

The Making of the Auschwitz Myth

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

On the Genesis and Development
of the Gas-Chamber Lore.

Carlo Mattogno



Castle Hill Publishers
P.O. Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK
January 2021

HOLOCAUST HANDBOOKS, Volume 41:

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2nd, corrected edition, translated from the Italian by Carlos W. Porter and Germar Rudolf

Uckfield, East Sussex: CASTLE HILL PUBLISHERS

PO Box 243, Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

January 2021

ISBN10: 1-59148-262-3 (print edition)

ISBN13: 978-1-59148-262-8 (print edition)

ISSN: 1529-7748

Published by CASTLE HILL PUBLISHERS

Manufactured worldwide

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Distribution:

Castle Hill Publishers, PO Box 243

Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

<https://shop.codoh.com>

Set in Times New Roman

www.HolocaustHandbooks.com

Cover Illustrations: top: a German wartime telewriter “Enigma” for sending encrypted telegrams; left: organizational chart of the Polish government in exile during World War II; right: 1946 propaganda drawing by former Auschwitz inmate David Olère; bottom: various charcoal sketches by David Olère describing the various stages of the claimed extermination process; background: the entry gate to the Auschwitz Main Camp.

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part 1:

Auschwitz in British Radio Intercepts

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These arguments are longwinded yet threadbare:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ TNA, FO 371-26513.

“Basle, 18.IX.41.

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

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

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

“LH/WL/48.

SECRET.

4th August, 1942.

to: MR. RAYNER.

From: LIONEL HALE.

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

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

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

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

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

“General Information No. 2 (Part 2).

February 16th, 1942.

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

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

⁹ TNA, FO 371-30898, p. 139.

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

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

“SD/19
OCCUPIED COUNTRIES
5.12.41.

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

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

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

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

1.1. The Absence of Clues about “Gas Chambers”

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

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

¹⁰ TNA, FO 898-70.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The section addressing Auschwitz directly is very detailed:¹⁶

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Auschwitz itself we read:¹⁹

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

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

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

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

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is the text of the intercepted message:²⁴

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁵ TNA, HW 16-10.

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁷ TNA HW 16-10.

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

1.2. Richard Breitman's Labored Interpretations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The appertaining radio message reads:²⁹

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

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

Signed HOESS, SS Obersturmbannführer.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Appendix 'A'

*The Camp Commandant
Concentration Camp
AUSCHWITZ*

FIGURES ACCORDING TO LIST

To

*Office D. II
Oranienburg*

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

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

THE CAMP COMMANDANT

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

"Appendix 'B'

*The Camp Commandant
Concentration Camp
AUSCHWITZ*

October 18, 1942

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

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

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

THE CAMP COMMANDANT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

³⁹ TNA, HW 16-48.

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

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

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

The decode in question states:⁴¹

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

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

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

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

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

⁴⁴ RGVA, 502-1-312, p. 62.

⁴⁵ RGVA, 502-1-272, p. 256.

⁴⁶ RGVA, 502-1-312, p. 61.

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

“To Construction Office.

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

The Head of Office Group C

Dr. Ing. Kammler,

SS Brigadeführer and Major General of the Waffen SS”

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

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

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

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

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

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

“To SS Sturmbannführer Hoess.

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

The second message is directly related to the first:⁴⁹

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁵⁰ RGVA, 502-1-24, p. 255.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Camp metal-working and cabinet-making workshops

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Point 2 / irrigation / water withdrawal / of CC Auschwitz

Point 3 / wastewater disposal

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

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

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

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

The reason for the meeting is unknown.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After this necessary excursus, we return to Auschwitz.

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

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

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

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

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

“Bringing along gas masks when admitted to the hospital.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And here is Cavendish-Bentinck's assessment.⁶²

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 174f.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 155.

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

1.3. The Typhus Epidemics at Auschwitz in 1942-1943

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷⁹ APK, OPK 2176, pp. 14-16.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 27.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 20-25.

⁸² RGVA, 502-1-39, p. 10.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁸³ RGVA, 502-1-25, p. 6.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹¹ APK, RK, 3219, pp. 142-144.

