

FINLAND UNMASKED

Crimes Committed by the Finnish-Fascist Invaders on the Territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic

The following communique has been issued by the Extraordinary State Commission for the Ascertainment and Investigation of Crimes committed by the German-Fascist Invaders and their Associates:—

ON temporarily occupied territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, the Government and Supreme Military Command of Finland, carrying into effect their imperialistic plans, sought to enslave Soviet people, to destroy the people's culture and convert the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic into a colony.

Instructions issued by the so-called "East Karelian Educational Department" of the Finnish General Staff, and seized by the Red Army in the headquarters of the 13th Coastal Artillery Regiment routed in June 1944, point out to army units the necessity of capturing the territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic and other regions of the Soviet Union.

It is said in these instructions: "Whereas Finland is now short of timber for building purposes, the rich forests of Eastern Karelia wait to be converted into capital... the forests in Eastern Karelia are mostly old and mature, whereas in Finland they are still young and little suited as material for construction. At the same time export of timber from Eastern Karelia, requires small expenditure as the country abounds in rivers and lakes. The economic advantages of such export are very great."

The Finnish Government with unexampled impudence proclaimed the whole Soviet population on occupied territory prisoners, and confined men, women, old people and children in special concentration camps, in which they instituted a regime of famine, torture and exhausting labour beyond human strength, for the purpose of the deliberate extermination of Soviet people.

A Committee consisting of the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Maj.-Gen. Kuprianov, the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, Prokkonen, and Col. Nikitin, with participation of the representative of the Extraordinary State Commission Makarov and medico-legal experts, has investigated and ascertained the unparalleled crimes committed by the Finnish-fascist occupationists on the territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic they had temporarily seized.

Destruction of Towns and Villages of Soviet Karelia

The town of Petrozavodsk, founded in 1703 by Peter I. on the western bank of Lake Onega, became a large industrial and cultural centre of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic under the Soviet Government. During the occupation, and especially before their retreat, the Finnish-fascist invaders subjected the capital of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic to fire, plunder and destruction.

In their implacable hatred of Soviet culture the Finns burned down and ransacked Petrozavodsk University,

★
Brothers, Vova, aged eight, and Borya, four, wounded by the Nazi invaders.



the scientific research institute of culture, the public library, the State Philharmonic Society, the palace of pioneers, the theatre, the music school, two normal schools, the industrial school, five general education schools, nine kindergartens, a cinema, the Physico-Therapeutic hospital and the Psycho-Neurology Out-Patients hospital, ransacked the State museum, and blew up or burned down all bridges and over 485 residential houses including the house where the famous poet of the eighteenth century, Derzhavin, lived. They barbarously demolished the monuments to Lenin and Kirov.

They totally destroyed the industry of the town, demolished the railway junction, buildings and fleet of the White Sea and Lake Onega State Steamship Administration, and all communication services. Before their retreat from Petrozavodsk the Finns blew up, burned down or demolished seven power-stations, three dams, a feeder sub-station and transformer booths, and shipped to Finland the valuable electrical equipment.

The Finnish invaders blew up and demolished the power-station, dam, dwelling-houses and auxiliary enterprises of the oldest Onega iron-and-steel and machine-building works, the equipment of which had been created in the course of centuries and especially under the Soviet Government. The invaders carried away to Finland the equipment of the whole 20 departments of this Works.



★
Red Army Officers stand over the bodies of Soviet prisoners murdered by the Germans

★
On the left is a Catholic nun

The Finns demolished the Petrozavodsk Ski factory, the largest in the Soviet Union, which before the war turned out over 500,000 first-rate skis a year. They burned down the saw-mills; demolished the refrigerating plant, printshop, liquor and vodka distillery and brewery, and mechanised bakeries; they blew up waterfront installations and departments of the shipyards.

In the occupied district of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic the Fascist invaders destroyed all mechanised enterprises and installations for timber storing and timber floating; they burned down four saw-mills and a furniture factory, the cellulose mill in Kondopoga, blew up the spillway at the Kondopoga State power-station, the Medvezhyegorsk power-station, the Povenets shipyards and the Kondopoga pegmatite plant, as well as many other factories.

The Finnish occupationists caused tremendous damage to structures of the "Stalin" White Sea—Baltic Canal; they blew up seven sluice gates, breakdown gates, the stockade walls of sluice chambers, dams, dykes, spillways, ferro-concrete piers.

The Finnish bandits wrought similar destruction in all towns and in most of the villages of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic.

Finns Make Slaves of Civilians

Directly after the invasion of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic the Fascist invaders proclaimed the Soviet people war-prisoners and confined them to special concentration camps. Six such camps were set up in Petrozavodsk, with about 25,000 women, children and old people confined in them. Concentration camps for civilians were also set up in Medvezhyegorsk, near the town of Olonets, on the Ilyinskoye State Farm and in other parts of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic.

A most brutal regime of humiliation, exhausting labour beyond human strength, torture and violence was instituted by the Finns for the inmates of all camps. The camps were surrounded with high fences and barbed-wire entanglements. At 7 a.m. the "prisoners," irrespective of sex, age or state of health, were driven under escort to heavy, exhausting work. The "prisoner" Soviet citizens confined in the camps were issued 100 or 200 grams of bad-quality bread, and once in a while 200 grams of frozen potatoes or rotten horse-flesh sausage.

The guards of the camp headed by Col. Rolf Schield subjected to torture all confined Soviet citizens, without exception. The Finnish slave-owners beat up the prisoners for failure to fulfil their quotas of work, for incorrect stacking of firewood or for failure to display sufficient respect for the guards, or they were beaten or tortured without any pretext at all. As a measure of punishment prisoners were given no food for two or three days, or placed in solitary cells.

Heels Burned with Red-Hot Irons

The Finnish hangmen subjected Soviet civilian "prisoners" to incredible torture. The Petrozavodsk resident Novikov, who testified before the Investigation Committee, witnessed how, in Camp No. 2 the Finns selected 30 inmates, allegedly war-prisoners. They drove them to Leo Tolstoy Street and subjected them there to excruciating torture. They burned the heels of the "prisoners" with a red-hot iron, beat them with rubber clubs and then shot 15 of them. The remaining 15 persons were sent back to Camp No. 2 after 25 days.

The Finnish war-prisoner Private Vilho Kurgila, of the 1st Company, 2nd Battalion of the Bicycle Brigade of the Lagussa Armoured Tank Division, stated at his interrogation:

"When we entered the town of Petrozavodsk in autumn, 1941, we found no residents there. All of them had scattered in the neighbouring forests. The Finnish authorities issued an order demanding of the population that they immediately return to the town under pain of death. Special detachments were formed to apprehend the residents and drive them back to

Petrozavodsk. Thus they gathered the population and confined it into camps. One camp was set up in Kukovka, another in a place known as 'The road to Solomenchugi,' and a third camp was built behind the radio-station mast.

"We Took Everything We Liked"

"All people, old and young, were driven under escort to perform hard work. The appearance of these people was terrible—they looked entirely wretched and harassed. Very many of them could not stand such a life, and died. While the local residents languished in the camps, we Finnish soldiers had a good time in Petrozavodsk as well as in the neighbouring villages. The entire property of the local population and large food stocks remained in their houses. All this property was proclaimed ownerless, and of course we did not waste time and took everything we liked. We sent many things to our relatives in Finland. Especially active in these doings were soldiers of the 2nd Company of our battalion, but others did not lag behind them either."

In the camps the Finns tortured not only adults but even children, who were also considered "war-prisoners." The Finnish war-prisoners, Private Toivo Arvid Laine, of the 13th Company, 20th Infantry Brigade, stated at his interrogation:

"Early in June, 1944, I was in Petrozavodsk. At Petrozavodsk railway station I saw a camp for Soviet children. Children from five to 15 years of age were confined there. Their appearance was terrible. These were little living skeletons, wearing rags which defied description. The children were so exhausted that they had even forgotten how to cry, and looked at everything with indifferent eyes."

Child Prisoners Forced to Work

The Finnish slave-owners forced the "prisoner" children along with the adults to do work beyond their strength. The Finnish Private Aho Sulo Johannes, of the 2nd Independent Battalion of Coastal Defence witnessed how "during summer, 1943, over 200 persons, chiefly adolescents, were driven from neighbouring villages to the area of Tolbui and the Schitiki wharf for construction of roads. All these persons worked as prisoners guarded by Finnish soldiers."

In September, 1943, the 10-year-old boy Lenya Zuyev, who was kept in Camp No. 2, tried to climb the wire fence. A Finnish sentry noticed Zuyev, fired at him without warning and wounded the boy in the leg. When Lenya fell down the Finn fired at him a second time. The wounded Zuyev with great difficulty crawled to the territory of the camp.

Seven Families in Each Room

The witness Lakhina, who was confined in Camp No. 5, informed the Committee about the appalling living conditions of the camp inmates.

"Six or seven families lived in rooms of 15 to 20 square metres each. There was no bath-house or laundry in the camp. People took water from a ditch in which human corpses lay about. Soap was not issued at all. The 'prisoners' were lice-infested. The inhuman living conditions in the camp resulted in the development of epidemic diseases such as scurvy, dysentery and typhus."

Hunger and mass epidemics caused an extremely high mortality in all concentration camps: dozens of people died daily, and their bodies were taken to a cemetery two or three times a week. Here is what a witness told about this. The eye-witness Alexei Prokofyevich Kolomensky, who was kept in Camp No. 5 in Petrozavodsk from December 1, 1941, to June 28, 1944, testified:

40 per cent. Died

"I worked as a cart-driver, and had to carry dead from the camp to the 'Peski' cemetery located five kilometres from Petrozavodsk. The dead were carried there every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. According to my records 170 men died in May, 1942, 171 in June, 164 in July and 152 in August. Altogether 1,014 inmates died in our camp from May to December 31,

FINLAND UNMASKED—(continued)

1942. At the beginning of 1942 there were about 7,500 prisoners in the camp, and at the moment of our liberation by the Red Army 4,500 remained there."

The Committee received a letter from former inmates of Petrozavodsk concentration camps. They wrote: "For nearly three years we were surrounded with two rows of barbed-wire entanglements and watch-towers and guarded by armed sentries. We were starved and beaten with lashes for the slightest fault. The Commandant of Camp No. 2, Lt. Salavaara, also the Commandant of the Vilki Camp Lakoonen, displayed particular brutality.

Ate Mice and Dog Carrion

"Special camps were set up in Kutizhma, Vilga and Kindosovo for 'law-breakers,' chiefly children, young people and women. Living conditions here were no better than in medieval dungeons. Here Soviet people were starved, in winter they were driven to work in the forest wearing only torn rubber galoshes on bare feet. Here the camp inmates ate mice, frogs and dog carrion. Thousands of prisoners died of dysentery, typhus fever and pneumonia, receiving no medical assistance. The

fenced off from the rest by barbed wire. The number of war-prisoners kept in the camp varied from 600 to 1,000.

