich Bauer spoke of "two pits of at least 30 m × 30 m base area each and about 5 m deep."[264]

With an erroneous reference to the summer of 1943, *Oberwachtmeister* Erich Lachmann stated:[265]

> *"The Jews who worked in the death camp were busy digging a large pit for the bodies."*

In this regard, he specified:[266]

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260 Landgericht Hagen, XXXVII Sobibor, pp. 16f.
261 Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund-XII1965, p. 705.
262 *Ibid.*, p. 709.
263 *Ibid.*, p. 710.
264 ZStL, 208 AR-Z 251/59, Vol. VIII, p. 1666.
265 Interrogation of Erich Gustav Willi Lachmann dated June 21, 1961. ZStL, 208 AR-Z 251/59, Vol. VIII, p. 678.
266 *Ibid.*, p. 680.

> *"The mass graves I saw in Lager 3 were about 60 to 70 meters from the gas chambers. I myself saw a mass grave that was still open. The corpses lay naked on top of each other in several layers. However, even with the most superficial estimate, I cannot state how many corpses lay in this mass grave. This mass grave was about the size of 60 x 60 meters. In any case, there must have been several thousand Jews lying in this pit. The corpses were sprinkled with chlorinated lime. It stank terribly."*

To recap, the mass graves had the following dimensions:

– Bolender: 60 m × 20 m × 6-7 m
– Gomerski: 30-40 m × 8-10 m × 2-3 m, or
40 m × 25 m × 2-2.5 m
– Bauer: 30 m × 30 m × 5 m
– Lachmann: 60 m × 60 m

According to these defendants, a total of three pits were excavated, but only two were used. These conflicting data are in turn at odds with the archaeological findings set forth above, both in terms of the number and size of the mass graves. The only compatible data is for the first pit, 60 m × 20 m for Bolender, 70 m × 20 for the archaeologists.

The German courts gave still different measurements, without explaining, on what this is based. The verdict of the Hagen Jury Court of December 20, 1966 devotes a few lines to the mass graves of Sobibór:[267]

> *"From the outer cell doors of the gas-chamber building, a field railway led to large pits. During the first extermination phase of the camp lasting some six months, these were gradually excavated, due to the sandy soil with sloping side walls, in order to accommodate the corpses; each was about 50-60 meters long, 10-15 meters wide, and about 5-7 meters deep."*

The court's map of the camp shows two mass graves.[268]

The verdict of the Frankfurt District Court of July 8, 1977 concerning the appeal proceedings in the case against Hubert Gomerski adds the following clarification (Rüter/de Mildt 2011, p. 662):

> *"The external wall of the individual cells was closed with large iron doors. From them, a field railway led to two large pits created within Camp III, which, during the first extermination phase lasting some six months, were gradually excavated with a length of about 40-50 m, 10-15 m in width, and a depth of about 5-7 m, and which were gradually filled with corpses of gassing victims."*

[267] Rüter/de Mildt 2001, p. 94. Cf. Rückerl, p. 165.
[268] Rüter/de Mildt 2001, p. 91. Cf. Rückerl, pp. 160f.

6. Treblinka

6.1. Soviet and Polish Investigations (1944-1946)

In 2010, Caroline Sturdy Colls, at that point a PhD student, but currently associate professor of forensic archaeology and genocide investigation at Staffordshire University (Great Britain), began a series of archaeological investigations on the grounds of the former Treblinka Camp over several years. In order to properly evaluate her discoveries, it is necessary to know what had happened in this area before, starting in 1944. I have already dealt extensively with this subject in another study, to which I refer.[269] In the present study, I will reprise and expand only on what is useful within the perspective of this chapter.

As already mentioned in Subchapter 3.6., the Investigation Committee of the Soviet Union's 65th Army, in the presence of the local Polish authorities, carried out an inspection in the area of Treblinka I Camp between August 22 and 23, 1944, which led to the discovery of three mass graves and 13 graves containing only one corpse each. The results of the investigations carried out in the three mass graves were as follows:

1. A grave measuring 10 m × 5 m × 2 m, covered with a soil layer of 45 to 50 cm, with 105 bodies randomly buried in 5 to 7 rows.[270]
2. A grave measuring 10 m × 5 m × 2 m, covered with a soil layer of 45 to 50 cm, with 105 bodies randomly buried in 5 to 7 rows.[271]
3. A grave measuring 10 m × 5 m × 2.5 m, covered with a soil layer of 50 cm, with 103 bodies randomly buried in 5 to 6 rows.[272]

I have already mentioned the report of August 24, 1944, of which I quoted the "historical" part; but it also mentions findings on the ground:[273]

> *"A huge area of the camp was covered with cinders and ashes. The road, which connected the two camps and is three kilometers long, was covered with cinders and ashes to a height of 7 – 10 cm. One could recognize the presence of lime in large pieces of cinder with the naked eye. It is well known that lime is a product of burning bones. There were no production sites in the camp, but cinders and ashes were brought out of the camp every day by the ton. This*

269 Mattogno/Graf, pp. 77-90.
270 Akt No. 1, undated, but from August 22, 1944. GARF, 7021-115-11, p. 1.
271 Akt No. 2, August 23, 1944; *ibid*., p. 2.
272 Akt No. 3, August 23, 1944; *ibid*., p. 3.
273 Akt, August 24, 1944. GARF, 7021-115-9, pp. 103-110.

freight was loaded onto railroad cars, and 20 to 30 peasant carts distributed them and poured them onto the road. (Witness testimony of Lucjan Puchała, Kazimierz Skarzinski. Stanisław Krym inter alia).

The statements of the witnesses, the book 'A Year in Treblinka' [by Jankiel Wiernik]*, the presence of a large quantity of ashes and cinders, the presence of personal belongings and documents strewn on the grounds as well as excavated from the pits confirm that there were furnaces in the camp where people were cremated. In the beginning, the Germans buried the bodies of the murdered. After Himmler had visited the camp, the bodies were dug up with an excavator and cremated.*

At present it is difficult to uncover the traces and secrets of this furnace for the cremation of people, but based upon the available data, one can picture it.

The furnace – this was a large trench 250-300 m in length, 20-25 m in width and 5-6 m deep, excavated by an excavator. Driven into the bottom of the ditch were three rows of reinforced-concrete posts, one-and-a-half-m in height each. The posts were connected to one another by cross-beams. On these cross-beams rails were placed at intervals of 5 to 7 cm. That was a gigantic furnace grill. A narrow-gauge spur track led down to the edge of the trench. (Witness testimony of Abe Kon, Hejnoch Brenner, Samuel Rajzman, and the content of the book 'One Year in Treblinka'). […]

The Germans attempted to erase the traces of their atrocities. After the revolt of the Jews, they destroyed all camp buildings that were still intact after the fire. Oats, rye, and lupines were then planted on the grounds of the former 'death camp.'

What remains are the walls of the burned residential building and of the cattle stall of the colonist Strebel, who was settled on the territory of the camp. Remaining as marks of the existence of the camp are: an abatis of barbed wire, ashes, cinders, and a great number of pits, where household possessions of the cremated Jews have been buried."

As mentioned at the beginning of Subchapter 3.7., on November 6, 1945, Polish Investigative Judge Łukaszkiewicz prepared a "Protocol on The Judicial Activity Carried out on the Ground in the Course of the Investigation in the Case of the Treblinka Death Camp" concerning his visit to the former camp.[274] I report his observations on the state of the grounds of the former camp:

"The entire terrain of the camp is currently covered with holes, pits and craters [*dołkami, dołami i lejami*] *of various sizes. They can be found everywhere, even in places covered by the forest, however they are grouped more densely in the hill described in Point 2, where, in an area of about 2 hectares, every part of the ground is literally covered with them. The depth of some craters reaches 7 meters, the diameter to 25 meters. Near the craters there are unexploded airplane bombs and artillery shells, as well as numerous pieces of shrapnel. The mayor of the village of Wólka Okrąglik explains that the holes and pits were made by the local population in search of gold and jewelry, while the craters*

[274] AGK, NTN 69, pp. 90f.

were caused by the bursting of airplane bombs and shells by Red Army soldiers, who were stationed at the Kosów Lacki Railway Station. In the described part of the terrain, covered with excavations and craters, there are numerous human remains /crania and other bones/; some bones still have remnants of tissue, skulls remnants of hair. In addition, all this ground is covered with ashes, mixed with sand and gravel /since in this area there are no real layers of sand and gravel/. In the ashes, one can see remains of human bones. The witnesses Rajzman and Romanowski [Reichman] *explain that this is the very place where the pits were located in which the people were buried and then the furnaces* [*paleniska*] [were operated]*."*

In January 1946, Rachel Auerbach made the following report on the inspection of the Treblinka area that had been conducted on November 7, 1945 (see Subchapter 3.7.):[275]

"All kinds of scavengers and marauders come here in droves, shovels in hand. They dig, search, and ransack; they sift the sand, they drag parts of half-rotten corpses from the earth, bones and scattered refuse in the hope that they may come upon at least a coin or a gold tooth. These human jackals and hyenas bring along live artillery shells and unexploded bombs. They explode several of them at once, tearing huge craters into the desecrated, blood-drenched soil which is comingled with the ashes of Jews.

The Sandy Soil Yields Up Its Secret. *Our car came to a stop. We got out: this was where the camp area began. According to our measurements, it is 15 hectares. A well-paved road runs parallel to the railroad tracks for about 1½ kilometers and then comes to a dead end. Another road branches out from it and comes to an end even sooner. The surface of both roads contains a weird mixture of coal and ashes from the pyres where the corpses of the inmates were cremated. The second road leads in the same direction as the 'Road to Heaven' of which no trace is now left. Just a bit of the concrete foundations of a horses' stable – this is all that is left today of the camp buildings, the barbed wire fences, the barracks, the watchtowers, the gas chambers. Some of the buildings were burned down by the uprising, and the rest were carried off by human scavengers from neighboring villages after the arrival of the Red Army.*

While the Germans were still here, the whole area had been plowed up and sown with lupine grass. And the lupine grass really grew and covered the whole surface with a green mask. It looked as if all the traces of the crimes had been wiped away. But since then, during the past year, the human jackals and hyenas have been coming to the burial ground and here is the picture that we saw:

Here and there, like patches of grass near the seashore, half-covered by the shifting sands, there were still little clumps of withered lupine. Not one level place in the whole area. Everything had been torn up and dug up, little hills and holes. And upon them, beneath them and among them, all sorts of objects.

[275] Donat, pp. 69-72. Donat writes that the trip took place on November 7, but Judge Łukaszkiewicz mentions November 6 (see below).

> *Aluminum kettles and pans, enameled tin pots – blackened, dented, full of holes. Combs with teeth broken off, half-rotted soles from ladies' summer sandals, broken mirrors, leather briefcases. All this is near the station platform where the camp's first barbed wire fences had been.*
> *We began our tour at the place where the transports had been unloaded and we continued on the road which the Jews who were brought here had followed. What we saw here was the remnants of the Treblinka 'Werterfassung'. Remnants of the huge piles of Jewish property, which had been packed up and sent away, incinerated, cleared off, and yet still could not be completely cleared away. It was not possible to clear away every trace of what the hundreds of thousands of people who had passed through here had experienced. Here was the physical evidence, here were the corpora delicti* […]
> *But the physical evidence was not limited to objects. As we moved farther into the grounds, we walked over a field which was sown with human bones.*
> *The bombs had revealed the contents of the desecrated soil. Leg bones, ribs, pieces of the spine, skulls big and small, short and long, round and flat.*
> *Skulls!…*
> *If only we could get an ethnologist to come here!*
> *He could have made the most accurate anthropological measurements on the racial features of the Jewish people.* […]
> *We were now standing where the gas chambers had been, the huge mass graves and the pyres. In some places, the smell of death was still mingled with the odor of fire. Indeed, here and there we could see little piles of white ashes along with blackened bones, heaps of soot. All this had been buried several meters deep in the soil, mixed with sand and covered with more sand, but the explosions had brought it to the surface again. In one place the simultaneous explosion of several bombs had created a huge crater. Deep down in the hole, some outlines could be dimly seen through the fog.*
> *'Those aren't just bones,' explained the District Attorney. 'There are still pieces of half-rotted corpses lying there, bunches of intestines.'*
> *By now, the district attorney and the judge knew every nook and cranny here. They had been conducting their investigations for some time. They had examined both Jewish and non-Jewish witnesses, taken measurements and carried out minor excavations."* (Underlinings added)

Judge Łukaszkiewicz had gone to Treblinka in order to perform an official investigation of the alleged crime scene. As he later explained, he acted

> *"*[…] *at the request of the state prosecutor of the District Court in Siedlce of September 24, 1945, further induced by a letter of September 18, 1945, of the Main Commission for the Investigation of the German Murders in Poland."*[276]

After bidding farewell to the visitors, Łukaszkiewicz set to work with a group of workers. Between November 9 and 13, he undertook a thorough examination of the grounds as well as a series of excavations. Afterwards he composed

[276] USSR-344, GARF, 7445-2-126, p. 319 (p. 1 of the report).

an official protocol, which in view of its significance I reproduce in full (Wojtczak, pp. 183-185):

"Protocol of the Tasks Performed on the Grounds of the Death Camp Treblinka, Which Forms the Object of the Judicial Examination.

From November 9 to 13, 1945, the examining magistrate of Siedlce, Z. Łukaszkiewicz, together with the state attorney for the District Court of Siedlce, J. Maciejewski, performed the following tasks on the camp grounds:

1) November 9, 1945
Excavations were begun on the grounds using the services of 20 workers who had been mustered by the village administration for carrying out roadwork. The excavations began at the location described by the witness Rajzman on November 6, where the so-called 'camp hospital' had stood and where, according to the witness, a mass grave is supposed to exist. Since a bomb crater 4.5 meters deep is present at the said location – two bombs still lie at a slight distance from this crater – the digging was begun in this crater. In the course of this work numerous Polish, as well as Russian, German, Austrian, and Czech coins and broken pieces of various kinds of containers were discovered. At the end of the work, at approximately 3 pm, at a depth of 6 meters, we encountered a layer which had not been reached previously. No human remains were found.

2) November 10, 1945
The work was continued, with 36 workers who had been commandeered for roadwork. At a depth of 6 meters begins a layer which has never before been uncovered by anyone. It consists partly of all sorts of kitchen utensils and different kinds of household objects; there are also pieces of clothing. At a depth of 7 meters, we reached the bottom of the pit – a layer of yellow sand which is not mixed with gravel. By additional digging we succeeded in determining the shape of the pit. It has sloping walls, and the bottom measures about 1.5 meters [sic!]. *The pit was presumably dug out with an excavator. During the course of the excavations, numerous more-or-less-badly damaged Polish documents were discovered, in addition the badly damaged personal identity card of a German Jew, as well as several more coins: Polish, German, Russian, Belgian, and even American. After we had made certain that this pit, filled with broken pieces of the containers already mentioned, ran in a north-south direction on the grounds of the camp area – 2 meters more* [in a northerly direction] *had been excavated – the workers started work at this location.*

3) November 11, 1945
A series of test excavations was performed at the place where the [gas] *chambers had to have been located, in order to find their foundation walls if possible. Pits 10 – 15 meters in length and 1.5 meters deep were dug, uncovering undisturbed layers of earth.*

The largest of the craters produced by explosions – from this emerges numerous pieces of shrapnel –, which is 6 meters deep and has a diameter of about 25 meters, its walls give recognizable evidence of the presence of a large quantity of ashes as well as human remains – was further excavated in order to discover the depth of the pit in this part of the camp. Numerous human remains were found by these excavations, still partially in a state of decomposition [*w stanie rozkładu*]. *The soil consists of ashes interspersed with sand, and is of a dark-gray color, granular in form. During the excavations, the soil gave off an intense odor of burning and decay. At a depth of 7.5 meters the bottom was reached, which consisted of layers of unmixed sand. At this point the digging was stopped.*

4) November 13, 1945
With the assistance of 30 workers employed for roadwork, the opening of a pit was begun – a site where refuse was deposited in the northeastern section of the camp. In this location, as the workers from the nearby hamlets explained, a very large number of documents had been found so far. Work was begun at this location, where the people [of that area] *had dug a three-meter-deep pit in a search for gold. During the course of the digging, broken pieces of all sorts of kitchen containers as well as a large number of rags were found. Aside from the coins discovered so far, Greek, Slovakian, and French ones were found, as well as documents in Hebrew and Polish and remnants of a Soviet passport. At a depth of 5 meters the work was stopped due to the steadily worsening weather conditions.*

The Examining Judge *The State Attorney*
Łukaszkiewicz *Maciejewski*

Decision:
The Examining Judge of Siedlce, on November 13, 1945, rules in consideration of the fact that with great probability no mass graves are any longer to be found on the grounds of the former camp today, as is to be concluded from the witness testimonies examined so far and from the results of the work carried out at the site, and in consideration of the oncoming autumn, the present rainfall and the necessity of a rapid conclusion of the judicial preliminary investigations, in view of all these facts that work on the territory of the former death camp Treblinka is to stop.

The Examining Judge
Łukaszkiewicz." (Emphases added)

On December 29, 1945, after the conclusion of his preliminary investigations, Łukaszkiewicz issued a protocol with 14 paragraphs, which – as already mentioned – was presented by the Soviets at the Nuremberg Trial as Document USSR-344. In the third paragraph, which bears the title "Current condition of the camp terrain", it says the following:[277]

[277] *Ibid.*, pp. 319a-320 (pp. 3f. of the report).

> *"With the assistance of an expert surveyor and witnesses, I made an exact inspection of the terrain. According to the measurements, the area of the camp is approximately 13.45 hectares and had the shape of an irregular quadrilateral. No remnants of facilities of the former death camp exist any longer. The only things that remain of the structures are: a ditch with remains of burned wooden poles protruding up, which lead into the cellar, wall bricks from the foundations of the camp's housekeeping building and the site of the well. Here and there one finds traces of the burned-out wooden poles of the fence and remains of barbed wire. There are still a few sections of paved walks. Nonetheless, there are still other traces that hint at the existence and functions of the camp. In the northwestern section of the area, the surface is covered for about 2 hectares by a mixture of ashes and sand. In this mixture, one finds countless human bones, often still covered with tissue remains, which are in a condition of decomposition. During the inspection, which I made with the assistance of an expert in forensic medicine, it was determined that the ashes are without any doubt of human origin (remains of cremated human bones). The examination of human skulls could discover no trace of wounding. At a distance of some 100 m, there is now an unpleasant odor of burning and decay. In the southwestern direction, a portion of the camp terrain is covered by aluminum – enamel – glass and porcelain dishes – kitchen utensils – hand luggage – rucksacks – pieces of clothing, etc. There are innumerable holes and craters on the property."* (Emphases added)

Łukaszkiewicz summarized the investigations carried out a month earlier at that location as follows:[278]

> *"During the work on the terrain, I found no mass graves, which, in connection with the statements by the witnesses Romanowski and Wiernik, leads to the conclusion that nearly all of the bodies of the victims were burned, all the more so since the camp was liquidated early and the murderers had much time. The ground of the camp was ploughed and sown. Ukrainians were settled there; they fled before the arrival of the Red Army (witnesses Kucharek and Lopuszyński)."*

On August 9 and 10, 1946, Łukaszkiewicz, along with the surveyor Trautsolt and the court physician Wakulicz, searched for mass graves in the area of the camp Treblinka I. In the forest by the village of Maliszewa, about 500 m south of the camp, a total of 41 mass graves were found, of which 40 had been desecrated; many bodies were strewn around them. One grave was only partially violated, and from it 10 corpses were able to be recovered. The court physician examined 112 skulls and determined that in only two cases had a shot in the head been the cause of death. The entire surface area of the graves amounted to 1,607 m². Concerning the number of the bodies discovered, Łukaszkiewicz wrote:[279]

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[278] *Ibid*., p. 324a (p. 12).

[279] Łukaszkiewicz 1947b, p. 120; Wojtczak, p. 135. Wojtczak claims that the graves contain 10,000 bodies according to the expert Piotrowski.

> *"Due to the destruction of the graves, it is not possible to count the bodies which have been there. The medical expert Mieczysław Piotrowski affirms, however, that one grave of 2 × 1 × 1 m (without taking into consideration the upper level of earth which covers the bodies) contains at least 6 nude bodies. Considering the size of all 41 graves, and under the assumption that the levels of corpses reach only up to 1.5 m in depth (the depth of the graves is up to 3 m), one can calculate that at least 6,500 people were buried there."*

On this occasion, the surveyor Trautsolt drew a map of the area of Treblinka I, on which he indicated the exact position of the graves (Mattogno/Graf, Doc. 6, p. 332). Of these, 17 were aligned in a row on a north-south axis; their total length was approximately 510 m.

The Soviets found 318 corpses, Łukaszkiewicz discovered another 122, totaling 440. 10,000-12,000 deaths are attributed to the Treblinka I Labor Camp (see below), but no other mass graves or evidence of mass cremations were found there. It is unknown what happened to the approximately 9,500-11,500 purportedly missing bodies.

Although Rachel Auerbach wrote pompously of "physical evidence" and "*corpora delicti*," neither the Soviets nor the Poles uncovered even the slightest scrap of proof that Treblinka II had operated as an extermination camp. As we have seen, the Soviets were compelled to make the following admission in their report of August 24, 1944 as quoted earlier:

> *"At present it is difficult to uncover the traces and secrets of this furnace for the cremation of people, but based upon the available data, one can picture it."*

Even the investigations performed by Łukaszkiewicz proved to be a complete failure in terms of this central issue. He arranged excavation at a definite spot in the camp where, according to the witness S. Rajzman, a mass grave was located, but discovered nothing of the kind. He had trenches dug, 10 to 15 m long and 1.5 m deep, at the places where, according to witnesses, the two alleged gassing buildings had stood, yet merely encountered "undisturbed layers of earth." To be sure, he did find skulls, but in insignificant quantity. Photographer Jakob Byk's most gruesome image shows about fifteen of them lying on the surface of the ground (see below). All the evidence he examined (coins, documents, rags, containers, remnants of various objects) shows merely that there was a camp at that place, and the human remains as well as the ashes prove only that bodies were buried or cremated in the camp. Nothing produced even a trace of evidence for mass murder, to say nothing of such a crime against *several hundred thousand* people.

Among the objects discovered, the skulls as well as the human body parts found in a state of decomposition deserve particular attention. From whom did they come? If we subscribe to the official historiography, this question remains unanswered. According to the official version, the cremation of the bodies exhumed from the mass graves was finished by August 2, 1943, the day of the prisoner revolt. During this revolt, at least 300 to 400 prisoners are supposed to

have been killed within the camp or in the vicinity of the wire fence (Arad 1987, p. 298). However, on August 18-19, 1943, 7,600 Jews from the Białystok Ghetto were allegedly gassed at Treblinka (*ibid.*, p. 396), whose bodies neither the Soviets nor the Poles discovered. If there were such killings, these victims therefore must have been cremated. The same is true for the bodies of those killed in the revolt. The surviving prisoners were not killed on the spot, rather they were transferred to Sobibór on December 20, 1943, as can be gathered from a corresponding Wehrmacht bill of lading (Łukaszkiewicz 1946b, p. 61). If decomposing body parts were found in November 1945, this discovery is also inconsistent with the thesis that the victims involved had been murdered more than two years before. Finally, it is strikingly problematic that no single *complete* body was discovered. From whom, therefore, did the skulls and body parts come?

On his inspection of the area of the former camp Treblinka II of November 9 to 13, 1945, Łukaszkiewicz was accompanied by the sworn surveyor K. Trautsolt. With the help of witnesses, Trautsolt drew a detailed plan of Treblinka II as it was at that time (Document 86). The plan, whose directional axes are transposed,[280] shows an irregular quadrilateral whose sides have the following lengths

– north side (actually the east side): 376.5 m
– east side (actually the south side): 471.5 m
– south side (actually the west side): 490 m
– west side (actually the north side): 240 m

On the plan the ruins that existed in the camp area are also entered: a burned-out cellar ("*piwnica spalona*"), designated by the letter "e," as well as the destroyed house of a settler ("*dom burzony kolonisty*"), marked with the letter "f."

On another, typographically identical map, Surveyor Trautsolt added the facilities that had allegedly been located in the camp area according to witness testimony. Łukaszkiewicz published two versions of this map, of which the first is quite poor (Document 87), the second of a higher quality (Document 88). In the latter, the exact area where the corpses are said to have been cremated is indicated: it is a trapezoid (No. 10) whose sides, when using the sides of the camp for scale, can be calculated as follows:

– north side (east): 188 m
– east side (south): 110 m
– south side (west): 174 m
– west side (north): 52 m

The total area is approximately 14,500 m². This was the purported death camp, Camp II, which contained the two alleged gassing installations.

This plan, as far as the shape and size of the camp are concerned, corresponds quite well to what can be gleaned from aerial photographs of the former

[280] The north-south line on the map actually corresponds to the east-west line.

Treblinka Camp from May and October 1944, and can therefore be considered the closest to reality. It was taken up by the witness Samuel Willenberg for "his" plan of the camp, in which the structures are depicted in three dimensions. In "Camp II," he drew three mass graves (burial pits), labeled with the No. 9, which measure – biggest to smallest – 120 m × 60 m (7,200 m²), 60 m × 15 m (900 m²) and 65 m × 10 m (650 m²; Documents 89f.; Willenberg, p. 6).

6.2. Caroline Sturdy Colls's Archaeological Investigations

The background and preliminary results (2010-2012) of the archaeological research of Caroline Sturdy Colls were discussed by Thomas Kues in a study first published in 2013 (Mattogno/Kues/Graf, pp. 939-952). By that time, she already had identified with non-invasive techniques, *i.e.*, without excavating the ground, the contours of ten probable mass graves/cremation sites – the largest of which measured 26 m × 17 m – and two brick structures, which she considered to be the probable gas chambers. She drew these findings on an aerial photograph of the site, as discussed at the time by T. Kues (*ibid*., p. 943).

In the following years, Sturdy Colls published several articles and books, but they did not add much to the initial data. I examine in chronological order the most-important ones.

The first article in the series is "Gone But Not Forgotten: Archaeological Approaches to the Site of the Former Treblinka Extermination Camp in Poland," published in 2013. Despite its length, it presents very little useful data:

> *"Eleven pits, the largest in excess of 34 m in length and the smallest in excess of 10 m, were recorded using geophysical survey in areas suggested by witnesses as having housed mass graves and cremation pits (Figure 2)."* (Sturdy Colls 2013a, p. 261)
>
> *"Given that only a small portion of the camp was examined during fieldwork to date, it is anticipated that further remains will be located in other areas not yet surveyed. In light of these findings, and based on a re-evaluation of historical material and recent developments in forensic and archaeological investigation, several important points require consideration with regards to the ability by the Nazis to totally eradicate all traces of the 800,000 people murdered at Treblinka, which will be discussed in more detail below.*
>
> *The first transport arrived at Treblinka from Warsaw on the 23 July 1942 and from this date until mid-August, Arad has estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 people were sent to the camp each day, under the illusion that it was a transit camp. By the end of August 1942, it was reported that the death toll in the camp had reached 10,000 to 12,000 people a day, yet only three gas chambers existed. This meant that not all victims were sent to the gas chambers; some were shot, beaten or thrown alive into the so-called "eternal flame" located behind a false hospital (the Lazarett).*

Witnesses place the Lazarett and associated burial pit in close proximity to the southern end of the railway platform. This was confirmed when the results of topographic and geophysical survey were compared with, and overlaid onto, witness plans and contemporary aerial images. During this early period, the main method used to dispose of the victims' bodies was burial in mass graves. Body disposal groups were assigned, their sole responsibility being to dig large pits in the south and east portion of the camp.

*However, as more victims were sent to Treblinka, large 'kopachke' (*kopaczka*) or excavators were used to dig larger pits. Some witnesses talk of pits as large as 60–70 m in length, whilst some allude to the presence of smaller ones, measuring approximately 25 m which were either dug in the early phase or still by hand later on."* (*ibid*., pp. 263f.)

"As confirmed by topographic and geophysical techniques, two areas of structural debris appear to represent the remnants of the gas chambers, whilst the locations of three further structures were located immediately adjacent to the railway platform." (*ibid*., pp. 272f.)

The article also contains two photographs from 1945 showing a few skulls and bones (*ibid*., pp. 268f.).

In none of her writings does Sturdy Colls mention the book on Treblinka written by Jürgen Graf and me, here quoted several times, but it is certain that she knew it. Indeed, from it she drew the information about the Soviet investigations in August 1944, for which she provides the incomplete source "GARF [State Archive of the Russian Federation], 7021," which refers to documents we found in this archive (Mattogno/Graf, p. 77).

Also dating from 2013 is the article "Archaeological Assessment on the Area of the Former Death Camp in Treblinka," which contains somewhat more detailed information:

"Death Camp

Witness accounts suggest that the gas chambers are likely located to the south-east of the memorial obelisk. Two features consistent with structural remains and debris were recorded in this area, measuring 44 m x 20 m and 22 m x 15 m. Witness accounts suggest that the gas chambers were the only structures in the Death Camp that were made of brick (pers. comm. Edward Kopówka) and bricks were visible on the surface in this area. Therefore, the archaeological and historical evidence presents a strong case for the afore-mentioned features being the old and new gas chambers." (Sturdy Colls 2013b, p. 202)

"Pits and Potential Graves

Geophysics cannot detect bodies, but historical data and experience of other grave sites can aid interpretation. A number of pits were identified across the site, many of which were bisected by the memorial.

This confirms that only limited investigations were carried out in advance of the memorial's construction. Some of the pits likely represent post-war looting but a number of larger pits were recorded in areas suggested by witnesses as having housed mass graves and cremation pits.

The use of electrical imaging in conjunction with resistance and GPR survey allowed the construction of a large pit (26 m x 17 m) to be determined. Although the depth of this feature could not be determined, as it was greater than the three metre range of the electrical imaging and four metre range of the GPR, it was demonstrated that this feature had a ramp at the west end and a vertical edge to the east. This feature is also visible from the air and on the ground as an area of defined vegetation. Another feature, located adjacent to the memorial in the south-west of survey Area B, represents a substantial anomaly. This feature is bisected by the memorial, which was purportedly sited according to the location of mass graves in this part of the camp. Post-abandonment aerial images confirm the presence of this feature as an area of significant ground disturbance." (*Ibid*., pp. 203f.; emphasis added)

"Main Extermination Area

Much of the area believed to have contained the pits in the main extermination areas is now masked by the modern memorial or by the forest.

Whilst it has often been argued that the mass graves themselves were all destroyed when they were exhumed, several important points require consideration. Firstly, although initial attempts were made to mix the ashes with soil, this was quickly abandoned and the cremated remains were put back into the original ditches from which they came; thus if any such remains survived outside of the area of the monument, the grave cuts would still be detectable (Arad 1987: 176). Secondly, popular misconceptions can be seen to exist regarding cremation, in terms of the belief that a body will totally be reduced to ash. Recent work in forensic cremation demonstrates total eradication of bones requires extremely high temperatures (Thompson 2004) and the observation of burnt bone fragments in the topsoil and in the cracks of the monument itself confirms this hypothesis. Finally, considerable evidence exists to suggest that not all the bodies were exhumed and cremated, thus mass graves are likely to survive. All of these features would present detectable anomalies in the archaeological record.

Five pits were located with the GPR to the far east of the memorial. Although the GPR survey was unable to achieve a large enough depth range to determine the full extent of these pits, it is possible to say that they were all deeper that four metres and that they were all of considerable size in plan (G50 was visible to an extent of 34 m x 12 m, G51 – 19 x 12 m, G52 – 22 m x 15 m, G53 – c. 18 m x 7 m and G54 was visible to 20,8 m x c. 14 m). Given their location in the area thought to contain most of the mass graves and their proximity to the memorial, there is a strong case for arguing that they represent further burials. Similarly, they appear too large to be a result of post-war looting activity." (*Ibid*., pp. 204f.; emphasis added)

In 2015, a 350+-page book by Sturdy Colls titled *Holocaust Archaeologies: Approaches and Future Directions* appeared, in which she mentions her Treblinka investigations occasionally as a mere example to illustrate general methods. Every now and then, short paragraphs appear that summarize some

specific problems. Regarding the actual research, the author limited herself to these brief remarks (Sturdy Colls 2015a., pp. 184f.):

> *"After 6 years of non-invasive research, the landscape of Treblinka extermination camp was mapped, buried remains were identified and areas containing mass graves were located. In order to identify the nature of some of the apparent buried structures in extermination camp, it was necessary to carry out small-scale excavations. Because the locations of several mass graves had been determined in previous field seasons using geophysical survey methods, it was possible to avoid excavating in the areas known to contain the remains of Jewish victims. This meant that the work could be carried out in accordance with Halachic Law.* […] *Small-scale excavations were instead carried out in the area believed to contain the Old Gas Chambers, as indicated by archival research and geophysical survey.* […] *Specifically, GPR survey had indicated the presence of buried structural remains measuring 22 x 15 m.* […]
> *Given its rectangular shape in plan, it seemed likely that this feature was in fact the foundations of a structure. In order to confirm the nature of its construction materials, and thus hopefully its exact nature, minimally invasive excavations were undertaken. This approach confirmed the presence of the Old Gas Chambers and allowed the bricks, tiles and other materials used to build them to be confirmed.* […] *This minimally invasive approach also prevented considerable disturbance to the remains* [sic]*."*

Among other things, the book contains a disparaging remark about Holocaust revisionists, which I will address in the following subchapter.

Also dating from 2015 is her article "Archaeological Investigations at the Extermination and Labor Camps at Treblinka," in which the British researcher wrote gross nonsense regarding the alleged gas chambers, which I will address below.

She starts by stating that 10,000-12,000 victims are attributed to the labor camp, and 800,000-1,000,000 to the alleged extermination camp (Sturdy Colls 2015b, pp. 86f.). Her method of investigation had allowed the identification of mass graves "without the need to disturb their remains, thus allowing Halacha Law to be respected," and without ground disturbance at the other sites (*ibid*., p. 87). She then provides an explanation of one of the most effective methods she had adopted (*ibid.*, pp. 88f.):

> *"A LiDAR survey was recently undertaken at Treblinka, covering an area of 3.75km² that encompasses both the extermination and labour camps. LiDAR allows depressions, earthworks and above-ground features to be recorded in three dimensions (Corsi et al. 2013). The ability of this technology to propagate the signal through vegetation such as trees means that it is possible to record features that are otherwise invisible or inaccessible using ground-based survey methods."*

This method confirmed the presence of three mass graves measuring 7.4 m × 6.5 m, 9.2 m × 6 m and 19.2 m × 17.6 m in the area of the former Treblinka I

Camp (*ibid*., p. 89). Sturdy Colls then discusses the alleged extermination camp in general (*ibid*., p. 90):

> *"In 2010, a programme of non-invasive archaeological work was undertaken at Treblinka extermination camp that consisted of geophysical, topographical, and forensic survey. In total 111 features were identified, the majority of which likely relate the former death camp, its deconstruction or post-war investigations. The presence of these features confirmed that, contrary to popular belief, Treblinka was not completely destroyed by the Nazis when they abandoned the site in August 1943, nor has any of the post-war activity on the site removed all trace of the former camp. The features identified were divided into probable boundaries, structural remains, pits and other features."*

She then examines in detail the question of the alleged gas chambers (*ibid*., pp. 90f.):

> *"Of central importance to our understanding of the layout of Treblinka extermination camp and how it functioned are the gas chambers. Many questions still remained about where these chambers were located and how they functioned. In 2010, I identified a structure measuring 22 x 15m in the death camp using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). Archival research and witness testimonies suggested that this structure could be the remnants of the Old Gas Chambers. In order to confirm this, a small test trench was excavated in the centre of the feature in 2013.*
>
> *A large amount of building material was recovered from this area. Of particular note were several orange and yellow ceramic tiles bearing a star and the letters D and L on their base. Large sections of brick walling, brick fragments, white ceramic tiles, concrete, plaster and cross-shaped wall supports were also found in abundance.*
>
> *Witnesses allude to the fact that the Old Gas Chamber building was modelled on a bathhouse/Jewish mikveh with white tiled walls and a floor that was 'covered with orange terracotta tiles' (Krzepicki 1979, 104). The discovery of the orange and yellow floor tiles appears to corroborate these witness accounts. Having noted that the tiles bore a star and, in some cases the letters D and L, it was possible to source their manufacturer. The tiles were made by a company called Dziewulski and Lange. Their headquarters is based in Opoczno and the company still trades under the name Opoczno. This company may also have had an office in Warsaw during the Second World War. The same tiles have been observed in a mikveh in Lublin, a synagogue in Wyszków and in the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto. It is not yet known whether the tiles at Treblinka were taken from an existing structure (most likely in the Warsaw Ghetto) or whether the tiles were transported directly from one of the Dziewulski and Lange factories. Further research is being conducted to determine this.*
>
> *It is believed that gas was delivered to the Old Gas Chamber by way of a diesel engine (possibly from a Russian tank). Following the discovery of sections of wall and bricks, samples were sent for tests in order to confirm whether carbon monoxide was present. These tests confirmed that high concentrations of car-*

bon monoxide were present in the samples and that these were likely as a result of exposure to carbon monoxide, rather than its natural absorption from the air. Further tests are being carried out in order to confirm this theory.
It is clear from the nature of the material found and the in situ foundations that the Nazis attempted to demolish the walls of the building but left much of the building materials in the vicinity. The discovery of building materials in trench Treb03, which was outside the area of the foundations, revealed this material was spread over a large area. The depth of the foundations (0.85m) suggests that a large amount of redeposited sand was placed over the top of the foundations to mask them from view. This explains why, after the war and since, it was believed that the camp was entirely destroyed. It is also possible that some of the building materials found closer to the surface could also belong to the New Gas Chamber building which is believed to have been located in the vicinity."

Sturdy Colls finally reports on the human remains found (*ibid.*, p. 92):

"In the course of the excavations carried out in the death camp area, a considerable amount of human remains were encountered. These remains were not buried in mass graves but were rather scattered remains that had never been buried in a grave. As per the advice of Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the remains were reburied by a representative from his Office. Although it was not possible to carry out scientific analysis due to the stipulations of Jewish Halacha Law, it was possible to observe that many of the remains found were not cremated. All of the remains found were fragmented and disarticulated. Some of the remains did exhibit evidence of burning to varying degrees; some were white in colour suggesting prolonged exposure to flames, whilst others were superficially charred, suggesting a short period of exposure at low temperatures. This demonstrates that not all of the remains of the victims at the extermination camps [sic] *were cremated as documentary sources suggest. A concentration of gold and silver teeth, and dentures were also discovered in the area of the Old Gas Chambers, suggesting that they were removed from victims somewhere in the vicinity. This is consistent with witness accounts. As these remains are also bodily remains, they were also reinterred with the bone fragments that were found."*

In 2016, the article "'Earth Conceal Not My Blood': Forensic and Archaeological Approaches to Locating the Remains of Holocaust Victims" appeared, which provides the following data (Sturdy Colls 2016, pp. 180f.):

"The combined use of archival research, LiDAR survey and walkover survey allowed at least six potential graves to be identified in the area of the execution site to the south of the labour camp. Permission was granted for minimally invasive excavations at three of these sites. Here an approach was adopted that involved stripping the turf and topsoil away from the areas indicated in the LiDAR survey and digging small, minimally invasive test trenches at strategic locations within each feature. This approach was developed as a result of discussions with the museum, religious and archaeological authorities, and by drawing on the author's expertise as a forensic archaeologist. As victims from mul-

tiple faith groups may have been present, and given that the aim of the excavation was to confirm that human remains were present so that the grave could be marked, this minimally invasive approach was deemed most appropriate. It was also carried out in such a way that it would be possible to go back to each site to conduct a full exhumation in the future if this was deemed necessary. The excavations revealed the presence of disarticulated human remains belonging to multiple individuals in all three areas. Shoes and bullets were also recovered. The human remains were reinterred into the graves. As a result of this work, the museum authorities immediately erected markers on these three graves, which have already become the focus of commemorative activities at the site. This represents the first time that these graves have been marked and the first time since the post-war investigations that unmarked graves have been found and examined."

Information about the alleged gas chambers is very nebulous (*ibid.*, p. 184):

"The excavations that were permitted at Treblinka in the terrain of the gas chambers resulted in the recovery of personal belongings including hair clips and jewellery. These items, alongside the scattered remains, dentures, teeth and other items that were recovered, provided the only evidence of individual and collective experiences in the absence of complete corpses. Through detailed research, including the analysis of witness testimonies, it has been possible to highlight some of these experiences and to explore some of the actions of the perpetrators."

The final two sentences regarding the "collective experiences" are a verbal smokescreen to hide the absence of corpses.

Also in 2016, a 90-page booklet titled *Treblinka: Archaeological Investigations and Artistic Responses* appeared, which Caroline Sturdy Colls had written in collaboration with Michael Branthwaite. The contents of this booklet are announced with great rhetorical emphasis in the back cover:

"This book presents the major findings of the archaeological work, which included the discovery of the gas chambers, personal effects of the victims and mass graves."

It should therefore expose an essential treatment of archaeological discoveries, but in fact it is quite disappointing. I report the most significant points.

The two authors confirm the discovery at Treblinka I of three mass graves of 7.4 m × 6.5 m, 9.2 m × 6 m and 19.2 m × 17.6 m.[281] In the chapter "The Gas Chambers," they write (p. 50):

"One of the key aims of the achaeological investigation at Treblinka was to determine the exact location of the gas chambers and how they functioned. […]
A topographic survey of Treblinka revealed the presence of two depressions in a grassy area to the south-east of the memorial obelisk. Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (GPR) was then undertaken in this area and [which] *revealed*

[281] Sturdy Colls/Branthwaite 2016, p. 28; all subsequent page numbers in the text from there unless stated otherwise.

structural remains measuring 22 x 15m. Based on the size and orientation of these remains, it seemed likely that they could be the old gas chambers building. An area of debris measuring 44 x 20m was also recorded. It seemed possible that this could be the remains of the new gas chambers.
In 2013, excavations were carried out to confirm the location and overall form of the remains identified in the GPR survey. This revealed that the 22 x 15m structure was made of brick and that it had in situ foundations. It also revealed that the old gas chambers had a tile floor, consistent with witness testimonies.
The discovery of these tiles proved that this building was modelled on a bathhouse, seemingly to deceive the people being sent there about their fate. The same tiles have been observed in a Jewish ritual bath (mikveh) in Lublin, a synagogue in Wydzków and in the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto. It is not yet known whether the tiles at Treblinka were taken from an existing structure (most likely in the Warsaw Ghetto) or whether they were transported directly from one of the factories of the manufacturer, Dziewulski and Lange. Further research is being conducted to determine this. However, it is possible that the tiles were specifically chosen by the Nazis because they were already commonly used in Jewish ritual baths."

On mass graves, Sturdy Colls and Branthwaite state (p. 70):

"Topographic and geophysical surveys in the terrain of the extermination camp allowed eleven potential mass graves to be located. These non-invasive techniques respected Jewish Halachic Law by not disturbing the ground. The graves varied in size – the largest were 34m x 12m and 26m x 17m. However, some were bisected by the modern memorial so their overall dimensions could not be determined. It is likely that further graves exist under the monument since it was built to protect the areas believed to contain mass graves. The graves appear to be located in two distinct areas; some at the rear of the death camp area and some nearer to the reception camp area, consistent with witness accounts concerning the different methods of body disposal. […]
The forensic achaeological research has also shown that, contrary to popular belief, not all of these bodies of the victims at Treblinka were cremated and reduced to ash. In the course of the excavations carried out around the gas chambers, a considerable amount of human remains were encountered. These remains were not buried in mass graves but were rather scattered remains that had never buried in a grave. Many of these remains were not cremated at all. Other exhibited various degrees of burning. The majority were only superficially charred. A concentration of teeth and dentures were also discovered near the old gas chambers. This seems to confirm witness testimonies that suggest that the bodies were searched and dental implants were removed following the gassing. As per the advice of the Office of the Chief Rabbi of Poland, all of these remains were reburied within the grounds of the extermination camp."

The book is lavishly illustrated and features some sixty photographs and drawings, most of them rather insignificant. However, none of them documents in any way the claims about gas chambers and mass graves. Thus, there is a suc-

cession of large photographs on two pages showing the sifting of sand by an archaeologist (pp. 30f.), a shoe (!; pp. 32f.), a single blade of a pair of scissors (p. 45), two combs and a comb remnant (p. 46), two tiles (pp. 54f.), brick and concrete fragments (pp. 56f.), two pendants (pp. 60f.), miscellaneous items (pp. 64f.), to which I will return below.

Among the very few useful illustrations are two photographs of a survey excavation – the same excavation portrayed from two different angles – showing a small pit measuring approximately one meter by two, less than half a meter deep, in each of which Sturdy Colls is about to work wearing the same clothes and gloves (pp. 17, 29). The captions inform that these were "minimally invasive excavations" in the area of the mass graves. The most important images, to which I will return below, are a LiDAR survey map of the camp area (p. 52) and a map of the finds (p. 71).

In 2018, the article "'This is Proof'? Forensic Evidence and Ambiguous Material Culture at Treblinka Extermination Camp" by Caroline Sturdy Colls and Michael Branthwaite appeared. In it, the two authors provide some additional information about the survey excavations (Sturdy Colls/Branthwaite 2018, pp. 434f.):

> *"The latter* [her 2013 research] *specifically focused on the area where the gas chambers were thought to be located. A 1 m × 1 m trench (Trench 4) was excavated within a 22 m × 15 m anomaly recorded by the GPR survey, which appeared consistent with a building foundation. A further trench (Trench 3), measuring 2 m × 1 m, was excavated to the west of this area in an area of scattered debris identified in the GPR results.* […]
> *The excavation of Trench 4 confirmed that the 22 × 15 m anomaly in the GPR results did in fact represent the foundations of the first gas chambers built by the Nazis at Treblinka (known as the old gas chambers), which existed at a depth of 0.85 m below the ground."*

Regarding the "discovery of the tiles and building materials" which supposedly confirm "the location of the old gas chambers and the testimonies of witnesses that stated that the floor was covered with red/terracotta tiles," Sturdy Colls and Branthwaite rely "for example" on Krzepicki and Wiernik (*ibid.*, p. 441). Feigning a critical mindset, they add (*ibid.*, p. 442):

> *"In contrast, the discovery of personal belongings in the gas chamber area appears to challenge the accepted history of the site, which states that people were stripped of these items when they arrived at the camp. Upon discovering these items, further archival research was undertaken which did in fact reveal testimonies that stated that people were sometimes sent clothed into the gas chambers when the camp was operating to full capacity. In fact, a testimony written by Rudolf Höß, the camp commandant of Auschwitz-Birkenau, stated that this was common practice when he visited the camp in 1943 (Notes of the former camp commander Rudolf Höß, 1.1.2.0/ 82344521, ITS Digital Archive, USHMM). Likewise, although women sometimes had their hair cut prior to entering the gas chambers, witnesses allude to the fact that haircutting sometimes*

> *took place within the gas chamber building, prior to gassing, or even after people were killed (Bomba 1996; Rajchman 2011). This offers a viable explanation as to why large numbers of hair clips and combs were found in the rubble directly above and adjacent to the gas chambers' foundations (see Fig. 2)."*

Their Figure 2 shows photographs of two combs and twelve clips (*ibid*., p. 436): a truly significant sampling of this alleged "large numbers"!

In the 2016 book, the two authors had published as many as eight photographs of it on two pages, one for each object (including three objects equal to those in Figure 2), including a medal, an object resembling a belt buckle, and even a hexagonal bolt (Sturdy Colls/Branthwaite 2016, pp. 64f.).

Caroline Sturdy Colls' so far last major paper, written in collaboration with Dante Abate, appeared in 2018. It is titled "A Multi-Level and Multi-Sensor Documentation Approach of the Treblinka Extermination and Labor Camps." It contains information on the various methods used, but practically nothing concrete about the results of the archaeological investigations. In their brief historical paragraph, the authors repeat that the death toll of the alleged extermination camp amounted to 800,000-1,000,000, and that of the labor camp to about 10,000, "as a result of the Nazi 'death through work' policy and executions between autumn 1941 and spring 1944" (Abate/Sturdy Colls, p. 130).

6.3. Analysis of the Results of Archaeological Investigations by Caroline Sturdy Colls

6.3.1. The Mass Graves

The archaeological investigations of Sturdy Colls appear superficial and amateurish despite her use of the most advanced technology. As for the results, they are clearly far inferior to those obtained at Bełżec and Sobibór by Kola using a simple hand auger.

The Jewish law concerning burials (*halakhah*) was evoked by her in an almost superstitious way to the point of avoiding "disturbance to the remains" and even any "ground disturbance"![282] This seems to be a pretext for not carrying out large-scale excavations such as those authorized and carried out in Sobibór, but also in Bełżec, where Andrzej Kola had all the archaeological objects he had found in his surveys unearthed and photographed.[283] He also published many photographs of utensils and personal effects,[284] from which it appears that there were far more objects than those documented by Sturdy Colls. I will return later to Sturdy Coll's so-called test trenches.

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[282] But she still reserved the right, in violation of this law, "to conduct a full exhumation in the future if this was deemed necessary"!

[283] Kola 2000a, Photos 60, 61 (p. 48), 63 (p. 50), 65 (p. 51), 67 (p. 53), 71 (p. 55), 72 (p. 56), 73 (p. 57), 76 (p. 59), 77 (p. 60), 78 (p. 61).

[284] *Ibid.*, Photos 84-118, pp. 71-84.

The methods of detection adopted by the British archaeologist are Electrical Resistivity Imaging, Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR).

With the first two methods, she claimed to have identified eleven mass graves. In reality, as shown by her own plans of these surveys (Document 91), she did not identify defined geometric figures, but rather shapeless areas of ground disturbance, colored in yellow (here changed to white due to this being a b&w print; the numbering is mine) which she interpreted as mass graves and to which she arbitrarily assigned exact geometric shapes and dimensions.

Document 91a shows 10 yellow areas (white in Document 91b) representing the probable mass graves; since Sturdy Colls later increased their number to 11 ("eleven pits"), without giving any explanation, it is assumed that she considered the pit between Nos. 5 and 8 as two pits, which I therefore numbered 6 and 7.

Sturdy Colls states that a "number of pits were identified across the site, many of which were bisected by the memorial," and that it is "likely that further graves exist under the monument,"[285] but this is belied by her maps, particularly Document 92, from which it appears that no areas of ground disturbance intersect the monument, which I have marked with "M," nor the "symbolic cremation pyre," which I have marked with "P."

In three of these eleven areas of ground disturbance, Sturdy Colls performed mini-invasive excavations – that is, an excavation of about one meter by two, less than half a meter deep, in which she found human remains (Document 93). She describes the finds as "a considerable amount of human remains" and "a concentration" of gold and silver teeth and dentures. However, this does not mean anything, because Judge Łukaszkiewicz ascertained already in 1945 that human remains were scattered over a large area. The only thing that is certain is that Sturdy Colls, in her writings mentioned earlier, did not publish any photographs of these remains, which she said would have been immediately reburied. She surely had found *some* remains (compatible with an excavation the size of 2 m × 1 m), which she attempted to amplify with a rather silly rhetorical emphasis. This also applies to the claim that "considerable evidence exists to suggest that not all the bodies were exhumed and cremated, thus mass graves are likely to survive" – which of course will never be ascertained for the sake of not causing any "ground disturbance."

From the orthodox perspective, her statement makes little sense, because "a considerable amount of human remains" would have to be related to the number of alleged victims of the camp – at least 800,000 – so that even the discovery of *thousands* of whole corpses could not constitute a *considerable* amount.

She also greatly underestimated the excavation activity of the post-war "gold diggers," which she dismissed with a few lines here and there:

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[285] The monument measures approximately 8 m × 6 m (= 48 m²), so even if there were another mass grave underneath it, the total volume of the pits would remain virtually unchanged.