The report concludes with the following words:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Point 9, the camp commandant ordered:

⁹² RGVA, 502-1-331, p. 144.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 146.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 147.

⁹⁵ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 143.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹⁶ APK, OPK 2156, pp. 107-109.

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

⁹⁸ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 139a.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹⁹ RGVA, 502-1-266, pp. 18-20.

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

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

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

¹⁰³ RGVA, 502-1-265, p. 558.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁰⁵ RGVA, 502-1-342, p. 17.

¹⁰⁶ RGVA, 502-1-347, p. 237.

¹⁰⁷ RGVA, 502-2-332, p. 134.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹¹² RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 66.

¹¹³ RGVA, 502-1-342, p. 20.

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

¹¹⁵ APK, OPK, 2176, p. 123.

¹¹⁶ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 129.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹¹⁸ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 128.

¹¹⁹ RGVA, 502-1-149, p. 169.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹²¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 269-269a.

¹²² RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 124.

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

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

¹²⁵ RGVA, 501-1-332, p. 119.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hot-air systems already installed:

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

Hot-air systems pending:

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

Disinfection devices:

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

The following were still required:

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

¹²⁶ RGVA, 502-1-261, pp. 222f.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the same day, Bischoff notified Höss that:¹³²

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, No. 39/40.

¹³¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 113.

¹³² *Ibid.*, p. 47.

¹³³ APMO, BW30/27, p. 17.

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹³⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 111.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CC Auschwitz:

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

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

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

¹⁴¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 110.

¹⁴² APK, OPK, 2176, p. 139.

¹⁴³ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 46-46a.

POW camp (Birkenau):

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁴⁴ RGVA, 502-1-336, p. 109.

¹⁴⁵ RGVA, 502-1-28, pp. 256-258.

¹⁴⁶ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 15-20a.

¹⁴⁷ APMO, BW 30/34, p. 100.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Transporting the dead.

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

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

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

¹⁵⁰ RGVA, 502-1-32, p. 300.

¹⁵¹ APK, RK 2903, pp. 5-11.

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

¹⁵³ APK, RK 2903, p. 22.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁵⁶ RGVA, 502-1-17, p. 98.

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

¹⁵⁸ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 37-37a.

¹⁵⁹ APK, RK 2903, pp. 31f.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On February 18, Bischoff informed Kammler¹⁶⁴

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

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

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

¹⁶¹ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 108.

¹⁶² RGVA, 502-1-26, p. 31.

¹⁶³ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 107.

¹⁶⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 106.

¹⁶⁵ RGVA, 502-1-68, pp. 115f.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 102.

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

¹⁶⁹ RGVA, 502-1-26, pp. 56f.

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

¹⁷¹ RGVA, 502-1-261, pp. 111f.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁷² APMO, BW 30/34, p. 48.

¹⁷³ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 44.

¹⁷⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 228-230.

¹⁷⁵ RGVA, 502-1-178, p. 41.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

¹⁷⁷ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 227.

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

¹⁷⁸ RGVA, 502-1-336, pp. 108f.

¹⁷⁹ RGVA, 502-1-65, p. 74.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 62-62a.

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

¹⁸² RGVA, 502-1-229, p. 234.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On November 9, the situation was as follows:¹⁹³

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

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

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

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

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, No. 9/10.

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

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

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, No. 14/15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Buchenwald Camp contacted Dachau directly:¹⁹⁶

“To Office Group D and CC Dachau.

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

sgnd.: PISTER.”

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

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

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

Bernburg was in fact one of the euthanasia centers.

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

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

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

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, No. 3/4.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, No. 18/20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁰⁴ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 174.

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

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

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

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, No. 14.

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

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*, No. 32.

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

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

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

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

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

The intercepts relating to this topic end here.

1.4. The Typhus Epidemic and Zyklon-B Deliveries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²¹⁸ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 168.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²²¹ VHA, Fond OT 31 (2)/8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2) Water-supply system

3) Drainage system

4) Rail connection

5) Electric lighting system

6) Alarm and telephone system

7) Emergency generator

8) Transformer station

9) Bakery

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

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

²²³ BAK, NS 18/14, fol. 131a.