The Camp Commandant, Lt. Soininen Toivo, used to come to the barracks while drunk and beat up the war-prisoners himself, and also ordered his subordinates to beat them. The Commandant's Assistants Ingman and Salmelo, also the examining Magistrate of the camp, Lt. Schepalis and Military Official Schmidt, without any pretext, systematically and brutally beat up Soviet war-prisoners with clubs and lashes.

Soviet war-prisoners who in the opinion of the Finnish-fascist hangmen worked badly were placed on a high tree stump with their hands stretched out, and forced to maintain this posture for 30 to 90 minutes. In winter this kind of torture of war-prisoners resulted in the freezing of their extremities and in grave diseases.

Murderer Promoted to Corporal

The administrative personnel and guards of the camp not only tortured, tormented and starved Soviet war-prisoners, but also shot them for the slightest "offence." The former Soviet war-prisoner Belan stated that one of the Finnish guards shot a war-prisoner with a tommy-gun burst because he approached the barbed-wire entanglement. For this murder the camp Commandant Alapies promoted the murderer to Corporal.

According to the eye-witness Feklistov, in summer, 1943, the war-prisoner Bykov on his way back from work began to pick mushrooms and fell behind his group. The Commandant Soininen and the guard Hervonen met Bykov on the road on his way back to the camp, and shot him with pistols.

When the Olonets district was captured by Red Army troops, a registration file for sick war-prisoners was found at the hospital of the Olonets war-prisoners camp. This file supplies a vivid picture of extermination of Soviet war-prisoners by the Finns. Entries in the file show that in the first six months of 1942 alone, out of a total of 1,888 registered patients, 588 died in hospital as a result of general weakness, exhaustion and oedemata. The bodies of war-prisoners who died or were tortured to death were buried in a common trench dug specially for this purpose 100 metres from the camp.

The Committee of medico-legal experts exhumed and examined bodies which had been discovered in the cemetery near Olonets Camp No. 17. Medico-legal examination of the bodies revealed that the subcutaneous fatty cellular tissue, as well as the cellular tissue of the internal organs, was exhausted or completely absent, which testified to extreme exhaustion caused by protracted starvation. Some of the bodies had traces of shot-wounds in the head or thorax.

Finnish Fascist Hangmen Murder Wounded Red Army Officers and Men

As a result of examination of the bodies and the testimony of witnesses, it has been established that the Finnish-fascist hangmen starved Soviet war-prisoners, subjected them to torture, and also shot them.

Finnish-fascist scoundrels finish off wounded Soviet officers and men who fall into captivity. Below is cited part of the documents and testimony of witnesses in the possession of the Extraordinary State Commission which prove the unparalleled crimes committed by the Finnish White Guards against Soviet officers and men:

"PROTOCOL: We the undersigned—Military Surgeon of Third Rank Golynsky, Military Surgeon of Third Rank Pedaran, Junior Political Instructor Bestolov, Sergt.-Maj. Bochkarev, Stretcher-Bearer Zhukov, Red Armyman Bossenko, Surgeon's Assistant Ryabov—having examined the bodies of Red Armymen who were brutally done to death by the Finnish White Guard bandits, have noted the following:—

"First. The body of Red Navy man Kuleshov has the right ear cut off, the face bears traces of bruises inflicted with a rifle-butt and a number of bayonet wounds, the right leg is dislocated at the knee point and pelvic joint. Second. On the body of Red Navy man Ziv: face, skin, moustache and beard singed, large bruise in area of right eye, wound on left temple. Third. On the body of Red Army man Krivulin: wound inflicted by cold steel in the proximity of the right carotid, carotid opened up, collarbone broken and a number of wounds on the right shoulder, upper eye-lid of left eye cut out and eye injured. Fourth. The body of Red Army man Baranov: over six bayonet wounds in the thorax, cross-shaped wounds on both heels inflicted with cold steel."

On June 28, 1944, in the course of an engagement for the village of Pusko-Selga, the Finns broke through to a place where over 70 wounded Red Army officers and men were concentrated. The Fascist fiends brutally massacred the Soviet wounded, finishing them off with tommy-gun bursts, bayonets, knives and rifle-butts. Three men—Sergt. Markov, Red Army man Krivoruchko and Kryuchkov—escaped this brutal massacre by feigning death.

"When the firing ceased," Sergt. Markov said, "the Finnish officers and men began to search our killed and wounded. Sergt. Shchuchka, wounded in the leg, lay within several metres of me. Four Finns came over to him, tore off the Guardsmen's badge from his tunic and shot him. Another group of Finns bayoneted and slashed with knives the wounded Second Lt. Baranov. The groans of men being killed were heard all around. Several wounded men tried to escape, and began to

crawl away, but the Finnish officers and men overtook them and brutally finished them off."

On July 11 and 12, 1944, Major of Medical Service, Professor of Pathological Anatomy, Doctor of Medical Science Brail made a post-mortem examination of bodies of officers and men of the Red Army brutally tortured to death by the Finns in the area of Lake Kotojarvi. The post-mortem examination revealed that wounded men had been killed after the engagement by Finnish officers and men: 34 men were killed with single shots or tommy-gun bursts, one man had his skull-bones smashed with a heavy blunt weapon, six men were shot and simultaneously their skulls were smashed with a blunt weapon.

Deliberate extermination of wounded Red Army officers and men by Finnish troops has been confirmed by the testimony of numerous Finnish war-prisoners. Private Heiskanen Juho, of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, stated at his interrogation:

"In Petrozavodsk we met on our way captured Red Army men. They were driven on by blows with rifle-butts. I saw a wounded Red Armyman. One of our men took a tommy-gun and shot him outright." Private Vaine Nevaranta, of the 21st Independent Battalion of the Finnish Army, stated:

"Our battalion launched an offensive north of Medvezhyegorsk. During this engagement about 100 Red Armymen were taken prisoner. They were escorted to the rear. Lt. Niemi guarded the wounded Red Armymen himself, saying they would be brought along later in carts. When the rest of the prisoners were at a sufficient distance from this place, Niemi began to shoot the wounded Red Armymen with his pistol. He personally shot eight men, and ordered one tommy-gunner to finish off the rest. All the men of our platoon witnessed this."

Instructions for Marauding

Similar testimony was given to the Committee by Private Niemi Leopold, orderly of the Chief of the Rear Establishments of the 27th Infantry Regiment, 18th Division. He said:

"I know of many instances when Finnish officers and men shot Russian war-prisoners. In March, 1942, during the capture of Hogland Island, we took prisoner over 30 Russian sailors. I saw men of our 1st Battalion shooting three of them near the road, and the rest of them were shot after interrogation. The officers said that Russian sailors were inveterate Bolsheviks and they must not be left alive. Maj.-Gen. Pojari directed the operation for the capture of the Island."

A confidential Directive No. 511, issued by the headquarters of the 7th Finnish Infantry Division, instructs army units to engage in the most brazen marauding: "under all circumstances, whenever the situation permits, all clothing and equipment are to be stripped off the killed enemy men. In case of need war-prisoners may be used for this work. (Reference: cabled order of the headquarters of the Finnish Karelian Army)."

Pelkonen, former Assistant Chief of the Olonets war-prisoners Camp No. 17, captured by Red Army troops, stated at his interrogation:

"I fully agreed with Finnish-fascist propaganda. In the Russian nation I saw the old enemies of my country. With this opinion I went to fight the Russians. In Camp No. 17 for Soviet war-prisoners the administrative personnel of the camp, in particular my chief, Lt. Soininen, said that the Russians remained enemies of the Finns even in captivity and were not amenable to education, and that they would observe the camp regime only after physical measures of influence. For this reason I regarded Soviet war-prisoners as nonentities, felt my superiority over them and, taking advantage of their helplessness, vented my anger on them at every opportunity."

Finnish Hangmen Should be Called to Strict Account!

The Extraordinary State Commission has ascertained that along with the Finnish Government and Army Command the following persons are responsible for all the crimes committed by the Finnish-fascist invaders on the territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic.

The Chief of the Administration of Eastern Karelia, Lt.-Col. Kotelainen; the Chief of Staff of the Administration of Eastern Karelia, Maj.-Gen. Arrajuri; the Commander of the 8th Division of the Finnish Army, Maj.-Gen. Polojarvi; the Commander of the 4th Finnish Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, Col. Vistora; Maj.-Gen. Pojari; Col. Rolf Schield; the Military Commandant of Petrozavodsk, Capt. Laurikainen; the Assistant Commandant, Lt. Elomoa; the Commandants of concentration camps in Petrozavodsk: Vilki Lakoonen (Lt. Salavaara, Maj. Kuurema, Lt. Kallio, Lt. Tolonen Pentti, Lt. Nuotto Jussi, Errikainen, Kangas, the Assistant Commandants of camp: Ingman, Airola and Seppela; Chief of the camp office, Saraioki; the Commandants of Olonets Camp No. 17, Lt. Alapies, Lt. Soininen Toivo; Assistants of the camp Commandant, Salmelo, Pelkonen; the examining magistrate, Lt. Schepalis; the Military Official Schmidt; the Interpreters Karpelainen and Pistilainen; the Chief of Kindosovo Jail, Capt. Toivonen; his assistants, Kovala and Sihvonen; the Commandant of Kindosovo Camp, Sergt. Vikhula; Assistant Commandants of Camp No. 2, Sergts. Lindholm Veikko, Allagonen Pentti, Sivonen Emil, Julliluomma Mati, Vuori Arvo, Kassimaki Tukio, Lamber Veikko; the guard, Hervonen, Corporal Inkel Koivosala, the guard, Jullimanola Edverd, Lt. Niemi.

All of them must appear before the court of the Soviet people and bear severe punishment for the crimes which they have committed.



Women praying at the mass grave of murdered Soviet war prisoners and civilians.

doctor-beast Kolyhmainen, instead of treating the prisoners, beat them with a stick and fists, and threw typhus patients out into the frost."

This letter is signed by 146 Soviet citizens, former inmates of Petrozavodsk concentration camps.

Evidence of the inhuman brutality with which the Finnish scoundrels treated Soviet civilians confined in concentration camps is provided by the following far from solitary instance. A letter of the ex-student of Helsinki University, Private Salminen of the 2nd Frontier Chasseurs Battalion, fell into the hands of the Committee. In this letter he wrote: "Yesterday two Russians were shot because they refused to greet us. We shall give it to these Russians!"

