

GERMAN EXTERMINATION CAMPS - Newspaper Clippings
(PHOTOSTATS)

000354

Make 'Genocide' A Crime Under International Law

"No human creature can read the report of the War Refugee Board released last Sunday without a sense of shock and shame. The report presents eyewitness accounts of events which occurred at the German extermination camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. 'So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities,' says the WRB, 'that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place. But the governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts.' The facts are really quite simple, although perhaps somewhat difficult to grasp: in Birkenau, between April, 1942, and April, 1944, approximately 1,765,000 Jews were put to death by poison gas in ingeniously constructed chambers; their bodies were then burned in specially designed furnaces; their ashes were distributed as fertilizer. This process of extermination by gassing was carried on in other camps besides Birkenau; in the main, it was applied only to Jews. 'Aryans' were generally exterminated by shooting or by injections of phenol. After their bodies had been shoveled into the furnaces, however, the 'Aryan' and Jewish ashes were probably indistinguishable," says the Washington Post.

"It is a mistake, perhaps, to call these killings 'atrocities.' An atrocity is a wanton brutality. There were unspeakable atrocities at Auschwitz and Birkenau. But the point about these killings is that they were systematic and purposeful. The gas chambers and furnaces were not improvisations; they were scientifically designed instruments for the extermination of an entire ethnic group. On the scale practiced by the Germans, this is something new. And it is for this purpose which human beings find it difficult to believe or understand. Yet it is a purpose which Hitler has openly avowed.

"We have never even had a word for it until now. But one has been recently coined by a noted Polish scholar and attorney, Prof. Raphael Lemkin, now on the faculty of Duke University. He has devised the word 'genocide' out of the ancient Greek word *gnos* (race, tribe) and the Latin word *caedere* (killing). 'Genocide,' he says in a volume,

Axis Rule in Occupied Europe recently published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 'is directed against the national group as an entity, and the actions involved are directed against individuals, not in their individual capacity, but as members of the national group.' Thus Jews were gassed at Birkenau and Aryan Poles and Russians and Slovenes were otherwise butchered, not for any crime or any resistance to Axis authority but because the Nazis wished to exterminate the ethnic groups to which they belonged.

"Generally speaking," says Professor Lemkin, 'genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killings of all members of a nation. It is intended rather to signify a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves.' In this sense the Germans have committed genocide in virtually all the countries of Europe which they occupied. They have struck deliberately at the culture, language, religious and political institutions and at the economic existence of the peoples they conquered—all with a view to undermining their national identity and weakening them, physically and morally, so that they would become subservient to German rule.

"As long ago as 1933 Professor Lemkin proposed the recognition of genocide as a crime under international law. Had his proposal been adopted, Sir Cecil Hurst and his United Nations War Crimes Commission would not now be so hard put to it to determine the guilt of Nazi oppressors. Furthermore, as Professor Lemkin puts it, 'the adoption of the principle of universal repression as adapted to genocide by countries which belong now to the group of non-belligerents or neutrals, respectively, would likewise bind these latter countries to punish the war criminals engaged in genocide or to extradite them to the countries in which these crimes were committed.' One of the vital steps in the punishment of war guilt, we believe, is to secure international agreement now on the outlawing of genocide. If such an agreement is reached, neutrals will feel no violation of their sovereignty in the demand that perpetrators of this crime be handed over to justice. And the execution of justice will be given a firm legal foundation."

100356

Evidence Now Released Exposing Criminals We Fight

As the slimy ooze of malevolent Might is driven back to miasmatic marshes by the tidal wave of Right, the beach is littered with mute, shocking and incontrovertible proof of incredible brutality inflicted upon millions of defenseless victims of atavistic hate and malice.

Hundreds of reports, received and remembered were not officially credited for lack of corroborative evidence and because it seemed improbable that even nazis could sink so low as to perpetrate the vile and vicious crimes with which they were charged. As German-held land is abandoned the facts are revealed.

There is no longer any reason to withhold judgment. The United States war refugee board has verified and sponsored a 25,000-word report, rendered in detail and illustrated with gruesome pictures, fastening forever upon the German government, and its officials, both civil and military, full and complete responsibility for mass murders by mutilation, torture, starvation and continuous flogging in concentration and extermination camps.

Accounts of burning prisoners of war on inflammable scaffolds, of confining men and women of conquered countries in huge ovens to be slowly roasted alive, of executing innocent hostages by ingenious methods to furnish entertainment for nazi youths, of systematically starving, gassing and beating their own countrymen against whom members of the gestapo held private grievances, were numerous and voluminous. But it was not until the proofs were obtained that the reports were released as authentic.

Conservative estimates show that the "Germans have slain millions of innocent civilians, both Jews and Christians, all over Europe, with 1,765,000 actually tallied by reliable investigators" whose names are known only to the board, which comprises secretaries of the

state, war and treasury departments. From these men Americans have received the facts already substantiated, although scores of accidents, believed to be equally true and revolting, are not yet verified.

Pending execution condemned prisoners were confined to overcrowded cubicles, in which filth accumulated and stench became unbearable, dying at the rate of 30 to 50 per day. The report contains the following observation:

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free people of the world."

It is time to silence the sob-sisters and apologists who are slyly beginning to quietly campaign for a soft peace and a pardon for "a people led astray by inhuman or insane leaders." Such pleas are insults to the intelligence of Americans and a betrayal of the men and women in uniforms exposing their lives and risking their reason in an effort to stop these atrocities and exterminate the rabid beasts and reptiles that are causing more sorrow and suffering in this age of enlightenment than was ever known in the world before.

How long do a people need to serve and worship a criminal to become identified with his crimes? The time has passed for poisoning public opinion by limiting the blame to the nazis—a political party in power sanctioned and supported by the German masses. It is not a partisan but a popular movement in Germany. The people are convinced that they are superior to all other peoples of the earth, that they are the master race, that they are entitled to own and order alien nationalities to do their bidding or to punish them as they are now treating all who have thus far fallen into their clutches. It is not merely the nazis the allies are fighting, but the whole German nation. This should not be forgotten.

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The Washington Post
DEC 3 1944

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100250

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The Washington Post
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**Gallup Poll Finds
Mass Murders
Underestimated**

The average American thinks the number of people put to death in Nazi concentration camps has been something like 100,000, despite the fact that various investigating boards have put the figure many times higher, a Gallup Poll survey indicates.

A report issued only a week ago by the War Refugee Board concluded that between 1,500,000 and 1,765,000 had been put to death in one camp, alone, in Poland, and an estimated 1,500,000 at another.

But, regardless of the number involved, the American people are fully prepared to believe atrocities have taken place, the survey indicates.

000360

Gallup Finds Most Believe Atrocity Tales

Contrary to widespread skepticism of atrocity stories after the last war, today an overwhelming majority of Americans believe accounts of Nazi mass murder.

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Figures Higher

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Regardless of the number involved, American people are fully prepared to believe atrocities have taken place, as witnessed by their vote on the question:

"Do you believe stories that Germans have murdered many people in concentration camps are true or not true?"

True 76%
 Not True 12
 No Opinion 12

The War Refugee Board, in making its report last week, declared: "So revolting are German atrocities that civilized people find it difficult to believe they have actually taken place." What Americans find it hard to believe is that the victims have numbered in the millions.

Guesses Wrong

The Institution put this question to all people who think German mass murder stories are true: "Nobody knows, of course how many may have been murdered, but what would be your best guess?"

The range follows.

100,000 or less	27%
100,000 to 500,000	5
500,000 to 1,000,000	1
1,000,000	6
2,000,000 to 6,000,000	8
6,000,000 or more	4
Unwilling to guess	25

76%
 The survey found some differences of opinion by sections as to the truth of the atrocity stories, but no important difference. Sectional figures:

	True	Not True	No Opin.
N. Eng.	80%	9%	11%
M. Atl.	73	15	12
E. Cent.	75	13	12
W. Cent.	72	14	13
South	77	9	14
Far West	84	5	11

The country is virtually unanimous in thinking harsh punishment should be meted out to Germans. The largest number favored execution of the guilty—in poison gas chambers, by hanging, electrocution or firing squad.

Horrors Beyond Belief

Even though no one can longer doubt the enormity of the Nazi crimes against millions of conquered Europeans, the recent report of the war refugee board—composed of three members of the president's cabinet—reveals outrages of such magnitude that the human mind is unable fully to comprehend them.

This report is official and is distributed by the government through the OWI. Through its 60 pages runs a steady line of crimes—torture, starvation, beating, murder. The number of victims put to death in two camps alone—Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau in Poland is estimated at 1,765,000 in two years. The victims were from many countries—Jews and gentiles alike.

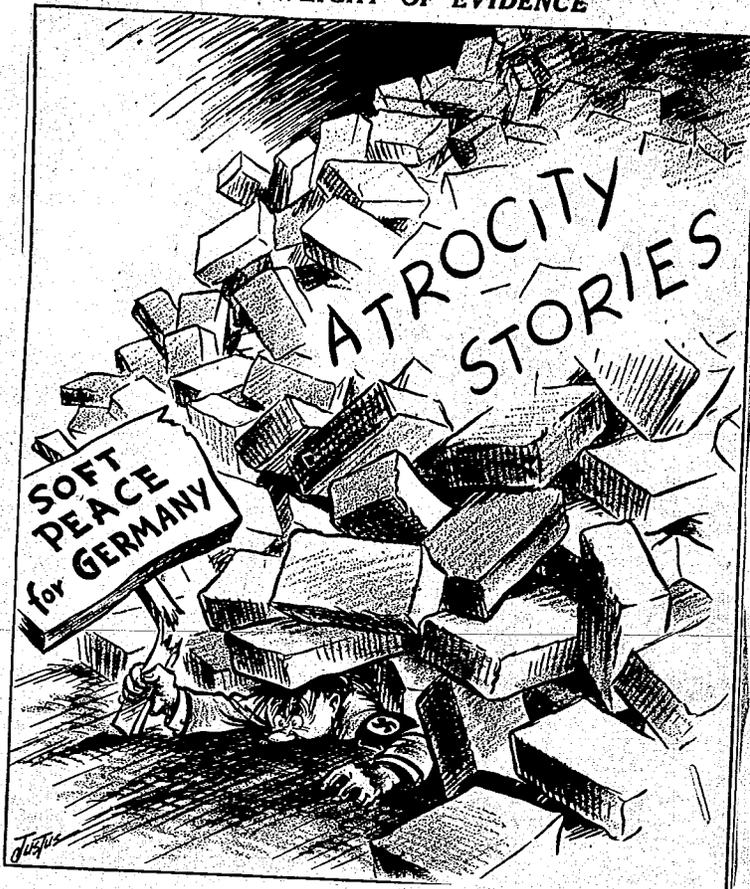
There is little use in detailing the tortures, the slaughter in the gas chambers, the death before firing squads, because one's mind becomes numb in the face of such brutality. No refinement of cruelty was left unexplored. For instance:

"A week before the gassing, that is to say on Mar. 1, 1944, everyone in the Czech group in the camp had been asked to inform his relatives about his well-being. The letters had to be dated Mar. 23 to 25, 1944, and they were requested to ask for food parcels."

These mass murders are going on at an accelerated rate right now—according to the best information in the hands of the war refugee board. They cannot be stopped through threats, for that has been tried repeatedly. No promise of retribution can even slow up the killers for they are bent on exterminating as many thousand victims as possible, before Nazi Germany goes down. The Nazis reason that the more they kill, the weaker their neighbors will be.

But the Germans are miscalculating on one thing—at least we hope they are. Our knowledge of their unnumbered victims must surely strengthen and restrengthen our determination to forge a Europe, and a world, in which Germany can never again repeat these crimes or even a tenth thousandth of them.

THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE



700363

For Future Reference

The war refugee board, made up of three cabinet-members, has issued what some describe as the most shocking document ever made public by a United States government agency.

The document is an official report on German atrocities which have caused the deaths of "millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

The "revolting and diabolical" German acts were described as a "campaign of terror and brutality which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated and is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world."

The report reveals that 1,765 Jews were gassed to death at Birkenau, Poland, alone between April 1942 and April 1944. Figures are given for other extermination camps, and the document, signed by Secretaries Hull, Stimson and Morgenthau, says that all reports were verified and checked before the information was made public. The stories of refugees who had escaped from concentration camps were the sources of data on the German cruelties.

The war refugee board's report bares conditions similar to those charged by the Russian government, the statements of which were confirmed by American and British correspondents and diplomatic service members. French, Dutch and Belgian sources have made like claims.

By compiling evidence of German guilt, other governments already are forestalling any possibility that Germans in the postwar era can substantiate allegations that the atrocity stories are part of allied propaganda. In fact, the strong evidence now being accumulated may even be a means of convincing Germans of the extent to which their leaders went with the support of large numbers of the rank and file.

The United States report and those from other sources indicate clearly that German policy has to be about the deaths of millions of persons for no other reasons than their races, their political beliefs or because they happened to live in certain areas which the Berlin government wished to strip of their native populations. The case of wholesale murder against Germany is a strong one.

000364

War Crimes Board Lags

Special to the World-Telegram.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Rep. Emanuel Celler (D., N. Y.) wants to know what is the matter with the War Crimes Commission, which has been meeting in London for more than a year. He thinks it is high time that the commission gets down to the business of lining up "Axis sadists," such as those who were responsible for the German extermination camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau, for punishment.

The Commission, according to Rep. Celler, thus far has accomplished so little that "the results of its deliberations could be placed in a tiny capsule."

"What in thunder is the hesitating about? Reports come forth that it is entangled in the search for precedents and in minute disputes of jurisdiction responsibility and procedure."

It is dangerous for the world to forget, the Representative believes, "that, after two years of deliberation to punish the war guilty of the last war, a list of 200 names was permitted to dwindle down to 12. The big fish got out of the net. The Kaiser was allowed to suffer a comfortable exile, and hundreds of others were free to begin all over again to plot once more for world domination."

"Shall Hitler, Himmler, Goebbels, Goering, Antonescu, Quisling and their ilk escape this time? They will if the War Crimes Commission continues to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

Mr. Celler commended John W. Pehle, director of the War Refugee Board here, for recently releasing the report of two young Slovakian Jews and a Polish officer on the German extermination camps. He noted, however, that for a time there was "hesitancy in some Washington official circles" to permit publication of the reports.

Herbert C. Pell, the American member of the Commission, has, according to Mr. Celler, been vigorous in his demands "that the Axis sadists be brought to book." But, the Congressman adds, "he is having his troubles, I am afraid, and ~~public~~ opinion must now express itself in favor of immediate and forthright action."

700265

Refugee Board Report

Stories of German and Japanese atrocities have been numerous since the beginning of the war—and even before. But few of them match in horror and ghastly detail the report recently filed by the War Refugee Board in Washington. Many earlier atrocity statements, coming from individuals, some of whom were highly prejudiced, might be seriously questioned as to accuracy. But the WRB, made up of three members of President Roosevelt's cabinet, apparently tried to ferret out facts and to base findings strictly upon those facts.

The result is almost unbelievable. Certainly it is the most discouraging document to have come out of the war to date, for it indicates that all humanitarian progress which civilization has made through the centuries has been lost, in a single generation, under Nazi doctrines.

While victims of German gas chamber murders were mostly Jews, thousands of Aryans also are said to have been put to death for their opposition to the Nazi regime. Victims were driven into death rooms by the thousands. Their bodies were burned and ashes used as fertilizer on German farms, according to the findings of the board. A total of 1,500,000 Jews were cremated at Birkenau alone in two years—at the rate of more than 2,000 a day. For some strange, ghastly reason, a card index record is said to have been kept of every execution—a record which, if it can be captured intact by Allied soldiers, should constitute invaluable evidence in the punishment of this unearthly series of war crimes.

700266

What We Think

ATROCITIES AND CREDULITY—

Once the phrase "atrocities story" meant a tale of cruelty that was made up, often out of whole cloth, to stimulate hatred of the enemy and to produce a higher pitch of warfare. In the period following World War I a number of the atrocity stories current during that conflict were shown to have been false, and for this reason there has been some tendency to doubt some of the most horrible tales of this war.

This week, however, has seen the publication of the most careful documentation of Nazi bestiality, in the report of the President's commission on war refugees. Three leading cabinet members vouch for these detailed accounts of the mass slaughter of hundreds of thousands of refugees in prison camps in Poland.

This week also, in Jacksonville, Dr. Pierre Lecomte de Nouy gave graphic verification to even the most terrible stories which have come out of occupied France. In short, there are none of the atrocity stories which cannot be believed, for they are the logical outcome of the Nazi philosophy.

German Atrocities

The pertinent observation is made editorially by The Bayland Oregonian that Americans, recalling now German atrocity stories in World War I later were dismissed as "propaganda", have little reason now to disbelieve similar reports in this conflict.

Citing a war refugee board summary that "it is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe," the Oregonian concludes:

One sympathizes somewhat with those whose sensitivity is so acute, whose faith in innate decency so firmly established, that even when certified proof is provided they yet are incredulous. Sundry American war correspondents have testified in their dispatches that they were disinclined to believe what they had heard—but that the evidence of their own eyes made of them horrified converts to the opinion that no crime is too cruel or base for the Nazis. If it is well attested that the Germans in Poland fertilized their gardens with the ashes of their victims, who were slain by the tens of thousands, and that carloads of this human ash were shipped to the farmers of the fatherland. This time no pretext avails us for disbelief. The German criminals did not trouble themselves to conceal the mass murders for the identical reason which prompted them to these unparalleled crimes. The Germans were confident of victory, and believed that, as victors, they could not be brought to account.

Harking back to the atrocity stories of the first world war, and to the dismissal of these as mere allied propaganda, one cannot but ask oneself whether, since these recent diabolical excesses are verified, there might not have been something of merit in the 1918 indictment. The question is fully warranted. If we choose to deal with the German war criminals of the present conflict as with those of the first world war, no doubt the indictment will again be dismissed—for that time we left it to the Germans themselves. On the German plea of wishing to manifest sovereignty the mawkish allies permitted German courts to try German war criminals. The results, as might have been expected, were farcical in the extreme, and presently we came to accept atrocity stories as hateful propaganda that it were best to forget, as soon as possible. It is with something of grim satisfaction that we assure ourselves nothing of that sort will happen this time. The Nazi leaders are aware of this. It is their primary reason for fighting to the last ditch.

Grim Accounting

The horror left in the trail of the Nazi menace will never be forgotten, or waved away as were atrocious stories after the last war.

Well-documented and heart-breaking are the figures being set down as a history of men gone mad. The War Refugee Board has just released a report showing where and when millions of Europeans, Jews and Christians, have been murdered. Victims were killed in cold-blood, by no means in instances excusable as part of warfare.

Great Britain follows this grim recital with a report that one-third of all the homes in the United Kingdom have been wrecked by Nazi bombs. Almost 750,000 men, women and children are the casualties.

From our safety on this side of the oceans — a safety another war would find sadly decreased. — we can only imagine the sufferings of others less fortunate.

We must marvel at the spirit which has kept fighting the Nazi scourge at any opportunity. The British, for example, under fire as they were, have produced 102,000 planes, 45,000 tanks and 4.5 million tons of shipping.

200369

Germany's Fiendish Cruelty

WHAT fiends the Nazis are! What horror and brutality they have inflicted upon millions of helpless human beings! Men, women and children—not soldiers, but civilians—have been slaughtered literally in droves, ruthlessly exterminated in an orgy of blood lust as systematic as it is heartless.

Accounts of German bestiality are not new. They have been coming out of Europe for years. The stories have been almost incredible. Such wanton cruelty is almost too much for the minds of civilized people to comprehend.

Yet these reports are true. Of that there can be no doubt. The evidence is too overwhelming, too well authenticated by eyewitness accounts, to permit of any lingering shadow of suspicion that they are "atrocity propaganda."

The American people now have confirmation of German terrorism and wholesale slaughter from an official agency of the United States government itself. The War Refugee Board, composed of three members of the President's Cabinet, has made public a report setting forth that in two years approximately 2,000,000 persons were put to death at two German concentration camps—only two of a number of notorious mass execution centers operated in Germany and in German-occupied countries.

This is the first time that our government has made an official report on these German atrocities. How many millions more have been murdered in other concentration centers can only be conjectured. But of the reasonable ac-

curacy of the 2,000,000 total given for the camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau the War Refugee Board is convinced.

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe," the report states. "This campaign of terror and brutality, unprecedented in all history, even now continues unabated."

The Germans have employed various methods of torturing and killing European civilians. Their greatest mass executions, however, have evidently been carried out by means of gas chambers into which their victims are herded. After they have been put to death by gas, which is said to take about three minutes, their bodies are disposed of in a crematorium near the gas chamber.

This sickening report has raised demands in Congress for relentless punishment of the Germans responsible for these acts. Members of the Senate and the House are more insistent than ever on imposing peace terms severe enough to keep Germany from ever again committing such crimes, and on the death penalty for those Nazis who are tried and found guilty of atrocities in this war. There is no sentiment in Congress for retaliation in kind, however.

We believe that the temper of Congress in this regard is that of the American people in general. Americans could not be so uncivilized as to want to do to the Germans what they have done to their victims. But this country will be strongly determined upon meting out stern justice to the Nazi barbarians.

Nazi Record of Wholesale Murder Indictment of Whole German People

The record of the Nazi regime in war and in peace has made the world fully aware of the baseness of its character and of the extent to which it employs the expedients of inhumanity in its scheme of world conquest.

To those familiar with the story of Lidice, with the horrors of Lublin, with the whole appalling history of cruelty and enslavement, it would seem as nothing more could be added that might deepen further the infamy of the German people. This purpose has been accomplished, however, by the report of the War Refugee Board on the German campaign of "extermination and torture."

Indictment of a whole people, traditionally difficult to achieve without the danger of injustice, is accomplished by this rigidly factual document, which brings more vividly to the mind of the world the peril in which civilization has been placed by this interlude of Nazi domination of Europe, also the sufferings endured by millions.

When one reviews mentally the careers of the tyrants of history, the men whose names and regimes are black with every conceivable crime against decency and honor, the board's appraisal of the Hitlerian era commands thoughtful consideration as the time for judgment approaches.

It is described as a "campaign of terror and brutality which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated" as a part of a German campaign to subjugate the

free peoples of the world. The indictment is carefully documented. It is a narrative of murder, practiced systematically and scientifically against Jews and Christians alike, men and women of every race, including Germans, and often for no particular rea-

At the camp, that at Birkenau, according to the information gathered by the board, 1,765,000 Jews were killed by gas between April 1942 and April 1944. Execution, chemistry, gunfire, starvation and the encouragement of virulent disease in prison compounds also have had their places in the fiendish Nazi scheme of human destruction. This report does not present the Germans in a new light. It serves merely to etch a little more deeply the picture of the enemy developed by the record over the years.