> *"Some of the pits likely represent* [the result of] *post-war looting but a number of larger pits were recorded in areas suggested by witnesses as having housed mass graves and cremation pits."*
> *"Similarly, they appear too large to be a result of post-war looting activity."*

In her most voluminous book, the British archaeologist devoted a specific paragraph to this problem ("Case Study 11.5: Looting at Treblinka, Poland"), but even here she treated it with extreme superficiality. Her most significant statements are these (Sturdy Colls 2015a, p. 305):

> *"In the area of the Treblinka extermination camp in particular, looters have continued to dig at the site since the war. On the one hand, these activities allude to belief that Jewish gold exists at the site."*

In Chapter 3, I quoted detailed descriptions of the devastation of the former Treblinka Camp's grounds which began as early as 1944. I repeat what Rachel Auerbach stated about this in a book known to Sturdy Colls, since she referred to it:

> *"These human jackals and hyenas bring along live artillery shells and unexploded bombs. They explode several of them at once, tearing huge craters into the desecrated, blood-drenched soil which is comingled with the ashes of Jews."*

I also remind the reader that Judge Łukaszkiewicz found a bomb crater 4.5 meters deep in the area of the "camp hospital," as well as other craters in various places, the largest one with a diameter of about 25 and a depth of 6 meters, and he himself had excavations made in the so-called "death camp" which were 10-15 meters long and 1.5 meters deep. Finally, I would like to remind the reader that the looters' activity was so intense the following year that it was even echoed in the *Daily News Bulletin* of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of November 24, 1946, which I have already quoted about Trawniki ("Jewish Mass Graves…"):

> *"Warsaw, 22 November (JTA). Police authorities today launched a campaign to put an end to looting of mass graves of Jews in the areas of Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor and Trawniki where Nazi extermination camps formerly existed."*

In an article published in 2008, Piotr Głuchowski and Marcin Kowalski described the devastation of the grounds of the former Treblinka Camp since 1944 by hordes of grave looters searching for valuables (Głuchowski/Kowalski):

> *"Jackals in human form cut holes in the sacred ground. In the autumn of 1944, Ukrainian and Russian guards appeared again in Treblinka – this time in the service of Stalin. With their arrival, the village excavations turned into an industry. The Soviets brought mines and unexploded shells from the airport located 10 km away in Ceranów. The charge was buried in a mass grave, the Soviets detonated it, and Jewish corpses flew through the air."*

Then the statement of a certain Karol Ogrodowczyk, a member of the Polish Commission of Inquiry mentioned earlier, is quoted as follows:

> *"The area has been dug and searched, the pits are 10 meters deep, there are human bones and scattered objects, shoes, spoons, forks, candlesticks, hair from wigs brought by Jews. The air is filled with the stench of rotting corpses.* […] *The stench stunned us so much that my colleagues and I began to vomit and felt an extraordinary burning sensation in our throats.* […] *Openings* [holes] *had been dug under each tree by gold diggers, diamond diggers.* […] *In the midst of the trees, the local peasants bustled about eager to find treasures. Questioned by us. 'Why do you do this?' they answered nothing."*

It is therefore clear that a part – if not a large part – of the areas of ground disturbance (Sturdy Colls's eleven pits) can be traced to the aforementioned bomb craters and manual excavations.

Since the 25-meter-diameter crater found by Judge Łukaszkiewicz had a surface area of about 490 square meters (but for Rachel Auerbach this was only one of the "huge craters"), the largest disturbance identified by Sturdy Colls, with its 442 square meters, could comfortably fit inside it, so that the British archaeologist's claim that the pits "appear too large to be a result of post-war looting activity" is blatantly fallacious.

In the following table I summarize the results of Sturdy Colls's investigations of the ground disturbances in the area of the former Treblinka camps, the labor camp (Treblinka I) and the alleged extermination camp (Treblinka II):

Treblinka I		Treblinka II		
Dimensions [m]	Area [m²]	Dimensions [m]	Area [m²]	Sturdy Colls's Label
7.4 × 6.5	48.1	34 × 12	408	G 50
9.2 × 6	55.2	19 × 12	228	G 51
19.2 × 17.6	337.9	22 × 15	330	G 52
		18 × 7	126	G 53
		20.8 × 14	291	G 54
		26 × 17	442	?
		10 × ?	?	?
Total:	441.2	Total:	1825+	

As for the alleged extermination camp, according to Sturdy Colls's drawing (Document 91), the three largest pits (with 442, 408 and 330 m², respectively) were the pits to which I assigned the numbers 1, 3 and 2. Based on the surface area of the drawings, it can also be assumed, that the pit measuring 19 m × 12 m (228 square meter) concsists of the two merged pits I numbered 6 & 7, and the pit measuring 20 m × 8 m (160 square meter) is my No. 4.

Of the eleven mass graves Sturdy Colls claims to have identified, she provides the complete dimensions of only six; for one she mentions only the length of one side (10 meters).

The remaining (11-6=) five pits, of which Sturdy Colls did not give the dimensions (including the one with one side of 10 meters), were on average no larger than Pit No. 4 (Documents 91 and 92), so that for all five one can assume an area of (160 m × 5 m =) 800 m²; the total area of all pits is therefore about (1825 m² + 800 m² =) 2,625 m², or about 2,600 m².

Already as early 2012, Sturdy Colls stated (Sturdy Colls 2012):

> *"The existence of mass graves was known about from witness testimony, but the failure to provide persuasive physical evidence led some to question whether it could really be true that hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed here.*
> *Although they lasted only a few days, those post-war investigations* [1945-1946] *remained the most complete studies of the camp until I began my work at Treblinka in 2010.*
> *This revealed the existence of a number of pits across the site.* […]
> *Some may be the result of post-war looting, prompted by myths of buried Jewish gold, but several larger pits were recorded in areas suggested by witnesses as the locations of mass graves and cremation sites.*
> *One is 26m long, 17m wide and at least four metres deep, with a ramp at the west end and a vertical edge to the east."*

So even then Sturdy Colls was well aware of the problem: if 800,000 to 1,000,000 people were killed in Treblinka, and almost[286] all of their corpses were buried in the area of the "death camp", she would have had to find a suitable number of mass graves with an appropriate total size. But already the comparison with the mass graves of Treblinka I, in her perspective, is shocking: here she claims to have found three mass graves of 441 square meters in all for 10,000-12,000 corpses, which amounts to a burial density of at most 27 corpses per square meter. In the presumed extermination camp, she claims to have found eleven mass graves of 2,600 square meters in all for 800,000-1,000,000 corpses. Taking the lowest claimed death-toll figures for both camps – 10,000 and 800,000, hence a factor of 80 difference – a simple arithmetic comparison shows that the British researcher should have found on the grounds of Treblinka II Camp at least a total surface area of (441.2 m² × 80 =) 35,296 square meters of ground disturbances in as many as 150 individual spots![287]

These figures are so disproportionate to what was actually found that Sturdy Colls's eleven areas with ground disturbances she calls "mass graves" are merely risible. She tried to overcome these insuperable difficulties with a lie. In a polemical note she wrote (Sturdy Colls 2015a, p. 347):

> *"Whilst uncovering and presenting the physical evidence of the Holocaust has a role to play in combating Holocaust revisionism and denial in all of its forms, it is important to acknowledge that it can also be utilised by those who deny these events. When the number of graves recorded within a survey area is an-*

[286] I will explain in Subchapter 7.2. this limitation, which is practically irrelevant in the present context.

[287] Assuming an average area of (2,600 ÷ 11 =) 236 m² per pit.

> *nounced, this may be used as 'evidence' that less victims died at the site in question. It will not be acknowledged that the area surveyed represented only a small proportion of a former camp area or a massacre site, and that further graves may exist elsewhere."*

In reality, when she wrote these lines in 2015, the mapping of the Treblinka area had already been concluded for some time, since it was thanks to this mapping that the British archaeologist had identified the eleven alleged mass graves and the areas of the alleged gas chambers. She knew perfectly well that no other mass graves existed, and she could not even make the excuse that "[m]uch of the area believed to have contained the pits in the main extermination areas is now masked by the modern memorial[285] or by the forest," because she herself explains that "[t]he ability of this technology [LIDAR] to propagate the signal through vegetation such as trees means that it is possible to record features that are otherwise invisible or inaccessible using ground-based survey methods."

Sturdy Colls was familiar with K. Trautsolt's plan and the one copied from it by S. Willenberg, since she published both (Sturdy Colls 2015a, pp. 123, 121), but without indicating – and without acknowledging – that in both plans the mass graves are located within the trapezoid of about 14,500 m² that I described above, which must have also contained the two alleged gassing buildings and, for Willenberg, also a cremation grate and a barracks for the inmates. She compared the Willenberg plan with a recent photograph of the Treblinka area (*ibid.*, p. 121),[288] so she knew where to look.

Therefore, the alleged mass graves are the 11 mentioned above and "elsewhere" there is no other grave.

No-less-devastating is the comparison with the indications of the witnesses. C. Sturdy Colls did not directly address this problem; he simply tried to evade it by adducing contradictory testimony:

> *"Some witnesses talk of pits as large as 60–70 m in length, whilst some allude to the presence of smaller ones, measuring approximately 25 m* […]*."*

The most-important witnesses are Jankiel Wiernik, Abraham Isaak Goldfarb and Eliahu Rosenberg.

In his manuscript report, Wiernik wrote:[289]

> *"The mass grave was 100 m long, 25 m wide, 15 m deep = 37,500 m³.* [*Masowy grób miał 100 m długości 25 m szerokości 15 m głębokości = 37.500 m³.*]*"*

In the typewritten report, he changed these measurements to 50 m × 25 m × 10 m:[290]

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[288] On this page, Willenberg's map appears at the top, the aerial photograph at the bottom.

[289] J. Wiernik, "Relacje Żyda, uciekiniera z Treblinki, Janika Wiernika, zamieszkałego w Warszawy przy ul. Wołyńskiej 23, lat 53." Ghetto Fighters House Archives, Catalog No. 3166, Collection 11261, p. 1.

[290] Wiernik 1944, p. 3; cf. Wiernik in Donat, p. 153.

> *"The size of each was approximately 50 x 25 x 10.* [*Wielkość każdego była około 50 x 25 x 10.*]*"*

Goldfarb stated the following:[291]

> *"From March 1943 until the first half of July, a methodical cremation was carried out of all newly arrived corpses and of the corpses burned* [had been buried] *in 14 large pits. At the end of July, it one more pit was successfully dug, in which corpses were burned. Thus, until the day of the prisoners' uprising on August 2, corpses were burned in 15 pits. 6 pits remained untouched. In order to imagine this huge quantity of killed and burned people, it is necessary to say that in the smallest pit there were not less than 100,000 corpses."*

Finally, Rosenberg asserted:[292]

> *"Now, our task was to drag the dead on wooden stretchers at a run to a pit about one hundred-and-twenty meters long, fifteen meters wide, and six meters deep, in which tens of thousands of corpses were already lying when I arrived at the death camp."*

Sturdy Colls should also give credit to Chil Rajchman, a witness she mentioned, who wrote (Rajchman, p. 60):

> *"The pits were dug by a bulldozer (later on there were three of them). The pits were enormous, about 50 metres long, about 30 wide and several storeys deep. I estimate that the pits could contain about four storeys* [8-12 m]*."*
>
> *"In June* [1943] *fewer transports arrive. The new oven is ready. Corpses are speedily thrown into it. The work of clearing out the pits likewise proceeds at a rapid pace. Ten pits have already been entirely cleaned out. The last, the eleventh, pit is one of the four biggest, where a total of a quarter of a million people lie."* (*ibid*., pp. 83f.)

Assuming an average pit depth of six meters and a density of ten bodies per cubic meter (see Subchapter 7.2), Goldfarb's smallest pit had an area of 1,667 m², one of Rajchman's largest had an area of 1,800 m².

Keep in mind that the largest area of ground disturbance located by Sturdy Colls had an area of 442 square meters. In the following list I compare this with the data contained in the testimonies of the aforementioned witnesses:

- Sturdy Colls 442 m²
- Wiernik 1,250 m²
- Goldfarb 1,667 m²
- Rosenberg 1,800 m²
- Rajchman 4,166 m²

In essence, Sturdy Colls has demonstrated with her archaeological research that these witnesses were shameless liars.

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[291] USSR-380, p. 13.
[292] GFHA, Catalog No. 3562, pp. 5f.

6.3.2. The "Gas Chambers"

Thanks to her LiDAR survey, Sturdy Colls obtained a mapping of the area of the former Treblinka Camp in which she identified

> *"the presence of two depressions in a grassy area to the south-east of the memorial obelisk. Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (GPR) was then undertaken in this area and* [which] *revealed structural remains measuring 22 x 15m. Based on the size and orientation of these remains, it seemed likely that they could be the old gas chambers building. An area of debris measuring 44 x 20m was also recorded. It seemed possible that this could be the remains of the new gas chambers."*

The LiDAR image she published (Document 94) shows something like craters without geometrically regular contours and clearly shows that these possible remains are only a forced interpretation of the ground disturbances found. On their detection with the GPR system, Sturdy Colls only says that thanks to this system she identified merely an "anomaly," not defined masonry foundations, which she later transmogrified into "structural remains measuring 22 x 15m." A comparison with the claimed shape and location of the two buildings (Document 95) clearly excludes that these ground disturbances were outlined and measurable geometric figures. The presence of a structure "made of brick" was only a supposition, which the British archaeologist wanted to "verify" by digging an evaluation trench at the center of the relative area, which she called Trench 4 or Trench Treb04, measuring just 1 m × 1 m! She is very evasive about this excavation, but apparently it is the excavation depicted in one of the photographs she published (Document 96), with an equally evasive caption:

> *"The large sand deposits that were dumped over the top of the Old Gas Chambers by the Nazis."*

Another image (Document 97) shows the "Evaluation Trench Treb04." It represents the horizontal section of the aforementioned excavation of 1 m × 1 meters with an indication of its contents: "structural remains (stone and brick)" and "structural debris (brick, tile and stone)."

This 1 m × 1 m excavation is evidently the deepest square hole in Document 96, the one from which an unfolded two-meter stick emerges.

With the usual hyperbolic exaggeration, often bordering on the ridiculous, the British archaeologist claims that a "large amount of building material was recovered from this area." She documented this with images, presenting, as I noted above, photographs of two tiles and a few brick and concrete fragments!

The discovery of bricks and rubble in an area where years of bomb blasting and excavation of the ground by "gold diggers" had littered what had previously been under the sand, only proves that the rubble found by Sturdy Colls was located in that 1 m × 1 m excavation area – nothing else. No one can say that they were already there in 1942-1943, and no one can say that the anomaly in question was originally a building. To obtain at least this certainty, it would be

necessary to carry out real excavations as in Sobibór and unearth any foundations in their entirety.

Here an enormous inconsistency must be pointed out: how is it possible that the same political authority (the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage) and Jewish-religious authority (the Office of the Chief Rabbi of Poland), in the same years, authorized the excavation of the ruins of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór, but vetoed it in Treblinka? In fact, for Treblinka it, only permissions "for minimally invasive excavations at three of these sites" was granted.

The fact that Sturdy Colls never even touched on this issue raises the suspicion that the decision not to excavate was made locally, in an understanding between the museum authorities and Sturdy Colls herself. She was well aware of the absolute inanity of her discovery, and feared that this would be exposed even more by more-extended archaeological excavations.

Regarding this alleged discovery, the British archaeologist in fact reasons as if the soil she found in Treblinka in 2010 was the same soil that had been left there by the SS after their departure. In reality, at the beginning of 1946, the state of the soil was completely different. As mentioned in Subchapter 6.1., the terrain's state was described by Rachel Auerbach's succinct observation ("Not one level place in the whole area. Everything had been torn up and dug up, little hills and holes."). A photograph from the time (Document 98) fully confirms this observation. In 1997, when I visited the camp together with Jürgen Graf, the ground was leveled and flattened, as can be seen in a photograph of mine showing the area of Pit No. 3 and the alleged gas chambers (Document 99).

Basically, all Caroline Sturdy Colls has "discovered" is merely that there is an anomaly in the ground, at one point of which there is some scattered building debris. Her claim that her "approach confirmed the presence of the Old Gas Chambers" is therefore a pathetic logical fallacy.

As for the alleged building containing the new gas chambers, the British archaeologist's demonstration is even more fallacious and inconsistent. At the relevant site there was only an "area of debris measuring 44 x 20m," which is even less of an actual building ruin than the claimed "structural remains" measuring 22 x 15 meters, even though C. Sturdy Colls calls them both "areas of structural debris" in her 2013 paper:

> *"As confirmed by topographic and geophysical techniques, two areas of structural debris appear to represent the remnants of the gas chambers* […]*."*

In the related follow-up excavation, Sturdy Colls found personal effects that "appears to challenge the accepted history of the site, which states that people were stripped of these items when they arrived at the camp." As the only witness, she thoughtlessly names Rudolf Höss, the former Auschwitz commandant, who she claims "visited the [Treblinka] camp in 1943." This is false. In his contradictory (and far-fetched) statements, Höss said that he visited Treblinka in 1941 or, at the latest, in the spring of 1942, when the Treblinka Camp

did not yet exist, and that he found there ten gas chambers of about eight square meters, each capable of containing 200 people (25 people per square meter). In the interrogation of April 1, 1946, Höss asserted that the relevant building was "built next to a ramp and the train drove right up to it. The people were unloaded right into the chambers," and in his essay "The 'Final Solution' of the Jewish Question in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp," he confirmed that these were "built directly by the railway track. The Jews went straight into the gas chambers without undressing, by way of a platform which was level with the tracks" (see Mattogno 2020, pp. 200-204). So, if we generously ignore the blatant anachronism of his alleged visit, the alleged Treblinka gas chambers were located in Camp I, close to the railway track according to Höss!

Sturdy Colls's reference is therefore intentionally fallacious: Höss's testimony not only does not eliminate the contradiction of finding personal effects where they were not supposed to be, but it also contradicts the orthodox narrative regarding the location of that building and how the victims are said to have entered it.

Two issues related to the findings deserve special consideration. The British archaeologist adduces a kind of "chemical evidence" with which she perhaps wished to mimic – in a rather foolish way – Fred Leuchter's findings at Auschwitz. In 2015 she wrote:

> *"It is believed that gas was delivered to the Old Gas Chamber by way of a diesel engine (possibly from a Russian tank). Following the discovery of sections of wall and bricks, samples were sent for tests in order to confirm whether carbon monoxide was present. These tests confirmed that high concentrations of carbon monoxide were present in the samples and that these were likely as a result of exposure to carbon monoxide, rather than its natural absorption from the air. Further tests are being carried out in order to confirm this theory."*

Germar Rudolf, a chemist by education and an authoritative revisionist historian and publisher, when I queried him on this issue, replied (I summarize and simplify) that carbon monoxide, under normal conditions, cannot bind to a wall element for the long term. A compound between iron oxide (Fe_2O_3) and CO is certainly possible, but it is not stable for long periods of time. Unlike cyanide, which reacts with iron salts already at low concentrations and under normal conditions, CO is essentially inert. For Sturdy Colls's assertion to be acceptable, two things need to be demonstrated:

a. The chemical pathway leading to the formation of any kind of chemical component containing carbon monoxide and iron; and
b. that this compound can persist for decades under the sand.

Rudolf is known to be an expert on the formation of ferric ferrocyanide, or Prussian Blue, from hydrogen cyanide acting on masonry. As he has amply demonstrated, this Prussian Blue is a long-term-stable compound (see his exhaustive study Rudolf 2020). Sturdy Colls, however, speaks of the presence in masonry samples of *carbon monoxide*, which is a gas! She implies that this gas

penetrated into these samples during the years 1942-1943, and that it then remained trapped in these samples for over seventy years!

Unfortunately, the British researcher is silent about the type of analysis performed on these samples, the laboratory that is said to have performed them, and the quantitative results of them.

After this impromptu and ignorant foray into the area of analytical chemistry, she completely abandoned this fable and wisely never spoke of it again.

The other, apparently more-serious, issue is that of the discovery of tiles (presumably two), in the famous 1 m × 1 m excavation. She shows those tiles in two full-page color photographs (Sturdy Colls/Branthwaite 2016, pp. 54f.). She twice quotes a phrase by Abram Jakub Krzepicki from Alexander Donat's oft-cited book, in which the tiles strangely change their color:

> *"Witnesses allude to the fact that the Old Gas Chamber building was modelled on a bathhouse/Jewish mikveh with white tiled walls and a floor that was 'covered with orange terracotta tiles' (Krzepicki 1979, 104)."*

And in her 2018 paper, she wrote that "the testimonies of witnesses that stated that the floor was covered with red/terracotta tiles," with the same reference to Krzepicki and also to Wiernik.

As quoted in Subchapter 3.5., Krzepicki had stated:

> *"The walls were very nice and carefully covered with white tiles. The floor was made of red-yellow terracotta tiles."*

One of the two tiles photographed by Sturdy Colls is in fact red, and the other one of a pale-yellow color. With another daring paralogism, she came to the conclusion that these tiles confirm a) that the place where they were found was the structure with the old gas chambers, and b) that this structure was disguised as a bathhouse.

In her mythomania, she launched into a series of inane lucubrations (Sturdy Colls 2015a, pp. 348f.):

> *"Although conveniently ignored by deniers, the archaeological results at Treblinka actually disprove many long-established revisionist theories about the camp. Based on the GPR survey mentioned above, revisionists argue that the ground was not disturbed, but geophysical survey by the author has confirmed the presence of considerable disturbance across the entire former camp area and has resulted in the identification of many camp structures and mass graves. The discovery of the tiles and foundations of the gas chambers definitively disproves denier theories that the site was only a transit camp and confirms witness testimonies that these buildings were modelled on bathhouses. In fact, the archaeological evidence has confirmed various witness descriptions which state that 'the floor was covered with orange terracotta tiles' (Krzepicki in Donat 1979, p. 104) and demonstrated how the Nazis tried to hide the traces of their crimes by demolishing* [and] *burying the gas chambers under almost a metre of sand. The discovery of human remains and personal belongings of victims attest to the brutality of the camp."*

This quoted text dates back to 2015. The book on Treblinka compiled by Jürgen Graf and myself appeared in its first English edition in January 2004, and contains no mention of the thesis that "the ground was not disturbed." On the contrary, it exposed for the first time the "disturbance" of the terrain carried out by Judge Łukaszkiewicz's investigations (Mattogno/Graf, pp. 82-89) that I discussed above. Since this was (and remains) the only revisionist book on this camp, Sturdy Colls was tilting at windmills.[293]

Her claim that the "discovery of the tiles and foundations of the gas chambers definitively disproves denier theories that the site was only a transit camp and confirms witness testimonies that these buildings were modelled on bathhouses" is precisely another formulation of the paralogism I alluded to earlier.

It is all-too-easy to argue, based on "eyewitness" testimony, the opposite point:

1. These terracotta tiles originated literally from the "steam chambers," as I documented in Section 3.9.1.: "the floor in the [steam] chambers is covered with a terracotta flooring."
2. They then were adopted for Wiernik's "gas chambers", who mentioned a "terracotta floor" (*ibid.*)
3. Krzepicki described an "ordinary bathing hall" (see Subchapter 3.5.):

   > *"I cast a glance inside through one of the two sturdy iron doors painted white that was open. I saw a not very spacious hall – an ordinary bathing hall with all the normal equipment of a public bath. The walls were very nice and carefully covered with white tiles. The floor was made of red-yellow terracotta tiles. From the ceiling hung showers … and … nothing else. A cozy, well-cleaned bathhouse in the middle of the green woods. There was nothing else to see there."*

   Therefore, the discovery of the two tiles in question could only prove that they belonged to a bathing establishment, which would be a *confirmation* of the revisionist thesis.
4. There is no certainty that these two tiles were in that exact spot since 1942. It is possible, and even probable, that they ended up there because of the explosions that were set off in the area of the camp or excavations by looters (or both).
5. Sturdy Colls's claim to have found the foundations of a building is a further paralogism, because she merely brought to light – in an excavation of just

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[293] Editor's remark: Sturdy Colls's remarks were probably aimed at a brief news article by Australian engineer Richard Krege about his 1999 ground-penetrating-radar research at Treblinka as published in a German-language revisionist magazine in 2000, which states (Krege, p. 63):

> *"The comparison of this* [GPR] *image with* [GPR] *images of areas where the soil is known to be untouched and essentially free of disturbances shows that the radar images taken by the Australians in the Treblinka Camp show an almost perfect soil untouched by man."*

However, Krege managed to scan only a small part of the former camp area. Due to a lack of funding and time, he was unable to scan the rest of the camp. As a result, Krege refused to publish his entire dataset, because he considered it highly incomplete and inconclusive. See Neumaier/Rudolf, p. 505.

one square meter! – a little rubble, which, like the tiles, could have originated from another location.

6. According to Wiernik, "Along the chambers was the electric power station, almost the same size as the chambers, but higher than the height of the ramp." Sturdy Colls does not consider it at all. If we were to follow Wiernik, the rubble in question could also have come from this structure.
7. It is unclear how she inferred from the LiDAR and GPR surveys of the ground that the two anomalies found had the exact measurements of 22 m × 15 m (first building) and 44 m × 20 m (second building). The fact is, however, that these measurements contrast with those indicated by the witnesses:

   – Wiernik:
     – first building: three chambers of 5 m × 5 m = a building of 15 m × 5 m;
     – second building: five chambers of 7 m × 7 m on two sides = a building of 49 m × 16 m (with a central corridor of 2 m width);
   – Goldfarb:
     – first building: three chambers of 5 m × 4 m = a building of 15 m × 4 m or 12 m × 5 m;
     – second building: five chambers of 6 m × 6 m on two sides = a building of 36 m × 14 m (with a central corridor of 2 m width).

For the Israeli historian Yitzhak Arad, highly regarded by Sturdy Colls, the chambers in the first building measured 4 m × 4 m (Arad 1987, p. 31) = a building of 12 m × 4 m; those in the second building measured 4 m × 8 m (*ibid*., p. 119) = a building of 40 m × 10 m (with a central corridor of 2 m width) or 20 m × 18 m (with the same corridor).

Summarized:

	Wiernik	Goldfarb	Arad	Sturdy Colls
old chambers	15 m × 5 m	15 m × 4 m or 12 m × 5 m	12 m × 4 m	22 m × 15 m
new chambers	49 m × 16 m	36 m × 14 m	40 m × 10 m or 20 m × 18 m	44 m × 20 m

Sturdy Colls and Wiernik's order of magnitude regarding the "new chambers" is almost compatible – 880 m² vs. 784 m² = 112% – but that regarding the "old chambers" is absolutely incommensurable: 75 m² vs. 330 m² = 440%! How could she seriously believe that a 75-square-meter building had left a footprint of "structural remains" of 330 square meters in the ground?

These inconsistencies add to the fact that the British archaeologist's own investigations into the mass graves have shown that the witnesses were liars: and if they are demonstrably untrustworthy about the mass graves, why should they be trustworthy about the alleged gas chambers?

But what defeats all of Caroline Sturdy Colls's fanciful lucubrations on the alleged gas chambers already by itself is her pretentious historical ignorance.

By the ineffective and inconclusive methods I have described above, particularly on the basis of a few tiles and a bit of rubble, she claimed to have determined "the exact location of the gas chambers and how they functioned" and that they were disguised as a "bathhouse", but at the same time she was unable to distinguish a real shower room from an (alleged) gas chamber, since she published a photograph of the real shower room in Barracks 41 ("*Bad und Desinfektion I*") of the Majdanek Camp with the following caption (see Document 100):

> *"The gas chambers at Majdanek, which were modeled on showers."*

6.3.3. Conclusion

From an orthodox Holocaust perspective, Sturdy Colls's archaeological research proves to be a total failure with regard to both the mass graves and the alleged gas chambers. She realized this well back in 2015, when she at least tried to mitigate the chasm that exists between her archaeological findings and the testimonies with superficial methodological remarks (Sturdy Colls 2015a, pp. 342f.):

> *"However, it should also be borne in mind that archaeological findings may conflict with witness testimonies and this can present new challenges to investigators. This is a trend that has recently been identified in the context of forensic archaeology* […]. *Witnesses may be adamant that a particular building was situated in a particular location or that it was of a specific size, details which may be disproved by the use of geophysics or the excavation of a particular feature. They may recall the size of mass graves and account for the number of bodies that they believe to be in that grave. In some cases archaeological investigations may prove these accounts to be accurate but in others they may show that the grave was larger or smaller, or that the number of bodies was different. Where the size of a grave is shown to be smaller, this will* [of] *course likely to result in revisionists suggesting that the witnesses have lied and that crimes were not as severe or did not take place at all.* […]
>
> *It will rarely be the intention of archaeologists to discredit witnesses (unless of course accounts are found to be deliberately falsified). Rather, it will be the intention to demonstrate that archaeological work can supplement and complement witness testimonies, the accuracy of which will have undoubtedly been influenced by the oppressive situations people found themselves in and the ability of individuals to recall information about events that occurred decades ago."*

This means that, when the archaeological investigation is in agreement with the testimonies, this is a confirmation of their truthfulness and the reality of the gas chambers; when it is in disagreement, this is only because they were "influenced" by adverse conditions and their difficulty in remembering events that happened "decades ago." With this, Sturdy Colls shows that she has no idea that all the most-important testimonies about Treblinka were rendered between 1944 and 1947.

According to this further paralogism, archaeological investigation can only confirm the testimonies, never refute them.

Sturdy Colls's historical-methodical ignorance is equal only to her arrogance. Her entire archaeological project is a huge bluff; she cannot even claim originality of the idea, which was copied by her from the ground-penetrating-radar research carried out in October 1999, also at Treblinka, by the Australian engineer Richard Krege in the company of Jürgen Graf, in whose initial phase at Birkenau I also participated (Document 101; see Krege 2000).

The British archaeologist mentions this in reference to "a GPR survey supposedly undertaken in 2000 [recte: 1999] by Richard Krege" (*ibid*., p. 348).

With incredible conceit and self-delusion, she instead considered her vacuous surveys of immense value, such that she could counter revisionism by simply disseminating her meager results (*ibid*., p. 349):

> *"Although Holocaust denial cannot be prevented, attempts can be made to combat it by the widespread dissemination of the archeological surveys through education programmes, archaeologists also have a role to play in tackling the prejudices that are at the root of many denial arguments."*

In reality, the dissemination of these "archaeological surveys" can only deal a lethal blow to archaeological-historical prejudices and exterminationist delusions about Treblinka.

The concluding sentence might also betray the actual essence of her real agenda, which lies far not only from archeology, but apparently also from objective truth itself.

Part Tree:

Expected Material Evidence

7. Exhumation and Cremation

In this chapter, I will examine whether the results of the archaeological investigations on the grounds of the former Operation-Reinhardt Camps Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka as set out earlier are compatible with the burial of the enormous number of corpses as declared by witnesses and orthodox Holocaust historians, as well as whether their claimed incineration on outdoor fires is consistent with the actual conditions. To begin with, I lay out the baseline data.

7.1. The Number of Alleged Victims

In 2001, Peter Witte and Stephen Tyas reported the discovery of an important document, a German radio message that had been intercepted and deciphered by the British. This message had been sent on January 11, 1943 by SS *Sturmbannführer* Hermann Höfle to SS *Obersturmbannführer* Willi Heim (Witte/ Tyas, p. 469). It concerned the intake ("*Zugang*") of deportees in the camps of the "*Einsatz Reinhart*." The figures, as of December 31, 1942, were: 24,733 for Lublin, 434,508 for Bełżec, 101,370 for Sobibór, and 713,555 for Treblinka, for a total of 1,274,166 deportees.[294]

The figure for Bełżec was accepted as definitive by Western Holocaust historians, but Robert Kuwałek tweaked it slightly upward and set the minimum number of alleged victims at 440,823 and the maximum at 453,021 (Kuwałek, p. 170).

In the discussion that follows, I therefore assume the minimum figure of 440,823 presumed victims, which I round up to 441,000.

With regard to Sobibór, the figure given by the most-competent orthodox historian of this camp, Marek Bem, is approximately 300,000 victims.[295] For Treblinka, Polish historian Jacek Andrzej Młynarczyk gives the exact figure of 780,863 victims (Młynarczyk, p. 97), which I round up to 781,000.

To summarize:

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[294] The figure 71355 appears for Treblinka; the correct one, 713,555, results from subtracting the other partial figures from the total. The camps are indicated by their respective initial letters.

[295] Bem 2015, pp. 40, 222, 304, 355, 356, 372. Oddly, this figure is scattered throughout the book but does not appear in the paragraph where the author discussed in detail the deportations to the camp, and the number of victims (Chapter IV.9., "Transports from the General Government. The total number of victims of the German extermination centre in Sobibór", pp. 161-182).

Bełżec:	441,000
Sobibór:	300,000
Treblinka:	781,000
In Total:	1,522,000

7.2. Mass Graves

In the chapters on the archaeological investigations carried out in the individual camps, I noted that the data on the mass graves in Bełżec given by Kola – about 5,490 square meters and 21,310 cubic meters – are inflated by a good 50%, so that the more-realistic values are about 3,000 square meters and 10,800 cubic meters, respectively. In the pertinent chapters, I have shown that the figures for Sobibór and Treblinka are also exaggerated. To this should be added that the pits had to have sloping side walls in order to prevent their collapse (see below), so their actual volume is further reduced.

In the following table I summarize the official archaeological data:

Camp	Area [m²]	Volume [m³]
Bełżec	5,490	21,310
Sobibór	3,550	15,050
Treblinka	2,600	15,600

Sturdy Colls did not indicate the depth of the pits at Treblinka. The average depth of those at Bełżec was about 3.60 meters, that of Pits Nos. 1-6 at Sobibór (the deepest) about 4.60. In Treblinka, the depth of the pits found by Judge Łukaszkiewicz was 7-7.5 meters, but the British archaeologist noted that the alleged gas chambers were buried "under almost a metre of sand," and claimed that this was done by the "Nazis [who] tried to hide the traces of their crimes." In Bełżec and Sobibór, the findings were made also after digging through a layer of soil, so these areas were also covered with a layer of sand or soil. This layer clearly reduces the mass graves' effective depth for containing human remains, cremated and otherwise. In addition, at war's end, the grounds of the former Treblinka Camp were not level, but completely uneven, full of craters, holes and knolls, so the Łukaszkiewicz's measurements do not reflect the original state of the ground. I therefore assumed the depth of 6 meters, almost identical to the maximum depth attributed to the pits at Sobibór (5.8 meters) and, for what it is worth, identical to that stated by E. Rosenberg.

Before examining the issue of the mass graves' capacity, some clarifications must be made.

According to orthodox Holocaust historiography, the corpses of the victims allegedly gassed were all buried in mass graves in Bełżec Camp, then later exhumed and cremated. The number of buried corpses is therefore 441,000.

In Sobibór, cremation is said to have begun as early as the beginning of October 1942, when approximately 80,000 deportees had arrived at the camp. (Graf/Kues/Mattogno, pp. 123-126). This is therefore the number of bodies interred.

In Treblinka, cremation is said to have been carried out from April to July 1943 (Mattogno/Graf, p. 147). According to Arad, the total number of victims was 881,390, 824,170 of whom by December 31, 1942, and a total of 866,790 by March 1943, hence 42,620 from January to March 1942 (*ibid*., pp. 102f.).

Manfred Burba calculated a total of 912,000 victims, of whom 837,000 were killed up to December 31, 1942, and 893,000 up to March 1943, hence 56,000 from January to March 1943 (*ibid*., p. 104).

For 1943, Arad considered 57,220 victims, Burba 75,000. Since the "Höfle telegram" attests to 713,555 deportees at the end of 1942, Młynarczyk's figure is compatible with Burba's: 780,863 – 713,555 = 67,308, a figure that represents the deportees in 1943. It constitutes almost 90% of Burba's (75,000), so the number of deportees from January to March 1943 can be considered to be (56,000 × 0.9 =) about 50,500. The total figure is therefore (713,555 + 50,500 =) about 764,000, which refers to the corpses buried in mass graves. For the thickness of the layer of soil covering the mass graves, I assume the figure for the pits at Treblinka I discovered by the Soviets: 0.5 meters.

I summarize the data in the following table:

Camp	claimed no. of buried corpses	volume of mass graves in m³	number of bodies per m³ of grave	effective[1] grave volume [m³]	number of bodies per m³ of grave
Bełżec	441,000	21,310	20.7	~ 18,565[2]	~ 23.8
Sobibór	80,000	15,050	5.33	~ 13,275[3]	~ 6.0
Treblinka	764,000	15,600	50.0	~ 14,300[4]	~ 53.4

[1] with a cover layer of 0.5 meter of sand deducted
[2] Bełżec: 5,490 m² × 0.5 m = 2,745 m³; 21,310 m³ – 2,745 m³ = 18,565 m³
[3] Sobibór: 3,550 m² × 0.5 m = 1,775 m³; 15,050 m³ – 1,775 m³ = 13,275 m³
[4] Treblinka: 2,600 m² × 0.5 m = 1,300 m³; 15,600 m³ – 1,300 m³ = 14,300 m³

The disproportionately different data about the claimed packing density of bodies in the graves constitutes the first insuperable contradiction.

It remains to be established how many corpses can be deposited in one cubic meter of mass grave. Marek Bem addressed this issue as follows (Bem 2015, p. 215):

> *"In order to establish the approximate number of victims buried in one grave (which was of a specific size), it is possible to make an attempt to estimate how much space one body took up. Since among the murdered were both men and women, children and adults, I have limited this analysis to the 'overvalued average', which means the body of an adult man. If we use this ratio in calculating the number of bodies buried by the Germans in the burial pits, this, still has to be a very careful calculation on account of the fact that small women and*

even smaller children will be omitted. Also, it is not possible to measure the empty space between the bodies, but if we consider the average height of a man to be 173 cm, we might accept, then, that the space taken up by the human body is 0,093 m³.

The Germans aimed at the most effective utilisation of the burial pits; it seems plausible, therefore, that they must have made sure that the burial commando arranged the corpses as carefully and effectively as possible.[296] *If we assume the average volume of a human body to be 0,093m³, any calculations of the size of a typical burial pit will be a realistic estimate. Normally, burial pits are described as cubic in shape. In Sobibór, however, the huge graves must have been the shape of an isosceles upside-down trapezium, with the shorter base at the bottom of these graves. The deeper a given pit was, the more sloping it* [its walls] *had to be, in order to prevent its sides from sliding inwards.*

The soil in the area of former camp III is sandy, which, on the one hand, made it easier to dig burial pits, but, on the other, made the graves less stable. Following these lines, we may accept the notion that the edges of all the pits were cut at an angle.

However, the precise angle of inclination of the sides of the pits remains unknown, and it obviously depends on the size of each particular pit. In my calculations of the volume of the graves uncovered in the area of the former camp, I put forward that the slope indicator had to be about 60 degrees. As the total volume of the four pits uncovered so far (these were the pits made in the first phase when Sobibór was in operation, i.e. the corpses were buried there) amounts to 15,000m³, it can be assumed that if filled up to the full, they could have accommodated more than 120,000 human corpses."

The purely conjectural number of 120,000 corpses subsequently becomes real (*ibid.*, p. 218):

"Soon afterwards, it was decided that the dead bodies should be burnt, hence, the Nazis brought to Sobibór an excavator with the aim of digging up those more than 120,000 corpses in order to burn them."

If assuming a volume of 0.093 cubic meters per corpse, 10.7 corpses could fit into one cubic meter of pit.[297] This purely theoretical figure is contradicted by practical experience. In Katyn, the Germans discovered seven mass graves with a total area of about 478 square meters and an average depth of about 2.30 meters, which were filled with corpses to a height of 1.5 meters (= 717 m³). In these graves, 4,143 bodies were found, an average of (4,143 ÷ 717 m³ =) 5.8 per cubic meter (Auswärtiges Amt, pp. 39f., 47).

The "Report of the Medico-Legal Examination of the Mass Graves in the Vicinity of the Town Žagare" in Lithuania and the "Report of Medico-Legal

[296] This was explicitly stated by Bolender, but according to Gomerski, the corpses were dumped into the pits directly from the carts from a kind of jetty (see Subchapter. 5.6.); Rudolf Reder, on the other hand, repeatedly stated that at Bełżec the corpses were "thrown into the pits haphazardly" ("*bez porządku*," "*w nieładzie*"); see Mattogno 2021a, pp. 19, 22, 26.

[297] Although Bem's numbers – 120,000 corpses in 15,000 m³ of space, "filled up to the full" – amount to eight corpses per cubic meter only.

Visual Examination of the Site of the Mass Graves in the Vicinity of Žagare," compiled by the Soviets on September 24, 1944 (Jakovlev, pp. 50-54), mention three mass graves with corpses of Jews shot by the Germans, the largest of which measured 122 m × 4 m × 2 m and contained 2,402 corpses. Of these, 20 were subjected to autopsy, the remaining 2,382 to visual forensic medical examination. This group included 1,213 corpses of women, 524 of men, 622 of children and young people up to 15 years of age, and 23 of infants. Since the cover layer of the pit was 30 centimeters, the actual volume of the pit was (122 m × 4 m × 1.7 m =) 829.6 m³, so the density of the corpses in it was (2,402 ÷ 829.6 m³ =) 2.9 per cubic meter. It is true that the corpses were placed there "without order," but it is also true that women accounted for 51% of the visually examined corpses, men for only 22%, and children and young people up to 15 years of age, including infants, for 27%.

In our Treblinka study, we assumed a packing density of eight corpses per cubic meter (Mattogno/Graf, p. 137), which I also adopted for Bełżec (Mattogno 2016, p. 85) and for Sobibór (Graf/Kues/Mattogno, p. 131). However, to prove *a fortiori* the absurdity of the orthodox Holocaustic thesis, one can also assume a maximum density of ten bodies per cubic meter of small, medium, and large men and women, as well as children of all ages.

However, this does not help much to support Bem's calculation.

First of all, the first four pits, which are also the largest, had a surface area of 2,715 square meters and a total volume of 12,987 cubic meters (see Subchapter 5.5.). Moreover, if we assume that all sides of the pits were inclined by 60°, the actual volume is further reduced.

Secondly, one cannot pretend that the "Höfle telegram" for Sobibór contained only a portion of the deportees. As noted earlier, the figure of 101,370 deportees is used to calculate the approximately 80,000 bodies exhumed. Following the reasoning of M. Bem, the pits in question would have contained (80,000 ÷ 15,000 =) 5.33 bodies per cubic meter.

For the rest, it is obviously not possible that the density per cubic meter of victims had been roughly 24 at Bełżec, 6 at Sobibór, and 53 at Treblinka.

Considering a maximum density of ten bodies per cubic meter, the values would be as follows:

Camp	claimed no. of buried corpses	mass-grave area in m²	volume of mass graves in m³	required volume in m³ at 10 corpses/m³ with 50 cm layer of covering
Bełżec	441,000	5,490	21,310	44,100 + 2,745 = 46,845
Sobibór	80,000	3,550	15,050	8,000 + 1,775 = 9,775
Treblinka	764,000	2,600	15,600	76,400 + 1,300 = 77,700

The data for Sobibór would therefore be the only one commensurate with the findings. Those for Bełżec and Treblinka are completely incommensurate. In these two camps, the mass graves could have contained only part of the bodies

of the presumed victims, about 42% in Bełżec, about 19% in Treblinka, as shown in the following table:

Camp	claimed no. of buried corpses	effective grave volume [m³]	corpses buried at 10/m³	corpses unburied
Bełżec	441,000	18,565	185,650	255,350
Treblinka	764,000	14,300	143,000	621,000

Let me emphasize that all the data used in the calculations are theoretical maximums. It should also be noted that, by changing perspective, the factors and coefficients also change. If mass extermination was not practiced in these camps, but there was a low mortality rate, there was no need to save space by cramming the pits with corpses. As a normal density, the experimental figure for Žagare may be valid: three corpses per cubic meter. The actual volume of the pits at Bełżec (or rather, a volume closer to reality) is about 10,800 cubic meters, and their surface area 3,000 square meters, which, with a covering of the pits with 50 centimeters of sand (without taking into account the layer of sand of a few decimeters with which the former camp area was later covered) becomes about (10,800 m³ – 3,000 m² × 0.50 m =) 9,300 m³. The fact that this volume includes the excavations carried out by the Polish judicial investigators and those of the "gold diggers" further reduces the original volume. In addition, the pits had to have sloping walls, which leads to a further reduction. But even taking into account the above figure, the real order of magnitude would be (9,300 m³ × 3 =) about 27,900 bodies. As a percentage, this is about 6% of the detainees deported to that camp.

Orthodox historian Dieter Pohl estimates that up to 5% of the deportees in the Reinhardt Camps perished during the journey from suffocation, dehydration, crushing caused by panicked deportees, etc. (Pohl, p. 194).

As for Treblinka, even taking into account the alleged 15,600 cubic meters of pits, the order of magnitude would be (15,600 m³ × 3 =) 46,800, roughly 6% of the total number of deportees.

The figure for Sobibór is also anomalous in this perspective: the 12,000 cubic meters mentioned in Subchapter 5.5. (see p. 232) would have contained 36,000 bodies, 12% of the total deportees.

However, the anomaly of Sobibór does not affect the general conclusion, since Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka either were *all* extermination camps in the terms described by the orthodox Holocaust historiography, or *none* of them was: *tertium non datur*. And since these data clearly demonstrate that Bełżec and Treblinka cannot not have been extermination camps, neither can Sobibór.

On the other hand, as I will show below, the supply of the wood that would be needed to cremate the corpses of the numbers of alleged gassing victims in the time available according to the orthodox narrative would have been impossible even for Sobibór.

7.3. Cremation of Corpses: Time Constraints

7.3.1. Bełżec

The most-detailed information on the cremation of exhumed corpses was provided on January 7, 1963 by former SS *Scharführer* Heinrich Gley in the course of the investigations leading up to the Bełżec Trial (Rückerl, pp. 142f.):

> *"According to my memory, the gassings were stopped at the end of 1942, when there was already snow. Then the general exhumation and cremation of corpses began; it probably lasted from November 1942 to March 1943. The cremations were carried out continuously day and night, first at one, then at two incineration sites. One incineration site offered the possibility to burn about 2000 corpses within 24 hours. About 4 weeks after the start of the cremation campaign, the second incineration site was set up. On average, 300,000 corpses were burned at one incineration site for about 5 months, and 240,000 corpses were burned at the second for about 4 months. These are, of course, average estimates."*

However, during an earlier interrogation of May 8, 1961, he had stated:[298]

> *"At the end of 1942, the mass gassings of Jews at the Belcec* [sic] *Camp were stopped. In response to an interposed question, I say that I know for certain that no bodies were being burned when I arrived. At the beginning of 1943 – I can no longer say whether it was in January, February, or March – I was assigned with a unit to bring in railroad tracks and field tracks, as well as large stones. This equipment was to be used for the construction of large grates, on which the bodies were burned that had first been buried. I was not part of the cremation detachment itself."*

Since the last Jewish transports arrived at the camp on December 11, 1942 (Kuwałek, p. 251), cremation could not begin until the middle of that month. As early as April 11, 1946, the prosecutor of the Zamość District Court concluded that Jewish transports had ceased in December 1942, and that the cremation of corpses was completed in March 1943 (Libionka, p. 235).

Therefore, the cremation lasted three and a half months, from mid-December 1942 to March 1943, or 105 days in rounded figures.

From Gley's statements, it can be deduced that the first pyre was erected in mid-December 1942, the second in mid-January 1943; the first cremated about 55% of the total number of corpses,[299] hence about 242,000 – if assuming a total of 441,000 corpses – and the second about 199,000.

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[298] Interrogation of Heinrich Gley dated May 8, 1961. ZStL, 208 AR-Z 252/59, Vol. IX, p. 1286.
[299] H. Gley stated that the total number of bodies cremated was 540,000.

7.3.2. Sobibór

The cremation of corpses, as noted above, began in early October 1942 and presumably lasted until the prisoners' uprising, which occurred on October 14, 1943, so it can be assumed to last about a year or 365 days.

7.3.3. Treblinka

The cremation of corpses lasted from April to July 1943, or about 122 days (Mattogno/Graf, p. 147).

7.4. The Green-Wood Consumption for Cremation

In our study on Sobibór, I had assumed, based on experimental data, that a woodcutter can cut 0.55 tons of wood per day (Graf/Kues/Mattogno, p. 152). I later found other data that better fit the claimed Holocaust context.

In the *Ereignismeldung* (Report on Events in the Occupied Eastern Territories) No. 171 of February 20, 1942, we read:[300]

> *"Currently, 25263 people are employed in the large-scale forestry operation, which covers the whole of Estonia and serves to procure firewood for the cities. The transport of the wood, for which 9000 horses are available, has already begun. The daily output per forest worker averages about 1.5 solid cubic meters."*

A "Headquarters Special Order" from the "Local *Wehrmacht* Headquarters Riga" dated 16 June 1944 bearing the subject "Supply with Heating Material 1944/45" forwarded the order by the *Kommandant* of the Security Region Latvia that all units of the *Wehrmacht*, with a few exceptions, had to "cut their own firewood." Major General and *Kommandant* Ruff, who signed the document, issued the following detailed orders in this regard:[301]

> *"2.) Logging*
> *It does not appear practicable for every unit and agency to log their own wood requirements independently. At least the small users must be pooled together into logging squads professionally supervised by trained forestry personnel and equipped with the necessary working equipment and power saws.*
> *The local Wehrmacht headquarters has been assigned to form such logging squads for the Riga garrison. Those units and agencies which do not log their own wood, but rather wish to participate in pooled logging squads, report their anticipated logging totals, and the numbers of soldiers, volunteers, POWs and other manpower to be deployed for this by 25 June to the 4th Detachment of the L.W.H. When calculating the necessary workforce, it is to be assumed that one soldier or volunteer can prepare 1.5-2 stacked cubic meters per day, a*

[300] NARA, T 175-234-2723884.
[301] LVVA, P-752-2-1, pp. 221-221a.

POW or other workers 1 stacked cubic meter, and for now that the logging must be carried out by the end of September. For this, one week is to be considered to consist of 5 full working days.
Logging sites favorably located for hauling off the wood are to be selected with the approval of the forestry administration. Quantities up to 200 stacked cubic meters can be released for logging by the chief forest ranger's office based on an order from a billeting administration office (see 3). Any quantities in excess will require the approval of the general commissar in Riga, FoHo [Logging] *Division. Applications for this are to be filed with the headquarters of the Security Region Latvia via the billeting administration office in charge. In urgent cases, application by phone directly with the Kommandatur Latvia suffices.*
3.) Release
Chief foresters are instructed to release prepared firewood and wood for self-logging only based on an order from the billeting administration office […]*."*

There are two units of measurement mentioned in these documents: the *Festmeter* (*fm*), which is a cubic meter of solid wood (without any gaps), and the *Raummeter* (*rm*), which is a cubic meter of neatly stacked wood (with gaps in between). According to established equivalence tables, 1 m³ of solid wood (*fm*) is equivalent to about 1.43 m³ of stacked wood (*rm*), and vice versa, 1 *rm* equals 0.70 *fm* (Wenzl, p. 321).

The average weight of a solid cubic meter (*fm*) of freshly cut wood (green wood) of the types of trees prevalent in Latvia (pine, fir, birch, alder) is about 900 kg, that of a stacked cubic meter (*rm*) about (900 kg/m³ × 0.7 =) 630 kg. The first document therefore shows a daily production of 1.5 solid cubic meters per worker, or (1.5 m³ × 0.9 =) 1.35 metric tons. In the case investigated here, however, we are dealing with civilians forced to work under awful conditions. Due to their living and working conditions, the productivity of inmates in the alleged "extermination camps" was necessarily lower, as shown by the second document, which indicates a daily productivity of 1.5-2 stacked cubic meters or (1.5~2 *rm* × 0.9 kg/m³ × 0.7 m³/*rm* =) between 0.945 and 1.26 metric tons of wood for soldiers or civilian volunteers, and only one stacked cubic meter or (1 *rm* × 0.9 kg/m³ × 0.7 m³/*rm* =) 0.63 metric tons for a prisoner of war. For the camps of Operation Reinhardt, we will assume this value.

In another study, I have devoted a long chapter to a detailed and documented study of open-air cremation in the camps of Operation Reinhardt.[302] The amount of wood – dry and fresh – necessary to cremate a human body (according to the various possibilities: gender, age, size, condition [fresh or decomposed] etc.) was calculated by me on the basis of experimental data. As the weight of the bodies, I assumed those proposed by an orthodox Holocaustic polemicist. The relative values are definitely too low, so that the corresponding wood requirement is also too low, but these are the only Holocaustic data

[302] Mattogno/Kues/Graf, Chapter 12, pp. 1169-1332; see in particular Point 75, pp. 1288-1293.

available, and by using them, my line of argument resulting from this will be valid for more-likely scenarios as well *a fortiori*.

