

The Final Reckoning:

An Analysis of Demographics in Holocaust
Literature

by

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Harold Kreig

Foreword

This analysis of certain aspects of the German concentration camp system will be of no comfort to either extreme of the controversy surrounding the actual purpose of the camps and the final numbers of those who perished in them.

One well-entrenched and influential entity claims that the sole purpose of the system was to exterminate Europe's Jewish population and that it achieved its goal in that between six and seven million Jews were systematically put to death between 1934 and 1945. An opposing entity claims that the camps were basically prisons, not murder mills, and that the extermination of Jews was neither massive nor state policy.

The basic problem here is that until the end of the Soviet regime, nearly all the complete records of the camp system seized by the Red Army at the system's headquarters in Oranienburg Camp outside of Berlin in 1945 were kept locked away by the Russians and not made available to anyone. Since it was the standard practice of the Soviets to harass the West German government in any way possible, the sequestering of such files that might prove enormous totals of the persecuted dead could well indicate that these files in all probability proved the opposite.

In 1990, with the advent of *Glasnost*, rolls of microfilm containing all the camp records were released by Russian archivists on a very limited basis. One set of these films went to the International Red Cross central tracing agency at Arolsen, Germany. Several other complete sets found their way into the hands of other special interest groups.

These recently revealed figures stand at strong variance with the numbers proposed since the war. Earlier estimates of several millions dead at Auschwitz, all Jews, have now been reduced to about one million. There is, obviously, a tremendous difference between the two figures and until recently, the larger one has been impossible to prove or disprove. In all probability, the actual death toll at Auschwitz will never be known. There is no question that a number died unrecorded but given the choice between official period figures and anecdotal history, the official statistics of the period are more realistic.

There is another means by which an equitable balance can be reached. The official files with their figures can easily be compared with the records of the German Finance Ministry that oversees the implementation of the so-called *Wiedergutmachung* or restitution program. This was a post-war program initiated by the "Supplementary Federal Law for the Compensation of the victims of National Socialist Persecution" on October 1, 1953 and the subsequent final law of the same name promulgated on September 14, 1965.

This law guarantees financial compensation for, among other categories, "survivors of the deceased victims (of National Socialism.)" and greatly expanded the numbers of categories and compensation payments.

It should be noted that of 4,406,072 claims submitted under this legislation between October 1, 1953 and December 31, 1986, 4,404,755 or 99.9 percent had been settled by January 1, 1987. By 1988, the payments were projected to be a total of **102,653 billion** German Marks with 3 billion going to the State of Israel. It is not difficult for an objective observer to realize that this program supplies a tremendous incentive for the commission of fraud on a gigantic scale.

A simple solution to the divergence of numbers would be found in comparing the known figures with the figures supplied in millions of affidavits now on file in the German Finance ministry. As the contemporary wartime German files show a total number of 400,000 deaths in all camps of all inmates, an official comparison between these files might prove to be of considerable financial benefit to the German government and its taxpayers.

The Death Tolls, Official and Unofficial, at Auschwitz, 1941-1944

AUSCHWITZ: (Polish: Oswiecim)

Once a part of the Austrian Empire, located approximately 60km (37mi) west of Krakow, Auschwitz was situated in Eastern Upper Silesia, which was annexed to Germany following the defeat of Poland, in September, 1939

In early 1941, it was decided by the Germans, specifically the SS Economic Section under *SS-Obergruppenführer* Oswald Pohl, to build a hydrogenation plant which produced synthetic oil

from coal and a Buna plant which was intended to produce artificial rubber. The town of Auschwitz in Silesia was chosen because of its proximity to the coal fields and its location at the junction of three rivers. Also, the area was considered out of the range of Allied bombers who were now beginning their attacks on German industry in the Ruhr and on random civilian targets.

At the town of Auschwitz was a former Polish artillery barracks housing about 6,500 Polish prisoners of war. This camp was subsequently expanded into a work camp for political prisoners.

This was called Auschwitz I. Also in 1941, a second camp was begun approximately two miles northwest of the main camp. It was called Birkenau or Auschwitz II and was initially a prisoner of war camp. It was opened in April 1942.

Auschwitz III, or Monowitz, was instituted in November 1941 and was located three miles east of Auschwitz, close to the IG Farben plant. There were a number of satellite work camps, basically in a 25 mile radius of the main camp. Most of these served the local coal mines or the coke furnaces.

In the beginning, the camps were full of Polish prisoners of war and after June 1941, filled up with Soviet prisoners of war. Later, political prisoners, including Communists, joined the population along with religious dissenters, homosexuals, professional criminals, Jews, Gypsies, and a number of British prisoners of war.

The inmates were intended to serve as contract labor to the many German firms that set up shop in the neighborhood. The SS was paid so much per head per diem, kept what it was able to and grudgingly spent as little as possible on the maintenance of the prisoners. Exceptions were made for skilled labor who received better quarters and rations than the unskilled and marginally productive.

The introduction of Russians into the population brought the dread typhus with them and from time to time, terrible epidemics swept the camp, filling the hospitals with dead and dying. Typhus, which is a highly infectious disease, (*Rickettsia prowazekii*) exists only in humans and their body lice. The death rate was very high from this disease as antibiotics now used in its control were not available at the time.

It became necessary for all incoming prisoners to have their heads shaved and be disinfected prior to entering the camp. The disinfection consisted of showering with medicated soap. All clothing from new prisoners was confiscated and deloused in rooms designed for this purpose. Zyklon B, a commercial disinfectant, was used for this. New inmates were issued clean prison clothing and all of their possessions were put into storage and later shipped to Germany as raw material.

Nearly all the prisoners entering Auschwitz were entered in the books and issued a number. The entries listed the prisoners by name, date of birth and number. It was the standard practice to keep a registry of all prisoners who died in this camp by date of death, name, number and cause of death. The Russian files contain the *complete* mortality lists for Auschwitz. Based on these figures, from the opening of the camp in 1941 until very late in 1944 (the camp finally closed in the first month of 1945) the total of *all* inmate dead was **111,010**.

Of this figure, 93%, or **103,447**, died of typhus alone. The remaining **7,563** died of natural causes, suicide or were executed for a number of reasons such as murder of another inmate, theft of food and the like.

Of the **111,010** dead, 54 %, or **60,421**, were Jews and are so listed in the heavily documented official death rolls.

In the years intervening since the end of the Second World War, there has built up a legend about the planned murder by the Germans of European Jewry. A program of euthanasia, it is said, was later developed into a wide-spread program of mass gassings of Jews in various of the German prisons called Concentration Camps.

The motivator behind these mass killings was, the legend states, Adolf Hitler whose personal hatred of Jews drove him to order his dread Gestapo and SS to round up and kill every Jew they could lay their hands on.

Initially, the camp at Dachau, outside of Munich, was stated to be the center of the murder machine but as it became evident after the end of the war that this camp did not gas large numbers of Jews or anyone else, the killing center was arbitrarily moved to the east, to the town of Auschwitz located on several rivers in Upper Silesia.

Here, it is said, a vast death camp was built to house tens of thousands of Jews awaiting their turn in the enormous gas chambers, and a second camp, Auschwitz II or Birkenau was also built for the sole purpose of slaughtering the Jews who made up almost the entire population of this murder central.

Jewish victims, it has been written, poured into Auschwitz from all over conquered Europe. They arrived, jammed into cattle cars, were dragged out of their transport, lined up and immediately forced into the huge gas chambers. Later, after they were dead, their stiffened corpses were dragged out by other camp inmates and shoved into equally gigantic crematoria and burned to ashes.

In recent years, bits and pieces of evidence that would tend to bring some of this into question has resulted in a further shift to the east. Supporters of the mass murder theories, aware of the existence of official documentation disproving their exorbitant claims, now postulate that the SS *Einsatzgruppen* or Combat Units, composed of *Sicherheitsdienst (SD)* and German police units, who were operating behind the German front lines in Russia, were the true murderers of millions of Jews. In the savage anti-Partisan wars, the *Einsatzgruppen* were stated to have slaughtered millions of Communist functionaries, Russian, and some Polish, Jews.

Opposing an enormous body of literature and media productions, a number of dissatisfied historians began to question the validity of the allegations of an immense German murder plot aimed primarily at Jews but also expanded to include Gypsies. Any attempts to bring these allegations into question were met immediately by loud outcries from their proponents and needless to say, no major publishing house anywhere in the world would dare to publish even the most moderate and meticulously researched revisionist work.

The enormous death toll of six million dead Jews, it is firmly said by proponents of the murder machine theory, is immutable; these figures are well and permanently established in history and questioning them is the work of anti-Semites, neo-Nazis and professional, unbalanced hate-mongers.

It is the actual figures, however, upon which the legend of the Holocaust stands or falls. Are there such figures? Are they reliable? Surely in the enormous official German records, captured

by both the Soviets and Americans, there have to be specific confirmations of the awful death tolls.

In fact such records do exist; some in Moscow and some in Washington, DC, but these original documents are generally not available to what Holocaust supporters state are prevaricators, liars and anti-Semites. They can be found today in official state archives, some difficult to find because they have been misfiled and others because pressure groups who fear their publication have pressured the archives to keep them hidden.

In this study, we have explored these forbidden or obscured documents, collated them and are presenting the results in an effort to achieve some balance for a subject that heretofore has been the private playground of individuals and organizations who have a vested financial and political motive in preventing any erosion of what they see is their own territory.

As huge sums of money have resulted from the maintenance and careful nurturing of what has proven to be an extraordinarily successful cash cow, the desperation of its creators can easily be understood.

Truth, however, is mighty and shall prevail.

The Holocauster's Agenda

To open this investigation, consider the following article produced by the pro-Holocaust people calling themselves the "Nizkor Project"

This article represents the official Jewish view of the Auschwitz work complex as a death camp solely intended for the slaughter of European Jews:

"How many people died at Auschwitz?"

"Most Americans have been instructed in the "irrefutable fact" that homicidal gassings had taken place at Auschwitz. The number of those so executed - also declared irrefutable - was 4.1 million.

Then came the Leuchter Report in 1988. This was followed by a "re-evaluation" of the total deaths at Auschwitz (down to 1.1 million).

Previous to 1992, anyone who publicly doubted the 4.1 million "gassing" deaths at Auschwitz was labeled an anti-Semite, neo-nazi skinhead (at the very least). Quietly, because of revisionist findings, the official figure was lowered to 1.1 million. No mention of that missing 3 million.

It is correct to note that the Polish Communist government did claim that four million people were exterminated at Auschwitz, historians (*Feig, Reitlinger, Hilberg, et al.*) have never supported that figure. Consider the estimates provided by Buszko at the end of his article on Auschwitz, which appeared in the Encyclopedia of the Holocaust:

- Of the 405,000 registered prisoners, 65,000 survived
- Of the 16,000 Soviet POW's, 96 survived
- Various estimates suggest 1.6 million were murdered

Buszko's article, and the above estimates, appeared in the 1990 edition of the Encyclopedia, which clearly puts the lie to Foner's comment that "anyone who publicly doubted the 4.1 million .. " figure "previous to 1992..." was "...labeled an anti-Semite...". Buszko is not only a Jewish historian, but Polish as well.

Leon Poliakov, the author of the well-documented "Harvest of Hate," which was, we note, first published in 1956, provides the following information, which clearly demonstrates that Foner's contention, cited above, is an outright lie:

After some thirty months of intense activity, the Auschwitz balance sheet showed close to two million immediate exterminations (this figure can never be fixed exactly), (8) to which one must add the deaths of some 300,000 registered prisoners - Jews for the most part, but not entirely - for whom the gas chamber was only one of any number of ways by which they might have perished. (*Poliakov, 202*)

In his affidavits, Hoess spoke of two and a half million, 'a figure set officially,' he wrote, under the signature of [Eichmann], in a report to Himmler. This figure has been accepted by several authors, and it appears in the verdict at the trial of the major war criminals. However, there is no reason for accepting without question the statistics attributed to Eichmann, which may err on either side.

Adding the number of victims to those deported from different countries gives a lower figure, although we have little data, for example, on the number of Polish Jews sent to Auschwitz. An approximate figure in the neighborhood of two million seems closer to the truth." (*Ibid.*)

Feig notes that:

Hoess testified that the Tesch directors could not help but know of the use for their product because they sold him enough to annihilate two million people.'

Feig's book was published in 1981

According to Snyder, Adolf Eichmann reported to Himmler, in 1944, that four million had been killed in the camps, and another million had been shot or killed by mobile units. (*Encyclopedia of the Third Reich. 1989*) Eichmann's report, which referenced *all* the camps (most of which were in Nazi-occupied Poland), may have been the source of the Polish Communist government's figures. (Snyder is a Professor of History at the City College and the City University of New York.)

During the war crimes trials, Hoess was asked if it was true that he had no exact numbers because he had been forbidden to compile them, and he agreed. He also agreed that Adolf Eichmann had told him that that more than two million people had been exterminated there. (*von Lang, 120*)

The *Institut für Zeitgeschichte*, Munich, provided the following capsulated paragraph about Auschwitz in a March, 1992, letter of inquiry.

The extermination camp in Birkenau, established in the second half of 1941, was joined to the concentration camp Auschwitz, existing since May 1940. From January 1942 on in five

gas chambers and from the end of June 1943 in four additional large gassing-rooms gassings with Zyklon B have been undertaken. Up until November 1944 more than one million Jews and at least 4000 gypsies have been murdered by gas. (IFZ)

While it is admittedly difficult to compile exact figures, (emphasis added) since the Nazis did not maintain registration records for those who were to be exterminated immediately upon arrival at Auschwitz, it seems accurate to assert that the number of Jews killed fell somewhere between one and one-point-six million.

According to figures provided by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the overall number of victims of Auschwitz in the years 1940-1945 is estimated at between **1,100,000** and **1,500,000** people. The majority of them, and above all the mass transports of Jews who arrived beginning in 1942, died in the gas chambers. (Waclaw Dlugoborski and Franciszek Piper, Eds. *Auschwitz 1940-1945. Central Issues in the History of the Camp*. The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2000, 5 vols., 1799 pp., ISBN 83-85047-87-5)

Jews were not the only victims of this Nazi German killing machine - historians estimate that among the people sent to Auschwitz there were at least **1,100,000 Jews** from all the countries of occupied Europe, over **140,000 Poles** (mostly political prisoners), approximately **20,000 Gypsies** from several European countries, over **10,000 Soviet prisoners of war**, and over **10,000 prisoners of other nationalities**. (Emphasis added.)