7,000 Exterminated

As a result of forced labour, disease, torture and shootings over 7,000 Soviet citizens were exterminated in the Petrozavodsk camps. A Committee presided over by the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Dildenkin, the Chairman of the Petrozavodsk City Soviet, Stepanov, Professor of Petrozavodsk University, Bazanov, with participation of medico-legal experts—Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the Karelian Front, Major of Medical Service, Petropavlovsky; Chief Pathologist of the Karelian Front, Lt.-Col. of Medical Service, Doctor of Medical Science, Ariel; and others—having examined the "Peski" cemetery in Petrozavodsk, discovered 39 group graves and ascertained that no less than 7,000 bodies were buried in all these graves.

As a result of examination of exhumed bodies, the medico-legal experts ascertained that the majority of the buried persons died of exhaustion. Some bodies had wounds through their skulls inflicted by firearms.

In September, 1941, the Fascist Command set up Camp No. 17 in the town of Olonets of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, and confined there Red Army men and junior officers taken prisoner in the Svir sector of the front. The territory of this camp was surrounded by two rows of barbed-wire fences up to two metres high. Each barrack in the camp was also

THE MAIDANEK INFERNO

CRIMES committed by the Germans in Lublin have been investigated by a Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission for the investigation of crimes committed by the Germans in the town of Lublin, consisting of: (Poland)—the Vice-President of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, Witos (Chairman of the Commission); Prelate of Lublin Catholic Cathedral, the Priest Doctor Kruszinski; Doctor Sommerstein, member of the Polish Committee of National Liberation; the president of the Lublin Red Cross, the lawyer Christians; Professor Bialkowski of Lublin Catholic University; Professor Poplawski of Lublin University; the Prosecutor of the Lublin Court of Appeal, Balczak; the President of the Lublin District Court, Szczepanski; (U.S.S.R.)—Kudryavtsev (Assistant Chairman of the Commission); Professor Prozorovsky; Professor Grashchenkov.

The Hitlerites set up an extensive system of concentration camps on the territory of Poland: in Lublin, Demblin, Oswetim, Chelm, Sabibor, Biala Podlaska, Treblinka and other places. To those camps they brought for extermination hundreds of thousands of people from the occupied European countries—from France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece, Denmark, Norway and other countries.

The criminal Hitlerite Government established in these camps a system of mass extermination of groups of people it held to be undesirable, in the first place intellectuals from the occupied European countries, Soviet and Polish war prisoners and Jews. All that was found by the Commission for the investigation of German crimes in the town of Lublin leaves far behind, in its brutality and barbarity, all facts relating to the monstrous crimes of the German Fascist invaders already known to world public opinion.

1. The Maidanek Extermination Camp, Lublin

The Hitlerite hangmen set up a huge death factory at Maidanek in Lublin. They named it "Vernichtungslager" (Extermination Camp). Germans who had served in this camp and were taken prisoner testified before the Commission. S.S. Rottenfuhrer Theo. Scholen stated: "This camp was called the 'Extermination Camp'—'Vernichtungslager'—just because a tremendous number of people were exterminated there."

Heinz Stalbe, a member of the Kampf-polizei, stated: "The main purpose of this camp was to exterminate the greatest possible number of people, and for this reason it was named the 'Vernichtungslager' i.e. 'Extermination Camp'."

The "Maidanek" Camp, located a mile and a quarter from the town of Lublin, covered 675 acres. Its construction began at the close of 1940. By the beginning of 1943 six sections of this camp were complete. There were 24 barracks in each section, 144 barracks in all (excluding all kinds of structures used as storehouses, workshops, etc.) each housing up to 300 persons and more. The camp was fenced off with two rows of barbed wire. In addition all six sections were divided within the camp by a system of barbed wire fences with a separate guardroom at the entrance to every section.

All the barbed wire fences were electrified with high tension current. The whole territory of the camp was studded with tall towers on which sentries with machine guns were permanently stationed. The camp was heavily guarded by S.S. troops, and in addition there were 200 Alsatian dogs—a very important element in the guarding of the camp—as well as auxiliary Kampf-polizei formed of criminal elements.

2. Contingent of Camp Prisoners

Twenty-five to forty thousand prisoners could be housed in the camp at a time. At some periods up to 45,000 prisoners were confined there. The camp population was not stable. Incoming contingents were systematically destroyed and new transports of prisoners arrived to take their place. Thus, for most persons sent there, the camp was only a temporary stage on the road to death. In the camp were confined prisoners of war from the former Polish Army, captured as far back as 1919, Soviet prisoners of war, citizens of Poland, France, Belgium, Italy, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Norway and other countries.

Communique issued by the Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission for the investigation of crimes committed by the Germans in the extermination camp at Maidanek in the town of Lublin.

This was ascertained through:

(a) The large quantity of passports and other identification papers found on the territory of the camp belonging to citizens of various European countries who

slav; the rest were members of other nationalities of Western Europe.

(c) By the testimony of numerous witnesses—former inmates of the camp and German war prisoners who had served previously in the camp, as well as by the testimony of former inmates of the camp—Le du Corantin, a Frenchman; Tomasek, a Czech; Benen, a Dutchman and others. The numbers of those exterminated in the camp was constantly swelled by new victims, Soviet war prisoners, various population groups brought from the occupied European countries, various population groups seized by the Gestapo in the streets, at railway stations and in houses during systematic round-ups and searches which were constantly conducted by the Hitlerites in Poland and in other European countries, as well as by Jews brought from various ghettos set up by the Gestapo in Poland and various cities in Western Europe.

There were many women, children and old people among the prisoners. Sometimes whole families were confined there. The children were of various ages, including babies. Thus the camp was a place for the mass extermination of various European nationalities.

3. Torture and Massacres

The regime in the "Extermination Camp" was subordinated to the main task: mass extermination. The prisoners dragged out a hungry existence. The standard ration per prisoner was coffee made of burnt turnips once a day, soup of grass twice a day, and from 180 to 270 grams of bread made with an admixture of fifty per cent. sawdust or chestnut flour, which resulted in complete exhaustion, widespread tuberculosis and other diseases, and in mass extinction of the prisoners.

For the smallest "offence" prisoners were deprived even of this scanty food for several days, which in fact was tantamount to death from starvation.

A former inmate of the camp, the Czech Tomasek, informed the Commission: "that people were always starving hungry. There was a state of general exhaustion among the prisoners, to which many succumbed. The prisoners ate carrion, cats and dogs. Most of them were either walking skeletons covered with skin or unnaturally obese as a result of oedema and swelling caused by hunger."

A former inmate of the camp, p.o.w. Corporal Reznik of the Polish Army, stated: "The war prisoners were given hardly any food at all. They reached a state of extreme exhaustion, were swollen and even unable to speak. Crowds of them died."

The starvation regime in the camp was an essential factor in the general system for the extermination of the inmates.

Sadism at Roll-Call

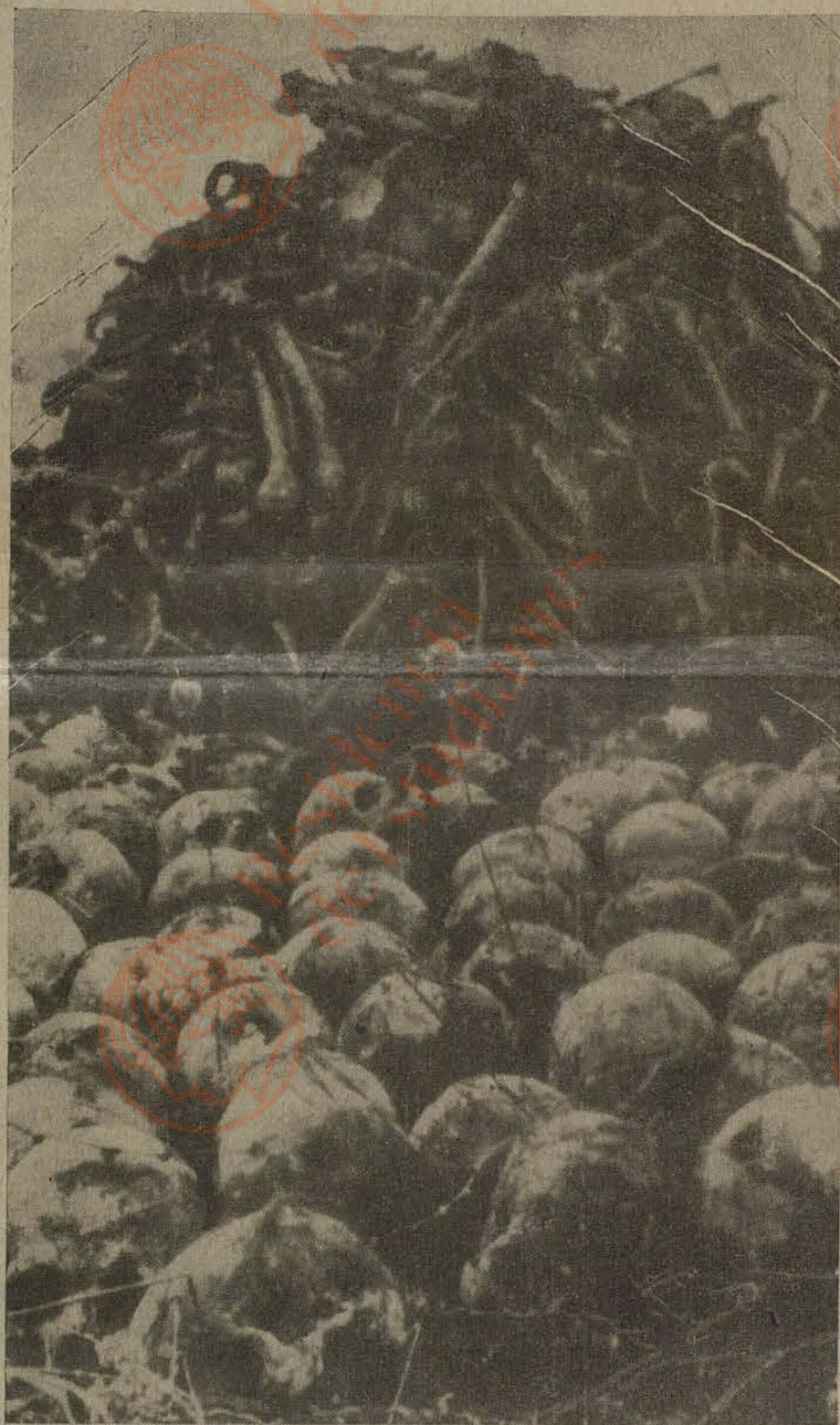
The working day began at four in the morning. The Germans broke into the barracks and whipped people up from the bunks, and the roll call began, at which all had to be present, whether well or ill: those who had died during the night were carried out by their neighbours on the bunk to the camp ground for check-up. The roll call lasted two hours and more, and was accompanied by beatings and the humiliation of prisoners. If a prisoner fell unconscious and did not respond at roll call, he was put on the list of dead and then finished off with clubs.