In addition, however, this report serves the practical purpose of fixing guilt and of determining where the punishment must fall. The crime of these tragic years is the crime of the German nation, which has debased itself to such a degree that it has become the willing instrument through which sadistic leaders have visited horror upon a continent.

Nazi Brutality

Always, in wartime, there are atrocity stories. A quarter of a century ago the world was shocked by reports of the cruelty of the Huns, and in the light of history some of these tales have proved false. But this time, apparently beyond the shadow of a doubt, the Germans have been carrying out mass murder and torture in a manner which will shame civilized mankind for generations to come.

Three members of the President's Cabinet—Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau, and Stimson, as the War Refugee Board—have released detailed reports of beastial cruelty and murder in German extermination camps. In an official document, the board said it has "every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps."

Apparently, extermination camps in Poland are the worst, with the slaughter of Jews and Christians alike developed to a deadly science. According to eyewitness accounts, more than a million and a half Jews were gassed and their bodies cremated at Birkenau alone within a two-year period. Aryans are seldom gassed, it is stated, but are accorded the "special treatment" of being shot instead.

Having grown hardened thru the Nazi school of brutality, thousands of Germans have participated in these crimes—men in the ranks, as well as officers. And when the Allies capture these war criminals, they usually shrug their shoulders and say they were only obeying orders.

Comparatively, the Germans are more civilized than the Japs when on the battlefield, for they observe some of the traditions of honorable warfare and the Japs have no scruples of any kind. But when they deal with helpless people whom they can herd about like cattle, the Nazi-trained Germans indulge in practices which flumb the lowest depths of degradation. Their crimes are enormous, in character and in their wholesale scope, and some day the German people must pay for them.

000372

Two Way Murder

One of the most frightful documents of this war has just been issued by the War Refuge Board and deals with the subject of atrocities. Far from presenting the whole, horrible picture but thoroughly checked to establish the authenticity of its statements, it declares that 1,765,000 Jews have been put to death in one Polish execution camp alone. The figures were supplied by witnesses who escaped.

So incredible is this report it could readily be subject to doubt ~~as were~~ the German atrocity stories of the last war which in many instances proved to be sheer propaganda except that the War Refuge Board is not made up of propaganda specialists but men of highest responsibility to the American public, namely, the secretaries of State, the Treasury and of War.

The contents of their report point to a grisly duty the United Nations must perform after the war, the punishment of the criminals who conceived and carried out these mass killings designed to leave Germany supreme in manpower whether she won or lost the war.

It is not enough to look for the ringleaders of this master murder plan and execute them. The search must be thorough. The men who ordered the mass killings and the men who carried them out must all be taken and punished. Only one punishment is possible—death.

There is no retribution to be exacted from them, no way to make them pay for their crimes adequate to fit the case. They must be lined up and shot.

It is not the Volkssturm whom Himmler is trying to whip into guerrilla fighters that will prolong the unhappiness of Europe but these Himmler executioners, who, whatever they may have been, are now and always will be, less than brutes, unfit to live even in criminal society where some rules govern. One cannot kill 1,765,000 innocent people and remain sane or self-controlled. Death will not pay for their crimes but it will rid the world of their contamination.

It is the beauty of fate that the Nazis, who designed this plan to assure themselves ultimate supremacy whether or not they won the war, will be the losers anyway, for they have failed in their efforts to increase their own birthrate as those of neighbor nations fell. From 20 births per 1,000 population in 1940 the German birthrate dropped to 14.9 per 1,000 in 1942, a decrease of 25 per cent in two years.

What it will be at the end of the war is difficult to imagine. German men are almost all in the army and the youth who would have been the fathers of tomorrow's generation, are dying in the battleline today to perpetuate the regime responsible for their deaths. Hitler's program of decimation has now caught up with his own people.

000273

Certified Atrocity Records

There may be some few Americans who have closed their minds to proof of German atrocities in this war, remembering that many such stories, though of milder hellishness, which circulated in world war I, were afterward dismissed as "propaganda." Now that the United States government has certified many reports of the hideous nazi prison camps in Poland, the murder factories, the mass incinerators, there should be no least disposition to disbelieve any narrative of German fiendishness. Said the war refugee board in summary:

It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe.

One sympathizes somewhat with those whose sensitivity is so acute, whose faith in innate decency so firmly established, that even when certified proof is provided they yet are incredulous. Sundry American war correspondents have testified in their dispatches that they were disinclined to believe what they had heard—but that the evidence of their own eyes made of them horrified converts to the opinion that no crime is too cruel or base for the nazis; it is well attested that the Germans in Poland fertilized their gardens with the ashes of their victims, who were slain by the tens of thousands, and that carloads of this human ash were shipped to the farmers of the fatherland. This time no pretext avails us for disbelief. The German criminals did not trouble themselves to conceal the mass murders for the identical reason which prompted them to these unparalleled crimes. The Germans were confident of victory, and believed that, as victors, they could not be brought to account.

Harking back to the atrocity stories of the first world war, and to the dismissal of these as mere allied propaganda, one cannot but ask oneself whether, since these recent diabolical excesses are verified, there might not have been something of merit in the 1918 indictment. The question is fully warranted. If we choose to deal with the German war criminals of the present conflict as with those of the first world war, no doubt the indictment will again be dismissed—for that time we left it to the Germans themselves. On the German plea of wishing to manifest sovereignty the mawkish allies permitted German courts to try German war criminals. The results, as might have been expected, were farcical in the extreme, and presently we came to accept atrocity stories as hateful propaganda that it were best to forget as soon as possible. It is with something of grim satisfaction that we assure ourselves nothing of that sort will happen this time. The nazi leaders are aware of this. It is their primary reason for fighting to the last ditch.

Hard Peace for Fiends

Reports of atrocities have accompanied all wars, and for that reason one is reluctant to credit them, but there can be no doubt of the authenticity of reports of acts committed by the Germans "of such horror and foulness as the world has never before known," as Representative Emanuel Celler rightly terms them. In the First World War it was reported, among other things, that the Germans were trying out the bodies of their dead and enemy dead to obtain fats for their war machine. As a matter of fact, the report was not true; its origin was definitely established after the war. But it has been quite definitely established that the murderous troops of Adolf Hitler have not only gassed and burned more than a million and a half Jews, but have even employed their ashes as fertilizer.

From liberated France come equally well authenticated reports of torture, of wholesale executions of both men and women. Equally gruesome tales come from Yugoslavia, Greece, Russia—wherever the Nazi barbarians have set foot. One would like to discredit them, but it is impossible. There is too great a cloud of witnesses. History, even of the Black Ages, has nothing to compare with the atrocities of a people supposed to be civilized and Christian.

Congress, says a Washington report, following the submission of a report released by the War Refugee Board, raised demands for a hard peace for Germany, including the death penalty for Nazis responsible for the murders and tortures. It does not seem possible that there could be today any Americans who advocate a soft peace, who still believe that a distinction can be made between Nazis and Germans, but there are such Americans. There is also a considerable number of German refugees, many of them holding places in the teaching staffs of our universities and colleges, who are insistent that such a distinction can be made.

It seems sufficient, in answer to them, to imagine what would happen to an American officer who would command his men to kill defenseless civilians, to say nothing of torturing and burning them. Such a cry of indignation and horror would go up from the whole American people that the officer would not only be deprived of his command and punished, but he would be an object of general obloquy and contempt as long as he lived. But it is unthinkable that there could be an officer of any rank, from lowest to highest, who could even contemplate such bestiality. Yet there are thousands of that kind in Germany and hundreds of thousands of soldiers whose basic idea that they were "little men" and had to obey orders. Burke's noted statement that "he knew no way of indicting a whole nation" no longer has or may have currency. The German nation has indicted itself and the verdict of guilty of lasting national infamy has been rendered against it.

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•The Slaughter Report

TO NORMAL Americans it is inconceivable that any nation pretending to civilization should be guilty of the colossal barbarities of the Nazis as detailed in the official report, just made public by the state, war and treasury departments on the basis of two years' investigation. Earlier unofficial reports of the huge death plant operated by the Germans in Birkenau, Poland, were received with a certain measure of skepticism; "atrocities" were a propaganda feature of the first world war, and the advent of peace disproved many of the allegations against the enemy. In the present report, however, there is the conviction of truth, supported by circumstantial details.

One estimate of the number of German victims is 1,765,000. The report flatly states: "It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe." The favorite device for mass slaughter was a gas plant, in which victims were jammed by hundreds or thousands, to be exterminated by the release of cyanide gas or some similar lethal poison. Following execution, the bodies were burned and the residue used for fertilizer.

Exemplifying the cold cruelty of the Nazi leaders is the report's reference to the "dedication" of the big slaughter house and crematorium at Birkenau:

"Prominent guests from Berlin were present at the inauguration of the first crematorium in March, 1943. The 'program' consisted of the gassing and burning of 8000 Cracow Jews. The guests, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results and the special peephole fitted into the door of the gas chamber was in constant use."

Horrified as the world was at the mass slaughters of Lidice and Distomo, these outrages had some extenuation in the flare-up of vengeance. The gas house and crematory horrors, however, were deliberately and methodically perpetrated, not on impulse but as part of a plan of general extermination.

Reaction to this report in America and other allied nations may be demands for a much harder peace than that previously contemplated. Neither military nor civil courts, of course, can impose adequate punishment for the leaders responsible for this revolting bestiality. A nation tolerating such leadership can hardly expect to be welcomed back to the civilized world without proven atonement.

GERMAN CULTURE

During war it has been a custom for belligerents to encourage the dissemination among their people of gossip, informal charges of atrocities against the enemy in order to arouse hatred and build a determination to sacrifice in order to advance victory. After the wars, it has been admitted there was much exaggeration. However, in this new type of conflict originated and carried on by Germany, the list of barbarisms, uncivilized acts and horrible cruelties is fully accredited and nothing in all history, even in the Dark Ages, has been so inhuman.

The United States War Refugee Board, connected with the Executive Department, has issued a report of happenings at two prison camps in Poland, one at Birkenau and the other at Oswiecim, that are beyond description in baseness. Two of the witnesses are two young Slovakians who escaped in April of this year after being in the two camps for two years and the other is a Polish major, the only survivor of a group with which he was taken to the camp at Auschwitz. The Refugee Board "has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful events in these camps and is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

It has been estimated that 1,500,000 persons were killed in three years at Lublin, Poland, execution area and evidence is that 1,765,000 have been murdered in Birkenau in two years. Most of those slaughtered were Jews, but also included prisoners of war and political offenders from Germany, Poland, Holland, Greece, France, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Italy, Norway, Lithuania, Bohemia, Moravia, Austria and Slovakia.

This makes a total of over 3,200,000 known to have been tortured, starved, beaten, abused and then killed in just three prison camps from which reliable reports have been obtained. How many more millions have been beaten to death, shot and destroyed in some hideous manner throughout the vast portions of Europe that have been in the hands of the Nazis for so many years?

The details of the events are hideous. Victims were brought long distances piled in trucks or jammed in freight cars. Men, women, children. Sometimes whole families together. Often thousands were marched directly to gas chambers where they were destroyed with cyanide. Others were kept in barracks for months in misery, with disease ending the suffering for many before they were executed. A few were shot, and most of them were handed a towel, and a

piece of soap, ordered to strip themselves, and were marched into buildings that appeared to be baths. Once the structures were filled, the doors were closed and cyanide bombs were dropped through apertures in the roofs. It was all over soon and other prisoners were given the task of carrying out the bodies, placing them on cars that proceeded on rails to crematories where they were burned. Many who were ill or were dying were not gassed first, but were deposited directly into the furnaces.

When the sick occupied infirmary beds too long they were given fatal phenol injections. Some of the unfortunates, unable to stand the horrors, managed to secure entrance to the hospitals so they would be killed by the needles and would avoid the gas chamber trials. Many others found permanent relief by dashing against high-charged wire fences and being electrocuted, or by rushing into prohibited zones and being felled by the machine guns of guards on watch day and night.

The heroism of the helpless millions who escaped their fearful fates staunchly is a marvel of history. Often thousands of young folks, knowing they were being led to the gas deaths, sang lustily along the way, as if to impress upon the Nazis that while they could mutilate and massacre their bodies, they could not conquer their spirits. One contingent of women, upon being released from the cattle cars and stripped of garments and robbed of any jewelry they might possess, managed to carry on a brief, futile resistance. A girl managed to yank a revolver from the holster of a guard, shot him three times and thus encouraged her companions to rebel and strive to escape. Of course they all were killed at once.

It is recorded that prominent guests from Berlin attended the institution of cyanide treatments, observed what happened within through peepholes that were provided, observed the operation of the cremation facilities and expressed themselves as well pleased with the operations. Obviously the proceedings were well known to the Germans and must have been planned and authorized and directed by Hitler and many departments of the government with the approval of much of the population. Thus a nation can become hardened to an extent it can approve such unspeakable mass murder.

Many Germans must have been infected with the stench of the crematories and it is a stench that will remain with Germans indefinitely. We do not know of anything they can do to remove it.

Atrocities

In 1914 a flood of German atrocity stories was loosed on the unsuspecting Allied and neutral world. The world believed the stories. Later, most of them were exposed as ~~misstatements~~, exaggerations and, in a great many cases, deliberate frauds and fakes.

After that experience the world became cynical. When the new war came on, there was a disposition to be skeptical. It was the case of the boy who cried "Wolf!" For precious months when an appreciation of the true facts of German brutality under Hitler might have helped America make up its mind as to its proper role in the war, these facts were butting their heads against the wall of skepticism reared up by the faking of the atrocity stories of World War I.

At last, however, the evidence against the Germans began to accumulate and finally it broke down the wall of blindness which had contained so many of the American people. Now, with the report of the government commission investigating atrocities in Poland, published yesterday, the last brick has toppled in the wall of disbelief. We know for a proven fact the immensity of the horrors which the Germans this time have loosed against the world. The evidence will have its weight when the guilty go into the courtroom after the war and when the victorious peoples are debating the terms of the peace.

000379

A Ghastly Report

The nauseating details of German bestiality toward Jews and Aryans who had earned their disfavor, may be accepted as authentic. They are vouched for by the War Refugee Board named by the President to study the situation inside the Reich and its occupied areas, and they comprise eyewitness accounts of wholesale murder and torture that exceed in numbers anything the world has ever heard of previously.

Millions of helpless persons have been gassed and otherwise executed to sate Nazi lust. Does it give a slant on Nazi mentality to hear that on one occasion when 8000 Jews were to be gassed in a new-fangled chamber, the event was made a ceremony attended by high military officers and civilians from Berlin who witnessed the killing through peepholes which left nothing to the imagination?

The formal report on German torture and extermination methods has, of course, an immediate value in relation to the War Bond drive. Doubtless it was timed to impress the American people with the hideousness of the Nazi war machine with which our armed forces are now engaged. Certainly it should arouse in every breast an anger that can be best expressed by the buying of more bonds and by a determination that there shall be no letup in the production of everything our men require to defeat such an enemy.

But whatever may be the immediate purpose of the revelation, the stark fact is that here is certified proof of Nazi cruelty which will not be forgotten when the peace terms are under consideration.

000380

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES



"And put in every honest hand a whip
To lash the rascals naked through
the world . . ."

You can buy a whip for \$18.75. Cordell Hull does not put his name down to propaganda. Henry L. Stimson isn't a man for peddling unsubstantiated atrocity tales. When these men sign a report of ghastly murder by the wholesale extermination camps, there is no need of keeping fingers crossed as most of us have become inclined to do about wartime atrocity stories. "The board," these two cabinet officers declare, "has every reason to believe that the reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps . . ."

By "frightful" they mean subjecting old men, women and children to every brutality that lets them stay alive—and then killing them at last, selected by selectee, deliberate and systematic program, thousands, millions, none guilty of anything but having been born of a wrong race or in a wrong place. By "frightful" they mean making the wholesale torture and murder of the weak, the innocent, the helpless, a cold philosophy in practice. You can buy a better whip for \$75.

These German leaders and philosophers who have prated of virility and manliness, of the degeneracy of democratic peoples and the great wholesomeness of their own, have told us now what they mean. They do not mean what we mean. They do not mean the manliness that holds its own strength and courage invulnerable to challenge through all the vicissitudes of living. They do not mean the manliness that has a surplus for the troubled and weak. They mean only a half-manliness—with the other half all beast, all Hun, all Bosch, all German killing machine. You can buy a still better whip for \$375.

Will we be beasts for vengeance because these Germans have been murdering beasts? The answer is yes—a little. Not to want this thing punished, not to swear it will be and to go about the job is to deny an instinct God Himself put into us, the instinct for hating hatefulness, for putting down evil, for defending what we love and whom we love against the devils of this world.

Vengeance is in process—and by our hands. In the history of ruin there will be none like that to Germany, her people, her cities, the whole expanse of her fatherland. Already Berlin is a smear on the face of the earth, Hamburg, too, and a hundred other German cities, with more nailed to the list each bomb-day. Germany's young men are crippled or dead. Her industries are wrecked beyond repair. Her destiny is fixed to long years of paying, impoverishment, outlawry in civilization's eyes. And in ghastly nightmare she is chained to the madmen and criminals she has followed, subject to a piling up of the death and destruction long after hope of getting anywhere with it has gone, paying last items of blood and substance in toll to masters who cannot have themselves and will not save anything of her.

Never was vengeance so deserved. And never was it so awful and so sure. Its spearheads are our bomber and fighter pilots, our paratroopers, infantrymen, artillerymen, our armored divisions, our armies in remorseless and gigantic advance from Aachen to the Vosges. Its originating arm is ourselves at home, buying bonds and bonds and bonds, holding nothing back at the vast starting place that will keep the punishing points to their damned targets.

It means something that a force in this Sixth War Loan drive in our Alabama should be the American Legion, under leadership of former Gov. Frank Dixon, who lost a leg in war against the same enemy. "Over 100,000 members of the American Legion have again entered the armed forces of our country," Vice Commander Albert B. Stapp, of the Department of Alabama, tells me. "But for those of us who are denied this honor and privilege, buying every bond we can afford to buy and selling every bond we can

possibly sell is the most valuable service we can now render to our country. . . . Our soldiers have demonstrated their ability to do the fighting if we give them the tools of war . . ."

To conquer the murderers now, totally and unconditionally, and then to be as total and unconditional about the making of a world in which the murdering will not recur—are tasks for the avenging spirit as well as the scientific determination. Not the avenging that is as lustful and hateful as what it punishes, but the avenging that gives cold science a passion enough to make of victory at arms and establishment for peace.

And may our enemies who have prated of manliness when they meant brutality know this of manliness in America—that thousands of the War Bonds which spoke for the sixth time of America's strength were defined in principal and interest not to those who bought them but to the crippled children of Alabama, to the Crippled Children's Clinic at Birmingham where, by grace of an American "manliness" of strength, the weak were helped to be strong for the unfortunate to better for the, the crippled to be whole again.

A Million Murders

The civilized world has stood aghast at the repeated resorting to mass murder by the Nazis. The bestiality, calculated cruelty and fiendish inventiveness of the Hitlerites in executing innocent men, women and children are such as to almost defy one's powers of comprehension. But in case after case, authenticated information confirms the Nazi program of the mass extermination. The greater part of Nazi fury has been directed against helpless Jews, although the innocents of many lands and peoples were among the victims.

Shocking therefore and revolting as are the details in the report of the War Refugee Board, three members of President Roosevelt's cabinet, telling of the murder of one million prisoners in Nazi prison camps, the document does not surprise the outside world. What it does is to confirm previous reports and grimly highlights a story of torture, barbarity and murder that cries to heaven for vengeance and will make Hitlerism, Nazism and Aryanism foul and hated labels as long as civilization endures.

The War Refugee report is an additional, urgent reason, if any were needed, to show the necessity of crushing Hitlerism, uprooting the Nazi system in Germany, bringing the war criminals to justice, and taking such steps as are essential to wipe out a system which could have sponsored such bestial and fiendish crimes. At the same time it points up the drastic need of providing asylum for those who have survived the long nightmare of Nazi persecution and now need the sunlight of security and the warmth of human kindness.

German People Must Be Re-Civilized

As we study the report of the War Refugee Board, issued last Saturday, giving a detailed account of the bestial cruelty and murder of millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—in concentration camps in Germany and German-occupied territory, we must reiterate our opinion that Germany will have to be occupied for many years after peace comes if its people are to be brought back to principles of decent civilization.

The reports of such inhuman behavior are by no means new, but this latest report, coming from the War Refugee Board, whose members are Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, is the result of more than a year of investigation and study by agents throughout occupied Europe, so that the facts—horrible as they are—can be taken for granted.

They show clearly that for several generations the people of Germany have been taught the doctrines of inhuman cruelty that activate Hitler, Himmler and others of the leading Nazi gangsters. Punishment of these leaders alone will not be enough to bring about a change that is needed to safeguard civilization from another outbreak of inhuman cruelty such as horrified the world since Hitler gained control of Germany.

The only cure for this condition is the education of the next two generations of the German people along the lines of decency as the civilized world understands it, and this should begin as soon as Germany surrenders unconditionally and the United Nations take over the country. For this reason we repeat our proposal of last year, during the Nazi atrocities on helpless Polish and Russian women and children, that Germany be policed by the United Nations for fifty years to come.

In the same paper is the official report, circulated by the Associated Press, of three members of the War Relocation Authority, describing the discovery of a mass grave German extermination camp in southwest Poland, at one of which alone competent eyewitnesses estimate 1,705,000 Jews and Christians together were murdered and cremated or buried. The horrible atrocities described are by now commonplace; the main thing to note is the charge that the deeds were done by Germans, officers and men alike, who either took pleasure in it, or never showed any remorse at their crimes. This report, and others that have been made public, bears out the contention of a large segment of public opinion among Allied nations— notably in Russia, but a view that has grown in Britain since the first bomb attacks—that whatever may be said for the good intentions of some Germans they are, as a nation, cruel, autocratic, and untrustworthy.

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Murder of 1,765,000 by Nazis In Polish Camp Bared by U. S.

Government Report Calls Atrocities 'Revolt- ing and Diabolical' as Gassings Exceed Record of Lublin Death Factory

Washington, Nov. 27. — In the first detailed report by a United States government agency offering eyewitness proof of mass murder by the Germans, the War Refugee Board made public yesterday accounts by three persons of organized atrocities at Brzezinka (Birkenau) and Oswiecim (Auschwitz) in southwestern Poland that transcend the horrors of Lublin. The accounts were vouched for by the WRB.