Two German firms, Tesch/Stabenow and Degesch, produced Cyclone B gas after they acquired the patent from Farben. Tesch supplied two tons a month, and Degesch three quarters of a ton. The firms that produced the gas already had extensive experience in fumigation."

Commentary on the agenda

This overview is entirely typical of the “death camp” argument. It is not based on official figures obtained from various archives but solely upon the personal opinions of individuals who are obviously writing to an idea. Such phrases as “as everyone knows,” “absolutely established”, “irrefutable facts” and “thoroughly refuted” are the easily-recognized hallmarks of the propagandist, not the historian. In point of fact, writers attempting to confirm the allegations of astronomical death tolls for European Jews are not writing from any kind of an objective historical point of view but from thoroughly skewed and propagandistic one.

Truth is the first casualty of the propagandist.

The argument is made that since it is “clearly evident” that **six million** European Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis under Hitler, the fact that nowhere in the through and extensive files of the Third Reich can be found any specific reference to such acts, the answer to this absence is also clearly evident; there are special and secret lists made of Jews who were not entered onto the rolls of the camps but who were immediately executed.

However, if there are no existing Third Reich documents proving the mass murders, neither are there any of the secret lists to be found.

The “secret list” theory is one of desperation, not a clever invention.

Another thesis put forward is that the shipments of Jews (according to the legends, only Jews were shipped to Auschwitz) from various countries encompassed by the Third Reich, contained large numbers of victims, sometimes numbering over two thousand. Of these transportees, a number were entered on the camp rolls and the rest, unrecorded, were immediately gassed in non-existent gas chambers.

It should be noted that the German *Reichsbahn* or State Railroads shipped prisoners in railroad cars that contained 21 bunks. As a typical example, an *RSHA* transport from Pithiviers, France, Number 14, to Auschwitz arriving on August 3, 1942, contained 22 men and 542 women. The men received camp numbers of 56411

through 56432. The train consisted of the engine and tender, a baggage car, two guard cars and 17 transport cars. A grossly inflated postwar account published in *"Auschwitz Chronicle"*, by Danuta Czech, Henry Holt, 1990 p. 211 claimed that 1,034 prisoners arrived at Auschwitz of whom 470 were not registered and were immediately gassed. If the Czech account is correct, how were the additional 470 inmates shipped? Strapped to the car roofs? Compacted into the engine tender? Or most likely in the fertile imagination of the author.

When the Glücks¹ files emerged in Moscow, the archivists at the Central Archives stated that Jewish groups were well aware of these documents and had repeatedly insisted that the Russians not release them to "outsiders" who were "not able to properly understand them."²

What obviously was meant is that these extensive, and complete, files clearly did not support the murder of six millions of European Jews and their release would merely complicate the fundraising efforts of the proponents of the planned extermination theories.

As an historical footnote to this commentary, the following officially recorded conversation of Hitler's is set forth. The first part of it has been widely quoted in a number of books but the second part, for obvious reasons, has not.

On Saturday, October 25, 1941, Hitler received Count Ciano, Italian Foreign Minister at his East Prussian military headquarters for a conference. Present were a number of senior government officials. Following the conference, Hitler held a small, private dinner for several of these personages. One of them was Heinrich Himmler, Chief of the SS and the other was (SS-Obergruppenführer) Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Main State Security Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt-RSHA*) which controlled the Gestapo and the SD. During the course of the dinner, Hitler said:

"From the rostrum of the Reichstag I prophesized to Jewry that, in the event of war's proving inevitable, the Jew

¹ SS-Gruppenführer Richard Glücks was head of the Concentration Camp system. He vanished after the war and was reported to be working for Western intelligence as late as 1955.

² Correspondence with the U.S. Holocaust Museum, Washington DC of January 15, 1992.

would disappear from Europe. That race of criminals has on its conscience the two million dead of the First World War, and now already hundreds of thousands more."

At this point, historians generally comment on Hitler's obvious intention to slaughter all the Jews he could lay his hands on. The generally unreported balance of the conversation conveys a rather different meaning.

"Let nobody tell me that all the same we can't park them in the marshy parts of Russia! Who's worrying about our troops? It's not a bad idea, by the way, that public rumor attributes to us a plan to exterminate the Jews. Terror is a salutary thing."³

The question of the number of persons who died in Auschwitz has been addressed in a publication entitled *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*.⁴ A chapter by Franciszek Piper entitled "The Number of Victims" addresses the issues discussed here and sections of it deserve to be quoted and enlarged upon.

"In erasing traces of the crimes perpetrated in Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazis destroyed documents that could serve as the basis for determining how many people died there. When the Soviet soldiers liberated the camp in January 1945, they found documents that confirmed only 100,000 deaths. Yet surviving prisoners maintained that millions had perished at Auschwitz.

Faced with this disparity, officials of the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission, the organization entrusted with investigating the crimes committed at Auschwitz, conducted an in-depth study. *Based on witness testimonies regarding the capacity of the camp and the length of time that its machinery for mass murder was operative*, (emphasis added) the commission concluded that no fewer than **four million** (emphasis added) persons were put to death at the camp...Four million...is the number recorded in Polish literature, as well as in publications of other countries."

In *The Final Solution*, one of the first books to deal with the Holocaust, published in 1953, the figure of four million was radically

³ "Hitler's Secret Conversations, 1941-1945," New York, 1953, p 72, Protocol 52.

⁴ "Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp," ed. Yisrael Gutman and Michael Berenbaum, 1994, Indiana University Press. pps 61 et seq.

reevaluated. English art historian Gerald Reitlinger estimated the number of victims at Auschwitz to be roughly **800,000 to 900,000**, (emphasis added) based on an analysis of the losses of Jews reported by specific countries...

The destruction by the Nazis of most Auschwitz records is the most important cause of divergent estimates...researchers had to rely on *discrepant and imprecise data from testimonies and depositions of witnesses, former prisoners and Nazi functionaries and on court decisions and fragmentary and incomplete records of camp registries, archives, (sic) and other institutions.* (Emphasis added)."

The question of the destruction of Auschwitz records has been raised over the years to support the claims that large numbers of people died in the camp but were not recorded. If the SS camp administration did destroy or remove official records from Auschwitz before the complex was overrun by the Soviets in early 1945, they did not and could not touch the records that had been sent to the headquarters of the camp system outside of Berlin, or any other copies sent to different agencies. According to the author of the article, the Soviets did find records indicating 100,000 deaths.

Reliance on anything originating from Stalin's agents is totally unrealistic. The Soviets had no problem continuously rewriting their own history and obviously would have had no problem rewriting the history of other nations. The concurrence of the Poles in Soviet findings has no validity whatsoever. Poland was under complete control of the Soviets at the time of their reports and any official commission would do precisely as it was told by its masters.

It was only after the implosion of the Soviet Empire that their state archives became available to outside researchers, at least on a limited basis. As has been noted before, it was the standard policy of the Soviet government to denigrate and attack the government of West Germany, not support it. The microfilms released by the Russian archives in the early 1990s were copies of documents found at the SS concentration camp headquarters located at Oranienburg in 1945 and had these supported the theory of extensive extermination programs, they certainly would have been released years before.

There is another argument used to explain the lack of documentation supporting the thesis of a million or more dead at

Auschwitz. This argument claims that endless transports of Jews were delivered to the camp, not recorded anywhere and immediately executed. This, it is claimed, explains why there is such a disparity between official German figures and those proposed by others.

This argument has some fleeting validity but the question arises that if these transports were unrecorded in German records, how could anyone use them as references other than by supposition and speculation? It is very difficult to have one's cake and eat it too.

The question of transport also needs to be addressed. When the German *Reichsbahn* scheduled rail transportation to Auschwitz, it was listed officially as special trains (*Sonderzug*) which indicated that the transports were privately contracted...in this case by the SS. If these transports were of an official, State nature, they would be listed as regular traffic, paid for by the government. While in the beginning of the forced Jewish emigration prior to the war, the Jewish community in Germany and overseas was compelled to pay for the emigration out of their own pockets, such accommodations were not operational during the war except in rare cases. It should also be noted that transport from Auschwitz taking manufactured products to various points in Europe were also listed as Special Trains. Auschwitz was part of the SS economic empire and as such, was run by the SS and not the German government. The Armed SS (*Waffen-SS*) was not an official part of the *Wehrmacht* and its operating expenses, as were the operating expenses for the entire SS, had to be paid for by the SS itself.

This in itself would cast considerable doubt on the thesis that a vast extermination program had been ordered by Hitler officially as State policy. When the SS ran out of operating capital, the transports stopped running.

The use of prisoner labor was certainly addressed in the numerous trials held after the war.

Another thesis often expressed is that the victims at Auschwitz were nearly all Jewish. Reports from the camp break down the exact number of inmates by groups, to include Jews. At Auschwitz, by far the largest group were those held in protective custody or as political prisoners.

With former Soviet archival material now available, a greater balance should be much easier to obtain. It was only their stubborn

refusal to release these records that allowed inflated figures, supported only with anecdotal and unsupported material, to flourish and, like ivy, expand and cover every aspect of the building beneath.

This archival material has, in fact, been available on microfilm since 1989 but is rarely discussed.

An article in the New York *'Times'* of March 3, 1991 quotes the Soviet sources with considerable accuracy. Forty-six camps are covered with a **total death toll of more than 400,000**. Auschwitz records contain approximately **70,000** death certificates and in addition the death totals of **130,000** among the forced laborers in all camps and **200,000** additional names of various classes of prisoners in all camps to include Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen and Gross Rosen. When queried about this article and the numbers reflected in it, Red Cross officials in Washington, DC agreed that they were indeed the figures contained in the microfilms they had received from Soviet sources but that "special secret lists" existed that boosted the death toll far higher. Further questioning elicited that no one had seen these "secret lists" but that they must certainly exist and that quoting from the official records was "misleading" and should not be done.

In contradiction to these assertions, the German Red Cross Search Service, located at Arolsen in Germany, has published official figures of the known dead in the various concentration camps. These figures are based on clearly identified individuals and are not connected with the former Soviet archival material.

In December of 1983, the total and revised figures of the dead in Auschwitz was **53,633**.

The Arolsen facility no longer publishes such lists because of strong objections by the Jewish community. The reasons for these successful protests should be clearly evident.

The records of the concentration camp system discovered by the Soviets at the system headquarters outside of Berlin in 1945 are complete. From a chronological point of view, there are no gaps. Many of the records found by the Soviets at Auschwitz are not complete but the headquarters files contain copies of all the Auschwitz records

The arrest, deportation and forced labor of a large number of people, including Jews, was repugnant and on a parallel with the British concentration camps (from whence the name came) instituted during the Boer War in which over 20,000 Boer women and children died in conditions of disease, filth and squalor, and is not possible to ignore or justify.⁵

Aside from the records of the camp headquarters seized by the Soviets in 1945 from Oranienburg, another source exists that deals with the monthly population reports made by the individual camps to headquarters. These consisted of radio reports sent in to Oranienburg on a monthly basis. From early 1942 through February of 1943, British intelligence was monitoring these reports and in their official postwar history of the British intelligence system, stated specifically that:

“The returns from Auschwitz, the largest of the camps with **20,000** prisoners, mentioned illness as the main cause of death, but included references to shootings and hangings. *There were no references in the decrypts to gassing.*”⁶ (*emphasis added*)⁶

Given inaccurate demographics about the post-war Jewish population, there is still a considerable gap in the number of Jews, mostly Polish Jews, who were living in Poland in 1939 and unaccounted for in 1945. The assumption was made, and is still being made, that these differences were clearly explained by the extermination theory.

The former Soviet Union maintained a rigid control over its files until its collapse, and it has only been since this point in time that a much clearer picture of events has become evident.

In 1995, Russian author Arkady Vaksberg, a Jewish writer, attorney, and investigative journalist, published a book entitled *Stalin Against The Jews*, the basic theme of which is the persecution of Soviet Jews by Stalin after he had used them against his enemies. Vaksberg goes into some detail about the Polish Jews who, in September of 1939, fled the German advance into Poland and went into the Soviet Union. Vaksberg states that these Polish Jews were seized by Stalin's agencies and put into prison camps.

⁵ Amery, vol.5, 252, 253, 601; vol. 6, 24-25

⁶ “*British Intelligence in the Second World War*,” Hinsley et al, London, 1980, vol. 11, p 673.

The author states that exact figures of these prisoners are not presently available but speaks of “hundreds of thousands.” He also mentions that Soviet border police shot down many escaping Jews before they crossed the border into Communist territory. Survival in Soviet *Gulags* was very poor; of the 80,000 German prisoners of war captured at Stalingrad, only 6,000 were alive in 1955 to return to Germany. How many of these hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews survived the war is not known, but perhaps former Soviet archives hold the final answer to this issue, an issue that has persisted for half a century.⁷

After the breakup of the Yugoslav state in the 1990s, the “ethnic cleansing” by the winsome Serbs of anyone they disliked, including Catholics and Jews, was greeted with a chorus of dismay from other nations...but nothing more.

⁷ “*Stalin Against the Jews*,” Vaksberg, New York, 1995, pp 103-107.

Official American View of the German Concentration Camp System

The 1948 Operation *Bloodstone* Report

When Harry Truman became President of the United States in 1945, he was severely handicapped by his lack of knowledge of highly secret American military intelligence operations. Part of this ignorance was due to the fact that Franklin Roosevelt had not wanted Truman as his Vice President in 1944, much preferring the ultra-liberal Henry Wallace who was far more acceptable to Soviet leader Josef Stalin. Wallace's pro-Soviet views were more in harmony with Roosevelt's courtship of the Soviet dictator. It was certainly known in Russia that Roosevelt's health was rapidly failing and a pro-Soviet successor would have been a man with whom Stalin would prefer to deal.

The Democratic Party officials also recognized this situation and basically forced Roosevelt to choose another running mate. Senator Harry Truman of Missouri was eventually decided upon, dashing the hopes of a fulsome and entirely permissive postwar cooperation by the United States with Soviet Russia for Wallace, Roosevelt and Stalin.

Roosevelt was a vindictive and petty man and he deliberately kept Truman, an individual with no knowledge of military intelligence, in complete ignorance of such matters, even denying him any information about the development of the atomic bomb.