On the basis of the complicated reasoning on the initial weight of the deportees and the decomposition times of the corpses as proposed by the polemicist in question, it is therefore assumed that the average mass of the bodies exhumed and cremated in Bełżec was 23.65 kg, 36.43 kg in Sobibór, and 18.95 in Treblinka. The differences depended on the greater or lesser time the bodies had been in the ground before being exhumed. For each type of body, I calculated a dry-wood requirement ranging from 132 to 134 kg. The values are almost equal, despite the difference in average mass of organic material to be incinerated, because of the differing chemical compositions of the bodies (water, fat and protein) indicated by the polemicist.[303]

For the alleged extermination camps, however, it is necessary to consider green wood, since, according to the orthodox narrative based on testimonies, inmate forest units are said to have been sent into the surrounding woods in order to cut trees and branches destined to fuel the cremation pyres. In another study, we explained that one can assume a conversion factor of 1.9, meaning that, based on their respective net calorific values, 1 kg of dry wood corresponds to 1.9 kg of green wood (Graf/Kues/Mattogno, p. 151).

The following table summarizes this data:

Camp	number of corpses	average corpse mass in kg	dry/green wood requirement to cremate one corpse in kg	total dry wood requirement in metric tons	total green wood requirement in metric tons
Bełżec	441,000	23.65	132 / 250.8	58,212	110,602.8
Sobibór	300,000	36.43	133 / 252.7	39,900	75,810.0
Treblinka	781,000	18.95	134 / 254.6	104,654	198,842.6
Totals	1,522,000			202,766	385,255.4

The procedure by which these camps are said to have procured the necessary wood (the deployment of inmate forest units in the surrounding forests) is rather simplistic and does not take into account the regulations in force at that time.

In the General Government, the management of forests depended on the "Main Department Forestry" of the local government. In the Warsaw District, it was represented by the Forestry Department headed by District Forester Küchler. Each of the 10 counties (*Kreishauptmannschaften*) of this district, with the exception of the capital Warsaw,[304] had a main forestry (*Oberförsterei*) that dependent on the above-mentioned office, which was in charge of wood supply. The wood was first cut (*Holzeinschlag*, wood cutting) and then transported little by little to the recipients (*Holzabfuhr*). Each county was

[303] *Ibid.*, pp. 1292f.; this explains how to arrive at the above values.
[304] As a city, Warsaw was a *Stadthauptmannschaft*, in contrast to a rural *Kreishauptmannschaft*.

assigned a certain amount of wood to be cut, which in some cases was even slightly exceeded. These activities were documented in detail. Some documents have been preserved and show exactly how much wood was cut and transported at various dates.

A chart on "Wood Cutting for the Economic Forestry Year 1944" ("*Holzeinschlag des Forstwirtschaftsjahres 1944*") shows the situation as of January 31, 1944 for the Warsaw District (Document 102). The amount of wood to be cut (*Einschlagsoll*) was 279,730 solid cubic meters (*fm*); the amount actually cut (*Einschlagist*) was 187,173 *fm*. The graph regarding "Wood transport of the wood cut 1943-1944" ("*Holzabfuhr des Holzeinschlages 1943-1944*"), with reference to the same date, gives the amount of wood that had been taken away: it amounted to 90,929 *fm* (Document 103).

It is worth mentioning that, according to Arad, in Treblinka "the entire cremation operation lasted about four months, from April to the end of July 1943" (Arad 1987, p. 177).

Now, at the Warsaw District, the wood cutting of 1943 until 31 January 1944 had produced 187,173 *fm* (=m³), or about 168,500 tons, of which 90,929 m³, or about 81,800 tons, had been taken away.

Treblinka Camp was located in Sokołow County, bordering on Ostrów County, to which nearby Małkinia belonged. The charts show that the actual wood production of these two counties had been 16,500 and 56,570 m³, respectively, or about 14,850 and 50,900 metric tons, of which 4,867 and 15,205 m³, or about 4,400 and 13,700 metric tons, had been delivered as of January 31, 1944.

All in all, the amount of wood hauled away from the two counties was about (4,400 + 13,700 =) 18,100 metric tons. This was the wood cut in 1943 and January 1944, available and therefore usable as of January 31, 1944.

As of March 1, 1943, the territory of the Warsaw District had an area of 17,168 km², and a population of about 2,699,000 people. In it, Sokołow County had an area of 2,565 km² and about 172,000 inhabitants, and Ostrów County 1,366 km² and about 109,000 inhabitants (Staatliches Amt…, pp. IXf.).

The total projected wood production of 279,730 *fm* (about 251,800 metric tons) covered the entire Warsaw District. Not all of the wood was firewood; some of it – *Stammholz*, wood for lumber; *Grubenlangholz*, mining shoring timbers; *Holzwollenholz*, wood for wood shavings; *Generatorenholz*, wood for producer-gas generators – was delivered to sawmills and private firms that processed it.[305]

On November 3, 1943, when the cremation of the bodies of those presumably gassed at Treblinka, Sobibór and Bełżec had been completed for months, Hans Frank issued an order valid for the entire General Government, stamped "Secret State Matter" ("*Geheime Reichssache*"), in which he launched a large-

[305] *Oberförsterei Ostrow. Verteilungsplan der Holzabfuhr für Monat Januar 1944*. APW, Zespół 489 II (*Kreishauptmannschaft Ostrow*), Sygn. 648, p. 186.

scale "mobilization for wood", because wood was considered a strategic asset. The operation mainly concerned the collection and transport of wood that had already been cut in execution of the 1943 wood-supply plan.[306]

In practice, in 1943, the Treblinka inmate forest unit would have had to cut almost 199,000 tons of wood on its own in the vicinity of the camp within just four months, while the amount of wood cut in the entire Warsaw District during that entire year was only 168,500 tons!

In 1944, the amount of wood cut was 260,940 *fm* (about 234,850 tons); for Sokołow County, the figure was 21,572 *fm* (about 19,400 tons), for Ostrów County, it was 93,759 *fm* (about 84,400 tons; Document 104).

7.5. The Wood Supply for Cremation: The Forest Units

Nothing is recorded about an inmate forest unit at Bełżec. According to Schelvis, the forest unit at Sobibór consisted of just 30 inmates (Schelvis, p. 134), but Bem states that there were 40 inmates (Bem 2015, p. 71).

No precise information is available about the strength of the forest unit at Treblinka Camp. Richard Glazar describes the task of this group of inmates as follows (Glazar, p. 115):

> *"To clear the woods around the perimeter of the camp—that's our main task now. Felled trees are hauled into camp and chopped into firewood. As spring becomes summer without transports, the greatest concentration of activity in the first camp moves down to the grounds behind the Ukrainian barracks, to the lumberyard. Those of us from Barracks A work there, along with other commando units who had previously worked at the sorting site. Idyllic mounds of freshly sawn and split firewood grow up and shine out from among the towering pines that have not been felled. A path runs along one side of the lumberyard and leads up to the main gate of the second camp. Though it is some seventy meters away, the gate is clearly visible from our work site. Here we deliver what wood is needed in that part of the camp. No one from over there is allowed out to work by the SS. The main work in the second camp still consists of digging up and incinerating the bodies from old transports."*

A few pages later, Glazar speaks of 25 inmates assigned to "forestry work," but in the context of camouflaging the camp (*ibid.*, pp. 127f.). Chris Webb and Michal Chocholatý, authors of a book on Treblinka, write that the local forest unit, also called woodcutter's unit, was "small in number, probably only a few dozen prisoners" (Webb/Chocholatý, p. 90).

Pretending that there is a logic in all of this (which there isn't), I assume as the "real" figure the maximum one mentioned for Sobibór, and based on it I calculate the strength of the forest units of Bełżec and Treblinka in proportion to the number of the claimed corpses cremated, *i.e.*:

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[306] APW, Zespół 891, pp. 2-4.

– Bełżec: 60 inmates
– Sobibór: 40 inmates
– Treblinka: 100 inmates (for Webb/Chocholatý only "a few dozen").

In Bełżec, 60 detainees would have been able to cut (60 × 0.63 tons/day/man =) 37.8 tons of wood per day. In order to achieve the necessary amount, they would have had to work for (110,602.8 tons ÷ 37.8 tons/day =) 2,926 days, or a little over eight years, but they actual had only 105 days.

The 40 inmates at Sobibór would have had a daily capacity of (40 × 0.63 tons/day/man =) 25.2 tons of wood. To cut the required amount, they would have had to work for (75,810 tons ÷ 25.2 tons/day =) 3,008 days, or eight years and three months, but they only had about a year for this work.

As for Treblinka, the 100 inmates of the forest unit would have cut (100 × 0.63 tons/day/man =) 63 tons of wood each day; to reach the required amount, it would have taken them (198,842.6 tons ÷ 63 tons/day =) 3,156 days, or more than eight and a half years, but they had only 122 days in which to do it.

I summarize the results of these calculations in the following table:

Camp	green wood needed in tons	number of inmates in forest unit *Waldkommando*	fresh wood per day in tons	days needed	days available	missing days
Bełżec	110,602.8	60	37.8	2,926	105	2,821
Sobibór	75,810.0	40	25.2	3,008	365	2,643
Treblinka	198,842.6	100	63.0	3,156	122	3,034
Totals	385,255.4			9,090	592	8,498

In practice, the time required to complete the overall cremation work would have been more than 15 times longer than the time available. To give an idea, cremations at all three camps would have been completed only at some point in 1951!

No. 50 of the *Einsatzgruppen* "Reports from the Eastern Territories", which is dated April 16, 1943, offers another concrete reference point especially for Bełżec. The section on forestry sets out the forestry plan that had been prepared for Belarus (Mallmann *et al.*, p. 792):

> *"For the old Soviet area of White Ruthenia with about 400,000 hectares of forest, about 700,000 cubic meters of lumber and firewood are planned for cutting in the forestry year from October 1, 1942 to September 30, 1943. With an average work standard of 20 solid cubic meters of logging and 20 solid cubic meters of hauling per head and team, about 35,000 workers and 35,000 team members would be needed for 3 to 4 weeks. Distributed over the 5 winter months from November to March – the felling has to occur in these months mainly due to climatic conditions – a monthly average of about 7000 workers and 7000 teams* [horse-drawn cart + driver] *would be necessary."*

As I explained earlier, the 700,000 solid cubic meters mentioned in this document correspond to about 630,000 metric tons, to be cut in a forested area of 400,000 hectares. A daily productivity of 0.95-0.71 solid cubic meters, or 0.85-0.64 tons, per day was calculated for that work. This fully confirms the figure assumed in the calculations for an inmate (0.63 tons).

Each month, 100,000 solid cubic meters (about 90,000 tons) were expected with the use of 7,000 lumberjacks and 7,000 teams (horse-drawn carts).

For Bełżec, with a requirement of about 110,600 tons of green wood, such a project would have required about 8,600 lumberjacks to be completed within a month, but if the work was stretched out over three and a half months, the labor force would have had to encompass (8,600 ÷ 3.5 =) about 2,460 lumberjacks (and an equal number of horse teams for transport).

It should be remembered that Rudolf Reder, the quintessential witness to Bełżec Camp, had claimed that there was a total of 500 inmates working at the camp.[307] The required wood-cutting feat would not have succeeded even if they all had been employed to cut and haul wood.

As can be seen from the graphs mentioned earlier, hauling the cut wood also required the deployment of large numbers of men and animals, in this case about 2,460 horse-drawn carts with drivers. Nineteenth-century studies established that a man pulling a cart produces a "useful effect" of 2,500 kg, yet a horse produces 26,029 kg, so that the workforce of a horse is equal to that of more than 10 men (Majocchi, p. 140). Therefore, the aforementioned 2,460 teams (in the likely case of two-horse teams, this amounts to 4,920 horses) are equivalent to the work force of (4,920 × 10 =) 49,200 men! No witness or document has ever come to light that mentioned the deployment of huge pools of horse-drawn carts (or alternatively large pools of trucks) to transport massive amounts of wood, so this work evidently would have had to be performed by inmates – tens of thousands of them!

To obtain the required 198,842.6 tons of green wood needed at Treblinka Camp within a month, 13,900 lumberjacks would have been needed; doing the work within four months would have required (13,900 ÷ 4 =) 3,475 lumberjacks and as many teams of horses – or another 69,500 men. Note that Glazar claimed that the logs were dragged to Treblinka Camp by inmates.

7.6. The Invisible Logging

A 50-year-old spruce forest yields 496 solid cubic meters of wood per hectare (about 446 tons).[308] The wood requirements for Bełżec thus correspond to the

[307] See Mattogno 2021a, where I reported this witness's nine statements, interrogations, and writings, in which he repeatedly mentions this figure (pp. 13-16, 19f., 22, 36f., 45, 51f.).

[308] Colombo, p. 161. The value shown is the highest of the five tree varieties shown in the table (pine [452 m³], spruce, fir, beech, oak).

total logging of (110,602.8 ÷ 446 =) 248 hectares, for Treblinka of (198,842.6 ÷ 446 =) 446 hectares.

In a well-documented article, Thomas Kues showed that the wooded areas cut around Treblinka Camp amounted to a maximum of 10 hectares (Kues 2009a). During construction, the camp, which had an area of 13.45 hectares, was completely cleared except for an area of about 2 hectares in the northern part. Comparison of the 1:100000 map from 1936 with the aerial photograph from May 15, 1944 shows that the forested strip to the north, east, and south of the camp remained virtually untouched: the deforested area inside and outside the camp was approximately 22 hectares, as opposed to the 446 required by the alleged mass cremations.

For Bełżec, a comparison of 1940 and 1944 aerial photography shows that the forest was cut – but not completely – only in the camp area (about 6.2 hectares) and simply thinned out beyond the northern, eastern, and southern borders of the camp (Rudolf 2020a, pp. 138-143). The total area, cleared and thinned, was on the order of 10 hectares. According to the "Minutes of the Inspection of the Bełżec Death Camp" by the Zamość investigating judge dated October 10, 1945, there was still a group of pine trees (*sosny*) over twenty years old in the area of the camp, towards the center. Another group of similar pine trees extended towards the south side, and a third group of 31 pine trees was located in the northwestern corner (Libionka, p. 122).

Again, the hectares cleared – about 10 – are a pittance compared to those needed: 248.

Two aerial photographs of Sobibór, the first dated July 11, 1940, the other May 30, 1944 (Rudolf 2020a, pp. 147f.), make it possible to establish that the area cleared was practically only that of *Lager* III, the equivalent of about 30 hectares, as opposed to the (75,810 ÷ 446 =) 170 hectares needed.

In order to visually render the idea of the order of magnitude being discussed, I take as a point of reference a photograph I took in June 1997 in an area south of the former Sobibór Camp (Document 105). It shows several piles of pine logs. The central pile, about 20 meters long and about 2.5 meters high, consisted of logs about 2 meters long with a diameter of about 12 centimeters. The estimated weight of this pile is about 100 tons, enough for the cremation of about 400 corpses. In Bełżec, about 1,106 similar piles would have been needed for the cremation of the corpses of the alleged gassing victims, in Sobibór about 758 and in Treblinka about 1,988!

7.7. The Cremation Procedure

Orthodox Holocaust historians imagine that cremation took place day and night for the above-mentioned periods, so that on average (441,000 ÷ 105 =) 4,200 corpses were cremated per day at Bełżec and (781,000 ÷ 122 =) 6,400 at

Treblinka. However, no one ever considered that this procedure would have encountered an insurmountable obstacle due to weather conditions. This is especially true for Bełżec. It should be remembered that cremation would have taken place there in the middle of winter, from mid-December 1942 to March 1943.

In the following table and chart, I report the minimum temperatures (first column) and precipitation in mm of water (second column) that were recorded during those months at the meteorological station in Tomaszów Lubelski, only 8 km away from the alleged "death camp"[309] (Documents 106f. and 108f.).

Starting on November 22, 1942, temperatures dropped significantly. From November 22 to 30, the average minimum temperature was -6.3°C, with a low of -10.3°C on the November 22. Therefore, the ground was solidly frozen by mid-December.

In total, from mid-December 1942 to March 1943, there were 31 days of precipitation, which brought down about 60 cm of water – some as rain, some as snow. The camp and the forests were covered with snow.

Under these conditions, it is hardly imaginable that each inmate of the camp's forest unit could cut 0.63 tons of wood each day. I will pass over the transport of the wood to the camp for the moment, and will merely observe that burning the huge piles of green, frozen, snow-covered wood, more or less like the one in Document 110, would have been an impossible task in itself without enormous quantities of oil or gasoline to light the fire, the supply of which is not documented in the slightest. For this reason, I do not even consider the possible but utterly unsubstantiated objection that the wood requirement for the cremation was relatively small because the cremation could have been accomplished with even-more-enormous quantities of oil or gasoline. If we allow the writing of history with mere unfounded speculations, it would be more serious to assert that the extermination was carried out with electrocution plants, chlorine and steam chambers, and that the corpses were eliminated with a "corrosive powder" – fables that at least have a basis in propaganda texts.

At minimum temperatures of -10°C, reached for 21 days, with 5 days between -21 and -25.3°C, the wood would have been frozen. Given that fresh wood contains at least 50% moisture by weight, 1 kg of wood contains 0.5 kg of moisture. The heat needed to melt ice is about 80 Kcal/kg, so 40 Kcal for 1 kg of wood. If even only 20% of the water contained in the 108,974.6 tons of fresh wood had frozen (*i.e.* the water contained in the wood needed for 21 days out of 105 days), the caloric requirement for melting the wood water would

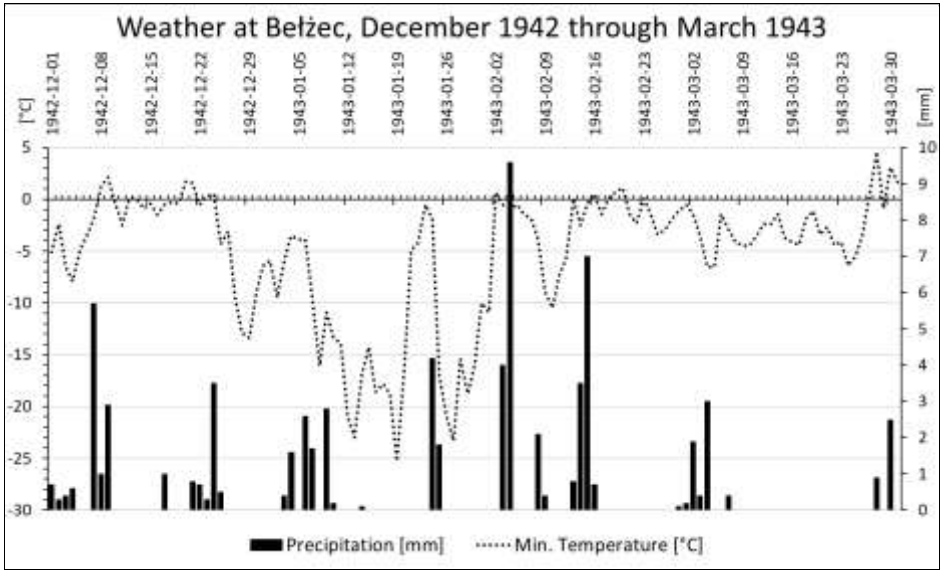
[309] "Minimalna dobowa temperatura powietrza atmosfericznego (°C) z okresu od 1 marca 1942 roku do 31 marca 1943 roku na podstawie pomiarów na stacji meteorologicznej Tomaszów Lubelski" ("Minimum daily air temperature (°C) from March 1, 1942 to March 31, 1943 based on measurements at the meteorological station Tomaszów Lubelski"); "Dobowa suma opadu atmosferycznego [mm] z okresu od 1 marca 1942 do 31 marca 1943 roku na podstawie pomiarów na stacji meteorologicznej Tomaszów Lubelski" ("Daily total precipitation [mm] from March 1, 1942 to March 31, 1943 based on measurements at the meteorological station Tomaszów Lubelski"). Instytut Meteorologii i Gospodarki Wodnej. Państwowy Instytut Badawcy, Warsaw.

Day	December 1942		January 1943		February 1943		March 1943	
	Temp. [°C]	Prec. [mm][310]	Temp. [°C]	Prec. [mm]	Temp. [°C]	Prec. [mm]	Temp. [°C]	Prec. [mm]
1	-5.1	0.7	-5.9	0	-10.9	0	-0.5	0.2
2	-2.4	0.3	-9.5	0	0.7	0	-1.4	1.9
3	-6.5	0.4	-5.9	0.4	-0.5	4.0	-3.5	0.4
4	-7.9	0.6	-3.5	1.6	-0.9	9.6	-6.5	3.0
5	-4.9	0	-3.9	0	-0.5	0	-6.5	0
6	-3.5	0.0	-3.9	2.6	-1.4	0.0	-1.4	0
7	-1.9	5.7	-9.5	1.7	-1.9	0	-2.9	0.4
8	1.3	1.0	-16.1	0.0	-3.9	2.1	-4.1	0
9	2.1	2.9	-10.9	2.8	-8.9	0.4	-4.5	0
10	-0.3	0	-13.3	0.2	-10.5	0	-4.4	0
11	-2.5	0	-13.9	0	-7.3	0	-3.5	0
12	0.1	0	-21.0	0	-5.7	0	-2.4	0
13	0.1	0	-23.0	0	0.1	0.8	-2.4	0
14	-0.9	0	-16.8	0.1	-2.5	3.5	-1.4	0
15	-0.4	0	-14.3	0	-0.4	7.0	-3.7	0
16	-1.5	0	-18.6	0	0.5	0.7	-4.1	0
17	-0.5	1.0	-17.8	0.0	-1.4	0	-4.4	0
18	-0.3	0	-18.8	0	0.1	0	-1.9	0
19	-0.4	0	-25.3	0	0.7	0.0	-1.1	0
20	1.7	0	-16.4	0	1.1	0	-3.4	0
21	1.6	0.8	-4.9	0	-1.4	0	-2.7	0
22	-0.5	0.7	-4.2	0	-2.3	0	-4.4	0
23	0.3	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.1	0	-4.1	0
24	0.5	3.5	-1.9	4.2	-1.5	0	-6.4	0
25	-4.3	0.5	-17.0	1.8	-3.4	0	-5.5	0
26	-3.1	0	-21.0	0	-2.9	0	-3.4	0
27	-9.4	0.0	-23.3	0	-1.9	0	0.3	0
28	-12.9	0	-15.4	0	-1.1	0.1	4.6	0.9
29	-13.4	0	-18.8	0			-0.9	0
30	-9.1	0.0	-16.0	0			3.1	2.5
31	-6.4	0.0	-10.0	0			1.6	0

have been (108,974,600 kg × 40 Kcal/kg × 20% =) 871,976,800 Kcal, equal to about 83,028 liters of gasoline (two full tankers) with a calorific value of 10,500 Kcal/liter!

Temperatures were particularly severe during the second and third weeks of January. On some days, daily minimum temperatures dropped as low as -25°C (-13°F). At such temperatures, it is virtually impossible to do any work outdoors. And it is almost certainly impossible to dig up any soil or exhume any

[310] 1 mm of rainwater corresponds to 1 liter per square meter and roughly to 1 cm of fresh powder snow.



bodies, because the ground would have been so severely frozen that it would have required the use of jackhammers or explosives to break up the ground.

To make the task even more unfeasible, there was rain- and/or snowfall on 31 days out of 105, as I pointed out earlier. The snow accumulated on top of what had already fallen since the second half of November 1942 (about 5 cm of water, or 50 cm of powder snow, on Nov. 17, the same on Nov. 24, a few centimeters of water or decimeters of powder snow in the intermediate and subsequent days). In December 1942, about 18 cm of snow and rain fell, in January 1943 about 15 cm of precipitation, mostly as snow (in the case of powder snow, this amounts to 1.5 m of snow accumulation over the entire month!). In February there was about 28 cm of precipitation (rain and snow), and in March about 9 cm. Therefore, during the above-mentioned 31 days, (4,200 × 31 =) 130,200 corpses would have been cremated in one or two "hearths", on each square meter of which a total of 59.7 cm of precipitation would have fallen, equivalent to 597 liters of water.

According to the orthodox narrative, cremations at Treblinka took place between April and July 1943, on 122 days, and an average of 6,400 bodies were cremated each day. During this period, the meteorological station at Ostrów Mazowiecka, which was located about 20 km NNE of the camp as the crow flies, recorded 49 days of more-or-less-heavy rain: in April 27.5 millimeters of rain fell, in May 20.2, in June 65.3 and in July 167.1, a total of 280.1 mm (Document 111).[311] This is 280 liters of rain per square meter of cremation

[311] "Dobowa suma opadu atmosferycznego [mm] z okresu od 1 lipca 1942 do 31 lipca 1943 roku na podstawie pomiarów na stacji meteorologicznej Ostrów Mazowiecka" ("Daily total precipitation [mm] from July 1, 1942 to July 31, 1943 based on measurements at the Ostrów Mazowiecka weather station"). Instytut Meteorologii i Gospodarki Wodnej. Państwowy Instytut Badawcy, Warsaw.

grate. If there were two grates of 90 square meters each, as the orthodoxy has it (Mattogno/Graf, pp. 147f.), they would have received a total of (90 m² × 2 × 280 L/m² =) 50,400 liters of rain!

For Sobibór one can consider the climatic and meteorological data shown on the map adopted by the Wehrmacht that I described in Chapter V. At Sobibór, the woodcutting and cremation are said to have taken place over the course of one year, from October 1942 to October 1943. The average annual rainfall was 550 mm, or 550 liters per square meter of soil. The monthly rainfall was distributed as follows:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
30 mm	30 mm	30 mm	40 mm	50 mm	80 mm
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
80 mm	60 mm	50 mm	40 mm	30 mm	30 mm

Snowfall lasted for an average of 45 days, from mid-November to mid-March. This means that an average of 120 mm of rain or about 1.2 m of snow fell during this period. Finally, the marshes were frozen from mid-December to mid-March. This also applies to any wood cut during that period.

These were undoubtedly average values, but they could not deviate too much from the actual ones.

That 300,000 corpses were actually cremated under these conditions (an average of 822 every day for 365 days) can only be believed by those who have renounced any critical sense.

7.8. The Duration of Cremation

The experience gained in England during the incineration on pyres of livestock that had died in masses due to "mad-cow disease" (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE), which began in 2001, showed that the capacity of these pyres, built according to technical guidelines of efficiency and economy, was about 8 kg of carcass in one hour per 1 square meter of cremation surface (Mattogno/Kues/Graf, pp. 1293-1296).

At Treblinka, the only camp for which orthodox historiography provides precise indications, the cremation of corpses is said to have been carried out on two grates of 90 square meters each, meaning that in 24 hours they would have been able to burn (2 × 90 m² × 8 kg/hr × 24 hr/day =) 34,560 kg of organic substance, or (34,560 kg/day ÷ 18.95 kg/corpse =) about 1,820 bodies per day. Therefore, the burning of 781,000 bodies would have required (781,000 corpses ÷ 1,820 corpses/day =) 429 days of uninterrupted burning, i.e. without allowing any time for the preparation of the two pyres (arrangement of wood and bodies) and for the removal of the ashes. However, the time available was only 122 days.

For Bełżec, assuming that the two hearths mentioned by Heinrich Gley were the same size as those at Treblinka, it would have taken (441,000 corpses ÷ [34560 kg/day ÷ 23.6 kg/corpse] =) about 300 days of uninterrupted burning to incinerate the alleged 441,000 victims, but only 105 days were available.

Whichever way one looks at it, the eradication of the bodies of 1,522,000 Jews in the camps of Operation Reinhardt proves to be completely impossible. This also applies to the total figure of 1,249,433 deportees mentioned in the so-called Höfle telegram (the figures for Bełżec – 434,508 people – Sobibór – 101,370 – and Treblinka – 713,555 – are no-less-impossible than those considered above), which represents the lower limit below which orthodox historiography cannot fall without contradicting one of its fundamental postulates.

A realistic, meaning at-least-feasible, order of magnitude can be deduced from the following observation: if the 40 inmates of the forest unit at Sobibór had cut 0.63 tons per day each, every day, for 365 days straight, their production would have been (40 × 0.63 tons/day × 365 days =) about 9,200 tons, enough to cremate about 36,400 corpses, which is roughly the number of corpses that could fit in the mass graves discovered by the archaeologists, as I have shown earlier. Even this is undoubtedly an excessive figure, but at least it gives a good understanding of a maximum possible order of magnitude.

I summarize the main data I have just shown in the following table.

Camp:	Bełżec	Sobibór	Treblinka	Totals
claimed number of victims	441,000	300,000	781,000	
claimed no. of buried bodies	441,000	80,000	764,000	
disturbed-soil volume [m³]	18,565	13,275	14,300	
needed mass-grave volume for claimed corpses [m³]	44,100	8,000	76,400	
total need of green wood [t]	110,603	75,810	198,843	385,256
wood forest units Waldkommandos could cut [t]	3,969	9,198	7,686	20,853
available cremation time [days]	105	365	122	
min. cremation time needed [days]	300	/	429	

The pairs of figures in bold clearly demonstrate the absurdity of the extermination activities claimed for the camps of Operation Reinhardt.

7.9. Cremation Ashes

In another study, starting out from the data presented by the orthodox holocaustic polemicist mentioned earlier, I derived the average ash weight resulting from the outdoor cremation of a presumed gassing victim for all three camps, and explained that the mass of pure ashes must be increased by the experimental factor of 1.67 due to the presence of unburned body tissue. For a human

body, this corresponds to approximately 3.7 kg of body-residue mass (ashes and incompletely or unburned tissue). The theoretical ash content of dry wood (8%) must also be increased by a factor of 1.67, determined experimentally, due to the presence of unburned or incompletely burned wood, resulting in (8% × 1.67 =) 13% wood-residue mass (Mattogno/Kues/Graf, pp. 1313-1316). I present the respective data in the following table:

Camp:	Bełżec	Sobibór	Treblinka	Totals
number of bodies	441,000	300,000	781,000	1,522,000
body-residue mass per body [kg]	3.7	4.0	3.7	
total body-residue mass [t]	1,631.7	1,200.0	2,889.7	5,721.4
total dry wood needed [t]	58,212	39,900	104,654	202,766
percentage of wood residues	0.13	0.13	0.13	
total wood-residue mass [t]	7,567	5,187	13,605	26,359
total residue mass [t]	9,198.7	6,387	16,494.7	32,080.4

An archaeological "confirmation" of this presumed immense cremation would therefore consist in the discovery in the area of the above-mentioned camps of a quantity of ashes in the order of magnitude of tens of thousands of tons. But this order of magnitude is categorically excluded by the results of the investigations on the grounds that I set out in Chapters 4 through 6.

Conclusions

No records are known to exist on the planning, construction, administration and actual use of the camps at Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka, and even less-so on their alleged function for the mass extermination of Jews. This function was invented by Polish-Jewish black propaganda in the ways illustrated in Part One of the present study, where I outlined the literary genesis of the gas-chambers lore, and documented that the historical "truth" currently in vogue for Bełżec and Sobibór is only an arbitrary selection by Polish investigators from the various propaganda "truths" circulating in the immediate post-war period. For Treblinka, they relied on Jankiel Wiernik's reckless plagiarism, who transformed the original "steam chambers" into "gas chambers" – and on copycat plagiarists such as Abraham Isaak Goldfarb.

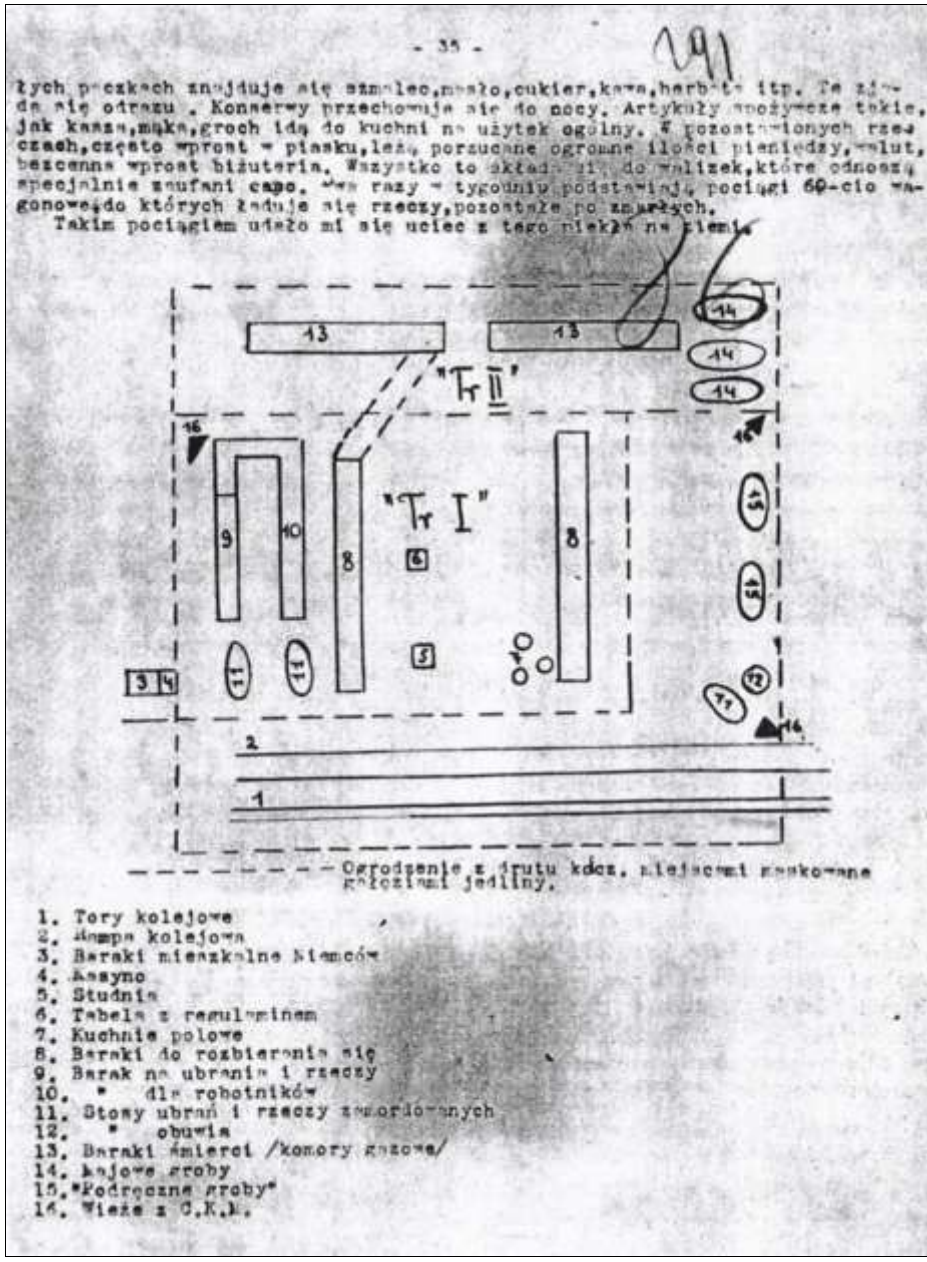
The examination of archaeological research into these camps as presented in Part Two revealed fallacious methods in the detection of mass graves and even more so of alleged gas chambers. In Bełżec, excavations were performed without finding any traces of the gas chambers; in Treblinka, traces were allegedly found, but without performing excavations. In Sobibór, the foundations of the alleged gas chambers that had already been found in 1945 and were purposefully buried under an asphalt square in the early 1960s, were re-discovered in 2014. These foundations have elements not explained by archaeologists (such as semi-circular walls and extremely irregular wall patterns) and are at odds with anecdotal evidence, which itself is mutually contradictory.

The mass graves identified by archaeologists – most prominently at Bełżec and Treblinka – are also in total contradiction with the relevant testimonies.

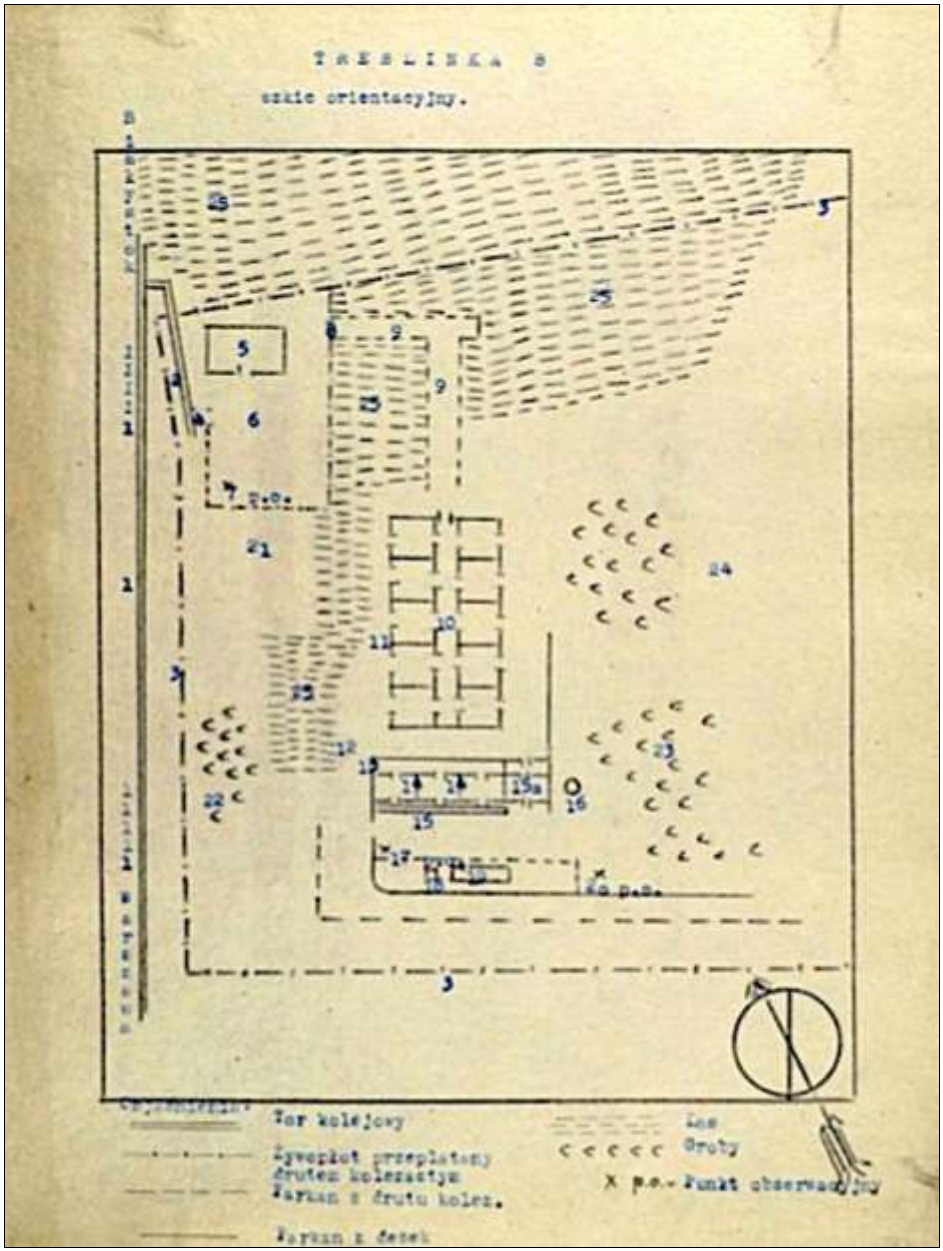
The study of the feasibility of mass exhumations and cremations as required by the orthodox narrative (Part Three) leads to the inescapable conclusion:

1. At Bełżec and Treblinka, the ground disturbances detected by the archaeologists could have accommodated only a portion of the claimed gassing victims. At Bełżec, over 257,000 bodies would have remained unburied, and at Treblinka over 626,000.
2. At Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka, just cutting the wood needed for the cremations (without considering its transportation to the camps) would have lasted more than eight years under the most-favorable circumstances, against the respective times available according to the orthodox narrative: 105, 365 and 122 days, respectively.

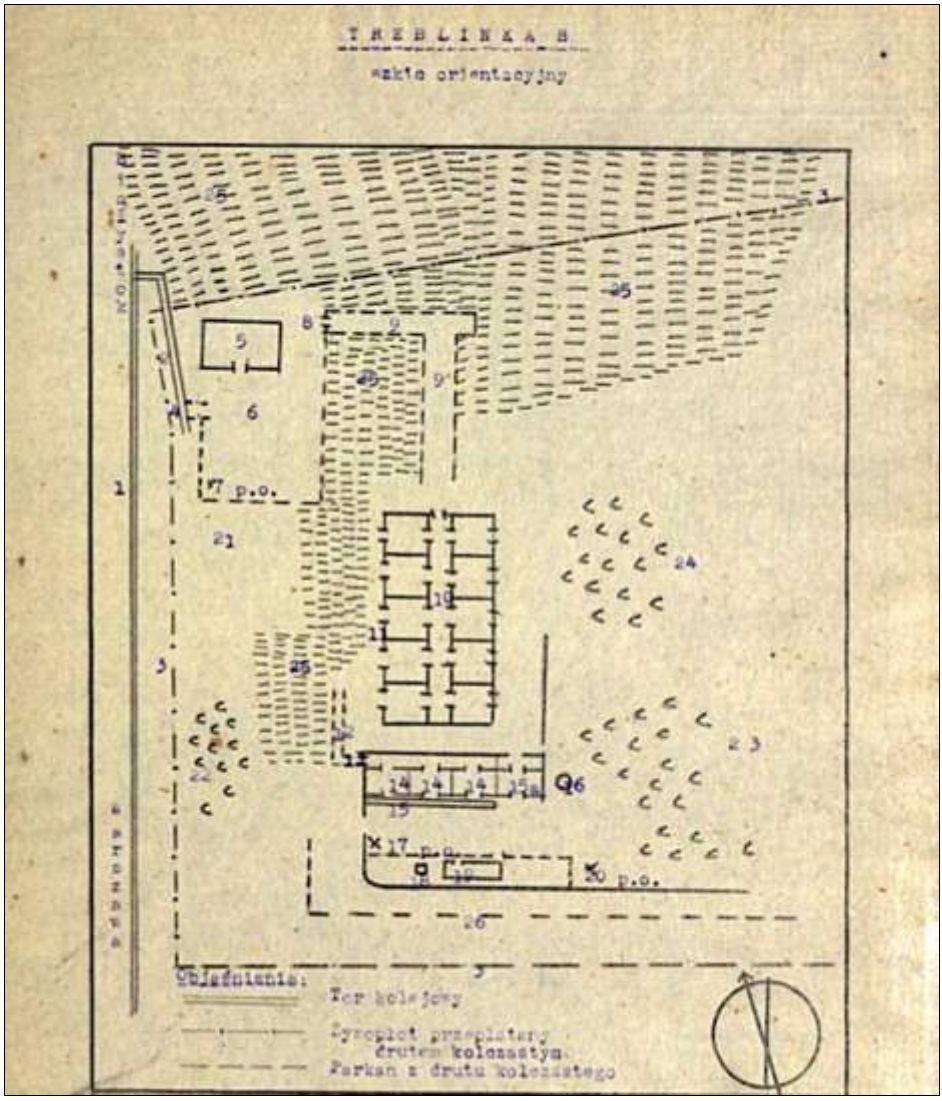
Appendix
Documents



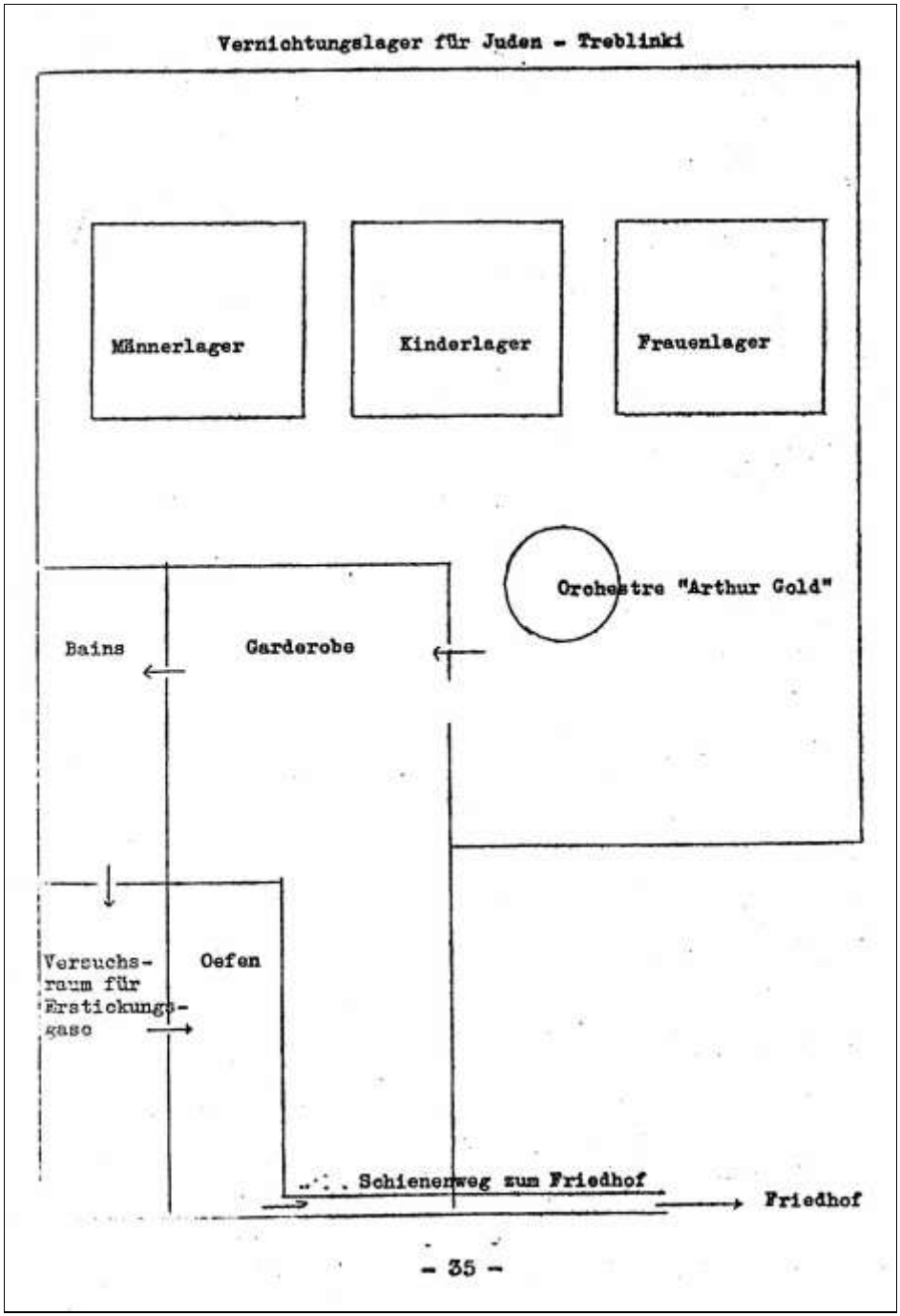
Document 1: Sketch of the Treblinka Camp by an anonymous witness (October-November 1942). Marczewska/Ważniewski, p. 149.



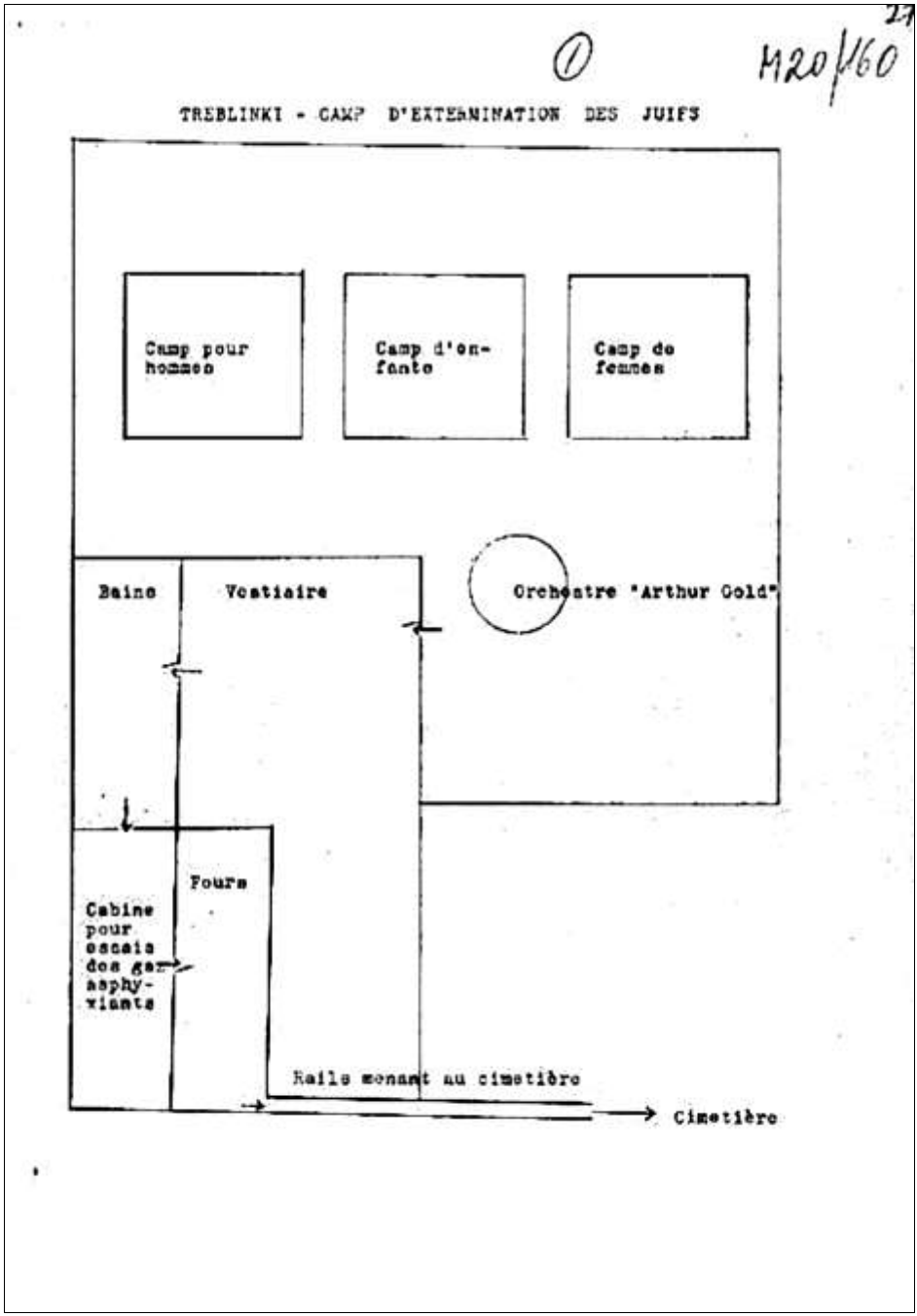
Document 2: "Treblinka B – orientation sketch." Maps attached to the report of November 15, 1942 concerning the "steam chambers" of Treblinka. AŻIH, ARG 300.Ring II/192. Mf. ŻIH-836, unnumbered pages.