While at Lublin 1,500,000 persons were said to have been killed in three years, 1,500,000 to 1,765,000 persons were murdered in the torture chambers of Brzezinka from April, 1942, to April, 1944, according to these government-verified reports. Many thousands of other deaths by phenol injection, brutal beatings, starvation, shooting, etc., also are recounted.

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe," the WRB declared.

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world," it added.

"So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place," the board stated. "But the governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts."

After describing the nature of the reports now made public, the WRB added:

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

The two Slovak youths estimated the number of Jews gassed and burned at Birkenau in the two-year period at 1,765,000 in the following table, but the Polish officer estimated that about 1,500,000 Jews were killed in Oswiecim in that fashion. Here is the recapitulation by the two escaped Jews.

1,765,000 Jews Gassed

A careful estimate of the number of Jews gassed in Birkenau between April, 1942, and April, 1944 (according to countries of origin; figures approximate):

Poland (transported by train).....	200,000
Holland (transported by train).....	100,000
France.....	45,000
Belgium.....	150,000
Germany.....	10,000
Czechoslovakia, Italy and Norway.....	10,000
Poland, Moravia and Austria.....	10,000
Russia.....	30,000
Canon for foreign Jews in Poland.....	20,000
Total.....	1,765,000

In the report the Jewish youths described the gassing and burning technique as follows:

"At present there are four crematoria in operation at Birkenau, two large ones, I and II, and two smaller ones, III and IV. Those of

Type I and II consist of three parts, i.e., (a) the furnace room, (b) the large hall, and (c) the gas chamber. A huge chimney rises from the furnace room around which are grouped nine furnaces, each having four openings. Each opening can take three normal corpses at once, and after an hour and a half the bodies are completely burned. This corresponds to a daily capacity of about 2000 bodies.

"Next to this is a large reception hall, which is arranged so as to give the impression of the ante-chamber of a bathing establishment. It holds 2000 people, and apparently there is a similar waiting room on the floor below. From there a door and a few steps lead

down into the very long and narrow gas chamber. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms in order to mislead the victims. The roof is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber toward the furnace room.

Victims Told to Undress

"The gassing takes place as follows: The unfortunate victims are brought into the hall (b) where they are told to undress. To complete the fiction that they are going to bathe, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber (c)

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in such numbers that there is, of course, only standing room. To compress this crowd into the narrow space, shots are often fired to induce those already at the far end to huddle still closer together. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb the roof, open the traps, and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled 'Cyklon,' for use against vermin, which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern.

"It is presumed that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature. After three minutes everyone in the chamber is dead. No one is known to have survived this ordeal, although it was not uncommon to discover signs of life after the primitive measures employed in the Birch Wood.

"The chamber is then opened, aired, and the special stoves curbs the bodies on flat trucks to the furnace rooms, where the burning takes place. Crematoria III and IV work on nearly the same principle, but their capacity is only half as large. Thus the total capacity of the four cremating and gassing plants at Birkenau amounts to about 6000 daily."

Large Convey from France
In his independent report the Polish officer described the mass extermination thus:

"The first large convoys arrived from France and Slovakia. Physically able men and women—those without children or the mothers of grown-up children—were sent to the camp of Birkenau. The remainder, i. e., old or weak men, women with small children and all those unfit for labor, were taken to the Birch-Wood (Brzezinka) and killed by means of hydrocyanic gas. For this purpose special gassing barracks had been built there.

"These consisted of large halls, bright, and provided with ventilators which could be opened or closed according to the need. Besides they were equipped so as to create the impression of bathing establishments. This was done to deceive the victims and make them more manageable. The executions took place as follows: Each death convoy consisted of some eight to 10 trucks packed with the 'selectees'; the convoy was unguarded, as the whole frightful drama took place on camp territory.

"A private car containing the camp doctor followed each truck convoy, since it was compulsory for him to be present at these mass executions. On their arrival at the gassing establishment, which was

surrounded by a double barbed-wire fence, men, women and children had to completely undress. One of them was given a towel and piece of soap. Then they were driven into the barrack until it was completely filled up.

Gas Bombs Employed
"Everything was hermetically closed, and specially trained SS units threw hydrocyanic bombs through the ventilation openings. After about 10 minutes the doors were opened and a special squad composed exclusively of Jews had to clear away the bodies and prepare for a new group of 'selectees.'"

"Then there was the story of the executioner who became a 'hero.' An SS man by the name of Kler, a shoemaker by profession, gave phenol injections. He had taken up this post in the hospital as a simple SS private but was later promoted to SS 'group leader,' although practically a moron. He also received supplementary food rations and was awarded the Iron Cross. There were days when this psychopath picked out victims from the wards on his own initiative, without instructions from the German doctor, on whom to practice his 'technique.'"

"He was a complete sadist, torturing his victims with animal-like brutality before putting them to death."

Experiments on Women
The accounts of the Slovaks and the Polish major mentioned a special 'hygiene institute' at Oswiecim, which was adjacent to Birkenau, and where mysterious 'experiments' were conducted on Jewish prisoners, mostly on females. The Polish major's account, which provided the only clue of what went on in the 'institute,' said:

"Here sterilizing by X-ray treatment, artificial insemination of women, as well as experiments on blood transfusions, were carried on."

The reports mentioned several well-known individuals, such as Witold Zacharewicz, Polish actor, and a brother of Leon Blum, former French Premier, as having been executed.

"Prominent guests from Berlin were present at the inauguration of the first crematorium in March, 1943," the reports said. "The program consisted of the gassing and burning of 8000 Cracow Jews. The guests, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results and the special telephone fitted into the door of the gas chamber was in constant use. They were lavish in their praise of this newly erected installation."

Catch Them Now!

THE horror of German atrocities is emphasized anew and given official verification in the release by the War Refugee Board, composed of Secretaries Hull, Stimson and Morgenthau, of the stories of three survivors of the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau, in Poland.

The Nazi plan, as this newspaper was one of the first to point out, has been nothing less than a cold-blooded and calculated program of mass murder—the extinction of whole peoples—unmatched in the history of the world.

The punishment of the Nazi criminals becomes one of the greatest tasks facing the allied authorities, and, if fully accomplished and carried through to final justice for the guilty, would constitute as great a contribution toward the future peace of the world as anything that could be done.

Now, while vast areas are being liberated, is the time to gather the evidence to avenge the greatest infamy of all time. NOW, while the crime is fresh and before the Nazis have had an opportunity to "go underground."

We suggest that America has two men eminently qualified for this job of grand scale detective work.

Why not delegate J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, or Brig. Gen. William F. O'Dwyer, Brooklyn district attorney on leave, or both, to ferret out and prepare the indictments against a gang of human rats whose bestialities tax the credence of the civilized mind?

The experience of Mr. Hoover in smothering sabotage and tracking down subversives here, and of Gen. O'Dwyer in wiping out the infamous Murder, Inc., and doing splendid Army exposures of graft, certainly fit them for the biggest, and most vital, police assignment of history.

100287

This Is Our Enemy: Murderer of the Helpless

There is nothing new about Nazi-perpetrated mass-murder. From the death factories of Maidanek to the martyred villages of Lidice and Distomo we have examples in plenty of the German mania for wholesale execution of innocent and helpless civilians.

But it has taken the first official U. S. Government report on German atrocities, presenting in 25,000 harrowing words eye-witness accounts of Nazi cruelty in the extermination camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau, to demonstrate the frightful extremes to which this madness has been carried.

To the two camps were brought whole families of Jews and others rooted from their homes all over occupied Europe and sentenced to death for the crime of being unwanted in Hitler's New Order. At Birkenau alone nearly 2,000,000 Jews have been gassed to death.

The members of the Board who sponsor

this report, Secretary of State Hull, Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, have made it public "in the firm conviction that it should be read and understood by every American."

They are right in that conviction. Every American should read the report and digest its meaning so as to understand more clearly the enemy we face in the Germans. There is a disposition in some circles at times to make a sharp distinction between the Germans and the Japs, to picture the former as no savages but as part of our own civilization and culture and deserving therefor a more sympathetic treatment.

Such pro-German propaganda falls to pieces in face of the testimony of Birkenau and Auschwitz. These murder camps are the finest products of the Nazi way of life. Let us not, when it comes time to talk of peace settlements, forget them.

ATROCITY REPORT STIRS CONGRESS

Death Penalty Demanded for Germans Guilty in Mass Murders

Washington, Nov. 27.—(AP)—Demands were made in Congress today for punishment of Germans guilty of what a cabinet committee calls the systematic murder of millions of innocent European civilians.

In both Senate and House arose a measured call for peace terms severe enough to keep the Nazis from ever again committing crimes of atrocity and for the death penalty for those tried and found guilty of them in this war.

Representative Bloom (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Senator Johnson (D-Colo.) declared that Germany shouldn't be allowed to keep a single gun. And they said the peace machinery should include the means of meting out punishment to Nazis responsible for war murders.

Responsible for the Congressional clamor was a 25,000-word report released over the week-end by the War Refuge Board. Named by President Roosevelt to try to arrange the rescue of victims of enemy persecution, its members are Secretary of State Hull, Treasury Secretary Morgenthau and Secretary of War Stimson.

Systematic Murder

"It is a fact beyond denial," they said in a statement accompanying the document, "that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe.

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free people of the world."

The report embraced two eyewitness descriptions of brutality and slaughter by three men who escaped German extermination camps in Poland. The accounts were prepared independently. But they agreed that more than 1,500,000 Jews from several European nations were gassed and cremated at Birkenau in two years.

Names of the three men were withheld for their own protection. 1,785,000 Reported Slain

One account, by two Slovakian Jews who kept camp records, estimated two years of killings at Birkenau at 1,765,000. It told of the crowding of people into cubicles too small to let them sit upright or lie down, of a special gassing and burning squad that worked day and night shifts, of the use of human ashes for fertilizer.

It described a "new modern crematorium and gassing plant" put in operation in February, 1943, which had a furnace room and an antechamber arranged to give the impression it was a bathing room.

It told how people were jammed into the chamber—after receiving a towel and piece of soap to complete the fiction—and of how all were dead three minutes after a powder was sifted through a roof opening from a can marked "Cyklon — for use against vermin."

The second account, by an Aryan Polish major, said prisoners were used for blood transfusions, artificial insemination of women and experimental sterilization by X-Ray.

Representative Celler (D-N.Y.) called the stories "authentic revelations of such horror and foulness as the world has never before known."

German Extermination Camps

A Dutch writer notes that while the Romans left beautiful temples, palaces, theaters and splendid roads as testimonials of their civilization when they retired from Europe after the fall of their empire, the Germans in their retreat are leaving as marks of their kultur the ghastly and revolting extermination camps where literally millions of innocent civilians--Jews and Christians alike--have been gassed, shot, clubbed and worked to death.

Civilized people find it hard to believe that the Germans could be guilty of such diabolical atrocities, and in order to establish the facts the War Refugee Board in Washington has made public two eye-witness accounts of the frightful cruelties and mass murders in two camps, one told by two Jews and the other by a Christian Polish major, who escaped. Their stories check with evidence gathered by agents of the United States and other governments and with the mute testimony of the death camps captured at Lublin, Majdanek and other places, some with the pyres still smoking.

The hideous details have been told too many times to need repetition here. The point now is that the guilt is officially established. Himmler was seen inspecting and approving the gruesome arrangements. Parties of higher-ups from Berlin witnessed the massacres with smiles of satisfaction. They are part of the Nazi program, the New Order.

The camps are still at work. The ones at Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birkenau, pictured in this testimony published by the War Refugee Board, are about 30 miles west of Krakow, in territory still in German hands. In the two years when the two Jewish witnesses were at Birkenau approximately 1,765,000 Jews were gassed, Christians were shot, both were clubbed or kicked to death, killed by lethal inoculations, or died under medical experiments by Nazi doctors.

We, thousands of miles from the fighting fronts, may get some idea here of what we are being saved from by the living wall of our men

fighting off the Nazi apostles of the New Order. It should inspire all thinking men and women to give of their utmost in this supreme time of battles to end the war--Bonds, work, faith, prayer.

Monstrous Nazi Crimes

Civilization is shamed, humanity is sickened, by the new evidence on German mass-murder methods just disclosed by the War Refugee Board.

For the first time, an agency of the American Government presents a detailed report of the scientifically organized slaughter houses whereby the Germans exterminate their so-called racial inferiors. Added to previous reports by Russian, Polish, Czech, Greek, Dutch, French and other governments' official agencies, the picture is indeed, as the WRB says, that of a "campaign of terror and brutality which is unprecedented in all history." It is a picture that the board, composed of Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson, considers authentic, for its statement says:

It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe.

In civilized times at least, war has been waged between bodies of soldiers. The Nazis wage war in its cruelest form against civilians; not in the heat of battle, not in desperation, but as an icily calculated policy of reducing populations so that Germany, whether it wins or loses the war, shall attain superiority of numbers.

The gas chamber, the firing squad, starvation, brutal beatings, torture—all these are weapons used methodically in the carrying out of German policy. The policy has been laid down many times by Hitler. Thus, on Jan. 31, 1939, he said that if war came, the result would be "the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe." And not the Jews alone, for as long ago as 1927 he had said: "It is either you or I, life or death; either extermination or servitude." And in 1928: "If men wish to live, they are forced to kill others."

So murder of helpless and unoffending civilians, of whatever nationality or religion, becomes a fixed part of Nazi methods. Its use is a festive occasion, for one of the most ghastly sections of the new report tells how "prominent guests from Berlin were present" when a slaughter house in Poland was inaugurated, and watched with satisfaction the gassing and burning of 8000 Jews from Cracow.

A monstrous and protracted crime has been exposed to the eyes of the world. Dare anyone in the Allied countries now, in the face of such heaviness, preach a temporizing policy and a "soft peace" in the settlement with Germany?

New York Post

NOV 27 1944

Congress Calls for Action on Germany's Atrocities

Washington, Nov. 27 (AP) — Congress erupted today with demands for relentless punishment of Germans guilty of what a Cabinet committee calls the systematic murder of millions of inno-

cent European civilians.

In both Senate and House arose a measured call for peace terms severe enough to keep the Nazis from ever again committing crimes of atrocity and for the

death penalty for those tried and found guilty of them in this war.

Chairman Bloom (D-N.Y.) of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Sen. Johnson (D-Col.) declared that Germany shouldn't be allowed to keep a single gun. They said the peace machinery should include the means of meting out punishment to Nazis responsible for war murders.

100392

Inescapable Justice

AGAINST the background of the war itself and the great slaughter of the battlefields, the mass extermination practiced by the Nazis fails to attain full significance. When murdered innocents are spoken of in millions, the mind already conditioned by losses in the circle of family and friends is slow to grasp the enormity of this deliberate bloodletting.

All the more reason, then, to choose the Sabbath to deal with new reports which the War Refugee Board has released "in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans." The spirit of charity growing from worship is a help to understanding—first, of the suffering involved, and then of the need to explore and know the nature of the people capable of causing it.

THERE are two reports, described as having been prepared independently but being almost precisely parallel, and they concern life in Nazi camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in Southwestern Poland. One was made by two young Slovakian Jews who had clerical posts at Birkenau for two years, the other by a non-Jewish Polish major. Each report estimated that from April, 1942, until April, this year, more than a million and a half Jews were gassed and their bodies cremated at Birkenau alone.

The War Refugee Board, composed of Secretaries Hull, Stimson and Morgenthau, withheld the names of the men, all escapees, whose stories helped to enforce the "fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

WRITING 25,000 words of detail, the Jews and the Pole told that camp buildings were divided into cubicles "too narrow for a man to lie stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright," that working conditions were so hard the daily mortality was 30 to 35 out of a group of 200; that overseers beat working prisoners to death without cessation.

They told of the establishment of a "work building" that "actually was nothing else than an assembly center for death candidates. All prisoners incapable of working were sent there.

Twice weekly, the camp doctor indicated the number of prisoners who were to be gassed and then burned. These 'selectees' were loaded into trucks and brought to the birch forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barrack erected near the trench used for burning the bodies."

It was related that a "special squad" of prisoners forced to do the gassing and burning "were always filthy, destitute, half wild and extraordinarily brutal and ruthless. It was not uncommon to see one of them kill another. This was considered by the others a sensation, a change."

FOR the inauguration of a modern crematorium at Birkenau in March, 1943, prominent Berliners traveled to the camp. Eight thousand Cracow Jews were gassed and burned for the edification of these monsters, who looked into the gas chamber through a peephole.

The gas chamber's walls are "camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms to mislead the victims," who are given towels and soap. They are jammed in, "after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open the traps and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans. . . . It is presumed that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature. After three minutes, everyone in the chamber is dead."

THIS would seem to surpass the understanding of all normal peoples, but understanding—and justice—there must be. Justice will very much take care of itself, however. The degradation to which those responsible subject themselves can only amount in the end to self-destruction. Our hope must be that the unspeakably monstrous practice represents the will of only a wholly depraved minority.

100293

The Inside Story of Mass Murdering By Nazis

Escapees give detailed accounts of the gassing and cremating of 1,765,000 Jews at Birkenau

FROM AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

There is no longer any need to speculate on the mass murdering of millions of civilians—Jews and Christians both—by the Nazis. The War Refugee Board has received first-hand information from eyewitnesses that the campaign of bestial terror, which is unprecedented in all history, and even now continues unabated, is part of the Hun plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world.

So revolting and diabolical were the German atrocities which were uncovered at Lublin that the most civilized people found it difficult to believe that they could have been perpetrated in the 20th Century. However, the War Refugee Board, which is engaged in a desperate effort to save as many as possible of Hitler's intended victims, today is making public two documents—the first based on the experiences of two young Slovakian Jews who escaped in April, 1944, after spending two years in Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in Southwestern Poland, and the second offered by a non-Jewish Polish major, the only survivor of one group imprisoned at Auschwitz.

Accounts Coincide

The two accounts were prepared independently, and they coincide so exactly with each other, and with the trustworthy yet fragmentary reports hitherto received, that the board feels their publication will present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps, one which should be understood by all Americans.

Without embellishments, the eyewitness reports make it clear that the countless deaths at the camps are the result of typhus epidemics, extreme exposure, utter exhaustion, barbaric beatings and wholesale shootings by the technique of mass gassings followed by cremation. Cremation became necessary when great areas had become altogether too marshy and stench-laden from superficial burials.

The total number of deaths resulting from the first five causes can scarcely be guessed at. But an approximation of the number of Jews gassed and cremated between April, 1942, and April, 1944, at Birkenau alone, runs to 1,765,000. This appalling figure may be broken down into categories of origin as follows:

Origin	Approximately
Poland (transported by truck)	300,000
Poland (transported by train)	500,000
Holland	100,000
Greece	45,000
France	100,000
Belgium	50,000
Germany	60,000
Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway	50,000
Lithuania	30,000
Czechoslovakia	30,000
Various camps for foreign Jews in Poland	300,000
Total	1,765,000

When huge convoys of prisoners were received, the process used, it was the practice to select approximately 10 per cent of the strongest men and 5 per cent of the women—these to be driven as slave labor to nearby war industries until their natural stamina, pitifully replenished with thin

There were 643 of us. After a walk of about 20 minutes with our heavy packs (we had food, blankets and clothing) we reached the concentration camp of Auschwitz.

"We were at once led into a huge barrack where on the one side we had to deposit all our luggage and on the other, completely undressed, leaving our clothes and valuables behind. Naked, we then proceeded to an adjoining barrack where our heads and hands were shaved and disinfected with Lysol. At the exit every man was given a number which began with 28,600 in consecutive order. With this number in hand we were taken to the extreme right wing where so-called registration took place. This consisted of tattooing the numbers we had received in the second barrack on the left side of our chest, in a trench, by which this was effected made many of us faint. The particulars of our identity were also recorded. Then we were led in two groups to a canteen and later to a barrack where we were issued striped prisoners' clothes and wooden clogs. This lasted until 10 a.m. In the afternoon our striped uniforms were taken away from us again and replaced by the ragged and dirty remains of Russian uniforms. Thus equipped we were marched off to Birkenau.

"At the time of our arrival in Birkenau we found there only one huge kitchen for 15,000 people, and three stone buildings, five of which were completed and one under construction. The buildings were surrounded by an ordinary barbed wire fence. The prisoners were housed in these buildings and the others were later built. They are built according to standard model. Each house is about 30 meters long and 8 to 10 meters wide. Whereas the height of the walls hardly exceeds two meters, the roof is disproportionately high—about five meters—so that the house gives the impression of a stable surrounded by a large taylor. The room is divided in two by a partition running its whole length down the middle and fitted with an opening. Along both side walls, as well as along the middle partition, two parallel floors, some 80 centimeters apart, have been built which are in turn divided into small cells by vertical partitions. Thus there are three floors: the ground floor and the two built in the side walls. Normally, three people live in each cubicle. As can be judged from the dimensions indicated, these cubicles are too narrow for a man to lie stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright.

"There is no question of having enough space to stand upright. In this way some 400 to 500 people are accommodated in one house or block as they are also called.

"The buildings we found on our arrival had been erected by 12,000 Russian prisoners of war brought there in December, 1941. In severe winter weather they had to work under inhuman conditions as a result of which most of them, with the exception of a small number employed in the kitchen, died of exposure. We found what remained of the Russians in a terrible state of destitution and neglect living in the unfinished building without the slightest protection against cold or rain. They died en masse. Hundreds and thousands of their bodies were buried superficially, spreading a stench of pestilence. Later we had to exhume and burn the corpses.

"Within the enclosure of the camp of Auschwitz there are several factories: a war production plant, Deutscher Aufbaumetzwerk (DAW) factory belonging to the Krupp works and one to the Siemens concern. Outside the boundary of the camp is a tremendous plant covering several square kilometers named Buna. The prisoners work in all the aforementioned factories.

"The prisoners' actual living quarters, if such a term may at all be used, inside the

were brought back dead or alive. . . . I can, however, be asserted that among the Jews who were deported from Slovakia to Auschwitz or Birkenau, we are the only two who were lucky enough to save ourselves. . . .

There's No Such Place

"Actually there is no such district as Birkenau. Even the word Birkenau is new in that it has been adopted from the nearby Birch Forest (Buczynsky). The district now called Birkenau was, and is still, called Rajiska by the local population. The existing camp center of Birkenau lies four kilometers distant from Auschwitz. We never found anything out about New-Berun, probably about 30 to 40 kilometers away which, oddly enough, we had to indicate as postal district for Birkenau.