After Roosevelt's sudden, but not unexpected, death in 1945, Truman ascended to his high office with almost no knowledge of the structure or the aims of either military intelligence or the Office of Special Services, the OSS, a clandestine intelligence organization set up by William Donovan, a New York lawyer friend of Roosevelt.

When Truman discovered what was obvious to most insiders, namely that the OSS was filled with active Communists, put there, it should be added, at Roosevelt's specific request so as to be better able to work with their Soviet opposite numbers, he ordered the OSS to be disbanded on September 20, 1945, five months after he assumed office.

Finding it increasingly difficult to obtain information on the actions of U.S. intelligence agencies, Truman pressed Congress for

the establishment of an omnibus agency that would coordinate all intelligence matters and advise him of these on a regular basis.

The National Security Act was passed on July 26, 1947 and subsequent to this, the National Security Council was instituted. Their stated aim was to coordinate all foreign, domestic and military policies insofar as they related to national security.

The Central Intelligence Agency, formed under the National Security Act, superseded a Central Intelligence Group (CIG), formed by Truman in January of 1946 and initially headed by Admiral Sidney W. Souers, a former deputy chief of Naval Intelligence.

In 1948, the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, which had been simmering since the death of Roosevelt and the end of the Second World War, began in earnest. Stalin, testing the military and political will of his former ally, instituted a tight, military blockade of the four-power controlled German capital of Berlin. Truman met this challenge with a massive airlift that kept the city supplied by air and Stalin eventually gave up and stopped the blockade. Stalin had serious problems with Tito, ruler of the Soviet satellite state of Yugoslavia and there was a seizure of power by the Communists in the former Republic of Czechoslovakia.

All of this increased international tension caused the United States, which had almost no realistic intelligence from behind Stalin's Iron Curtain, to begin to turn for advice and assistance more and more to the U.S. and Stalin's former enemies, the Germans.

It is axiomatic that one seeks allies when one hates, not when one loves.

In 1946, the former head of the German military intelligence section on the Soviet military system, General Reinhard Gehlen, began to work for the U.S. Army, and in 1948 his group was taken over by the CIA and run out of Pullach, a suburb of Munich, by Colonel James Critchfield.

Gehlen, whose wartime work on Russian military, as opposed to political, activities was strictly limited to order of battle matters, was more often wrong than right in his analysis of the strengths and operational goals of the Soviet Army and had eventually been fired from his position by Hitler for gross incompetence.

The American authorities were not as quick to judge the arrogant former General and found him very useful in what is called empire building.

By 1948, Gehlen's reports, with no alterations whatsoever, were being issued to the President as having come directly from the brilliant specialists of the CIA.

In early 1948, at the urgent request of his American military controllers, Gehlen issued a grave report stating that 175 Soviet armored divisions were poised to strike into Germany. This report was entirely fictional, a fact that was known to U.S. military intelligence at the time it was issued. The Gehlen Report was, however, tailored to the needs of several powerful groups within the American government, the military and industrial complex targeted by President Eisenhower as the fomenter of the Cold War.

It so alarmed Congress and the President at the time of its unofficial but entirely deliberate release in official Washington, that the ongoing reduction in U.S. military forces was immediately halted and the business community that had reaped such enormous profits during the course of the Second World War saw the opportunity of recovering the economic ground they had lost when that war ended in 1945.

As a result of the rise of bellicosity in the West, several programs were officially instituted to combat what was seen as the imminent threat of Soviet military action.

These were under the aegis of NSC 20, a series of directives issued to various agencies concerning the use of former enemies in the coming fight against the Soviet Union.⁸

The first series, under the control of the U.S. Army were, respectively, Operations *Apple Pie*, (a joint US-British action), *Birchwood*, *Pajamas* and Projects *Credulity* and *Dwindle*.⁹

⁸ The complete text of NSC20/1 may be found in *Containment: Documents on American Policy and Strategy 1945-1950*, Thomas Etzold & John Lewis Gaddis, New York, 1978.

⁹ The files on these operations can be found in the U.S. National Archives under P&O File TS, Sections I, II & III, 1948-1948 Records of the Army

The U.S. Department of State, not to be outdone, instituted Operation Bloodstone, a program that, like the U.S. Army programs, sought out and recruited for hire, former members of German military intelligence as well as members of the political intelligence and counter intelligence arms, the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD) and the *Gestapo*. Bloodstone was actively developed by Frank Gardiner Wisner, a former OSS official, head of the CIA's Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) and a strong supporter of the unrestricted use of former German police and intelligence personnel as well as members of other European anti-Communist groups such as the Croatian *Ustacha* and the Vlasov units.

The latter had been a German-controlled military group made up of former Soviet army personnel who had opted to fight for Hitler against Stalin after the German invasion of Russia in June of 1941.¹⁰

In order to support the hiring of Germans, who only recently had been America's bitter enemies, a number of position papers concerning use of Gestapo, SD and SS personnel were prepared and sent to various officials in the American intelligence hierarchy, to include the President himself.

These heavily researched position papers accurately reflect the period official thinking on the matter of the employment of Germans hitherto having been sought for prosecution by all of the Allies of the Second World War.

The Gehlen Organization, once controlled by the U.S. Army but taken over in 1948 by the CIA, already had a very significant number of Germans who had previously been wanted for various perceived offenses in their ranks.

One of these highly classified reports dealt with a subject that has been of very limited but intense interest in the years following the end of the European War in 1945.

General Staff, RG 319. Because of their sensitivity, all of these files are still classified Top Secret and are officially refused release under FOIA.

¹⁰ A full coverage of these groups can be found in *The Patriotic Traitors: The Story of Collaboration in German Occupied Europe 1940-1945*. David Littlejohn, New York, 1972. Also, there is excellent coverage in *Blowback*. Christopher Simpson, New York, 1988.

This concerns the German Concentration Camp system in general and the claimed planned German extermination of all the Jews of Europe in specific.

Since the end of the war, an enormous body of literature, motion pictures, television commentaries and other manifestations of sociological and political propaganda have appeared that strongly and endlessly endorse the view that enormous numbers of Jews were either put to death by poison gas in German camps or shot in the hinterland of captured Soviet territory by German military or police units. It is one of the basic themes of this thesis that this alleged program of extermination was officially ordered by Adolf Hitler and willingly implemented by his government.

In 1948, these allegations were beginning to gain widespread circulation in the United States and it was to address them that the attached official report was prepared.

Initially, it was the contention of various Jewish groups that all of the various German prison camps contained gas chambers and crematoria designed to slaughter and dispose of as many Jews as could be found under German control. Eventually it was been decided after a great deal of research by German and American historians that while many inmates in these camps died during their confinement, the actual major death camp, complete with the huge gas chambers and even larger crematoria was located at the town of Auschwitz, a city of 10,000 in Silesia, Germany.

It was to this huge work camp complex, they have been led to believe, that an enormous number of Europe's Jews were sent, specifically to be gassed to death and their corpses burnt in enormous coke ovens.

The figures of the dead had a decided tendency to expand with the telling until by 1948, the number of six million dead was generally accepted as fact.

In the intervening years, the figure of six million has been affirmed and reaffirmed by Jewish, and many non-Jewish, writers, made the subject of many media dramas and is generally accepted by the public as factual. Because the complete records of the Concentration Camp system as well as specific records from the Auschwitz camp were seized by the Soviets in 1945, no scholar or researcher has been able to verify the claims of enormous slaughter

in the Auschwitz complex. Secure in the knowledge that one could write whatever one wished with complete impunity, writers on the subject constantly enlarged and embellished their basic themes until the end results began to sound more and more like the productions of the Brothers Grimm.

In 1991, with the collapse of Communism in Russia, much hitherto secret material in former Soviet archives has become available to researchers and, at least in the case of the German Concentration Camp files, the subject of bitter dispute and anger on the part of Jewish groups that actively, and very aggressively, put forward and support the Auschwitz death camp story.¹¹

A significant number of scholars and historians who have investigated the allegations of enormous numbers of Jews exterminated have discovered that any writings on the subject must always conform to the six million figure. They also discover very quickly that this conformity is not only necessary but mandatory.

Any historian, no matter how reputable or exact in their research, who brings this end total into any kind of question discovers that they have run into an extraordinarily powerful entity that very effectively blocks any sort of balanced investigation into the accuracy of the figures of Jewish dead.

The *Bloodstone* report is presented here along with an extensive compendium of figures relating to Auschwitz from 1940, when the camp opened as a prisoner of war establishment, until December of 1944 when the camp was being disbanded and its worker/inmates transferred to the relative safety of the west.

The statistics are taken directly from the official German records and are to be found on thousands of pages of microfilmed material that came from former Soviet Archives.

It should be noted that until recently, the Bloodstone report was highly classified and not available for research and the release

¹¹ The first reports that appeared in the American print media on the newly-available Russian files can be found in an article appearing in the New York 'Times' of March 3, 1991, entitled 'Holocaust-Search for the 'Vanished.' This article is an interview with Ann Stingle of the American Red Cross in Washington that discusses the numbers of camp inmates contained in recently released captured German files from former Soviet archives.

by the Russians of the main Concentration Camp records in 1990 was termed a "serious error" by Jewish activist groups. The latter do not dispute the authenticity or accuracy of the files but question the motives and the wisdom of the Russian archivists who facilitated their public and unrestricted release.

On March 17, 1991, a story on the Concentration Camp numbers appeared in the Sunday edition of the San Francisco Chronicle. It was entitled "The Search for the Vanished" by Judy Chicurel and had originally appeared shortly before in the New York Times, Long Island edition.

Among the important statements were:

*'...the American Red Cross. The service, which started in October (of 1990), uses documents released from the Soviet Union almost two years ago that list more than **400,000 people who were interned in camps and died under the Third Reich...**'(emphasis added.)*

*And..."Included in the documents are records of 46 death camps including nearly **70,000 death certificates from Auschwitz** (emphasis added) and 130,000 names of prisoners used for forced labor in Germany companies (Located in the camp, ed.)"*

It has been the stated belief of holocaust scholars that these records, genuine though they are, are subject to being "misunderstood" by anyone other than themselves and that the former Communist government of Russia had promised them these papers would never be made public.

The reasons for these angry and frightened objections will quickly become readily apparent to the reader as the Bloodstone Report unfolds before their eyes.

Objective truth, like grass, has a habit of pushing its way upwards towards the light of day, in obedience to the laws of God and very often in disobedience to the wishes of men.

Operation *Bloodstone*

Operation *Bloodstone* was initially created by the U.S. Department of State in 1948. Its progenitor was George F. Kennan, department expert on Soviet concerns.

Its stated purpose was to thwart Soviet expansionism but its actual mandate was to create dissension within the newly-acquired territories of the Soviet Union, dissension that specifically included the fostering of armed rebellions by various ethnic groups.

In order to facilitate this, Kennan's plan envisioned the use of any and all of the natural internal enemies of the Communist empire as well as the utilization of Stalin's former enemies such as ex-Gestapo, SD and *Abwehr* agents, non-German entities such as the Croatian Ustacha, members of the Hungarian Arrow Cross party and many others.

Immediately after the war, when there was more cooperation with Soviet Russia, members of these agencies were, at the insistence of the Soviets, arrested, tried and often executed for their activities in conquered Russian territory.

In the German arena, many SD and Gestapo personnel, some formerly operatives at the highest levels of government, were clandestinely recruited for work against the Soviet Union. This recruitment was partially aided by use of the numerous wanted lists prepared at the end of the war.

The Gehlen organization, run initially by the U.S. Army and later entirely by the CIA, was filled with such people. Other agencies recruited in their own fields of interest.

In one case, the U.S. Air Force sought and obtained the services of General Dr. Walter Schreiber, a *Wehrmacht* expert on communicable diseases to include bubonic plague and typhus. Schreiber, whose wartime activities in spreading these diseases among members of the Soviet military and civilian populations made him particularly desirable, was eventually exposed and had to leave America.

Bloodstone openly recruited anyone whom they felt would be of value, regardless of any existing allegations of war crimes by any entity, including Soviet Russia and the United States itself.

To an American President who had been subject to the same doses of wartime anti-German propaganda produced for the American public, *Bloodstone* officials found it necessary to explain, and in many cases, justify their actions.

The following report is specifically intended to address the wartime German concentration camp system in general and the stories of enormous, planned massacres of European Jews in specific.

This report is lengthy and often repetitious and, after an introduction, opens with a general overview of the German concentration camp system, as it was perceived in 1948.

Introduction

With growing worldwide tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States, both parties are actively seeking allies to assist them in what may well escalate into open warfare.

The Soviet Union views American rapprochement with German interests with alarm and anger. It had always been STALIN'S firm intention to take physical control of the German industrial basin of the Ruhr. The Russian conquest of the highly industrialized Germany has been one of their prime goals since Tsarist times. For this reason, STALIN had backed the STAUFFENBERG attempt on HITLER in 1944 and had every

intention of violating his agreements about spheres of influence and wished to press on through Germany to the Rhine in 1945.

He was thwarted by ROOSEVELT'S death and by the dangerous American military presence in Western Europe in 1945.

As it was obvious that the new President was far less cooperative with Soviet aims than his predecessor, STALIN embarked on a program of terrorism, military threats and subversion, a program still in force and still extremely dangerous to American interests.

The Soviet view is that American economic assistance to Europe is antithetical to their plans for the destabilization of that region and the subsequent take-over by Soviet-friendly local Communist parties. They have been thwarted in their goals in Greece and Italy but, in their view, U.S. attitudes towards Germany is considered by the Kremlin as being extremely dangerous for the Soviets.

A new German military resurrection is of the greatest concern to STALIN followed by American economic assistance and, as they see it in Moscow, eventual American economic control over German economic development.

In order to drive a wedge between current American policy towards Germany and the American people, the Soviets have embarked on an extensive propaganda program aimed at creating a situation wherein the American public will refuse to support further U.S.-German rapprochement.

This propaganda mainly deals with German wartime atrocities, or alleged atrocities. The most important aspect of this campaign deals with the German concentration camps and specifically with purportedly huge numbers of Jews being deported, incarcerated in these camps, tortured, put to death by lethal gas and cremated in huge numbers.

As the Soviets have all of the concentration camp directorate files, it is now possible for them to make any kind of wild and unsubstantiated claim they wish without fear of rejection.

They have launched an extensive campaign with the assistance of various Jewish writers, historians, political groups and members of the motion picture, press and motion picture entities.