²²⁴ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 43.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²²⁶ BAK, NS 18/14, fol. 132.

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

²²⁸ TNA, Serial 702.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Re: establishment of ghettos.

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

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

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

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

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

²²⁹ TNA, Serial 703.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²³² RGVA, 502-1-19, p. 102.

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

²³⁴ RGVA, 502-1-267, pp. 8, 13.

²³⁵ RGVA, 502-1-275, p. 56.

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

²³⁷ RGVA, 501-1345, p. 69.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁴⁵ TNA, HW 16-53, Teleprinter Message.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁴⁷ TNA, FO-30885, pp. 57f.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Concerning: Deportation of Jewish armaments workers.

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

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

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

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

The radio message dated March 15, 1943 reported:²⁵¹

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

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

²⁵¹ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 174.

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

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

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

“Secret! Confidentially: SS Hauptsturmführer Aumeier.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁵⁴ RGVA, 502-1-85, p. 34.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁶⁰ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 155.

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

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

²⁶³ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 47.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁶⁴ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 159.

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁶⁶ RGVA, 502-1-22, pp. 40f.

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

²⁶⁸ RGVA, 502-1-313, p. 160.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁷⁰ VHA, Fond OT 31(2)8.

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

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

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

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

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

[continuation of the original:]

Die Fahrgen. ist dem Kraftfahrer mitzugeben.

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

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

Translation of the original:

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

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

Head of Office Group D

signed Glücks

SS Brigadef. and Major General in the Waffen SS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hence, no trace of the use of any constructed “field incinerators.”

In conclusion, the context of the typhus epidemic is clearly indispensable for any understanding of the origins of the crematoria at Birkenau.

1.7. General Information on Auschwitz Camp

Several intercepts deal with the most varied aspects of life in the camp; these intercepts provide information which was previously unknown or which clarifies or supplements aspects already known. My discussion of them here is based upon the topics referred to.

1.7.1. Jews, Jewish Transports and Inmate Transfers

On May 3, 1942 Liebehenschel sent Höss the following message:²⁷⁵

“Secret! Ref.: Internment of Jews. As communicated by the RSHA by telegraph, for domestic political reasons, it is currently impossible to carry out as scheduled for July 3 and 4, 1942 the deportation of 1,000 Jews fit for labor to Auschwitz. It was nevertheless assured to process both these two transports and the other 5 scheduled for your camp already in June. The new dates will be announced in due course.”

The message most likely referred to the deportation of Jews from Slovakia. On May 11, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Dieter Wisliceny, Eichmann’s representative in Slovakia, wrote as follows to the Slovakian minister for domestic affairs (*Riešenie židovskej...*, pp. 108f.):

“As the Reichssicherheitshauptamt Berlin notified me by telegraph on 9.5.1942, the possibility exists to accelerate the deportation of the Jews from Slovakia by sending additional transports to Auschwitz. However, the transports may only carry Jews and Jewesses fit for labor, no children. It would then be possible to increase the transport quota by 5 trains per month.” (Emphasis in the original.)

But this project was never realized.

On June 17, the British almost-completely deciphered an enigmatic teletype from Liebehenschel:²⁷⁶

²⁷⁵ TNA, HW 16-19. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 3.5.42. ZIP/GPDD 105, No. 5/6.

“Re.: Labor deployment of Slovakian Jews. Reference: our teletype of June 16, 1942, 13:41 o’clock. Subsequent to the above-mentioned radio message I inform you that the processing of one transport per week from Slovakia to there will not begin on June 17, 1942 as planned but June 16, 1942. Until further notice, the transports will arrive at the border railway station Zwardon on Friday... of week, where they will be handed over and passed on to Auschwitz.”

The transport plan for the deportation of Slovakian Jews to Auschwitz and Lublin was drawn up by the Oppeln head office of the German National Railway on March 16, 1942, and arranged for eight transports between March 26 and April 7-8, referred to as Da 66 through 73. Four of these trains travelled via Zwardon, where they were taken over by the Germans.²⁷⁷ In June 1942, however, only one single transport of Jews from Slovakia reached Auschwitz – on June 20, to be precise.