At six in the morning the prisoners were led out to work. The work they had to do was exceptionally hard and exhausting. It was accompanied by severe beatings, outrages and murders. Prisoners' squads which returned at eleven o'clock for the so-called dinner brought along the beaten and maimed people and the bodies of those who had been killed.

At evening roll-call S.S. trooper on duty read out a list of prisoners who had worked "poorly" and these were lashed, clubbed or flogged on a special bench. The number of strokes ranged from 25 upwards. Often people were flogged to death. An assistant professor of Warsaw University, Zelent, who had been confined in the camp, stated: "I knew a lawyer called Nosek, from Radom, who was given 100 strokes; he died three days later."

Sufferings of Intellectuals

Intellectuals and prominent persons confined in the camp were subjected to especially refined humiliation. The outstanding 72-year-old pediatric Professor



Mountain of skulls and bones at the Maidanek death camp. Photographs in this supplement by V. Temin.

perished in the camp. For instance, there were the passports of Maria Timofeyevna Goryunova, Nikolai Frantzevich Mazurkevich and other citizens of the U.S.S.R.; identification papers of Polish citizens—Czeslaw Sedlecki, Wladislaw Soniczni, Stanislaw Janke-wicz and others; identification papers of French citizens—Gabriel Labrousse, Emile Moltan, Lucien Rois, Auguste Chirol, Andre Prinson and others; identification papers of citizens of Czechoslovakia—Josef Glucze, Rudolf Feldinger and others; identification papers of Italian citizens—Gustav Muolo, Giuseppe Musich, Pio Tinosi and others; identification papers of Dutch citizens—Bertus van der Palm, Andertinus van der Irimi, Petrus Jansen and others; identification papers of Yugoslav citizens—Stepan Stepanovic, Rano Junit and others; identification papers of Belgian citizens—Leon Lazeot, Theofile van Hausran and others; identification papers of Greek citizens—Ean Zuren and others, as well as identification papers of persons of other nationalities.

(b) The book containing records of those who died in the so-called "camp-hospital," but who had in fact been exterminated, contains evidence concerning a considerable number of persons of various nationalities who perished. In March, 1944, of 1,654 prisoners who died, 615 were Russian, 247 Polish, 108 French and 74 Yugo-

S.S. WOMEN TORTURED THEM

Mihalowicz, 60-year-old Professor Pomirowski of the Warsaw Polytechnicum, Wonsowicz, a member of the Polish-Supreme Court (aged 75), and many others were compelled by the Germans to do heavy work and were humiliated in every possible way.

A former Polish inmate of the camp, Tadeusz Budzin, a Master of Chemistry, stated: "A large group of professors, doctors, engineers and other specialists—1,200 persons in all—brought from Greece, were assigned by the Germans to work beyond their strength, carrying heavy stones. Those of the scientists who became exhausted and collapsed under the strain of this hard work were beaten to death by S.S. troopers. By a combined system of starvation, exhausting labour, beatings and murders this entire group of Greek scientists was destroyed within five weeks."

The methods of torturing and tormenting were extremely varied. Many were in the nature of so-called "jokes," which often ended in the murder of prisoners. They included sham shootings combined with the stunning of the victim by a blow on the head, dealt with a board or some blunt object, and sham drownings in the camp pond which often ended in real drowning. Among the German executioners were specialists in certain methods of torture and murder. People were killed by a blow with a club at the back of the head, by a kick in stomach or groin, etc.

The S.S. torturers drowned their victims in the filthy water which flowed in the small ditch from the bath house: the victim's head was submerged in this filthy water and held down by an S.S. trooper's boot until death occurred. A favourite method of the Hitlerite S.S. troopers was to suspend prisoners by their hands tied at the back. The Frenchman Le du Corantin, who experienced this punishment, stated that a prisoner thus suspended quickly lost consciousness after which suspension was stopped; when he regained consciousness he was suspended again—this was repeated many times.

Hangings in Yard

For the least offence, especially on suspicion of an attempt to escape, the camp inmates were hanged by the German fiends. In the centre of every section there stood a pole with an arm fastened to it at a height of about 6ft., on which people were hanged.

"I saw from my barrack," stated one witness, Domashev, former camp inmate and Soviet war prisoner, "how people were hanged on the pole in the centre of the section."

Near the laundry in the space between the 1st and 2nd sections there was a special barrack with beams near the ceiling on which people were hanged in batches.

The women imprisoned in the camp were subjected to no less humiliation and tortures: the same system of roll-calls, labour beyond human strength, beatings and humiliation applied to them. Particular cruelty was displayed by the women S.S. troopers: chief wardress Erich and wardresses Braunstein, Ani Devid, Weber, Knoblic, Ellert and Redli. The Commission ascertained many facts relating to absolutely unparalleled atrocities perpetrated by the women executioners in the camp.

Victims Burned Alive

Heinz Stalbe, of the German Kampfpolizei, stated at a plenary session of the Commission that he himself saw the director of the crematorium, Oberscharfuhrer Musseld, tie a Polish woman hand and foot and throw her alive into the furnace. Witnesses Jelinski and Oleh, who worked in the camp, also told of the burning of living people in the crematorium furnaces.

"They took away a baby from its mother's breast and killed it before her eyes by smashing it against the barrack wall," said witness Atrokhov.

"I myself," said witness Edward Baran, "saw how babies were taken from their mothers and killed before their eyes: they would take a baby by one foot and step on the other, and so tear the baby apart."

Exceptionally odious was the assistant Chief of the camp, S.S. Obersturmfuehrer Tumann. He put groups of inmates on their knees in a row and killed them by blows with a club on the head, he set Alsatian dogs on prisoners. He took a most active part in all executions.

Thus hunger, unbearable labour, torture, torments, humiliation and murder accompanied by unheard-of sadism were employed as a means for the mass extermination of the camp inmates.

4. Mass Shootings of War Prisoners and Civilians

The mass extermination of the civilian population of European countries, including Poland and occupied Regions of the U.S.S.R., was the policy of Hitlerite Germany, which planned the enslavement and extermination of the leading and active part of the Slav peoples.

The fact that camps for the mass extermination of European peoples and war prisoners were set up in enslaved Poland was due to the desire of the Hitlerite ruling clique to camouflage and conceal these crimes as thoroughly as possible. These camps, including the Maidanek "Extermination Camp" were also places for the wholesale extermination of the Jewish population.

One of the methods of exterminating huge masses of people considered undesirable by Hitlerite Germany was by large-scale shootings, which were widely practised in the Lublin "Extermination Camp." The sanguinary history of this camp begins with the mass shootings of Soviet war prisoners, organised by S.S. troopers in November-December, 1941. Of a party of over 2,000 Soviet war prisoners only 80 persons were left—all the rest were shot, while a few were put to death by torture and violence. Between January and April, 1942, more parties of Soviet war prisoners were brought to the camp and shot there.

The Polish witness Jan Nedzialek, who worked in the camp as a hired truck-driver, testified: "The Germans killed about 5,000 Russian war prisoners in the winter of 1942 in the following manner: they were driven in trucks from the barracks to the pits at the former stone quarry and shot in these pits."

War prisoners from the former Polish Army, taken prisoner as far back as 1939 and kept in various camps in Germany, already by 1940 were assembled in the Lublin camp in Lipovaya Street, and soon afterwards were brought in batches to the "Extermination Camp" in Maidanek and there met the same fate: systematic torture, murder, mass shootings, etc. The witness Reznik testified: "In January, 1941, about 4,000 of us Jewish war prisoners were put on trains and sent east. . . . We were brought to Lublin, detained there, and turned over to S.S. troopers. Approximately in September or October, 1942, it was decided to leave in Camp No. 7 in Lipovaya Street only men who knew some industrial trade and were needed in the town; all the rest, including myself, were sent to the Maidanek Camp. All of us knew too well that the Maidanek Camp meant death." Of this party of 4,000 war prisoners only a few individuals, who escaped while at work outside the camp, remained alive.

Massacre in Forest

In summer, 1943, 300 Soviet officers, of whom two were colonels, four majors and all the rest captains or senior lieutenants, were brought to Maidanek. All of them were shot in the camp. Throughout 1942 mass shootings both of camp inmates and of civilians brought from outside took place. Tadeusz Drabik, a Pole living in the village of Krempec (5 miles from Lublin), testified that one day an S.S. trooper brought 88 truckloads of people of various nationalities and ages, men, women and children, to Krempec Forest. These people were taken out of the trucks, all their belongings and valuables were taken away and then they were shot over pits dug earlier. Throughout 1942 the Germans systematically practised mass shootings in Krempec Forest.

In Spring, 1942, 6,000 persons were brought to the camp at once and shot in the course of two days. On November 3, 1943, 18,400 persons were shot in the camp. Eight thousand four hundred persons were taken from the camp itself, while 10,000 were driven there from the town and from other camps. Three days before this mass shooting huge pits were dug on the territory of the camp beyond the crematorium.

"Rationalised" Murder

The shooting began in the morning and ended late at night. S.S. troopers brought out the people—stripped naked—in groups of 50 to 100 to the pits, laid them on the bottom of the pits face downwards and shot them from tommyguns. Another batch of live people was then laid upon the dead bodies and shot in the same manner, and so on until the pits were filled. Then the bodies were covered with a thin layer of earth and two or three days later removed and burnt in the crematorium or on bonfires.

So as to drown the shrieks of the victims and the sound of the shots, during the shootings the Germans installed powerful loudspeakers near the crematorium and on the territory of the camp and broadcast lively music all day long. This procedure became common talk among the people of Lublin. Hermann Vogel, an S.S. trooper who worked in the camp, stated: "Besides people brought from the town 8,400 persons were taken on that day from Lublin Camp and shot. I know this figure exactly, because next day an official report on the extermination of 8,400 persons was presented to the clothing storehouse where I worked, as we had to write off their clothing."



Members of the Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission examine heaps of footwear removed from victims by the Nazis. Left to right: V. Prozorovsky, A. Witos and D. Kudryavtsev.

Stanislavski, a Polish prisoner, who worked in the camp office, testified about the shooting on November 3, 1943: "The Germans called this shooting a 'special measure,' and a report under this title was sent to Berlin. The report said literally: 'The difference between the number of prisoners confined in the camp in the morning and in the evening is the result of a special annihilation of 18,000 persons.'"

Residents of the village of Desenta often witnessed shootings during 1944 as well. Between March and July 22 (inclusive) Gestapo men used to bring large numbers of Polish people in trucks and carts: there were men, women and children among them. They were brought to the crematorium, near which they were stripped naked, and then shot in ditches.