This program was commenced during the course of the war by such Soviet literary luminaries as Ilya Ehrenberg and other rabidly anti-German Jews and has been continued without a let up until the present day.

It is now known that many documents presented as evidence at the Nuremberg trials after the war were Russian fabrications and this counterfeiting program is still in effect.

The image of thousands of emaciated, naked bodies strewn around the compounds of liberated concentration camps is strongly fixed in the minds of the American public. These bodies are purported to be those murdered by the Germans when in fact, they are victims of the typhus epidemics that raged in all the German camps from 1942 onwards. Most especially noted was the camp at Bergen-Belsen liberated by the British. Inmates in this camp had been transferred from Auschwitz in late 1944 and typhus had wreaked havoc in that place since the introduction of lousy Soviet prisoners in mid-1941.

There is a great deal of confusion in the public mind about these camps and about the massacre of millions of Jews.

Firstly, it is necessary to give a definition of what constituted a Concentration Camp.

1. Definition of Concentration Camps

According to German law, a Konzentrationslager (officially abbreviated to KL, but popularly referred to as KZ) provided Schutzhaft (Protective Custody) for persons who had not been legally sentenced to prison by a court of law, and/or for those who, having served a legal sentence, had been ordered further detention by the Gestapo (Secret State Police), Sicherheitsdienst (SD or Security Service) or the Geheime Feldpolizei (Secret Field Police.)

Legal definitions for the camps differed widely in the various German-occupied areas of Europe. For example, Straflager (Punitive Camps) in Poland were often frequently somewhat similar to prisons,

and served the same purpose, but the treatment of inmates could correspond to that practiced in concentration camps in Germany.

There did not appear to be a definite formula for the establishment of detention centers. New camps often were attached to existing penal institutions. A Konzentrationslager could be added to or use the facilities of a Zuchthaus (Penitentiary).

An instance of the latter case was the use by the KL ORANIENBURG of the crematorium at the PLÖTZENSEE Zuchthaus.¹² Concentration camps could be expanded by the addition of, for example a Straflager für Arbeitsverweigerer (Penal Camp for Persons Refusing to Work). Contrary to current legend, all German penal institutions since the turn of the century have made it a standard practice to cremate any dead prisoner and return his ashes to his family. This was especially necessary in the event of the deceased expiring from an infectious disease such as typhus.

PW Dulags (Durchgangslager, or Transit Camps) and internment camps appeared erroneously in some wartime lists as KL's, probably because the term Dulag could have been applied also to collecting stations of all sorts for Schutzhäftlinge (Persons in Protective Custody).

Movements of inmates from one camp to another, especially from camps in occupied territories to those in the Reich were quite frequent in the last years of the war.

For example, in 1944, large numbers of Hungarian Jews, nearly all of those Jews deported from Budapest in that year, were transferred out of Auschwitz KL to other KLs throughout the Reich.

2. Number of Camps and Inmates

Because the Soviets have the complete records of the German concentration camp system and refuse to release them, comprehensive reports on this subject, to include estimates of the number of inmates in the KL's, the complete number of camps in Germany and German-held areas and, most especially, the number of KL inmates who perished during the war, their origins and the means of their deaths is not immediately available.

However, as every camp commander was required to submit monthly statistical reports to the main KL directorate and as many copies of these reports exist in various files in the various occupation

¹² A Zuchthaus is not a concentration camp but a civil penitentiary.

zones of Germany, it has been possible to reconstruct much of this information. Because of its patent falsity, no documentation from either Soviet or Jewish sources has been utilized.

A reliable report of October, 1943 concerning the camps in Poland mentioned the existence of 109 camps in that country, divided into the following types:

Nine Transit Camps
Twenty-four KL's
Three large forced labor camps
Sixty smaller forced labor camps
Three camps for priests
Nine camps for Jews
One camp "for the improvement of the Nordic race."

Some wartime sources have estimated the number of Germans who had been inmates at various periods during the years 1933 to 1944 to be between 750,000 and 1,300,000

The most conservative estimate of the number of persons in "protective custody" in Germany proper in July of 1944 was from 170,000 to 370,000.

The number of KL inmates in Germany proper in the last months of the war has been estimated to be between 300,000 and 500,000. Of this number, a significant percentage consisted of "racially pure" Germans, as defined by Nazi law.

A large percentage of these inmates were engaged in labor projects, often for the Organization Todt- OT and other labor and auxiliary organizations. The largest camp complex located in the east was Auschwitz which was primarily considered a work camp for the SS and often had between 50,000 and 70,000 inmates of all origins on their rolls.

3. Commitment and Release

The Einweisung in KL's (Commitment to Concentration Camps) was effected by both branches of the Sicherheitspolizei (Sipo, or Security Police).

The Gestapo (both Amt IV or the Reichssicherheitshauptamt RSHA in Berlin and its branches and sub-branches) normally committed and could release those persons charged with, but not sentenced for, political offenses and crimes. This was officially designed Schutzhaft (Protective Custody).

The Kriminal Polizei (Kripo or Criminal Police: both Amt V of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt and its branches and sub-branches committed "BV's" (Berufsverbrecher or habitual criminals) and also was able to order their release.

4. Administration

German Concentration Camps were controlled by the SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (SS Economic and Administrative Department) and the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Department of National Security, which was the head office of the Gestapo and the Security Service). Both of these departments formed part of the Reichsführung-SS (SS High Command).

The SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (abbreviated to WVHA) administered the camps, having had complete control over all personnel, including the guards and prisoners.

One of the chief functions of this department was the supervision of the SS-Unternehmungen (SS Enterprises), for which prison labor was employed. Most camps used the labor of their inmates, and in some cases, Auschwitz in particular, factories were even built either in or near the camps to utilize this labor. The WVHA was in charge of the products of such work.

The Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke DAW or German Equipment Works), one branch of which was located in ORANIENBURG, had a main office in Berlin, and in liaison with the WVHA took a share in the production activity of the camps.

The WVHA, whose Headquarters were in Berlin, was divided into several Amtsgruppen or sub-branches. The branch which handled concentration camp matters was Amtsgruppe D, Führung und Verwaltung der Konzentrationslager (Command and Administration of Concentration Camps). Its offices were located at ORANIENBURG, twenty miles north of Berlin.

SS Obergruppenführer Oswald POHL was head of the Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt and was directly responsible to HIMMLER

Amtsgruppenchef (Chief of Branch) of Amtsgruppe D was Richard GLÜCKS, who held the ranks of Gruppenführer in the General SS and Lieutenant General in the Waffen-SS. GLÜCKS vanished at the end of the war but recent reports, not verified, have him as a resource for the British.

The following Ämter (Departments) were contained within Amtsgruppe D:

Amt I This was Zentralamt (Central Department), which was headed by SS Obersturmbannführer Artur LIEBENSCHERL and was responsible for general policy, security arrangements, public relations and coordination of the other departments within the Amtsgruppe.

Amt II This was headed by SS Obersturmbannführer Gerhard MAURER. This department had charge of the general administration of prisoners.

Amt III The Medical Department, under SS Obersturmbannführer Dr. LOLLING, was responsible for general medical and health administration of all camp personnel, both staff and prisoners.

Amtsgruppe C, (Bauwesen) was another branch of the WVHA, controlled works and buildings and, therefore, supervised the construction within the camps of plants of the DAW referred to above. It directed the activities of concentration camp personnel who were drafted into SS Bau Brigaden and SS Bau Battalionen, (SS Construction Brigades and Battalions) for employment on SS building and construction programs or for clearing bombed areas.

5. Camp Organization

Richard GLÜCKS as head of Amtsgruppe D was the Führer der Totenkopfverbände und Konzentrationslager (Commander of the Death's Head Formations and Commissioner of Concentration Camps.)

While the methods of organization and administration of camps differed in the various German-held sections of Europe, the following outline is fairly representative of the basic structure of such establishments.

The most important man in any camp was the Politische Kommissar (Political Kommissar). He was a Gestapo official from the Politische Abteilung (Political Section).

This section was subordinated to the Gestapo and Amt VI (Sicherheitsdienst through Amt IV (Gestapo), both of which were part of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt RSHA, or Department of National Security).

Regional control was exercised by the Gestapo through its Leitstellen and Stellen, and by the Sicherheitsdienst through its Leitabschnitte and Abschnitte.

In some respects, the Political Kommissar in a camp was the superior of the Lagerkommandant (Camp Commandant) and could even have the latter removed. Normally, however, he did not interfere with the administration of a camp, except in an emergency.

A Political Kommissar received double the pay of a Lagerkommandant and, in addition, RM 45 daily for travel allowance.

The rank of a Lagerkommandant was usually in accordance with the importance and size of the camp of which he was in charge. He worked closely with the Political Kommissar, and was jointly responsible with the latter for the conduct of the camp, but in addition he was responsible for the safety of the camp.

The camp guards were under the command of their own officers, but the latter executed the orders of the camp Commandant insofar as such duties as posting of guards and sentries are concerned.

As deputies, the Commandant had one or more Lagerführer (Camp Sub-commanders), the number depending upon the size of the camp; they generally held the rank of SS Untersturmführer (2nd Lieutenant), and functioned as section leaders.

Another post was the Rapportführer, who called the prisoner rolls.

Under the Commandant, as adjutant and general supervisor, was the Hauptwachmeister (Chief Warden), a post that was often filled by the CO of the SS guards. He controlled the Platzmeister (Wardens) who had charge of working parties.

Under each Lagerführer, as his NCO, was an Arbeitsdienstführer (Works Supervisor), who was in direct contact with the inmates and kept a record of the work to be performed by them.

Assisting the Arbeitsdienstführer were Vorarbeiter (Foremen) and Arbeitskapos (Labor or Works Supervisors). These foremen and overseers were usually chosen from among those prisoners who were serving court sentences for common crimes and who were committed to the camps by the Criminal Police rather than by the Secret State Police.

In some camps, they were graded and known as Kapos (supervisors) and Haupt-Kapos (Chief Supervisors). These superiors could either wear an armband with the inscription Kapo on the left upper arm or Gefreiterwinkel (sleeve rank chevrons similar to Wehrmacht corporals).

In charge of the living quarters in the camps are Blockführer (Block Leaders).

Prisoner parties which worked outside the camps, under the supervision of a Kommandoführer were known as Kommandos. There were usually two guards for every five prisoners, and every third guard was armed with a submachine gun.

Among the inmates the Lagerältester (Camp Senior Inmate) held the most privileged position. He received his orders from the Lagerführer, and in some instances, was reported to be the "right hand man" of the Lagerkommandant.

Ranking below the foregoing prisoner officials were the Blockältester, comparable to an Army First Sergeant; the Blockschreiber, who was comparable to a Company Clerk, and the Steubenälteste (Room Wardens), who were prisoners in charge of rooms.

In the main, there were two doctors in each camp, one attending to the SS personnel and the other to the inmates. The

nurses or medical orderlies were largely recruited from among the inmates.

The great majority of all camps were basically self-administered by trusted inmates and not SS personnel;

This has been a general overview of the administration of the camps in the German prison systems.

Although, as noted above, the complete files of the system fell into Soviet hands and are not accessible, a great deal of material on these camps has survived in areas under Allied occupation and it is, therefore, possible to form reasonably accurate assessments of each of the major camps.

As the Soviets are now claiming that the camp complex at Auschwitz in former German Silesia was a "great extermination camp for Soviet prisoners of war and large number of Jews," perhaps it would be instructive to study this particular camp.

Auschwitz was an enormous work camp at the confluence of several rivers and had been chosen by the senior SS establishment as a site for factories. It initially occupied the barracks of a former Imperial Austrian artillery unit, later taken over by the Poles.

There was an extensive and very important artificial rubber (Buna) factory and a large system designed to manufacture gasoline out of coal, that resource being plentiful in the region.

After the introduction of Soviet prisoners of war post June 1941, terrible outbreaks of typhus occurred in Auschwitz and the death tolls were enormous.

Because the SS rented their prisoners out to over a hundred small German firms, it was imperative for them to take steps to halt this typhus epidemic. This was never completely accomplished and inmates transferred from Auschwitz to other camps merely spread the disease.

Rumors were begun in 1942-1943 by British intelligence, that "many thousands" of Jewish prisoners were being gassed in huge "gas chambers" and their bodies burnt.

It is entirely true that any prisoner in German custody, be them political prisoners, professional criminals or Jews, were cremated upon their death and, at least in the beginning, their ashes sent to their families. During the war this was not possible and ashes were merely dumped into a nearby river. It is important to note that it was absolutely vital to cremate the infected corpses of the many typhus victims and this may well have been the origin of the gas chamber/cremation story now being put about by Soviet propagandists.

Plans of the Auschwitz camp exist and it can be said categorically that no gas chambers for the killing of any prisoners existed in the camp. What did exist were rather small delousing chambers to kill the lice carrying typhus that could be found in the clothing of newly arrived Polish and Russian prisoners.

Inmate clothing was confiscated and shipped to Germany as raw material and each inmate was issued clean prison garb. Also, the heads of all arriving prisoners were shaved to prevent the spread of body lice and all inmates were subject to showers with medicated soap whose purpose was to kill any lice remaining on the body.

Now, DDT is used for this purpose but this compound did not exist in Germany at the time. Apparently the soap was not entirely effective and permitted the spread of typhus in the camps.

Political Analysis

The Soviets are deeply concerned with the U.S. use, and intended use, of former German military and security personnel. In order to counter what they see as a potential threat from their former, bitter enemies, they have embarked on a campaign very similar to ones used by British propagandists in the 1914-1918. The similarities are quite remarkable all in all. Then, the German were accused of raping nuns, cutting off their hands, throwing babies up into the air and catching them on bayonets and other fabrications.

Much of this was taken, in toto, from reports on Belgian atrocities in the Congo some time before.

The British also introduced the story about turning human bodies into soap by rendering their fat. This same story became prevalent during their anti-German campaigns during the late conflict.

It is interesting to note that there is a considerable body of evidence that the British authorities utilized the services of GLÜCKS in setting up British detention centers in Palestine during their on-going war with Zionist terrorist groups prior to the creation of the current state of Israel.

There is no effective way of dealing with this anti-German propaganda. It is considered unproductive to make any attempt at refutation of the growing legends because the worldwide Jewish community is now supporting and exploiting the Soviet propaganda and are obviously utilizing it for their own ends.

Since a significant number of former German SS and SD personnel are now employed by American intelligence, it is recommended that any material concerning the use of these individuals be strictly limited in its dissemination and that any records now extant be accorded the greatest security protection."