On June 30, Franz Ziereis, commandant of Mauthausen Camp, asked Höss to make freight cars available “for the transport of 710 inmates” for transfer to Mauthausen.²⁷⁸ According to the Auschwitz inmate registry (*Stärkebuch*), 700 “transferred inmates” were missing from the morning roll call on July 7.²⁷⁹

On October 17, Hermann Pister, commandant of Buchenwald Camp, gave Höss advance notice of an inmate transport:²⁸⁰

“The transport of 405 Jewish inmates will depart from Weimar on Saturday, Oct. 17, 1942, around 11:59 h, to CC Auschwitz.”

The inmates reached Auschwitz on the 19th of October, where 404 of them were registered with the numbers 68340 to 68743 (Czech 1990, p. 255).

Another message from Pister of November 27 with the subject “inmate transfers to CC Auschwitz” reported the departure from Weimar of a transport “with 150 deployable inmates in addition to 13 Jews.”²⁸¹ These inmates arrived at Auschwitz two days later and were registered under the numbers 78577 to 78739 (Czech 1990, p. 274). On December 5, the Auschwitz camp physician drew up a report for the camp headquarters showing that the transport contained only 72 deployable inmates.²⁸²

A message of January 12, 1943 by SS *Standartenführer* Maurer, the WVHA’s department chief for labor deployment, revealed a little-known aspect of the history of Auschwitz:²⁸³

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 17.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 127/20.6.42, No. 15/16.

²⁷⁷ Document reproduced in Tóth, p. 161.

²⁷⁸ TNA, HW 16-20. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 30.6.42. ZIP/GPDD 179/28.7.42, No. 1.

²⁷⁹ *Stärkebuch*. Statistical elaboration by Jan Sehn. AGK, NTN, 92, p. 62.

²⁸⁰ TNA, HW 16-20. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 17.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 269b/21.11.42, No. 23.

²⁸¹ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 27.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 310b/11.2.43, No. 5/5.

²⁸² RGVA, 502-1-68, pp. 100-103. Cf. Mattogno 2016a, pp. 80f., and Doc. 42, pp. 356f.

²⁸³ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 12.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 356b/27.1.43, No. 5/6.

“Regarding: Transfer of 6,000 Polish inmates from CC Au. In agreement with the head of Office D III, SS Obersturmbannführer Lolling, the approximately 6,000 Polish inmates scheduled for transfer are to be placed in quarantine for 3 weeks in CC Au. until their transfer. I ask to begin this instantly in order that inmates can be gradually withdrawn for projects in other camps. The draw-down [of inmates] would therefore commence in the first few days of the month of February at the latest. I request a brief confirmation of the matter.”

An explicit reference to this may be found in Bischoff’s letter to Höss from January 20, 1943 with the subject “withdrawal of Polish inmates”:²⁸⁴

“The Central Construction Office was informed that all Polish inmates are to be withdrawn from here in the near future.”

He requested the exemption for 685 Polish prisoners working for the Central Construction Office whom he considered irreplaceable specialists.

In a letter of February 16, Bischoff reduced the number of these inmates to 379.²⁸⁵

On January 15, 1943, Liebehenschel ordered the transfer to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp of 11 “inmate specialist workers” on February 8, who were to be immediately placed in quarantine.²⁸⁶

A message of August 5, 1944 sheds light on a Jewish transport from Sárvár, Hungary. Randolph L. Braham wrote that, according to a report from the Hungarian gendarmerie dated June 30, 1944, there were 3,521 Jews in this town, 2,204 of whom were deported to Auschwitz on July 7, 1944.²⁸⁷ He then spoke of the deportation from Sárvár on August 5, without supplying any details. The above-mentioned message radio stated in this regard.²⁸⁸

“Re.: Deportation of Jews. Ref.: known. Special train underway. Journey no. 6320410 left Sarvar on Aug. 4, 1944 at 22:30 h toward Auschwitz. Transport occupancy: 1,296. Transport leader SS Untersturmführer Hartenberger, B d S Hungary Sek.”