"On some days," states the witness, "I was an eye witness of these mass shootings of Polish people, 'from 200 to 300 and more persons were shot.'"

Pyre of Children's Bodies

Kanunnikov, a Soviet war prisoner, was an eye witness of the shooting of 40 women with little children in the 1st section in July, 1943. Early in the morning the bodies of those who had been shot were brought to the crematorium to be burnt. In the latter half of May, 1943, S.S. troopers brought two tractor-drawn open trucks and one truck containing the bodies of Polish children to Krempec Forest. The witness Gangoi testified: "I vividly remember another instance, which I personally witnessed and to-day confirm absolutely: 'In the latter half of May, 1943, S.S. troopers brought in two tractor-drawn open trucks and one truck containing the stark naked bodies of Polish children to Krempec Forest. All the bodies of these children were stacked up in the forest and burnt.'"

Witness Krassowskaya reported to the Commission the shooting of 300 women brought from Greece in April, 1943.

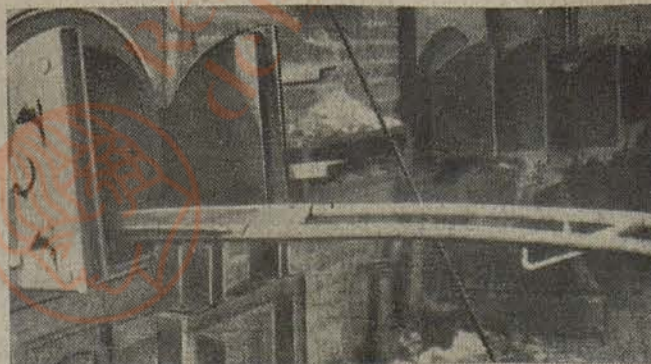
These above instances of mass shootings are only an insignificant part of the facts collected by the Commission. The Board of Medico-legal experts, presided over by Professor Szilling-Singaliewicz, a professor of forensic medicine of Lublin Catholic University, and consisting of Doctor of Medicine Rupniewski, Senior Doctor of Lublin Municipality; the Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the Front, Lt.-Col. of Medical Service Szkarabsky; the Chief Pathological Anatomist of the Front, Doctor of Medical Science, Lt.-Col. of Medical Service Kraewski; the Chief Toxicologist of the Front, Colonel of Medical Service Blokhin; and Medico-legal Expert of the First Polish Army Captain Grafinska, established:

Evidence of Exhumation

"During the examination of 467 bodies and 266 skulls, traces of bullet wounds were found in 342 cases, indicating that shooting of the prisoners by firing, chiefly at the



Cylinders of carbon monoxide used for the slaughter of prisoners.



A stretcher on which bodies were carried to the ovens.



A heap of ashes and bones of the victims.

FURNACES BURNED DAY AND NIGHT

back of the head at close range from a firearm of 0.9 calibre, was widely practised in the camp."

Thus by numerous statements of eye-witnesses, as well as by a number of other proofs (obtained after subsequent exhumations effected by the medico-legal experts), it has been established that throughout the existence of the Lublin camp the Germans conducted mass shootings of men, women and children, persons of various nationalities, some of whom were shot in Krempek Forest, five miles from Maidanek.

5. Asphyxiation with Gas

One of the methods most widely used for the mass extermination of people in Maidanek Camp was asphyxiation with gas. A board of technico-legal and chemical experts—presided over by the architect engineer of the town of Lublin, Kelles-Krause, and consisting of Major Engineer, Assistant Professor Telaner, Master of Technical Science Grigoryev and Master of Technical Science Pelkis, established that cells built on the territory of the camp had been used chiefly for the mass extermination of human beings.

There were six such cells. Some had been used for killing people with "S.O." gas, others for killing with the poisonous chemical substance called "cyclone." On the camp territory there were discovered 535 drums of "cyclone-B2" preparation and several steel cylinders containing carbon monoxide. Chemical analysis revealed:—

"The contents of the drums have been tested for the presence of hydrocyanic (prussic) acid with the reaction of the formation of Berlin ultramarine; benzidine acinate indicator and sodium picrate. Samples were taken from 18 drums, and 48 separate reactions were made. All the tests gave positive results, showing the presence of hydrocyanic acid with the above-mentioned reagents.

Thus the examined contents of drums represent 'Cyclone-B' preparation, consisting of specially prepared kieselguhr in a size of up to one centimetre saturated with liquid sterilized hydrocyanic acid. The contents of the drums discovered in the camp in large quantities and labelled 'Cyclone' are identical with 'cyclone-B'. Samples of gas taken from five steel cylinders have been tested for the presence of carbon monoxide by means of penta iodide and chloropalladic indicator. In all 18 reactions have been made with penta iodide and 10 with chloropalladic paper. All the tests with the above-mentioned reagents gave positive reactions, showing the presence of carbon monoxide."

On the basis of precise calculation used in the technical examination of the gas cells, chemical analysis of the carbon monoxide and "cyclone," the experts have ascertained: "Technical and sanitary-chemical analysis of the gas cells in Maidanek Concentration Camp fully confirms that all these cells, especially cells Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, were destined and used for the large-scale systematic extermination of people by poisoning with general poison gases such as hydrocyanic acid (the 'cyclone' preparation) and carbon monoxide."

Gas Cells Had Room for 1,914

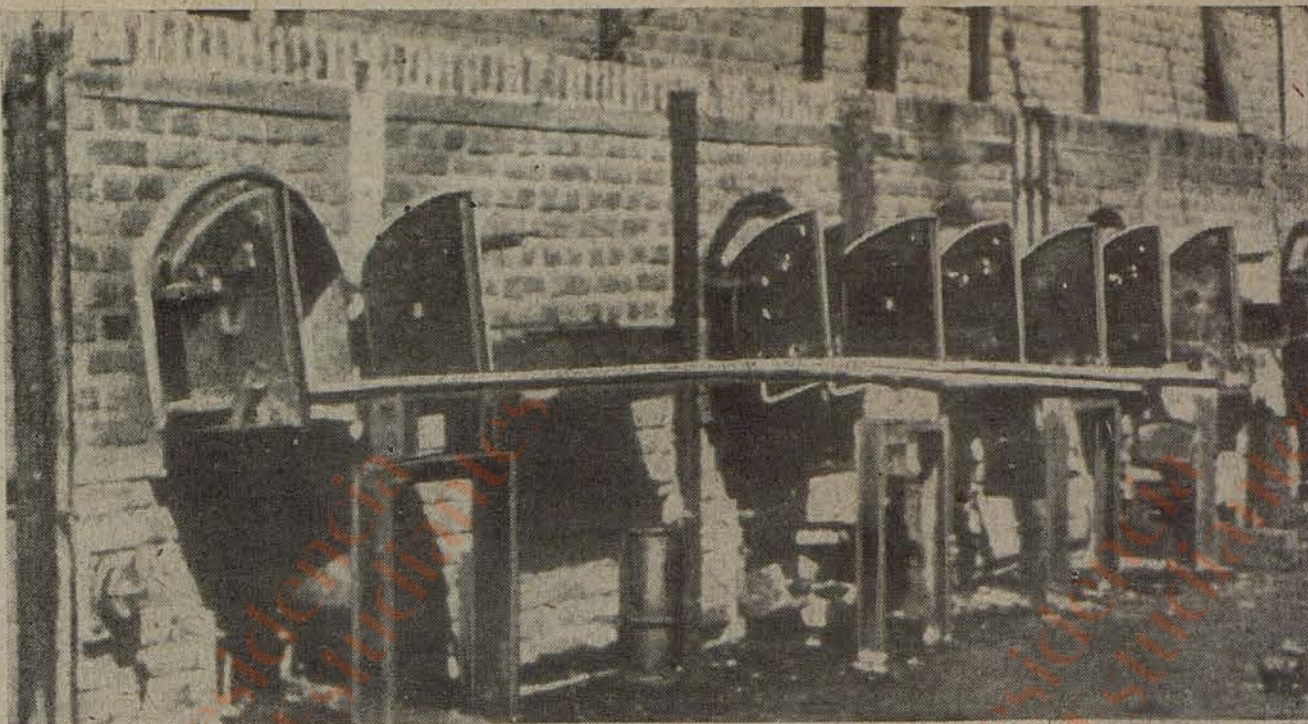
When all the cells equipped for poisoning were in action simultaneously, it was possible to kill 1,914 people at a time. It has been ascertained that in these gas cells were poisoned all who were exhausted by hunger, weakened by unendurable labour and the brutal regime, prisoners unfit for manual labour, all typhus cases and all others whom the Germans thought it necessary to murder.

In the course of investigation there has been collected a large number of instances of mass poisoning of prisoners in the gas cells in Maidanek Camp. The witness Stanislawski stated to the Commission: "In March, 1943, 300 Poles were murdered in a gas cell. On June 20, 1943, 350 people were stripped of their clothes in the first section and were driven naked to the bathhouse and thence to the gas cell, where they were asphyxiated; on October 14, 1943, 270 people were murdered in the same way." Witness Zelent cites the fact of the asphyxiation of 87 Poles with gas on March 15, 1944.



Left: Canisters of "Cyclone"—a poisonous chemical used for killing prisoners.

Below: Doors leading to the gas cells.



Cremation ovens at Maidanek

The eye-witness Jan Wolski, a Pole, former inmate of the camp, gave the following testimony concerning mass poisoning with gas: "In October, 1942, a great number of women and children were brought to the camp. Those in good health were picked out for work, while the exhausted and sick women as well as children were asphyxiated in a gas cell. In March, 1943, 250 more women and children were murdered with gas in the same cell, and several days later 300 more persons of various nationalities were asphyxiated. On May 16 or 17, 1943, 158 children of two to ten years of age were brought to the camp in trucks. These children were murdered in a gas cell. In June, 1943, the camp administration gathered all sick war prisoners and camp inmates—about 600 in all—and murdered all of them in the gas cells."

At a session of the Commission German S.S. men who had served in the camp related the following about the large-scale gassing of people: S.S. Rottenfuehrer Haenschke stated that on September 15, 1942, 350 people, including women and children, were killed in a gas cell. S.S. Oberscharfuehrer Ternes told the Commission about the asphyxiation of 500 people, including many women and children, in the gas cells on October 16, 1943.

The selection of people for asphyxiation was done systematically by the German camp doctors Blanke and Rindfleisch. The same Ternes stated: "On the evening of October 21, 1943, Camp Doctor S.S. Unterscharfuehrer Rindfleisch told me that on that very day 300 children of three to ten years of age had been asphyxiated with the 'cyclone' preparation in a gas cell."