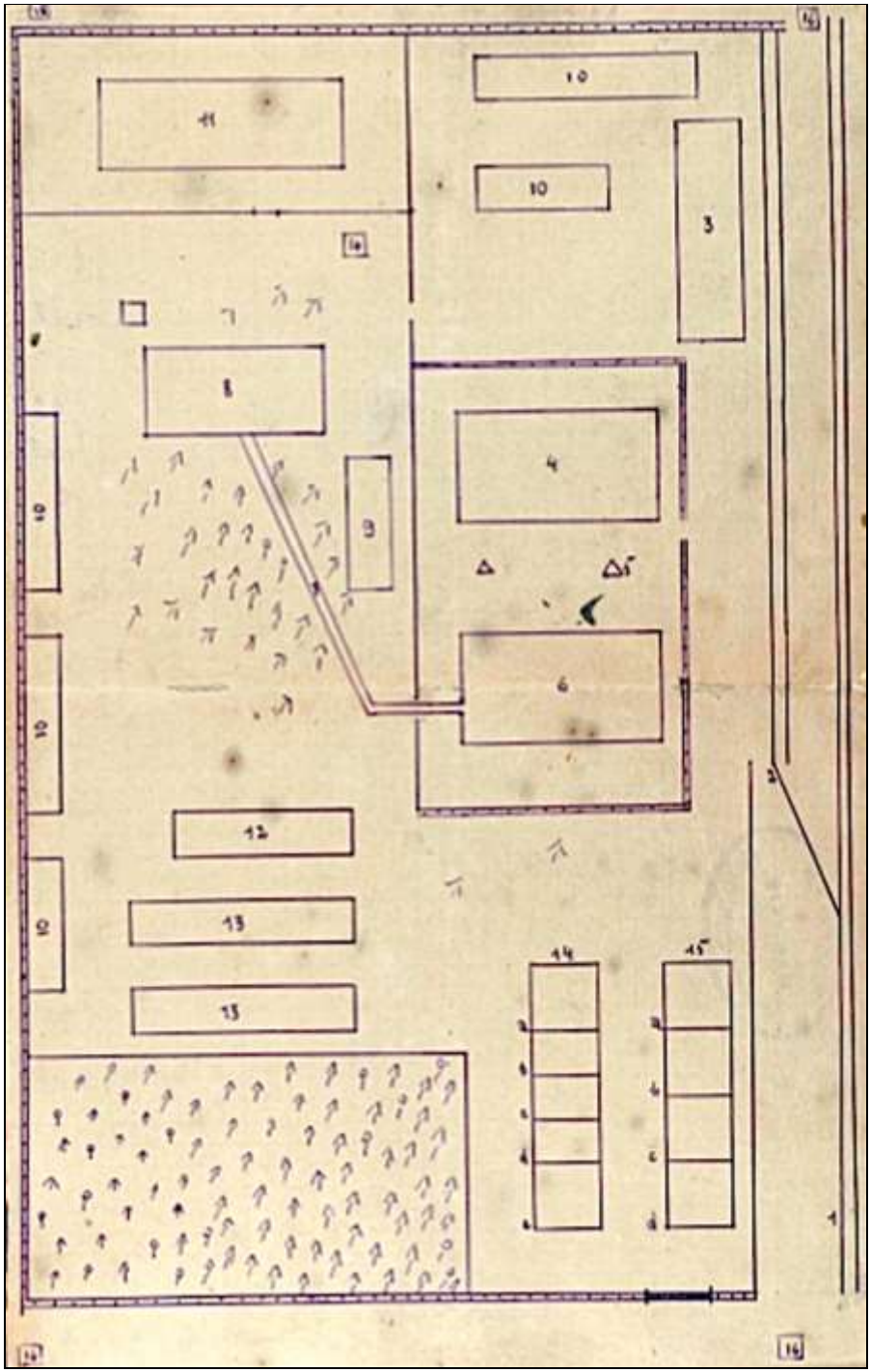
Document 3: as Document 2.



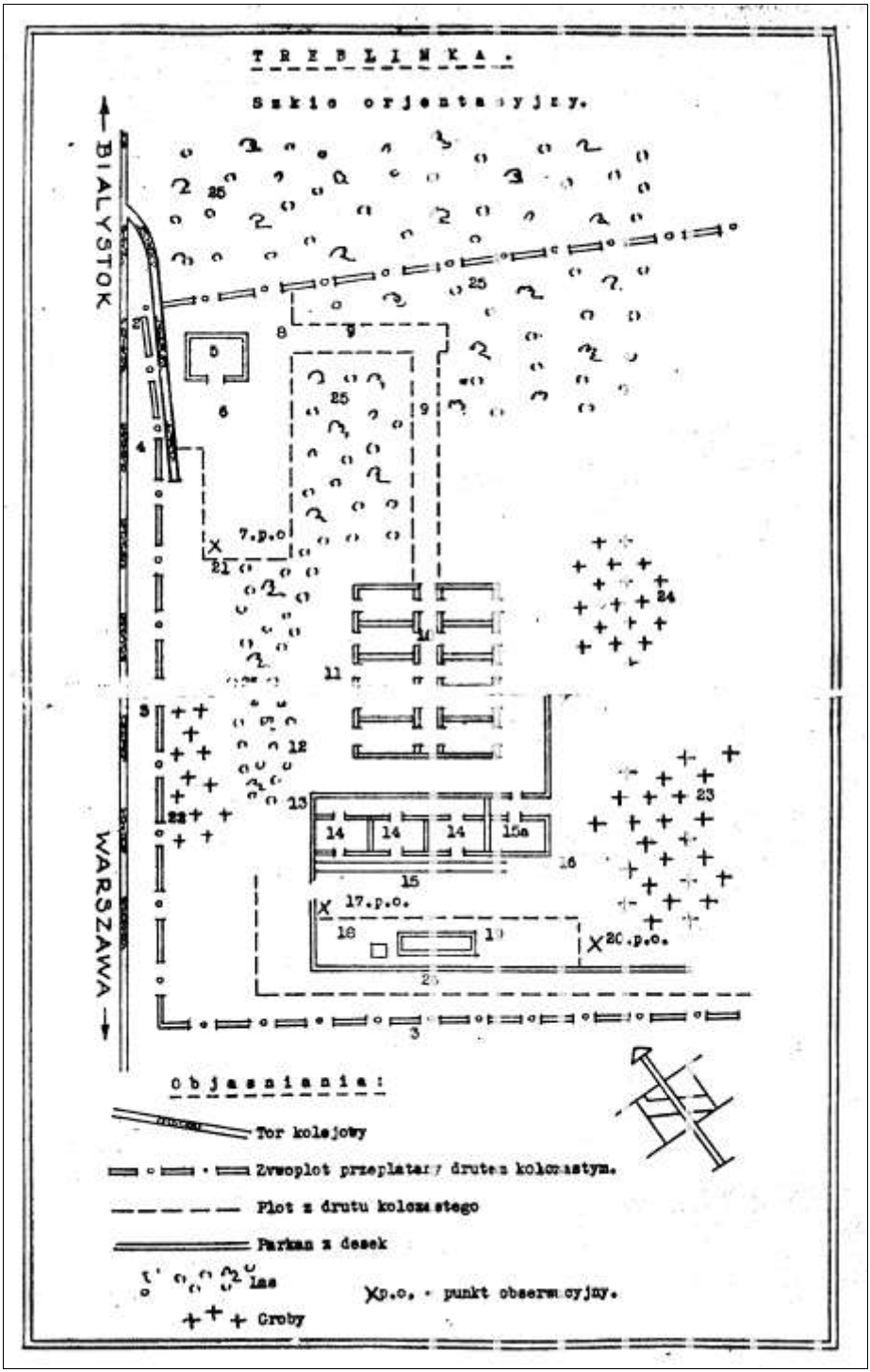
Document 4: "Vernichtungslager für Juden – Treblinki" / "Extermination Camp for Jews – Treblinki." Silberschein 1944a, p. 35.



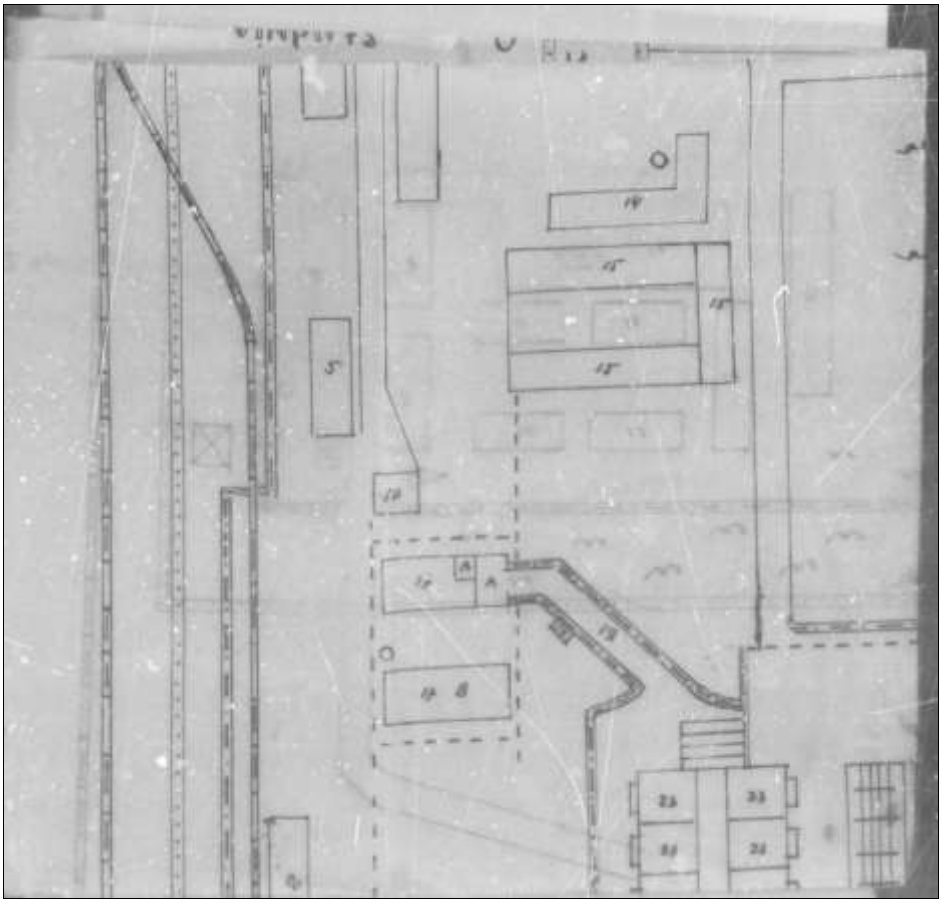
Document 5: "Treblinki – camp d'extermination des Juifs" / "Treblinki – Extermination Camp of the Jews." YVA, M.20/160.



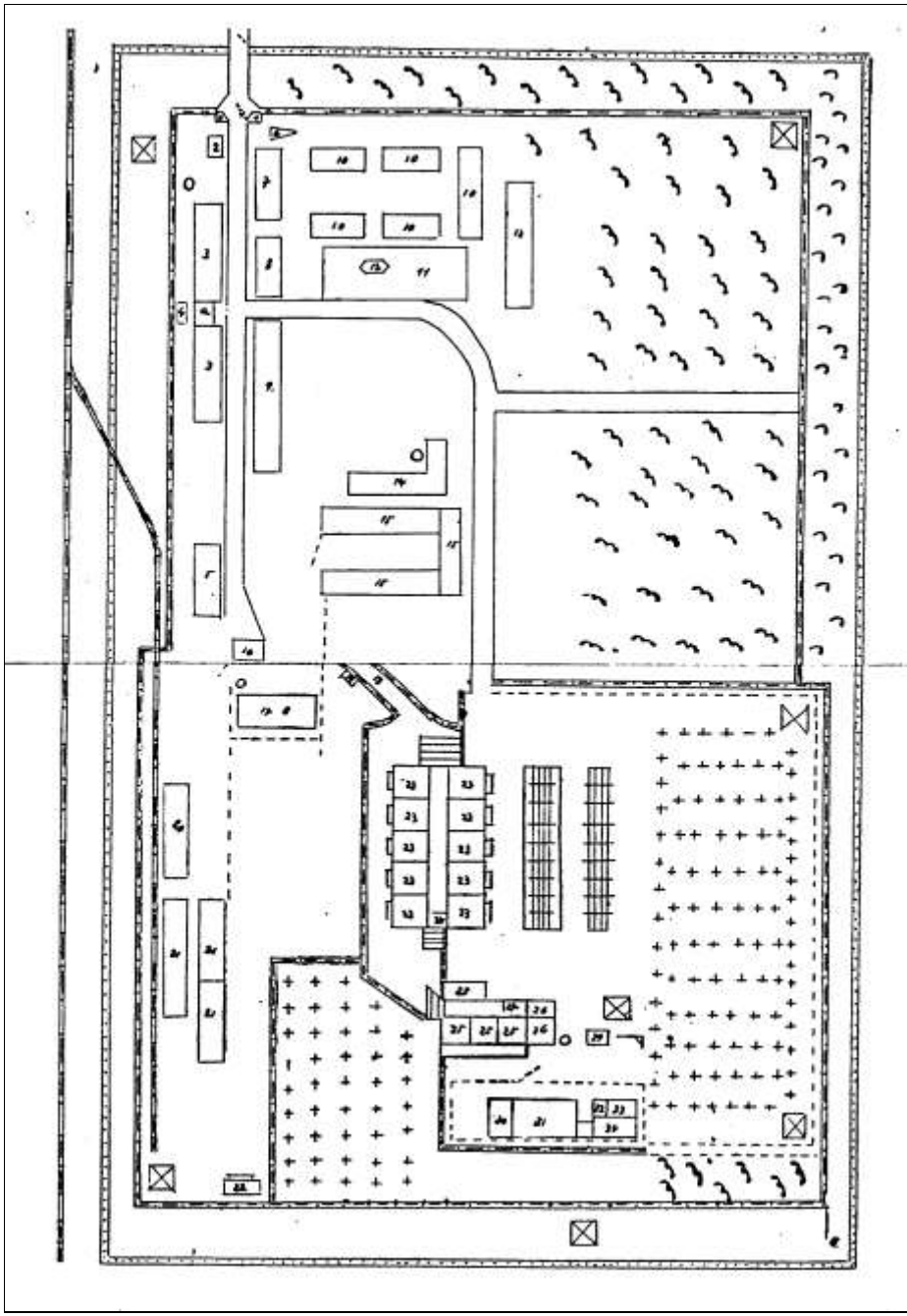
Document 6: Treblinka Map by Jakub Krzepicki (second half of 1942). AŻIH, ARG 378.Ring. II/295. Mf. ŻIH-800.



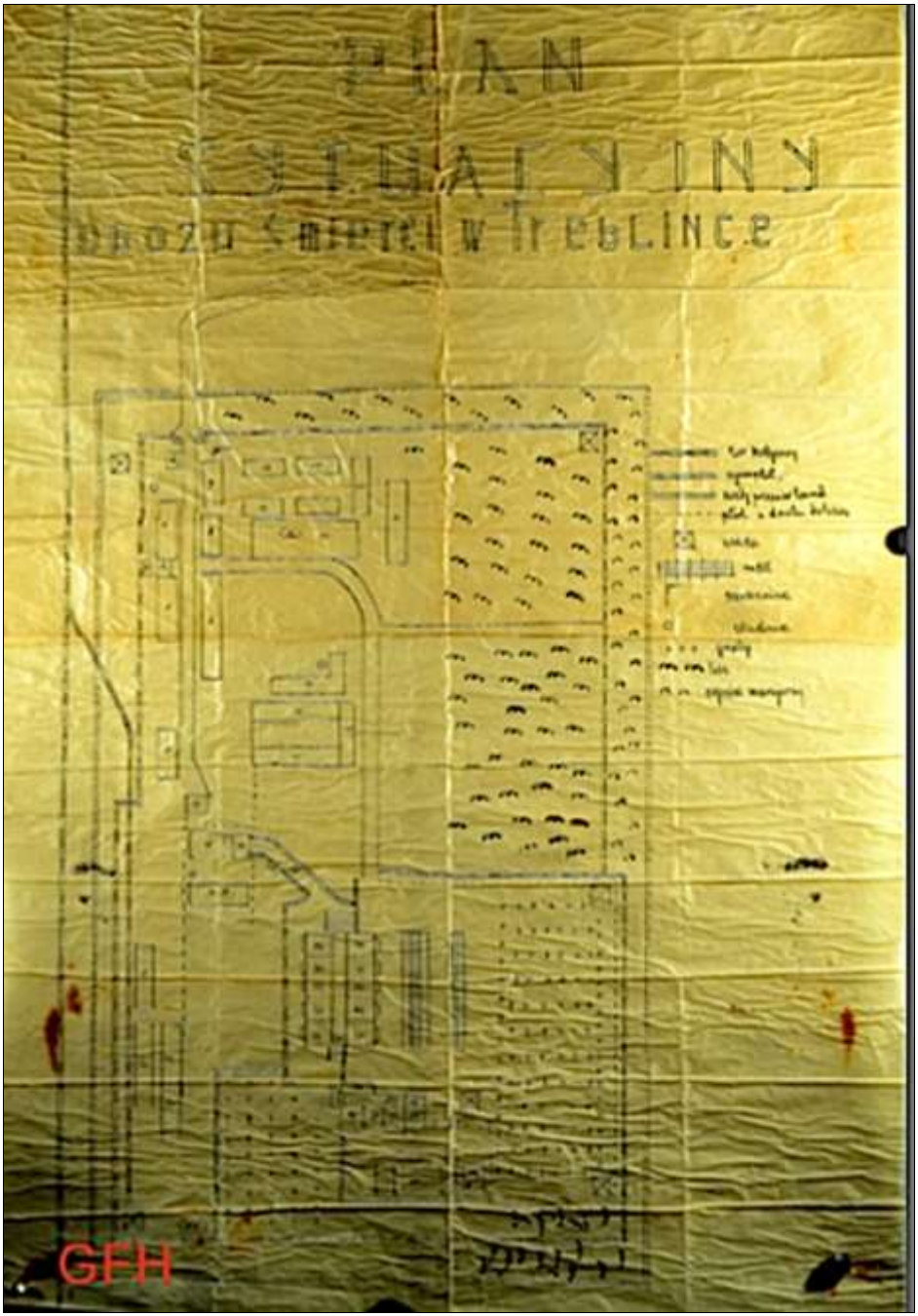
Document 7: "Treblinka – orientation sketch." Wiernik, 1944b, pp. 24f.



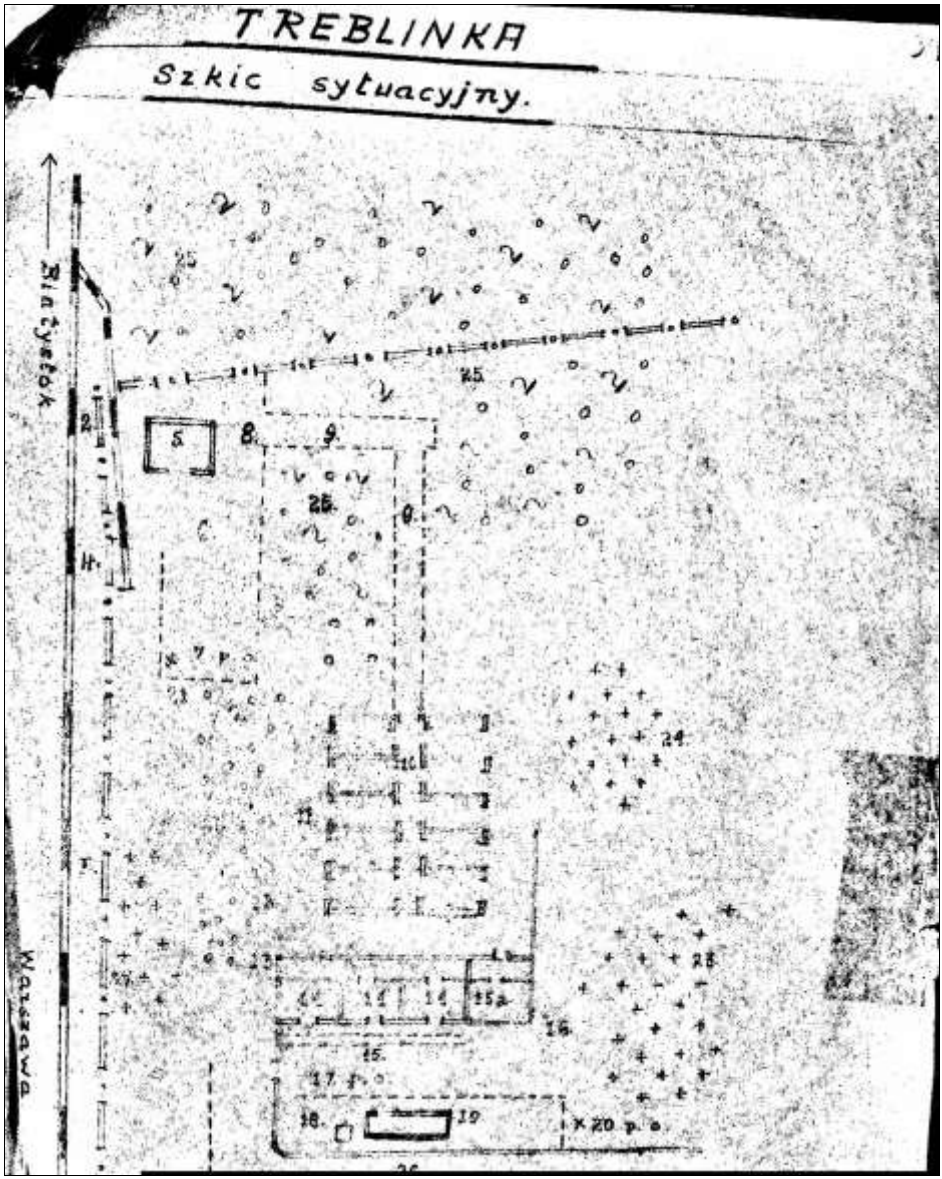
Document 8: "Sketch of Treblinka drawn by witness Ya'akov Wierkik [sic]." Eichmann Trial Document T/1300.



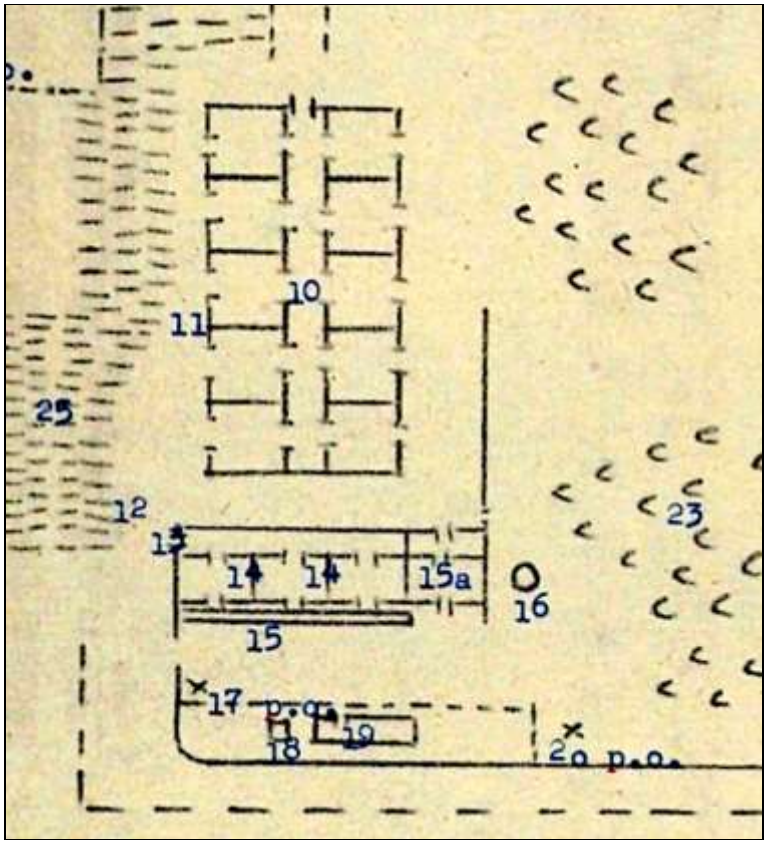
Document 9: Treblinka map drawn by Yankiel Wiernik. Friedman 1946, pp. 82f.



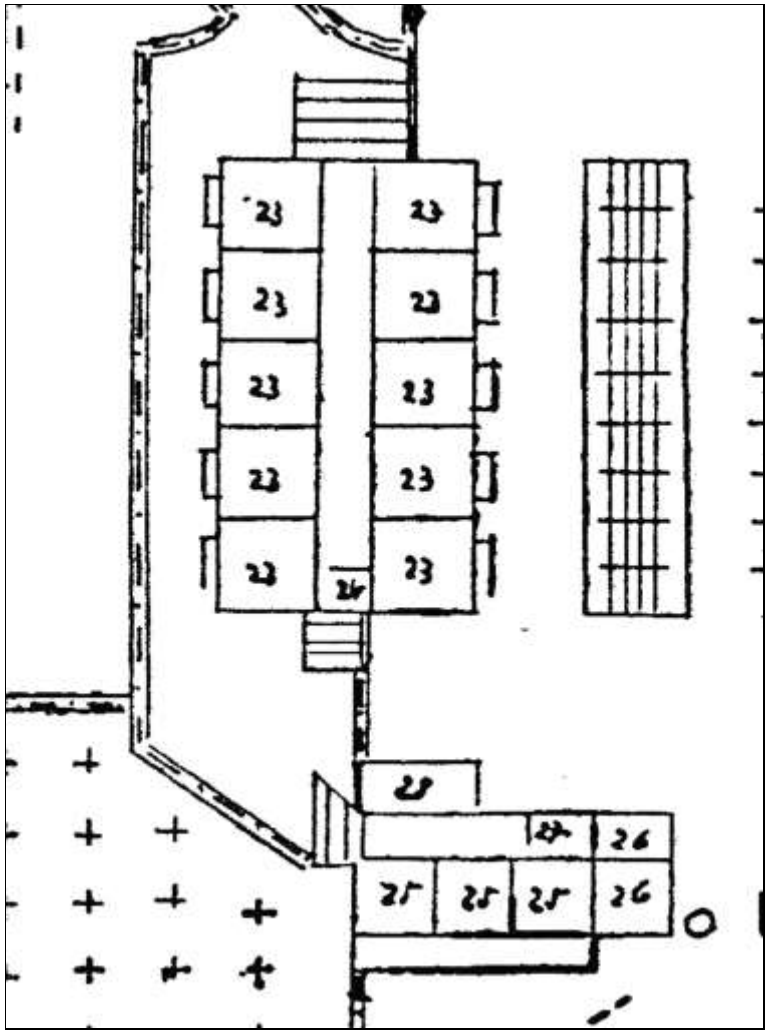
Document 10: "Location Map of Treblinka Death Camp." GFHA, Catalog No. 4441.



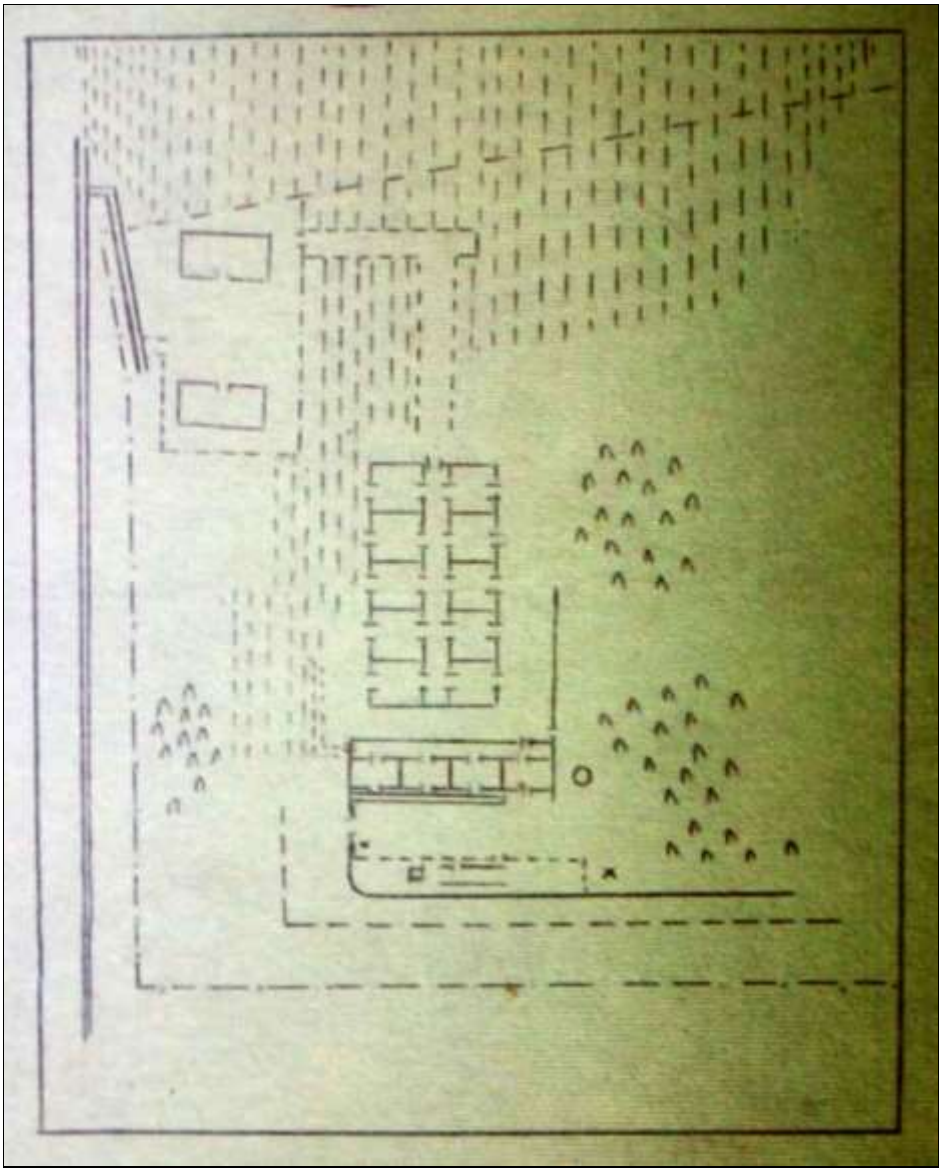
Document 11: "Treblinka – Location Map." TNA, FO 371/42806.



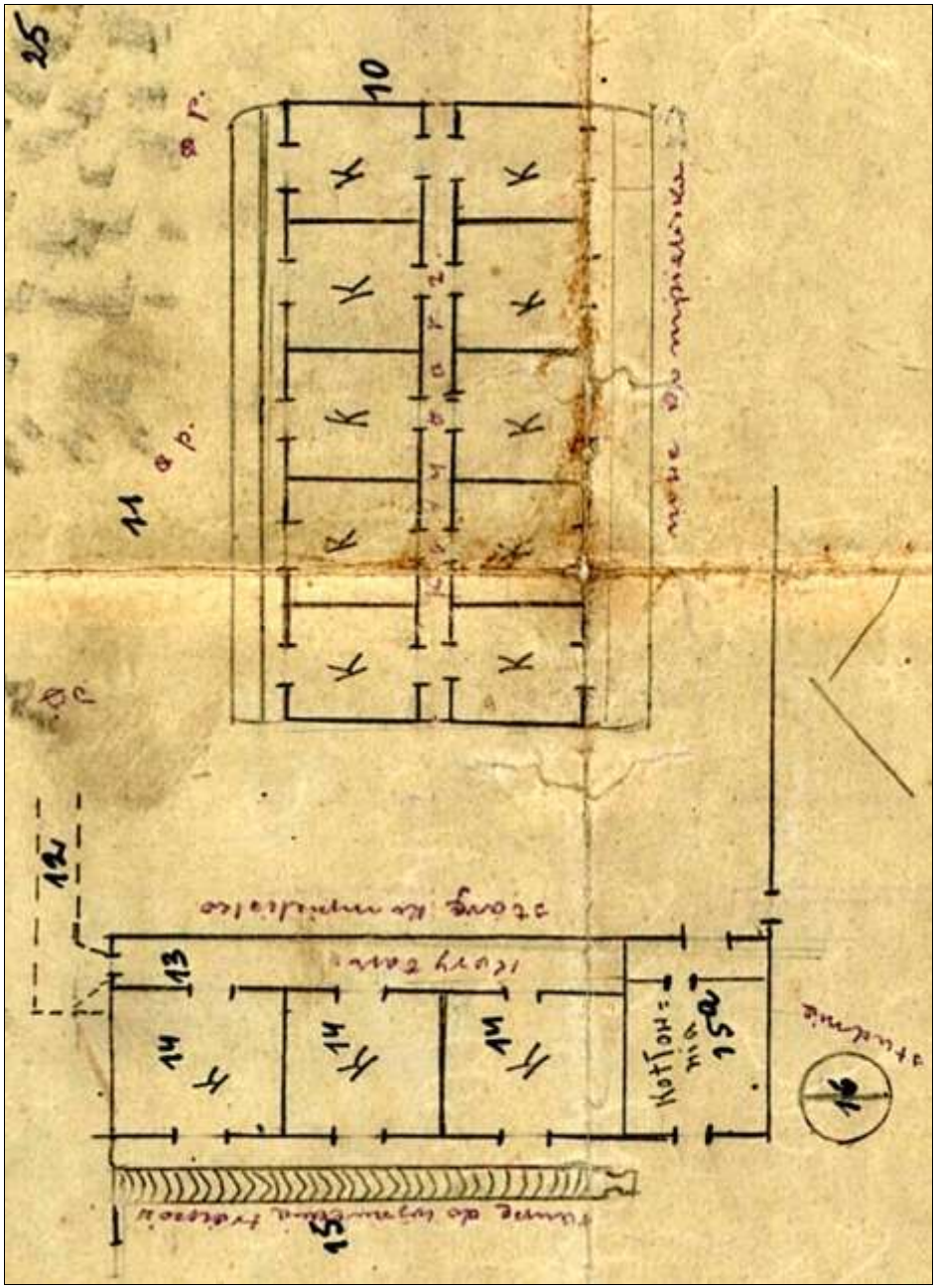
Document 12: Detail enlargement of Document 2.



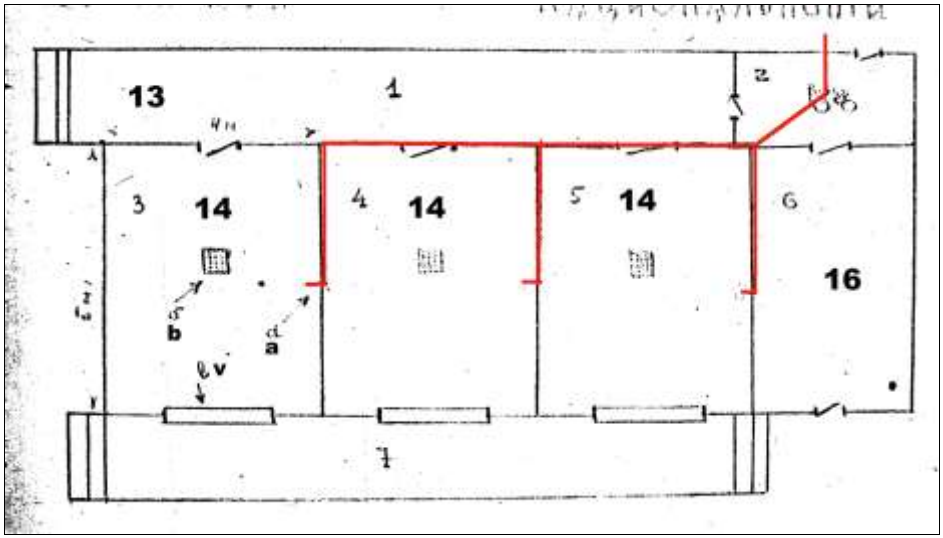
Document 13: Detail enlargement of Document 9.



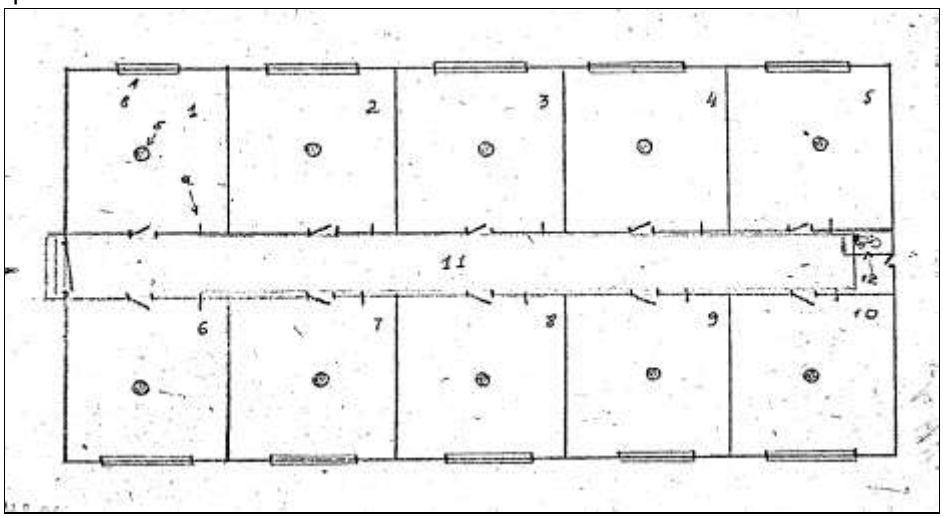
Document 14: Treblinka camp sketch by an unknown author (second half of 1942). AŻIH, ARG, 384.Ring.II/300.1.Mf. ŻIH-800.



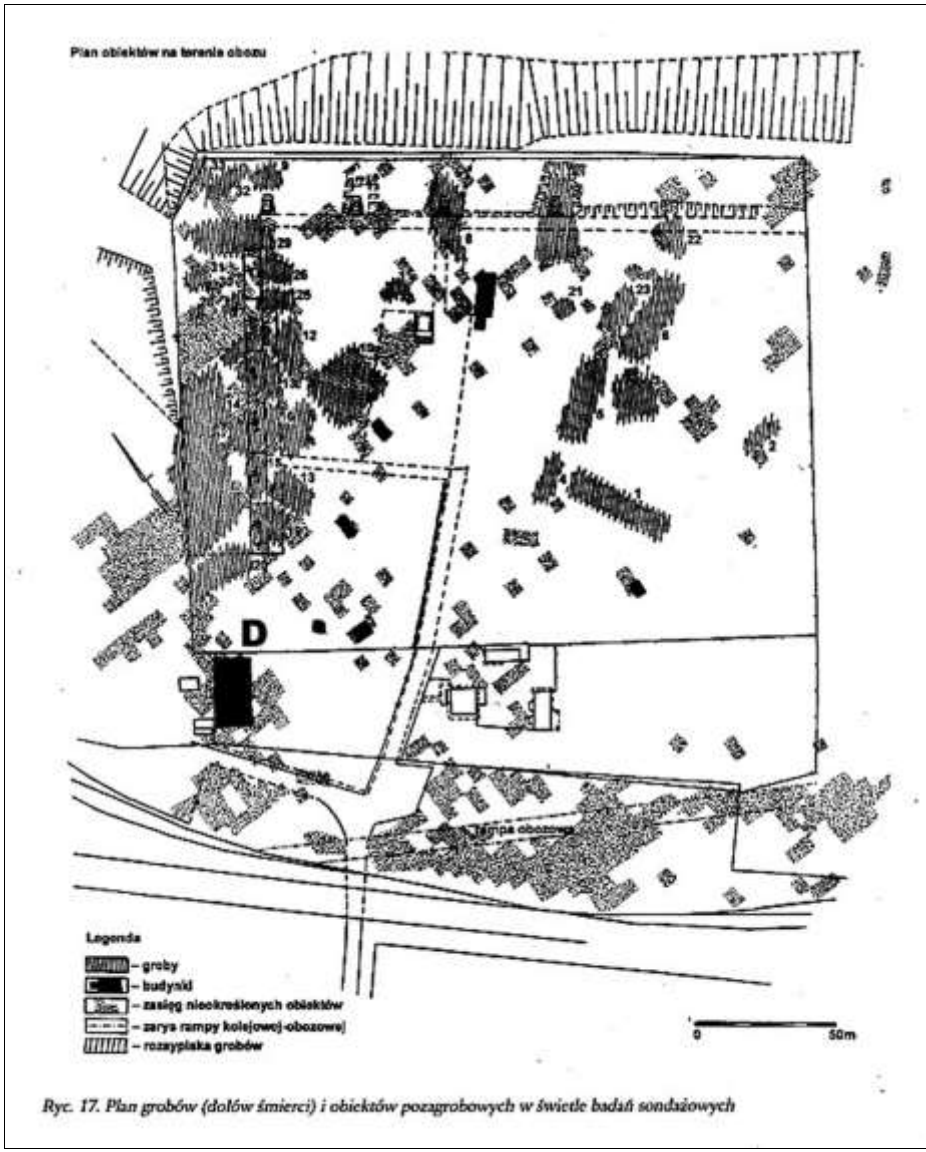
Document 15: Camp map of Treblinka by an unknown author (after July 1942). AŻIH, ARG, 384.Ring.II/488. Mf. ŻIH-809.



Document 16: Plan of the alleged first extermination building at Treblinka drawn by Lieutenant Jurowski after September 21, 1944. GARF, 7445-2-134, p. 39.



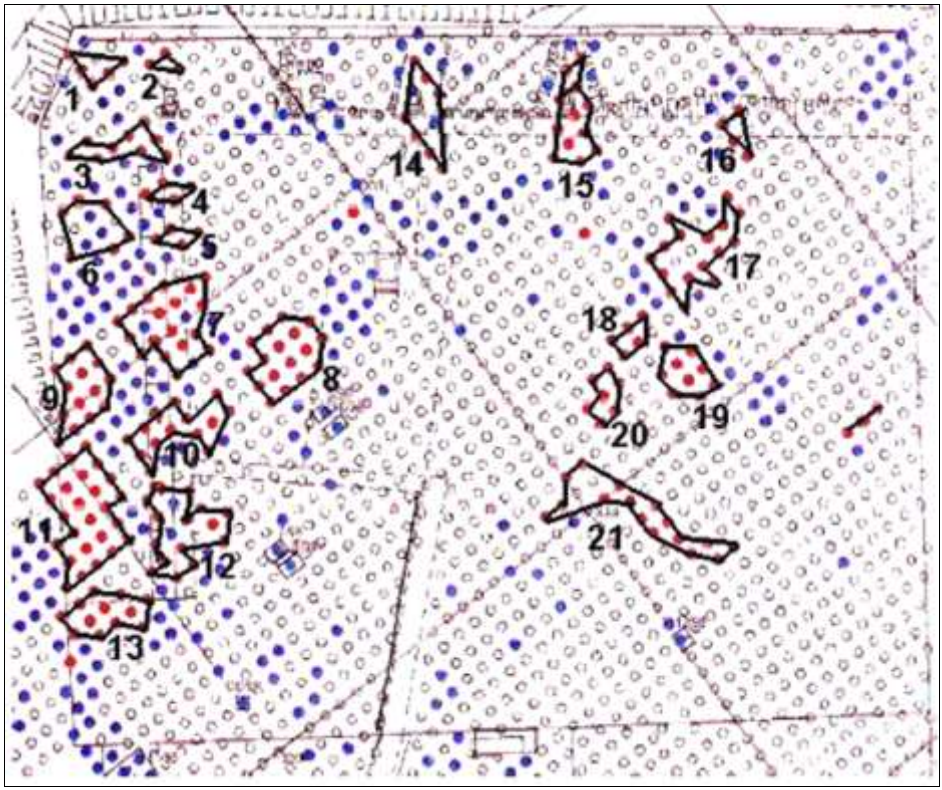
Document 17: Plan of the alleged second extermination building at Treblinka drawn by Lieutenant Jurowski after September 21, 1944. GARF, 7445-2-134, p. 40.



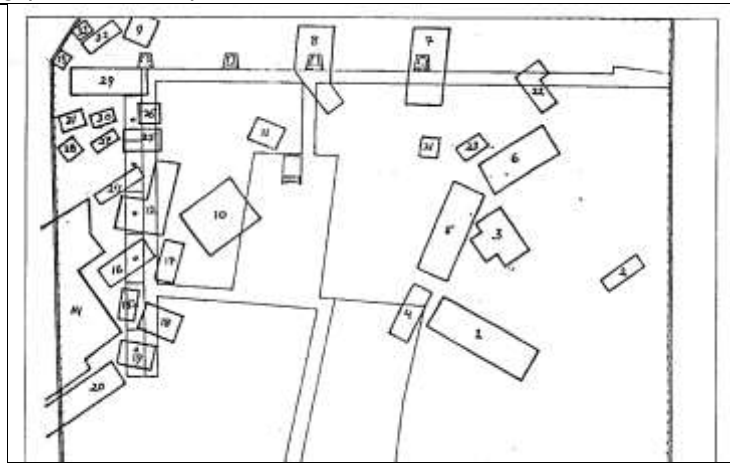
Ryc. 17. Plan grobów (dołów śmierci) i obiektów pozagrobowych w świetle badań sondażowych

Document 18: Mapping of mass graves at Bełżec by A. Kola. Kola 2000a, p. 19.

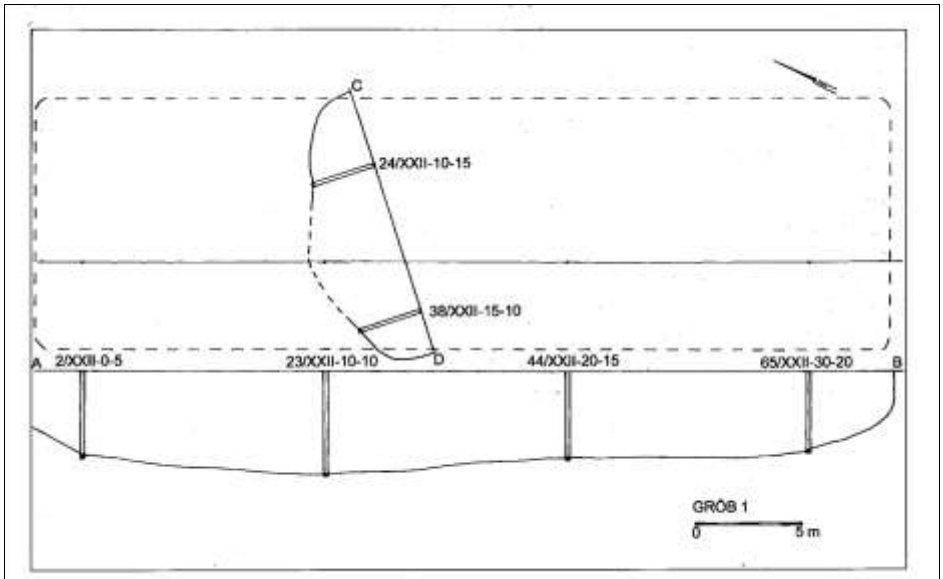
Document 19: Mapping of the surveys carried out at Bełżec by A. Kola. Kola 2000a, p. 70.



Document 20: Shape and location of Bełżec mass graves according to survey mapping (Document 19).

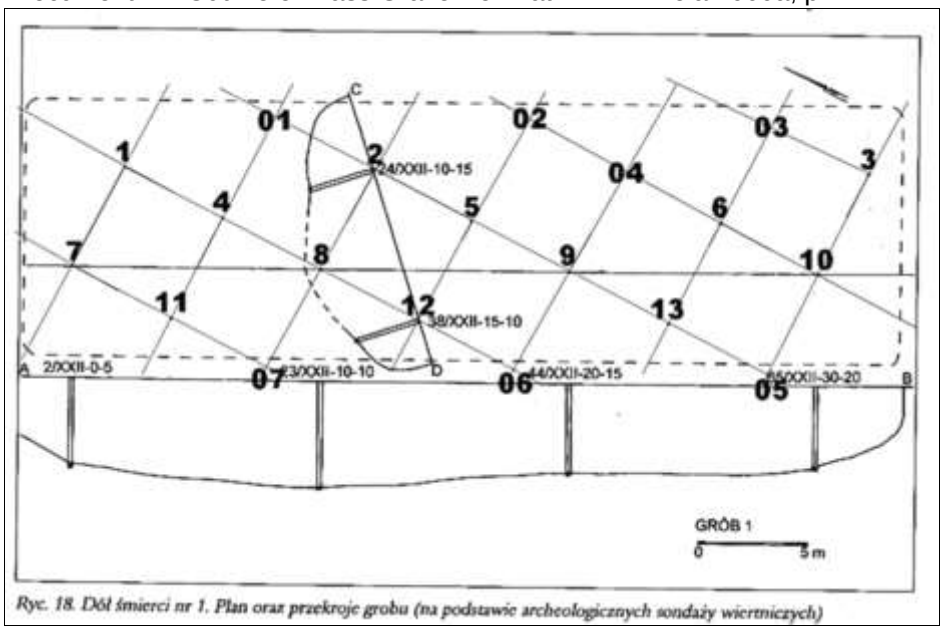


Document 21: Shape and location of the Bełżec mass graves according to Robin O'Neil. O'Neil, p. 59.



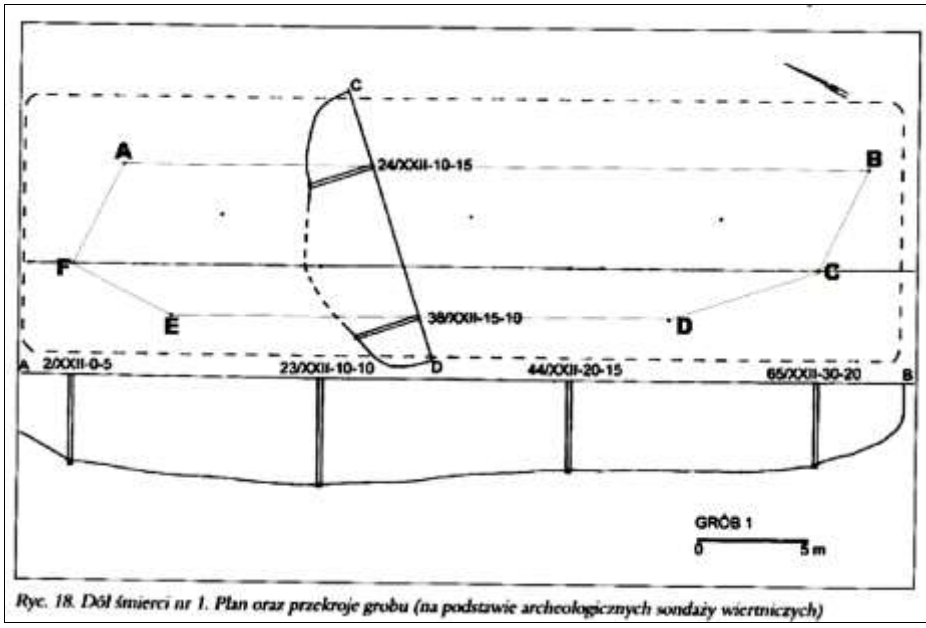
Ryc. 18. Dół śmierci nr 1. Plan oraz przekroje grobu (na podstawie archeologicznych sondaży wiertniczych)

Document 22: Outline of Mass Grave No. 1 at Bełżec. Kola 2000a, p. 21.



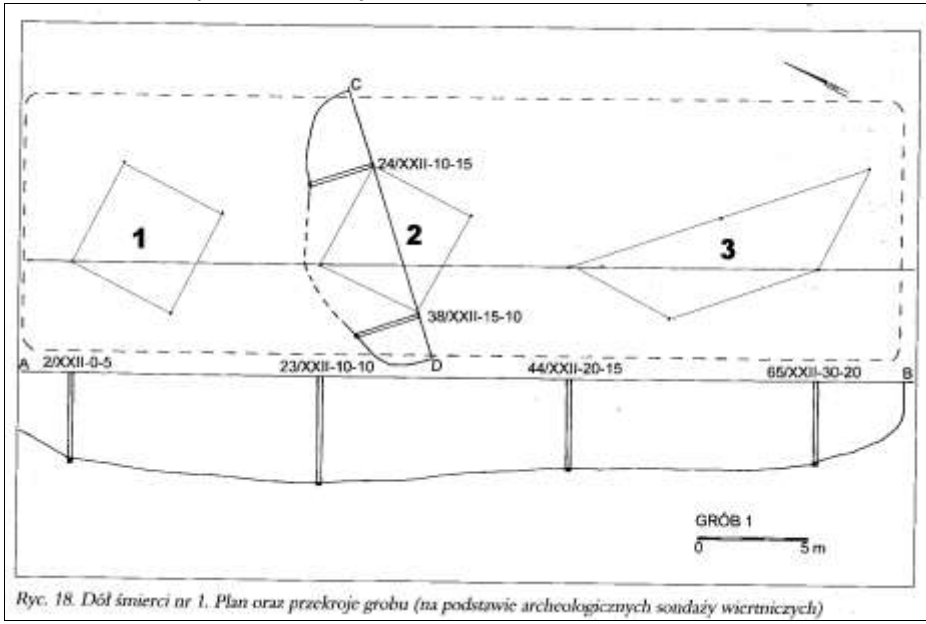
Ryc. 18. Dół śmierci nr 1. Plan oraz przekroje grobu (na podstawie archeologicznych sondaży wiertniczych)

Document 23: Outline of Mass Grave No. 1 at Bełżec (Document 22). I added the 5 m grid with the numbers of the positive and negative soundings.