Official Record of all Prisoners in Auschwitz Concentration Camp from May of 1940 through December of 1944.

The Official Records

Prisoner records of Auschwitz camp from May, 1940 through December 1944 from the Glücks complete Concentration Camp microfilm records now located in the Russian Central Archives¹³

(Note: The attached statistical tables concerning prisoners in Auschwitz camp from its inception to its closing are taken directly from Soviet archival material, now available on microfilm from the former Soviet Central Archives. Also, a good deal of corroborative material from the German Archives concerning the German State Railways has been located in the German State Archives (*Bundesarchiv*) and utilized. The railroad was responsible for the transportation of inmates to and from concentration camps in the figures from the Russian files is accurately reflected in the *Reichsbahn* documents.)

¹³ Central State Archives No 187603, Rolls 281-286 (Auschwitz)

Non Jewish Prisoners Entering Auschwitz

1940		1941		1942	
May	70	Jan	1691	Jan	843
June	1225	Feb	1339	Feb	1508
July	147	Mar	221	Mar	1071
Aug	1156	Apr	4051	Apr	1817
Sept	1873	May	1793	May	1881
Oct	471	June	731	June	2583
Nov	637	July	1925	July	3493
Dec	1190	Aug	473	Aug	3106
		Sept	785	Sept	1628
		Oct	7191	Oct	2952
		Nov	1215	Nov	2507
		Dec	1217	Dec	3172
	6669		22632		26561
1943		1944			
Jan	9474	Jan	1767		
Feb	4065	Feb	1052		
Mar	15618	Mar	573		
Apr	7346	Apr	5971		
May	4868	May	2097		
June	3368	June	1412		
July	4942	July	1368		
Aug	5282	Aug	6890		
Sept	4531	Sept	4604		
Oct	8179	Oct	674		
Nov	3676	Nov	1854		
Dec	4961	Dec	1251		
	76310		29513		

Total non-Jews in Auschwitz, 1940-1944: 161,685

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 281-1940: Frames 107-869-Roll 282-1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42: Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286-1945: Frames 001-329.

Jewish Prisoners Entering Auschwitz 1941-1944

1941	1942	1943
July 171	Jan 1166	Jan 6076
Nov 1	Feb 6762	Feb 2507
Dec 6	Mar 1000	Mar 9037
	Apr 3004	Apr 5054
	May 9736	May 2453
	June 3518	June 2520
	July 3419	July 4201
	Aug 5990	Aug 13382
	Sept 4146	Sept 7990
	Oct 4742	Oct 1624
	Nov	Nov 3921
	Dec	Dec 7180
178	43483	65945
1944		
Jan 1445		
Feb 1299		
Mar 1178		
Apr 3175		
May 18927		
June 8438		
July 12924		
Aug 12705		
Sept 2126		
Oct 1177		
63394		

Total Jews in Auschwitz, 1941-1944: 173,000

**Total number of inmates in Auschwitz, 1940-1944
334,785**

Sources: CSA No. 187603: -Roll 282-1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42:Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852.

Total Typhus Deaths in Auschwitz, 1941-1944

1941		1942		1943	
Oct	2128	Jan	1776	Jan	2123
Nov	5084	Feb	1515	Feb	2979
Dec	2585	Mar	3018	Mar	4604
		Apr	1392	Apr	2835
		May	2911	May	2378
		June	3688	June	2980
		July	4124	July	3438
		Aug	4968	Aug	2633
		Sept	1497	Sept	2901
		Oct	6092	Oct	3549
		Nov	103	Nov	4621
		Dec	1023	Dec	4679
9797		32107		39720	
1944					
Jan	2801				
Feb	1933				
Mar	2321				
Apr	1771				
May	981				
June	1575				
July	1121				
Aug	1847				
Sept	3313				
Oct	3095				
Nov	927				
Dec	120				
21805					

Total deaths by typhus in Auschwitz, 1941-1944
103,447

Sources: CSA No. 187603: 1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42: Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286.

Jewish Typhus Deaths in Auschwitz, 1942-1944

1942J		1943		1944	
Jan	875	Jan	1502	Jan	1429
Feb	906	Feb	1729	Feb	876
Mar	1789	Mar	3981	Mar	1312
Apr	875	Apr	895	Apr	632
May	1991	May	1721	May	407
June	2406	June	1990	June	884
July	3090	July	2017	July	455
Aug	3271	Aug	968	Aug	1129
Sept	919	Sept	1803	Sept	1871
Oct	4789	Oct	2705	Oct	1294
Nov	29	Nov	3219	Nov	927
Dec	621	Dec	2842	Dec	91
21561		25372		11307	

Total Jewish deaths by typhus in Auschwitz, 1942-1944

58,240

Total non-Jewish deaths by typhus in Auschwitz, 1940-1944

45,207

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 283-1941-42:Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852.

Deaths by natural causes (other than typhus) in Auschwitz, 1940-1944

1940		1941		1942	
May	6	Jan	142	Jan	120
June	23	Feb	175	Feb	77
July	15	Mar	165	Mar	42
Aug	35	Apr	9	Apr	39
Sept	9	May	47	May	23
Oct	21	June	19	June	21
Nov	34	July	5	July	16
Dec	30	Aug	11	Aug	5
		Sept	23	Sept	19
		Oct	2	Oct	25
		Nov	39	Nov	49
		Dec	48	Dec	61
	173		685		497
1943		1944			
Jan	103	Jan	120		
Feb	221	Feb	191		
Mar	198	Mar	178		
Apr	89	Apr	167		
May	62	May	155		
June	56	June	151		
July	31	July	98		
Aug	38	Aug	65		
Sept	96	Sept	54		
Oct	102	Oct	67		
Nov	235	Nov	94		
Dec	197	Dec	17		
	1428		1357		

**Death by natural causes (other than typhus), 1940-1944
4,140**

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 281-1940: Frames 107-869-Roll 282-1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42:Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286.

**Death by natural causes (other than typhus), Jews, Auschwitz,
1941-1944**

1941		1942		1943	
Dec	7	Jan	62	Jan	62
		Feb	39	Feb	117
		Mar	32	Mar	120
		Apr	26	Apr	43
		May	11	May	37
		June	5	June	41
		July	9	July	16
		Aug	1	Aug	24
		Sept	11	Sept	61
		Oct	19	Oct	81
		Nov	37	Nov	104
		Dec	48	Dec	130
	7		300		836
1944					
Jan	98				
Feb	127				
Mar	111				
Apr	140				
May	90				
June	107				
July	49				
Aug	32				
Sept	41				
Oct	39				
Nov	81				
Dec	6				
	921				

**Total Jewish deaths by natural causes (other than typhus),
1941-1944**

2,064

Sources: CSA No. 187603: 1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42:Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286.

Transfers from Auschwitz, 1940-1944

1940		1941		1942	
Oct	11	Jan	657	Feb	196
		Feb	8	Mar	275
		April	1002	Apr	158
		May	36	May	423
		June	4	June	1845
				July	753
	11		1707		3650
1943		1944			
Mar	3001	Jan	612		
Apr	1024	Feb	2060		
Aug	3195	Mar	881		
Sept	600	Apr	2500		
Oct	4544	May	7923		
Nov	3500	June	9228		
Dec	333	July	15628		
		Aug	8957		
		Sept	9091		
		Oct	33244		
		Nov	8309		
		Dec	1455		
	16197		99888		

**Total transferred from Auschwitz, 1940-1944
121,453**

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 281-1940: Frames 107-869-Roll 282-1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42: Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852.

Transfers of Jews from Auschwitz, 1941-1944

1941		1942		1943	
Jan	271	Feb	120	Mar	1572
Apr	459	Mar	37	Apr	630
May	17	Apr	30	Aug	2871
		May	112	Sept	395
		June	873	Oct	3201
		July	120	Nov	3264
				Dec	173
747		1292		12106	
1944					
Jan	409				
Feb	1843				
Mar	410				
Apr	1927				
May	7540				
June	8109				
July	13765				
Aug	7501				
Sept	8502				
Oct	28509				
Nov	7322				
Dec	761				
86598					

Total number of Jews transferred from Auschwitz, 1941-1944
100,743

Sources: CSA No. 187603: 1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42:Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286.

Administrative Executions at Auschwitz, 1940-1943

1940		1941	
Nov 22	40 Poles	Jan 3	1 Pole
		July 3	80 Poles
		Aug 1	1 Jew
		Nov 14	151 Poles
		Dec 1	1 Pole
		Dec 20	5 Poles
	Poles 40		Poles 238
	Jews 0		Jews 1
1942		1942 cont.	
Jan 24	1 Russian	June	40 Poles, 1 Jew
Apr 3	11 Poles	26	4 Jews
May 27	150 Poles	June	2 Poles, 3 Jews
May 28	1 Jew	27	15 Jews
June 4	3 Jews	June	9 Jews
June 9	3 Jews	29	10 Poles, 2 Jews
June 10	13 Poles	July 1	9 Poles
June 11	3 Jews	July 2	50 Poles
June 12	60 Poles, 2 Jews	July 14	2 Jews
June 13	6 Jews	July 16	14 Poles
June 15	200 Poles	July 20	11 Jews
June 16	2 Poles, 2 Jews	July 23	1 Pole
June 18	8 Jews	July 29	60 Poles
June 19	50 Poles, 4 Jews	Aug 11	57 Poles
June 20	4 Czechs	Aug 13	1 Jew
June 22	4 Jews	Aug 18	3 Poles
June 23	3 Jews	Aug 21	3 Poles
June 25	3 Jews	Sept 5	1 Pole
		Sept	1 Pole
		25	9 Poles, 2 Russians
		Nov 9	
		Nov 14	
		Nov 17	
		Dec 4	
		Poles	737
		Jews	91
		Russians	3
		Czechs	4

1943		
Jan 6		9 Poles, 5 Jews
Jan 14		6 Poles
Jan 25		22 Poles
Jan 26		7 Poles, 2 Jews
Feb 7		2 Poles
Feb 9		2 Poles, 1 Jew
Feb 13		16 Poles
Feb 19		11 Poles, 3 Jews
Mar 17		1 Pole
Apr 3		26 Poles
Apr 13		2 Gypsies
May 22	13 Poles, 6 Jews, 5 Gypsies	
May 31		1 Gypsy
June 10		20 Poles
June 25		68 Poles
June 28		30 Poles
July 24		1 Pole
July 28		4 Poles
Aug 20		38 Poles
Sept 4	45 Poles, 8 Russians	
Sept 21		2 Poles
Sept 28	9 Poles, 6 Jews, 12 Gypsies, 1	
Oct 11		Czech
Nov 9		54 Poles
		50 Poles
	Poles	436
	Jews	23
	Russians	8
	Gypsies	19
	Czechs	2

1944		
Feb 1	19 Poles	
	8 Russians	
	4 Poles	
Mar 24	3 Jews	
Sept 15	2 Poles	

Poles	25
Jews	3
Russians	8

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 281-1940: Frames 107-869-Roll 282-1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42: Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286.

Total number of inmates executed: 1359

Total Poles executed: 1208

Total Jews executed: 117

Total Russians executed: 19

Total Gypsies executed: 19

Total Czechs executed: 6

Total of Hungarian Jews sent to Auschwitz, May, 1944-October, 1944

1944	
May	8548
June	3981
July	6543
Aug	3881
Sept	163
Oct	1
	23,117

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286-1945: Frames 001-329.

Total number of Hungarian Jews sent to Auschwitz, May-October, 1944: 23,117

Note: Number of Hungarian Jews claimed sent to Auschwitz, May-October, 1944:

Lucy Dawidowicz. *The War Against the Jews*, New York, 1975.: **450,000**

Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, New York, 1985. **180,000**

Hungarian Jews transferred from Auschwitz, May-October, 1944

1944	
May	2963
June	5934
July	9630
Aug	1500
Sept	1300
Oct	200
	21,527

Total number of Hungarian Jews entering Auschwitz, May-October, 1944:

23,117

Total number of Hungarian Jews transferred from Auschwitz, May-October, 1944:

21,527

Total number of Hungarian Jews remaining in Auschwitz after October, 1944:

1,590

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286-1945: Frames 001-329

Summation: From July, 1941 through October 1944

Total number of Jewish prisoners in the Auschwitz camp system:

173,000

Total number of Jewish prisoners who died of typhus: **58,240**

Total number of Jewish prisoners who died of natural causes: **2,064**

Total number of Jewish prisoners transferred to other camps:

100,743

Total number of Jewish prisoners executed: **117**

Total number of Jewish prisoners remaining in camp after German evacuation **on January 15 et seq 1945: 11,839**

Sources: CSA No. 187603: Roll 281-1940: Frames 107-869-Roll 282-1940-41: Frames 001-875-Roll 283-1941-42:Frames 001-872-Roll 284-1942-43: Frames 003-862-Roll 285-1943-44: Frames 019-852- Roll 286-1945: Frames 001-329.

When the SS evacuated the Auschwitz work camp complex **in the middle of January 1945**, they left a large number of prisoners

behind. Many of these were too old or too sick to travel and they were left in their barracks, guarded by a Polish militia that had been raised earlier by Hans Frank, the head of the *Government General* (as occupied Poland was termed by the Germans.) With the approach of the Soviet army in early 1945, these Polish guards indiscriminately attacked the barracks with the prisoners inside, using hand grenades and machine guns.

The violent animosity of the Catholic Poles to their huge Jewish community is certainly well known. When the Russians invaded Poland in 1920, one of the greatest fears of the Polish leadership and the government was that the 500,000 Jewish residents of Warsaw's Nalevski district would rise up against them in support of the advancing Bolshevik armies. Many Polish Jews fled after the failure of the Russian attack and a number of those left behind were promptly massacred by Poles when the central government collapsed after the German invasion of 1939.

Although exact figures of the dead among the remaining Auschwitz inmates in 1945 are not available, several existing Soviet military reports put the death toll between 7,000 and 10,000. Former members of the Polish militia have subsequently claimed that many of the dead were shot down by Russian troops as they attempted to exit the liberated camp.

The Russians did not like Jews either, remembering their savagery against them during the salad days of Josef Stalin.¹⁴

The truth of this matter will never be known but at least this is an atrocity that cannot be blamed on the Germans who were hundreds of miles away at the time.

How many of the 1,590 Hungarian Jewish deportees remaining in Auschwitz died in this Slavic holocaust is not known.