Bodies were regularly removed from the gas cells to be burned in the crematorium or on bonfires. The bodies were transported on trucks or on special platforms hauled by tractors. Many eyewitnesses gave evidence on this point. The German p.o.w. S.S. Rottenfuehrer Teo Scholen, who had worked in the camp, stated: "I often saw this truck, with a trailer attached, running from the gas cell to the crematorium and back. It took the dead bodies from the gas cell, and then returned empty."

Murder Vans

The Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission has ascertained that at Lublin, besides the gas cells, the Germans used a specially equipped truck, a so-called "murder van." Two witnesses, a former soldier of the Polish Army, Stetdiner, and a Soviet p.o.w., Atrokhov, described in detail this machine in which the German fiends asphyxiated their victims with exhaust gases from the engine.

The discovery on the territory of the camp of a certain number of bodies with characteristic indications of asphyxiation with carbon monoxide confirms that the Germans used carbon monoxide for murdering the inmates.

The board of medico-legal experts, in the above-mentioned composition, considers that "extermination of inmates in the concentration camp was effected by various methods. At the early period of existence of the camp the Hitlerites chiefly practised mass shootings. Later on, along with this, they applied the mass poisoning of people in specially built and equipped gas cells by means of potent poisons—hydrocyanic acid ('cyclone' preparation) and carbon monoxide."

Thus the testimony of numerous eye-witnesses, given before the medico-legal, technical and chemical experts, establishes that in the course of nearly three years the Hitlerite hangman in Maidanek Camp systematically asphyxiated with gas hundreds of thousands of absolutely guiltless persons, including old people, women and children.

6. German Hangmen Tried to Cover Their Traces

At the Maidanek Camp the Germans at first used to bury the bodies of all the people they shot or tortured to death. Subsequently, especially in 1943 and 1944, they began to burn the bodies, and exhumed the bodies of people who had been shot from the pits where they had been buried. Early in 1942 two furnaces for burning bodies were built on the territory of the camp. As there were a great many bodies, in 1942 the Germans started building a huge new crematorium with five furnaces, which they completed in autumn 1943. These furnaces burned continuously. The temperature in them could be raised to 1,500 degrees centigrade. So as to be able to place more bodies in each furnace, the Germans dismembered the bodies, hacking off the extremities.

Four Bodies per Furnace

The technical experts who thoroughly examined the structure of the furnaces came to the following conclusion: "The furnaces were intended for burning bodies and designed to function uninterruptedly. Four bodies with hacked off extremities could be placed in one furnace at a time. It took 15 minutes to burn four bodies, and so with all furnaces working round the clock it was possible to burn 1,920 bodies in 24 hours. Taking into account the great quantity of bones discovered all over the camp (in pits, in vegetable gardens, and manure heaps), the Committee of Experts believes that bones were taken out of the furnaces before they could be completely consumed, and that therefore, in fact, many more than 1,920 bodies were burned in 24 hours."

Huge Bonfires

The Commission has established that over a long period, especially in the past two years, besides burning bodies in the special furnaces the Germans frequently burned bodies on bonfires, both on the territory of the camp and in Krempek Forest. Planks were placed across pieces of railing or automobile chassis, which served as fire bars, and corpses were put on the planks, then another layer of planks and another layer of corpses; from 500 to 1,000 corpses were placed on each bonfire. Inflammable liquid was poured over all, and the pile was set on fire. Every such bonfire burned for two days.

Witnesses from the village of Desenta (near Maidanek) and the villages Krempek-Gospodarek and Matyszek confirmed that they saw gigantic bonfires on the territory of the camp and in Krempek Forest, on which bodies of people shot or tortured to death by the Germans were burned. On the territory of the Extermination Camp and in Krempek Forest a large number of sites where bodies were burned have been discovered. A truck frame on which bodies have been burned was discovered in a pit on the territory of the camp.

After the exposure of the German atrocities in Katyn Forest the Hitlerites became particularly zealous in exhuming bodies from pits and ditches and burning them. The medico-legal experts have opened 20 such

Below: The torture barracks at the camp.

Right: Passports of victims.



FERTILISED WITH HUMAN REMAINS

pits, including 18 at Maidanek and two in Krempec Forest. In some pits there have been discovered considerable numbers of bodies which the Germans had no time to burn. For instance, as a result of excavations 42 bodies were discovered in Pit No. 1 near the crematorium, 368 bodies of men, women and children in pit No. 19 in Krempec Forest; considerable numbers of completely decayed bodies and skeletons were discovered in other pits. Immense quantities of bones have been discovered in a number of pits.

Bones Ground in Mill

In order to conceal the gigantic scale of their mass extermination of people, the Hitlerite fiends buried the ashes in pits and ditches, scattered them over the large territory of the camp vegetable plots, mixed the ashes with manure and used them as fertiliser. On the territory of the "Extermination Camp" the Commission has discovered over 1,350 cubic metres of compost consisting of manure, ashes of burned bodies and small human bones. The Hitlerites resorted to grinding small bones in a special "mill." This mill and its design have been described in detail by witness Stediner, a Diesel mechanic whom the Germans forced to work at this mill.

The former military commandant of the town of Lublin, Lieut.-Gen. Hilmar Moser of the German Army, stated: "I have no reason to keep silent on Hitler's grave crimes or to cover them up, and I consider it my duty to tell the whole truth about the so-called 'Extermination Camp' set up by the Hitlerites near the town of Lublin along the Kholm Highway.

"In the winter of 1943-1944 a great number of those interned were exterminated, including, to my great indignation, women and children. The number of murdered people ran into hundreds of thousands. The unfortunate people were shot or killed by gas. I was told many times that in the extermination camp the doomed people were forced to perform extremely hard work beyond their strength, and were urged on by brutal beating. I learned with indignation that prisoners in that camp were also tortured before they were killed.

"In the spring of the current year an immense number of bodies were exhumed and burnt in specially erected furnaces, evidently in order to cover up traces of the crimes perpetrated on Hitler's order. Gigantic furnaces were built of brick and iron and formed a crematorium with a large capacity. The stench of corpses often penetrated the town, at least its eastern part. It was clear, even to less well-informed persons, what was going on in that horrible place. Himmler himself visited the camp when he arrived in Lublin in the summer of 1943, which confirms that its activities were directed by Hitler's Government."

1,380,000 Corpses were Burned

The Commission established that over 600,000 bodies had been burned in the crematorium furnaces alone, over 300,000 on gigantic bonfires in Krempec Forest, over 80,000 in two old furnaces and not less than 400,000 in the camp itself near the crematorium.

In order to cover up the traces of their crimes the Germans exterminated those of the camp inmates who had worked in the gas cells and crematorium.

The Medico-legal Experts Board, in the above-mentioned composition under the direction of Professor of Forensic Medicine Szilling-Singalewicz, of Lublin Catholic University, as a result of examination of numerous medico-legal findings and material evidence, ascertained:

"In Maidanek Camp, during all four years of its existence there was carried out a deliberate, carefully considered and consistent system of mass extermination of people, both of those confined in the camp and those brought to the camp to be destroyed."

7. Hitlerites Plundered Valuables and Property of Camp Inmates

The Hitlerites systematically robbed the camp inmates and those tortured to death. Material evidence discovered by the Commission in the camp—a storehouse filled with the footwear of people who had been shot or who had died, a storehouse filled with various articles belonging to the inmates, as well as a storehouse which belonged to the Gestapo and was located in Chopin Street in Lublin—proves that all the stolen articles and prisoners' belongings were carefully sorted and sent to Germany.

Enormous storehouses filled with footwear, discovered in the sixth section of the camp, contain footwear with the trademarks of firms in Paris, Vienna, Brussels, Warsaw, Trieste, Prague, Riga, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Kiev, Krakow, Lublin, Lvov and other towns, footwear of various styles, footwear of men, women, adolescents, children of pre-school age, soldiers' boots and shoes and peasants' boots. Together with the footwear there was discovered in the storehouse a large quantity of parts of footwear (soles, inner soles, heels), sorted, packed, stacked and prepared for dispatch to Germany.

820,000 Pairs of Footwear

The Commission established that in the "Extermination Camp" alone there are more than 820,000 pairs of various kinds of children's, men's and women's footwear, which belonged to prisoners who were tortured to death



This field of cabbages was fertilised by the Nazis with human bones and the ashes of murdered people.

or died. In the huge Gestapo storehouse in Chopin Street in Lublin the Commission discovered large stores of men's, women's and children's underwear, as well as all sorts of articles of personal use, for example several shelves with balls of knitting wool, thousands of spectacles, tens of thousands of pairs of men's, women's and children's footwear, tens of thousands of men's ties with trademarks of firms in various cities—Paris, Prague, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam and Brussels—tens of thousands of ladies' belts, some of which had been packed and prepared for dispatch, bathrobes, pyjamas, bed-slippers, a large number of children's toys, teats for babies' feeding bottles, shaving brushes, scissors, knives, and a huge quantity of other household articles.

A large number of suitcases which had belonged to Soviet citizens, Poles, French, Czechs, Belgians, Dutch, Greeks, Croats, Italians, Norwegians, Danes and Jews of various countries were also discovered there.

Instructions to Camp Commandants

In this storehouse the Commission discovered part of the office files, which show that the storehouse in Chopin Street had been a base where articles were sorted and made ready for dispatch to Germany. Concerning the dispatch of articles which had belonged to persons shot in the camp there existed the following special instructions: "S.S.—Central Commissary Administration, Chief of Administration D-concentration camps. D-1 AC: 14 DZ. Oranienburg, July 11, 1942. To all commandants of concentration camps. According to a statement of the Central Administration of State Security, packages of clothing were sent from concentration camps chiefly to the Gestapo Administration in Bruenn, and on several occasions these articles had bullet holes in them or were stained with blood. Some of these packages were damaged, and thus outsiders were able to learn what the packages contained. In so far as the Central Administration of State Security will shortly issue regulations concerning the disposal of articles left after the death of prisoners, immediately discontinue sending articles pending final clarification of the question of the disposal of articles left after the execution of prisoners." (Signed) Glicks, S.S. Brigade Commander and Major-General of S.S. troops."

The testimony of captured S.S. troopers who formerly worked in the "Extermination Camp" reveals that it was a matter of routine for the personal belongings and property of prisoners to be plundered, and for various officials to use the property of persons tortured to death and shot. The German war prisoner Rottenfuehrer S.S. trooper Vogel stated at a plenary session of the Commission: "I was assistant chief of the clothing storehouse at Maidanek Camp. The clothing and footwear of exterminated prisoners were sorted there, and the best articles were sent to Germany. I myself in 1944 dispatched over 18 truck loads of clothing and footwear to Germany. I cannot say exactly how much footwear and clothing was sent away, but I affirm that there was a very large quantity. What I dispatched was only part of what was sent to Germany. Everything was sent to the address: Platzensee—Berlin, Straf-Anstalt."