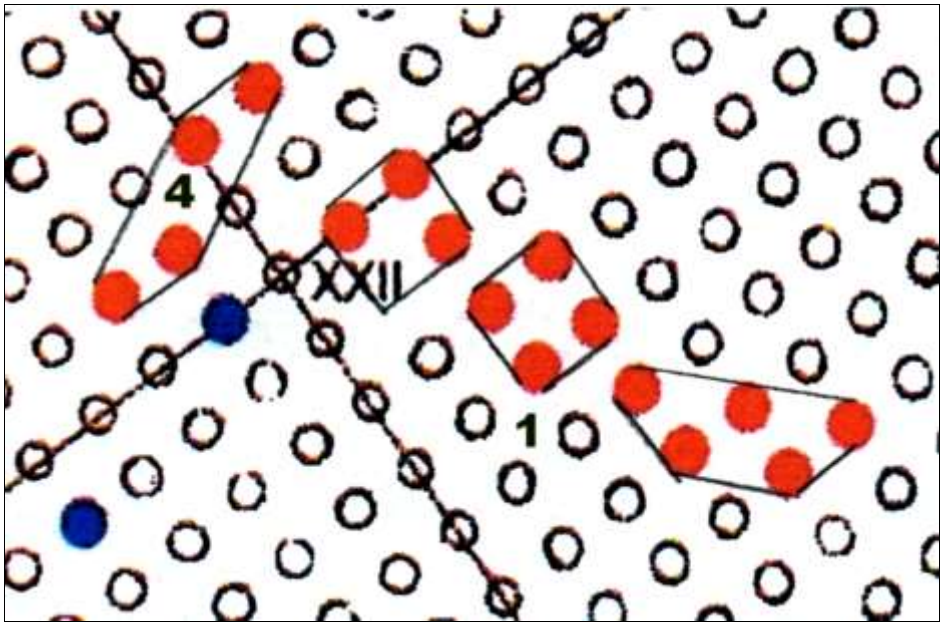
Ryc. 18. Dół śmierci nr 1. Plan oraz przekroje grobu (na podstawie archeologicznych sondaży wiertniczych)

Document 24: Outline of Mass Grave No. 1 at Bełżec (Document 22). Pit contours based on positive surveys.

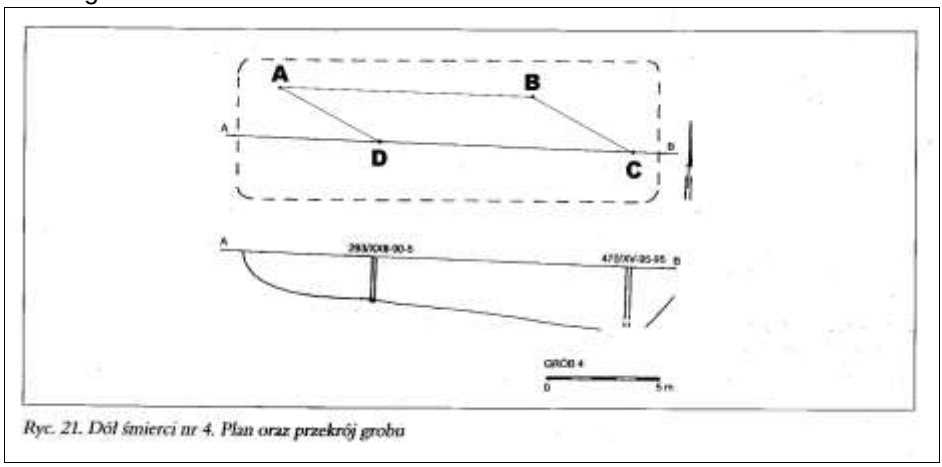


Ryc. 18. Dół śmierci nr 1. Plan oraz przekroje grobu (na podstawie archeologicznych sondaży wiertniczych)

Document 25: Outline of Mass Grave No. 1 at Bełżec (Document 22). Positive soundings are consistent with three small mass graves.

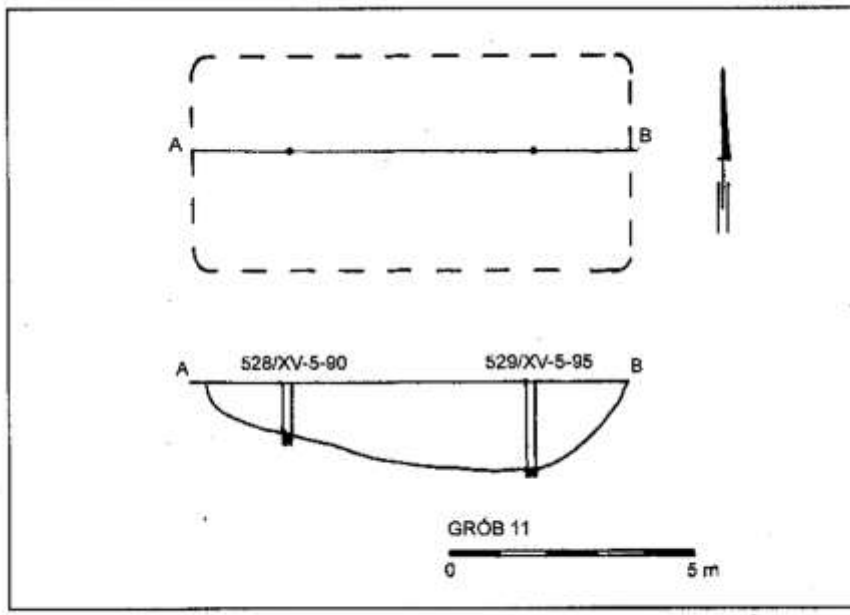


Document 26: Soundings delineating Mass Grave No. 1 at Bełżec (Document 19). To the right of Pit No. 4 the soundings are consistent with three small mass graves.



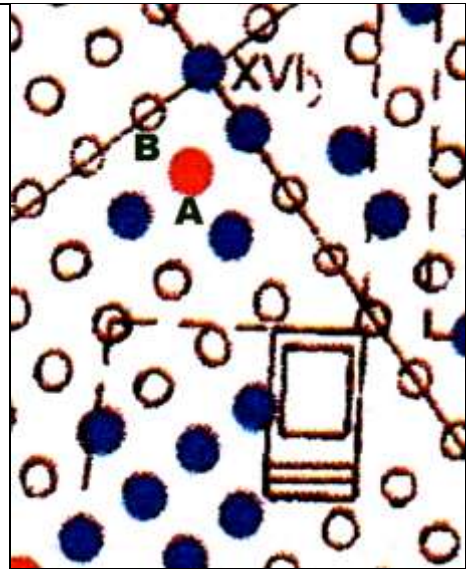
Ryc. 21. Dół śmierci nr 4. Plan oraz przekrój grobu

Document 27: Outline of Mass Grave No. 4 at Bełżec. Kola 2000a, p. 23. I added the letters designating the soundings and segments delineating the mass grave.

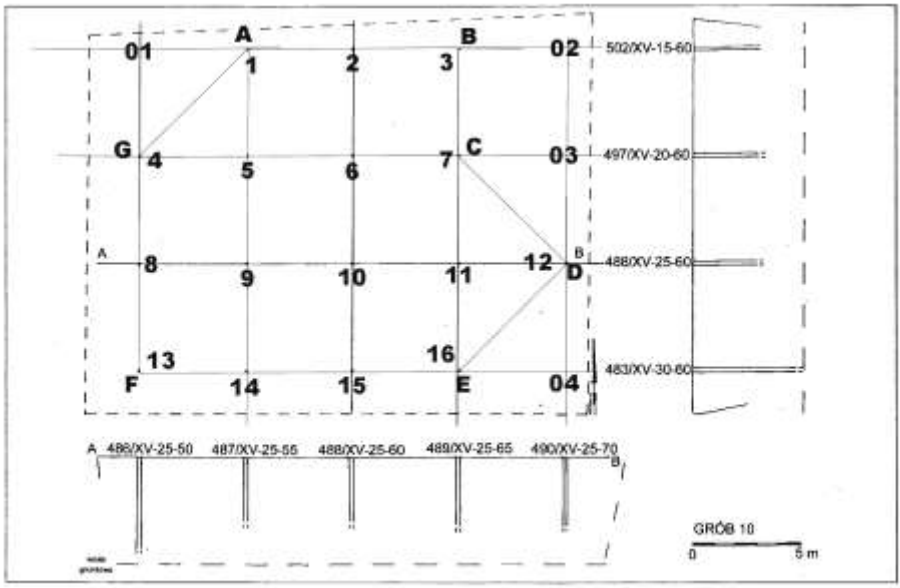


Ryc. 28. Dół śmierci nr 11. Plan oraz przekrój grobu

Document 28: Outline of Mass Grave No. 11 at Bełżec. Kola 2000a, p. 27.

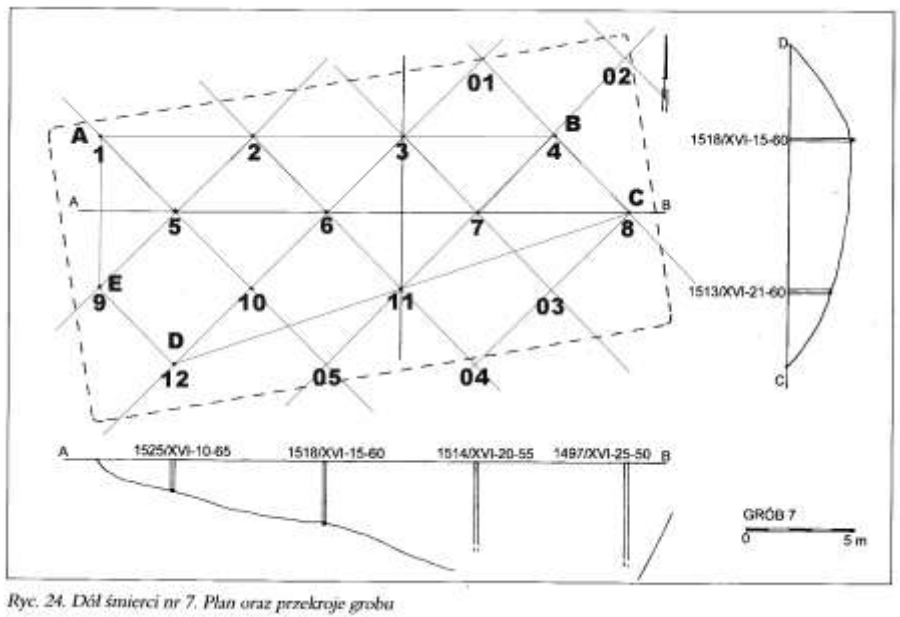


Document 29: Soundings related to the Mass Grave No. 11 at Bełżec (Document 19).



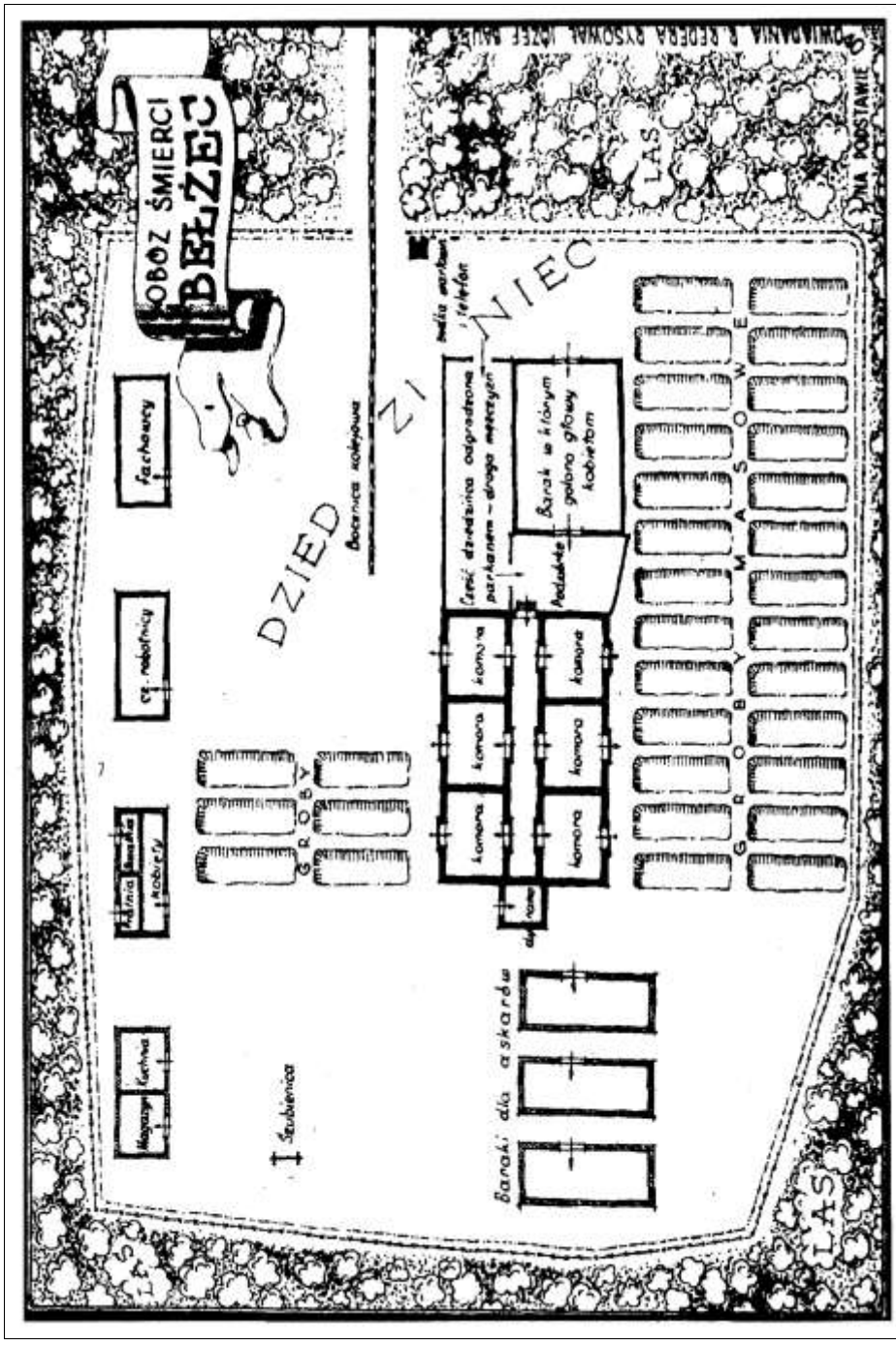
Ryc. 27. Dół śmierci nr 10. Plan oraz przekroje grobu

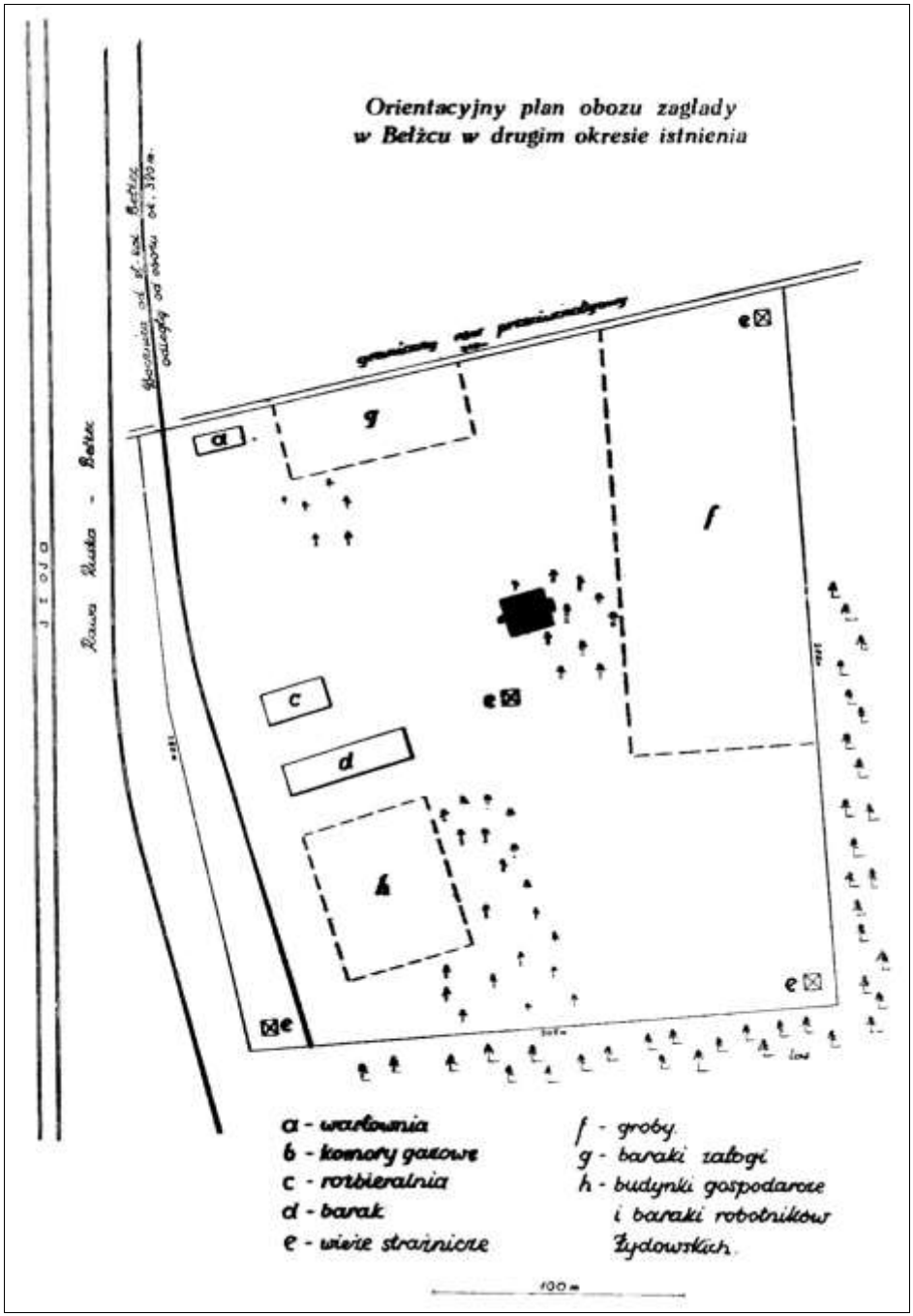
Document 30: Outline of Mass Grave No. 10 at Bełżec. Kola 2000a, p. 27. I added the 5 m grid and the numbers of the positive and negative soundings.



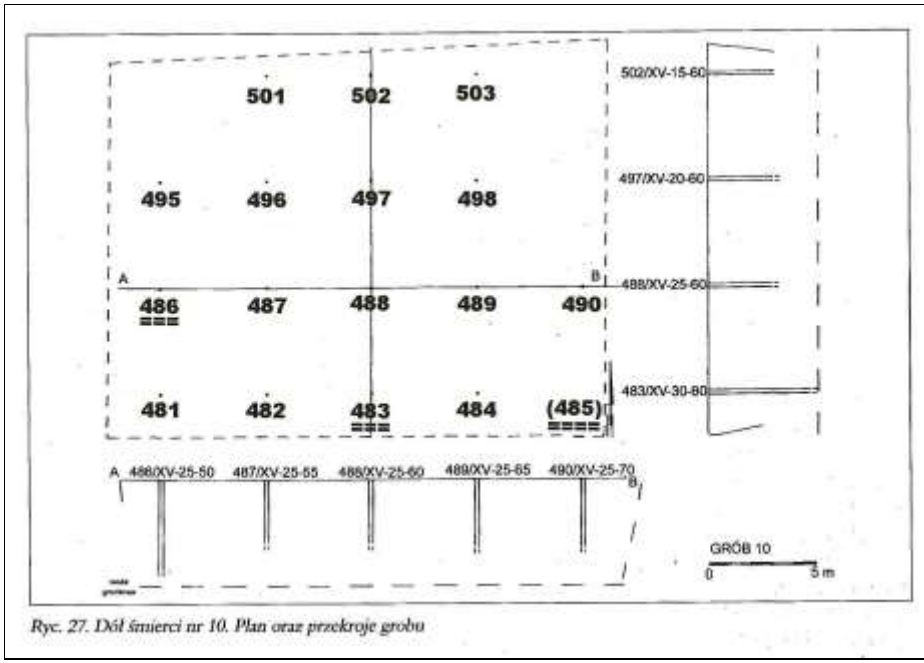
Ryc. 24. Dół śmierci nr 7. Plan oraz przekroje grobu

Document 31: Outline of Mass Grave No. 7 at Bełżec. Kola 2000a, p. 25. I added the 5 m grid and the numbers of the positive and negative soundings.


OBÓZ ŚMIERCI
BEŁŻEC
DZIEDZINIEC
LAS
LAS
Kasa
Magazyn
Kuchnia
Stubenwache
Baraki dla askarów
Kwatery
Kuchnia
Kantyna
Cz. robotnicy
Kuchnia
Kantyna
Magazyn
Baraki dla Żydów
Baraki dla Żydów
Baraki dla Żydów

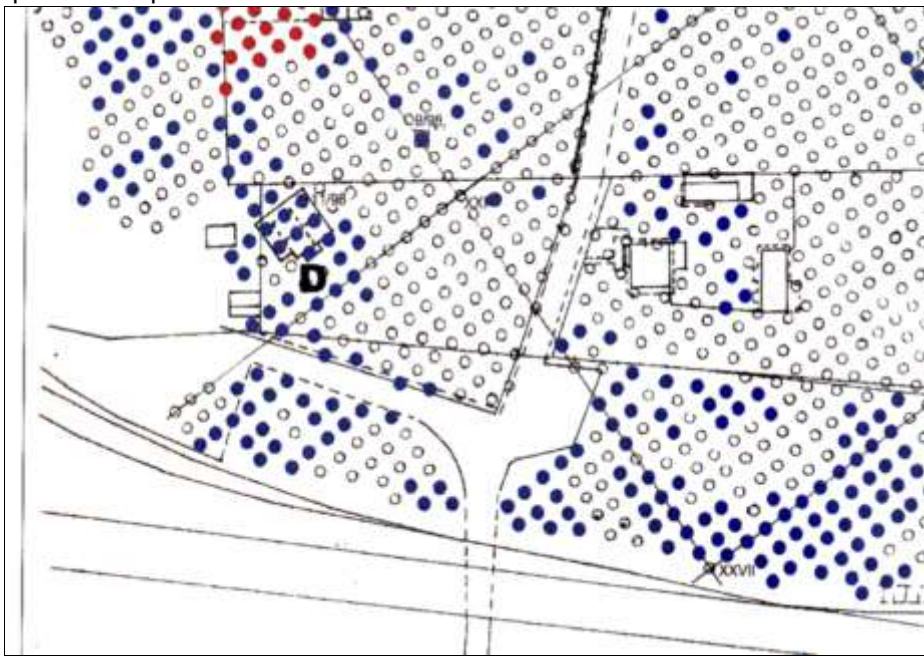


Document 33: Bełżec camp map (second phase). Szrojt, unpaginated insert.

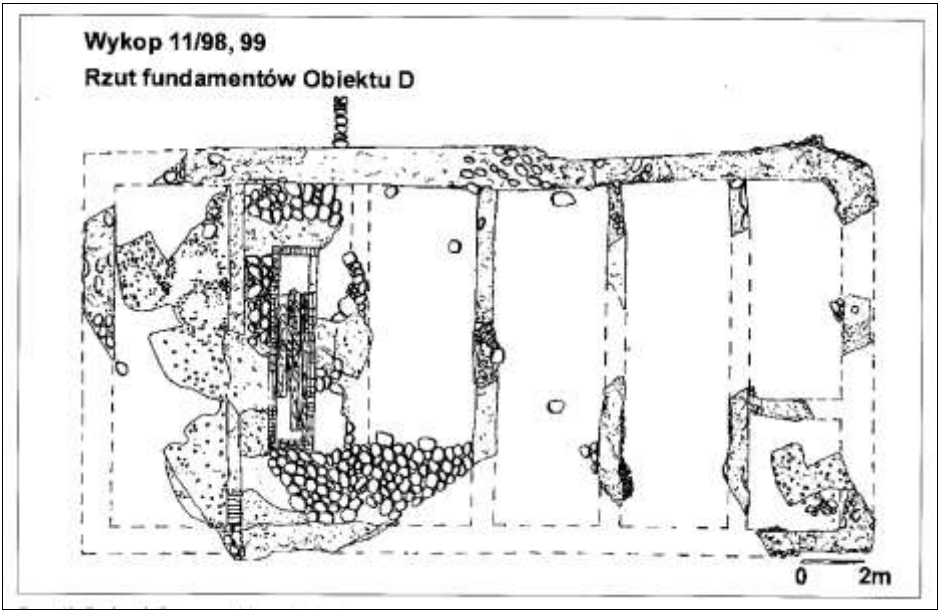


Ryc. 27. Dół śmierci nr 10. Plan oraz przekroje grobu

Document 34: Outline of Mass Grave No. 10 at Bełżec (Document 30). I have added sounding numbers; underlined numbers indicate the detection of saponified corpses.

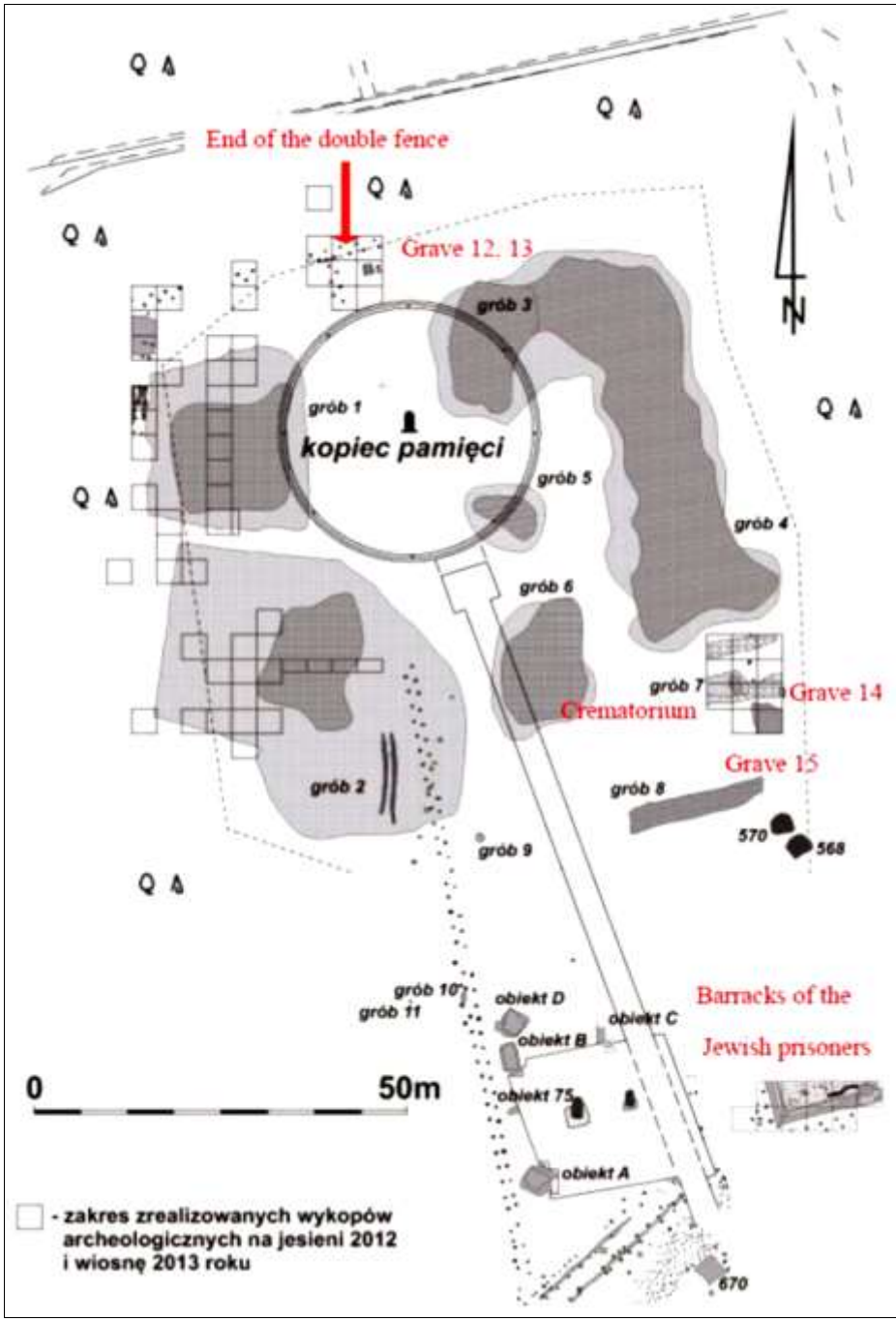


Document 35: "Object D" according to the mapping based on the Bełżec surveys (Document 19).



Document 36: Drawing of the excavation related to "Object D" at Bełżec. Kola 2000a, p. 54.

Document 37: Photograph of the excavation of "Building D" at Bełżec. Kola 2000a, p. 55.



Document 38: Map of archaeological findings at Sobibór (2012-2013). Haimi 2013, p. 3.

Document 39: The remains of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór, left, next to the trees. Seen from north-east to south-west. Mazurek 2014, p. 3.

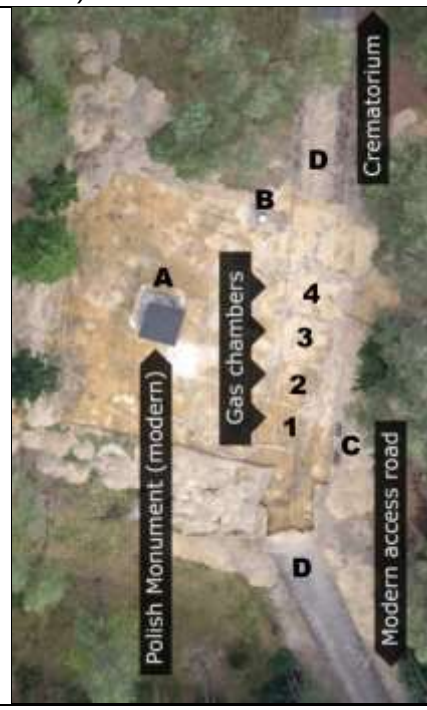
Document 40: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. Seen from south to north. Image in the public domain.

Document 41: Sobibór. The paved square (bottom) and ash mound (circle at the top). Image in the public domain.

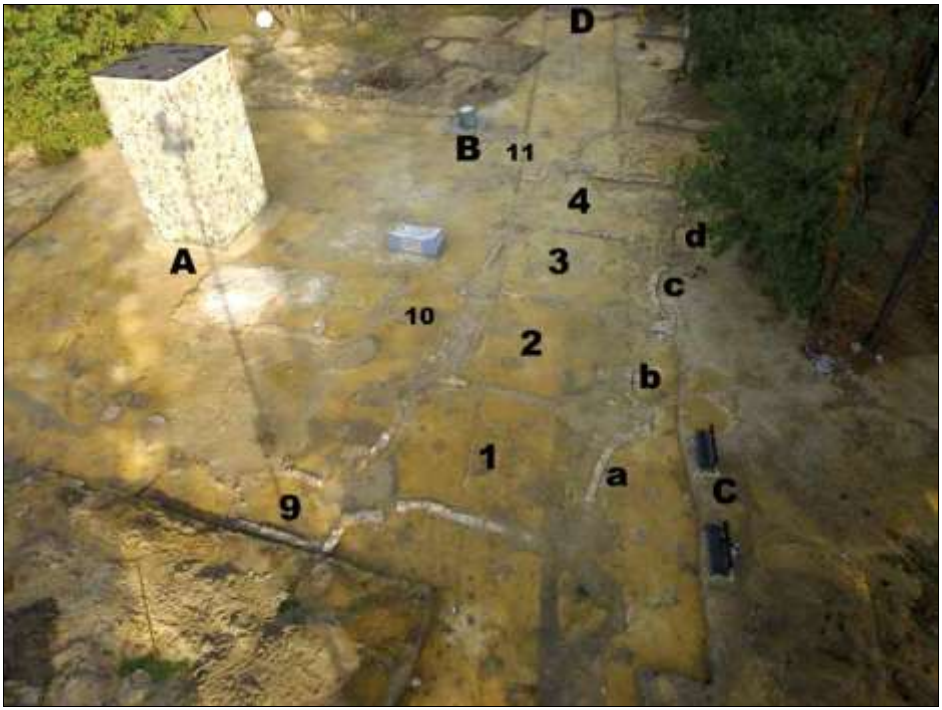
Document 42: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (2014). Image in the public domain.

Document 42a: As Document 42, with numbers, letters and lines added. The dotted line markes the edges of the (former) asphalt road (compare to Documents 48b&c); numbered: remnants of Chambers 4 through 2, and 11 as the alleged "engine room"; c marks the arched eastern wall of Chamber 3; the grey line marked w is the western wall.

Document 43, 43a: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. Hecking, p. 6. I added explanatory letters and numbers to Document 43a (see text).



Document 43a: as Document 43, rotated so north is at the top. I added explanatory letters and numbers (see text).



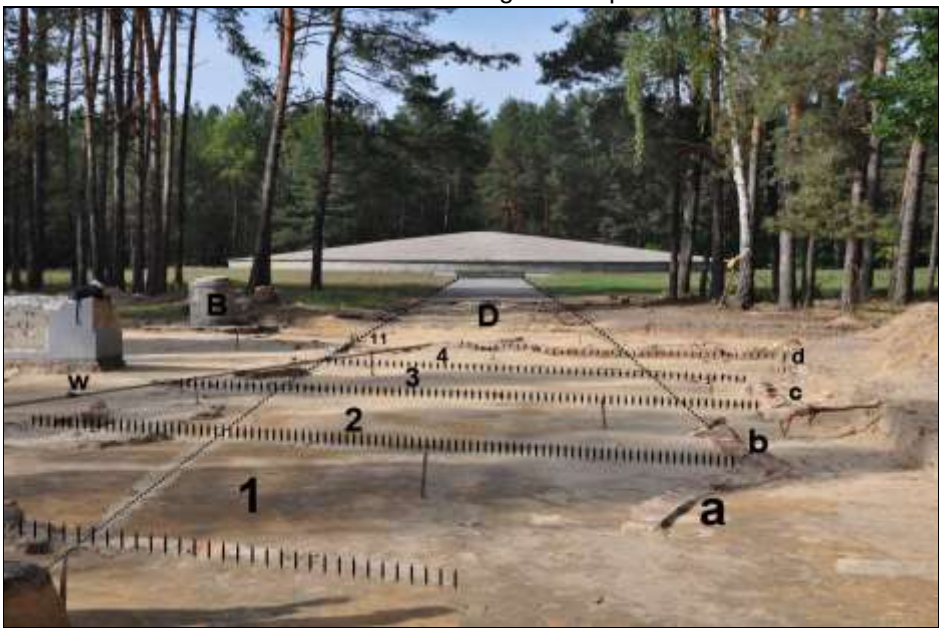
Document 44: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. I added explanatory letters and numbers (see text). Image in the public domain.

Document 45: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. Alleged Gas Chamber No. 3. Seen from east to west. Image in the public domain.

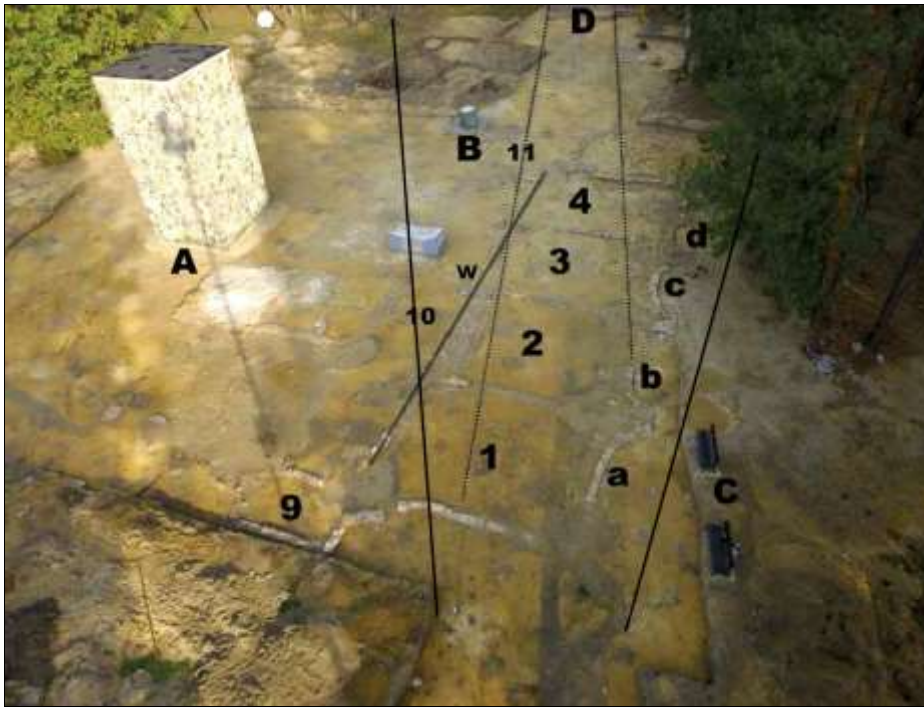
Document 46: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. Alleged Gas Chamber No. 3. Seen from west to east. Semi-circular side wall. Image in the public domain.

Document 47: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. In the foreground is the alleged Gas Chamber No. 1. Seen from west to east. I added explanatory letters and numbers (see text). Image in the public domain.

Document 48: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. Seen from south to north. Image in the public domain.



Document 48a: As Document 48, with numbers, letters and lines added. The dotted line markes the edges of the (former) asphalt road; the dashed lines mark the nothern and southern walls of Chambers 1 through 4; a through d are the arched eastern walls; the grey line marked w is the western wall.



Document 48b: As Document 42, with some of the same lines added as in Doc. 48a, plus black lines showing the persective of Docs. 48 and 48a.

Document 49: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór. At the right: part of the alleged gas chamber #4. Seen from west to east. Image in the public domain.

Document 50: The well in the vicinity of the alleged gas chambers before their "discovery" (2010). © Carlo Mattogno.

Document 51: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (2015). Seen from south to north. © Carlo Mattogno.

Document 52: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (2015). Seen from south to north. © Carlo Mattogno.

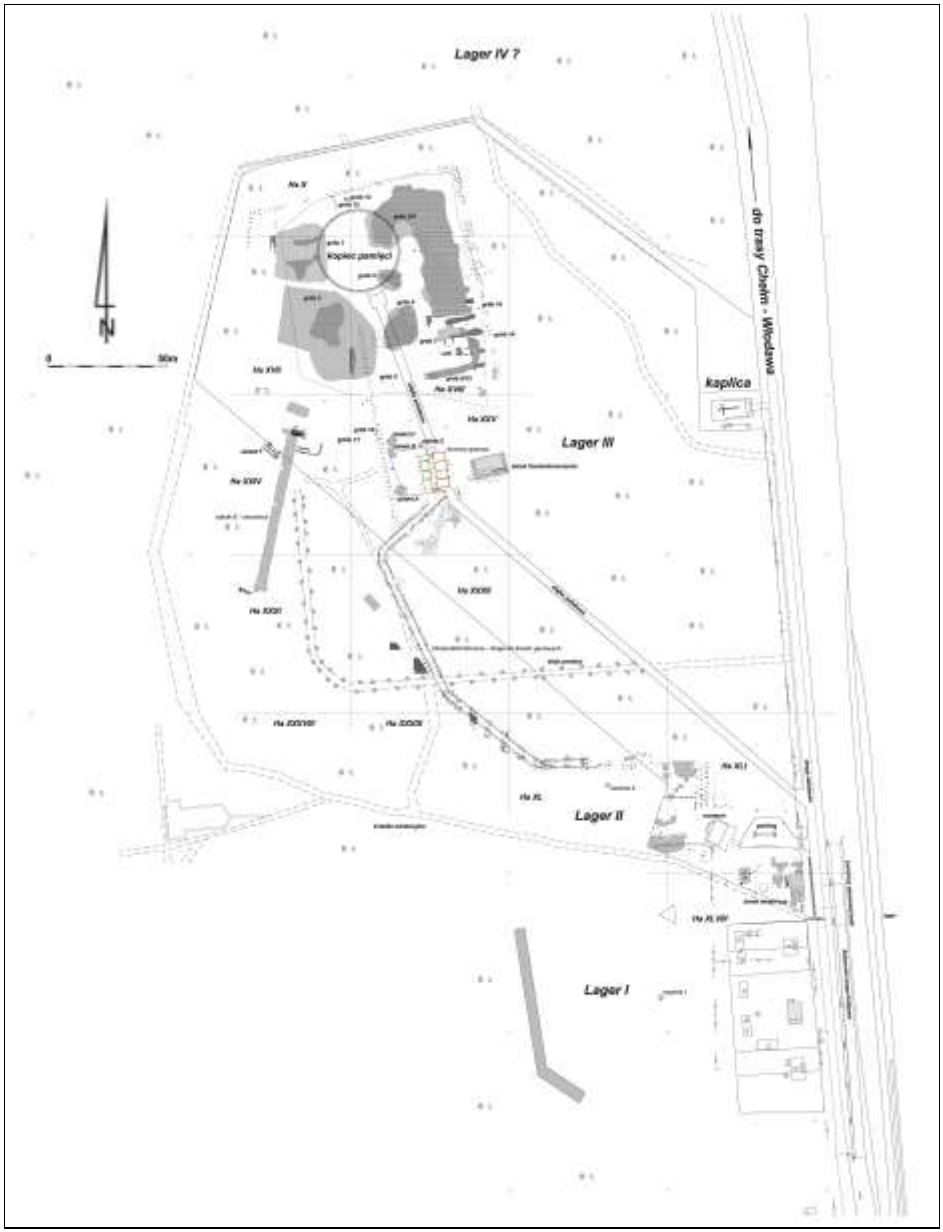
Document 53: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (2015). Seen from west to east. © Carlo Mattogno.

Document 54: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (2015). Seen from north to south. © Carlo Mattogno.

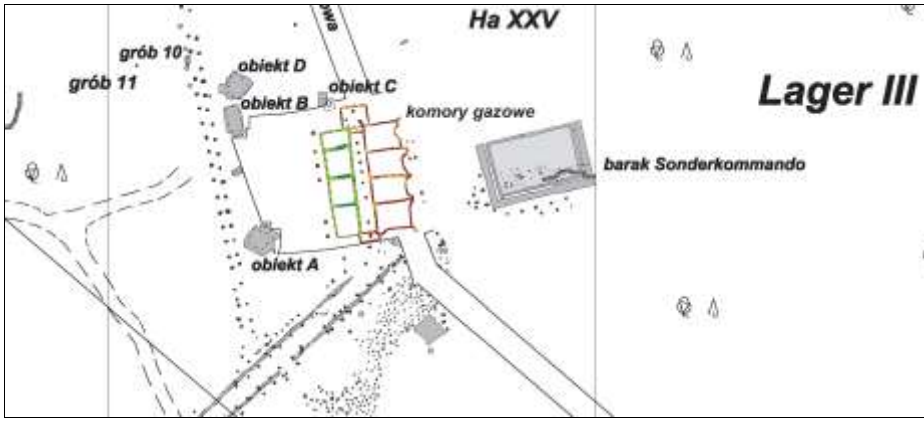
Document 55: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (2015). Seen from north to south. © Carlo Mattogno.

Document 56: Remnants of the foundation walls of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (2015). Seen from northeast to southwest. © Carlo Mattogno.

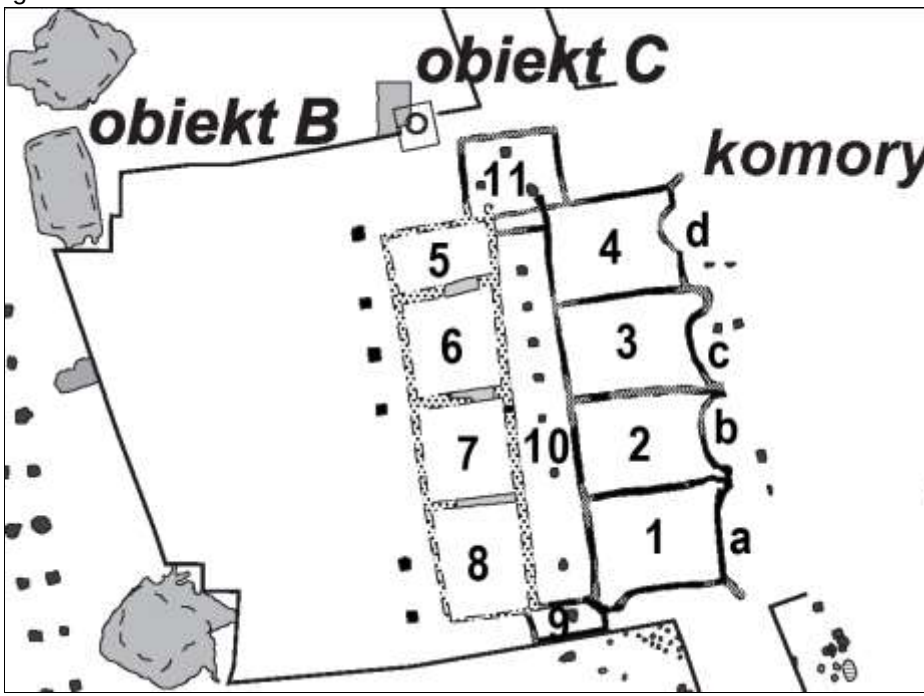
Document 57: The area of the alleged gas chambers of Sobibór as seen from the road leading to the ash mound (2015). Seen from north to south. © Carlo Mattogno.



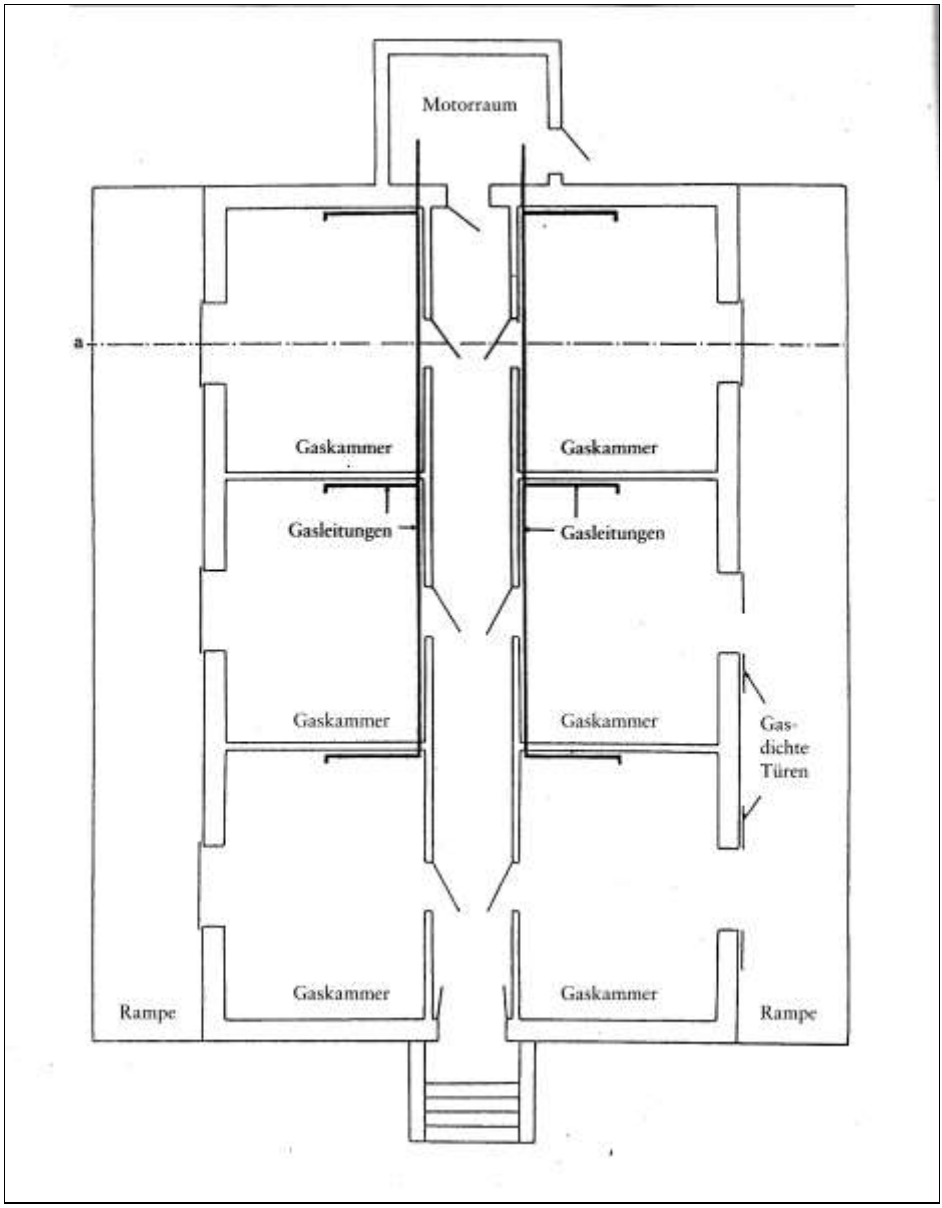
Document 58: "Map of archaeological finds made in the former German extermination camp Sobibor in the years 2001-2014. Compiled by Wojciech Mazurek and Rafał Ratajczak" updated December 31, 2014. Bem 2015, p. 105.



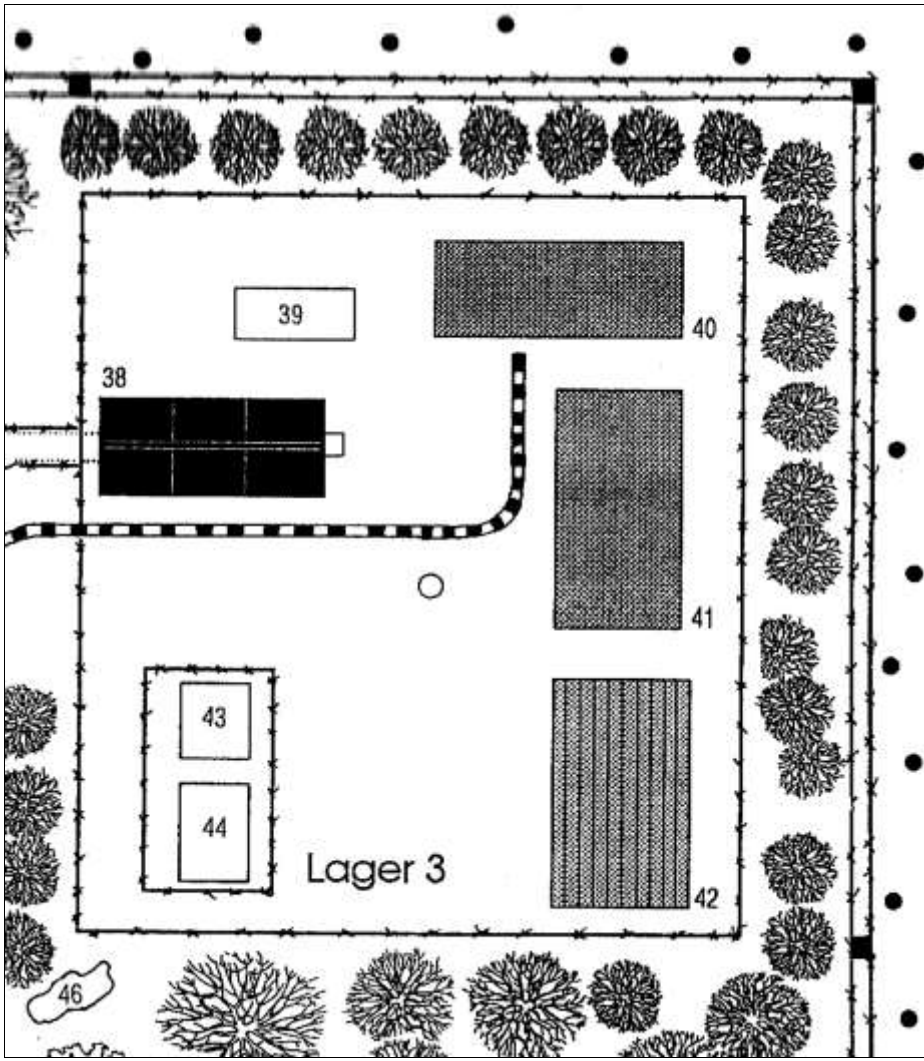
Document 58a: Section enlargement of Document 58. Drawing of the alleged gas chamber.