¹⁴ See Vaksberg, *op cit.*

Historical Fact and Fiction

The academic *German Studies Review* published a series of articles in their October 1994 issue. These articles were by prominent American 'Holocaust' scholars such as Christopher Browning, Richard Breitman and others. The Browning article claimed that in July of 1941, Hitler ordered the killing of all the Jews in Europe. Upon analysis of the German document Browning used as the basis for this statement, it became very clear that either Browning could not read German or that if he did, he deliberately misinterpreted the document in a manner that could hardly be termed accidental

The Browning Version: An Examination of Sources

In his book, 'The Path to Genocide'¹⁵ published in 1992, Dr. Christopher Browning states; " In the Summer of 1941, probably in July, Hitler indicated his approval for the preparation of a plan for the mass murder of all European Jews under Nazi control, though just how and when this was communicated to Himmler and Heydrich cannot be established."

The probability of such an approval has been elevated to fact in a subsequent study by Dr. Browning, 'The Euphoria of Victory and the Final Solution: Summer-Fall 1941.'¹⁶ " When Hitler gave his 'victory' speech in mid-July, instigating the immediate implementation of the Final Solution on Soviet territory..." is the specific quote. Since this speech and its implications are of considerable historical importance considering the total lack of such a specific order in official German documents, a careful search was made of Hitler's speeches during the summer months of 1941.

From the opening of the campaign against the Soviet Union on 21 June of that year until October, Hitler made no speeches whatsoever and the speech he did make on 3 October at the *Sportpalast* in Berlin at the opening of the Winter Aid campaign

¹⁵

'The Path to Genocide', Cambridge, 1992 p. 25.

¹⁶

'The Euphoria of Victory and the Final Solution: Summer-Fall 1941' German Studies Review, October, 1994, pps 473-481.

contained only references to the German military successes in the East and made no mention of any "final solution."¹⁷ In response to a query by the author as to the date of this victory speech, Dr. Browning replied in a letter of November 23, 1994 that the speech in question was taken from Nuremberg Document 221-L. He explained further that the reference he made to a speech was not really a speech but a monologue to a limited audience.¹⁸

A search of the German language records of the International Military Tribunal located Document 221-L in vol. 38, pp. 86-94.

In his letter, Dr. Browning was partially correct. The 'speech' was in the form of a documentary record taken by *Reichsleiter* Martin Bormann, Hitler's secretary, at a closed meeting held in Hitler's headquarters on 16 July 1941.

It was neither a speech nor a monologue but a précis of a high level conference concerning, primarily, the administration of newly acquired territory in Russia. This précis speaks for itself, certainly without any need for assistance or interpretation, and a translation is supplied so that the reader may judge for himself the specifics of what Dr. Browning has termed the "implementation of the Final Solution."

Dr. Browning's article focuses on the decision for a final solution which he defines as the Germans "attempt to murder every last Jew in Europe." He claims that there were two decisions for implementation of this purported program. The first was made in mid-July of 1941 and was specifically directed towards the "total mass murder of Soviet Jewry."

It is the first decision that is now under consideration.

Dr. Browning states: "In mid-July, convinced that the military campaign was nearly over and victory was at hand, an elated Hitler gave the signal to carry out an accelerated pacification and racial 'cleansing' " of the newly acquired territories in European Russia." He states further: "When Hitler gave his 'victory' speech in mid-July,

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VB Nr. 278 of 5. October 1941; Domarus, 'HITLER-Reden und Proklamationen 1932-1943', Vol.II, Munich, 1965, pps. 1758-1767.

18

Letter from Dr. Christopher Browning to author, 23 November 1994.

instigating the immediate implementation of the Final Solution on Soviet territory..."

A reading of Dr. Browning's source, Nuremberg document 221-L, does not bear out his thesis in any way whatsoever. The conference, which was certainly not a speech, concerns itself entirely with the administration of the newly acquired territories. The only subjects that even remotely approach Dr. Browning's specific claims refer to the combating of the recently instituted Soviet partisan movement, the establishment of a security system in the territories and the evacuation of Soviets from the Crimea in order to colonize the area with Germans.

There is not one word in the text of this conference that refers to Jews or any theoretical plan for their mass extermination in former Soviet territory or anywhere else. The only possible linkage that could be made is that the discussion concerning the ruthless combating of partisans, who were led by political commissars and high-level Communist Party functionaries, contained such phrases as "shooting" and "rooting out". Because the leadership of the partisans, the commissars and party leaders, was almost exclusively Jewish in composition, a tenuous conclusion could be postulated that by destroying the partisan movement, Hitler was calling for the destruction of Jews in the eastern territories.

Insofar as the participants in this conference addressing any kind of a "final solution" concerning Jews, there is not one word contained in the notes taken on it that would convince any rational reader that such was the case.

Convoluting, inverted logic seem to be the hallmark of *fin de siècle* historical writers, demi-journalists and ideologues when they deal with the subject of the persecution of Jews in Europe and Russia between 1933 and 1945.

Both Dr. Browning's article and the following one by Richard Breitman entitled 'Plans for the Final Solution in Early 1941' in the same journal, contain a number of phrases which strongly indicate that those who write on the subject are reduced to suppositions, theories and, in many cases, fictive renderings and strained couplings of unrelated facts.

In Dr. Browning's article can be found the following phrases that tend to support this latter thesis: "Were Hitler's decisions of

implementation long preceded by 'basic' decisions and 'secret plans'? Here the historian is necessarily on much more speculative grounds..."; "My reasoning in this regard is admittedly speculative, as is that of other historians who wrestle with the issue." Dr. Browning offers "scenarios" which might be acceptable for a playwright or a short story writer but fall short of usefulness to a person attempting to deal with historical fact. The word "seems" appears a number of times:....."Himmler seems to have known" and..."Hitler....seems to have incited similar planning for the murder of European Jewry in mid-July."

Richard Breitman's article in the same edition of *German Studies Review* is presented in a similar vein as that of Dr. Browning.¹⁹

Here are found such quotations as: "Deciphering Hitler's exact intentions at a given time, however, is both tricky and subjective, given his habit of concealment and his disinclination to give explicit, written orders."; "There is a constant pattern of veiling measures against Jews (and other victimized groups) with euphemisms." Breitman mentions various meetings of top Third Reich leaders with such comments as: "There is no record of who else (besides Hitler) was present or exactly what was discussed." and "The content of these meetings of the key authorities on the Final Solution went unrecorded-- or at least no notes of them have survived." Breitmann speaks of "ambiguous language, euphemisms, and camouflage" and begins his penultimate paragraph with: "To my knowledge, neither Heydrich or Himmler referred directly to the date of plans for the Final Solution or of Hitler's authorization of it in a form that has reached posterity."

In short, both Browning and Breitman make the same points, namely that no written proof is extant and that which appears to be a possible proof is neither conclusive nor convincing unless enhanced by tenuous support systems that must be maintained more by wishful thinking than fact.

Franciszek Piper discusses this situation when he writes on the number of victims of anti-Semitism during the period of the Third Reich. He speaks of the reliance of researchers on "discrepant and

¹⁹

'Plans for the Final Solution in Early 1941', German Studies Review, October, 1994, pps 483-493.

imprecise data from testimonies and depositions of witnesses, former prisoners, and Nazi functionaries and on court decisions and fragmentary and incomplete records of camp registries, archives and other institutions."²⁰

The former Soviet Archives contain the complete file of the German concentration camp system seized by Soviet troops at Oranienburg camp in 1945. These are not fragmentary records but complete and from these, it is apparent that the death tolls in all the camps from their beginnings to the end of the war was approximately 400,000.²¹

Any researcher who has attempted to discover factual material concerning this subject will attest to the enormous proliferation of published material which started during the war and is still in progress. Since historians traditionally pilfer from each other without shame or footnoting, it is a laborious task to attempt to locate specific sources for intentions, orders and statistics.

Tracking backwards is a time consuming and completely unrewarding experience and finally, one comes to the realization that has apparently struck Messers Browning, Breitman and others: There are no specifics.

This lack of evidence has been explained by statements that certain words were used to denote mass murder. "Deportation" means transport to Auschwitz and mass gassings, "Forced Labor" means transport to Auschwitz and mass gassings as does "Emigration", "Resettlement" and so on. The fact that nowhere in the vast archives of captured German documents can be found original documents that specifically address any state-ordered deportation

²⁰

'Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp' ed. Gutman and Berenbaum, Indiana University Press, 1994, p. 62.

²¹

An article on former Soviet archival material appeared in the New York Times of March 3, 1991 and addresses the total figure of 400,000 dead in the camps "under the Third Reich". It specifically refers to the 70,000 dead in Auschwitz. The actual figures found on Soviet archival microfilms show a slightly higher figure for Auschwitz, viz 73,000. response by Holocaust advocates to these totals, astonishing in their nature, is that no allowance has been made for "secret lists" which, since they are secret, cannot be found.

and murder of Jewish civilians (as opposed to Jewish partisans) could mean either that researchers are incredibly stupid or that no such documents ever existed because there was no such official program.

There is no question that Jews, both in Germany and in fact throughout Europe, were deported by official order. Most of these Jews were sent to Auschwitz camp and many died while prisoners and forced laborers but to date there has never been any reputable documentation produced by any researcher or historian that establishes the existence of an official governmental policy of mass murder of Jews as a racial entity.

When a reputable historical journal publishes an article by an equally reputable academic writer who states that a public document contains specific orders by Hitler for the extermination of Jews and that document in fact says absolutely nothing to support the author's thesis, the question arises as to how many other treatments of this subject have been similarly distorted? The recurring theme seems to be that since everyone *knows* that these enormous massacres are commonly believe to have occurred, there has to be confirming, official documentation in support of their theories. Since no such documentation exists, historians determined to support their thesis can say, as they repeatedly do, that documentation *should* exist and since it *should* exist, the next step is to see to it that it does. Therefore creativity eventually takes the place of objectivity to the terminal detriment of both the historian's reputation and the validity of his theory.

Translation of the Nuremberg Tribunal Document 221-L

Führer Headquarters, 16.

July 1941

Bo/Fu (Bormann/*Führer*)
Secret State Matters (Top

Secret/non-military)

Documentary record

On orders of the *Führer*, a conference was held today at 1500 hours with *Reichsleiter* Rosenberg, *Reichsminister* Lammers, *Feldmarschall* Keitel, the *Reichsmarschall* (Göring) and myself (*Reichsleiter* Bormann).

The conference began at 1500 hours and continued, with a coffee break, until about 2000 hours.

The *Führer* began by stressing that he wished first of all to address certain basic concerns. Various measures were now necessary and as proof of this, for example, a statement in an impudent Vichy newspaper that the war against the Soviet Union is a European war, conducted for all of Europe.

Obviously, the Vichy paper wishes to say by this hint that the beneficiaries of this war should not be the Germans alone but that all of the European states should profit as well.

Essentially, we have not publicized our aims before the world; this is not necessary but the main thing is that we ourselves know what we want. By no means should we make our way more difficult by making unnecessary statements. Such statements are unnecessary because where we have the power we do all we can and where we do not have the power, we can do nothing anyway.

The motivations of our actions before the world must also have a tactical point of view. We must act here exactly as we did in the cases of Norway, Denmark, Holland and Belgium. In these cases we also said nothing about our intentions and it is sensible to continue this.

We repeat again that we are constrained to occupy an area to bring order and security; in the interests of the occupants we must establish control in the interest of tranquility, support, commerce, etc., etc., It is consequently not perceived that by this means we establish the way for more definitive control! All necessary measures-shooting, resettlement etc., we can and should do.

We do not wish, however, to prematurely and unnecessarily turn the population into enemies. We shall act, therefore, as if we are exercising a mandate only. We must recognize at the same time that we will never leave these territories.

We should deal with this accordingly:

1. Do nothing to push ultimate control but keep such preparations in hand;
2. We proclaim that we come as liberators.

In specific:

The Crimea must be evacuated by all foreigners and settled by Germans. In the same manner, the former old Austrian territory of Galicia will become a territory of the Reich. Presently our relations with Rumania are good but one does not know what these will be in the future. We must consider this and formulate our borders accordingly. We should not have to be dependent upon the good will of others; we must plan our relations with Rumania in accordance with this principle.

Basically we have the task of apportioning this giant cake to suit our needs, so that we are able to:

- first to control it,
- second to govern it, and
- third to profit from it.

The Russians have now given an order to conduct partisan warfare behind our front lines. This partisan warfare also gives us the opportunity of rooting out all those who are in opposition to us.

Fundamental principles:

The creation of a military power west of the Urals should never again be possible, even if we have to engage in warfare for a hundred years. All successors of the *Führer* should know: the security of the nation depends on there being no foreign military presence west of the Urals; Germany must protect this area from all future eventualities. Our iron principle must be and must remain:

It must not be permitted for anyone but Germans to bear arms here!

This is especially important concerning the question of utilizing the armed assistance of the peoples of occupied territories. This is wrong! This policy can turn against us in the end. Only Germans can bear arms, not Slavs, not Czechs, not the Cossacks or Ukrainians!

We should be no means adopt a vacillating policy such as we saw in Alsace before 1918. The mark of the English is that they constantly pursue one line and one goal! In this regard we should learn from the English.

Accordingly, we should at no time be dependent upon the personalities of individuals: the British suppression of the Indian

princes etc is an example: The soldier must always secure the regime!

From the newly acquired Eastern territories, we must create a Garden of Eden; this is essential for us; against this, colonies play a subordinate role.

Likewise, if we divide up an area we must always act as the defender of the law and of the inhabitants, Accordingly, the present choice of words is to speak not about a new territory of the *Reich* but a necessary task imposed by the war.

Specifically:

In the Baltic, the area up to the Duna will have to be administered in coordination with Field Marshal Keitel.

Reichsleiter Rosenberg stresses that in his opinion treatment of the population should vary from district to district. In the Ukraine, we should commence with a cultural consideration, there we must encourage the cultural awareness of the Ukrainians, must establish a university in Kiev and other similar things.

The *Reichsmarschall* points out that we must first think about securing our own food supply and everything else can come later.

(Pertinent question: Is there still a cultural stratum in the Ukraine or are higher class Ukrainians found only in emigrants from Russia?)

Rosenberg continues that there are independent movements in the Ukraine, which deserve encouragement.

The *Reichsmarschall* requests from the *Führer* information about which areas have been promised to other states.