The order of magnitude corresponds rather well: 3,521 – 2,204 = 1,317, compared to 1,296 actual deportees. The “List of transports of Jews” records the registration of 25 Jews (numbers 5569-5593) and 1,414 Hungarian Jews as of August 8,²⁸⁹ who Danuta Czech considers to have been transferred over from the Birkenau Transit Camp (Czech 1990, p. 682), but it is clear that these registrations must include some or all of those deported from Sárvár.

On December 22, 1942 Liebehenschel communicated to Auschwitz and Majdanek that, starting from December 31, they had to send a list of all the

²⁸⁴ RGVA, 502-1-60, pp. 44f.

²⁸⁵ RGVA, 502-1-256, pp. 169f.

²⁸⁶ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 15.1.43 ZIP/GPDD 359b/28.1.43, No. 23/24.

²⁸⁷ Braham 1981, pp. 667, 669; 1988, p. 515.

²⁸⁸ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 1 Traffic: 5.8.44. CIRO/PEARL/ZIP/GPD 2918/GG, HH 17.8.44, No. 5.

²⁸⁹ APMO, Ruch Oporu, t. XXc, D-RO/123, pp. 18, 21.

inmates who had escaped, giving their first and last name, date and place of birth, and the day of their escape. By the 26th, they had to communicate how many detainees, divided into men and women, had escaped in the period from Oct. 1 through Dec. 25, 1942, and how many of them had been apprehended.²⁹⁰

1.7.2. The Use of Inmate Hair

On August 8, 1942, Glücks transmitted Pohl's order to gather and deliver inmate hair for industrial use to the commandants of all concentration camps. Inmate hair was to be cut and conserved "after disinfection"; provision was made for a minimum hair length of 20 mm. The quantities gathered were to be communicated to Glücks on a monthly basis starting on September 5 (USSR-511).

A message from the Dachau Camp of September 19, 1942 with the subject "Use of cut hair" ("*Verwendung der abgeschnittenen Haare*") explicitly referred to this order.²⁹¹

On September 15, Office Group D reminded the Auschwitz, Dachau and Lublin Camps of the order dated August 8 and of the 5th of every month being the due date for the related reports (Facsimile in Strzelecki, p. 126). On October 7, this notice was sent to the Mauthausen, Buchenwald, Hinzert Camps, and, once again, to Auschwitz.²⁹² The same day, Flossenbürg informed this office group that the "report on the utilization of cut hair" had been submitted on September 23 and had been confirmed by a receipt dated October 1.²⁹³

At least two companies were located in the Breslau region (present-day Wrocław) which dealt with recycling human hair: The Paul Reimann Company and the Held Company, both located at Friedland in the Breslau District (present-day Mieroszów). The first of them collected the supplies originating from the Majdanek Camp, among others, in relation to which there is copious documentation (see Dziadosz). For Auschwitz, on the other hand, the only known document is a travel permit by Glücks dated September 30, 1942, intercepted and almost-completely deciphered by the British,²⁹⁴ which states:²⁹⁵

²⁹⁰ TNA, HW 16-22. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 22.12.42. ZIP/GPDD 335b/30.12.42, No. 17, 18/19.

²⁹¹ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 19.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 241b/26.2.43, No. 1.

²⁹² *Ibid.*, 7.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 259b/25.10.42, No. 47.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*, No. 57/58.

²⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 30.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 239b/3.12.42, No. 10/11.

²⁹⁵ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 171, see Document 5.

“To camp headq

Breslau.

Ref.: your teletype of Sept. 29

I hereby approve the trip by passenger car of SS Obersturmf. Schwarz from Auschwitz to Friedland to inspect the hair-recycling enterprise Held in Friedland, Breslau District.”

On November 9, Höss asked Office Group D for another permit:²⁹⁶

“Re.: Visit to hair-recycling enterprise, Held company, in Friedland, Breslau District. Ref.: your radio message dated Sept. 30, 1942. The headquarters CC Auschwitz request another travel permit for SS Untersturmführer Hoessler and SS Untersturmführer Sell by passenger car or rail to Friedland to inspect hair-recycling enterprise in Friedland, Breslau District.”