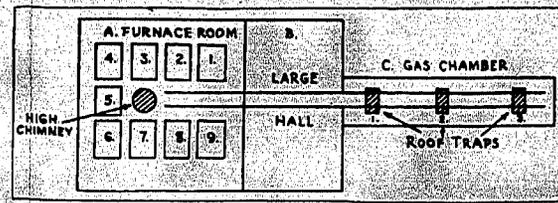
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What They Ate

"After three days I was ordered, together with 200 other Slovak Jews, to work in the German armament factories at Auschwitz, but we continued to work in the same way. We left early in the morning returning at night and worked in the carpentry shop as



Rough ground plan of one of the larger crematoriums at Birkenau shows the large hall (B), in which 2,000 victims at a time are disrobed before being herded into the gas chamber (C). The bodies are later carted to the furnace room (A), with capacity of 108 normal corpses every 90 minutes.

"On Thursdays the camp doctors indicated the number of prisoners who were to be gassed and then burned. These 'selectees' were loaded into trucks and brought to the Birch Forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barrack erected near the trench used for burning the bodies. The weekly draft in dead from Block 7 was about 2,000, of which 1,200 died of natural death and about 800 through selection.

"At the end of February, 1943, a new modern crematorium and gassing plant was inaugurated at Birkenau. The gassing and burning of the bodies in the Birch Forest was discontinued, the whole job being taken over by the four specially built crematoriums. The large hall was filled in, the ground leveled and the area used as a fertilizer at the farm labor camp of Hermense, so that today it is almost impossible to find traces of the dreadful mass murder which took place here.

"At present there are four crematoria in operation at Birkenau, two large ones, I and II, and two smaller ones, III and IV. Those of type I and II consist of three parts, i.e.: (A) the furnace room; (B) the large hall; and (C) the gas chamber. A huge chimney rises from the furnace room around which are grouped nine furnaces, each having four openings. Each opening can take three normal corpses at once, and after an hour and a half the bodies are completely burned. This corresponds to a daily capacity of about 2,000 bodies. Next to this is a large reception hall, which is arranged so as to give the impression of the antechamber of a bathing establishment. It holds 2,000 people and apparently there is a waiting room on the floor below. From there a door and a few steps lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms in order to mislead the victims. The roof is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber toward the furnace room.

"The gassing takes place as follows: The unfortunate victims are brought into hall (B) where they are told to undress. To complete the disguise, they are given a hot bath, each person receives a soap and a small piece of soap issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the crematorium and shower rooms, that there is, of course, only standing room. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which S.S. men with gas masks climb on the roof, open

"The crematorium was located between Working Sections I and II, and all the bodies were burned there. With an effective strength of 6,000 to 8,000 men per working section, the mortality was about 30 a day. This figure later increased to 60 and sixfold. This crematorium was electrically heated and the attendants were Russians.

"Illnesses increased as a result of the bad food and intolerable living conditions. Serious stomach troubles and a seemingly incurable foot disease spread throughout the camp. The feet of the victims were taken to the point where they could not walk any more and the sick were now being taken to the crematorium and burned on June 26, 1942, the number thus treated rose to 70. I decided to take an opportunity which was offered to me and applied for a transfer to Auschwitz.

"After a journey of 48 hours, during which we were cooped up in freight cars without food or water, we arrived at Auschwitz half dead. At the entrance to the huge poster, 'Work brings freedom' greeted us. As the courtyard was clean and well kept, and the brick buildings made a good impression after the dirty and primitive barracks of Lublin, we thought that the change was for the best.

"We were billeted in Block 7 and slept on the floor. We worked in the huge Buna plant, to which we were herded every day about 3 a.m. At midday our food consisted of potato or turnip soup, and in the evening we received some bread. During work we were terribly mistreated. As our working place was situated outside the large chain of sentry posts, it was divided into small sectors of 10x10 meters, each guarded by an S.S. man. Whoever stepped outside these squares during working hours was immediately shot without warning. Often we attempted to escape. One day it happened that out of pure spite an S.S. man would order a prisoner to fetch some given object outside his square. If he followed the order, he was shot for having left his assigned place. The work was extremely hard and there were no rest periods. The way to and from work had to be covered at a brisk military trot, severe falling out of line was shot.

"We were assembled, counted, and S.S. men took over our conveyer. One of these guards voiced his surprise at the fact we had made the journey without water by shouting: 'These Slovak barbarians, give them no water. The journey continued, and we reached Lublin two days later. Here the following order was issued: 'Those fit for work-aged between 15 and 50 are to leave the cars. Children and old people remain.' We struggled out of the freight cars and discovered that the station was surrounded by Lithuanians in S.S. uniforms, all armed with automatic pistols. The cars containing the children and old people were immediately closed and the train moved on. We do not know where they went and what happened to them.

A Rabbi's Fate

"Behind the town stood a clothing factory called the 'Bekleidungswerke'. In the courtyard waiting for their noon meal some 1,000 prisoners in dirty striped clothing, obviously Jews, were lined up and the sight of them was none too encouraging. Arriving on a small hill we suddenly sighted the vast barrack camp of Majdanek surrounded by a three-meter-high barbed wire fence.

"I was assigned to Working Section No. 2, as the whole camp was divided into three such sections separated by wire fences. For two full days we were taught how to remove and put on our caps when we met a German. Then in the pouring rain we practiced roll calling for hours.

"A tragic end befell Rabbi Eckstein from Sered, who was suffering from dysentery and once came a few minutes too late for the roll call. The group leader had him seized and dipped head first into one of the latrines, then poured cold water over him, drew his revolver and shot him.

"The crematorium was located between Working Sections I and II, and all the bodies were burned there. With an effective strength of 6,000 to 8,000 men per working section, the mortality was about 30 a day. This figure later increased to 60 and sixfold. This crematorium was electrically heated and the attendants were Russians.

"Illnesses increased as a result of the bad food and intolerable living conditions. Serious stomach troubles and a seemingly incurable foot disease spread throughout the camp. The feet of the victims were taken to the point where they could not walk any more and the sick were now being taken to the crematorium and burned on June 26, 1942, the number thus treated rose to 70. I decided to take an opportunity which was offered to me and applied for a transfer to Auschwitz.

"After a journey of 48 hours, during which we were cooped up in freight cars without food or water, we arrived at Auschwitz half dead. At the entrance to the huge poster, 'Work brings freedom' greeted us. As the courtyard was clean and well kept, and the brick buildings made a good impression after the dirty and primitive barracks of Lublin, we thought that the change was for the best.

"We were billeted in Block 7 and slept on the floor. We worked in the huge Buna plant, to which we were herded every day about 3 a.m. At midday our food consisted of potato or turnip soup, and in the evening we received some bread. During work we were terribly mistreated. As our working place was situated outside the large chain of sentry posts, it was divided into small sectors of 10x10 meters, each guarded by an S.S. man. Whoever stepped outside these squares during working hours was immediately shot without warning. Often we attempted to escape. One day it happened that out of pure spite an S.S. man would order a prisoner to fetch some given object outside his square. If he followed the order, he was shot for having left his assigned place. The work was extremely hard and there were no rest periods. The way to and from work had to be covered at a brisk military trot, severe falling out of line was shot.

garments were dispatched to a collecting center in Berlin. Gold, money, bank notes and precious stones had to be handed over to the political section.

Girls Treated Terribly

"Every day the girls who came to their work from Birkenau described to us the terrible conditions prevailing there. They were beaten, and humiliated, and their mortality was much higher than among the men. Twice a week 'selections' took place, and every day new girls replaced those who had disappeared.

"During a night shift I was able to witness for the first time how incoming convoys were handled. The transport I saw contained Polish Jews. They had received no water for days, and after the loading of the freight cars were open we were ordered to chase them out with loud shouts. They were utterly exhausted and about a hundred of them had died. Their small children were living, were lined up in rows of five. Our job was to remove the dead, dying, and the luggage from the cars. The dead, and this included a small child, I stand on his feet, were piled in a heap. Luggage was collected and stacked up. Then the railroad cars had to be thoroughly cleaned so that no trace of the frightful load was left behind. A commission of the political department proceeded with the 'selection' of approximately 10 per cent of the men and 15 per cent of the women and had them transferred to other camps. The remainder were loaded on trucks, sent to Birkenau, and gassed, while the dead and dying were taken directly to the furnaces. It often happened that small children were thrown alive into the trucks along with the dead.

"Between July and September, 1942, a typhus epidemic was rampant in Auschwitz, especially in the women's camp of Birkenau. None of the sick received medical attention, and in the first stages of the epidemic a great many were present in the latrines, and later on others were gassed wholesale. Some 15,000 to 20,000, mostly Jews, died during these two months. The girls' camp suffered the most, and was provided with sanitary installations and the poor wretches were covered with lice. Every week large 'selections' took place and the girls who were present in the camp were selected on disciplinary grounds, regardless of weather conditions. They waited in deadly fear whether they would be chosen or given another week of grace. Suicide was frequent, and women mostly committed by throwing one's self against the high-tension wires of the inner fence. This went on until they had dwindled to 5 per cent of their original number.

Managed to Escape

"I was not to hold this comparatively good job with the clearance squad for long. Charles, after being transferred to Birkenau on disciplinary grounds and remained there over a year and a half. On April 7, 1944, I managed to escape with my organization. The 'special command' had to be kept secret, amplified, and brought further up to date with the following extracts from statements by two other Jewish escapees.

"On May 15, 1944, mass transports from Hungary began to arrive in Birkenau. Some 14,000 to 15,000 Jews arrived daily. The spur railroad track which ran into the camp to the crematorium was completely blocked, the crews working night and day so that the transports could be brought directly to the crematorium. Only about 10 per cent of these transports were gassed in the camp; the balance were immediately gassed and burned. Never had so many Jews been gassed since the establishment of Birkenau. The 'special command' had to be increased to 600 men and, after two or three days, to 800 (people being recruited from among the Hungarian Jews who had arrived first). The size of the crematorium was stepped up from 150 to 700 men. Three crematoria worked day and night (the fourth was being repaired at that time) and, since the capacity of the crematorium was not enough, great pits 30 meters long and 5 meters wide were once more dug in the Birkenwald (as in the time before the crematorium) where corpses were burned day and night. Thus the exterminating capacity became almost unlimited.

"One other happening should not be forgotten which was told to us by the men of the special command. In the late summer of 1943, a commission of four Dutch Jews—distinguished-looking men—came to Auschwitz. Their visit had already apparently been announced to the camp commandant, having attempted to escape. One day it happened that out of pure spite an S.S. man would order a prisoner to fetch some given object outside his square. If he followed the order, he was shot for having left his assigned place. The work was extremely hard and there were no rest periods. The way to and from work had to be covered at a brisk military trot, severe falling out of line was shot.

Work Brings Freedom



High-voltage wires surrounded the death camp at Lublin, as they do at Birkenau. Escape was all but impossible thanks to sentries. Many a girl Grim-faced Poles inspect the cremating ovens of a large furnace at Lublin.

typhus epidemic, extreme exposure, utter exhaustion, barbaric beatings and wholesale shootings by the technique of mass gasings followed by cremation. Cremation became necessary when great areas had become altogether too marshy and stench-laden from superficial burials.

The total number of deaths resulting from the first five causes can scarcely be guessed at. But an approximation of the number of Jews gassed and cremated between April, 1942, and April, 1944, at Birkenau alone runs to 1,765,000. This appalling figure may be broken down into countries of origin as follows:

	Approximately
Poland (transported by truck)	300,000
Poland (transported by train)	100,000
Holland	100,000
Greece	45,000
France	15,000
Belgium	50,000
Germany	60,000
Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway	50,000
Lithuania	10,000
Slovenia, Moravia and Austria	30,000
Czechoslovakia	30,000
Various camps for foreign Jews in Poland	300,000
Total	1,765,000

When huge convoys of prisoners were received, the witnesses said, it was the practice to select approximately 10 per cent of the strongest men and 5 per cent of the women—these to be driven as slave labor in nearby war industries until their natural stamina, pitifully replenished with thin

"All prisoners, irrespective of category or nationality, are treated the same. However, identification, they are distinguished by various-colored triangles sewed on the clothing on the left breast under the immatriculation number. The first letter indicates the nationality of the prisoner. This letter (for instance 'P' for Poles) appears in the middle of the triangle. The colored triangles have the following meaning:

"Red triangle, political prisoners under protective custody; green triangle, professional criminals; black 'doggers' (labor slackers); anti-socials (mostly Russians); pink, homosexuals; violet, members of the religious sect of 'Bibelforscher'.

"The Jewish prisoners differ from the Aryan prisoners in that their triangle (which in the majority of cases is red) is turned into a David's star by adding yellow points.

"Within the various sections of Birkenau there are several factories: a war production plant, 'Deutscher Auftragswerk' (DAW), a factory for producing Krupp works and one to the Siemens Konzern. Outside the boundary of the camp is a tremendous plant covering several square kilometers named Buna. The prisoners work in all the aforementioned factories.

"The prisoners' actual living quarters, if such a term may be all used, inside the

hoods, some 30 centimeters apart, have been built which are in turn divided into small cells by vertical partitions. Thus there are three floors: the ground floor and the two built in the side walls. Normally three people live in each cubic. As can be judged from the dimensions indicated, these cubicles are too narrow for a man to lie stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright.

"There is no question of having enough space to stand upright. In this way some 400 to 500 people are accommodated in one house or 'block' as they are also called.

"The buildings we found on our arrival had been erected by 12,000 Russian prisoners of war brought there in December, 1941. In severe winter weather they had to work under inhuman conditions as a result of which most of them, with the exception of a small number employed in the kitchen, died of exposure. We found what remained of the Russians in a terrible state of destitution and neglect living in the unfinished building without the slightest protection against cold or rain. They died en masse. Hundreds and thousands of their bodies were buried successively, spreading a stench of pestilence. Later we had to exhume and burn the corpses.

What They Do

"After three days I was ordered, together with 200 other Slovak Jews, to work in the German armament factories at Auschwitz, but we continued to be housed in Birkenau. We left early in the morning returning at night and worked in the carpentry shop as

(A) the furnace room; (B) the large hall; and (C) the gas chamber. The whole camp rises from the furnace room around which are grouped nine furnaces, each having four openings. Each opening can take three normal corpses at once, and after an hour and a half the bodies are completely burned. This corresponds to a daily capacity of about 2,000 bodies. Next to this is a large 'reception hall' which is arranged so as to give the impression of the ante-room of a bathing establishment. It holds 2,000 people and apparently there is a similar 'reception room' in the gas chamber. There a door and a few steps lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms in order to mislead the victims. The roof is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leading from the gas chamber toward the furnace room.

3 Minutes—Then Death

"The gassing takes place as follows. The unfortunate victims are brought into hall (B) where they are told to undress. To complete the illusion that they are going to bathe, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber (C) in such numbers that there is, of course, only standing room. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which the men with gas masks climb on the roof, open

surrounded by a three-meter-high barbed wire fence.

"I was assigned to Working Section No. 2, the whole camp was divided into three such sections separated by wire fences. For two full days we were taught how to remove and put on our caps when we met a German. Then in the pouring rain we practiced roll calling for hours.

"A tragic end befell Rabbi Eckstein from Sereb, who was suffering from typhus fever, and once came a few minutes too late for the roll call: The group leader had him seized and dipped his head first into one of the latrines, then poured cold water over him, drew his revolver and shot him.

"The crematorium was located between Working Sections I and II, and all the bodies were burned there. With an average strength of 6,000 to 8,000 men per working section, the mortality was about 30 a day. This figure later increased five and sixfold. This crematorium was electrically heated and the attendants were Russians.

"Illness increased as a result of the bad food and intolerable living conditions. Serious stomach troubles and a seemingly fatal disease spread throughout the camp. The feet of the victims swelled up to the point where they could not walk. More and more of the sick were now being sent to the crematorium, and when on June 26, 1942, the number of sick rose to 70, I decided to take an opportunity which was offered to me and applied for a transfer to Auschwitz.

"After a journey of 48 hours, during which we were cooped up in freight cars without food or water, we arrived at Auschwitz half dead. At the entrance gate to the huge poster, 'Work brings freedom,' greeted us. As the courtyard was clean and well kept, and the brick buildings made a good impression after the dirty and primitive barracks of Lublin, we thought that the change was for the best.

"We were billeted in Block 17, and slept on the floor. The water in the Birkenau plant to which we were herded every day about 3 a.m. At midday our food consisted of potatoes or turnip soup, and in the evening we received some bread. During work we were terribly mistreated. As our working place was situated outside the large square, the work was divided into three small sectors of 10x10 meters, each headed by an SS man. Whoever stepped outside these squares during working hours was immediately shot without warning for having attempted to escape. It happened that one of pure SS men would order a prisoner to fetch some given object outside his square. If he followed the order, he was shot for having left his assigned place. The work was extremely hard and there were no rest periods. The way to and from work had to be covered at a brisk military trot; anyone falling out of line was shot.

Work Brings Freedom

"After a number of weeks of painful work at the Buna plant a terrible typhus epidemic broke out. The weaker prisoners died in hundreds. An immediate quarantine was ordered and work at the Buna plant was stopped. Those still alive were sent, at the end of July, 1942, to the gravel pit, but there work was even still more strenuous. We were in a state of weakness that, even in trying to do our best, we could not satisfy the overseers. Most of us got swollen feet; we carried out to perform the heavy work demanded of us. Our squad was accused of being lazy and disorderly. Soon after a medical commission inspected all of us; they carried out with swollen feet, particularly weak was separated from the rest. Although I was in great pain, I consoled myself and stood erect in front of the commission, who passed me as physically fit. Out of 300 persons examined, 200 were found to be unfit and immediately sent to Birkenau and gassed.

"I was then detailed for work at the DAW ('Deutsche Auftragswerke'), where we had to paint signs. The prescribed minimum for each day was 120 signs. I was unable to paint this many was thoroughly flogged in the evening. Another group was employed at making cases for hand grenades. At one time 4,000 had been completed, but it was found that they were a few centimeters too small. As punishment, the entire group was shot for sabotage. By chance I learned that there was an opening in the 'clearance squad' and I handed in my application. I was detailed to the bank. This squad consisted of about a hundred Jewish prisoners who were sent to a far corner of the camp, away from all our comrades. Here we found huge sheds filled with knapsacks, suitcases and other baggage. We had to open each piece of baggage and sort the contents into large cases specially prepared for each category of goods, i.e. combs, mirrors, sugar, soap, food, chocolate, medicines, etc. The cases were then stored away. Underwear, shirts and articles of all kinds went to a special barracks where they were sorted out and packed by Jewish girls. Old and worn clothes were addressed to the 'Textile Exchange' (Meutel), whereas the 'usable

with sanitary installations, and the 'poor wretches were covered' with lice. Every week large quantities of clothing and girls had to present themselves naked to the selection committee, regardless of weather conditions. They walked in deadly fear whether they would be granted another week's grace. Suicides were frequent and were mostly committed by throwing oneself into the high-tension wires of the inner fence. One of our comrades had dwindled to 3 per cent of his original number.

Managed to Escape

"I was not to hold this comparatively good job with the clearance squad for long. Shortly afterwards I was transferred to Birkenau on disciplinary grounds and remained there over a year until, on April 7, 1944, I managed to escape with my companion.

"The document is amplified and brought further up to date with the following extracts from statements by two other Jewish escapees:

"On May 15, 1944, mass transports from Hungary began to arrive at Birkenau. Some 14,000 to 15,000 Jews arrive daily by spur railroad track which ran into the camp to the crematorium was completed in great haste. This figure later increased five and sixfold. This crematorium was electrically heated and the attendants were Russians.

"Illness increased as a result of the bad food and intolerable living conditions. Serious stomach troubles and a seemingly fatal disease spread throughout the camp. The feet of the victims swelled up to the point where they could not walk. More and more of the sick were now being sent to the crematorium, and when on June 26, 1942, the number of sick rose to 70, I decided to take an opportunity which was offered to me and applied for a transfer to Auschwitz.

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"One other happening should not be forgotten which was told to us by the man of the special commando of the late summer of 1943—a commission of four Dutch Jews distinguished-looking men—came to Auschwitz. Their visit had already, apparently announced to the camp commandant by the Dutch Jews in Auschwitz wearing better clothes, as well as regular setting equipment (plates, spoons, etc.) and better food. The commission of four Jews was politely received and were shown over the camp buildings and particularly those portions which were clean and made a good impression. Dutch Jews from the camp were brought to them, who reported that only a portion of the Dutch Jews were in this camp, the others being in other similar camps. In this manner the Dutch Jews were satisfied and signed a statement according to which the commission had found everything in good order in the camp.

"After the signing of the four Dutch Jews expressed a desire to see the camp of Birkenau and particularly the crematorium. The camp authorities declared themselves quite willing to show them both Birkenau and the crematorium; the latter being used, they said, for the cremation of Jews from the camp. The commission was then taken to Birkenau, accompanied by the camp leader, Aumayer, and immediately to Crematorium No. 1. Here they were shot from behind. A telegram was supposedly sent to Holland reporting that after leaving Auschwitz the four men had been victims of an unfortunate automobile accident.

Statement Corroborated

"The second document, by a non-Jewish Polish major, does not differ in its first document in all important particulars. Its value, since it was independently prepared, lies in its full corroboration of the first. The major's statement includes the following. Some excerpts, however, may help to round out the picture.

"The major reports that during severe winter weather the 'clearance squad' from Birkenau was announced at roll call, and the prisoners were forced to stand out of doors from 2:30 in the afternoon until 11 a.m. the next morning, as a result of which a hundred totally or half-frozen men were counted.

"With regard to the 'Hygiene Institute' at Birkenau, he says that 'here, sterilizing by X-ray treatment, artificial insemination of women, as well as experiments on blood transfusions were carried out in a completely isolated from the rest of the camp.'

"He adds that at a time when the gassing procedure outdistanced the cremation and burying facilities, 'an alternative was to gather the remains of the unfortunate victims into boxes, these were gassed and left to be blown into the flames to finish the tragedy. The immense amount of human remains thus collected was carried away in every direction of the wind to the fields where these masses found their last rest.'



High-tension wires surrounded the death camp at Lublin, as they do at Birkenau. Escape was all but impossible thanks to sentries. Many a girl flung herself into the deadly wires rather than face further brutalities.

turnip soup, withered. Then they were served a thin soup supplied by SS guards. The others went directly to the gas chambers and the ovens, although in the case of children and the boldest, the gas gassing was occasionally dispensed without being allowed to slow down the day-and-night operation of the human disposal plants. The Nazis wanted to exterminate their prisoners, and they needed their ashes for fertilizer.

Human Guinea Pigs

Despite this urgency, Birkenau maintained a 'Hygiene Institute' where a ghastly 11m medicos used countless prisoners as screaming guinea pigs in surgical experiments in an isolated and carefully walled building. This bottleneck was not without its compensation, however, for deaths here saved space in the gas chambers, where only 2,000 unfortunates could be crowded at one time.