The *Führer* responds that Antonescu desires Bessarabia and Odessa with an extension leading northwestwards from Odessa.

Upon objections from the *Reichsmarschall* and Rosenberg, the *Führer* responds that the new borders envisioned by Antonescu contained little outside of the old Rumanian territories.

The *Führer* states further that insofar as the Hungarians, the Turks and the Slovaks are concerned, nothing has been promised.

The *Führer* submitted for consideration whether one should add the old Austrian part of Galicia to the General Gouvernement; after objections were expressed, the *Führer* decided that this area will not be incorporated into the General Gouvernement but still placed under *Reichsminister* Frank (Lemberg).

The *Reichsmarschall* believes it proper to incorporate various parts of the Baltic territories, for example the forests of Bialystok, into East Prussia.

The *Führer* stresses that the entire Baltic territory must be incorporated into the *Reich* as a district.

Likewise, the Crimea with an extensive hinterland (area north of the Crimea) should become a district of the *Reich*; the hinterland should be as large as possible.

Rosenberg expressed his objections because of the Ukrainians living in that area.

(Pertinent question: It has occurred to me a number of times that Rosenberg is partial to the Ukrainians; thusly he wishes to aggrandize the former Ukraine to a considerable degree.)

The *Führer* stressed, in addition, that the Volga Colony must become a *Reich* territory and also the district around Baku; the latter will have to become a German concession (Military colony).

The Finns want East Karelia but the Kola Peninsula will be taken over by the Germans because of the nickel mines there.

The annexation of Finland as a confederated state must be prepared for with all care. The Finns have requested the area around Leningrad; the *Führer* will level Leningrad to the ground and then give it to the Finns.

Then follows a lengthy discussion about the suitability of *Gauleiter* Lohse whom Rosenberg has proposed as Governor of the Baltic area. Rosenberg emphasizes that as he has already spoken with Lohse, it would be very embarrassing if Lohse was not appointed; for

the western part of the Baltic area, Kube would be appointed under Lohse; for the Ukraine, Rosenberg has planned on Sauckel.

The *Reichsmarschall* stressed the most important aspect for the present was exclusively:

Securing of food supplies and, as far as necessary, of trade; securing transportation.

The *Reichsmarschall* emphasized that Koch should be given the Baltic area because he is well acquainted with it, or one should give Koch the Ukraine because he is the personality with the strongest initiative and the best preparatory training.

The *Führer* questioned if Kube could be made *Reichskommissar* for the Moscow area; Rosenberg and the *Reichsmarschall* feel that Kube was too old.

Rosenberg explained that after repeated interviews, he has apprehensions that Koch would very quickly ignore his instructions; in general, Koch had so indicated himself.

The *Reichsmarschall* pointed out that Rosenberg should not exert constant control, rather, these people must be very independent.

For the Caucasus area, Rosenberg put forward his chief of staff, Schickendanz. He stated that Schickendanz would fulfill his task well, something the *Reichsmarschall* doubted.

Rosenberg then stated that Lutze had proposed that he appoint several SA leaders, namely Scheppmann for Kiev, -Manthey-Dr. Bennecke-Litzmann- for Estonia, and *Bürgermeister* Dr. Drexler for Latvia.

The *Führer* expressed no objections to the employment of SA leaders.

Rosenberg then explained he had received a letter from Ribbentrop requesting participation by the Foreign Office; he requested the *Führer* to determine that the internal formation of the newly acquired areas are not the concern of the Foreign Office. the *Führer* is in agreement with this. For the present, it will suffice for the Foreign Office to appoint a liaison officer to *Reichsleiter* Rosenberg.

The *Führer* pointed out that the most important area for the next three years was doubtlessly the Ukraine. Therefore it would be best to put Koch there; if Sauckel were to be used, it would be better to appoint him to the Baltic area.

Rosenberg explained further that he wished to appoint Schmeer, Selzer and Manderbach as Commissioners in the Moscow area.

The *Führer* wishes that Holz be used as well and that the administration of the Crimea be taken over by *Gauleiter* Frauenfeld.

Rosenberg explains he intended also to use *Hauptmann* von Petersdorff; general consternation, general rejection. The *Führer* and the *Reichsmarschall* declare that von Petersdorff was without doubt mentally ill.

Rosenberg explains further that *Oberbürgermeister* Stroelin of Stuttgart has been suggested to him as an appointee. There were no objections to this.

Since both the *Reichsmarschall* and Rosenberg both agree that Kube is too old for the Moscow district, Kasche will take over this district.

(Note for *Pg. Klopfer*: Please request immediately from Dr. Meyer the documents on the proposed organizations and on the proposed appointments.)

The *Reichsmarschall* emphasizes he wishes to give the Kola Peninsula to *Gauleiter* Terboven for exploitation. The *Führer* is in agreement with this.

The *Führer* emphasizes that Lohse, provided he feels equal to this task, should take over the Baltic area, Kasche Moscow, Koch the Ukraine, Frauenfeld the Crimea, Terboven Kola and Schickendanz the Caucasus.

Rosenberg then brought up security for the administration.

The *Führer* said to the *Reichsmarschall* and the Field Marshal that he has always stressed that the Police Regiments should be equipped with tanks; for the operations of the Police in the new Eastern Territories with a corresponding number of tanks, a Police Regiment can accomplish a good deal. In balance, declared the

Führer the security is naturally very thin. The *Reichsmarschall* will set up all of his training airfields in the new areas and if necessary, even the Ju52s can drop bombs on any rebellions. This huge area must naturally be pacified as quickly as possible and the best way to accomplish this is to "shoot anyone who only looks sideways."

Field Marshal Keitel declared that the inhabitants must be responsible for their actions because it was naturally not possible to provide guards for each shed and each railroad station. The inhabitants should be aware that those who did not perform their duties were liable to be shot and that they would be held accountable for each assault.

Following a question by *Reichsleiter* Rosenberg, the *Führer* responded, newspapers- also for example in the Ukraine- must be reestablished to serve as sources of information for the inhabitants.

After the recess, the *Führer* declared that we must understand that today's Europe is nothing but a geographical term; in reality, Asia extended up to our former borders.

Reichsleiter Rosenberg then described the organizational structure he intended to establish; he did not intend to appoint a permanent deputy for the *Reichskommissar* but rather call upon the services of the most efficient of the General Commissars to deputize for the *Reichskommissar*.

Under the *Reichskommissar* Rosenberg will form four departments:
first for general administration,
second for politics,
third for economics,
fourth for engineering and construction

(side comments: The *Führer* declares that activity on the part of churches under no circumstances is to come under question. Papen had sent to him via the Foreign Office a long memorandum stating that now was the right moment to reestablish the churches; this under no circumstances will be considered.)

The *Reichsmarschall* will second to Rosenberg's office, *Ministerial Direktors* Schlatterer and Riecke.

Reichsleiter Rosenberg requested appropriate housing; he made a request for the Commercial Mission of the Soviet Union in the

Lietzenburger Street; the Foreign Office had expressed the opinion, however, that the building was extraterritorial. The *Führer* replied that this was nonsense; *Reichsminister* Dr. Lammers was instructed to inform the Foreign Office that the building was, without further discussion, to be given to Rosenberg.

Rosenberg then proposed to second a liaison officer to the *Führer*; his adjutant Koeppen was to be appointed; the *Führer* agrees and adds that Koeppen would fulfill a parallel role to that of Hewel.

Reichsminister Dr. Lammers now awaits from him the proposed draft (see Annex!)

A longer discussion took place about the areas of competence of the RFSS. Obviously the participants also have the areas of competence of the *Reichsmarschall* in mind.

The *Führer*, the *Reichsmarschall* etc., reiterate that Himmler was to have no greater areas of competence than he had in Germany but his jurisdiction here was absolutely necessary.

The *Führer* reiterated that in practice, such disputes would quickly subside; he recalled the excellent cooperation between the Army and Air Force at the front.

In conclusion, it is decided to call the Baltic Areas *Ostland*.

Annex (missing)

Richard Breitman: A Study in Historical Confusion

The Breitman article, which we will deal with here, consisted of a number of suppositions and postulations that attempted to make a case for the organization and implementation of a state-sponsored plan to massacre large numbers of European Jews. This article has been selected because it shows very clearly that theory has replaced fact in 'Holocaust' reportage.

Rather than reprint the entire Breitman article *in toto*, significant sections of it will be set forth and then rebutted.

Plans for the Final Solution in Early 1941

by Richard Breitman American University

In the last fifteen years historians have felled many trees debating whether the Nazi regime had long planned or hastily improvised the Holocaust. This controversy has often focused on a seemingly small matter of timing: determination of the date when the SS moved to a continent wide program of mass murder, which they euphemistically called the Final Solution of the Jewish Question.' The date of a decision to embark on the Final Solution is not only of interest in itself, but also because it helps us establish with greater precision the range of influences on, and participants in, the process-in laymen's terms, the causes and the villains.

In some ways, however, the significance of the move to a continent-wide program has been overemphasized. As I have argued in *The Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution* and elsewhere, the SS adopted the notion of mass murder as a partial solution to the Jewish question in Germany before the war broke out in September 1939, and it began implementing it against the handicapped and on a smaller scale against Jews during 1939-40. Henry Friedlander has argued convincingly that with regard to decision making, personnel, and technique, the killing program for the handicapped served as a model for the Final Solution.' These early killings, not to mention the assignment of *Einsatzgruppen* and Order Police battalions to the forthcoming campaign against the USSR well before June 1941, more than amply demonstrate the murderous intentions of Hitler, Himmler, and other key Nazi leaders. Premeditated mass murder was neither a last resort, after other schemes had been tried and found wanting, nor an unforeseen

escalation of persecution under the pressures of a bitter war-to-the-death on the Eastern front.

Still, the move to "cleanse" the entire continent of Jews certainly was a major escalation in the area of implementation. What can we determine about how, when, and why this turn occurred? Can we do better than to look at the date when killing on a scale began? Can we trace earlier preparations for genocide?

If we focus upon Adolf Hitler, we are drawn to the period beginning in December 1940. On December 18 Hitler formally authorized Operation *Barbarossa*, the campaign to invade, conquer, and destroy the Soviet Union- his long-sought geopolitical and ideological goal. His idea of destroying Jewry was equally longstanding, even if one rejects the view that he had made an unalterable decision or fixed his mind only upon mass murder. Now a vast military operation would provide opportunities and cover for the liquidation of racial enemies in the East. Deciphering Hitler's exact intentions at a given time, however, is both tricky and subjective, given his habit of concealment and his disinclination to give explicit, written orders.

Comment: "Tricky and subjective" are the operative words here. Since Hitler openly proclaimed that he wished to force all the Jews out of Germany and, later, out of conquered territories, Breitman seems puzzled that there doesn't seem to exist anything specific from Hitler about killing Jews. There is a considerable difference between deporting Jews to Polish work camps and killing them. In all of his public speeches and recorded private utterances, there is nothing whatsoever about killing Jews but a great deal about deporting them.

In any case, one of the lessons of the internationalist-functional controversy is that a strictly Hitler-centered interpretation will not convince those who doubt Hitler's involvement in some areas of policy or his efficacy. It is necessary to find evidence that others sought to translate Hitler's wishes or goals into reality. Here Gotz Aly and Susanne Heim have uncovered important new evidence regarding the role of technocrats-the "planning intelligentsia" in a number of different agencies and organizations early in the war-in the move toward genocide.' These men found practical benefits in the mass murder of the Jews and prepared proposals for their political superiors. Exclusive focus on the role of midlevel

bureaucrats, however, can create at least as many interpretive problems and objections as concentration on Hitler alone.

A general file in Himmler's office or even in the Reich Security Main Office on the Final Solution of the Jewish question, comparable to the folder in the Foreign Office (RSHA) that contained the one surviving copy (out of thirty that were made) of the Wannsee Conference summary, did not survive the war. We need, therefore, to reconstruct what was going on at the highest reaches of the SS at the end of 1940 and the beginning of 1941.

Comment: There is extant a complete copy of the Wannsee Conference protocol. It comes from the personal files of Heinrich Müller, SS-Gruppenführer and head of Section IV (Gestapo) of the RSHA. Müller was a participant at the conference which was called to clarify the opposing positions of Göring and Goebbels with regards to a large number of Jews then residing in Berlin. Goebbels, the Gauleiter of Berlin, wished to deport the Jews to the remote areas of Poland while Göring protested to Hitler that many of these Jews were technicians and vital to the war effort. In the end, Göring prevailed and the conference was called specifically to determine which Jews were to be left in place in their jobs and which were to be deported. The document now on display at the site of the Wannsee conference is a post-war fake, concocted, like so many other documents, for the Nuremberg trials and bears no resemblance to the original protocol.

Adolf Eichmann, the Jewish specialist in the Reich Security Main Office, provided one major clue about SS and RSHA preparations for the Final Solution. In mid-March 1941, during a meeting at the Propaganda Ministry regarding the evacuation of Jews from Berlin, Eichmann announced to rival bureaucrats that the Führer had already entrusted Heydrich with the "final evacuation" (*entgeltigen Judenevakuierung*) of the Jews. In this context, Eichmann specifically discussed only German Jews (and those in recently annexed Bohemia-Moravia), but his comment may have referred to a general policy that was still secret".

Comment: Eichmann was in charge of the transportation of prisoners to the concentration camps. He served under Heinrich Müller in the Gestapo. Note that Breitman states that "his comment may have referred to..." (emphasis added). Breitman's entire hypothesis is filled with such qualifications.

The wording of Nazi documents was often inexact, but for particular reasons which do not advance Browning's functionalist argument. There is a consistent pattern of veiling measures against Jews (and other victimized groups) with euphemisms. The gassing of mental patients in the General Government during 1940, for example, was described as "evacuation." Whatever Eichmann said in mid-March 1941 very likely understated the lethal implications of RSHA plans. Even so, 'final evacuation' is at least evocative.

Eichmann gave his audience a little background on the timing of the *Führer's* authorization. Eight to ten weeks earlier (in early to mid-January) Heydrich had presented a proposal to the Führer, Eichmann said, which remained unfulfilled only because the General Government of Poland was not yet in a position to receive even one Jew or Pole from the Old Reich.

Comment: Here we have an excellent example of the dichotomy of this entire article: Reference is made to transporting Jews and Poles to camps in Poland. In the mind of Breitman, transportation is the secret word for 'extermination.' This article is a study in such "secret words" with hidden meanings.