War prisoner S.S. Obersturmfuehrer Ternes, a German Army officer, who was financial inspector of the camp, testified: "I personally know that money and valuables taken from prisoners were sent to Berlin. Gold taken from prisoners was sent to Berlin by weight. All this loot was a source of income for the German State. A great amount of gold and valuables was sent to Berlin. I know all this because I worked in the financial inspection in this camp. I wish to emphasise that large amounts of money and valuables were not registered at all, as they were stolen by the Germans who took them from the prisoners."

Findings of Commission

Thus the plundering of persons tortured to death in Maidanek Camp, as well as in other camps, was a definite source of income for Hitlerite plunderers of various ranks. On the basis of documentary material, the interrogation of witnesses of German crimes in the town of Lublin, in Maidanek Concentration Camp, in Lublin prison and in Krempec Forest, as well as on the basis of abundant material evidence discovered by the

Commission and the findings of the medico-legal, technical and chemical experts, the Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission has established:

1. The Maidanek Concentration Camp, which the Germans called "Vernichtungslager," i.e., extermination camp, was a place for the mass extermination of Soviet war prisoners, war prisoners from the former Polish Army and civilians from various countries of Europe occupied by Hitlerite Germany, as well as temporarily occupied regions of Poland and the U.S.S.R.

2. At Maidanek, the inmates were subjected to an atrocious regime. Methods of mass extermination of inmates were single and mass shootings and murders, mass and single killings in gas cells, hanging, torture, violence and organised starvation. In this camp S.S. and Gestapo hangmen engaged in the mass extermination of Poles, French, Dutch, Italians, Serbs, Croats and persons of other nationalities as well as of Soviet war prisoners and war prisoners from the former Polish Army—both persons confined in this camp and others specially brought to this camp from other places to be destroyed.

3. In order to cover up the traces of their criminal activities, the Hitlerite hangmen devised a whole system of measures, such as burning the bodies of prisoners on huge bonfires in Krempec Forest and in the camp, burning in a specially constructed crematorium, grinding of small bones, scattering ashes in the fields and vegetable gardens belonging to the Hitlerite administration of the camp, preparation of huge piles of fertilisers consisting of human ashes mixed with manure. The Hitlerite bandits, as a matter of routine, robbed the people they had tortured to death, so enriching rank and file S.S. troopers and Gestapo men as well as those at the top of the gang. Robbery of the inmates of this camp was a source of considerable income for the Hitlerite State.

The Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission has established that in the four years' existence of the Maidanek Camp the Hitlerite hangmen, on the direct orders of their criminal Government, exterminated by mass shootings and mass murder in gas cells about 1,500,000 persons—Soviet war prisoners, war prisoners from the former Polish Army, persons of various nationalities: Poles, French, Italians, Belgians, Dutch, Czechs, Serbs, Greeks, Croats and a huge number of Jews.

Names of the Criminals

The Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission for the Investigation of German Atrocities in Lublin has established that the main responsibility for these crimes is borne by the Hitlerite Government, the super-hangman Himmler and their S.S. and S.D. henchmen on the territory of Lublin province.

The main executors of these atrocities were: Obergruppenfuehrer Globotschnik, leader of S.S. and S.D. in Lublin; ex-Governor of Lublin province Wendler; leader of S.S. and S.D. in Lublin, Sturmbannfuehrer Dominnik; Chief of war prisoners camps in Poland Sturmbannfuehrer Liski; Camp chiefs Standartenfuehrer Koch and Obersturmfuehrer Kegel, Assistant Camp Commandant Hauptsturmfuehrer Meltzer; Hauptsturmfuehrer Kloppmann, Obersturmfuehrer Tumann, Oberscharfuehrer Mussfeld, Oberscharfuehrer Kostial, Camp Drs. Hauptscharfuehrer Erich Gruen, Hauptscharfuehrer Rindfleisch, Hauptsturmfuehrer Blanke, chief of the crematorium Untersturmfuehrer Wende; and all other persons who acted as hangmen and are guilty of exterminating guiltless people.

(Signed)

Chairman of the Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission, Vice-President of the Polish National Liberation Committee, WITOS;

Asst.-Chairman of the Commission, KUDRYAVTSEV (U.S.S.R.);

Members of the Commission: Member of the Polish National Liberation Committee SOMMERSTEIN, Professor GRASHCHENKOV (U.S.S.R.), Professor PROZOROVSKY (U.S.S.R.), Prelate of Lublin Catholic Cathedral the Priest Doctor KRUSZINSKI, President of the Lublin Red Cross CHRISTIANS, Professor of Lublin Catholic University BIALKOWSKI, Professor of Lublin University POPLAWSKI, Attorney of Lublin Court of Appeal BALCEZAK, President of Lublin District Court SZCZEPANSKI

The "Vernichtungslager" of Lublin

I Have Seen



Bodies of peaceful civilians—Poles, Russians, Jews and Byelorussians—murdered by the Germans in Lublin.—Photograph by E. Mukhin.

by KONSTANTIN SIMONOV

Author of "THE RUSSIANS"

IN the winter of 1940-41, on a vacant site ten miles square, a little over a mile out of Lublin, the Germans began to build an enormous concentration camp. In its arrangements it was an exact replica of the notorious Dachau camp in Germany. But it was several times larger than Dachau.

The first workers on the site were Poles—civil engineers and manual labourers. Soon they were joined by Polish and Jewish prisoners captured during the German-Polish war of 1939.

In August, 1941, the first 1,000 Russian prisoners of war and civilians were sent to the camp. They, too, were employed on the construction site. The work continued throughout the autumn and winter of 1941-42.

Barracks for 40,000

The numbers employed on the site increased steadily. The Russians were joined by a large group of political offenders, Czechs and Poles, transferred from other camps.

In autumn, 1941, the first batch of 2,000 Jews from Lublin ghetto arrived, followed in April, 1942, by 12,000 Jews and political offenders from Slovakia. Throughout May transport after transport arrived from Bohemia, Austria and Germany. The job was speeded up. By May, 1942, barracks had been built to accommodate about 40,000 people. The main work was done. The Gestapo decided that the camp could start functioning.

They continued to enlarge the camp, but the work proceeded at a slower pace. The place was officially called "Lublin Concentration Camp of S.S. Troops." But in May, 1942, in unofficial documents, letters and memoranda, it began to be styled "extermination camp." And in speaking, too, the Germans used the same term—"Vernichtungslager."

This was the biggest "death factory" in Europe. Its purpose was simply to exterminate, in the easiest, most convenient way, the maximum number of people—prisoners of war and political offenders. In other camps the Germans used now this, now that method of killing. At Lublin all methods were in operation.

"Cyclone" Gas

There were fields here with bonfires and incinerators in which tens of thousands of people were destroyed. There were order vans of the usual type, and solidly built concrete structures where people were gassed with "cyclone" gas. At Lublin people were shot in ditches, hanged, hanged by various methods.

The total number who perished here has not yet been ascertained. However, some preliminary conclusions can be drawn.

The camp functioned for over three years. When the Red Army entered Lublin they found in it only a few hundred Russians.

According to eye witnesses, last spring, when the Soviet troops were approaching Kovell, the Germans evacuated between 12,000 and 16,000 people from the Lublin camp. That would mean that there were less than 17,000 persons in the camp in the last days of its existence.

Murder as Industry

According to the daily reports found in the commandant's office, the average number confined in the camp during 1943 was 40,000. If we take the total number of people brought to the camp during the three years, the difference between this total and the figure of 17,000 amounts to many hundred thousand. This difference gives the approximate number of people murdered in the camp, excluding those who passed through the camp directly to their death, without being registered as prisoners.

All the figures quoted in this article have been taken from official accounts of the camp administration, covering the entire period of its existence. In April and May, 1942, large batches of Jews began to arrive from the Lublin and neighbouring ghettos. During the summer, 18,000 people were brought from Slovakia and Bohemia. In July, 1942, the first batch of 1,500 Poles accused of partisan activities arrived. In the same month a large batch of political offenders was delivered from Germany itself.

In December, 1942, several thousand Jews and Greeks were transferred to Lublin from the Oswiecim Camp, near Krakow. In May, 1943, 60,000 prisoners arrived

from the Warsaw ghetto. Transports continued to arrive at intervals of a few days all through the summer and autumn of 1943, bringing batches of never less than 1,000 prisoners from all the main German camps—Sachsenhausen, Dachau, Buchenwald, Neuheim.

The camp inmates could guess at once where the new arrivals had come from. Each camp had its special imprint. There were many who could not bear the sunlight. They came from Buchenwald, where they had worked in an underground, rock-hewn factory making fly-bombs. They never saw the daylight. Six months of this factory weakened the prisoners' eyesight to such an extent that they were no longer useful, and were sent to be disposed of at Lublin.

Most of the camp inmates were Poles. Among those murdered were hostages, genuine or alleged partisans, relatives of partisans and an enormous number of peasants, especially peasants evicted from districts colonised by German settlers.

The Russian and Ukrainian victims were second in number to the Poles. Then came the Jews, brought to the camp from every corner of Europe. Figures of murdered French people, Italians, Dutch and Greeks are also very large, amounting to several thousands of each nationality.

All Europe Represented

Documents relating to the victims, found at Lublin, show that they included representatives of the most diverse nations—Belgians, Serbs, Hungarians, Croatians, Norwegians, Swiss, Turks and even Chinese. I spent some time in a room which had been part of the administrative block of the camp. It was stacked with piles of documents, passports and identification papers that had belonged to the murdered people. Picking up papers at random, I found inside ten minutes documents of nationals of nearly every European country.



Cremation oven in Lublin. After being asphyxiated, victims were burnt here by the Nazis. Red Army men found many of these ovens full of human bones.—Photograph by M. Mikhailov.

the
Largest
Death
Factory
in
Europe

I cannot foretell what terrible things may come to light when these documents have been examined in detail, and the many witnesses have been interrogated. Possibly we may find traces of certain eminent Europeans who disappeared and presumably perished during the German domination. I stayed at the camp for only a few days, and spoke with comparatively few of the witnesses.

Reported Talk with Blum

But in those days I heard a striking story. Two Lublin engineers who had taken part in building the camp—Pyotr Dennisov, a Russian, and Klavdi Elanski, a Pole—told me how, at the close of April, or early in May, 1943, they ran into a Lublin Jew they had both known in peacetime. This prisoner was carrying boards to a building materials store. Addressing them, he pointed to a very old man who was also carrying boards. This man, he said, was Leon Blum.

As there were no S.S. men nearby at the time, both engineers ventured nearer, and the following conversation took place.

Dennisov asked: "Are you Leon Blum?"

"Yes," the old man replied.