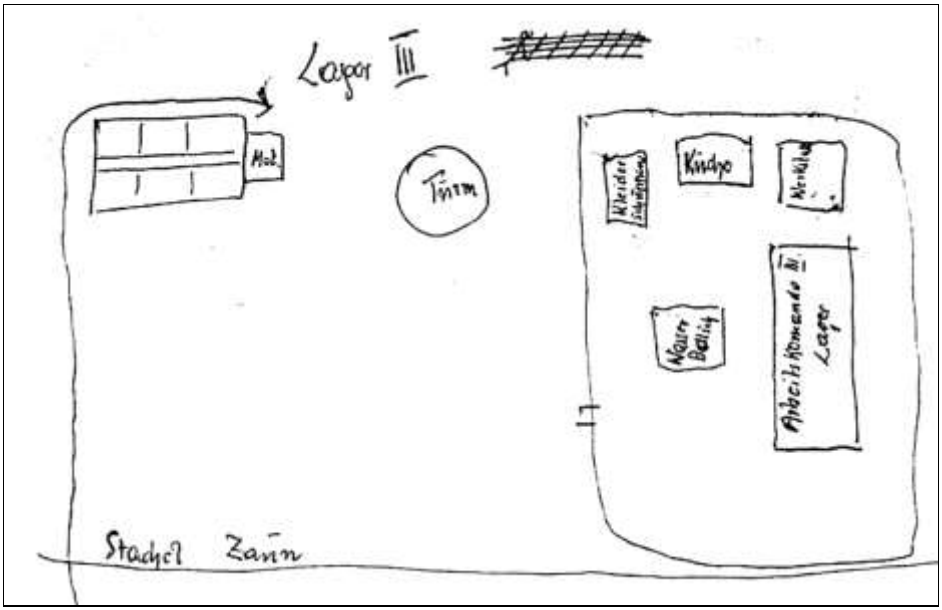
Document 58b: Section enlargement of Document 58. Drawing of the alleged gas chamber. I added explanatory letters and numbers (see text). For the printed black-and-white version, I changed the coloring as follows: red = black; orange = zig-zag lines; dark green = grey; light green: dots.



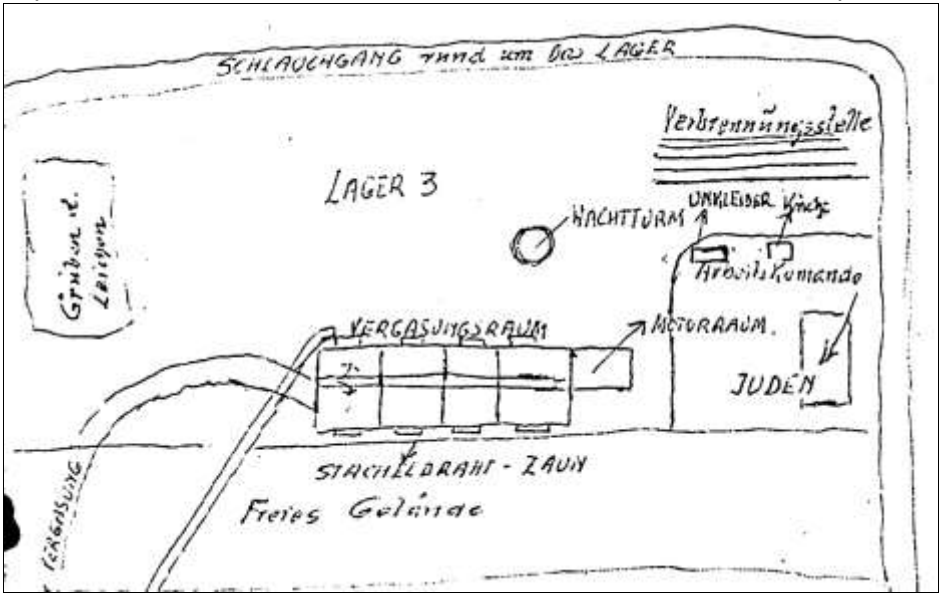
Document 59: Plan of the alleged gas chambers at Bełżec (second facility), also attributed to Sobibór. Schelvis, p. 124.



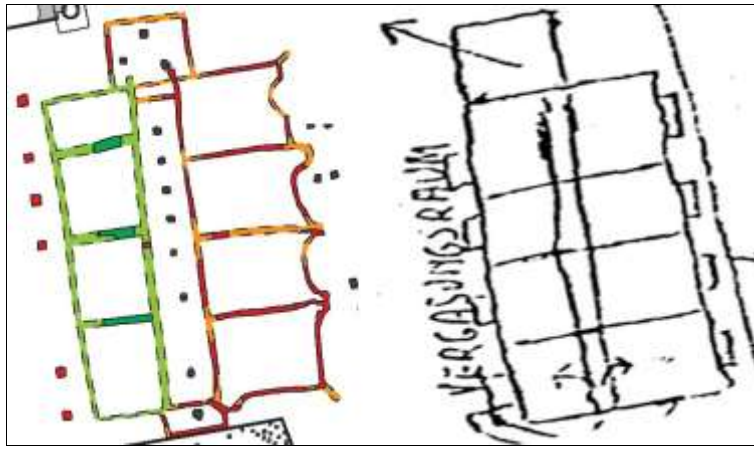
Document 60: Plan of Sobibór Camp drawn by J. Schelvis. *Lager* 3, with presumed gas chambers (second plant) in black. Schelvis, p. 9.



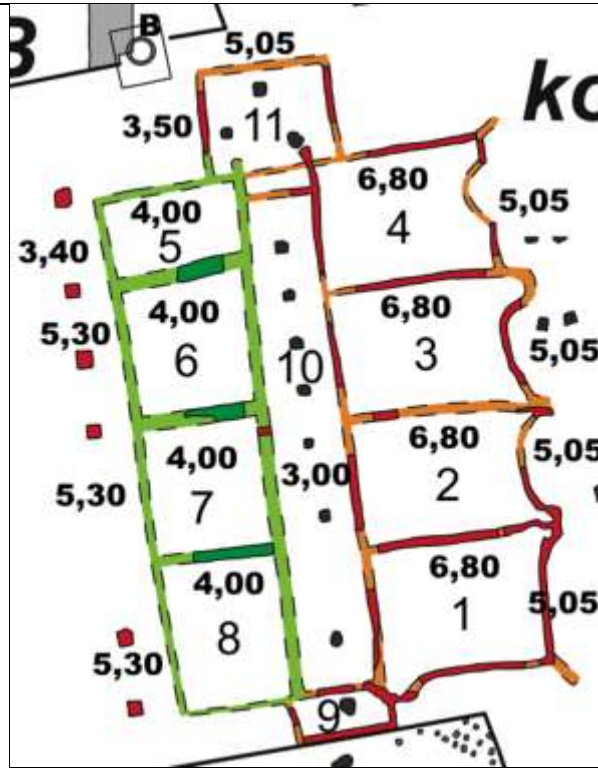
Document 61: Plan of Sobibór Camp drawn by former SS *Scharführer* Franz Hödl in 1966; *Lager* 3, with presumed gas chambers (second facility) at the top left. Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Protok. Vol. III, Gomerski Trial, p. 60.



Document 62: Map of Sobibór Camp drawn by former SS *Scharführer* Franz Hödl in 1974, *Lager* 3, with the alleged gas chambers in the center (second facility: "*Vergasungsraum*"). Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund, Protok. Vol. III, Gomerski Trial, p. 1280.



Document 63: Comparison of the plan of the presumed gas chambers of Sobibór (second facility) resulting from archaeological research (Documents 58, 58a, 58b) and the plan drawn by F. Hödl in 1974 (Document 62).

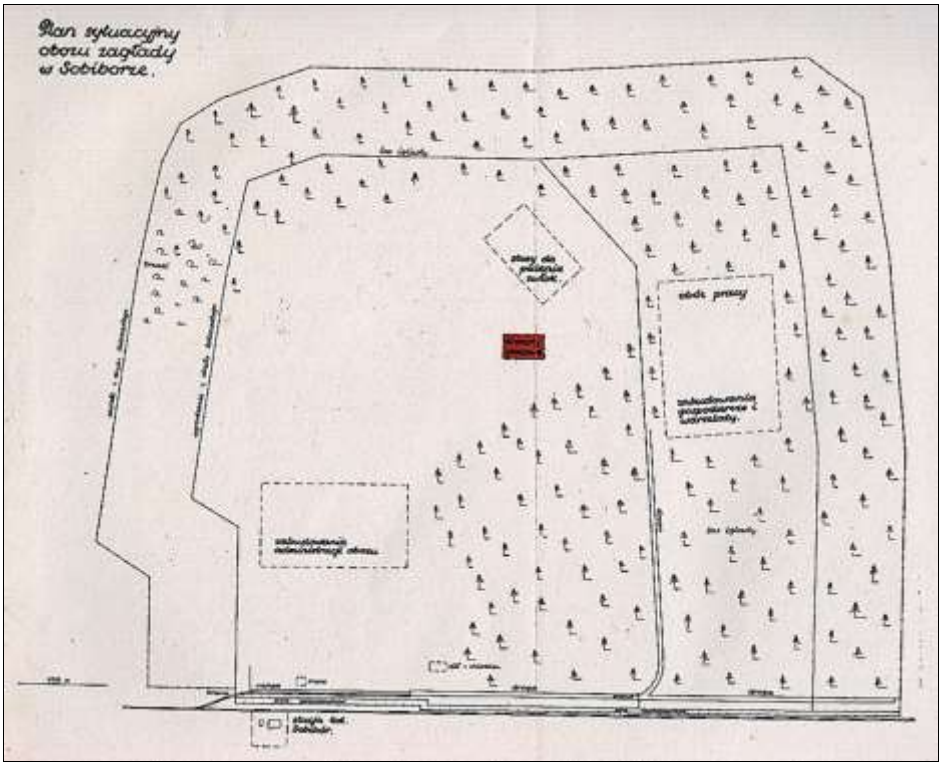


Document 64: Plan of the presumed gas chambers of Sobibór (second facility) resulting from archaeological research (Document 58b) with indication of the respective measurements.

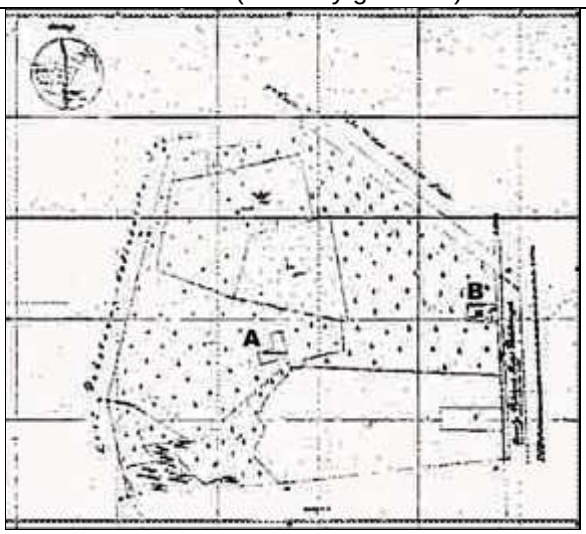
Document 65: Remnants of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (second facility). Seen from southeast to northwest. Haimi 2015, p. 9. I added explanatory letters and numbers (see text).

Document 66: Remnants of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (second facility). Seen from south to north. Image in the public domain.

Document 67: Remnants of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (second facility), 2014 or 2015. Kowalczyk-Nowak, p. 24.

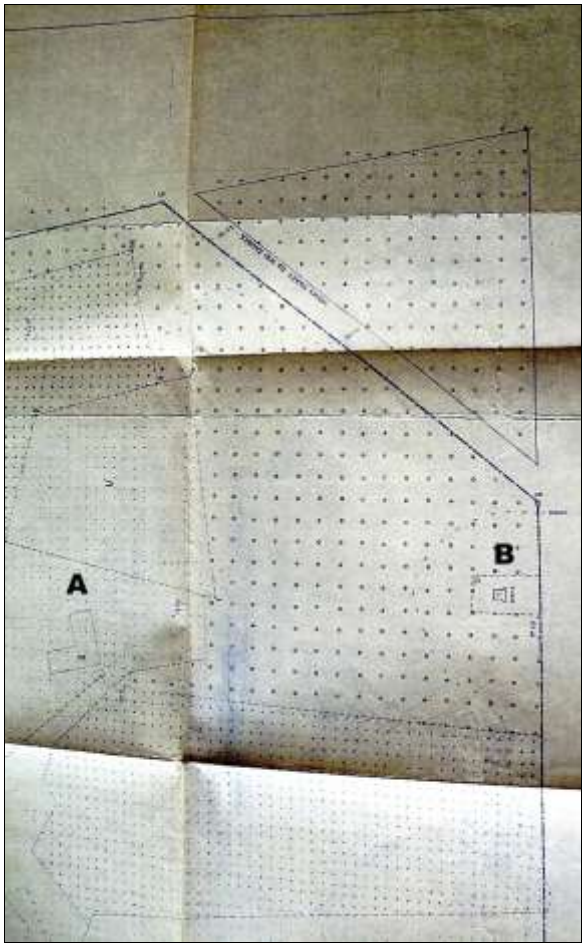


Document 68: "Map of the Sobibór Extermination Camp." Łukaszkiewicz 1947a, unnumbered insert. The red rectangle (dark grey in b&w print) in the center is labeled "Gas chambers" ("Komory gazowe").

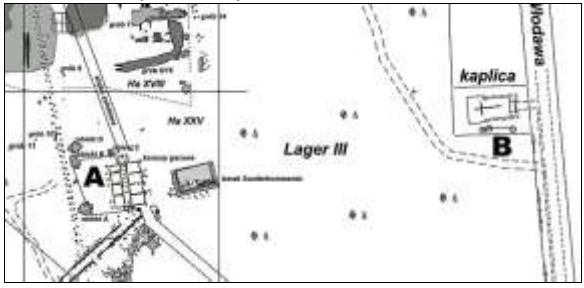


Document 69: Map of Sobibór Camp drawn by engineer Marian Cudny in 1951. Bem/Mazurek 2012a, p. 36.

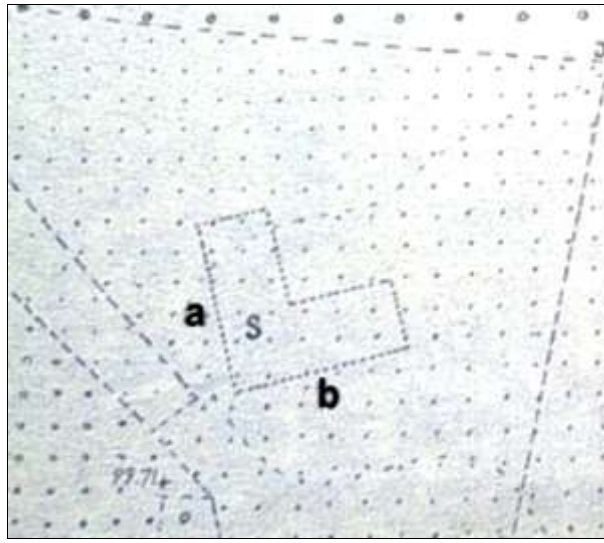
Document 70: "Sobibór Extermination Campo 1942-1943, current situation – 1962." Legend of the map contained in the Sobibór memorial project by Architect Dylewski. Powiatowe Archiwum Państwowe w Chełmie. Zespół PGRN-Włodawa.



Document 71: Section of the map contained in the Sobibór memorial project of 1962 (Document 70), roated by 90° and with letters A and B addedd (see text).

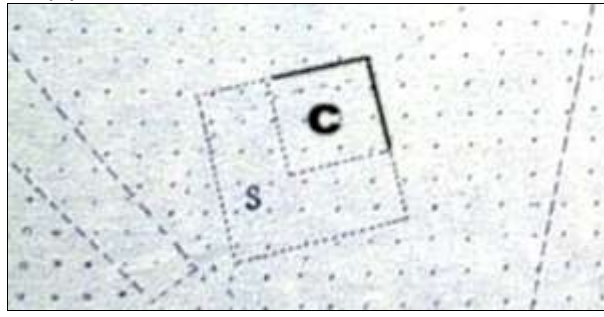


Document 72: Section enlargement of Document 58.



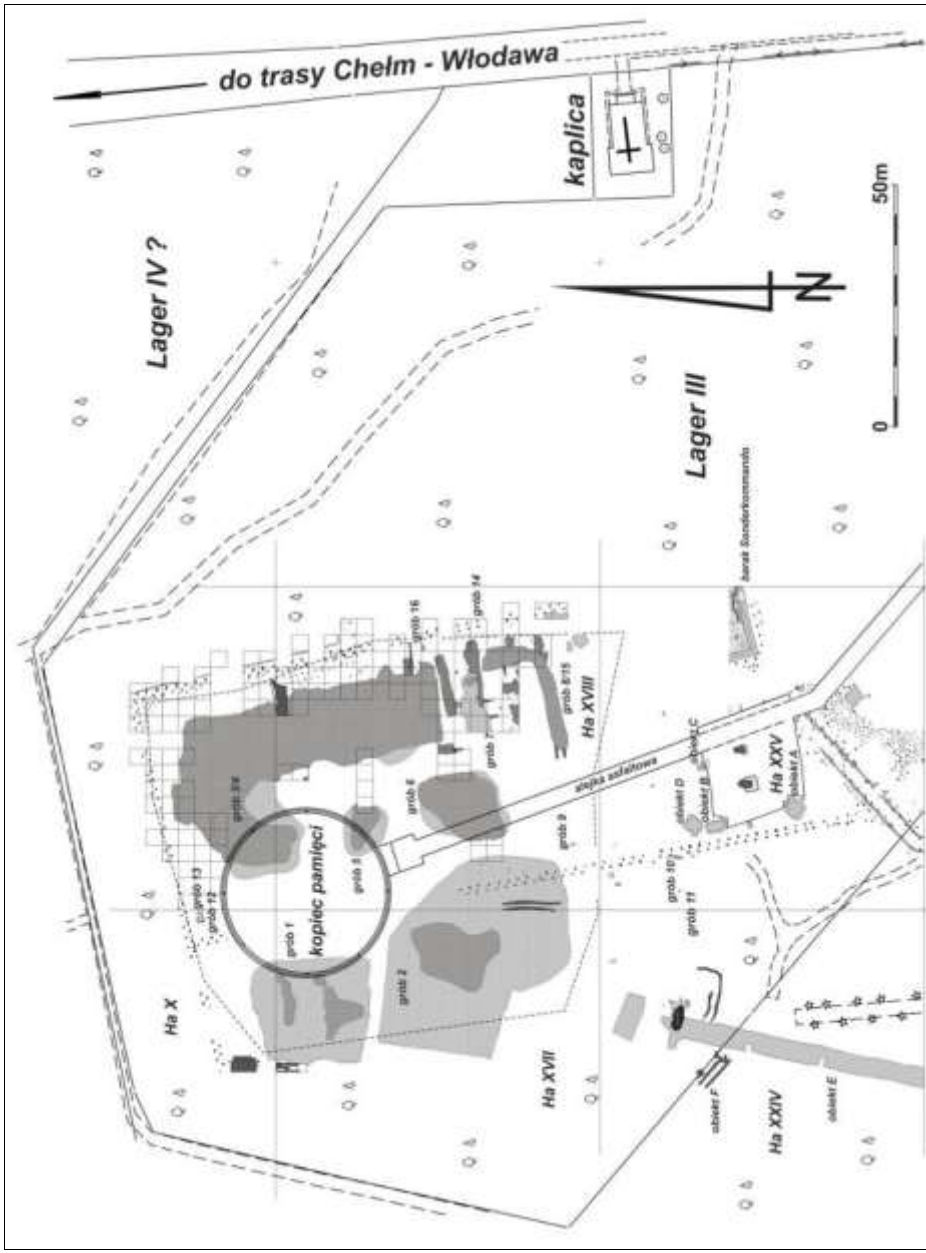
Document 73: Section enlargement of the map contained in the Sobibór memorial project of 1962 (Documents 70 & 71). The L-shaped area marked with the letter S represents "Ruins of the gas-chamber building."

Document 74: Aerial image of the area of the alleged gas chambers at Sobibór (A) and the chapel (B).

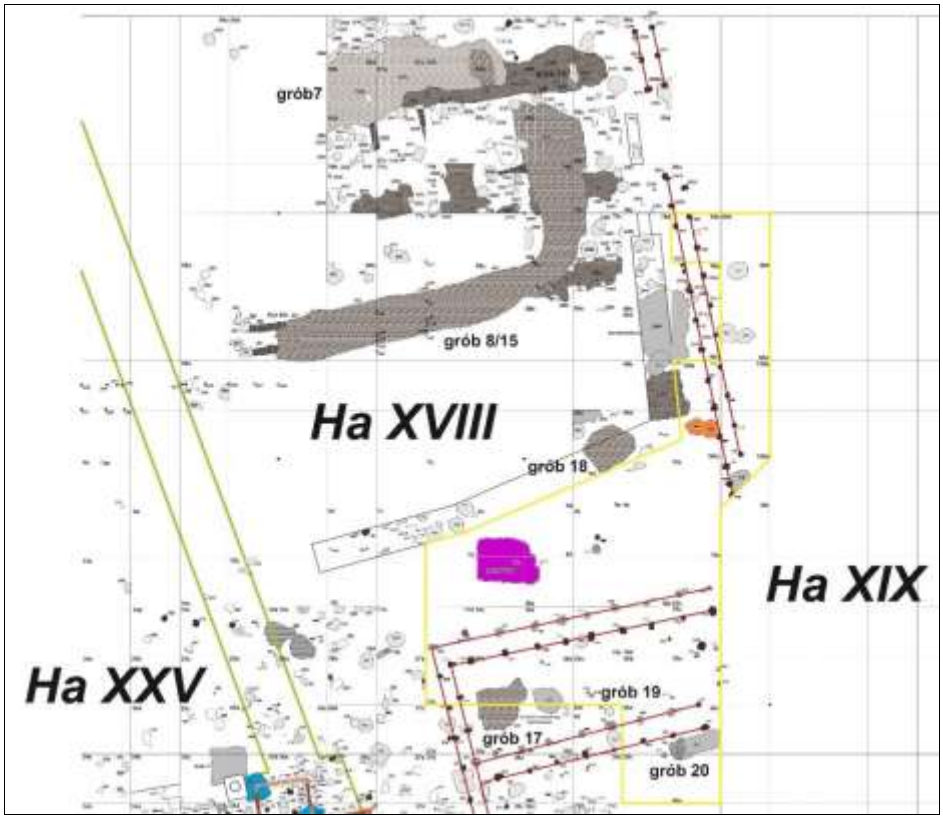


Document 75: Section enlargement of the map contained in the Sobibór memorial project of 1962 (Documents 70, 71, 73). The square area represents the area of the asphalt square.

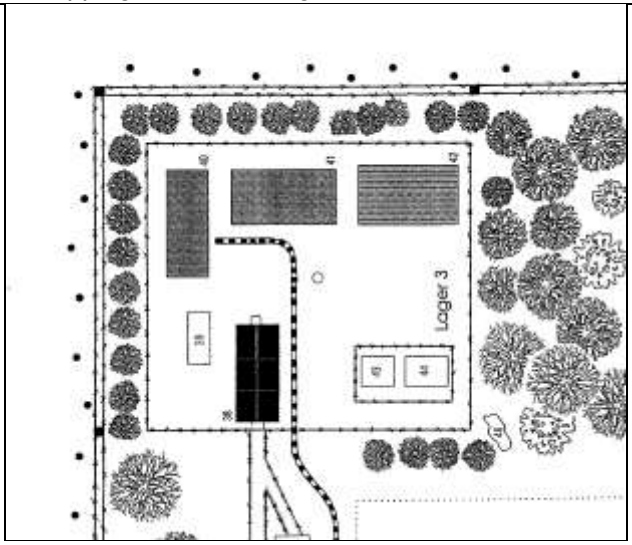
Documents 76a&b: Location of the alleged gas chambers beneath the road leading to the ash mound. Above: after 2014 (image in public domain); below: in 1965. Bem/Mazurek 2012a, p. 45.



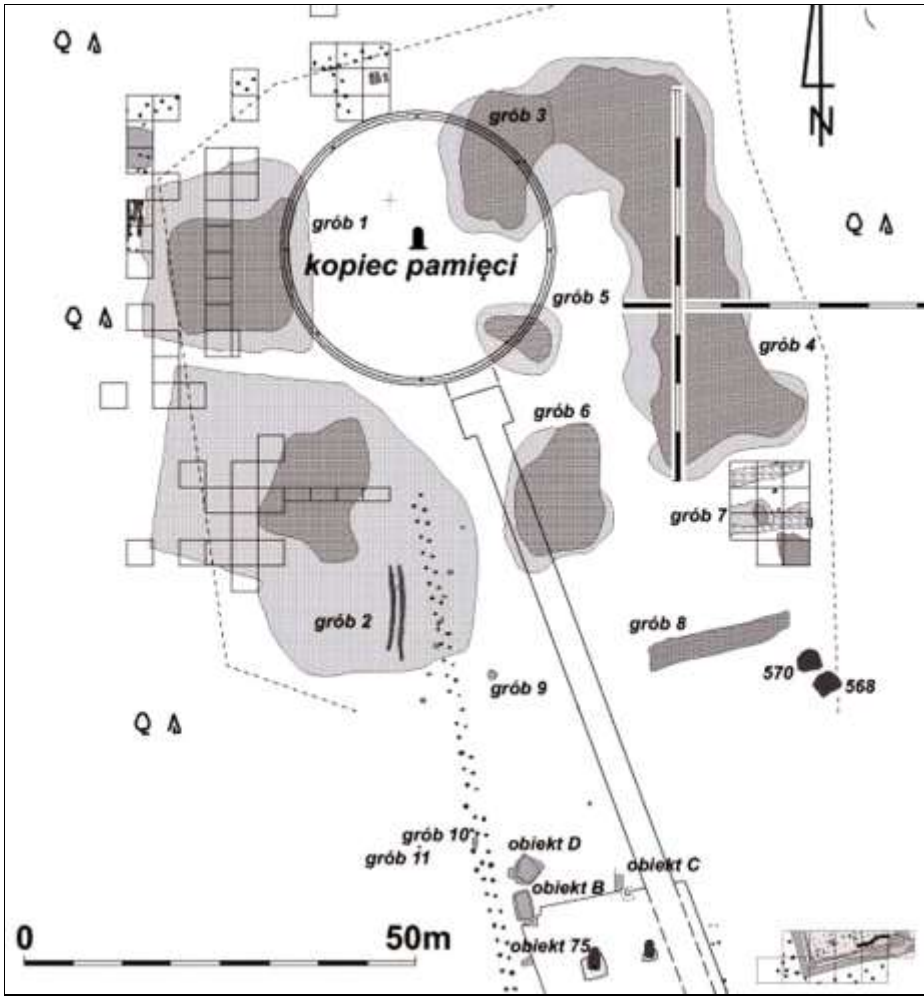
Document 77: Mapping of old mass graves at Sobibór. Mazurek 2013, p. 3.



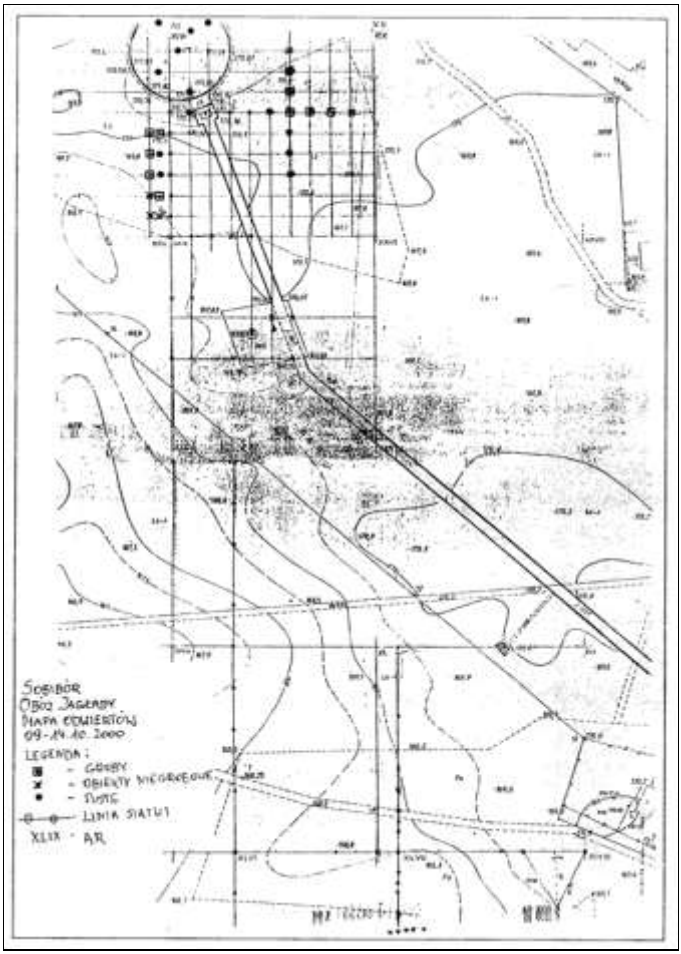
Document 78: Mapping of new mass graves at Sobibór. Haimi 2015, p. 5.



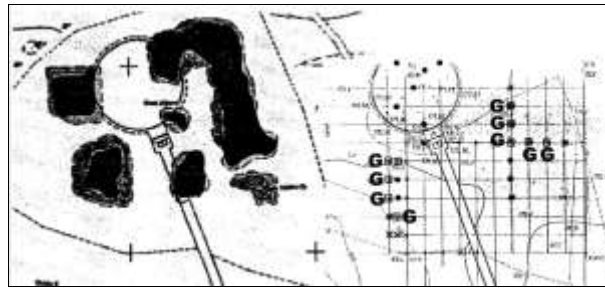
Document 79: Depiction of mass graves at Sobibór (rectangles Nos. 40 and 41) on J. Schelvis's camp map (Document 60). Schelvis, p. 9.



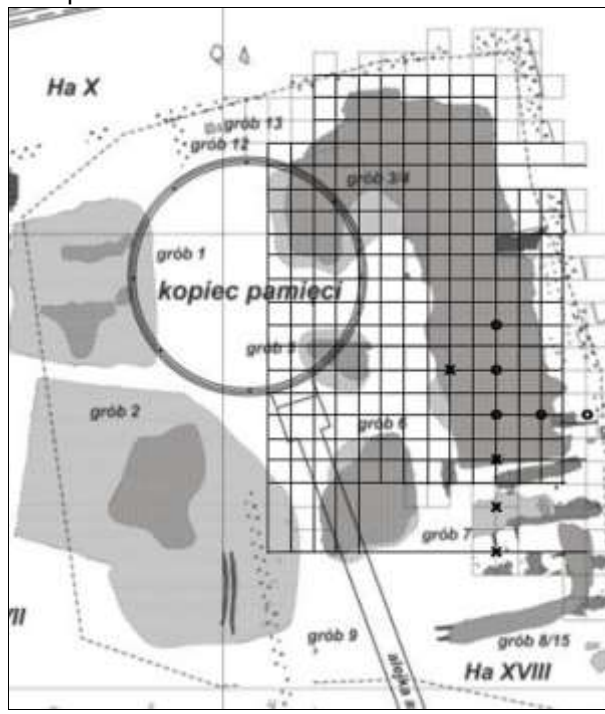
Document 80: Mapping of the old mass graves at Sobibór. I overlaid the two scale bars of 50 m on Pit No. 3/4. Mazurek 2013, p. 3.



Document 81: Mapping of the preliminary soundings made by A. Kola in the area of the mass graves at Sobibór Camp. Kola 2000c, p. 92.



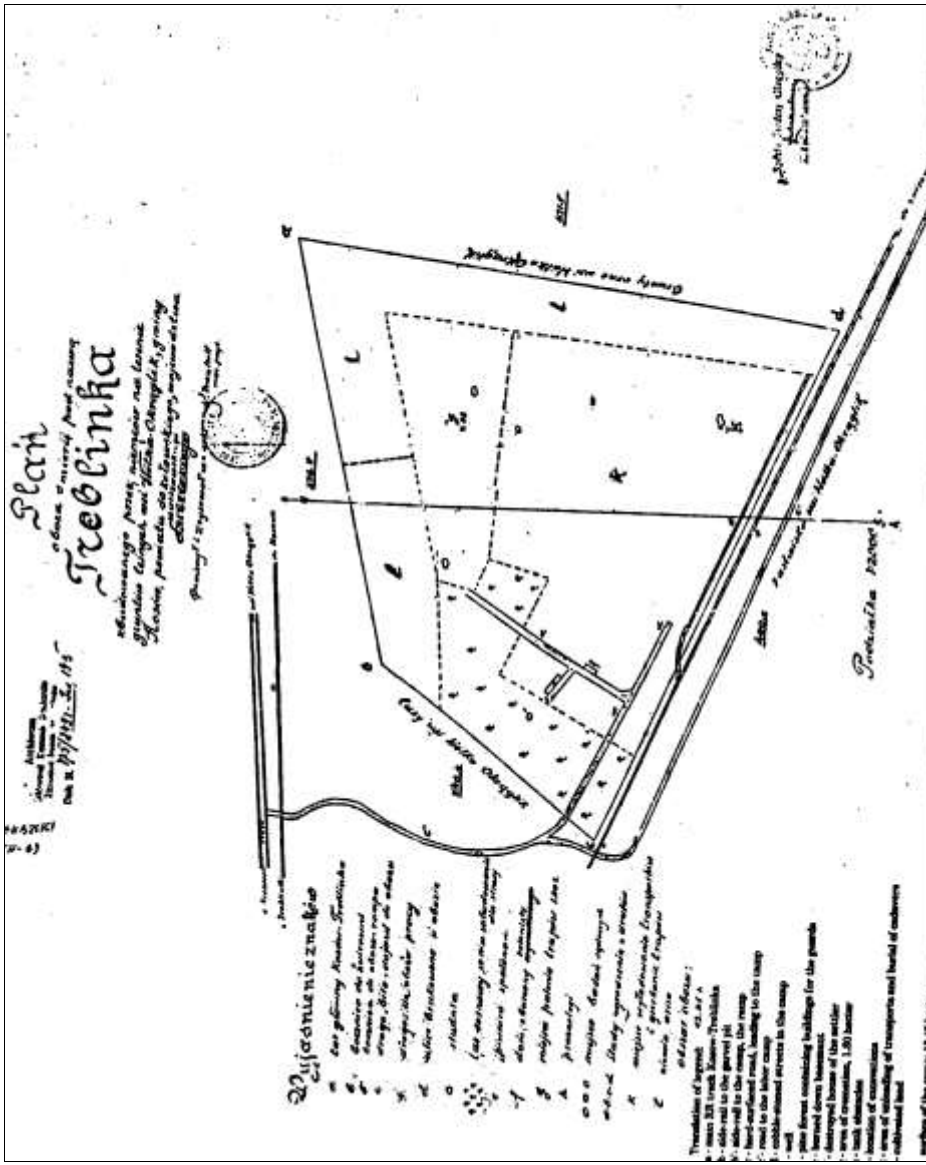
Document 82: Section enlargement of Document 80. The letter G [*Grób*: pit] indicates positive samples.



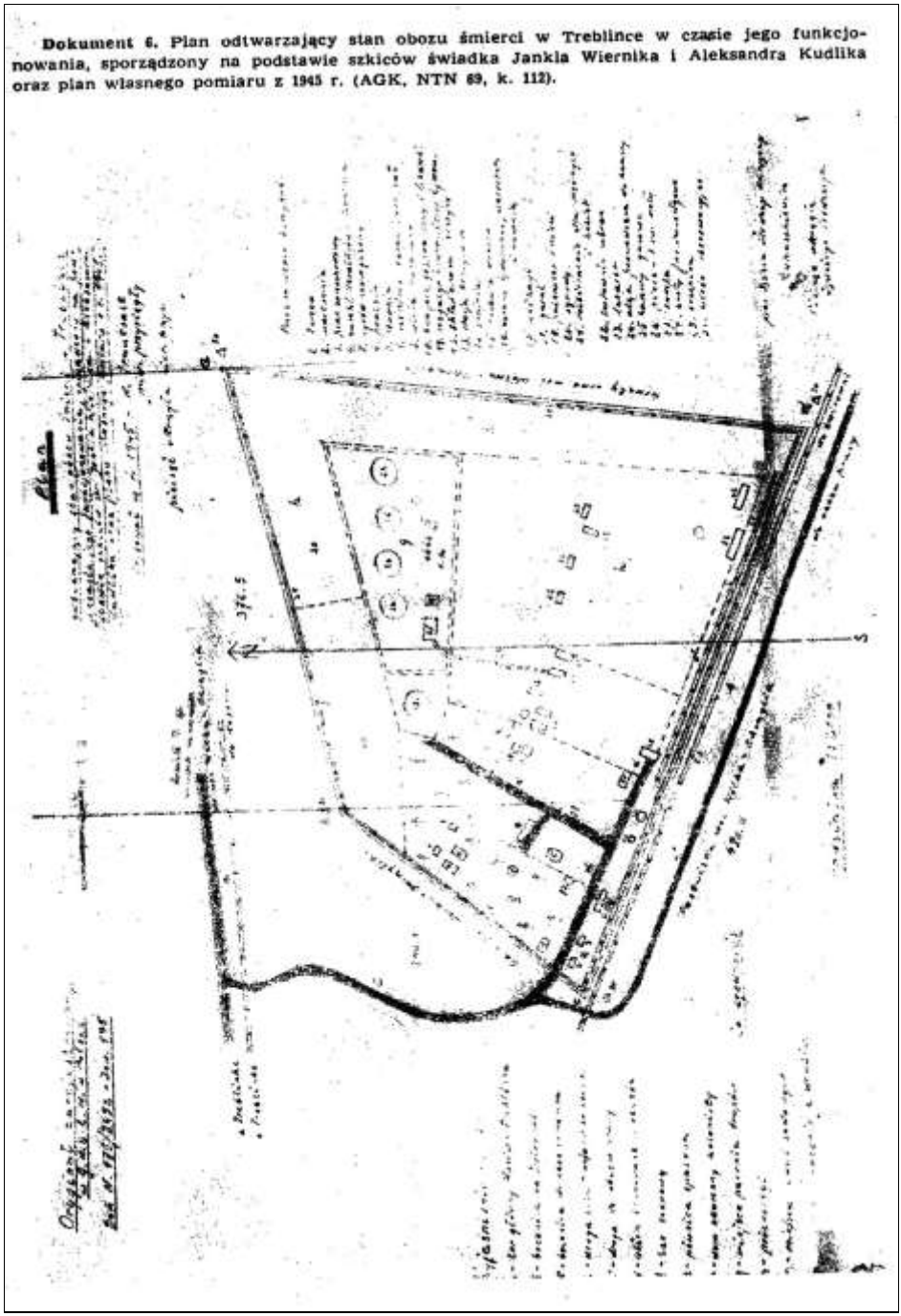
Document 83: Section enlargement of Document 80. I completed the grid.

Document 84: German military map 1:100000 of the Włodawa area. Mil-Geo-Karte, Ausgabe Nr. 1, Stand: 25.II.44. Großblatt Nr. 369 (Gebietsteil Generalgouvernement). Deutsche Heereskarte. Truppenausgabe Nr. 1 v. IV.44.

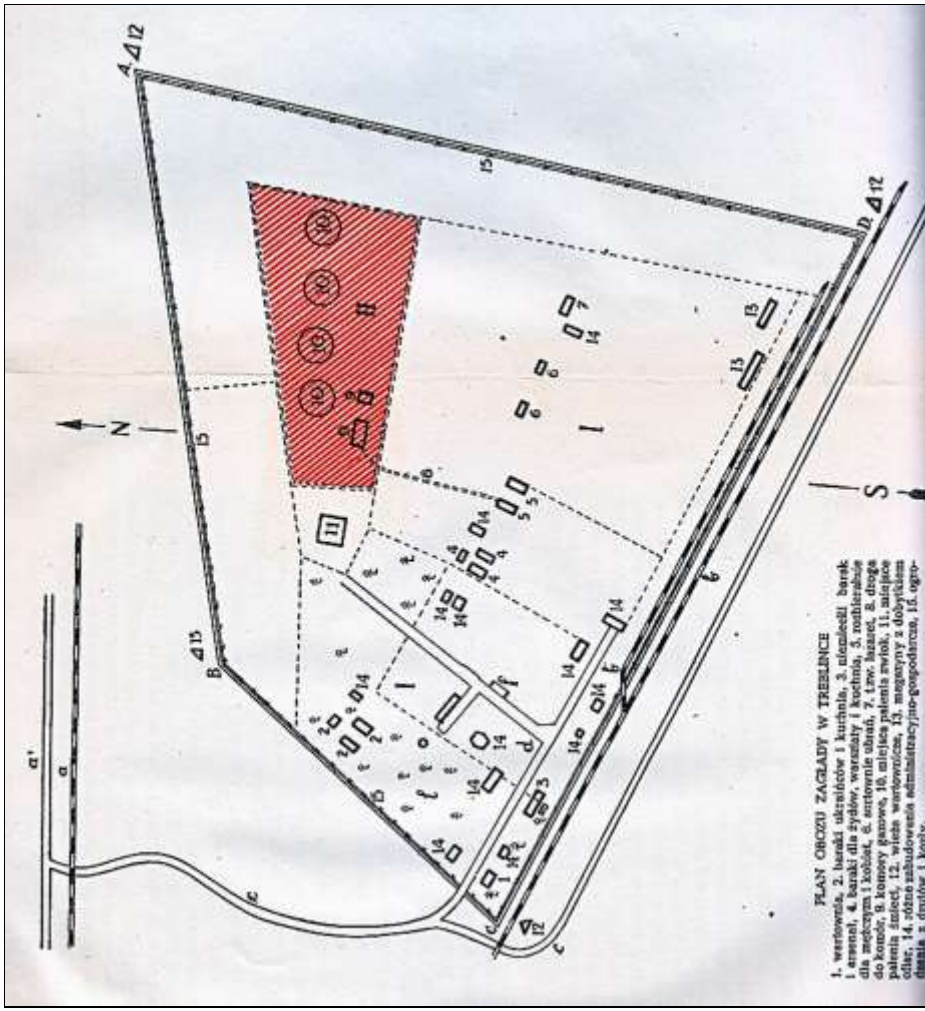
Document 85: Section enlargement of Document 84. Sobibór area.



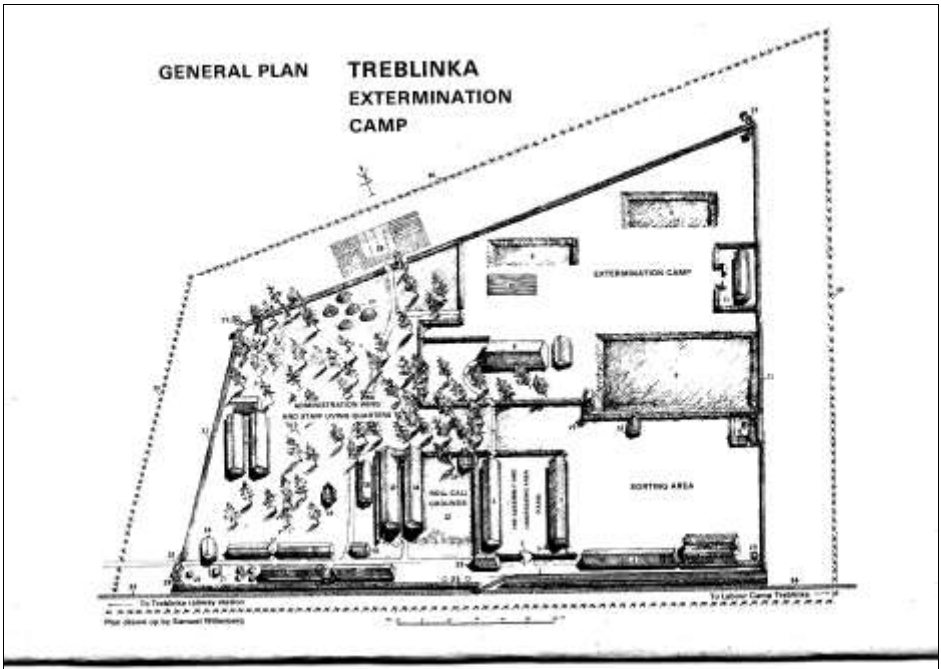
Document 86: Map of Treblinka Camp drawn by accredited surveyor K. Trautsolt (1945). Neumaier/Rudolf, p. 489.



Document 87: Map of Treblinka Camp drawn by accredited surveyor K. Trautsolt (1945). Wojtczak, p. 166.



Document 88: "Map of Treblinka Extermination Camp." Łukaszkiewicz 1946a, unnumbered insert.



KEY TO GENERAL PLAN OF CAMP

TREBLINKA EXTERMINATION CAMP – GENERAL PLAN

1 The railway track and the platform (ramp).
2 A small wooden sign attached to the gate, with an arrow indicating the direction of Bialystok and Wolkowysk.
3 A long barrack with a large painted inscription 'OBERMAJDAN'. On this outer wall a fake clock and on the barrack door the inscription 'CASH'; a locked door with an inscription: 'To the first class waiting room'; a locked door with an inscription: 'To the second class waiting hall'; a locked door with an inscription 'To the third class waiting hall'. The barrack served as a storeroom for more valuable objects taken away from the victims.

THE ASSEMBLY AND UNDRESSING AREA (YARD)

4 On left, the women's barrack, where they had to undress. At the end of the barrack, behind a partition-wall worked the barbers. Behind the women's barrack – a sorting place for bottles and kitchen appliances ('Flaschensortieren').
5 On right, a barrack serving as storeroom. It also served as prisoners' night quarters until the escape of four of them.
X A well.
7 Path to the gas chambers.

SORTING AREA

6 'Lazarett' – execution site.
3 Two barracks where more valuable objects were stored. On the wall facing the ramp were signs for deceiving the victims.
12 Five-metre high wall.

ADMINISTRATION WING AND STAFF LIVING QUARTERS

15 Stables and pigsty.
16 Bakery.
17 Barrack containing: Ukrainian women's quarters; dental clinic of the SS men and Ukrainians; general clinic of the SS men and Ukrainians; room of the 'Goldjuden'.
18 Barracks of the Ukrainian guards.
19 Zoo ('Tiergarten').
20 SS men barracks connected by a corridor with the armory.
21 The armoured car.
22 Chairs on which relaxed the SS men. Above them were sun shades.
23 Ukrainians' guardroom.
24 Administration rooms, including the quarters of the camp commander Stangel.
25 Garage.
26 Gasoline and lubricating oil depot.
27 Timber yard.
28 Vegetable garden.
29 Watchtowers.
30 Anti-tank obstacles.
31 Barbed wire camouflaged by pine branches.
32 Main entrance gate.
33 Latrines.
34 Railway track.

EXTERMINATION CAMP

8 Ten new gas chambers; three old, small gas chambers.
9 Burial pits.
10 Rails on which victims' bodies were cremated.
11 Barrack prisoners' living quarters.

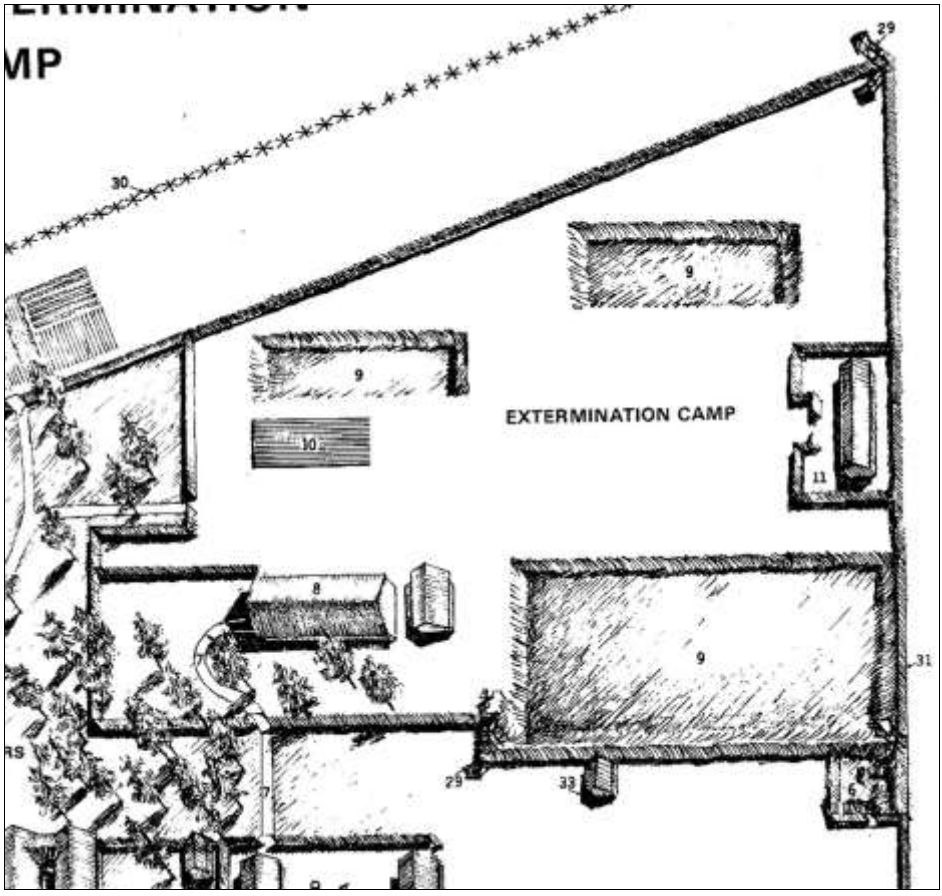
ROLL-CALL GROUNDS

33 Latrines.

BARRACK – PRISONERS' LIVING QUARTERS

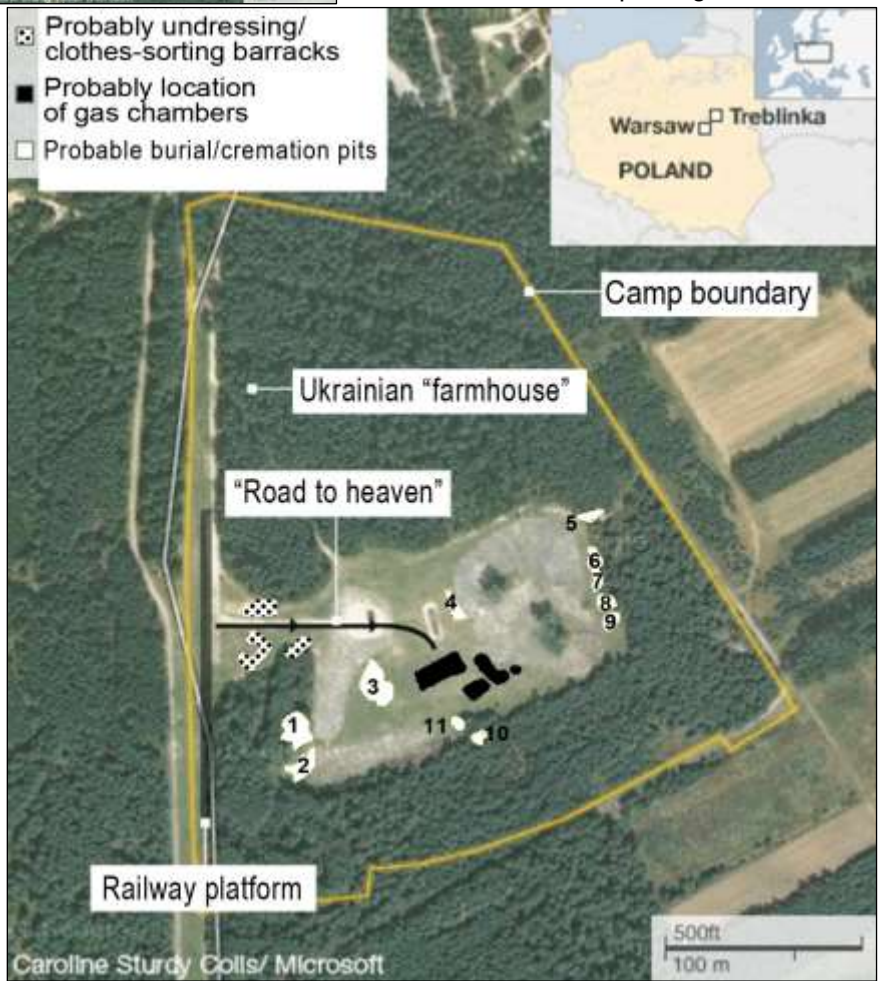
13 On left, barrack; kitchen; capos' and specialists ('Hofjuden'); tailor and furrier shop; next to the window stood the painter's easel, carpentry and locksmith's shop; smithy.
14 On right – barrack divided into latrines, washroom and on its sides prisoners' living quarters.