Browning's interpretation here is that Eichmann was referring simply to the already well-known "third short-range plan" (deporting Jews from Vienna and Poles from the incorporated territories to the General Government) concocted by Heydrich, not some secret and more lethal second plan for deporting German Jews, let alone all European Jews. (Of course, if Heydrich drew up plans which he labeled as short range, he likely had a long-range conception, too.) Browning also refers to Hitler's near simultaneous discussions with Hans Frank and some luncheon comments to Goebbels and Frank on March 18 to maintain that Hitler had made no immediate decisions on Jewish policy, and that, for the short term, "pragmatic considerations about Jewish labor were given priority over 'racial experimentation.'"

Were Hitler, Himmler, and Heydrich capable of developing radical ideas and concealing them from officials such as Frank and Goebbels? Did they operate in a conspiratorial manner on such matters? Himmler and Heydrich were both inured in the world of espionage and its methods, and as I will demonstrate below, they also practiced secrecy and deception with the Final Solution.

Comment: Breitman here displays the basis thesis for his work: Could they have done this? Might they have done that? He will convince himself and try to convince others that they certainly did do the things he claims.

Hitler had advocated the killing of the genetically deficient well before the war, but signed in October 1939 a general authorization to the program on his own private stationery only after it became necessary to protect the bureaucrats in charge and obtain the collaboration of physicians. This written authorization reached enough people to cause trouble for Hitler once news of the (unpopular) "euthanasia" killings began to leak out, and this may explain why Hitler apparently did not authorize the Final Solution on paper? He and the Fuhrer Chancellery were already experienced, if not adept, at conspiracy to cover up mass murder by 1941.

One of the key "euthanasia" conspirators, Viktor Brack of the Fuhrer Chancellery, also had some knowledge of the state of Jewish policy by March 1941. Brack was a well-informed observer, an old acquaintance of Himmler, and a colonel in the SS. In postwar interrogations he certainly tried at times to give testimony favorable to himself, but he had no particular interest in giving false testimony regarding dates. Brack's testimony, combined with one key surviving original document, can help us clarify the meaning of Eichmann's comments at the Propaganda Ministry.

After Brack explained that he and two close colleagues had lobbied for shipment of Jews to Madagascar and mass sterilization of Jews as alternatives to mass murder, American interrogator Fred Rodell summed up:

Rodell: There was a general program to kill all Jews. To find a way out, your side made two suggestions: (1) that with Madagascar: and (2) sterilization. Was that the sense?

Comment: Shipping unwanted Jews to Madagascar or sterilizing them, inhumane though it might be, does not constitute "kill (ing) all the Jews."

Brack: Yes, that was the sense....

Rodell: When was that approximately?

Brack: It could have been the beginning of [19]41

Rodell: What happened as a result?

Brack: Both suggestions were rejected. *Reichsleiter* Philipp Bouhler, head of the *Führer* Chancellery, said with regard to sterilization, the *Führer* wanted nothing to do with it. I worked further on this project and made a new approach to the *Reichsführer* SS. (Emphasis added)

Let me focus upon the period between December 1940 and January 1941 in an attempt to recreate in chronological order the contracts, climate, and context of policy at the top of the SS. The weight of evidence, which is admittedly and inevitably fragmentary in many places, will show that Himmler and Heydrich were concerned not simply with short-term, limited objectives for newly acquired German provinces, but with broader racial goals fully consistent with Hiller's grandiose rhetoric.

On December 9 Himmler spent the afternoon and evening with Göring at the latter's estate at Rominten, discussing a variety of subjects, such as the war against England and the SS's economic operations in concentration camps. (Although they spent ten hours together, Himmler kept only one page of fragmentary notes.) On December 10 Himmler gave a speech at the meeting of *Reichsleiter* and *Gauleiter* in Berlin, of which only his handwritten notes survive. He emphasized the need to make the eastern provinces German by excluding seven of the eight million non-Germans there. He called for merciless German domination and for struggle against the Polish intelligentsia. The General Government, he said, would become a reservoir for seasonal laborers whom Germany could exploit. He mentioned a Jewish emigration (*Judenauswanderung*) that would leave more space for Poles. Himmler did not specify where Jews would go, but he clearly did not want them to remain in Poland, although Eichmann later, in March 1941, spoke of a final evacuation to Poland. Interestingly, some six weeks before Himmler's speech, the RSHA had banned Jewish emigration from Poland, a fact Himmler apparently did not mention.

Was Himmler perhaps thinking of Madagascar for the Jews? The British fleet lay between the continent and Madagascar. By mid-September 1940 it had become clear that Britain would not submit, and that Hitler would not risk an invasion of the British Isles. It did not take a genius to see by late 1940 that Madagascar was not going to work. (Brack's promotion of Madagascar had come before the end of 1940, he said.)

After a brief trip to Braunschweig and to the Netherlands, Himmler then headed to his castle at Wewelsburg, near Paderborn, for several days with the SS elite. At the Nuremberg Trial, Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski referred to a speech made by Himmler during what might be this particular meeting of SS- *Gruppenführer*. The *Reichsführer* SS declared openly that one purpose of the forthcoming campaign against the Soviet Union was to decimate the Slavic population by some 30 million people.

Comment: The contents of this speech were not recorded at the time and reported by an SS General at his trial some years later. It is self-serving and unsupported statements such as these that liberally stud accounts of the purported massacre of Europe's Jewish population.

On December 18, the day Hitler signed the order authorizing Operation Barbarossa, Himmler gave a speech to assembled *Waffen-SS* commanders in Berlin. He emphasized the interdependence of all parts of the SS, warned against slighting the Death's Head units formed out of the concentration camp guards, and called for unconditional obedience. That evening he went to the Reich Chancellery. There is no record of who else (besides Hitler) was present or exactly what was discussed. On the following day Himmler met with Heydrich, and on the next day, among others, with Oswald Pohl, head of the SS Budget and Construction Office.

Comment: Breitman loves to lard his theories with pointless facts that have no bearing on or support for his badly flawed theories. If Himmler met with Pohl, what possible purpose did it have? Breitman has neglected to inform us of either the purpose or results of this visit. It should be noted that Himmler visited, and was visited by, many prominent individuals during his career. These are only historically significant if notes were kept of the meetings and in their absence, their mention is merely obfuscating and little more than useless nonsense.

On January 2, 1941, Heydrich's office sent out a memo to various RSHA, Security Police, and SD offices announcing that Himmler had approved the establishment of a severity scale within the concentration camp system for different categories of prisoners. Prisoners in "protective custody" clearly capable of rehabilitation, for example, were to be sent to Dachau, Sachsenhausen, and "Auschwitz I." Severely incriminated prisoners who might still possibly be "educated" and rehabilitated would be sent to Auschwitz

11 and three other camps. There was a particularly unusual element to this announcement: at the time, there was only one camp at Auschwitz. Heydrich already knew that Himmler would soon order an expansion.

Comment: If Heydrich was aware that another camp would be built at Auschwitz, considering his very senior position in the SS, this can hardly be considered as an "unusual element" by anyone possessing even a modicum of common sense.

Browning elsewhere cautiously accepts the logical and lethal implications of the July 31 mention of a "Final Solution." He also concludes that in the summer of 1941, probably in July, Hitler authorized the preparation of a plan for the mass murder of all European Jews.

Comment: Brownings's brilliant conclusions are thoroughly addressed in the previous article.

In other words, Browning assumes that in July 1941 Heydrich and Goring knew the real or ultimate meaning of "Final Solution," whereas in January 1941 Dannecker could not have known it, and in March Eichmann's comments were supposedly not precisely recorded.

A flurry of events in late January suggests that urgent and important matters were under consideration then. On January 24 Heydrich went out to Göring's estate at Crainhall (sic Carinhall, ed.) to give a presentation for more than two hours. Shortly afterwards Göring left for Berlin, where he met jointly with Himmler and Heydrich. That same evening he left for Berchtesgaden, and the next day he spent the afternoon and much of the evening alone with the Himmler had been scheduled to leave on a trip to Norway on January 21, but he postponed his departure for at least two days. The content of these meetings of the key authorities on the Final Solution went unrecorded-or at least no notes of them have survived.

In a speech in the Berlin *Sportpalast* on January 30, 1941, the eighth anniversary of the Nazi seizure of power, Hitler referred to his prophecy two years earlier: if Jewry brought about another general war in Europe, the result would be the end of the Jewish role in Europe. (This was actually a toned-down summary of a portion of Hitler's January 30, 1939, speech, in which he had forecast the destruction of the Jewish race.) He added that the Jews might have

laughed at his prophecy, and that they might still be laughing. The coming months and years would show, however, that he had foreseen things correctly. He looked forward to the day when even Germany's current enemies would join the front against international Jewish exploitation and parasitism. Adolf Hitler hardly sounded as if he was giving pragmatic consideration greater weight than racial experimentation.

To look to Goebbels or Hans Frank for evidence of the unformed state of Jewish policy in March 1941 can be misleading. For reasons some of which Browning himself has already adduced in a past dispute with Martin Brozsat," Goebbels's diary and most (non-SS) sources do not provide effective insight into emerging SS programs. Recent scholarship has clearly demonstrated the often bitter rivalry between Himmler and other Nazi leaders and their respective agencies. It was not common practice in the SS/RSHA bureaucracy to give other government and party agencies information about SS plans before it was absolutely necessary: Himmler used to react most strongly against such indiscretion.

We have a perfect example of how Himmler and Heydrich required secrecy amidst the organizational competition over Jewish policy, though it comes from early August 1941. After the Reich Commissariat *Ostland* formulated temporary guidelines for the handling of the Jewish problem there, Franz Stahlecker, head of *Einsatzgruppe A*, issued a blistering critique on the grounds that the *Ostland* civil authorities were insufficiently radical. In the process Stahlecker revealed that on the Jewish question the Security Police had received fundamental orders that were not to be spelled out in writing. They were connected, however, he said, with the impending complete purge of Jews from Europe. Such a ban on explicit statements in writing helps to clarify the significance of ambiguous language, euphemisms, and camouflage in early 1941 documents as well. Given Stahlecker's statement, any scholar who requires a signed, detailed, and completely unambiguous blueprint for extermination as the only acceptable evidence of advance planning is creating an artificial standard. Himmler and Heydrich did not operate in this manner. Did the early 1941 SS plans for a Final Solution go beyond a general conception of liquidation of millions of Jews in the East? Early hints about mass extermination camps located at particular sites surface with Himmler's March 1, 1941, order to Rudolf Hoess to establish a larger camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau for "prisoners of war," and Himmler's April 1941 comment that he had a

new task in mind for Odilo Globocnik, the man soon put in charge of *Operation Reinhard*.

But whenever the sites were designated, the commitment to plan carefully emerges quite clearly from Dannecker's January 21, 1941, memorandum in which he mentioned Heydrich's Final Solution project. Dannecker had added that implementation would require a huge effort, the success of which could be guaranteed only through the most careful preparations regarding both the deportations and the "settlement action" (*Ansiedlungsaktion*) in territory still to be determined." This Final Solution project was to be anything but improvised.

To my knowledge, neither Heydrich nor Himmler referred directly to the date of plans for the Final Solution or of Hitler's authorization of it in a form that has reached posterity. But in November 1941, at a time when most of the specialists agree that the Final Solution was well underway, Heydrich did cast some light on whether his mandate was consistent over time. In an irritated letter to Quartermaster General Edmund Wagner about the noncooperation of military authorities in occupied France with regard to Jewish policy. Heydrich asserted his authority and declared that "The political significance of the measures taken was fully clear to me, since *years earlier* [my emphasis] I was entrusted with the preparation of the Final Solution in Europe. At the level of SS plans, there was a tendency to think big, not small, and long term as well as short term. That tendency did not start suddenly in the summer of 1941.

The existence of an early SS plan for the Final Solution undercuts several different interpretations. Those scholars who had discounted Hitler's fulminations against the Jewish menace as empty rhetoric have to confront the fact that Himmler, Heydrich, Müller, and their subordinates were taking early, if not necessarily irreversible, steps to translate racial utopia into reality. Browning's stress on Hitler's euphoria of victory in July and October 1941 might conceivably help to explain the timing of some SS operational moves, but it would be misleading to deduce much about fundamental motives from anything in July and October when a plan was already on the table and in Hitler's hands in January. Finally, the notion that Nazi Germany turned to genocide as a last resort after other plans had been tried and had failed, and after Germany's fortunes in the war had turned bleak now looks simply ludicrous.

Examples of Breitman's convoluted and very wishful thinking:

"Deciphering Hitler's exact intentions at a given time, however, is both tricky and subjective, given his habit of concealment and his disinclination to give explicit, written orders."

"There is a consistent pattern of veiling measures against Jews (and other victimized groups) with euphemisms..."

"The weight of evidence, which is admittedly and inevitably fragmentary in many places..."

"On December 9 Himmler spent the afternoon and evening with Göring at the latter's estate at Rominten, discussing a variety of subjects, such as the war against England and the SS's economic operations in concentration camps. (Although they spent ten hours together, Himmler kept only one page of fragmentary notes.)"

"Was Himmler perhaps thinking of Madagascar for the Jews?"

"On December 18... Himmler went to the Reich Chancellery. There is no record of who else (besides Hitler) was present or exactly what was discussed"

"...neither Eichmann nor Dannecker spelled out precisely how that would happen. They could hardly afford to be explicit"

"A flurry of events in late January suggests that urgent and important matters were under consideration then. On January 24 Heydrich went out to Göring's estate at Carinhall to give a presentation for more than two hours. Shortly afterwards Göring left for Berlin, where he met jointly with Himmler and Heydrich. That same evening he left for Berchtesgaden, and the next day he spent the afternoon and much of the evening alone with the Führer. Himmler had been scheduled to leave on a trip to Norway on January 21, but he postponed his departure for at least two days. The content of these meetings of the key authorities on the Final Solution went unrecorded-or at least no notes of them have survived."

“To my knowledge, neither Heydrich nor Himmler referred directly to the date of plans for the Final Solution or of Hitler’s authorization of it in a form that has reached posterity.”

“Early hints about mass extermination camps located at particular sites surface with Himmler’s March 1, 1941, order to Rudolf Hoess to establish a larger camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau for ‘prisoners of war,’”

“Did the early 1941 SS plans for a Final Solution go beyond a general conception of liquidation of millions of Jews in the East?”

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