

OSWIECIM KILLINGS PLACED AT 4,000,000

Soviet Commission Reports
Death Camp in Poland Was
Founded by Himmler

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By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MOSCOW, May 7—More than 4,000,000 persons were systematically slaughtered in a single German concentration camp—that at Oswiecim in Poland, near Cracow—from 1939 to 1944. The Germans thus accomplished with scientific efficiency the greatest incidence of mass murder in recorded history.

This slaughter exceeds in barbaric intention and method not only the greatest brutalities of such infamous conquerors as Genghis Khan but also surpasses even Germany's own record in her previous prize exhibitions at Maidanek, Dachau and Buchenwald.

Such is the miserable tale made public today—on the eve of the official end of the European war—by the Soviet Union's Extraordinary State Commission investigating the extermination center at Oswiecim. For some time various Russians have had a pretty good idea of the abysmal tale of Oswiecim, especially those now working on a Black Book of German infamy, but these are the first statistical data of the horrible camp's record.

According to the Soviet commission, "more than 4,000,000 citizens" of the Soviet Union, Poland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and other countries, including the non-Allied lands of Hungary and Rumania, were exterminated in Oswiecim. The means used were "shooting, famine, poisoning and monstrous tortures."

The report states that gas chambers, crematoria, surgical wards, laboratories and clinics were erected around Oswiecim to accomplish this mass-production monstrosity.

Such a report would seem incredible to American readers, except that now they have been "conditioned" by the horrors of Buchenwald, which already have been fully investigated.

According to the Soviet report, which included interviews with 2,819 liberated prisoners at Oswiecim, German professors and doctors conducted their experiments on healthy persons, including castration, sterilization of women, artificial infection with cancer, typhus and malaria germs, tests of the effects of poisons and the destruction of children by injections into the heart of carbolic acid or the simpler method of heaving them into furnaces.

The camp, it is charged, was organized by Heinrich Himmler, built in 1939 by his order and constructed in a huge series of buildings around the Oswiecim suburbs to house between 180,000 and 250,000 prisoners simultaneously.

The first crematorium was erected in 1941, but the next year, it is stated, Himmler inspected the camp and decided that "improvements" were necessary, so new furnaces were built by the German firm of Topf & Sons.

Public baths were installed for group cyanide poisoning, and because "the baths" output exceeded the crematoria's capacity, deep pits were dug where excess bodies were burned over huge fires.

The report states that in 1943 the frugal Germans decided to sell the unburned bones to the firm of Schterhm to be used for the production of superphosphates, which was done, and that, in addition to almost 113 tons of crushed bones, loads of women's hair were sold for industrial purposes.

Within twenty-four hours, each crematorium was able to consume more than 10,000 bodies, it is stated on the basis of information provided by Polish, Hungarian, French, Czechoslovak, Netherland, Yugoslav, Italian, Greek, Rumanian and Belgian survivors interviewed.

Besides the human guinea pigs kept alive for experimentation,

some 200,000 were utilized at various times for hard labor, but the weaklings were continually weeded out for the gas chambers.

The I. G. Farbenindustrie built a chemical plant near by in 1941, where explosives also were made, and hosts of "slaves" were used there in forced labor before they became weakened and then slaughtered.

It also is reported that hundreds of thousands of children, from infants to those up to 16 years of age were exterminated. Babies born in the camp were killed if they survived the attempted abortions on the mothers.

Tons of clothing, bedding and the personal belongings of the murdered victims were sent to Germany.

The report names a long list of war criminals responsible for these "unbelievable" crimes. Himmler heads the list. Many well-known Europeans were slaughtered and although their names are listed none of them is familiar to this correspondent.

Pravda, commenting on the monstrous tale, repeats the Allied pledge to hunt the criminals to the ends of the earth, adding "were it not for the Red Army, Europe would still be covered with packages of women's hair and crushed human bones trade-marked from Oswiecim."