Document 89: "General Plan Treblinka Extermination Camp." Willenberg, p. 6.

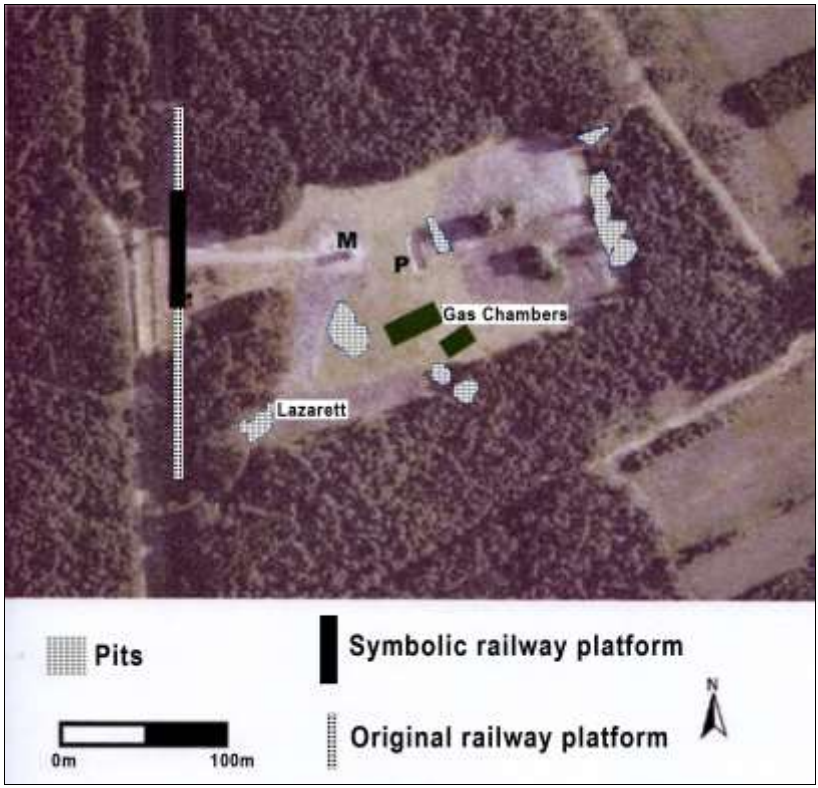


Document 90: Section enlargement of Document 89. The rectangles marked with the number 9 represent the mass graves.

Document 91a: Mapping of the "Probable location of the gas chambers" (blue) and of the "burial/cremation pits" (yellow) at the former Treblinka Camp. Sturdy Colls 2012; her original; recolored for b&w printing below.

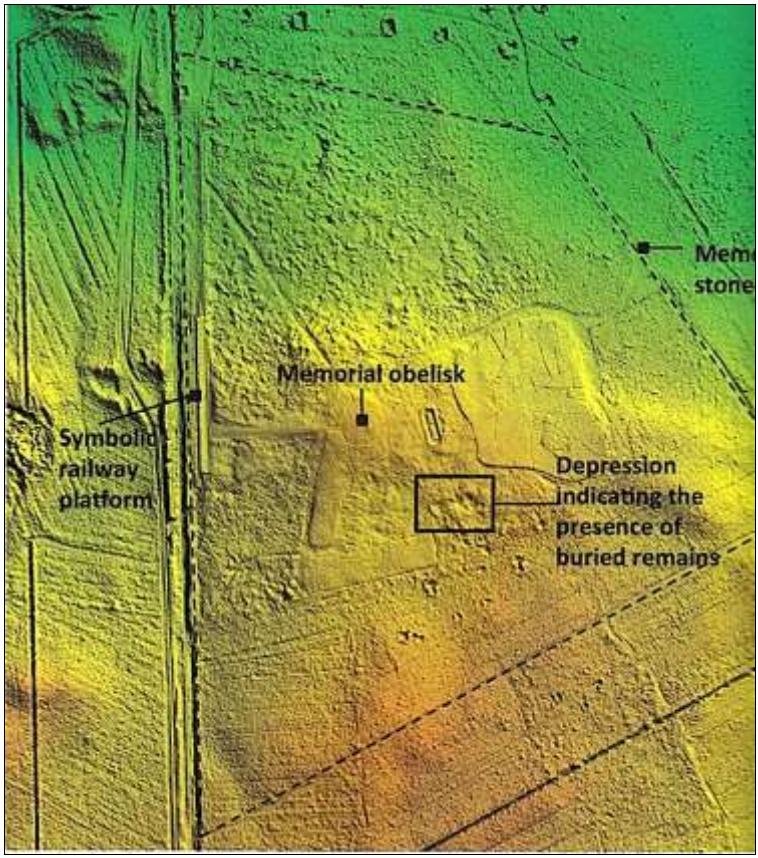


Document 91b: As above, with changed colors for b&w-printing, labels and legend redone for higher resolution, and numbers on the alleged mass graves added.

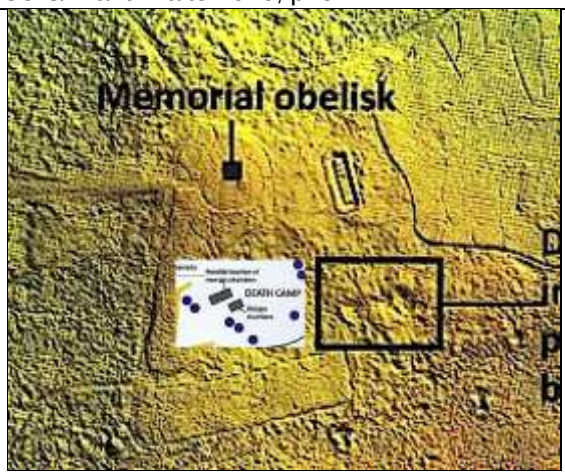


Document 92: Mapping of alleged mass graves (hatched) and gas chambers (in green/grey) at the former Treblinka Camp. Sturdy Colls/Branthwaite 2016, p. 71; recolored for b&w printing; see text.

Document 93: "Non-invasive" excavation by C. Sturdy Colls in the area of a mass grave at the former Treblinka Camp. Sturdy Colls/Branthwaite 2016, p. 29.

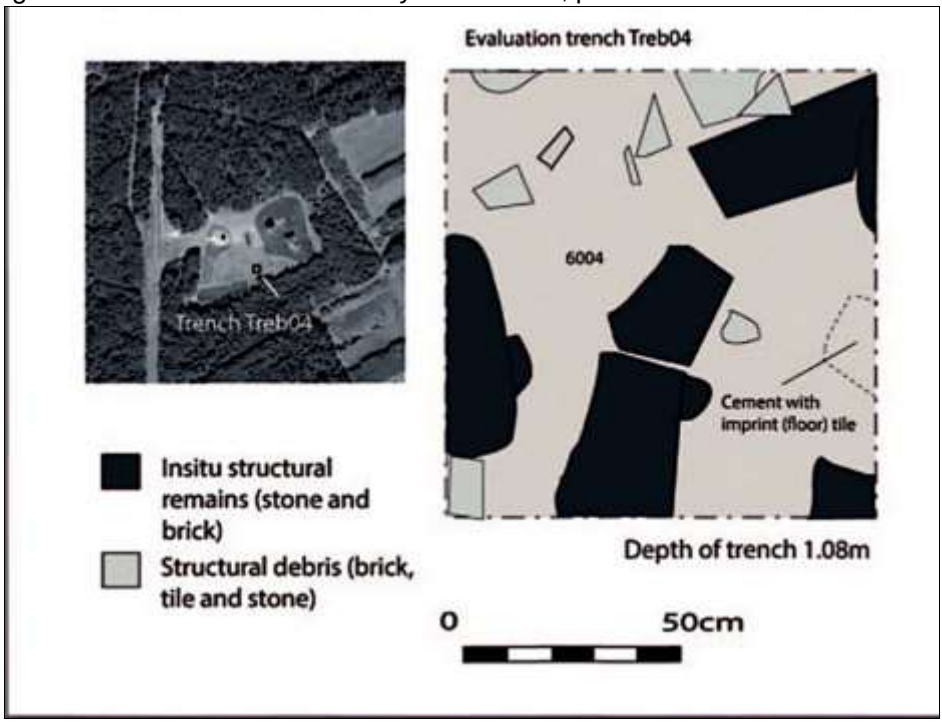


Document 94: LiDAR mapping of the former Treblinka Camp. Sturdy Colls/Branthwaite 2016, p. 52.



Document 95: Section enlargement of Document 94 compared with mapping of alleged gas chambers.

Document 96: "Non-invasive" excavation by C. Sturdy Colls in the area of "old gas chamber" at Treblinka. Sturdy Colls 2015a, p. 249.



Document 97: "Evaluation Trench Treb04." See Document 96. Sturdy Colls 2015a, p. 186.

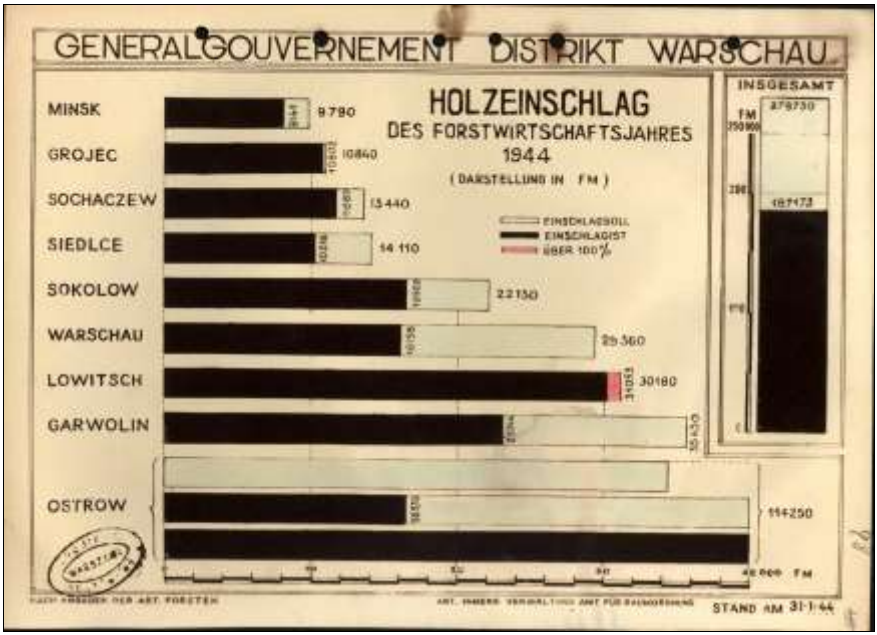
Document 98: Treblinka Camp in 1946. GFHA, Catalog No. 11337.

Document 99: Treblinka. The area of Pit No. 3 and the alleged gas chambers in 1997. © Carlo Mattogno.

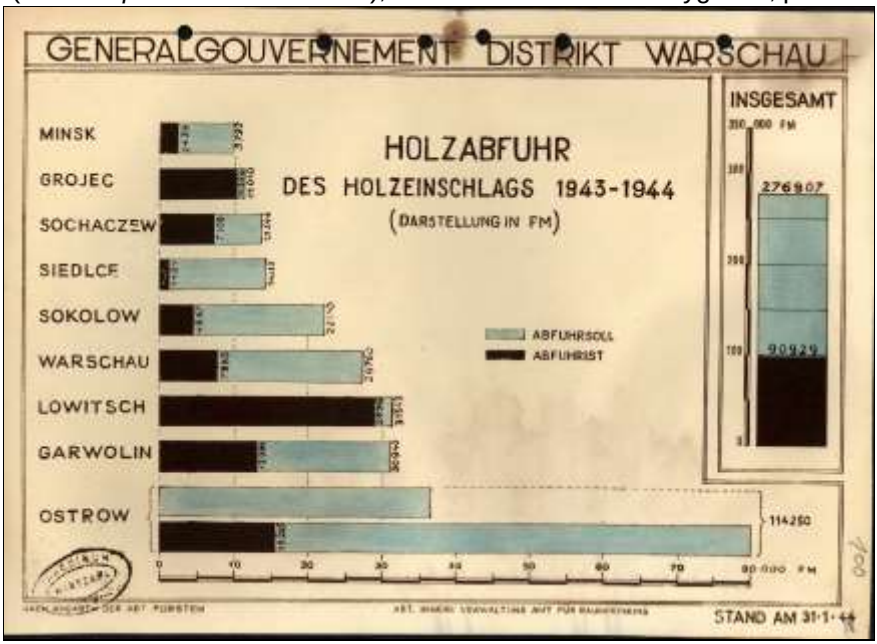
Fig. 9.9 The gas chambers at Majdanek, which were modelled on showers. (Copyright: Caroline Sturdy Colls)

Document 100: Photo by C. Sturdy Colls of the shower room in Barracks 41 (*Bad und Desinfektion I*) of the Majdanek Camp with the explanation: "The gas chambers at Majdanek, which were modelled on showers"! Sturdy Colls 2015a, p. 250.

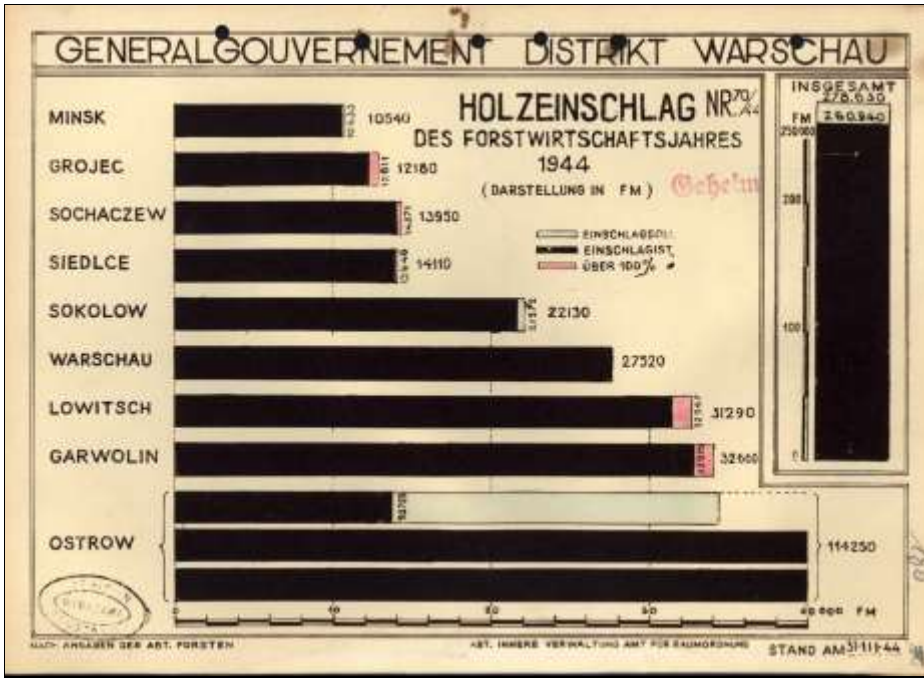
Document 101: The GBP device used by Richard Krege for his research. Birkenau, 1999. © Carlo Mattogno.



Document 102: General Government, Warsaw District, "Wood Cutting for the Economic Forestry Year 1944." January 31, 1944. APW, Zespół 489 II (*Kreishauptmannschaft Ostrow*), Starostwo Ostrow Maz. sygn. 82, p. 98.

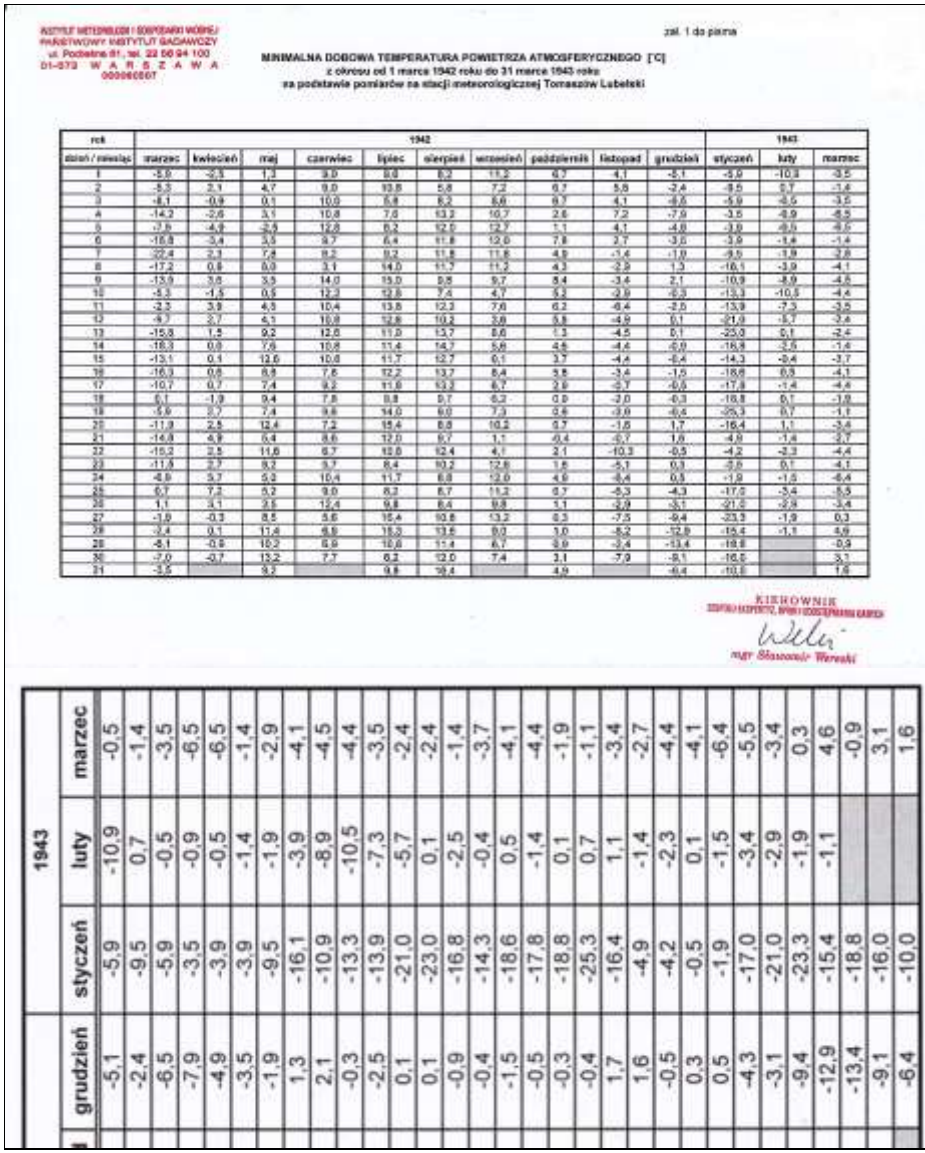


Document 103: General Government, Warsaw District, "Wood transport of the wood cut 1943-1944." January 31, 1944. APW, Zespół 489 II (*Kreishauptmannschaft Ostrow*), Starostwo Ostrow Maz. sygn. 82, p. 100.



Document 104: General Government, Warsaw District, "Wood Cutting for the Economic Forestry Year 1944." March 31, 1944. APW, Zespół 489 II (*Kreishauptmannschaft Ostrow*), Starostwo Ostrow Maz. sygn. 82, p. 180.

Document 105: Lumber piles south of the former Sobibór Camp (1997). © Carlo Mattogno.



INSTYTUT METEOROLOGII I GOSPODARKI WODNEJ
PAŃSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY
ul. Podleśna 61, tel. 22 56 94 100
01-673 W A R S Z A W A
0000060507

zał. 1 do pisma

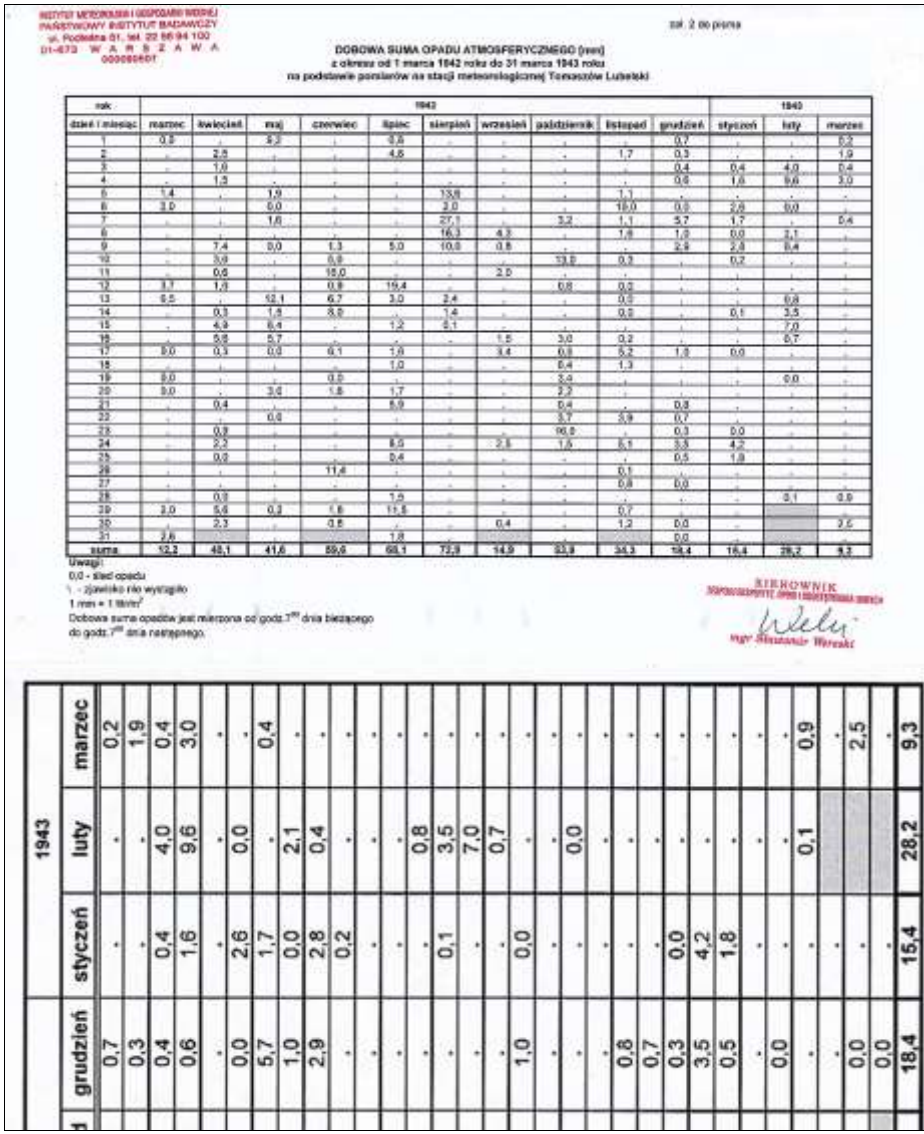
MINIMALNA DOBOWA TEMPERATURA POWIETRZA ATMOSFERYCZNEGO [°C]
z okresu od 1 marca 1942 roku do 31 marca 1943 roku
na podstawie pomiarów na stacji meteorologicznej Tomaszów Lubelski

rok	1942										1943		
dzień / miesiąc	marzec	kwiecień	maj	czerwiec	lipiec	sierpień	wrzesień	październik	listopad	grudzień	styczeń	luty	marzec
1	-5,9	-0,5	1,3	9,0	8,9	8,2	11,2	6,7	4,1	-5,1	-5,9	-10,9	-0,5
2	-5,5	2,1	4,7	9,0	10,8	5,8	7,2	6,7	5,8	-2,4	-9,5	0,7	-1,4
3	-8,1	-0,9	0,1	10,0	5,8	8,2	8,9	9,7	4,1	-6,5	-5,9	-0,5	-3,5
4	-14,2	-2,6	3,1	10,8	7,6	13,2	10,7	2,6	7,2	-7,9	-3,5	-0,9	-6,5
5	-7,9	-4,9	2,9	12,8	8,2	12,0	12,7	1,1	4,1	-4,9	-3,9	-0,5	-6,5
6	-16,8	-3,4	3,0	9,7	6,4	11,8	12,0	7,9	2,7	-3,5	-3,9	-1,4	-1,4
7	-22,4	2,1	7,4	9,2	9,2	11,8	11,8	4,9	-1,4	-1,9	-9,5	-1,9	-2,9
8	-17,2	0,8	0,0	3,1	14,0	11,7	11,2	4,3	-2,3	1,3	-16,1	-3,9	-4,1
9	-13,9	3,6	3,5	14,0	15,0	9,8	9,7	8,4	-3,4	2,1	-10,9	-8,9	-4,6
10	-5,3	-1,5	0,5	12,2	12,8	7,4	4,7	5,2	-2,9	-0,3	-13,3	-10,5	-4,4
11	-2,2	3,9	4,3	10,4	13,8	12,3	7,6	6,2	-6,4	-2,5	-13,9	-7,3	-3,5
12	-9,7	2,7	6,1	10,8	12,8	10,2	3,8	5,8	-4,9	0,1	-21,0	-5,7	-3,4
13	-15,8	1,5	9,2	12,6	11,0	13,7	8,6	1,3	-4,5	0,1	-23,0	0,1	-2,4
14	-16,3	0,8	7,9	10,8	11,4	14,7	5,8	4,6	-4,4	-0,9	-16,8	-2,5	-1,4
15	-13,1	0,1	12,6	10,8	11,7	12,7	6,1	3,7	-4,4	-0,4	-14,3	-0,4	-3,7
16	-16,3	0,8	8,8	7,6	12,2	13,7	8,4	5,8	-3,4	-1,5	-18,6	0,5	-4,1
17	-10,7	0,7	7,4	9,2	11,8	13,2	6,7	2,9	-2,7	-0,3	-17,8	-1,4	-4,4
18	-5,1	-1,8	9,4	7,8	8,8	9,7	6,3	0,9	-2,0	-0,3	-18,8	0,1	-1,9
19	-5,9	0,7	7,4	9,8	14,0	8,0	7,3	0,6	-3,9	-0,4	-25,3	0,7	-1,1
20	-11,9	2,5	12,4	7,2	15,4	8,8	10,2	0,7	-1,8	1,7	-16,4	1,1	-3,4
21	-14,8	4,9	6,4	8,6	12,0	9,7	1,1	-0,4	-0,7	1,6	-4,9	-1,4	-2,7
22	-15,2	2,5	11,6	6,7	12,8	12,4	4,1	2,1	-10,3	-0,3	-4,2	-2,3	-4,4
23	-11,5	2,7	8,2	9,7	8,4	10,2	12,8	1,6	-5,1	0,3	-2,0	0,1	-4,1
24	-8,9	3,7	9,0	10,4	11,7	8,8	12,0	4,9	-8,4	0,3	-1,9	-1,5	-6,4
25	0,7	7,2	5,2	9,0	8,2	8,7	11,2	0,7	-8,3	-4,3	-17,0	-3,4	-5,5
26	1,1	3,1	2,5	12,4	9,8	8,4	9,8	1,1	-2,9	-3,1	-21,0	-2,9	-3,4
27	-1,9	-0,3	8,5	5,6	15,4	10,8	13,2	0,3	-7,5	-9,4	-23,3	-1,9	0,3
28	-2,4	0,1	11,4	8,9	15,3	13,6	9,0	1,0	-8,2	-12,9	-15,4	-1,1	4,6
29	-8,1	-0,9	10,2	8,9	10,6	11,4	6,7	0,9	-2,4	-13,4	-18,8		-0,9
30	-7,0	-0,7	13,2	7,7	8,2	12,0	7,4	3,1	-7,9	-9,1	-16,0		3,1
31	-3,5		9,2		9,8	10,4		4,9		-9,4	-10,0		1,6

KIEROWNIK
ZESPOŁU HYDROLOGII, METEOROLOGII I GOSPODARKI WODNEJ
mgr Stanisław Werecki

1943	grudzień	styczeń	luty	marzec
	-5,1	-5,9	-10,9	-0,5
	-2,4	-9,5	0,7	-1,4
	-6,5	-5,9	-0,5	-3,5
	-7,9	-3,5	-0,9	-6,5
	-4,9	-3,9	-0,5	-6,5
	-3,5	-3,9	-1,4	-1,4
	-1,9	-9,5	-1,9	-2,9
	1,3	-16,1	-3,9	-4,1
	2,1	-10,9	-8,9	-4,5
	-0,3	-13,3	-10,5	-4,4
	-2,5	-13,9	-7,3	-3,5
	0,1	-21,0	-5,7	-2,4
	0,1	-23,0	0,1	-2,4
	-0,9	-16,8	-2,5	-1,4
	-0,4	-14,3	-0,4	-3,7
	-1,5	-18,6	0,5	-4,1
	-0,5	-17,8	-1,4	-4,4
	-0,3	-18,8	0,1	-1,9
	-0,4	-25,3	0,7	-1,1
	1,7	-16,4	1,1	-3,4
	1,6	-4,9	-1,4	-2,7
	-0,5	-4,2	-2,3	-4,4
	0,3	-0,5	0,1	-4,1
	0,5	-1,9	-1,5	-6,4
	-4,3	-17,0	-3,4	-5,5
	-3,1	-21,0	-2,9	-3,4
	-9,4	-23,3	-1,9	0,3
	-12,9	-15,4	-1,1	4,6
	-13,4	-18,8		-0,9
	-9,1	-16,0		3,1
	-6,4	-10,0		1,6

Document 106: Minimum temperature in °C recorded at the meteorological station Tomaszów Lubelski during the period March 1942 to March 1943. Instytut Meteorologii i Gospodarki Wodnej. Państwowy Instytut Badawcy, Warsaw.



INSTYTUT METEOROLOGII I GOSPODARKI WODNEJ
PAŃSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY
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01-673 W A R S Z A W A
000556401

zał. 2 do pisma

DOBOWA SUMA OPADU ATMOSFERYCZNEGO (mm)
z okresu od 1 marca 1942 roku do 31 marca 1943 roku
na podstawie pomiarów na stacji meteorologicznej Tomaszów Lubelski

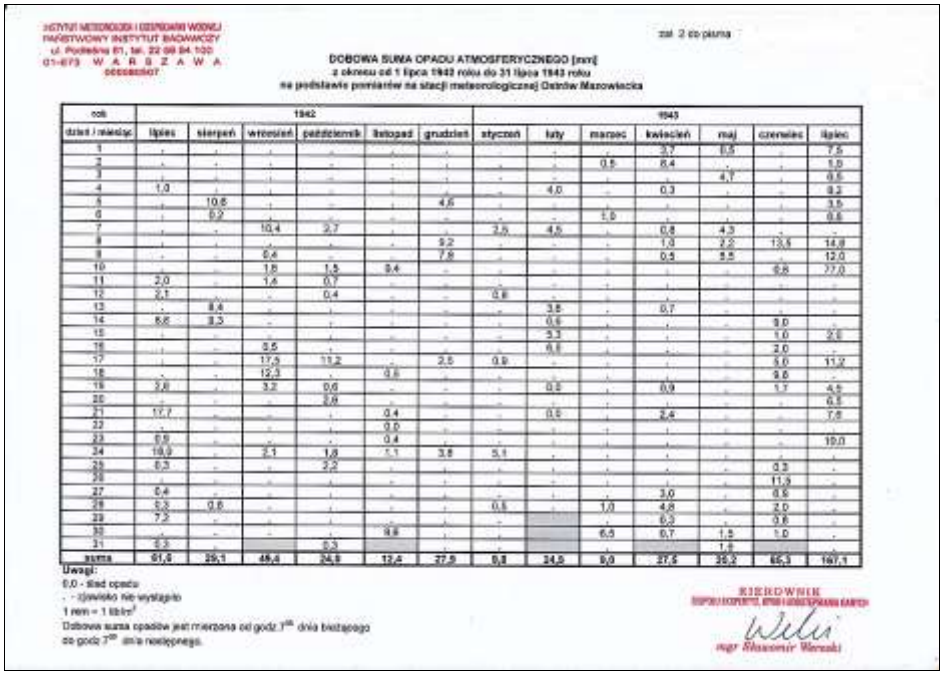
rok	1942											1943		
dzień i miesiąc	marzec	kwiecień	maj	czerwiec	lipiec	sierpień	wrzesień	październik	listopad	grudzień	styczeń	luty	marzec
1	0,9	.	9,2	.	0,6	.	.	.	.	0,7	.	.	0,2
2	.	2,5	.	.	4,6	.	.	.	1,7	0,3	.	.	1,9
3	.	1,0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,4	0,4	4,0	0,4
4	.	1,3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,6	1,6	9,6	3,0
5	1,4	.	1,9	.	.	13,8	.	.	1,1	.	.	.	.
6	3,0	.	0,0	.	.	2,0	.	.	10,0	0,0	2,6	0,0	.
7	.	.	1,6	.	.	27,1	.	3,2	1,1	5,7	1,7	.	0,4
8	.	.	.	.	.	16,3	4,3	.	1,6	1,0	0,0	3,1	.
9	.	7,4	0,0	1,3	5,0	10,0	0,8	.	.	2,9	2,8	0,4	.
10	.	3,0	.	0,9	.	.	.	13,8	0,3	.	0,2	.	.
11	.	0,6	.	15,0	.	.	2,0	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	3,7	1,0	.	0,8	19,4	.	.	0,8	0,2	.	.	.	.
13	9,5	.	12,1	6,7	3,0	2,4	.	.	0,3	.	.	0,8	.
14	.	0,3	1,8	9,0	.	1,4	.	.	0,2	.	0,1	3,5	.
15	.	4,3	6,4	.	1,2	0,1	.	.	.	.	.	7,0	.
16	.	5,8	5,7	.	.	.	1,5	3,0	0,2	.	.	0,7	.
17	0,0	0,3	0,0	0,1	1,6	.	3,4	0,8	5,2	1,8	0,0	.	.
18	.	.	.	.	1,0	.	.	0,4	1,3	.	.	.	.
19	0,0	.	.	0,0	.	.	.	3,9	.	.	.	0,0	.
20	0,0	.	3,6	1,8	1,7	.	.	2,2	.	.	.	.	.
21	.	0,4	.	.	5,9	.	.	0,4	.	0,3	.	.	.
22	.	.	0,6	.	.	.	.	3,7	3,9	0,7	.	.	.
23	.	0,9	.	.	.	.	.	99,9	.	0,3	0,0	.	.
24	.	2,2	.	.	8,5	.	2,8	1,5	5,1	3,3	4,2	.	.
25	.	0,3	.	.	0,4	.	.	.	.	0,5	1,8	.	.
26	.	.	.	11,4	.	.	.	.	0,1	.	.	.	.
27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,8	0,0	.	.	.
28	.	0,3	.	.	1,5	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,1	0,9
29	3,0	5,6	0,3	1,8	11,5	.	.	.	0,7	.	.	.	.
30	.	2,3	.	0,8	.	.	0,4	.	1,2	0,0	.	.	2,5
31	2,6	.	.	.	1,8	.	.	.	.	0,0	.	.	.
suma	12,2	48,1	41,6	59,6	68,1	72,9	14,9	33,8	34,3	19,4	16,4	28,2	9,3

Uwagi:
0,0 - ślad opadu
\ - zjawisko nie wystąpiło
1 mm = 1 litr/m²
Dobowa suma opadów jest mierzona od godz.7[00] dnia bieżącego do godz.7[00] dnia następnego.

KIEROWNIK
mgr Aleksander Wereski

1943		
grudzień	styczeń	luty	marzec
0,7	.	.	0,2
0,3	.	.	1,9
0,4	0,4	4,0	0,4
0,6	1,6	9,6	3,0
.	.	.	.
0,0	2,6	0,0	0,4
5,7	1,7	.	.
1,0	0,0	2,1	.
2,9	2,8	0,4	.
.	0,2	.	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	0,8	.
.	0,1	3,5	.
.	.	7,0	.
.	0,0	.	.
1,0	.	0,7	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	0,0	.
.	.	.	.
0,8	.	.	.
0,7	.	.	.
0,3	0,0	.	.
3,5	4,2	.	.
0,5	1,8	.	.
.	.	.	.
0,0	.	0,1	0,9
.	.	.	.
0,0	.	.	2,5
0,0	.	.	.
18,4	15,4	28,2	9,3

Document 107: Average precipitation in mm recorded at the meteorological station Tomaszów Lubelski during the period March 1942 to March 1943. Instytut Meteorologii i Gospodarki Wodnej. Państwowy Instytut Badawcy, Warsaw.



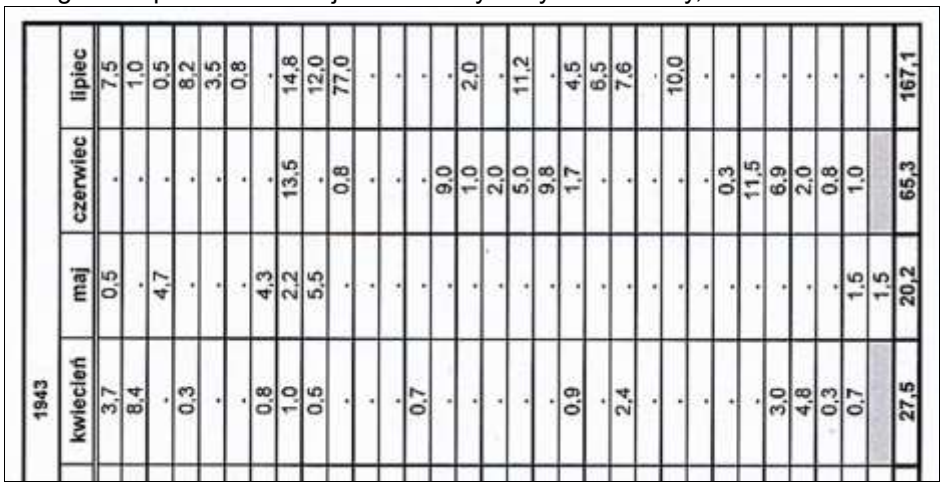
DOBOWA SUMA OPADU ATMOSFERYCZNEGO [mm]
z okresu od 1 lipca 1942 roku do 31 lipca 1943 roku
na podstawie pomiarów na stacji meteorologicznej Ostrów Mazowiecka

dzień / miesiąc	1942 lipiec	sierpień	wrzesień	październik	listopad	grudzień	1943 styczeń	luty	marzec	kwiecień	maj	czerwiec	lipiec
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,7	0,5	.	7,5
2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,5	8,4	.	.	1,0
3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,7	.	0,5
4	1,0	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,0	.	0,3	.	.	8,2
5	.	10,6	.	.	.	4,5	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,5
6	.	0,2	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,0	.	.	.	0,8
7	.	.	10,4	2,7	.	.	2,5	4,5	.	0,8	4,3	.	.
8	.	.	.	.	.	9,2	.	.	.	1,0	2,2	13,5	14,8
9	.	.	0,4	.	.	7,8	.	.	.	0,5	5,5	.	12,0
10	.	.	1,8	1,5	9,4	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,8	77,0
11	2,0	.	1,4	0,7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	2,1	.	.	0,4	.	.	0,8	.	.	.	.	.	.
13	.	8,4	.	.	.	.	.	3,5	.	0,7	.	.	.
14	8,6	8,3	.	.	.	.	.	0,6	.	.	.	9,0	.
15	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,3	.	.	.	1,0	2,5
16	.	.	0,5	.	.	.	.	0,8	.	.	.	2,0	.
17	.	.	17,5	11,2	.	2,5	0,9	.	.	.	.	5,0	11,2
18	.	.	12,3	.	0,8	.	.	.	.	.	.	9,6	.
19	3,8	.	3,2	0,6	.	.	.	0,8	.	0,9	.	1,7	4,5
20	.	.	.	2,8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,5
21	17,7	.	.	.	0,4	.	.	0,6	.	2,4	.	.	7,8
22	.	.	.	.	0,0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
23	0,9	.	.	.	0,4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10,0
24	10,0	.	2,1	1,8	1,1	3,8	5,1	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	0,3	.	.	2,2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,3	.
26	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11,9	.
27	0,4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,0	.	0,8	.
28	0,3	0,8	.	.	.	.	0,5	.	1,0	4,8	.	2,0	.
29	7,2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,3	.	0,8	.
30	.	.	.	.	9,8	.	.	.	6,5	0,7	1,5	1,0	.
31	0,3	.	.	0,3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,5	.	.
suma	61,8	29,1	49,8	24,9	13,4	27,8	9,8	24,8	9,0	27,5	20,2	65,3	197,1

Uwagi:
0,0 - ślad opadu
. - zjawisko nie wystąpiło
1 mm = 1 l/m²
Dobowa suma opadów jest mierzona od godz. 7[00] dnia bieżącego do godz. 7[00] dnia następnego.

KIEROWNIK
mgr Wincenty Wenski

Document 108: Average precipitation recorded at the meteorological station Ostrów Mazowiecka during the period July 1942 to July 1943. Instytut Meteorologii i Gospodarki Wodnej. Państwowy Instytut Badawcy, Warsaw.



1943	kwiecień	maj	czerwiec	lipiec
	3,7	0,5	.	7,5
	8,4	.	.	1,0
	.	4,7	.	0,5
	0,3	.	.	8,2
	.	.	.	3,5
	.	4,3	.	0,8
	0,8	2,2	13,5	14,8
	1,0	5,5	0,8	12,0
	0,5	.	.	77,0
	.	.	.	.
	.	.	.	.
	.	.	.	.
	.	.	.	.
	.	.	.	.
	.	.	.	.
	.	.	.	.
	0,7	.	9,0	.
	.	.	1,0	2,0
	.	.	2,0	.
	.	.	5,0	11,2
	.	.	.	.
	0,9	.	9,8	4,5
	.	.	1,7	6,5
	.	.	.	7,6
	2,4	.	.	.
	.	.	.	10,0
	.	.	.	.
	.	.	0,3	.
	.	.	11,5	.
	3,0	.	6,9	.
	4,8	.	2,0	.
	0,3	.	0,8	.
	0,7	1,5	1,0	.
		1,5		.
	27,5	20,2	65,3	167,1

Document 109: Section enlargement of Document 108 showing the months April through July 1943.

Document 110: Wood pile with snow deposit. Image in the public domain.

Archive Abbreviations

AAN	*Archiwum Akt Nowych* (Archive of New Files), Warsaw, the former *Archiwum Zakładu Historii Partii* (Archive of the Department of Party History)
AGK:	*Archiwum Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu – Instytutu Pamieci Narodowej* (Archive of the Central Commission for the Investigation of the Crimes against the Polish People – National Memorial), Warsaw
APMM:	*Archiwum Państwowego Muzeum na Majdanku* (Archive of the Majdanek State Museum), Lublin
APW:	*Archiwum Państwowie w Warszawie* (Warsaw State Archives), Warsaw
AŻIH	*Archiwum Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego* (Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute), Warsaw
GARF:	*Gosudarstvenny arkhiv Rossiyskoi Federatsii* (State Archive of the Russian Federation), Moscow
GFHA	*Ghetto Fighters House Archives*, Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetaot, Israel
HILA	*Hoover Institution Library and Archives*, Stanford, California
IMT	*Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal Nuremberg, 14 November 1945 – 1 October 1946*. Nuremberg, 1947
IMG:	*Der Prozess gegen die Hauptkriegsverbrecher vor dem internationalen Militärgerichtshof.* Nuremberg, 1947-1949
LVVA	*Latvijas Valsts Vestures Arhivs* (State Historical Archives of Latvia), Riga
NARA	*National Archives and Records Administration*, Washington, D.C.
RAS	*Riksarkivet* (Nationalarchiv), Stockholm,
SPP	*Studium Polski Podziemnej w Londynie* (Study of Clandestine Poland in London), London
TNA	*The National Archives*, Kew Richmond, Great Britain, formerly *Public Record Office*
YVA	*Yad Vashem Archives*, Jerusalem
ZStL	*Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen für die Aufklärung nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen* (Central Office of the State Justice Administrations for the Investigation of National-Socialist Crimes), Ludwigsburg, Germany

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HOLOCAUST HANDBOOKS

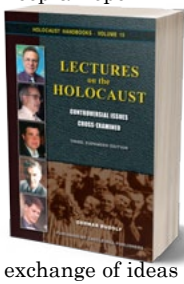
This ambitious, growing series addresses various aspects of the "Holocaust" of the WWII era. Most of them are based on decades of research from archives all over the world. They are heavily referenced. In contrast to most other works on this issue, the tomes of this series approach its topic with profound academic scrutiny and a critical attitude. Any Holocaust researcher ignoring this series will remain oblivious to some of the most important research in the field. These books are designed to both convince the common reader as well as academics. The following books have appeared so far, or are about to be released. Compare hardcopy and eBook prices at www.findbookprices.com.

SECTION ONE:
General Overviews of the Holocaust

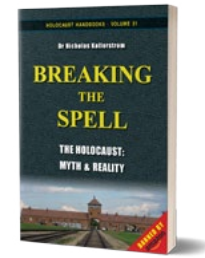
Pictured above are all of the scientific studies that comprise the series *Holocaust Handbooks* published thus far or are about to be released. More volumes and new editions are constantly in the works. Check www.HolocaustHandbooks.com for updates.

The First Holocaust. The Surprising Origin of the Six-Million Figure. By Don Heddesheimer. This compact but substantive study documents propaganda spread prior to, during and after the FIRST World War that claimed East European Jewry was on the brink of annihilation. The magic number of suffering and dying Jews was 6 million back then as well. The book details how these Jewish fund-raising operations in America raised vast sums in the name of feeding suffering Polish and Russian Jews but actually funneled much of the money to Zionist and Communist groups. 5th ed., 200 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#6)

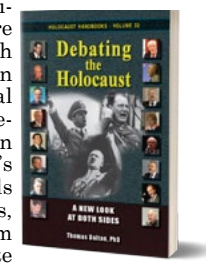
Lectures on the Holocaust. Controversial Issues Cross Examined. By Germar Rudolf. This book first explains why "the Holocaust" is an important topic, and that it is essential to keep an open mind about it. It then tells how many mainstream scholars expressed doubts and subsequently fell from grace. Next, the physical traces and documents about the various claimed crime scenes and murder weapons are discussed. After that, the reliability of witness testimony is examined. Finally, the author argues for a free exchange of ideas on this topic. This book gives the most-comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the critical research into the Holocaust. With its dialogue style, it is easy to read, and it can even be used as an encyclopedic compendium. 3rd ed., 596 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index.(#15)



Breaking the Spell. The Holocaust, Myth & Reality. By Nicholas Kollerstrom. In 1941, British Intelligence analysts cracked the German "Enigma" code. Hence, in 1942 and 1943, encrypted radio communications between German concentration camps and the Berlin headquarters were decrypted. The intercepted data refutes the orthodox "Holocaust" narrative. It reveals that the Germans were desperate to reduce the death rate in their labor camps, which was caused by catastrophic typhus epidemics. Dr. Kollerstrom, a science historian, has taken these intercepts and a wide array of mostly unchallenged corroborating evidence to show that "witness statements" supporting the human gas chamber narrative clearly clash with the available scientific data. Kollerstrom concludes that the history of the Nazi "Holocaust" has been written by the victors with ulterior motives. It is distorted, exaggerated and largely wrong. With a foreword by Prof. Dr. James Fetzer. 5th ed., 282 pages, b&w ill., bibl., index. (#31)



Debating the Holocaust. A New Look at Both Sides. By Thomas Dalton. Mainstream historians insist that there cannot be, may not be, any debate about the Holocaust. But ignoring it does not make this controversy go away. Traditional scholars admit that there was neither a budget, a plan, nor an order for the Holocaust; that the key camps have all but vanished, and so have any human remains; that material and unequivocal documentary evidence is absent; and that there are serious problems with survivor testimonies. Dalton juxtaposes the traditional Holocaust narrative with revisionist challenges and then analyzes the mainstream's responses to them. He reveals the weaknesses of both sides, while declaring revisionism the winner of the current state



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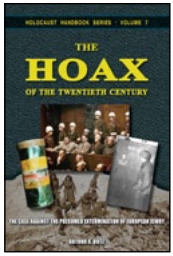
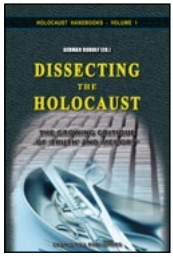
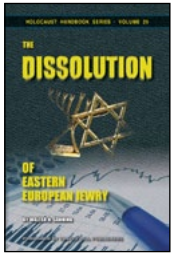
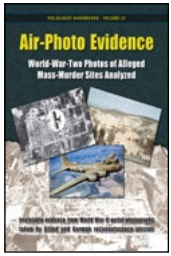
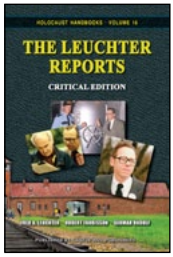
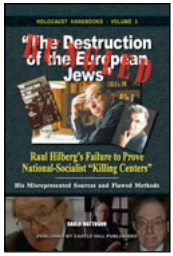












of the debate. 4th ed., 342 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#32)

The Hoax of the Twentieth Century. The Case against the Presumed Extermination of European Jewry. By Arthur R. Butz. The first writer to analyze the entire Holocaust complex in a precise scientific manner. This book exhibits the overwhelming force of arguments accumulated by the mid-1970s. Butz's two main arguments are: 1. All major entities hostile to Germany must have known what was happening to the Jews under German authority. They acted during the war as if no mass slaughter was occurring. 2. All the evidence adduced to prove any mass slaughter has a dual interpretation, while only the innocuous one can be proven to be correct. This book continues to be a major historical reference work, frequently cited by prominent personalities. This edition has numerous supplements with new information gathered over the last 35 years. 4th ed., 524 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#7)

Dissecting the Holocaust. The Growing Critique of 'Truth' and 'Memory.' Edited by Germar Rudolf. *Dissecting the Holocaust* applies state-of-the-art scientific techniques and classic methods of detection to investigate the alleged murder of millions of Jews by Germans during World War II. In 22 contributions—each of some 30 pages—the 17 authors dissect generally accepted paradigms of the "Holocaust." It reads as excitingly as a crime novel: so many lies, forgeries and deceptions by politicians, historians and scientists are proven. This is the intellectual adventure of the 21st Century. Be part of it! 3rd ed., 635 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#1)

The Dissolution of Eastern European Jewry. By Walter N. Sanning. Six Million Jews died in the Holocaust. Sanning did not take that number at face value, but thoroughly explored European population developments and shifts mainly caused by emigration as well as deportations and evacuations conducted by both Nazis and the Soviets, among other things. The book is based mainly on Jewish, Zionist and mainstream sources. It concludes that a sizeable share of the Jews found missing during local censuses after the Second World War, which were so far counted as "Holocaust victims," had either emigrated (mainly to Israel or the U.S.) or had been deported by Stalin to Siberian labor camps. 2nd ed., foreword by A.R. Butz, epilogue by Germar Rudolf containing important updates; 224 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography (#29).