The same day, Liebehenschel, as Glücks’s deputy, issued the permit, specifying that the journey had to take place “by rail.”²⁹⁷

There is no reference to the hair of the presumed gassing victims, which would have been an enormous quantity.

In an intercept of September 30, 1942, Glücks informed Höss of the next-day arrival of “SS *Sturmbannführer* Hartenstein,”²⁹⁸ meaning Friedrich Hartenstein, who took over the office of “commander of the deathhead guard unit CC Auschwitz” as announced in the Headquarters Order of October 6, 1942 (Frei *et al.*, p. 183).

Another intercept of October 29, 1942 mentions SS *Obersturmführer* Richard Baer, who, coming from the Neuengamme Camp, had been “assigned as an adjutant to the headquarters staff CC Auschwitz.”²⁹⁹

1.7.3. The Jewish Watch-Maker Inmates at Majdanek

On November 7, 1942, the POW camp of the Waffen SS at Lublin (Majdanek) sent a teletype to the Auschwitz headquarters with the subject “transfer of Jewish-inmate watchmakers” stating that on September 9 an order had been issued to transfer 48 inmates, but that 23 of them had died in the meantime, so that only 25 were left. Their transfer was anticipated for November 7.³⁰⁰ They were to be retransferred from Auschwitz to Sachsenhausen, but this was not possible due to the typhus epidemic which was still a problem at Auschwitz. On December 1, SS *Hauptsturmführer* August Harbaum, who was Glücks’s adjutant at Office D of the WVHA, notified the Auschwitz headquarters that “as long as the camp lockdown remains in effect for Auschwitz, the transfer of

²⁹⁶ TNA, HW 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 9.11.42. ZIP/GPDD 291b/1.12.42, No. 10/11, see Document 5a.

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, No. 55.

²⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 30.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 239b/3.12.42, No. 18.

²⁹⁹ TNA, HW-16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 29.10.42. ZIP/GPDD 281b/14.11.42, No. 31.

³⁰⁰ AGK, NTN, 99, p. 162. Cf. Blumental, p. 111.

the 25 inmate watchmakers cannot take place” (Blumental, p. 112). A message dated January 12 sent by Maurer to the Auschwitz headquarters and intercepted by the British said that there was no objection against the transfer of the inmate watchmakers “once the 3-week quarantine period has passed.”³⁰¹

A message from Liebehenschel intercepted on January 15 disclosed that the transfer of the 25 inmate watchmakers to Sachsenhausen from Lublin was scheduled for February 8, 1943. They were allegedly picked up by guards sent specifically to Auschwitz from Sachsenhausen. Sachsenhausen was to notify Office DI by phone of the admission, Auschwitz by teletype of the departure of these inmates.³⁰² In another message intercepted on January 19, the text of which has survived (Blumental, p. 112), SS *Obersturmführer* Schwarz advised Office DII that 12 of the 25 inmate in question had died in the meantime, and he requested that they be replaced.³⁰³

1.7.4. Dandelions

In 1932 the Soviets discovered that rubber could be extracted from *kok sagis*, a type of dandelion native to Kazakhstan, and they cultivated it for this purpose. In 1941, the German task forces (*Einsatzgruppen*), whose primary purpose according to the orthodox Holocaust narrative was the mass murder of Jews, discovered the first plantations and immediately reported about it. Event Report (*Ereignismeldung*) No. 60 of August 22, 1941 elaborated on a plantation found in the area of Uman in a special paragraph titled “Koksagis” (Mallmann *et al.*, p. 338).

In this regard as well, the British intercepted a few messages.

On October 11, 1941, the Higher SS and Police Leader North communicated:³⁰⁴

“1. Today, SS Brig. seized rubber plants with seeds grown in Russia. Cultivation possibility exists in Germany. Request decision what is to be done with plants and Russian agronomists educated about cultivation. Suggestion: fastest transfer, possibly by plane to Germany (SS herb garden DACHAU).”