The first and more detailed document is a combination of two reports, the first by a young Jew who, on April 13, 1942, was sent from the assembly camp of Sereb directly to Auschwitz, and then to Birkenau.

"On the 13th of April, 1942, our group, consisting of 200 men were loaded onto railroad cars at the assembly camp of Sereb. The doors were shut so that nothing would reveal the direction of the journey, and when they were opened after a long while we realized that we had crossed the Slovak frontier and were in Zwardon. The train had until then been guarded by Hlinka men but was now taken over by SS guards. After a few of the cars had been uncoupled from our coach, we continued on our way, and at a night at Auschwitz, where we stopped on a siding. The reason the other coaches were left behind was apparently the lack of space at Auschwitz. They joined us, and were taken to a mass railway. Upon arrival, we were first in rows of five and counted,

camp proper cover an area of approximately 300 by 300 meters surrounded by a double chain of concrete posts about three meters high which are connected (both inside and outside) by one another by a dense netting of high-tension wires fixed into the posts by insulators. Between the inner and outer chain at intervals of 150 meters, there are five-meters-high watchtowers, equipped with machine guns and searchlights. In front of the inner high-tension circle there is further an ordinary wire fence. Merely touching this fence is answered by a stream of bullets from the watchtowers. Over the entrance gate, which is of course always heavily guarded, stands the ironic inscription: 'Work brings freedom.'

Escape Practically Impossible

"At a radius of some 2,000 meters the whole camp is encircled by a second line called the 'big or outer chain of sentry posts' also with watchtowers and searchlights. Between the inner and outer chain of sentry posts are the factories and other workshops. The towers of the inner chain are so close to one another, that the tension current is switched into the double row of wires. Escape through these sentry posts and many attempts have been made but are practically impossible. Getting through the inner circle of posts at night is completely impossible, and the towers of the outer chain are so close to one another (one every 150 meters, i.e. giving each tower a sector with a 75-meter radius to watch) that approaching unnoticed is out of the question. The guards shoot without warning.

"If the escapee is caught alive, he is hanged in the presence of the whole camp; if he is found dead, his body—whenever it may have been located—is brought back to camp (it is easy to identify the corpse by means of the tattooed number) and there, clasped in his hands, reading the number. During our two years' imprisonment many attempts to escape were made by prisoners but, with the exception of two or three, all

well as on road construction. Our food consisted of one liter of turnip soup at midday and 300 grams of bad bread in the evening. The bread was so hard, so that the majority of us weakened by starvation and the inedible food could not stand it. The mortality was so high that every day our group of 200 had 30 to 35 dead. Many were simply beaten to death by the overseers—the 'Capos'—during work, without the slightest provocation. The gaps in our ranks caused by these deaths were replaced daily by prisoners from Birkenau.

"Our return at night was extremely painful and dangerous as we had to drag along over a distance of five kilometers our tools, firewood, heavy cauldrons, and the bodies of those who had died or had been killed during the day. We were forced to carry loads we were incured to maintain a brisk pace, and anyone forcing the displeasure of one of the Capos was cruelly knocked down, if not beaten to death. Until the arrival of the second group of Slovak men some fourteen days later, our original number had dwindled to 150. At night we were packed in a narrow-gauge car, taken up on flat, narrow-gauge rails and brought to the Birch Forest, where they were burned in a trench several meters deep and about 15 meters long.

Crematoria Take Over

"Shortly thereafter a so-called sick-building (Krankenbau) was set up. It was destined to become the most dreaded 'Block' where at first it was chief attendant and later administrator. The chief of this infirmary was a Pole. Actually this building was nothing else than an assembly center for death candidates. All prisoners incapable of working were sent there. There was no question of any medical attention or care. We had some 150 dead daily and their bodies were sent for cremation to Auschwitz.

"At the same time the crematorium buildings



Grim-faced Poles inspect the cremating ovens of a large furnace at Lublin, which could not be destroyed by the Nazis before the grateful Reds surged into the city. The ashes of the victims were used for fertilizer.

the traps, and shake down a preparation in powder form out of the cans labeled cyanide, a mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature.

"The primitive switches employed in the chamber is dead. No one is known to have survived this ordeal, although it was not uncommon to discover signs of life after the cremations were put into operation in the Birch Wood. The chamber is then opened, and the special squad carts the bodies on flat trucks to the furnace rooms where the burning takes place. Crematoria III and IV work on nearly the same principle, but their capacity is only half as large. Thus the total capacity of the four cremating and gassing plants at Birkenau amounts to about 6,000 daily.

"On principle, only Jews are gassed. Aryans very seldom, as they are usually given special treatment by shooting. Before the cremations were put into operation, shooting took place in the Birch Wood, and the bodies were burned in the long trench; later, however, executions took place in the large hall of one of the crematoria, which has been provided with a special installation for this purpose.

"Prominent guests from Berlin were present at the inauguration of the first crematorium in March, 1943. The program consisted of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Czecho-Slovak Jews. The guests, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results and the special telephone fitted into the door of the gas chamber was in constant use. They were lavish in their praise of this newly-erected installation.

"The second part of the first document is a report by a Jew who was sent from the camp at Novaky to Lublin on June 14, 1942, and after a short stay there was transferred to Auschwitz, and later to Birkenau. With some deletions, he says:

"On June 14, 1942, we left Novaky. The train arrived at Auschwitz at 11:30 a.m. and was directed toward a track in the cemetery

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH CONCERNING THE WAR REFUGEE
BOARD'S REPORT ON NAZI ATROCITIES WAS CARRIED BY THE
FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS:

NOVEMBER 26, 1944

Baltimore Sun
Washington Star
New York Journal & American
Columbia (South Carolina) State
Madison (Wisconsin) Capital Times
Bridgeport (Connecticut) Post
Huntington (West Virginia) Herald-Advertiser
Macon (Georgia) Telegram-News
Buffalo (New York) Courier-Express
Detroit News
Jacksonville (Florida) Times-Union
Providence (Rhode Island) Journal
Roanoke (Virginia) Times
Nashville Tennessean
Rochester (New York) Democrat & Chronicle
Raleigh (North Carolina) News & Observer
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
Worcester (Massachusetts) Telegram
Greensboro (North Carolina) News

NOVEMBER 27, 1944

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

100396

U.S. Assails Nazi Murder Of Civilians

Charges Germans Planned Death of Innocent Millions

By Eugene Rachlis,

Chicago Sun Washington Bureau.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.

The U.S. government tonight charged in strong and bitter language that the Germans "have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

In the first statement by this country on European atrocities in this war, President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board declared:

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free people of the world."

Atrocities Recognized.

Not since the publication of the joint Army-Navy report last Jan. 27, in which this government reported that the Japanese "cold-bloodedly starved and mercilessly murdered" more than 5,000 American soldiers in the Philippines, had such denunciatory language been used against any nation in this case, however, no American soldiers were involved.

Although it was the first time that the United States officially recognized European atrocity stories, at the Moscow conference last November the three Allied nations—United States, Great Britain and Russia—warned Germany that all war criminals would be brought to trial in the locality in which the crime was committed.

Warning Repeated.

The warning has since been repeated by Secretary of State Hull and President Roosevelt.

The War Refugee Board, which consists of Hull, Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, issued its statement to accompany the publication of two reports by eyewitnesses on German extermination camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau, in southwestern Poland.

"So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place," the board said. "But the governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts."

Rescue Effort Under Way.

"The War Refugee Board is engaged in a desperate effort to save as many as possible of Hitler's intended victims. To facilitate its work the board has representatives in key spots in Europe. These representatives have contacts throughout Europe and keep the board fully advised concerning the German campaign of extermination and torture."

The reports on the extermination camps are similar to those recently released by the Russian government and told in articles by American newspapermen who visited one such camp at Lublin, Poland.

In releasing these stories under the official stamp of the U.S. government however, it was evident that the United States will be among the nations which will press war crime charges against the Germans when the war is won. The Russians have made it clear that no German will go unpunished for any crime he has committed.

100297

Miss Hordal



NEWS

From **הוועד לשחרור העם**
HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

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Copies of this Bulletin are filed with the Department of Justice where the statement of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which is registered as representing the interests of the Hebrew Nation, is available for public inspection.

FOR RELEASE:

Sunday, November 26, 1944

Following is the text of a statement made by Peter H. Bergson, Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, at a press conference Saturday, November 25, 1944, concerning the punishment of Germany for war crimes committed against the Hebrew people, and Hebrew participation on the United Nations War Crimes Commission charged with this task.

The War Refugee Board has released, for publication on Sunday, November 26, a detailed report containing evidence of the unspeakable atrocities systematically committed in the two extermination camps set up in Oswiecim and Birkenau, in German-occupied Poland. Men of various religions and nationalities were the victims of these atrocities, but, as was known before and as is again confirmed by this report, the main victims were Hebrews.

It is exceedingly difficult for me to discuss this report. I could hardly gather the strength to read it through. But I believe that the War Refugee Board should be highly commended for bringing these monstrous activities of Germany to the attention of the American people in full detail.

It is in connection with the publication of this first detailed report of the atrocities issued on the authority of an agency of the United States Government, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation wishes to raise a question which can no longer be delayed. This question concerns the inexplicable abstention of the governments of the United Nations from taking any measures that would effectively interfere with this slaughter of a whole people or that would, at least, make it clear that those guilty of the slaughter will be punished.

There is a wide-spread impression that a joint agency of the United Nations, known as the United Nations War Crimes Commission, is sitting in London and is assembling data that would make possible to bring to just trial the people who participated in these cruelties. This impression is totally erroneous. The truth is that the War Crimes Commission, under the interpretation placed upon its terms of reference by the Chairman of that Commission, Sir Cecil Hurst, has refused to take into consideration any acts committed against persons other than nationals of the United Nations. The truth is, further, that despite all efforts, none of the governments of the major powers among the United Nations has instructed its representative on the War Crimes Commission to broaden its activities so as to include crimes committed against stateless persons and persons who are or were subjects of the Axis nations.

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In the case of the Hebrews slaughtered by the Germans, a great many were subjects of the Axis nations. In the course of the war, most of them were deprived of their citizenship by the governments of those nations. They have thereby become stateless in name, after having been stateless in effect for quite some time. Others among those slaughtered Hebrews have been stateless all along.

The consistent refusal of the War Crimes Commission to take into consideration crimes committed against these persons, the consistent refusal of the major United Nations to instruct the War Crimes Commission to change its stand, amount, in the circumstances, to a declaration that crimes against such people are of no concern to the United Nations and, as far as they are concerned, may remain unpunished. It amounts to a declaration that people who committed these crimes are not regarded by the United Nations as war criminals and, as far as the United Nations are concerned, may go scot free and continue in the post-war world preaching the doctrine which they have been practicing in Oswiecim, Birkenau and in innumerable other charnel houses. This attitude amounts to proclaiming that a Jew may not be tortured or killed if he happens to be a citizen of one of the United Nations, but that his life is considered of no value if he is a stateless Jew - a Hebrew.

Against this cold-blooded and cynical refusal to include the crimes committed against well over a million Hebrews and Hebrews who had held the citizenship of the Axis nations, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation raises its voice in vehement protest.

This attitude may have resulted in many cases from a lack of attention given to this issue. It is a product of thoughtlessness rather than of cruelty. This is why we hereby draw public attention to the issue and its implications.

One implication is the stake which, whether it realizes it or not, the world has in a just solution of this problem. In 1933 the Germans began their butchery of Hebrews who were Axis subjects. The world shut its ears to warnings that the butchery was not going to stop with Hebrews. Today millions of the best youths of many nations are dead because this warning was not heeded and the activity of the German murderers was not curbed before it spread. We feel duty bound to sound another warning today. The German nation-murderers have created a precedent which carries in it all the threats of neo-barbarism in which nations will try not merely to subjugate other nations and conquer their territory, but in which nations will endeavor to bring about the extermination of entire segments of populations. If humanity and civilization are to survive, this system must be eradicated at its source. Leaving unpunished crimes of this kind on the pretext that they were committed only against Hebrews would mean to leave in existence a free zone for crime and extermination. Within this free zone the philosophy of barbarism would continue to feed itself on its own cruelties and make the coming peace only an armistice which is sure to be followed by another war, just as surely as the present war followed the last.

Another implication concerns the moral issue involved: Is it tolerable or is it not that the United Nations wash their hands of the wholesale murder of the kind described in the report being published by the War Refugee Board? This, and this alone, is the moral question involved. Attempts are being made to disguise this moral issue by raising objections allegedly springing from respect for international law. It is suggested in some quarters that the United Nations are

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estopped from assuming jurisdiction over these murders on the ground that they concern people who did not have a right to the protection of the United Nations during their lifetime.

It is difficult to conceive that this objection is made in good faith. Intervention in the treatment of persecuted stateless individuals in foreign countries and even in the treatment of members of persecuted minority groups is a well established procedure in international law. It was practiced in numerous cases by the United States, by the British Empire, by Russia and by many other nations of the western world, even in time of peace. More reason why such intervention and consequent retribution be practiced in times of war. At the basis of such intervention there always lay the assumption that the systematic and large-scale extermination or persecution of human beings against the elementary precepts of humanity and that civilized nations have a right and a moral obligation to prevent their occurrence.

Since this is the case, the refusal of the United Nations to include the perpetrators of such crimes in any scheme for punishment of crimes against humanity committed by the Axis nations during the present war cannot be justified on the ground that the acts in question have not hitherto been regarded as war crimes. It is true that no specific punishment has been proclaimed as applicable to such crimes previous to their commission, and that no specific tribunal has been given jurisdiction over such crimes before they have occurred. But this is equally true of all crimes over which the United Nations, acting through the War Crimes Commission or otherwise, are ready to assume jurisdiction. With the sole and narrow exception of crimes foreseen under the Hague Conventions, the War Crimes Commission is taking cognizance of cruelties committed by the Axis on the sole and sufficient ground that the conscience of civilized mankind considers them to be crimes. Unless it is desired to emphasize, for the guidance of some future Himalayers, that exterminating Hebrews is no crime in the conscience of mankind, it is inconceivable that the exception which has been made will be allowed to stand.

The issue, therefore, is not one between morality and far-sighted statesmanship on the one hand and international law on the other. No valid objection can be raised under international law to a course of action which is so obviously dictated by both morality and statesmanship. The objection can proceed from two sources only: indifference or bad will.

This issue is being submitted hereby to the people of America, the standard bearers of decency and true justice, in the hope that they will raise their voice and induce their government, as well as other governments concerned, to instruct the War Crimes Commission that a German who tortured and killed Hebrew men, women and children coming from Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest, Rome or Sofia, is no less a war criminal than had he tortured and killed men, women and children coming from Moscow, Paris, Warsaw, Brussels or Amsterdam.

There is another point to which attention is drawn herewith.

The extermination of the Hebrews by Germany was not directed against citizens of particular countries. It was directed against the Hebrew people as such. Some of the Jews who found their death in the horrible manner described in the report being published by the War Refugee Board will be more or less wholeheartedly represented by the delegates of their respective countries on the War Crimes Commission.

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But who will represent those Jews who did not have the status of citizenship in one of the United Nations and who nevertheless suffered horrible death to the number of over one million? Who will represent the Hebrews? It is because they were and are unrepresented that the thoughtless injustice against which we are compelled to protest publicly today could have occurred. No one thought of them because no one represented them.

We, therefore, believe it only fair and proper that the Hebrew people as such be given representation on the War Crimes Commission and thus be accorded the chance, equal to all other victims of Axis cruelty, to see to it that the guilty be punished. It is a travesty upon justice that the War Crimes Commission should include representatives of all nations against whom atrocities were committed except the one nation against which more atrocities were committed than on all the others combined.

There is a third point to which attention may be drawn at this juncture, because it too illustrates the injustice resulting from the Hebrew people's being recognized by the Axis only but not by the decent peoples of the world: Time after time leaders of the United Nations gave warning to the Axis Powers against using poison gas, declaring that should poison gas be used against any of the Allies, retaliation would be practiced against Germany. For a long time it has been known that Germany had consistently used poison gas against the Hebrew people. The report now being published by the War Refugee Board again confirms this fact. The report states that well over a million Hebrews were murdered by poison gas. The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has on numerous occasions in the past drawn the attention of the Government of the United States and the Government of Great Britain in repeated communications that the warning which was given to Germany against the use of poison gas be specifically extended to cover the use of poison gas against Hebrews. We feel constrained to express our deep regret that no action has been taken on these proposals, and confidently hope that the publication of the present governmental report on the use of poison gas will be followed by an appropriate warning, and unless effective, appropriate action will be taken against the Germans.

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is therefore following making the requests of the governments of the United Nations concerned:

1: That they issue a joint declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of the territory on which the crime was committed or the citizenship or lack of citizenship of the victim at the time of death, be considered as a war crime and punished as such.

2: That the governments of the United Nations concerned instruct their representatives on the War Crimes Commission to see to it that the above mentioned declaration is put into effect.

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3: That representatives of the Hebrew people be given membership on the War Crimes Commission and that temporarily, until such time as a Hebrew national sovereignty be re-established, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be authorized to constitute the Hebrew representation on the War Crimes Commission.

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1,765,000 Jews Gassed At Polish Prison Camp

Slaughterhouse Ashes Used for Fertilizer

By JOSEPH L. MYLER

Washington, Nov. 25—(UP)—“Those remaining, about 3,000, were immediately gassed and burned in the usual manner.”

This line, varying but slightly runs like a refrain through first hand reports released tonight by the War Refugee Board of life and death inside the German “extermination camps” of Auschwitz and Birkenau.

The reports were written by two Slovakian Jews and a Polish major who escaped from the camps. They estimated that about 1,765,000 Jewish prisoners were gassed at Birkenau from April, 1942, to April, 1944.

Both camps are in southwestern Poland. Although Birkenau was the main slaughterhouse, Auschwitz produced its share of murders, too. Jews generally were gassed. Some were killed with injections of phenol in the heart. Non-Jews usually were shot.

Theoretically, only the aged, weak and ill were murdered. Those able to work were permitted to work—until they became ill. A prisoner ill enough to be hospitalized seldom recovered, especially if he were a Jew; he was gassed, or given a heart injection of carbolic acid.

At first those taken to Birkenau and gassed and buried in a nearby birch forest. They were packed into rooms under the impression they were to be given shower baths en masse. The rooms were then sealed, and SS men threw hydrocyanic bombs through ventilation openings.

It soon became necessary, in order to kill efficiently, to construct special gassing chambers and crematoria. A new way of gassing was developed. The shower bath fiction was continued, and “splectes” jammed into the rooms naked and guards shooting off guns from time to time to frighten the doomed persons into huddling closer together. Then the doors were sealed.

“Then,” the report continues, “there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open the traps, and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled ‘cyklon,’ for use against vermin, which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern.”

“After three minutes everyone in the chamber is dead.”

The ashes were used for fertilizer.

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1,765,000 Jews Killed With Gas At German Camp

By HUGH MORROW

Inquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board today told the most incredibly shocking story of the war, in the first official report by the United States Government on German atrocities.

It was a story which made even the Japanese atrocities in the Philippines, even the Soviet Government's tales of the Nazi mass-murder factories of Maidanek, pale by comparison.

It was a story told in much too exact detail to have been imagined, to have been made up, to have been exaggerated. No one who has read the full report can possibly dismiss it as propaganda.

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture," the report stated.

The report is based upon the experiences of two young Slovakian Jews who escaped in April, 1944, after spending two years in the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in southwestern Poland, and upon the experiences of a non-Jewish Polish major, the only survivor of a group of 60 men imprisoned at Auschwitz.

The report told this story:

1. That 1,765,000 Jews were gassed to death at Birkenau alone between April, 1942, and April, 1944, including 900,000 Poles, 100,000 Dutchmen, 45,000 Czechs, 150,000 Frenchmen, 50,000 Belgians, 60,000 Germans, 50,000 Yugoslavs, Italians and Norwegians, 50,000 Lithuanians, 30,000 Bohemians, Moravians and Austrians, 30,000 Slovaks, and 300,000 brought in from various foreign camps for Jews in Poland, nationally unspecified.

2. That untold thousands of non-Jewish Europeans likewise fell victims to the Nazi carnival of death, although "Aryans" were given a special "privilege"—they were shot instead of gassed.

3. That the most bestial sort of torture—inflicted upon women and little children as well as men—was a commonplace in the Nazi sadists placed in charge of these camps, obvious pathological cases who took life at the slightest whim.

4. That Berlin was in direct control of the incredible savagery brought to bear on persons whose only "crime" was their ancestry, or their political beliefs, or even the geographical area in which they "happened" to have made their homes.

5. That Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief recently widely rumored to have succeeded Adolf Hitler as Reichsfuehrer, personally inspected one of the mass-murder camps, and that other "distinguished visitors" from Berlin watched with boldly-expressed satisfaction the efficiency of lethal chambers which could have been conceived only by minds reminiscent of the blackest days of the Middle Ages.

6. That the young brother of Leon Blum, former "Popular Front" Premier of France, was "atrociously tortured, then gassed and burned" at Auschwitz.

It was a story of men, women and children reduced, systematically and with unmistakable intent, below the level of even the beasts of burden—reduced, in fact, to the point that victims killed each other by way of "novelty."

It was a story of imprisonment behind highly-charged wires, of guards who opened up their machine-guns without warning, of bloodhounds who hunted down anyone "lucky" enough to elude the mechanical restraints upon them in an effort to escape.

MENTAL TORTURE, TOO

It was a story, too, of mental as well as physical torture; a story of frightful epidemics among helpless

wretches never granted the slightest medical care, and of food—if it may be filled that—which would make an American stenographer's lunch of a hastily-snatched ham sandwich and cup of coffee at a drugstore counter look like a ten-course banquet.

Not to mention, of course, men and women prisoners who were used as human "guinea pigs" for alleged scientific experiments—experiments which almost invariably brought horrible death.

WORKERS FLOGGED NIGHTLY

In the report was a paragraph which might well give any American worker pause—a paragraph about slave labor. One of the men who escaped told of being given a quota of 120 skis to paint each day, and if he did not fill his quota, he was flogged unmercifully at the end of the day. Semi-starved, in rags, and incredibly maltreated, this man could achieve his quota only by drawing upon unrealized reserves of sheer nervous energy and the grimmest sort of determination.

For 58 horrifying pages of single-spaced, blood-curdling sentences, the report unfolded. Elaborate sketches of the death camps were included. Names, home towns, and the fates of countless hapless victims of a national madness were soberly enumerated.

By its very detail, the report fairly shouted, "this is the truth!"

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe," the report declared.

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world."

FACTS SUBSTANTIATED

"So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place. But the governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts."