"Prime Minister of France?"

"I was Prime Minister of France."

"How do you come to be here?"

"I arrived with the last batch of French prisoners."

"Why did you not try to escape, at home in France? Surely there was some opportunity?"

"Possibly. But I decided to share the fate of my people."

A Week Later

Several S.S. men appeared at that moment. Blum, together with the other prisoners, slowly lifted a heavy board and went on his way. After taking a few steps he stumbled and fell. A prisoner walking behind helped him to his feet. He again lifted the board, and went on.

Dennisov and Elanski returned to the store a week later, and again saw the man who had pointed out Leon Blum. They asked where he was. He pointed to the sky.

Soldier's Wife Sets
Pace at Stalingrad

Stalingrad's teams of volunteer builders, first organised last summer on the initiative of Alexandra Cherkassova, wife of a Red Army man, have repaired or built 11,000 houses and blocks of flats during the past year.

Cherkassova's teams have played a particularly big part in reconditioning the schools. Twenty-three out of forty schools functioning in the city were restored by them. These teams have also rebuilt five big hospitals, seven polyclinics and twelve nurseries.

Similar teams of volunteer builders exist now in all towns liberated by the Red Army.

Soviet War News

weekly

530 Grand Buildings Trafalgar Square
London WC 2

Telegrams : Sovnews London

Telephone : (Editorial) Abbey 2471
(Business) Abbey 1470

Prepaid Subscription Rates : 4s. 4d. per quarter
8s. 8d., six months

Cheques should be crossed and made payable to
"Soviet War News Weekly" at the above
address, where orders should also be sent

Glory to the Infantryman !

IN the battles of the summer offensive the decisive part, as always, has been played by our gallant Soviet infantry. Infantry is the backbone of the Red Army. As our Army Regulations say: "Only the infantry can solve many military assignments independently, and only the infantry can hold a captured locality."

"Queen of the Field"—the infantry still deserves its ancient name. The saturation of the fighting formations with all kinds of military equipment, and application of such powerful, mobile weapons as tanks, artillery and aircraft can in no way diminish the honourable role of the infantry in battle.

Collaborating with tanks, artillery and aircraft in the offensive, the infantry breaks the enemy defences, destroys enemy manpower and material, completes the encirclement of the enemy, consolidates conquered territory. In defence, the infantry holds fortifications and fronts and repels all enemy attempts to advance. It grinds down enemy detachments in stubborn defensive engagements.

The infantry can operate in the most varied territorial conditions, in forests, fields, mountains, swamps, towns, in all seasons and all weathers. The infantry can fight when nobody else can get through. With its own resources, the infantry can tackle not only enemy infantry, but tanks and aircraft as well.

The Russian infantry has always been distinguished for its high fighting qualities. The Russian infantry has borne its victorious banners through the streets of Berlin, Koenigsberg and Leipzig.

Peter I., paying the highest military tribute to the infantry, ordered the casting of the first statue of a rank-and-file member of the Russian Army, the gallant soldier Bukhvostov, to preserve his memory.

We glorify the Soviet infantryman, who is bearing the main burden of the war. His military skill has been sharpened in fierce battles with the German invaders. He has assimilated the experience of modern warfare, has become master of his arms. Good organisation, mobility and speed distinguish his operations.

Our tanks race deep into the enemy defences. But the infantry does not lag behind our mobile troops. It follows them persistently, consolidating the results of the deep breakthrough and the lightning manoeuvre.

When the war is over, when the dugouts are overgrown with grass, humanity will erect a splendid monument to the heroes of this war of liberation. And, among the grim and gallant fighters, the Soviet infantryman, grenade in his belt, automatic rifle across his chest, will justly have pride of place.

—From PRAVDA.

4th Anti-Fascist Meeting of Soviet Women

THE Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee, of which Valentina Grizodubova, the famous airwoman, is chairman, will hold its fourth conference on Sunday, August 20, in Moscow.

Among the speakers will be women who have distinguished themselves in industry and on the war front, and women partisans from Byelorussia, the Ukraine and the Baltic Soviet Republics.

The proceedings will be broadcast.

REMEMBER!

by ILYA EHRENBURG

WHILE the street fighting was still going on in Vilno I talked to some captured German officers. Among them was an Austrian army surgeon, a man of lively intelligence and keen powers of observation.

One remark of his struck me particularly. "The Germans haven't lost hope yet, you know."

Rather taken aback, I asked what they pinned their hopes to. Buzz-bombs? Super-total mobilisation?

"No. The shortness of your memories," he replied. "A year ago I used to hear them saying 'The Russians have a short reach.' Now they say you've got short memories."

Now that the Red Army has reached the frontiers of Germany, I want to speak once more of the savagery and bestiality of the Hitlerites.

They are trying to burn the evidence. I was in Bolshoy Trostyanets shortly after they ran away. Scorched corpses, still smouldering, were piled in stacks like firewood. The bodies of children were neatly laid at the end of each row.

This was evidently the last batch. All around I saw evidence of digging, fields of skulls. Ever since spring the Germans had been burning bodies at Bolshoy Trostyanets. It was one of their "death factories," where they disposed of Soviet prisoners, Byelorussians, and Jews from Minsk, Vienna and Prague.

"Stalin Will Not Forget"

They used the "gas wagon" method. Since its use was first reported, a certain German engineer has perfected this machine. It now has a tip-up body which automatically discharges the bodies of the slain. Over 100,000 innocent people were done to death at Bolshoy Trostyanets.

There were other "death factories" at Ponari, near Vilno, at Belzhets near Rava Russkaya, at Novy Dvor and Salibur. Trainloads of Jews arrived from France, Holland and Belgium. They were told there were jobs waiting for them. On arrival they were taken to barracks and ordered to strip naked for disinfection and a bath. The heads of the women were shaved and the hair was gathered into sacks.

Then these people, doomed thousand after doomed thousand, were asphyxiated. Through a trapdoor in the "bath-house" the dead bodies were conveyed to a furnace. The Germans estimated that each of these death factories could deal with 2,000 persons per day.

Gita Yakovlevna, a teacher of mathematics, lived in Yarashiev, in the Vinnitsa Region. With a group of other patriots she was arrested and sentenced to death. In her last moments she said to her companions: "There are our brothers at the front. They will return. There is the Soviet system. It cannot die. There is Stalin. He will not forget us."

And she shouted at her killers: "Do you hear me? Stalin will not forget this."

Catholic Evidence

Yes, Stalin is not only our Commander-in-Chief. Stalin is not only our inspirer. Stalin is our conscience. When we think of the man who in the autumn of 1941 knew that the Red Army would get to Berlin, who shared the grief of all our people; when we think of this great and simple man, we know that he will not forget.

Some people shamelessly assert that the Germans have behaved more decently in this war than in the last. I don't know what these gentlemen mean by "decent." I should like to introduce them to a priest I met the other day, Ganusevich incumbent of the Catholic Church at Rakuv. He said to me: "When I read books on the nature of evil I had no inkling that such heartless, blood-thirsty creatures could be walking the earth."

In the village of Pershey the Germans tortured two Catholic priests to death. They killed Gosiorovsky, the oldest priest in Vilno. In Dori they herded all the Orthodox Christians into a church and set it on fire.

I know the Germans will say that only isolated Germans did the killing. But



Vladimir Lobanov, a Soviet war prisoner, kept by the Nazis in the "Gross-Lazaret" in Slavuta, Kamenetz-Podolsk region, photographed after the Red Army captured the prison camp.

before me lies a summary of a report signed by one "Captain Sauer"—an account of the massacre of the people of Pinsk. Sauer writes:

"Fifteen thousand persons were driven to the place of assembly. Sick people and children were executed in the ghetto."

The detachments in charge were in all cases supplied with axes, hatchets and other tools, for it was found that nearly all the doors were locked. Where there were no cellars large numbers of people hid under the floors. Police dogs were used to scent them out."

They are Still the Same

It is not vengeance that spurs us on, but yearning for justice. We want to wean the Germans from war—both the supporters of Hitler and those mutinous generals who hope to correct in 1964 the mistakes of 1944.

With the Red Army go the shades of the slain, the old folk and sucking babes, Russians and Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Jews, Poles and Lithuanians. They all wanted to live. They all loved the sun. And they say to us: "Remember."

Perhaps some people, reading that the Germans surrender to our transport troops and even to children think they have "seen the light." Perhaps some Muscovites, looking at the gloomy procession of prisoners, wonder "can they really be such hangmen?" Perhaps the news of the rising of German generals rouses hopes in the naive reader that conscience has stirred in the Germans.

No, and again no. They are still the same. They surrender, not because they are sick of torturing innocent people. They surrender because they are afraid of death. It is not the children they are sorry for—it is themselves.

A day, sometimes an hour before they surrender, they still torture defenceless people to death. It is not conscience that is stirring in them—it is fear.

The criminals are trying to hide the evidence. For three years they killed unperturbed. In the fourth year they became anxious and started destroying dead bodies. That is their sort of conscience.

They are already preparing for the day when they will all cry in unison: "We didn't do the killing—it was Hitler!" Why did one of their colonels present his

Fuehrer with a bomb? The colonel realised that Hitler is evidence.

A war prisoner, Senior Lieutenant Philip, told me that the German officers now read with anxiety every report issued by the Extraordinary State Commission, in case their names are on the list. They have realised that trial will come.

We will remember all this in Berlin. We will remember the "Death Factories." We will remember those who issued criminal orders, and those who died. This is why the heart of every Soviet citizen beats faster when the broadcaster reads: "Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief . . ." We are not only on the frontiers of Germany—we are on the threshold of the Trial.

I spoke with men who had covered 250 miles in 10 days. They were tired and covered with dust. Their eyes looked sore, their lips dry. They said: "We are going on." They were inspired by the nearness of the German frontier.

Some foreigners imagine our offensive as a comfortable walk. The truth is that everything has been won by sweat and blood. What pen could describe the accomplishment of the infantry who crossed the Pinsk swamps carrying their guns, and went straight on to storm the city.

The Germans are deceiving themselves stupidly if they count on our bad memory. There is winter without thaw, and there is hatred which does not relax. Every fighter knows it is essential for us to visit Berlin. It cannot be otherwise. Our conscience forces us to do this.

Swords of Justice

We know how to forgive for ourselves but not for our children. We can't understand to ignorant persons, but not to inventors of gas vans.

We want to stamp out the vipers' nest. We want to sweep through Germany with our swords in order to eradicate Germans' love for the sword. We want to come to them, so that they never come to us again.

And we know that soon we will be on the River Spree. I saw our army, full with wrath. I know that justice will triumph. And when I, like any one of us, feel unbearably depressed at the spectacle of German crime, I suppress myself with the wonderful words, "Stalin will not forget this."