A message sent on November 14, 1941 to the SS Main Office Budget and Construction informed that cultivation plans and seeds had been found, specifying:³⁰⁵

“Technical center for rubber culture and specialists available in Kiev.”

³⁰¹ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 12.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 356b/27.1.43, No. 1/4.

³⁰² *Ibid.*, 15.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 359b/28.1.43, No. 25/27.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*, 19.1.43. ZIP/GPDD 363b/29.1.43, No. 10.

³⁰⁴ TNA, HW 16-32. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 11.10.41. ZIP/G.P.D. 411/29.10.41, No. 6.

³⁰⁵ TNA, HW 16-32. German Police Decodes Nr. 2 Traffic: 14.11.41. ZIP/G.P.D. 458/22.11.41, No. 41.

The experimental cultivation of this plant was then practiced near Auschwitz: SS *Sturmbannführer* Joachim Caesar (or Cäsar) was commissioned to create an experimental station for the cultivation of kok-sagys at Raisko.³⁰⁶

On May 1, 1942, Maurer informed Caesar that he could provide him with three plant growers and two Polish botanists or biologists from the Ravensbrück Camp who spoke German. Maurer asked whether the transfer could happen right away or whether Caesar wanted to examine these inmates' skills first.³⁰⁷

A message dated September 16, 1942 explicitly refers to the beginnings of these experiments:³⁰⁸

“SS Sturmbannführer DR. CAESAR.

Subject: The SS's work with rubber plants. Reference: your teletype no. 27075 of Aug. 13, 1942. Marched off MESCHETSCHOK early today at 05:10 from MINSK. M. received a travel advance of 25 Rm, the reimbursement of which is requested.

The SS and Police Leader in Belorussia, MINSK.”

The person in charge of the cultivation of *kok sagis* at Raisko was a certain Thies Christophersen (Christophersen, pp. 23-26).

1.7.5. Barbed Wire to Fence the Camp

On January 18, 1943, Maurer wrote to Höss (“Hoesz” in the text) that after long efforts he had succeeded in obtaining 20 tons of barbed wire, but they still needed to be paid. Hence, he asked the head of the construction office (Bischoff) whether he could pay it directly or whether he needed Kammler's prior authorization:³⁰⁹

“However, the wire must be used for the purpose discussed in Auschwitz, that is, for the erection of the 9-km-long ring fence.”

The question of the barbed wire for the Birkenau Camp had already been raised on August 11, 1942 by SS *Unterscharführer* Paul Wilk, who directed the raw-materials division of the Central Construction Office. In a file memo with the subject “on the provision of reference numbers from a special contingency,” we read under Point 6, “barbed wire for POW camp” that he had already asked the procurement office (SS *Oberscharführer* Krogmann) for 100-150 tons of barbed wire, 30 of which were on their way.³¹⁰

³⁰⁶ Zięba, esp. pp. 83-103, with reproductions of various documents.

³⁰⁷ TNA, HW 16-18. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 1.5.42. ZIP/GPDD 85/28.5.42, No. 12/13.

³⁰⁸ TNA, 16-21. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 16.9.42. ZIP/GPDD 238b/12.3.43, No. 3/4.

³⁰⁹ TNA, HW 16-23. German Police Decodes Nr. 3 Traffic: 18.1.43, ZIP/GPDD 362b/4.3.43, No. 6/8.

³¹⁰ RGVA, 502-1-320, p. 28.

On March 14, 1943, Bischoff asked “the contingency office of the plenipotentiary for the regulation of the construction industry in Military District VIII” for 226,235 kg of barbed wire for “barbed-wire obstacle Construction Sectors 1, 2 and 3.”³¹¹ At Birkenau, this work was part of *BW 25*, “barbed wire inside the camp.”

Therefore, the British intercepts do not provide the slightest clue in favor of the idea that an extermination by means of gas chambers was being perpetrated at Auschwitz.

This idea, as Breitman perfectly understood, came exclusively from Polish black propaganda, which will be the subject of the second part of this study.

³¹¹ RGVA, 502-1-319, p. 15.