"The War Refugee Board is engaged in a desperate effort to save as many as possible of Hitler's intended victims. To facilitate its work the Board has representatives in key spots in Europe."

"Recently the Board received from a representative close to the scene two eye-witness accounts of events which occurred in notorious extermination camps established by the Germans."

"The two reports were prepared

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Independently and are reproduced exactly in the form they were received by the War Relocation Board, except for a few deletions necessary for the protection of persons who may still be alive.

"The Board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

Jewish Militarists Arrested in Haifa

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (A. P.).—

An official statement announced that 16 persons known or suspected to be members of a national military organization were arrested in two police raids at the Palestine port of Haifa today.

(The military organization involved was not identified by name. However the Stern gang, a group of extreme Jewish nationalists, has been under investigation since the assassination of Lord Moyne, British Minister of State resident in the Middle East, in Cairo Nov. 6.

NAZI BRUTALITY TOLD BY 3 WHO ESCAPED CAMPS

Nearly Two Million Reported Gassed.

ATROCITY PICTURES.
There have been many reports of German atrocities, some of which have been verified. At Lublin, Poland, for instance, reporters were permitted to interview residents and take photographs. Some of the Lublin pictures appear on page 2. No pictures were released to corroborate the atrocity story released today by the war refugee board.

BY HAL FOUST.
(Chicago Times Press Service.)
Washington, D. C., Nov. 25.—The war refugee board today issued a 22,000 word booklet in which three men who escaped describe the systematic murder of European civilians by the Germans in extermination camps in southwestern Poland. The board, consisting of Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau, and Stimson, vouches for the accounts, including an estimate that 1,768,000 Jews were gassed at Birkenau, one of the camps.
"So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities," the board said in a preface, "that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place. But the governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts."

Campaign of Terror.
"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christian converts—all over Europe. This campaign of error and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free people of the world.
"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps."
The names of the three narrators were suppressed. Two of them were described as young Slovakian Jews who escaped last April after two years in the Nazi concentration camps at Birkenau and near-by Auschwitz, notorious for their crematories. The third is a Polish major, who also escaped from Auschwitz.

Various Ways of Killing.
Their stories were the first released by the war refugee board since it was created last January by President Roosevelt to direct the rescue of concentration camp prisoners. They told of multiple murders by deliberate exposure and deprivation, by hypodermic phenol injections, by firing squads, by gas chambers, and by experimental surgery. The details are as gruesome as World War I reports that the Germans had bayoneted babies and rendered cadavers for edible fat.
The brochure said women and children as well as men are among the victims of atrocities in this war. The origin of the 1,768,000 Jews reported as gassed in death chambers at Birkenau from April, 1942 to April, 1944, was listed as follows: Poland, 900,000; Holland, 100,000; Greece, 45,000; France, 150,000; Belgium, 50,000; Germany, 60,000; Yugoslavia, Italy, and Norway, 50,000; Lithuania, 50,000; Bohemia, Moravia, and Austria, 30,000; Slovakia, 20,000; and from various camps for foreign Jews in Poland, 300,000.

Sealed Box Cars.
The Slovakians said the diabolical treatment of civilian prisoners began at their arrival at the camp in sealed box cars. They said the sick, the old, and the exhausted, all who could not walk, were piled together into trucks and headed directly to the exterminators. Of those able to stand, they wrote, about 10 per cent of the men and 1 per cent of the women were assigned to cells for forced labor while the others were taken to the gas chambers for extermination.

"It often happened," said this account of emptying the prison trains "that small children were thrown into the trucks along with the dead."
The prisoners retained for labor were locked in cell houses, assigned three to a cubicle described as "too narrow for a man to be stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright." Disease, malnutrition, exposure, and brutality debilitated the ranks daily with the vacancies filled by new arrivals. Those unable to work were killed by phenol injections or by gassing.

Crematories Described.
The crematories were described in detail. The capacity of four cremating and gassing plants at Birkenau was given as 6,000 daily. The narrators said that on entering one of these liquidation plants, the prisoners were given the impression that they were going into a bath house. They were massed in an antechamber, made to undress, and handed small towels and small pieces of soap. Then they were jammed into another chamber with simulated doors to shower rooms.
"When everybody is inside," the account said, "the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which 25 men with gas masks climb on the roof, open trap doors, and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled cylinders for use against vermin."
"It is presented that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature. After three minutes every one in the chamber is dead. The chamber is opened, aired, and a special squad carts the bodies on flat trucks to the furnace room where the burning takes place."

Three Adult Bodies.
The furnace room was described as containing nine furnaces, each with four openings of a one-to-two-

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Atrocity Pictures From Polish Camp

...three adult bodies. Cremation required one and a half hours. The ashes assertedly were used to fertilize fields on a prison farm.

"Prominent guests from Berlin were present at the inauguration of the first crematory in March, 1943," one of the Slovaks related. "The program consisted of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Cracow Jews."

"The guests, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results and the special peephole fitted into the door of the gas chamber was in constant use. They were lavish in their praise."

Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief, was reported to have visited the crematory last May.

"According to the statement of a few from the 'special commando' (trustees)," read the account from the other Slovakian, "Himmler was said to have visited Birkenau on the 15th or 16th of May. On one of these days I myself saw three automobiles and five men in civilian clothing drive toward the crematories."

They recognized Himmler. "The Jew who made this statement declared that he as well as others recognized Himmler, who had visited Crematory No. 1 and after a stay of about half an hour had driven off with those accompanying him. On the day after, there was an account in the Bulgarian newspapers of Himmler's visit to Cracow, so his report could be true."

Before construction of the crematory, there was an interval when bodies were buried and another interval when they were burned in large pits with the aid of gasoline. Firing squads were used as well as gas as a means of extermination, it was said.

"Great numbers of people were shot after having been brought in by truck straight from freedom camps from prisons," the Polish major reported. "In two instances, whole families were executed, parents together with their children. In one case, an infant a few months old ended his short life in the arms of his mother before the execution wall."

Murder by Injection.
The murders by injection were mainly at the camp hospital. The Pole said the normal rate in 1942 was 20 to 30 a day, but about once a month a German doctor would go thru the camp and list between 200 and 400 of the weak for the lethal needle.



German concentration camp at Lublin, Poland, where thousands of men, women and children were gassed, included largest crematorium in world. This is one of the huge cremation ovens, still filled with bits of charred bones.



(Same Photo.)
Containers in which ashes of prisoners cremated at Lublin were sold for fertilizer. In background is row of cremation ovens. These pictures came from sources other than war refugee board.

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Chicago Daily Tribune
NOV 26 1944

"The injections," said the major, "were not only administered to the weak and the ill but also to prisoners in the political section who were condemned to death. Apart from this, on one occasion, two groups (the first of 40 and the second of 80 prisoners) of young and strong youths between the ages of 13 and 16 were put to death on the ground that they were orphans and could not be considered in the camp as full fledged workers."

"Racial considerations played an important role. An Aryan really had to be seriously ill to be condemned to death by injection, whereas 80 to 90 per cent of the Jews hospitalized there were eliminated in this manner. Many of them knew about this method and applied for admission as so-called 'suicide candidates,' not having the courage to throw themselves on the high tension wires."

Electrified Fences.

The camp was surrounded by two belts of electrified fences with guards posted in towers mounting machine guns and floodlights. The bodies of prisoners killed in attempting to escape were displayed in the camp with a placard reading "Here I Am." Those captured alive were hanged in view of the prisoners. Few escaped.

The Polish major said the treatment of the men was such that a young and robust Jew could be expected to last not more than two weeks.

The three escaped prisoners told little about a mysterious biological laboratory which they said the Germans operated at Auschwitz.

"Here," wrote the Pole, "sterilizing by X-ray treatment, artificial insemination of women, as well as experiments on blood transfusion were carried on. Male and female prisoners, especially Jews, served as guinea pigs for these experiments. This block was completely isolated from the rest of the camp so that news from it reached us only very seldom."

Reports Many Die.

One of the Slovaks reported that a great many died as a result of these experiments." The other Slovakian, in telling of the deaths of 4,000 in a September, 1943, convoy of Polish Jew families, said 11 twins were left alive, to be subjected to various medical tests.

The brochure contained numerous

names of German prison officials who might be brought to trial when the war is ended. It also contained the names of prisoners who sometimes outdid their keepers in brutality while serving in capacities that would be called trustees in an American penal institute.

"On Dec. 17, 1942, 200 young Slovak Jews, the so-called 'special squad' employed in gassing and burning the condemned, were in turn executed at Birkenau," one of the Slovaks said. "They were executed for having planned to mutiny and escape. A Jew betrayed their preparations. This frightful job had to be taken over by a group of 200 Polish Jews who had just arrived at camp."

Brutal and Ruthless.

"The men belonging to the 'special squad' lived separately. They were extraordinarily brutal and ruthless. It was not uncommon to see one of them kill another. This was considered by the others a sensation, a change."

"Once I was an eyewitness when a young Polish Jew named Jozef demonstrated 'scientific' murder on a Jew in the presence of an SS guard. He used no weapon, merely his bare hands, to kill his victim."

Speaking of an adjutant to one of the camp officials, the account said the "adjutant, a Jew called Mittler, certainly owed his post to his brutal actions. He took full advantage of the power conferred upon him to torment the Jews."

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MIAMI NEWS - November 26, 1944

WORLD'S WORST HORROR STORY

Germans Slaughter Innocent Millions

(Special From N. Y. Herald Tribune)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The War Refugee Board, in what was regarded as the most shocking document ever issued by a United States government agency, made public Saturday an official report on German atrocities that have caused the deaths of "millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

The "revolting and diabolical" German atrocities at two camps that were virtually slaughterhouses were described as a "campaign of terror and brutality which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated and is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world."

Both camps are in southwestern Poland. Although Birkenau was the main slaughterhouse, Auschwitz produced its share of murders, too. Jews generally were gassed. Some were killed with injections of phenol in the heart. Non-Jews usually were shot.

Theoretically, only the aged, weak and ill were murdered. Those able to work were permitted to work—until they became ill. A prisoner ill enough to be hospitalized seldom recovered, especially if he were a Jew; he was gassed, or given a heart injection of carbolic acid.

Prisoners Are 'Guinea Pigs'

Jews from all over enslaved Europe were transported to the two extermination camps in the hundreds of thousands. A Polish major described a "hygiene institute" where German doctors performed biological experiments with "male and female prisoners, especially Jews."

"Here," the major's report said, "sterilizing by X-ray treatment, artificial insemination of women, as well as experiments on blood transfusion were carried on."

At first those "selected" for death were taken to Birkenau and gassed and buried in a nearby birch forest. They were packed into rooms under the impression they were to be given shower baths en masse. The rooms were then sealed, and SS men threw hydrocyanic bombs through ventilation openings.

It soon became necessary, in order to kill efficiently, to construct special gassing chambers and crematoria. A new way of gassing was developed. The shower bath fiction was continued, with "selectees" jammed into the rooms naked and guards shooting off guns from time to time to frighten the doomed persons into huddling closer together. Then the doors were sealed.

SS Men Are Executioners

"Then," the report continues, "there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open the traps, and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled 'Cyclon'—for use against vermin, which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern."

"After three minutes everyone in the chamber is dead. The ashes were used for fertilizer."

The Germans practiced the brutalization of prisoners by forcing Jews to act as tormentors and executioners of their kind. These "special squad" prisoners became "extraordinarily

MIAMI NEWS - NOVEMBER 26, 1944

brutal and ruthless," and it was "not uncommon to see one of them kill another; this was considered by the others as a punishment."

The 25,000 word indictment of Germany was assembled by the WRB as one of the agencies under the executive office of President Roosevelt. The board consists of Cordell Hull, secretary of state; Henry Morgenthau, secretary of the treasury, and Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war.

The report is an indictment of the entire German nation. for the board makes clear that the atrocities were directed from Berlin, and that they were German atrocities which were planned and executed by Germans.

There is no singling out of the Nazi party or the Gestapo as being responsible for the horrible deeds described. Nor is there any hint that the thousands of Germans involved made any protest regarding what the board says is "the German campaign of extermination and torture."

Survivors Tell Horror Stories

The information contained in the report came from two young Slovakian Jews who escaped in April, 1944, after spending two years in the two German concentration camps, and from a non-Jewish Polish major, the only survivor of a group of 60 men imprisoned at Auschwitz.

The information supplied by these three men, whose names were not made public "in the interests of their own safety," has been checked, rechecked and verified in every way, the board said—with the governments in exile, secret reports from inside German-dominated areas and by cross-examination of the three men and comparison of their statements.

The report revealed that 1,765,000 Jews were gassed to death at Birkenau alone between April, 1942, and April, 1944, including 800,000 Poles, 100,000 Dutch, 45,000 Greeks, 150,000 French, 50,000 Belgians, 60,000 Germans, 50,000 Yugoslavs, Italians and Norwegians, 50,000 Lithuanians, 20,000 Bohemians, Moscovians and Austrians, 30,000 Slovaks, 500,000 brought in from various foreign camps.

The board disclosed that the young brother of Leon Blum, former premier of France, had been "atrociously tortured, then gassed and burned" to death at Auschwitz.

The Germans competed with one another, according to the report, in devising new and more bestial torture for their victims. Women and little children suffered the same fate—or worse than the men. Many of the Germans at the death camps and concentration pens were described as being obvious pathological cases.

The report recalled the words of W. Averell Harriman, American ambassador to Soviet Russia, who declared recently during a brief visit to Washington that "German atrocities have not and cannot be exaggerated." Harriman indicated that no imagination could devise tales of horror as appalling and revolting as the crimes perpetrated by the Germans.

The German policy of torture, both physical and mental, was described in the report as having been scientifically devised to reduce the morale of the prisoners so low that they killed one another as a novelty or sought an escape through hopeless charges upon machine guns or high-voltage prison fences.

The report suggests that the Germans may have permitted certain prisoners to escape so that they might be hunted down by dogs.

The board, undoubtedly aware that many of the atrocities reported during the last war were later proved untrue, has been assembling files on the topics contained in the report since soon after the three men escaped from the Germans nearly eight months ago. Only after exhaustive investigation was the report made public.

The report disclosed that Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief, personally had inspected one of the mass-murder camps, and he and "distinguished visitors," who accompanied him had expressed great satisfaction with the efficiency of the lethal chambers and the torture methods reminiscent of the Middle Ages.

Nazi 'Murder Camps' Authenticated by U.S.

By FRANCES SPATZ

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (INS).—The U. S. Government placed its stamp of authenticity today on reports that the Nazis had tortured, murdered and cremated millions of helpless European civilians in efficient extermination factories.

It is a fact beyond denial, said the War Relocation Authority, comprising Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson.

The Board has every reason to believe these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans.

The Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians — Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe.

This campaign of terror and brutality, unprecedented in all history and even now unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world.

60-Page Report

The statement prefaces a 60-page report, released by the Executive Office of the President on the German extermination camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

Instances were cited in which victims were impressed into service to kill other victims.

Continuing its prefatory statement, the board said it was "engaged in a desperate effort to save as many as possible of Hitler's intended victims."

The report is a composite of eyewitness accounts by two young Slovakian Jews who escaped in April, 1944, after spending two years in Auschwitz and Birkenau, and by a non-Jewish Polish major, only survivor of one group at Auschwitz.

The two young Jews told of a case where 200 young Slovak Jews were enlisted in a "special squad" employed in gassing and burning condemned victims. They were finally executed by a freshly arrived squad of 200 Polish Jews because they planned to mutiny and escape.

'Experiments'

The report estimated that 1,765,000 Jews had been gassed at Birkenau alone between April, 1942, and April, 1944.

At Auschwitz, working conditions were so "inconceivably hard" that 30 to 35 died daily in each labor group of 200.

Men and women were used for medical experiments in "biological laboratories" where "even the windows were walled up," the narrators said. A great many died as a result of these experiments.

Many were killed by injection of powerful stimulants into the heart under the guise of "medical treatment," the escapees reported, and many were led to believe they were going for baths when, holding soap and towels, they were crowded into gas chambers camouflaged as "show-er rooms."

The eyewitnesses related that on the opening of the first crematorium in Birkenau in March, 1943, prominent guests from Berlin were invited to witness a "program" consisting of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Cracow Jews. The guests watched the whole process through "special peepholes."

Death in a gas chamber took three minutes, the report explained, and was brought about by shaking down into the sealed room a cyanide mixture that turned to gas.

Other tales of atrocities by the three men include dipping a Rabbi head first into a latrine and then shooting him because he was late for a roll call, forcing the prisoners to sing at "concert parties" during which the SS guards beat them and commanding unclothed men to undergo exhausting exercises outdoors in freezing temperatures.

The Polish major said that on March 24, 1942, he was transported directly from the Montelupich prison in Cracow to Auschwitz, unclothed and in a closed truck.

All who were unable to work were killed, he said. Jews by gassing and non-Jews by "special treatment" or shooting. All bodies were burned.

Many tried to escape and others committed suicide by throwing themselves on the high-voltage wires surrounding the camps, the report said. If a lifeless body was brought back, it was propped up with a sign, "Here I am." If an escapee was captured alive he was hanged in the presence of the whole camp.

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'Unbelievable' Story of Nazi Bestiality Told in Official Book

U. S. Cabinet Group Publishes Report Of Millions Massacred in 'Slave' Nations

By HAL FOUST

The Nazis' systematic murder of civilians of subjugated countries is described, with details of bestiality, by three who escaped extermination camps in southwestern Poland.

Their stories are told in a 27,000-word report issued yesterday by the War Refugee Board. The board, consisting of Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson, vouched for the credibility of the accounts, including an estimate of 1,755,000 Jews having been gassed at Birkenau, one of the camps.

"Truth Hard to Believe"

"So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities," reads a preface by the board, "that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place. But the governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts.

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe. This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world.

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps."

Narrators' Names Withheld

The names of the three narrators are suppressed. Two of them were described as young Slovakian Jews who escaped last April after two years in the Nazi concentration camps at Birkenau and near-by Auschwitz, notorious for their crematoriums. The third is a Polish major, who also escaped from Auschwitz.

Their horror stories are the first released by the War Refugee Board since it was created last January by President Roosevelt to direct the rescue of concentration camp prisoners. They tell of multiple murders by deliberate exposure and deprivation, by hypodermic phenol injections, by firing squad, by gas chambers, and by

experimental surgery. The details are as gruesome as World War I reports of Germans bayonetting babies and rendering cadavers for edible fare.

Women and children as well as men are among the victims of this war's atrocities, according to the Government's brochure. The origin of 1,755,000 Jews reported as gassed in scientific death chambers in Birkenau from April 1942 to April 1944 was listed as follows: Poland, 800,000; Holland, 100,000; Greece, 45,000; France, 150,000; Belgium, 60,000; Germany, 60,000; Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway, 80,000; Lithuania, 50,000; Bohemia, Moravia and Austria, 30,000; Slovakia, 30,000; and from various camps for foreign Jews in Poland, 300,000.

Some Burned Alive

The diabolical treatment of civilian prisoners began at their arrival at the camp in sealed box cars. The dead, the sick and the exhausted, all who could not walk, were piled together into trucks and hauled directly to the incinerators, according to the Slovaks. Of those able to stand, he wrote, about 10 per cent of the men and five per cent of the women were assigned to cells for forced labor while the others were taken to the gas chambers for extermination.

"It often happened," reads this account of emptying the prison trains, "that small children were thrown into the trucks along with the dead."

The prisoners retained for labor were locked in cell houses, assigned three to a cubicle described as "too narrow for a man to lie stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright." Disease, malnutrition, exposure and brutality decimated the ranks daily with vacancies filled by new arrivals. Those unable to work were killed by phenol injections or by gassing, according to this account.

Capacity 6,000 Daily

The heretofore publicized crematoriums are described in detail. The capacity of four cremating and gassing plants at Birkenau was given as 6,000 daily. On entering one of these liqui-

dation plants, the prisoners are given the impression that they are going into a bath house. They are massed in an antechamber made to undress and handed small towels and small pieces of soap. Then they are jammed into another chamber with simulated doors to shower rooms.

"When everybody is inside," reads the account, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open trap doors and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled 'cyclol' for use against vermin.

"It is presumed that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature. After three minutes everyone in the chamber is dead. . . the chamber is opened, aired, and a special squad carts the bodies on flat trucks to the furnaces room where the burning takes place."

The furnace room was described as being lined with nine furnaces, each with four openings of a size to receive three adult bodies. Combustion required one and a half hours. The ashes, according to this account, were used to fertilize fields on a prison farm.

Heinrich Himmler, who recently broadcast on behalf of Hitler, was reported to have visited the crematorium last May.

"According to the statement of a Jew from the 'Special Command' (trustees)," reads the account from the other Slovakian, "Reichsfuehrer Himmler was said to have visited Birkenau on the 15th or 16th of May. On one of these days I myself saw three automobiles and five men in civilian clothing drive toward the crematoria.

"The Jew who made this statement declared that he as well as others recognized Himmler. He had visited Crematorium No. 1 and after a stay of about half an hour had driven off with those accompanying him. On the day after there was an account in the Silesian newspapers of Himmler's visit to Cracow, so that this report could be true."

Some Bodies Buried

Before construction of the crematorium, there was an interval when bodies were buried and another interval when they were burned in large pits with the aid of gasoline. Firing squads were used as well as gas as a means of extermination.

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The murders by injection were mainly at the camp hospital. The normal rate in 1942, according to the Pole, was 20 to 30 a day, but about once a month a German doctor would go through the camp and list between 200 and 400 of the weak for the lethal needle.

"Racial selections played an important role," the Pole reported. "An Aryan really had to be seriously ill to be condemned to death by injection, whereas 50 to 80 per cent of the Jews hospitalized there were eliminated in this manner. Many of them knew about this method and applied for admission as so-called 'suicide candidates,' not having the courage to throw themselves on the high tension wires."

Surrounded by Charged Fence

The camp was surrounded by two belts of electrified fences with guards posted in towers mounting machine guns and floodlights. The bodies of prisoners killed in attempting to escape were displayed in the camp with a placard reading, "Here I am." Those captured alive were hanged in view of the prisoners. Few escaped.

The treatment of the men, according to the Polish major, was such that a young and robust Jew could be expected to last not more than two weeks. The labor was mainly in a stone quarry and in a couple of factories accompanied by brutal double-tilting with cutters for those who slackened.

Little was learned from the three escaped prisoners about the mysterious biological laboratory operated at Auschwitz.

"Here," wrote the Pole, "sterilizing by X-ray treatment, artificial insemination of women, as well as experiments on blood transfusion were carried on. Male and female prisoners, especially Jews, served as guinea pigs for these experiments. This block was completely isolated from the rest of the camp so that news from it reached us only very seldom."