Air-Photo Evidence: World-War-Two Photos of Alleged Mass-Murder Sites Analyzed. By Germar Rudolf (editor). During World War Two both German and Allied reconnaissance aircraft took countless air photos of places of tactical and strategic interest in Europe. These photos are prime evidence for the investigation of the Holocaust. Air photos of locations like Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka, Babi Yar etc. permit an insight into what did or did not happen there. The author has unearthed many pertinent photos and has thoroughly analyzed them. This book is full of air-photo reproductions and schematic drawings explaining them. According to the author, these images refute many of the atrocity claims made by witnesses in connection with events in the German sphere of influence. 6th edition; with a contribution by Carlo Mattogno. 167 pages, 8.5"×11", b&w illustrations, bibliography, index (#27).

The Leuchter Reports: Critical Edition. By Fred Leuchter, Robert Faurisson and Germar Rudolf. Between 1988 and 1991, U.S. expert on execution technologies Fred Leuchter wrote four reports on whether the Third Reich operated homicidal gas chambers. The first on Auschwitz and Majdanek became world-famous. Based on various arguments, Leuchter concluded that the locations investigated could never have been "utilized or seriously considered to function as execution gas chambers." The second report deals with gas-chamber claims for the camps Dachau, Mauthausen and Hartheim, while the third reviews design criteria and operation procedures of execution gas chambers in the U.S. The fourth report reviews Pressac's 1989 tome about Auschwitz. 4th ed., 252 pages, b&w illustrations. (#16)

Bungled: "The Destruction of the European Jews". Raul Hilberg's Failure to Prove National-Socialist "Killing Centers." By Carlo Mattogno. Raul Hilberg's magnum opus *The Destruction of the European Jews* is an orthodox standard work on the Holocaust. But how does Hilberg support his thesis that Jews were murdered *en masse*? He rips documents out of their context, distorts their content, misinterprets their meaning, and ignores entire archives. He only refers to "useful" witnesses, quotes fragments out of context, and conceals the fact that his witnesses are lying through their teeth. Lies and deceits permeate Hil-

berg's book, 302 pages, bibliography, index. (#3)

Jewish Emigration from the Third Reich. By Ingrid Weckert. Current historical writings about the Third Reich claim state it was difficult for Jews to flee from Nazi persecution. The truth is that Jewish emigration was welcomed by the German authorities. Emigration was not some kind of wild flight, but rather a lawfully determined and regulated matter. Weckert's booklet elucidates the emigration process in law and policy. She shows that German and Jewish authorities worked closely together. Jews interested in emigrating received detailed advice and offers of help from both sides. 2nd ed., 130 pages, index. (#12)

Inside the Gas Chambers: The Extermination of Mainstream Holocaust Historiography. By Carlo Mattogno. Neither increased media propaganda or political pressure nor judicial persecution can stifle revisionism. Hence, in early 2011, the Holocaust Orthodoxy published a 400-page book (in German) claiming to refute "revisionist propaganda," trying again to prove "once and for all" that there were homicidal gas chambers at the camps of Dachau, Natzweiler, Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, Ravensbrück, Neuengamme, Stutthof… you name them. Mattogno shows with his detailed analysis of this work of propaganda that mainstream Holocaust hagiography is beating around the bush rather than addressing revisionist research results. He exposes their myths, distortions and lies. 2nd ed., 280 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#25)

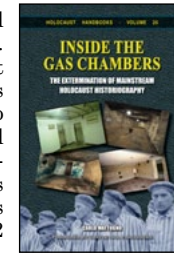
SECTION TWO:
Specific non-Auschwitz Studies

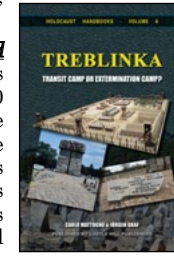
Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp? By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. It is alleged that at Treblinka in East Poland between 700,000 and 3,000,000 persons were murdered in 1942 and 1943. The weapons used were said to have been stationary and/or mobile gas chambers, fast-acting or slow-acting poison gas, unslaked lime, superheated steam, electricity, Diesel-exhaust fumes etc. Holocaust historians alleged that bodies were piled as high as multi-storied buildings and burned without a trace, using little or no fuel at all. Graf and Mattogno have now analyzed the origins, logic and technical feasibility of the official version of Treblinka. On the basis of numerous documents they reveal Treblinka's true identity as a mere transit camp. 3rd ed., 384 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#8)

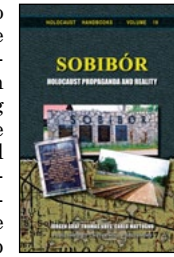
Belzec: Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research and History. By Carlo Mattogno. Witnesses report that between 600,000 and 3 million Jews were murdered in the Belzec Camp, located in Poland. Various murder weapons are claimed to have been used: Diesel-exhaust gas; unslaked lime in trains; high voltage; vacuum chambers; etc. The corpses were incinerated on huge pyres without leaving a trace. For those who know the stories about Treblinka this sounds familiar. Thus the author has restricted this study to the aspects which are new compared to Treblinka. In contrast to Treblinka, forensic drillings and excavations were performed at Belzec, the results of which are critically reviewed. 142 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#9)

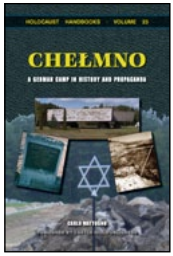
Sobibor: Holocaust Propaganda and Reality. By Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues and Carlo Mattogno. Between 25,000 and 2 million Jews are said to have been killed in gas chambers in the Sobibór camp in Poland. The corpses were allegedly buried in mass graves and later incinerated on pyres. This book investigates these claims and shows that they are based on the selective use of contradictory eyewitness testimony. Archeological surveys of the camp are analyzed that started in 2000-2001 and carried on until 2018. The book also documents the general National-Socialist policy toward Jews, which never included a genocidal "final solution." 2nd ed., 456 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#19)

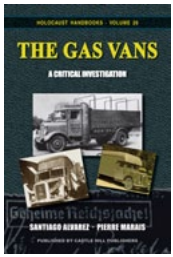
The "Operation Reinhardt" Camps Treblinka, Sobibór, Bełżec. By Carlo Mattogno. As an update and upgrade to the Volumes 8, 9 and 19 of this series, this study has its first focus on witness testimonies recorded during the World War II and the immediate post-war era, many of them discussed here for the first time, thus demonstrating how the myth of the "extermination camps" was created. The second part of this book brings us up to speed with the various archeological efforts made by mainstream scholars in their attempt to prove that the myth based on testimonies is true. The third part compares the findings of the second part with what we ought to expect, and reveals the chasm that exists between archeologically proven facts and mythological requirements. 402 pages, illustrations, bibliography, index. (#28)

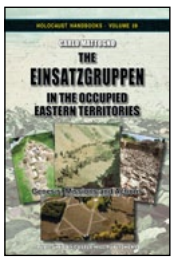


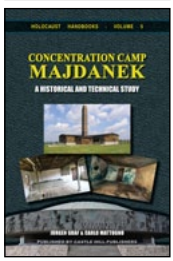


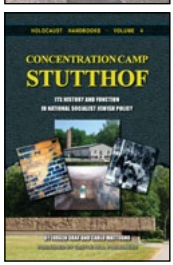












Chelmno: A Camp in History & Propaganda. By Carlo Mattogno. At Chelmno, huge masses of Jewish prisoners are said to have been gassed in "gas vans" or shot (claims vary from 10,000 to 1.3 million victims). This study covers the subject from every angle, undermining the orthodox claims about the camp with an overwhelmingly effective body of evidence. Eyewitness statements, gas wagons as extermination weapons, forensics reports and excavations, German documents—all come under Mattogno's scrutiny. Here are the uncensored facts about Chelmno, not the propaganda. 2nd ed., 188 pages, indexed, illustrated, bibliography. (#23)

The Gas Vans: A Critical Investigation. By Santiago Alvarez and Pierre Marais. It is alleged that the Nazis used mobile gas chambers to exterminate 700,000 people. Up until 2011, no thorough monograph had appeared on the topic. Santiago Alvarez has remedied the situation. Are witness statements believable? Are documents genuine? Where are the murder weapons? Could they have operated as claimed? Where are the corpses? In order to get to the truth of the matter, Alvarez has scrutinized all known wartime documents and photos about this topic; he has analyzed a huge amount of witness statements as published in the literature and as presented in more than 30 trials held over the decades in Germany, Poland and Israel; and he has examined the claims made in the pertinent mainstream literature. The result of his research is mind-boggling. Note: This book and Mattogno's book on Chelmno were edited in parallel to make sure they are consistent and not repetitive. 398 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#26)

The Einsatzgruppen in the Occupied Eastern Territories: Genesis, Missions and Actions. By C. Mattogno. Before invading the Soviet Union, the German authorities set up special units meant to secure the area behind the German front. Orthodox historians claim that these units called *Einsatzgruppen* primarily engaged in rounding up and mass-murdering Jews. This study sheds a critical light onto this topic by reviewing all the pertinent sources as well as material traces. It reveals on the one hand that original war-time documents do not fully support the orthodox genocidal narrative, and on the other that most post-"liberation" sources such as testimonies and forensic reports are steeped in Soviet atrocity propaganda and are thus utterly unreliable. In addition, material traces of the claimed massacres are rare due to an attitude of collusion by governments and Jewish lobby groups. 830 pp., b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#39)

Concentration Camp Majdanek. A Historical and Technical Study. By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. At war's end, the Soviets claimed that up to two million Jews were murdered at the Majdanek Camp in seven gas chambers. Over the decades, however, the Majdanek Museum reduced the death toll three times to currently 78,000, and admitted that there were "only" two gas chambers. By exhaustively researching primary sources, the authors expertly dissect and repudiate the myth of homicidal gas chambers at that camp. They also critically investigated the legend of mass executions of Jews in tank trenches and prove it groundless. Again they have produced a standard work of methodical investigation which authentic historiography cannot ignore. 3rd ed., 358 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#5)

Concentration Camp Stutthof and Its Function in National Socialist Jewish Policy. By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. Orthodox historians claim that the Stutthof Camp served as a "makeshift" extermination camp in 1944. Based mainly on archival resources, this study thoroughly debunks this view and shows that Stutthof was in fact a center for the organization of German forced labor toward the end of World War II. 4th ed., 170 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#4)

SECTION THREE:
Auschwitz Studies

The Making of the Auschwitz Myth: Auschwitz in British Intercepts, Polish Underground Reports and Postwar Testimonies (1941-1947). By Carlo Mattogno. Using messages sent by the Polish underground to London, SS radio messages sent to and from Auschwitz that were intercepted and decrypted by the British, and a plethora of witness statements made during the war and in the immediate postwar period, the author shows how exactly the myth of mass murder in Auschwitz gas chambers was created, and how it was turned subsequently into "history" by intellectually corrupt scholars who cherry-picked claims that fit into their agenda and ignored or actively covered up literally thousands of lies of "witnesses" to make their narrative look credible. 2nd edi-

tion, 514 pp., b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#41)

The Real Case of Auschwitz: Robert van Pelt's Evidence from the Irving Trial Critically Reviewed. By Carlo Mattogno. Prof. Robert van Pelt is considered one of the best mainstream experts on Auschwitz. He became famous when appearing as an expert during the London libel trial of David Irving against Deborah Lipstadt. From it resulted a book titled *The Case for Auschwitz*, in which van Pelt laid out his case for the existence of homicidal gas chambers at that camp. This book is a scholarly response to Prof. van Pelt—and Jean-Claude Pressac, upon whose books van Pelt's study is largely based. Mattogno lists all the evidence van Pelt adduces, and shows one by one that van Pelt misrepresented and misinterpreted every single one of them. This is a book of prime political and scholarly importance to those looking for the truth about Auschwitz. 3rd ed., 692 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary, bibliography, index. (#22)

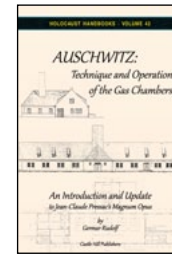
Auschwitz: Plain Facts: A Response to Jean-Claude Pressac. Edited by Germar Rudolf, with contributions by Serge Thion, Robert Faurisson and Carlo Mattogno. French pharmacist Jean-Claude Pressac tried to refute revisionist findings with the "technical" method. For this he was praised by the mainstream, and they proclaimed victory over the "revisionists." In his book, Pressac's works and claims are shown to be unscientific in nature, as he never substantiates what he claims, and historically false, because he systematically misrepresents, misinterprets and misunderstands German wartime documents. 2nd ed., 226 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary bibliography, index. (#14)

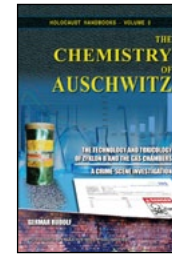
Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers: An Introduction and Update. By Germar Rudolf. Pressac's 1989 oversize book of the same title was a trail blazer. Its many document reproductions are still valuable, but after decades of additional research, Pressac's annotations are outdated. This book summarizes the most pertinent research results on Auschwitz gained during the past 30 years. With many references to Pressac's epic tome, it serves as an update and correction to it, whether you own an original hard copy of it, read it online, borrow it from a library, purchase a reprint, or are just interested in such a summary in general. 144 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography. (#42)

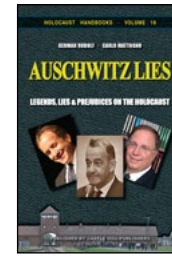
The Chemistry of Auschwitz: The Technology and Toxicology of Zyklon B and the Gas Chambers – A Crime-Scene Investigation. By Germar Rudolf. This study documents forensic research on Auschwitz, where material traces and their interpretation reign supreme. Most of the claimed crime scenes – the claimed homicidal gas chambers – are still accessible to forensic examination to some degree. This book addresses questions such as: How were these gas chambers configured? How did they operate? In addition, the infamous Zyklon B can also be examined. What exactly was it? How does it kill? Does it leave traces in masonry that can be found still today? The author also discusses in depth similar forensic research conducted by other scholars. 4th ed., 454 pages, more than 120 color and over 100 b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#2)

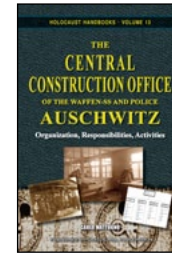
Auschwitz Lies: Legends, Lies and Prejudices on the Holocaust. By Carlo Mattogno and Germar Rudolf. The fallacious research and alleged "refutation" of Revisionist scholars by French biochemist G. Wellers (attacking Leuchter's famous report), Polish chemist Dr. J. Markiewicz and U.S. chemist Dr. Richard Green (taking on Rudolf's chemical research), Dr. John Zimmerman (tackling Mattogno on cremation issues), Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman (trying to prove it all), as well as researchers Keren, McCarthy and Mazal (who turned cracks into architectural features), are exposed for what they are: blatant and easily exposed political lies created to ostracize dissident historians. 4th ed., 420 pages, b&w illustrations, index. (#18)

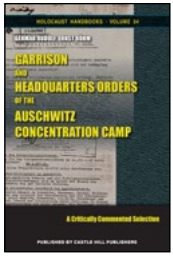
Auschwitz: The Central Construction Office. By Carlo Mattogno. Ever since the Russian authorities granted western historians access to their state archives in the early 1990s, the files of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz, stored in a Moscow archive, have attracted the attention of scholars who are researching the history of this most infamous of all German war-time camps. Despite this interest, next to nothing has really been known so far about this very important office, which was responsible for the planning and construction of the Auschwitz camp complex, including the crematories which are said to have contained the "gas chambers." This emphasizes the importance of the present study, which not only sheds light into this hitherto hidden

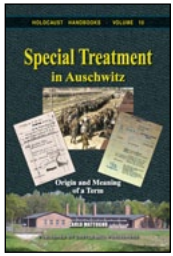


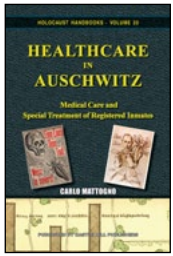


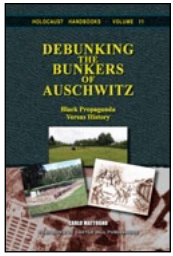


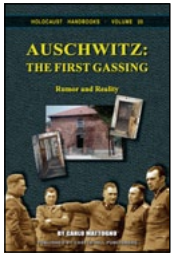












aspect of this camp's history, but also provides a deep understanding of the organization, tasks, and procedures of this office. 2nd ed., 188 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary, index. (#13)

Garrison and Headquarters Orders of the Auschwitz Camp. By Germar Rudolf and Ernst Böhm. A large number of all the orders ever issued by the various commanders of the infamous Auschwitz camp have been preserved. They reveal the true nature of the camp with all its daily events. There is not a trace in these orders pointing at anything sinister going on in this camp. Quite to the contrary, many orders are in clear and insurmountable contradiction to claims that prisoners were mass murdered, such as the children of SS men playing with inmates, SS men taking friends for a sight-seeing tour through the camp, or having a romantic stroll with their lovers around the camp grounds. This is a selection of the most pertinent of these orders together with comments putting them into their proper historical context. 185 pages, b&w ill., bibl., index (#34)

Special Treatment in Auschwitz: Origin and Meaning of a Term. By Carlo Mattogno. When appearing in German wartime documents, terms like "special treatment," "special action," and others have been interpreted as code words for mass murder. But that is not always true. This study focuses on documents about Auschwitz, showing that, while "special" had many different meanings, not a single one meant "execution." Hence the practice of deciphering an alleged "code language" by assigning homicidal meaning to harmless documents – a key component of mainstream historiography – is untenable. 2nd ed., 166 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#10)

Healthcare at Auschwitz. By Carlo Mattogno. In extension of the above study on *Special Treatment in Auschwitz*, this study proves the extent to which the German authorities at Auschwitz tried to provide health care for the inmates. Part 1 of this book analyzes the inmates' living conditions and the various sanitary and medical measures implemented. Part 2 explores what happened to registered inmates who were "selected" or subject to "special treatment" while disabled or sick. This study shows that a lot was tried to cure these inmates, especially under the aegis of Garrison Physician Dr. Wirths. Part 3 is dedicated to this very Dr. Wirths. His reality refutes the current stereotype of SS officers. 398 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#33)

Debunking the Bunkers of Auschwitz: Black Propaganda vs. History. By Carlo Mattogno. The "bunkers" at Auschwitz, two former farmhouses just outside the camp's perimeter, are claimed to have been the first homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz specifically equipped for this purpose. With the help of original German wartime files as well as revealing air photos taken by Allied reconnaissance aircraft in 1944, this study shows that these homicidal "bunkers" never existed, how the rumors about them evolved as black propaganda created by resistance groups in the camp, and how this propaganda was transformed into a false reality. 2nd ed., 292 pages, b&w ill., bibliography, index. (#11)

Auschwitz: The First Gassing. Rumor and Reality. By Carlo Mattogno. The first gassing in Auschwitz is claimed to have occurred on Sept. 3, 1941 in a basement. The accounts reporting it are the archetypes for all later gassing accounts. This study analyzes all available sources about this alleged event. It shows that these sources contradict each other about the event's location, date, the kind of victims and their number, and many more aspects, which makes it impossible to extract a consistent story. Original wartime documents inflict a final blow to this legend and prove without a shadow of a doubt that this legendary event never happened. 3rd ed., 190 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#20)

Auschwitz: Crematorium I and the Alleged Homicidal Gassings. By Carlo Mattogno. The morgue of Crematorium I in Auschwitz is said to be the first homicidal gas chamber there. This study investigates all statements by witnesses and analyzes hundreds of wartime documents to accurately write a history of that building. Where witnesses speak of gassings, they are either very vague or, if specific, contradict one another and are refuted by documented and material facts. The author also exposes the fraudulent attempts of mainstream historians to convert the witnesses' black propaganda into "truth" by means of selective quotes, omissions, and distortions. Mattogno proves that this building's morgue was never a homicidal gas chamber, nor could it have worked as such. 2nd ed., 152 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#21)

Auschwitz: Open-Air Incinerations. By Carlo Mattogno. In spring and summer of 1944, 400,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz and allegedly murdered there in gas chambers. The Auschwitz crematoria are said to have been unable to cope with so many corpses. Therefore, every single day thousands of corpses are claimed to have been incinerated on huge pyres lit in deep trenches. The sky over Auschwitz was filled with thick smoke. This is what some witnesses want us to believe. This book examines the many testimonies regarding these incinerations and establishes whether these claims were even possible. Using air photos, physical evidence and wartime documents, the author shows that these claims are fiction. A new Appendix contains 3 papers on groundwater levels and cattle mass burnings. 2nd ed., 202 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#17)

The Cremation Furnaces of Auschwitz. By Carlo Mattogno & Franco Deana. An exhaustive study of the early history and technology of cremation in general and of the cremation furnaces of Auschwitz in particular. On a vast base of technical literature, extant wartime documents and material traces, the authors can establish the true nature and capacity of the Auschwitz cremation furnaces. They show that these devices were inferior makeshift versions of what was usually produced, and that their capacity to cremate corpses was lower than normal, too. This demonstrates that the Auschwitz crematoria were not evil facilities of mass destruction, but normal installations that barely managed to handle the victims among the inmates who died of various epidemics ravaging the camp throught its history. 3 vols., 1198 pages, b&w and color illustrations (vols 2 & 3), bibliography, index, glossary. (#24)

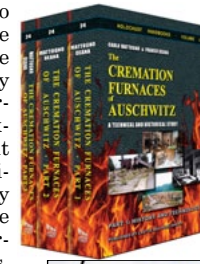
Curated Lies: The Auschwitz Museum's Misrepresentations, Distortions and Deceptions. By Carlo Mattogno. Revisionist research results have put the Polish Auschwitz Museum under pressure to answer this challenge. In 2014, they answered with a book presenting documents allegedly proving their claims. But they cheated. In its main section, this study analyzes their "evidence" and reveals the appallingly mendacious attitude of the Auschwitz Museum authorities when presenting documents from their archives. This is preceded by a section focusing on the Auschwitz Museum's most-coveted asset: the alleged gas chamber inside the Old Crematorium, toured every year by well over a million visitors. *Curated Lies* exposes the many ways in which visitors have been deceived and misled by forgeries and misrepresentations about this building committed by the Auschwitz Museum, some of which are maintained to this day. 2nd ed., 259 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#38)

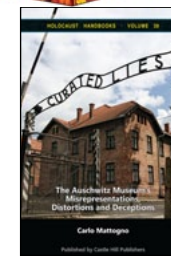
Deliveries of Coke, Wood and Zyklon B to Auschwitz: Neither Proof Nor Trace for the Holocaust. By Carlo Mattogno. Researchers from the Auschwitz Museum tried to prove the reality of mass extermination by pointing to documents about deliveries of wood and coke as well as Zyklon B to the Auschwitz Camp. If put into the actual historical and technical context, however, as is done by this study, these documents prove the exact opposite of what those orthodox researchers claim. 184 pages, b&w illust., bibl., index. (#40)

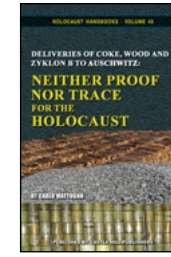
SECTION FOUR: Witness Critique

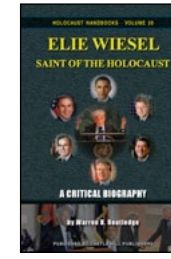
Elie Wiesel, Saint of the Holocaust: A Critical Biography. By Warren B. Routledge. The world's first independent biography of Elie Wiesel shines the light of truth on this mythomaniac who has transformed the word "Holocaust" into the brand name of the world's greatest hoax. Here, both Wiesel's personal deceits and the whole myth of "the six million" are laid bare for the reader's perusal. It shows how Zionist control of the U.S. Government as well as the nation's media and academic apparatus has allowed Wiesel and his fellow extremists to force a string of U.S. presidents to genuflect before this imposter as symbolic acts of subordination to World Jewry, while simultaneously forcing school children to submit to Holocaust brainwashing by their teachers. 3rd ed., 458 pages, b&w illustration, bibliography, index. (#30)

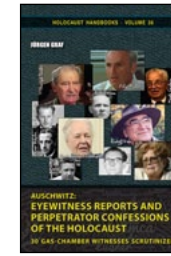
Auschwitz: Eyewitness Reports and Perpetrator Confessions. By Jürgen Graf. The traditional narrative of what transpired at the infamous Auschwitz Camp during WWII rests almost exclusively on witness testimony. This study critically scrutinizes the 30 most-important of them by checking them for internal coherence, and by comparing them with one another as well as with other evidence such as wartime documents, air photos, forensic research results, and material traces. The result is devastating for the traditional narrative. 372 pages, b&w illust., bibl., index. (#36)











Commandant of Auschwitz: Rudolf Höss, His Torture and His Forced Confessions. By Carlo Mattogno & Rudolf Höss. From 1940 to 1943, Rudolf Höss was the commandant of the infamous Auschwitz Camp. After the war, he was captured by the British. In the following 13 months until his execution, he made 85 depositions of various kinds in which he confessed his involvement in the "Holocaust." This study first reveals how the British tortured him to extract various "confessions." Next, all of Höss's depositions are analyzed by checking his claims for internal consistency and comparing them with established historical facts. The results are eye-opening… 2nd ed., 411 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#35)

An Auschwitz Doctor's Eyewitness Account: The Tall Tales of Dr. Mengele's Assistant Analyzed. By Miklos Nyiszli & Carlo Mattogno. Nyiszli, a Hungarian physician, ended up at Auschwitz in 1944 as Dr. Mengele's assistant. After the war he wrote a book and several other writings describing what he claimed to have experienced. To this day some traditional historians take his accounts seriously, while others reject them as grotesque lies and exaggerations. This study presents and analyzes Nyiszli's writings and skillfully separates truth from fabulous fabrication. 2nd ed., 484 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#37)

Rudolf Reder versus Kurt Gerstein: Two False Testimonies on the Bełżec Camp Analyzed. By Carlo Mattogno. Only two witnesses have ever testified substantially about the alleged Belzec Extermination Camp: The survivor Rudolf Reder and the SS officer Kurt Gerstein. Gerstein's testimonies have been a hotspot of revisionist critique for decades. It is now discredited even among orthodox historians. They use Reder's testimony to fill the void, yet his testimonies are just as absurd. This study thoroughly scrutinizes Reder's various statements, critically revisits Gerstein's various depositions, and then compares these two testimonies which are at once similar in some respects, but incompatible in others. 216 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#43)

Sonderkommando Auschwitz I: Nine Eyewitness Testimonies Analyzed. By Carlo Mattogno. To this day, the 1979 book *Auschwitz Inferno* by former Auschwitz inmate and alleged *Sonderkommando* member Filip Müller has a great influence both on the public perception of Auschwitz and on historians trying to probe this camp's history. This book critically analyzes Müller's various post-war statements, which are full of exaggerations, falsehoods and plagiarized text passages. The author also scrutinizes the testimonies of eight other former *Sonderkommando* members with similarly lacking penchants for exactitude and truth: Dov Paisikovic, Stanisław Jankowski, Henryk Mandelbaum, Ludwik Nagraba, Joshuah Rosenblum, Aaron Pilo, David Fliamenbaum and Samij Karolinskij. 300 pages, b&w illust., bibliography, index. (#44)

Future Projects

The following projects are in various stages of research/writing/editing/translation. The titles listed and the contents summarized are tentative. These projects do not have timelines yet:

The Dachau Concentration Camp. By Carlo Mattogno. Dachau is one of the most-notorious Third-Reich camps. It's about time revisionists gave it their full attention.

Sonderkommando Auschwitz II: The False Testimonies by Henryk Tauber and Szlama Dragon. By Carlo Mattogno. These two witnesses are held in high esteem among the orthodoxy for their tales about Auschwitz: Tauber on Crema II and Dragon on the "bunkers." This study dispels the notion that these witnesses' tales are worth any more than the paper they are written on.

The "Aktion Reinhardt" Camps Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka: Black Propaganda, Archeological Research, Material Evidence. By Carlo Mattogno. The existing three books of the present series on each camp are all outdated, but updating them would lead to much overlap. Hence a new book with all the new insights.

Mis-Chronicling Auschwitz: Danuta Czech's Flawed Methods, Misrepresentations and Deceptions in Her Auschwitz Chronicle. By Carlo Mattogno. Danuta Czech's *Auschwitz Chronicle* is a reference book for the history of Auschwitz. Mattogno has compiled a long list of misrepresentations, outright lies and deceptions contained in it. This mega-fraud needs to be retired from the ranks of Auschwitz sources.

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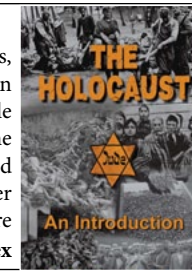
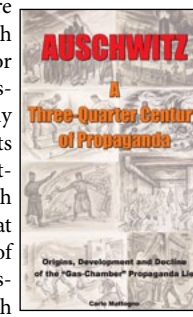
Thomas Dalton, *The Holocaust: An Introduction*



The Holocaust was perhaps the greatest crime of the 20th Century. Six million Jews, we are told, died by gassing, shooting, and deprivation. But: Where did the six-million figure come from? How, exactly, did the gas chambers work? Why do we have so little physical evidence from major death camps? Why haven't we found even a fraction of the six million bodies, or their ashes? Why has there been so much media suppression and governmental censorship on this topic? In a sense, the Holocaust is the greatest murder mystery in history. It is a topic of greatest importance for the present day. Let's explore the evidence, and see where it leads.

128 pp. pb, 5"×8", ill., bibl., index

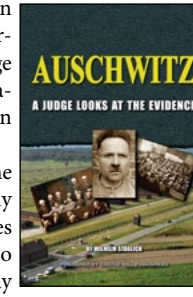
Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz: A Three-Quarter Century of Propaganda: Origins, Development and Decline of the "Gas Chamber" Propaganda Lie*



During the war, wild rumors were circulating about Auschwitz: that the Germans were testing new war gases; that inmates were murdered in electrocution chambers, with gas showers or pneumatic hammer systems; that living people were sent on conveyor belts directly into cremation furnaces; that oils, grease and soap were made of the mass-murder victims. Nothing of it was true. When the Soviets captured Auschwitz in early 1945, they reported that 4 million inmates were killed on electrocution conveyor belts discharging their load directly into furnaces. That wasn't true either. After the war, "witnesses" and "experts" repeated these things and added more fantasies: mass murder with gas bombs, gas chambers made of canvas; carts driving living people into furnaces; that the crematoria of Auschwitz could have cremated 400 million victims… Again, none of it was true. This book gives an overview of the many rumors, myths and lies about Auschwitz which mainstream historians today reject as untrue. It then explains by which ridiculous methods some claims about Auschwitz were accepted as true and turned into "history," although they are just as untrue.

125 pp. pb, 5"×8", ill., bibl., index, b&w ill.

Wilhelm Stäglich, *Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence*



Auschwitz is the epicenter of the Holocaust, where more people are said to have been murdered than anywhere else. At this detention camp the industrialized Nazi mass murder is said to have reached its demonic pinnacle. This narrative is based on a wide range of evidence, the most important of which was presented during two trials: the International Military Tribunal of 1945/46, and the German Auschwitz Trial of 1963-1965 in Frankfurt.

The late Wilhelm Stäglich, until the mid-1970s a German judge, has so far been the only legal expert to critically analyze this evidence. His research reveals the incredibly scandalous way in which the Allied victors and later the German judicial authorities bent and broke the law in order to come to politically foregone conclusions. Stäglich also exposes the shockingly superficial way in which historians are dealing with the many incongruities and discrepancies of the historical record.

3rd edition 2015, 422 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

Gerard Menuhin: *Tell the Truth & Shame the Devil*

A prominent Jew from a famous family says the "Holocaust" is a wartime propaganda myth which has turned into an extortion racket. Far from bearing the sole guilt for starting WWII as alleged at Nuremberg (for which many of the surviving German leaders were hanged) Germany is mostly innocent in this respect and made numerous attempts to avoid and later to end the confrontation. During the 1930s Germany was confronted by a powerful Jewish-dominated world plutocracy out to destroy it… Yes, a prominent Jew says all this. Accept it or reject it, but be sure to read it and judge for yourself!

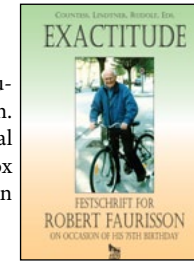
The author is the son of the great American-born violinist Yehudi Menuhin, who, though from a long line of rabbinical ancestors, fiercely criticized the foreign policy of the state of Israel and its repression of the Palestinians in the Holy Land.

4th edition 2017, 432 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Robert H. Countess, Christian Lindtner, Germar Rudolf (eds.),

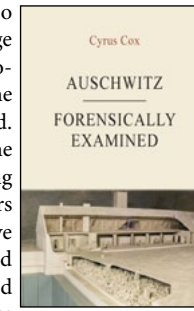
***Exactitude:** Festschrift for Prof. Dr. Robert Faurisson*



On January 25, 1929, a man was born who probably deserves the title of the most-courageous intellectual of the 20th Century and the early 21st Century: Robert Faurisson. With bravery and steadfastness, he challenged the dark forces of historical and political fraud with his unrelenting exposure of their lies and hoaxes surrounding the orthodox Holocaust narrative. This book describes and celebrates the man, who passed away on October 21, 2018, and his work dedicated to accuracy and marked by insubmission.

146 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

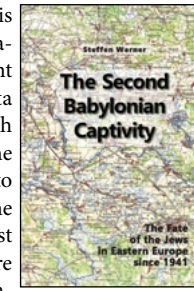
Cyrus Cox, ***Auschwitz – Forensically Examined***



It is amazing what modern forensic crime-scene investigations can reveal. This is also true for the Holocaust. There are many big tomes about this, such as Rudolf's 400+ page book on *The Chemistry of Auschwitz*, or Mattogno's 1200-page work on the crematoria of Auschwitz. But who reads those doorstops? Here is a booklet that condenses the most-important findings of Auschwitz forensics into a nutshell, quick and easy to read. In the first section, the forensic investigations conducted so far are reviewed. In the second section, the most-important results of these studies are summarized, making them accessible to everyone. The main arguments focus on two topics. The first centers around the poison allegedly used at Auschwitz for mass murder: Zyklon B. Did it leave any traces in masonry where it was used? Can it be detected to this day? The second topic deals with mass cremations. Did the crematoria of Auschwitz have the claimed huge capacity claimed for them? Do air photos taken during the war confirm witness statements on huge smoking pyres? Find the answers to these questions in this booklet, together with many references to source material and further reading. The third section reports on how the establishment has reacted to these research results.

124 pp. pb., 5"×8", b&w ill., bibl., index

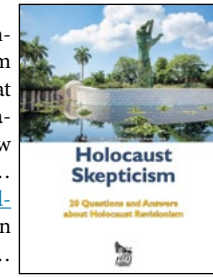
Steffen Werner, ***The Second Babylonian Captivity:** The Fate of the Jews in Eastern Europe since 1941*



"But if they were not murdered, where did the six million deported Jews end up?" This is a standard objection to the revisionist thesis that the Jews were not killed in extermination camps. It demands a well-founded response. While researching an entirely different topic, Steffen Werner accidentally stumbled upon the most-peculiar demographic data of Byelorussia. Years of research subsequently revealed more and more evidence which eventually allowed him to substantiate a breathtaking and sensational proposition: The Third Reich did indeed deport many of the Jews of Europe to Eastern Europe in order to settle them there "in the swamp." This book, first published in German in 1990, was the first well-founded work showing what really happened to the Jews deported to the East by the National Socialists, how they have fared since, and who, what and where they are "now" (1990). It provides context and purpose for hitherto-obscure and seemingly random historical events and quite obviates all need for paranormal events such as genocide, gas chambers, and all their attendant horrifics. With a preface by Germar Rudolf with references to more-recent research results in this field of study confirming Werner's thesis.

190 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill., bibl., index

Germar Rudolf, ***Holocaust Skepticism:** 20 Questions and Answers about Holocaust Revisionism*

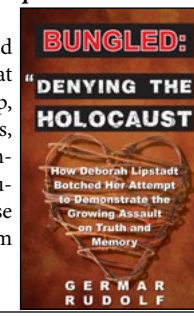


This 15-page brochure introduces the novice to the concept of Holocaust revisionism, and answers 20 tough questions, among them: What does Holocaust revisionism claim? Why should I take Holocaust revisionism more seriously than the claim that the earth is flat? How about the testimonies by survivors and confessions by perpetrators? What about the pictures of corpse piles in the camps? Why does it matter how many Jews were killed by the Nazis, since even 1,000 would have been too many? … Glossy full-color brochure. PDF file free of charge available at www.HolocaustHandbooks.com, Option "Promotion". This item is *not* copyright-protected. Hence, you can do with it whatever you want: download, post, email, print, multiply, hand out, sell…

15 pp., stapled, 8.5"×11", full-color throughout

For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Germar Rudolf, ***Bungled: "Denying the Holocaust"*** *How Deborah Lipstadt Botched Her Attempt to Demonstrate the Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*



With her book *Denying the Holocaust*, Deborah Lipstadt tried to show the flawed methods and extremist motives of "Holocaust deniers." This book demonstrates that Dr. Lipstadt clearly has neither understood the principles of science and scholarship, nor has she any clue about the historical topics she is writing about. She misquotes, mistranslates, misrepresents, misinterprets, and makes a plethora of wild claims without backing them up with anything. Rather than dealing thoroughly with factual arguments, Lipstadt's book is full of *ad hominem* attacks on her opponents. It is an exercise in anti-intellectual pseudo-scientific arguments, an exhibition of ideological radicalism that rejects anything which contradicts its preset conclusions. **F for FAIL**

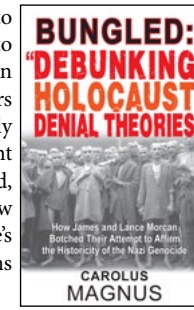
2nd ed., 224 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Carolus Magnus, ***Bungled: "Denying History".*** *How Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman Botched Their Attempt to Refute Those Who Say the Holocaust Never Happened*

Skeptic Magazine editor Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman from the Simon Wiesenthal Center wrote a book in 2000 which they claim is "a thorough and thoughtful answer to all the claims of the Holocaust deniers." In 2009, a new "updated" edition appeared with the same ambitious goal. In the meantime, revisionists had published some 10,000 pages of archival and forensic research results. Would their updated edition indeed answer all the revisionist claims? In fact, Shermer and Grobman completely ignored the vast amount of recent scholarly studies and piled up a heap of falsifications, contortions, omissions, and fallacious interpretations of the evidence. Finally, what the authors claim to have demolished is not revisionism but a ridiculous parody of it. They ignored the known unreliability of their cherry-picked selection of evidence, utilizing unverified and incestuous sources, and obscuring the massive body of research and all the evidence that dooms their project to failure. **F for FAIL**

162 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

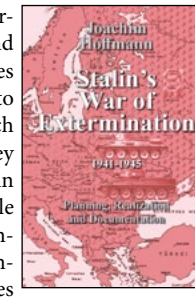
Carolus Magnus, ***Bungled: "Debunking Holocaust Denial Theories".*** *How James and Lance Morcan Botched Their Attempt to Affirm the Historicity of the Nazi Genocide*



The novelists and movie-makers James and Lance Morcan have produced a book "to end [Holocaust] denial once and for all." To do this, "no stone was left unturned" to verify historical assertions by presenting "a wide array of sources" meant "to shut down the debate deniers wish to create. One by one, the various arguments Holocaust deniers use to try to discredit wartime records are carefully scrutinized and then systematically disproven." It's a lie. First, the Morcans completely ignored the vast amount of recent scholarly studies published by revisionists; they didn't even mention them. Instead, they engaged in shadowboxing, creating some imaginary, bogus "revisionist" scarecrow which they then tore to pieces. In addition, their knowledge even of their own side's source material was dismal, and the way they backed up their misleading or false claims was pitifully inadequate. **F for FAIL.**

144 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Joachim Hoffmann, ***Stalin's War of Extermination 1941-1945***



A German government historian documents Stalin's murderous war against the German army and the German people. Based on the author's lifelong study of German and Russian military records, this book reveals the Red Army's grisly record of atrocities against soldiers and civilians, as ordered by Stalin. Since the 1920s, Stalin planned to invade Western Europe to initiate the "World Revolution." He prepared an attack which was unparalleled in history. The Germans noticed Stalin's aggressive intentions, but they underestimated the strength of the Red Army. What unfolded was the cruelest war in history. This book shows how Stalin and his Bolshevik henchman used unimaginable violence and atrocities to break any resistance in the Red Army and to force their unwilling soldiers to fight against the Germans. The book explains how Soviet propagandists incited their soldiers to unlimited hatred against everything German, and he gives the reader a short but extremely unpleasant glimpse into what happened when these Soviet soldiers finally reached German soil in 1945: A gigantic wave of looting, arson, rape, torture, and mass murder…

428 pp. pb, 6"×9", bibl., index, b&w ill.

For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Udo Walendy, ***Who Started World War II:*** *Truth for a War-Torn World*

For seven decades, mainstream historians have insisted that Germany was the main, if not the sole culprit for unleashing World War II in Europe. In the present book this myth is refuted. There is available to the public today a great number of documents on the foreign policies of the Great Powers before September 1939 as well as a wealth of literature in the form of memoirs of the persons directly involved in the decisions that led to the outbreak of World War II. Together, they made possible Walendy's present mosaic-like reconstruction of the events before the outbreak of the war in 1939. This book has been published only after an intensive study of sources, taking the greatest care to minimize speculation and inference. The present edition has been translated completely anew from the German original and has been slightly revised.

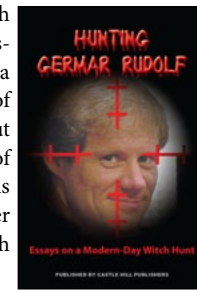
500 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl., b&w ill.

Germar Rudolf: ***Resistance Is Obligatory!***

In 2005 Rudolf, a peaceful dissident and publisher of revisionist literature, was kidnapped by the U.S. government and deported to Germany. There the local lackey regime staged a show trial against him for his historical writings. Rudolf was not permitted to defend his historical opinions, as the German penal law prohibits this. Yet he defended himself anyway: For 7 full days Rudolf gave a speech in the courtroom, during which he proved systematically that only the revisionists are scholarly in their approach, whereas the Holocaust orthodoxy is merely pseudo-scientific. He then explained in detail why it is everyone's obligation to resist, without violence, a government which throws peaceful dissidents into dungeons. When Rudolf tried to publish his public defence speech as a book from his prison cell, the public prosecutor initiated a new criminal investigation against him. After his probation time ended in 2011, he dared publish this speech anyway…

2nd ed. 2016, 378 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

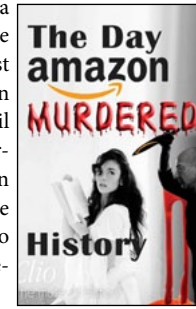
Germar Rudolf, ***Hunting Germar Rudolf:*** *Essays on a Modern-Day Witch Hunt*



German-born revisionist activist, author and publisher Germar Rudolf describes which events made him convert from a Holocaust believer to a Holocaust skeptic, quickly rising to a leading personality within the revisionist movement. This in turn unleashed a tsunami of persecution against him: lost his job, denied his PhD exam, destruction of his family, driven into exile, slandered by the mass media, literally hunted, caught, put on a show trial where filing motions to introduce evidence is illegal under the threat of further prosecution, and finally locked up in prison for years for nothing else than his peaceful yet controversial scholarly writings. In several essays, Rudolf takes the reader on a journey through an absurd world of government and societal persecution which most of us could never even fathom actually exists in a "Western democracy".…

304 pp. pb, 6"×9", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Germar Rudolf, ***The Day Amazon Murdered History***



Amazon is the world's biggest book retailer. They dominate the U.S. and several foreign markets. Pursuant to the 1998 declaration of Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos to offer "the good, the bad and the ugly," customers once could buy every title that was in print and was legal to sell. However, in early 2017, a series of anonymous bomb threats against Jewish community centers occurred in the U.S., fueling a campaign by Jewish groups to coax Amazon into banning revisionist writings, falsely portraying them as anti-Semitic. On March 6, 2017, Amazon caved in and banned more than 100 books with dissenting viewpoints on the Holocaust. In April 2017, an Israeli Jew was arrested for having placed the fake bomb threats, a paid "service" he had offered for years. But that did not change Amazon's policy. Its stores remain closed for history books Jewish lobby groups disapprove of. This book accompanies the documentary of the same title. Both reveal how revisionist publications had become so powerfully convincing that the powers that be resorted to what looks like a dirty false-flag operation in order to get these books banned from Amazon…

128 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., b&w ill.

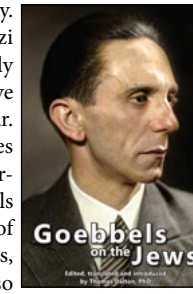
For prices and availability see www.shop.codoh.com or write to: CHP, PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Thomas Dalton, ***Hitler on the Jews***

That Adolf Hitler spoke out against the Jews is beyond obvious. But of the thousands of books and articles written on Hitler, virtually none quotes Hitler's exact words on the Jews. The reason for this is clear: Those in positions of influence have incentives to present a simplistic picture of Hitler as a blood-thirsty tyrant. However, Hitler's take on the Jews is far more complex and sophisticated. In this book, for the first time, you can make up your own mind by reading nearly every idea that Hitler put forth about the Jews, in considerable detail and in full context. This is the first book ever to compile his remarks on the Jews. As you will discover, Hitler's analysis of the Jews, though hostile, is erudite, detailed, and – surprise, surprise – largely aligns with events of recent decades. There are many lessons here for the modern-day world to learn.

200 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***Goebbels on the Jews***



From the age of 26 until his death in 1945, Joseph Goebbels kept a near-daily diary. From it, we get a detailed look at the attitudes of one of the highest-ranking men in Nazi Germany. Goebbels shared Hitler's dislike of the Jews, and likewise wanted them totally removed from the Reich territory. Ultimately, Goebbels and others sought to remove the Jews completely from the Eurasian land mass—perhaps to the island of Madagascar. This would be the "final solution" to the Jewish Question. Nowhere in the diary does Goebbels discuss any Hitler order to kill the Jews, nor is there any reference to extermination camps, gas chambers, or any methods of systematic mass-murder. Goebbels acknowledges that Jews did indeed die by the thousands; but the range and scope of killings evidently fall far short of the claimed figure of 6 million. This book contains, for the first time, every significant diary entry relating to the Jews or Jewish policy. Also included are partial or full transcripts of 10 major essays by Goebbels on the Jews.

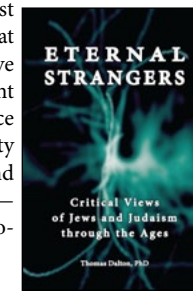
274 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***The Jewish Hand in the World Wars***

For many centuries, Jews have had a negative reputation in many countries. The reasons given are plentiful, but less-well-known is their involvement in war. When we examine the causal factors for wars, and look at their primary beneficiaries, we repeatedly find a Jewish presence. Throughout history, Jews have played an exceptionally active role in promoting and inciting wars. With their long-notorious influence in government, we find recurrent instances of Jews promoting hard-line stances, being uncompromising, and actively inciting people to hatred. Jewish misanthropy, rooted in Old Testament mandates, and combined with a ruthless materialism, has led them, time and again, to instigate warfare if it served their larger interests. This fact explains much about the present-day world. In this book, Thomas Dalton examines in detail the Jewish hand in the two world wars. Along the way, he dissects Jewish motives and Jewish strategies for maximizing gain amidst warfare, reaching back centuries.

197 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***Eternal Strangers:*** *Critical Views of Jews and Judaism through the Ages*



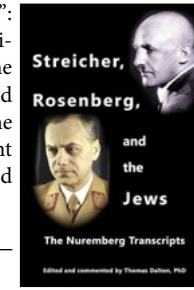
It is common knowledge that Jews have been disliked for centuries. But why? Our best hope for understanding this recurrent 'anti-Semitism' is to study the history: to look at the actual words written by prominent critics of the Jews, in context, and with an eye to any common patterns that might emerge. Such a study reveals strikingly consistent observations: Jews are seen in very negative, yet always similar terms. The persistence of such comments is remarkable and strongly suggests that the cause for such animosity resides in the Jews themselves—in their attitudes, their values, their ethnic traits and their beliefs.. This book addresses the modern-day "Jewish problem" in all its depth—something which is arguably at the root of many of the world's social, political and economic problems.

186 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***Streicher, Rosenberg, and the Jews:*** *The Nuremberg Transcripts*

Who, apart from Hitler, contrived the Nazi view on the Jews? And what were these master ideologues thinking? During the post-war International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, the most-interesting men on trial

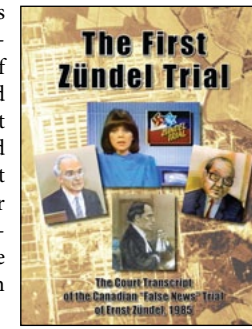
regarding this question were two with a special connection to the "Jewish Question": Alfred Rosenberg and Julius Streicher. The cases against them, and their personal testimonies, examined for the first time nearly all major aspects of the Holocaust story: the "extermination" thesis, the gas chambers, the gas vans, the shootings in the East, and the "6 million." The truth of the Holocaust has been badly distorted for decades by the powers that be. Here we have the rare opportunity to hear firsthand from two prominent figures in Nazi Germany. Their voices, and their verbatim transcripts from the IMT, lend some much-needed clarity to the situation.



330 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

The Queen versus Zündel: ***The First Zündel Trial:*** *The Transcript*

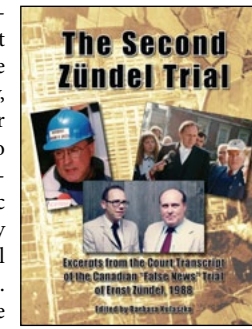
In the early 1980s, Ernst Zündel, a German immigrant living in Toronto, was indicted for allegedly spreading "false news" by selling copies of Richard Harwood's brochure *Did Six Million Really Die?,* which challenged the accuracy of the orthodox Holocaust narrative. When the case went to court in 1985, so-called Holocaust experts and "eyewitnesses" of the alleged homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz were cross-examined for the first time in history by a competent and skeptical legal team. The results were absolutely devastating for the Holocaust orthodoxy. Even the prosecutor, who had summoned these witnesses to bolster the mainstream Holocaust narrative, became at times annoyed by their incompetence and mendacity. For decades, these mind-boggling trial transcripts were hidden from public view. Now, for the first time, they have been published in print in this new book – unabridged and unedited.



820 pp. pb, 8.5"×11"

Barbara Kulaszka (ed.), ***The Second Zündel Trial:*** *Excerpts from the Transcript*

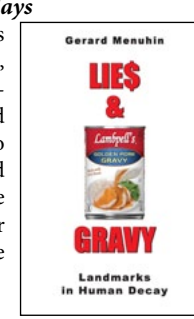
In 1988. German-Canadian Ernst Zündel was on trial for a second time for allegedly spreading "false news" about the Holocaust. Zündel staged a magnificent defense in an attempt to prove that revisionist concepts of "the Holocaust" are essentially correct. Although many of the key players have since passed away, including Zündel, this historic trial keeps having an impact. It inspired major research efforts as expounded in the series *Holocaust Handbooks*. In contrast to the First Zündel Trial of 1985, the second trial had a much greater impact internationally, mainly due to the ***Leuchter Report***, the first independent forensic research performed on Auschwitz, which was endorsed on the witness stand by British bestselling historian David Irving. The present book features the essential contents of this landmark trial with all the gripping, at-times-dramatic details. When Amazon.com decided to ban this 1992 book on a landmark trial about the "Holocaust", we decided to put it back in print, lest censorship prevail…



498 pp. pb, 8.5"×11", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Gerard Menuhin: ***Lies & Gravy:*** *Landmarks in Human Decay – Two Plays*

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, the hallucination of global supremacy was born. Few paid it any attention. After centuries of interference, when the end is in sight, we're more inclined to take it seriously. But now, we have only a few years of comparative freedom left before serfdom submerges us all. So it's time to summarize our fall and to name the guilty, or, as some have it, to spot the loony. Sometimes the message is so dire that the only way to get it across is with humor – to act out our predicament and its causes. No amount of expert testimony can match the power of spectacle. Here are a few of the most-telling stages in the chosenites' crusade against humanity, and their consequences, as imagined by the author. We wonder whether these two consecutive plays will ever be performed onstage…



112 pp. pb, 5"×8"

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