

BELZEC: PROPAGANDA, TESTIMONIES,
ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND HISTORY

This is a reprint of the 2004 first edition of this book. Since that year, the authors have found a wide range of additional documents and testimonies. Most of them are discussed in the two-volume, 1396-page study *The "Extermination Camps" of "Aktion Reinhardt": An Analysis and Refutation of Factitious "Evidence," Deceptions and Flawed Argumentation of the "Holocaust Controversies" Bloggers*, by Carlo Mattogno, Jürgen Graf and Thomas Kues, which deals with all three "Aktion Reinhardt" camps (Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka). The authors plan to completely overhaul this present study in conjunction with the two monographs in our series Holocaust Handbooks dealing with Sobibor and Treblinka. (For details see the books advertised in the back of this book). Since this process will take a long time, and because the present book has become virtually unavailable on the book market, we have decided to reprint it, and offer it for retail until the new edition becomes available.

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Bełzec

Propaganda,
Testimonies,
Archeological Research
and History

Carlo Mattogno



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Cover illustrations: top: sculpture at the Belzec Camp representing a pyre; left: excavated garage building (Document 13 in the Appendix); right: entry gate to the camp grounds (© C. Mattogno); bottom: parts of the grounds of the Belzec Camp are today filled with chunks of concrete and rebar. The memorial was designed by Polish artists Andrzej Solyga, Zdzislaw Pidek and Marcin Roszczyk and opened with great ceremony on June 3, 2004 (top and bottom image: © Lysy, 18 September 2011, commons.wikimedia.org); background: the Belzec Monument from a distance (© Ulranen, June 2010, Wikipedia commons).

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Introduction

For official historiography it is now indisputable dogma that, from March 1942 onwards, three extermination camps were set up on Polish soil – at Bełżec, at Treblinka, and at Sobibór – where mass murder of Jews deported there took place in homicidal gas chambers using the exhaust gases from diesel engines. However, this is neither the first nor the only version that circulated during the Second World War; it was the eventual result of a slow narrative evolution, the main phases of which can be followed in the propaganda, in the original historical version, and in the judicial proceedings of that time. Until 1946, there circulated several totally different versions of the extermination methods allegedly used in those camps, which nonetheless received the blessings of the Polish authorities. With respect to the number of victims in these camps, various absolutely ludicrous figures were reported: 3 million for Treblinka,¹ now reduced to 870,000; some 2 million for Sobibór,² now standing at 250,000; and 3 million for Bełżec,³ against 600,000 at present.

How and why did the present ‘authorized’ version of official historiography come about? And what is its historical value? In the book *Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*⁴ Jürgen Graf and I have exhaustively answered those questions for the alleged extermination camp at Treblinka. The present study undertakes the same task with respect to the alleged extermination camp at Bełżec. In the discussion which follows, I shall obviously make use of the results arrived at in my Treblinka book, without repeating the corresponding evidence each time, although some quotations become necessary.

I did not, on the other hand, think it necessary to reiterate the technical objections valid with respect to the use of diesel exhaust gases for homicidal gassings; they apply for the Treblinka camp just as much as for Bełżec.⁵ Aside from this, I have been able to make use of a precious tool – archeological research at the ‘scene of the crime’ – which unfortunately was not available at Treblinka and which, as we shall see, will furnish us with conclusive criteria for testing the official theses.

Carlo Mattogno

¹ Report of the Soviet commission of inquiry, Aug. 24, 1944. GARF, 7021-115-9, pp. 103-110.

² Testimony of Zelda Metz, in N. Blumental (ed.), *Dokumenty i materiały*, vol. I, Łódź 1946, p. 210.

³ According to witness R. Reder. Cf. below, Chapter II.4.

⁴ Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004.

⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 111-137.