Many Killed in Experiments

One of the Slovaks reported that "a great many died as a result of these experiments." The other Slovakian, in telling of the deaths of 4,000 in a September 1943, convoy of Polish Jew families, said 11 twins were left alive, to be subjected to various medical tests.

The brochure contains numerous names of German prison officials who might be brought to trial when the war is ended. It also contains the names of prisoners who sometimes outdid their keepers in bestiality in serving in

capacities that would be called "trusties" in an American penal institute.

All in all, it's a horrible, revolting story published by the Government. But the War Refugee Board, consisting of three Cabinet members, said it made the report public "in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

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Death Camps' Horror Is Told in U. S. Report

25,000 Word Document Tells of Murder by the Million in Polish Exter- mination Centers

Washington, D. C.—The war refugee board—three members of President Roosevelt's cabinet—sponsored Saturday a 25,000 word detailed report on bestial cruelty and murder by the million in German extermination camps.

Said the board, comprising Secretary of State Hull, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and Secretary of War Stimson:

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

[The board, of which John W. Pehle is executive director, is responsible for carrying out the policy of the federal government for rescue of the victims of enemy oppression.]

The report consisted of two eye witness accounts of life in the Nazi camps at Auschwitz (Oświęcim) and Birkenau in southwestern Poland, prepared independently but almost precisely parallel.

[Auschwitz was the administrative headquarters and reception center for prisoners coming to both camps.]

Each included an estimate that more than a million and a half Jews from various European countries were gassed and their bodies cremated at Birkenau alone between April, 1942, and April, 1944.

Held Clerical Posts

One, by two young Slovakian Jews who for two years had clerical posts in the camp through which they could keep fairly close track of events, set the figure at 1,765,000.

[The total of 1,765,000 exceeds the number of 1,500,000 persons previously reported slaughtered by the Germans in the extermination camp at Lublin, in central Poland, in a longer period—three years.]

The second account was by a non-Jewish Polish major. All three escaped. For their protection, their names were withheld by the board which said in an accompanying statement:

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe. This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free people of the world."

Throughout the more detailed story of the two Jews appeared such gruesome statistics as these: "Conservative estimate" that 65,000 to 70,000 of 80,000 persons received at the camp were gassed; "lowest estimate" 30,000 gassed at another camp; total capacity of crematories, 6,000 a day but for a period they were overloaded and bodies burned in great open pits.

Excerpts From Reports

Taken from the reports are these excerpts and paraphrases:

"The mere fact of neglecting to give information on the whereabouts of a prisoner, not to speak of extending help, is punished by death. . . . If the escapee is caught alive, he is hanged in the presence of the whole camp; but if he is found dead, his body—wherever it may have been located—is brought back to camp . . . and seated at the entrance gate, a small notice clasped in his hands, reading 'Here I am.'"

Camp buildings are divided into little cubicles, each occupied by three persons, each cubicle "too narrow for a man to lie stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright. . . ."

"Working conditions were inconceivably hard, so that the majority of us, weakened by starvation and the inedible food, could not stand it. The mortality was so high that every day our group of 200 had 30 to 35 dead. Many were simply beaten to death by the overseers during work, without the slightest provocation."

"Sick Building" Erected

Later a "sick building" was set up. "Actually this building was nothing else than an assembly center for death candidates. All prisoners incapable of working were sent there. There was no question of any medical attention or care."

At the same time, the so-called "selections" were introduced. Twice weekly the camp doctor indicated the number of prisoners who were to be gassed and then burned. These "selectees" were loaded into trucks

and brought to the birch forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barracks erected near the trench used for burning the bodies.

"At the end of February, 1943, a new modern crematory and gassing plant were set up at Birkenau. The large ditch was filled in, the ground leveled and the ashes used as before for fertilizer at the farm labor camp of Hermense."

Next to the furnace room was a large "reception hall" arranged to give the impression of the ante-chamber of a bathing establishment. "It holds 2,000 people and apparently there is a similar waiting room on the floor below. From there a door and a few steps lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms to mislead the victims."

Fitted With Three Traps

"The room is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber through the furnace room. The gassing takes place as follows:

"The unfortunate victims are brought into the hall, where they are told to undress. To complete the fiction that they are going to bath, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap, issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber in such numbers that there is of course only standing room.

"To compress this crowd into the narrow space, shots are often fired to induce those already at the far end to huddle still closer together. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open the traps and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled 'Cyklon—For Use Against Vermin' which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern. It is presumed that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature.

"After three minutes, everyone in the chamber is dead." The bodies are then taken out and burned.

Not "Special Treatment"

"On principle only Jews are gassed; Aryans very seldom, as they are usually given 'special treatment' by shooting."

So low did the value of human life sink in the death camps and so frightful was the terror and tragedy, the document indicated, that some of the prisoners turned murderers and informers, hoping for some slight favor rendered their Nazi slave masters to escape the execution wall or gas chamber. Few, if any, did.

There was, for instance, in the account by the two Jews, a "special squad" of 200 Slovak Jews who were employed in gassing and burning the condemned at Birkenau before they themselves were similarly executed after planning a mutiny and escape.

"The men belonging to the 'special squad' lived separately," one of the eyewitnesses said. "On account of the dreadful smell spread by them, people had but little contact with them. Besides, they were always filthy, destitute, half wild and extraordinarily brutal and ruthless. It was not uncommon to see eye for eye and they were considered by the others a sensation, a change."

Put on Demonstration

"Once I was an eyewitness when a young Polish Jew named [redacted] demonstrated 'scientific' murder of a Jew in the presence of an SS guard. He used no weapon, merely his bare hands, to kill his victim."

"There is a 'block recorder' who keeps the prisoners' files. His work is one of great responsibility, and he has to keep his ledgers with painful exactitude as the indexes only indicate the number and names of the prisoners; errors are fatal.

"For instance, if the recorder has noted down a death by mistake, and that often occurs with the unusually high mortality—the discrepancy is simply straightened out by killing the bearer of the corresponding number."

The report by the Polish major asserted that prisoners were used for experiments in sterilizing by X-ray, in artificial insemination of women, as well as blood transfusions.

Stool Pigeon "Squealed"

"Fear of mistreatment fostered a stool pigeon" system in the Auschwitz camp, the major related.

"For example," he reports, "one

day a working command [redacted] a few pieces of turnip which he carefully hid. He continued to work but, from time to time, took unrepentant bites off his treasure. Another prisoner, having 'squealed' him, the Capo (overseer) arrived a few minutes later . . . and proceeded to search our comrade and, finding the pieces of turnip, knocked the weakened man to the ground, hitting him brutally about the head and face and in the stomach. He then ordered him to sit up, hands outstretched in front of him on the ground with a weight of bricks on each hand; the pieces of turnip were stuck in his mouth. All the men were assembled and informed that the unfortunate man was to stay in that position for a whole hour.

"We were warned that this punishment would befall any member of the group who committed a similar offense." The condemned man underwent this ordeal guarded by one of the foremen, very eager to fulfill his task to the satisfaction of the Capo, so that he hit our friend every time he tried to shift his position slightly.

"After 15 to 20 minutes the man became unconscious, but a bucket of water was poured over him and he was again forced into his original position. After he had slumped over senseless for a second time, his body was thrown aside and nobody was allowed to pay further attention to him. After roll call that evening he was taken to the 'infirmary' where he died two days later."

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WAR REFUGEE TELL OF NAZI ATROCITIES

U. S. Board Releases Eyewitness Accounts Of Horrors

Washington, Nov. 25 (AP)—The War Refugee Board—three members of President Roosevelt's Cabinet—sponsored today a 25,000-word detailed report of bestial cruelty and murder by the million in German extermination camps.

Said the board, comprising Secretary of State Hull, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and Secretary of War Stimson:

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

Eyewitness Accounts

The report consisted of two eyewitness accounts of life in the Nazi camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in southwestern Poland, prepared independently, but almost precisely parallel.

Each included an estimate that more than a million and a half Jews from various European countries were gassed and their bodies cremated at Birkenau alone between April, 1942, and April, 1944.

One, by two young Slovakian Jews who for two years had clerical posts in the camp through which they could keep fairly close track of events, set the figure at 1,785,000. The second account was by a non-Jewish Polish major. All three estimates were withheld by the board, which said in an accompanying statement:

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free people of the world."

The board, of which John W. Pehle is executive director, is responsible for carrying out the policy of the Federal Government for rescue of the victims of enemy oppression.

Throughout the more detailed story of the two Jews appeared such gruesome statistics as these: Conservative estimate that 65,000 to 70,000 of 80,000 persons received at the camp were gassed. "lowest estimate," 30,000 gassed

out of another group; one month's gasings 90,000; total capacity of crematoria, 6,000 a day, but for a period it was overloaded and bodies burned in great open pits.

Excerpts From Reports

Taken from the reports are these excerpts and paraphrases:

"The mere fact of neglecting to give information on the whereabouts of a prisoner, not to speak of extending help, is punished by death. . . . If the escapee is caught alive, he is hanged in the presence of the whole camp; but if he is found dead, his body—wherever it may have been located—is brought back to camp . . . and seated at the entrance gate, a small notice clamped in his hands, reading 'Here I am'."

Camp buildings are divided into little cubicles, each occupied by three persons, each cubicle "too narrow for a man to lie stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright."

Mortality High

"Working conditions were inconceivably hard, so that the majority of us, weakened by starvation and the inedible food, could not stand it. The mortality was so high that every day our group of 200 had 30 to 35 dead. Many were simply beaten to death by the overseers—the 'capos'—during work without the slightest provocation."

Later a "sick building" was set up.

"Actually this building was nothing else than an assembly center for death candidates. All prisoners, incapable of working were sent there. There was no question of any medical attention or care."

"At the same time, the so-called 'selections' were introduced twice weekly, Mondays and Thursdays. The camp doctor indicated the number of prisoners who were to be gassed and then burned. These 'selectees' were loaded into trucks and brought to the birch forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barrack erected near the trench used for burning the bodies."

Typical of the descriptions given of the fate of individual groups are these:

Frenchmen Named

"Two thousand Frenchmen (Aryans) Communists and other political prisoners, among them the brother of Thorez and the young brother of Leon Blum. The latter was atrociously tortured, then gassed and burned."

"Large family convoys arrived from various European countries and were at once directed to the birch wood. The special squad ('sonderkommando') employed for gassing and burning worked in day and night shifts. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were gassed during this period."

"The men (themselves prisoners) belonging to the 'special squad' lived separately. On account of the dreadful smell spread by them, people had but little contact with them. Besides they were always filthy, destitute, half wild and extraordinarily brutal and ruthless."

Killed Companions

"It was not uncommon to see one of them kill another. This was considered by the others a sensation, a change."

"At the end of February, 1943, a new modern crematoria and gassing plant was inaugurated at Birkenau. The large ditch was filled in, the ground levelled and the ashes used as before for fertilizer at the farm labor camp of Hermense."

Next to the furnace room was a large 'reception hall' arranged to give the impression of the antechamber of a bathing establishment.

Holds 2,000 People

"It holds 2,000 people and apparently there is a similar waiting room on the floor below. From there a door and a few steps lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms to mislead the victims."

"The room is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber through the furnace room. The gassing takes place as follows:

"The unfortunate victims are brought into the hall, where they are told to undress. To complete the fiction that they are going to bathe, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap, issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber in such numbers that there is, of course, only standing room."

Doors Are Closed

"To compress this crowd into the narrow space, shots are often fired to induce those already at the far end to huddle still closer together. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open the traps and shake a preparation in powder form

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of tin cans labeled 'Cyklon'—for use against vermin, which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern. It is presumed that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature.

"After 3 minutes, everyone in the chamber is dead."

The bodies are then taken out and burned.

"On principle, only Jews are gassed; Aryans very seldom, as they are usually given 'special treatment' by shooting.

"Guests" Watch Gassing

"Prominent guests from Berlin were present at the inauguration of the first crematorium in March, 1943. The 'program' consisted of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Cracow Jews. The guests, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results, and the special peephole fitted into the door of the gas chamber was in constant use."

There is a "block recorder" who keeps the prisoners' files.

"His work is one of great responsibility and he has to keep his ledgers with painful exactitude as the index cards only indicate the number and not the name of the prisoners; errors are fatal.

"For instance, if the recorder has noted down a death by mistake, and that often occurs with the unusually high mortality—the discrepancy is simply straightened out by killing the bearer of the corresponding number."

The report by the Polish major asserted that prisoners were used for experiments in sterilizing by X-ray, in artificial insemination of women, as well as blood transfusions.

**U. S. Board Bares Atrocity Details
Told by Witnesses at Polish Camps**

By JOHN H. CRIDER
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—In the first detailed report by a United States Government Agency offering eyewitness proof of mass murder by the Germans, the War Refugee Board made public today accounts by three persons of organized atrocities at Brzezinka (Birkenau) and Oswiecim (Auschwitz) in southwestern Poland that transcend the horrors of Lublin. The accounts were vouched for by the WRB.

While at Lublin 1,500,000 persons were said to have been killed in three years, 1,500,000 to 1,765,000 persons were murdered in the torture chambers of Brzezinka from April, 1942, to April, 1944, according to these Government-written reports. Many thousands of other deaths by phenol injection, brutal beatings, starvation, shooting, etc., also are recounted.

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe," the WRB declared.

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world," it added.

"So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place," the board stated. "But the Governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts."

After describing the nature of the reports now made public, the WRB added:

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

The two Slovak youths estimated the number of Jews gassed and burned at Birkenau in the two-year period at 1,765,000 in the following table, but the Polish officer estimated that about 1,900,000 Jews were killed in Oswiecim in that fashion. Here is the recapitulation by the two escaped Jews.

Poland (transported by truck)	300,000
Poland (transported by train)	300,000
Holland	45,000
Greece	100,000
France	150,000
Belgium	50,000
Germany	50,000
Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway	50,000
Lithuania	50,000
Bohemia, Moravia & Austria	30,000
Slovakia	30,000
Camps for foreign Jews in Poland	300,000
Total	1,765,000

2,000 Bodies a Day

In the report the Jewish youths described the gassing and burning technique as follows:

"At present there are four crematoria in operation at Birkenau, two large ones, I and II, and two smaller ones, III and IV. Those of Types I and II consist of three parts, (a) the furnace room, (b) the large hall, and (c) the gas chamber. A huge chimney rises from the furnace room, around which are grouped nine furnaces, each having four openings. Each opening can take three normal corpses at once, and after an hour and a half the bodies are completely burned. This corresponds to a daily capacity of about 2,000 bodies."

"Next to this is a large 'reception hall,' which is arranged so as to give the impression of the antechamber of a bathing establishment. It holds 2,000 people, and apparently there is a similar waiting room on the floor below. From there a door and a few steps lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms in order to mislead the victims. The roof is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber toward the furnace room."

"The gassing takes place as follows: The unfortunate victims are brought into the hall (b), where they are told to undress. To complete the fiction that they are going to bathe, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber; (c) in such numbers that there is, of course, only standing room. To compress this crowd into the narrow space, shots are often fired to induce those already at the far end to huddle still closer together. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb the roof, open the traps, and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled 'Cyclon,' for use against vermin, which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern."

"Ordeal lasts Three Minutes. It is presumed that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature. After three minutes everyone in the chamber is dead. No one is known to have survived this ordeal, although it was not uncommon to discover signs of life after the primitive measures employed in the birch wood. The chamber is then opened, aired, and the 'special squad' carts the bodies on flat trucks to the furnace rooms, where the burning takes place. Crematoria III and IV work on nearly the same principle, but their capacity is only half as large. Thus the total capacity of the four cremating and gassing plants at Birkenau amounts to about 4,000 daily."

In his independent report the Polish officer described the mass extermination thus:

"The first large convoys arrived from France and Slovakia. Physically able men and women—those without children or the mothers of grown-up children—were sent to the camp of Birkenau. The remainder, i. e., old or weak men, women with small children and all those unfit for labor, were taken to the Birch Wood (Brzezinka) and killed by means of hydrocyanic gas. For this purpose special gassing barracks had been built there. These consisted of large halls, airtight, and provided with ventilators which could be opened or closed according to the need. Inside they were equipped so as to create the impression of bathing establishments. This was done to deceive the victims and make them more manageable. The executions took place as follows: Each death convoy consisted of some eight to ten trucks packed with the 'selected'; the convoy was unguarded, as the whole frightful drama took place on camp territory. A private car containing the camp doctor followed each truck convoy, since it was compulsory

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for him to be present at these mass executions. On their arrival at the gassing establishment, which was surrounded by a double barbed-wire fence, men, women and children had to completely undress. Each of them was given a towel and piece of soap. Then they were driven into the barrack until it was completely filled up.

Gas Bombs Hurled In

"Everything was hermetically closed, and specially trained SS units threw hydrocyanic bombs through the ventilation openings. After about ten minutes the doors were opened and a special squad composed exclusively of Jews had to clear away the bodies and prepare for a new group of 'selectees'."

"The crematoria had not yet been constructed, although there was a small one at Auschwitz which, however, was not employed for burning these bodies. Mass graves were dug at that time into which the corpses were simply thrown."

"We continued into the autumn of 1942. By this time extermination by gas was being intensified and there was no more time even for such summary burial. Row upon row of bodies of murdered Jews, covered only by a thin layer of earth, were widely dispersed in the surrounding fields, causing the soil to become almost marshy through the putrefaction of the bodies."

"The smell emanating from these fields became intolerable. In the autumn of 1942 all that remained of the bodies had to be exhumed and the bones collected and burned in the crematoria (by that time four had been completed). An alternative was to gather the remains into heaps, pour gasoline over them and leave it to the flames to finish the tragedy. The immense quantity of human ashes thus collected was carted away in every direction to be scattered over the fields where these martyrs had found their last rest."

Furnaces for Sanitation

It was noted that the executioners did not provide the crematoria until sanitary conditions became such that this method of disposal had to be resorted to.

In addition to mass asphyxiations, the Germans resorted to executions, phenol injections and brutality to dispose of victims. Here is one eyewitness account of brutality recorded by the Polish major:

"One day a working comrade discovered a few pieces of turnip, which he carefully hid. He continued his work but, from time to time, took surreptitious bites-off his treasure. Another prisoner, having squealed on him, the capo arrived a few minutes later."

"It must be remembered that the capo is absolute master of his command and that everybody tries to get into his good graces. Unfortunately, this favor often had to be attained to the detriment of the well-being or sometimes even of the lives of other prisoners."

"The capo proceeded to search our comrade and, finding the pieces of turnip, knocked the weakened man to the ground, hitting him brutally about the head and face and in the stomach. He then ordered him to sit up, hands outstretched in front of him on the ground with a weight of bricks on each hand; the pieces of turnip were stuck in his mouth."

"All the men were then assembled and informed that the unfortunate man was to stay in this position for a whole hour. We were warned that this punishment would befall any member of the commando who committed a similar offense. The condemned man underwent this ordeal guarded by one of the foremen, very eager to fulfill his task to the satisfaction of the capo, so that he hit our friend every time he tried to shift his position slightly."

"After fifteen to twenty minutes the man became unconscious, but a bucket of water was poured over him and he was again forced into his original position. After he had slumped over, senseless, for a second time, his body was thrown aside and nobody was allowed to pay further attention to him. After roll call that evening he was taken to the infirmary, where he died two days later."

The use of the hypodermic needle for murder was described by the Polish major as follows:

"The sick were classified into two groups, 'Aryans' and Jews. These groups were again subdivided into further groups, of which the first included the sick, who were to remain in hospital, being considered 'curable.' The second consisted of extremely rundown patients, chronic cases, and half-starving or mutilated whose recovery could only be effected by a long stay in the hospital."

"This group was practically condemned to death by phenol injections in the heart region. Racial

considerations played an important role. An 'Aryan' really had to be seriously ill to be condemned to death by injection, whereas 80 to 90 per cent of the Jews, 'hospitalized' there were 'eliminated' in this manner. Many of them knew about this method and applied for admission as so-called suicide candidates, not having the courage to throw themselves on the high tension wires."

Sadism Wins Promotion

Then there was the story of the executioner who became a "hero":

"An SS man by the name of Kler, a shoemaker by profession, gave the injections. He had taken up this post in the hospital as a simple SS private but was later promoted to SS group leader, although practically a moron. He also received supplementary food rations and was awarded the Iron Cross. There were days when this psychopath picked out victims from the wards on his own initiative, without instructions from the German doctor, on whom to practice his technique."

"He was a complete sadist, torturing his victims with animal-like brutality before putting them to death."

The accounts of the Slovaks and the Polish major mentioned a special "hygiene institute" at Oswiecim, which was adjacent to Birkenau, and where mysterious "experiments" were conducted on Jewish prisoners, mostly on females. The Polish major's account, which provided the only clue of what went on in the "institute," said:

"Here sterilizing by X-ray treatment, artificial insemination of women, as well as experiments on blood transfusions, were carried on."

The reports mentioned several well-known individuals, such as Witold Zacharewicz, Polish actor, and a brother of Leon Blum, former French Premier, as having been executed.

Prominent guests from Berlin

were present at the inauguration of the first crematorium in March, 1943," the reports said. "The program consisted of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Cracow Jews. The guests, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results and the special peepholes fitted into the door of the gas chamber was in constant use. They were lavish in their praise of this newly erected installation."

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Two Million Slain in Nazi Horror Camps

War Refugee Board
Reveals Gas-Cremation
Assembly-Line Method

By George Connery

In two years approximately two million persons—equal to the entire population of West Virginia—were exterminated at two German concentration camps, according to a detailed report made public yesterday by the War Refugee Board, the first such indictment for wholesale murder to be issued under authorization of this Government.

Six diagrams, sketches and maps in the 24-page report locate in rough outline the crematoria and other installations and illustrate the assembly-line methods that eliminated men, women and children.

The executions total is arrived at mainly through a series of detailed tables giving national composition and estimated size of each convoy as it arrived at the camp areas. Only a percentage of the convoys was enrolled at the institutions, with the bulk sent directly to the gassing chambers. Because consecutive numbers were tattooed on those not immediately executed, it was possible to reach an approximate total for those exterminated. For one set of gas chambers alone the figure was 1,785,000.

On Upper Silesia

The camps are Auschwitz and Birkenau, in upper Silesia. The period covered is the spring of 1942 to last spring. Millions of Jews and Poles gassed and cremated there are in addition to the reported death tolls of Lublin and other notorious mass execution centers elsewhere in Germany and occupied countries. Any estimate of the over-all total would be a pure guess on the basis of available facts.

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe," declares the board, which functions under the executive office of the President. "This campaign of terror and brutality, unprecedented in

all history, even now continues unabated."

Three men who escaped the camps furnished the basis for the report.

Although it cannot vouch for accuracy of every detail in the sensational narrative, the War Refugee Board released it as a reliable summary. It said:

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they would be read and understood by all Americans.

Entirely Credible

"The declarations tally with all the trustworthy yet fragmentary reports hitherto received, and the dates given with regard to transports to various camps agree with official records. These statements can, therefore, be considered as entirely credible."

The three stories, it was learned, were forwarded to the board in Washington by one of its representatives at the American Embassy in Switzerland. Checking the men and their narratives closely, he found that in all important aspects one corroborated another. He sent the reports back here with the recommendation that they were correct as far as could be ascertained under wartime conditions.

In Washington, the board was impressed also because the stories were from men actually confined in the camps, where escape is rare. Although there was a reluctance to publish atrocity stories, in view of the propaganda backfire following the First World War, the board felt it was on firm ground on these reports.

In the document released last night the board explained:

"The War Refugee Board is engaged in a desperate effort to save as many as possible of Hitler's intended victims. To facilitate its work the board has representatives in key spots in Europe. These representatives have tested contacts throughout Europe and keep the board fully advised concerning the German campaign of extermination and torture.

Reports Prepared Separately

"The reports were prepared separately and are reproduced exactly in the form they were received by the War Refugee Board, except for a few deletions necessary for the protection of persons who may still be alive. The figures concerning the size of the Jewish

convoys and the numbers of men and women admitted to the two camps cannot be taken as mathematically exact; and, in fact, are declared by the authors to be no more than reliable approximations. They are accepted as such by the board."

One report is based on experiences of two young Slovakian Jews who escaped in April, 1944, after spending two years in the camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau. The second is by a non-Jewish-Polish major, the only survivor of one group imprisoned at Auschwitz.

Brutality, starvation and disease were the accepted thing at the camps, the three men declared. For example, at Auschwitz, Jews were forced to bring gravel on wheelbarrows up an incline from a pit. Those who slowed up were simply pushed back and crashed down the incline with their loads on top of them. Extremely run down hospital patients, chronic cases and the half-starved or mutilated were virtually condemned to death by injections.

The three escapes give exact and factual descriptions of the exterminating processes, which varied from ordinary but relentless brutality to death by gas. Birkenau, which adjoined Auschwitz, had the most elaborate system.

First Burned in Trenches

At first bodies from the gas hall at Birkenau were burned in huge trenches. This crude step was eliminated at the end of February, 1943, when a new modern gassing plant and a series of crematoria went into operation.

Two large crematoria and two smaller ones were provided. The larger ones were described by one of the Slovakian Jews as follows:

"Those consist of three parts, a furnace room, large hall and gas chamber. A huge chimney rises from the furnace room around which are grouped nine furnaces, each having four openings. Each opening can take three normal corpses at once and after an hour and a half the bodies are completely burned. This corresponds to a daily capacity of about 600 bodies.

"Next to this is a large reception hall which is arranged so as to give the impression of the ante-chamber of a bathing establishment. It holds 2000 people and apparently there is a similar waiting room on the floor below. From there a door and a few steps lead down into the very long and narrow gas chamber. The walls

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The Washington Post

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of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to shower-rooms in order to mislead the victims. The roof is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber towards the furnace rooms."

Worked Into Gas Chamber

This is his description of how the gassing takes place:

"The unfortunate victims are brought into hall B where they are told to undress. To complete the fiction that they are going to bathe, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap, issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber C in such numbers that there is, of course, only standing room.

"To compress this crowd into the narrow space, shots are often fired to induce those already at the far end to huddle still closer together. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open the traps and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled: 'Cyclon—for use against vermin,' which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern.

6000-a-Day Capacity

"It is presumed that this is a cyanide mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature. After three minutes everyone in the chamber is dead. No one is known to have survived this ordeal, although it was not uncommon to discover signs of life after the primitive measures employed in the birch wood (the earlier Birkenau installation).

"The chamber is then opened, and the 'special squad' carts the bodies on flat trucks to the furnace room where the burning takes place. Crematoria three and four (the smaller ones) work on nearly the same principle, but their capacity is only half as large. Thus the total capacity of the four cremating and gassing plants at Birkenau amounts to about 6000 daily."

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U. S. Charges Nazis Tortured Millions to Death in Europe

War Refugee Board Says 1,765,000 Jews Were Killed by Gas in One Camp Alone; Witnesses' Testimony Gives Details of the Atrocities

By George Polk
WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The War Refugee Board, in what was regarded as the most shocking document ever issued by a United States government agency, made public today an official report on German atrocities that have caused the death of "millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

The "revolting and diabolical" German atrocities were described as a "campaign of terror and brutality which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated and is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world."

The 25,000-word indictment of Germany was assembled by the W. R. B. as one of the agencies under the executive office of the President of the United States. The board consists of the three highest ranking Cabinet officials—Cordell Hull, Secretary of State; Henry Morgenthau Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, and Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War. John W. Pehle is the board's executive director.

The report is an indictment of the entire German nation, for the board makes clear that the atrocities were directed from Berlin, and that they were German atrocities which were planned and executed by Germans. There is no singling out of the Nazi party or the Gestapo as being responsible for the horrible deeds described. Nor is there any hint that the thousands of Germans involved made any protest regarding what the board says is "the German campaign of extermination and torture."

The information contained in the report came from two young

Slovakian Jews who escaped in April, 1944, after passing two years in German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in southwestern Poland, and from a non-Jewish Polish major, the only survivor of a group of sixty men imprisoned at Auschwitz.

The information supplied by these three men, whose names were not made public in the interests of their own safety, has been checked, rechecked and verified in every way, the board said—with the government-in-exile, secret reports from inside German-dominated areas and by cross-examination of the three men and comparison of their statements.

The report reveals that 1,765,000 Jews were gassed to death at Birkenau alone between April, 1942, and April, 1944, including 900,000 Poles, 100,000 Dutch, 45,000 Greeks, 150,000 French, 50,000 Belgians, 30,000 Germans, 50,000 Yugoslavs, 10,000 Italians and Norwegians, 50,000 Lithuanians, 30,000 Bohemians, 30,000 Moravians and Austrians, 30,000 Slovaks and 300,000 brought in from various foreign camps.

For untold thousands of non-Jewish Europeans, the report said, the Germans had more lenient treatment. The non-Jewish prisoners were shot rather than gassed to death.

The board disclosed that the young brother of Leon Blum, former Premier of France, had been "atrociously tortured, then gassed and burned" to death at Auschwitz.

The Germans competed with one another, according to the report, in devising new and more heinous torture for their victims. Women and children suffered the same fate—or worse—than men. Many of the Germans at the death camps and concentration camps were described as being obvious pathological cases.

The report recalled the words of W. Averell Harriman, American Ambassador to Russia, who declared recently during a brief visit to Washington that "German atrocities have not and can not be exaggerated." Ambassador Harriman indicated that no imagination could devise tales of horror so appalling and revolting as the crimes perpetrated by the Germans. He said that his opinion was based on official information and personal investigation.

The German policy of torture, both physical and mental, was described in the report as having been scientifically devised to reduce the morale of the prisoners so low that they killed one another as a novelty or sought an escape through hopeless charges upon machine guns or high-voltage prison fences.

The report suggests that the Germans may have permitted certain prisoners to escape so that they might be hunted down by dogs. It is clear in the report that the criminal treatment of the prisoners was in accordance with official instructions from Berlin and that the atrocities were not committed merely by a few irresponsible prison camp officials.

The War Refugee Board, undoubtedly aware that many of the atrocities reported during the last war were later proved untrue, has been assembling files on the topics contained in the report since soon after the three men escaped from the Germans nearly eight months ago. Only after exhaustive investigation was the report made public.

A statement from the board said it had "every reason to believe" that the report presented a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps, and added that the report was being made public "in the firm conviction" the American people should read and understand what the German policy is.

Used Science to Kill Cheaply
The report contained no suggestion that the Germans had put their victims to death for specified reasons—except merely to get them out of the way. Few if any of the prisoners were charged with any crimes and none was given a trial. With brutality that made even Japanese atrocities seem pale by comparison, the Germans made scientific use of chemistry, elec-

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city and gunfire to kill as many persons as possible with the least effort and expense.

When epidemics struck the starving and freezing prisoners, according to the report, the Germans brought their medical skill into use immediately—to prevent the spread of disease outside the prison compounds and encourage its virulence among the prisoners.

In addition men and women and children were used as guinea pigs for "special scientific experiments," the report said. Almost invariably these experiments brought horrible and painful death.

The report disclosed that Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief, recently rumored to have succeeded Adolf Hitler as the German Fuehrer, personally had inspected one of the mass-murder camps and he and the "distinguished visitors" who accompanied him expressed great satisfaction with the efficiency of the lethal chambers and the torture methods.

Mental Torture Described

Throughout the story of mass murder it was apparent that the millions of Europeans were—and apparently still are—being put to death because of ancestry, their political beliefs or just because they happened to live in a certain geographical area.

One incident described the mental torture which seemed to delight the sadistic German temperament. A prisoner received an almost, but not quite, impossible task of painting 150 cells each day. "If this task

was not performed, the prisoner was beaten unmercifully during the night and then put back to work the following morning with instructions to "try harder."

Starved, in rage, and increasingly maltreated, the prisoner could achieve his quota only by drawing upon unrealized reserves of sheer nervous energy and the grimiest and most desperate determination. This treatment continued for weeks and months until the prisoner went insane. The report indicates that this type of torture had special satisfaction for the German guards—the idea that the simple task of painting skis could destroy a man's sanity.

The report said that when a prisoner escaped and was run to earth, as he was almost invariably, he would be put to death. His body was then sealed at the entrance to the prison camp and in his hands was placed a card reading: "Here I am."

Men Died by Dozens

Much of the work the prisoners were forced to do, according to the report, was so strenuous that the men, weakened by near starvation, died by the dozens. "The mortality was so high," one of the three men who escaped reported, "that every day our group of 200 (workers) had thirty to thirty-five dead. Also, many men were simply beaten to death by our overseers without the slightest provocation."

When a new crematorium was

opened at Birkenau in March, 1942, a number of officials came from Berlin to see it put into use, the report said, adding: "The program consisted of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Czech Jews. The guards, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results and the special psychophysics of the gas chamber was in constant use. They were lavish in their praise of the newly erected installation."

The German guards, not content with studied brutality during the day, made the prisoners "entertain" the German garrison in the evening with "camp songs." The report said: "This was the occasion of such hilarity." One of the prisoners who collapsed at a "concert party" was thrown into the latrine and there shot to death with much laughter from the guards.

In moments of boredom, according to the report, the German

guards would order a prisoner to go into an area where he was forbidden to be under threat of death. "If the prisoner followed the order," the report said, "he was shot for having left his assigned place. If he did not comply with orders he was shot for disobedience."

Death was always so close, the report said, that often the persons who were alive were carried away for burial along with murdered victims. "It often happened," the report declared, "that small children were thrown alive into the trucks along with the dead."

When a large group of prisoners arrived at a camp unexpectedly they often were put to death to obviate the necessity of entering their names on prison rolls. The report said that "whole families were executed, parents together with their children."

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Wholesale Slaughter by Nazis Bared by U. S. Refugee Board

Hull, Stimson, Morgenthau Brand German Measures as Clear Bestiality

By the Associated Press.

The War Refugee Board last night accused the Germans of bestial cruelty and murder by the million in Nazi extermination camps and backed up the charges with startling, eye-witness accounts.

The board, composed of Secretary of State Hull, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, and Secretary of War Stimson, made public a 25,000-word detailed report in which it asserted:

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

The report consisted of two eye-witness accounts of life in the Nazi camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in Southwestern Poland, prepared independently but almost precisely parallel.

Each included an estimate that more than a million and a half Jews from various European countries were gassed and their bodies cremated at Birkenau alone between April, 1942, and April, 1944.

One account by two young Slovakian Jews, who for two years had clerical posts in the camp through which they could keep fairly close track of events, set the figure at 1,765,000. The second account was by a non-Jewish Polish major. All three escaped. For their protection, their names were withheld by the board which said in an accompanying statement:

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent Gypsies—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe. This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free people of the world."

The board, of which John W. Pehle is executive director, is responsible for carrying out the policy of the Federal Government for a rescue of the victims of enemy oppression.

Over 6,000 Cremated Daily. Throughout the more detailed story of the two Jews appeared such gruesome statistics as these: "Conservative estimate" that 55,000 to 70,000 of 80,000 persons received at the camp were gassed; "lowest estimate" 30,000 gassed out of another group; one month's gasings, 50,000; total capacity of crematoria 6,000 a day, but for a period it was overloaded and bodies burned in great open pits.

Taken from the reports are these excerpts and paraphrases: "The mere fact of neglecting to give information on the whereabouts of a prisoner, not to speak of extending help, is punished by death. If the escapee is caught alive, he is hanged in the presence of the whole camp; but if he is found dead, his body—wherever it may have been located—is brought back to camp and seated at the entrance gate, a small notice clasped in his hands, reading 'Here I am.'"

Camp buildings are divided into little cubicles, each occupied by three persons, each cubicle "too narrow for a man to lie stretched out and not high enough for him to sit upright."

Death Rate High. "Working conditions were inconceivably hard, so that the majority of us, weakened by starvation and the inedible food, could not stand it. The mortality was so high that every day our group of 200 had 30 to 35 dead. Many were simply beaten to death by the overseers—the 'capos'—during work without the slightest provocation. Later a 'sick building' was set up. 'Actually this building was nothing else than an assembly center for death candidates. All prisoners incapable of working were sent there. There was no question of any medical attention or care.'"

At the same time, the so-called 'selections' were introduced. Twice weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, the camp doctor indicated the number of prisoners who were to be gassed and then burned. These 'selections' were loaded into trucks and brought to the Birch Forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barrack erected near the trench used for burning the bodies.

Typical Descriptions. Typical of the descriptions given of the fate of individual groups are these: "2,000 Frenchmen (Aryans), Communists and other political prisoners, among them the brother of Thorez and the young brother of Leon Blum. The latter was atrociously tortured, then gassed and burned."

Large family convoys arrived from various European countries and were at once directed to the birch wood. The special squad ('Sonderkommando') employed for gassing and burning worked in day and night shifts. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were gassed during this period. "The men (themselves prisoners) belonging to the 'Special Squad' lived separately. On account of the dreadful smell spread by them, people had but little contact with them. Besides, they were always filthy, destitute, half wild and extraordinarily brutal and ruthless."

Killed Each Other. "It was not uncommon to see one of them kill another. This was considered by the others a sensation, a change of fortune." "At the end of February, 1943, a new modern crematoria and gassing plant was inaugurated at Birkenau. The large ditch was filled in, the ground levelled and the ashes used as before for fertilizer at the farm labor camp of Hermense."

Next to the furnace room was a large 'reception hall' arranged to give the impression of the antechamber of a bathing establishment. "It holds 2,000 people and apparently there is a similar waiting

imply beaten to death by the overseers—the 'capos'—during work without the slightest provocation. Later a 'sick building' was set up. 'Actually this building was nothing else than an assembly center for death candidates. All prisoners incapable of working were sent there. There was no question of any medical attention or care.'"

At the same time, the so-called 'selections' were introduced. Twice weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, the camp doctor indicated the number of prisoners who were to be gassed and then burned. These 'selections' were loaded into trucks and brought to the Birch Forest. Those still alive upon arrival were gassed in a big barrack erected near the trench used for burning the bodies.

Typical Descriptions. Typical of the descriptions given of the fate of individual groups are these:

"2,000 Frenchmen (Aryans), Communists and other political prisoners, among them the brother of Thorez and the young brother of Leon Blum. The latter was atrociously tortured, then gassed and burned."

Large family convoys arrived from various European countries and were at once directed to the birch wood. The special squad ('Sonderkommando') employed for gassing and burning worked in day and night shifts. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were gassed during this period.

The men (themselves prisoners) belonging to the 'Special Squad' lived separately. On account of the dreadful smell spread by them, people had but little contact with them. Besides, they were always filthy, destitute, half wild and extraordinarily brutal and ruthless."

Killed Each Other. "It was not uncommon to see one of them kill another. This was considered by the others a sensation, a change of fortune."

At the end of February, 1943, a new modern crematoria and gassing plant was inaugurated at Birkenau. The large ditch was filled in, the ground levelled and the ashes used as before for fertilizer at the farm labor camp of Hermense."

Next to the furnace room was a large 'reception hall' arranged to give the impression of the antechamber of a bathing establishment. "It holds 2,000 people and apparently there is a similar waiting

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room on the floor below. There a door and a few steps lead down into the long and narrow gas chamber. The walls of this chamber are also camouflaged with simulated entries to, shower rooms to mislead the victims.

"The room is fitted with three traps which can be hermetically closed from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber through the furnace room. The gassing takes place as follows:

"Turned Into 'Shower Room.'"
The unfortunate victims are brought into the hall, where they are told to undress. To complete the fiction that they are going to bathe, each person receives a towel and a small piece of soap, issued by two men clad in white coats. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber in such numbers that there is, of course, only standing room.

"To compress this crowd into the narrow space, shots are often fired to induce those already at the far end to huddle still closer together. When everybody is inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then there is a short pause, presumably to allow the room temperature to rise to a certain level, after which SS men with gas masks climb on the roof, open the traps and shake down a preparation in powder form out of tin cans labeled 'Cyclon—for use against vermin' which is manufactured by a Hamburg concern. It is presumed that this is a 'cyanide' mixture of some sort which turns into gas at a certain temperature.

"After three minutes, every one in the chamber is dead."

The bodies are then taken out and burned.

Only Jews Are Gassed.
"On principle only Jews are gassed, Aryans very seldom, as they are usually given 'special treatment' by shooting.

"Prominent guests from Berlin were present at the inauguration of the first crematorium in March, 1943. The 'program' consisted of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Cracow Jews. The guests, both officers and civilians, were extremely satisfied with the results and the special peephole fitted into the

door of the gas chamber was in constant use."

There is a "block recorder" who keeps the prisoners' files.

His work is one of great responsibility and he has to keep his ledgers with painful exactitude as the index cards only indicate the number and not the name of the prisoners, errors are fatal.

"For instance, if the recorder has noted down a death by mistake, and that often occurs with the unusually high mortality—the discrepancy is simply straightened out by killing the bearer of the corresponding number.

The report by the Polish major asserted that prisoners were used for experiments in sterilizing by X-ray, in artificial inoculation of women, as well as blood transfusions.

Hebrew Group Insists On Slayers' Punishment

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation insisted yesterday that the slayers of Hebrews be punished by the United Nations as war criminals, regardless of where these victims were slaughtered or what their citizenship.

The committee asked representation on the United Nations War Crimes Commission sitting in London preparing for the trials of war criminals.

The statement was issued here through the chairman, Peter H. Bergson, who criticized what he termed the "explicable" failure of the United Nations governments to take any measures that would "effectively interfere with this slaughter will be punished."

He said there was a widespread, but erroneous, impression that the War Crimes Commission would deal with all these war-time cruelties. "The truth is, he added, that the commission, under the interpretation of its chairman, Sir Cecil Hurst, has refused to take into consideration any acts committed against persons other than nationals of the United Nations."

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Details of Nazi Mass Murder Disclosed by Three Escapees

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25—Escape of two Slovak Jews and a non-Jewish Pole from German extermination camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland has provided the world with detailed, firsthand accounts of the ghastly program of mass murder of Jews and other prisoners which is being carried on at these camps.

All three of the men who escaped relate how hundreds of thousands of Jews from all parts of German-occupied Europe were funneled into these extermination centers, where the majority of them were gassed in special rooms and then burned in modern crematoriums.

The detailed reports of these prisoners who escaped to tell the story have just been released by President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board.

These reports corroborate and supplement the story which stunned the world when the Russian capture of Lublin brought to light the remains of the Majdanek concentration camp with its elaborate equipment for the gassing and cremation of inmates.

At Auschwitz and Birkenau, as at Majdanek, the victims were systematically robbed of all possessions, even clothing, and after cremation their ashes were used as fertilizer for vegetable gardens.

Difficult to Believe

In releasing these reports for publication, the War Refugee Board states, "So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place.

"But the governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which clearly substantiates the facts."

The two Slovak Jews arrived at the Auschwitz camp in April, 1942, from which they were immediately assigned to the work camp at Birkenau. They made their escape in April, 1944.

During this time they saw convoys after convoys of Jewish prisoners arrive at the Birkenau camp. Their tabulated estimate is that of these, 1,765,000 were burned and cremated.

At first, the gassing and burning was carried out in the Birch Forest where the victims were cremated in a large ditch, but in February, 1943, a new, modern crematorium and gassing plant was installed in the camp.

Hermetically Closed

At present four crematoriums are in operation at Birkenau, the men report. A huge chimney rises from the furnace room, around

which are grouped nine furnaces, each having four openings. When operating at full capacity, they were capable of burning 2,000 bodies daily.

The adjoining room where victims are disrobed before gassing is built to resemble the antechamber of a bathing establishment. From this there is a door leading down to the gas chamber, the walls of which are camouflaged with simulated entries to shower rooms in order to mislead the doomed prisoners.

The gas chamber is hermetically closed from the outside. Victims are crowded in so that there is only standing room and SS men with gas masks then open a trap door in the ceiling from which they shake down a preparation in powder form from tins labeled "Cyclon." This is presumed to be a cyanide mixture which is transformed into gas at a certain temperature. It is so powerful that only three minutes are required for extermination.

Worked in Two Shifts

When the Germans began their systematic cleaning out of the Polish ghettos, truck convoys arrived at the camp for 30 days without interruption. The extermination squads worked in two shifts, 24 hours daily.

As a general rule only Jews were gassed, Aryans very seldom, the men related. A "special treatment" is reserved for others—usually execution.

The cold-blooded ruthlessness of the program and the evident German pride in this systematic method of extermination were apparent when prominent officials made a special trip from Berlin to be present at the inauguration of the first crematorium at Birkenau in March, 1943.

The inauguration consisted of the gassing and burning of 8,000 Cracow Jews. It is reported that the guests were lavish in their praise of this newly erected installation.

All prisoners on entering the camps were tattooed with a number, and since these numbers ran consecutively it was possible for the prisoners to estimate fairly accurately the number registered at the camp.

Nazi Execution Camp

MOSCOW, Nov. 25 (AP)—Red Fleet, official Russian Navy newspaper, reported yesterday that an execution camp had been found on the East Prussian border where 2,000 Lithuanian men, women, and children were killed and buried in common graves by the Germans before their retreat.

The dispatch said 400 bodies had been found in one grave at the camp, located in Tubin Forest.

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