

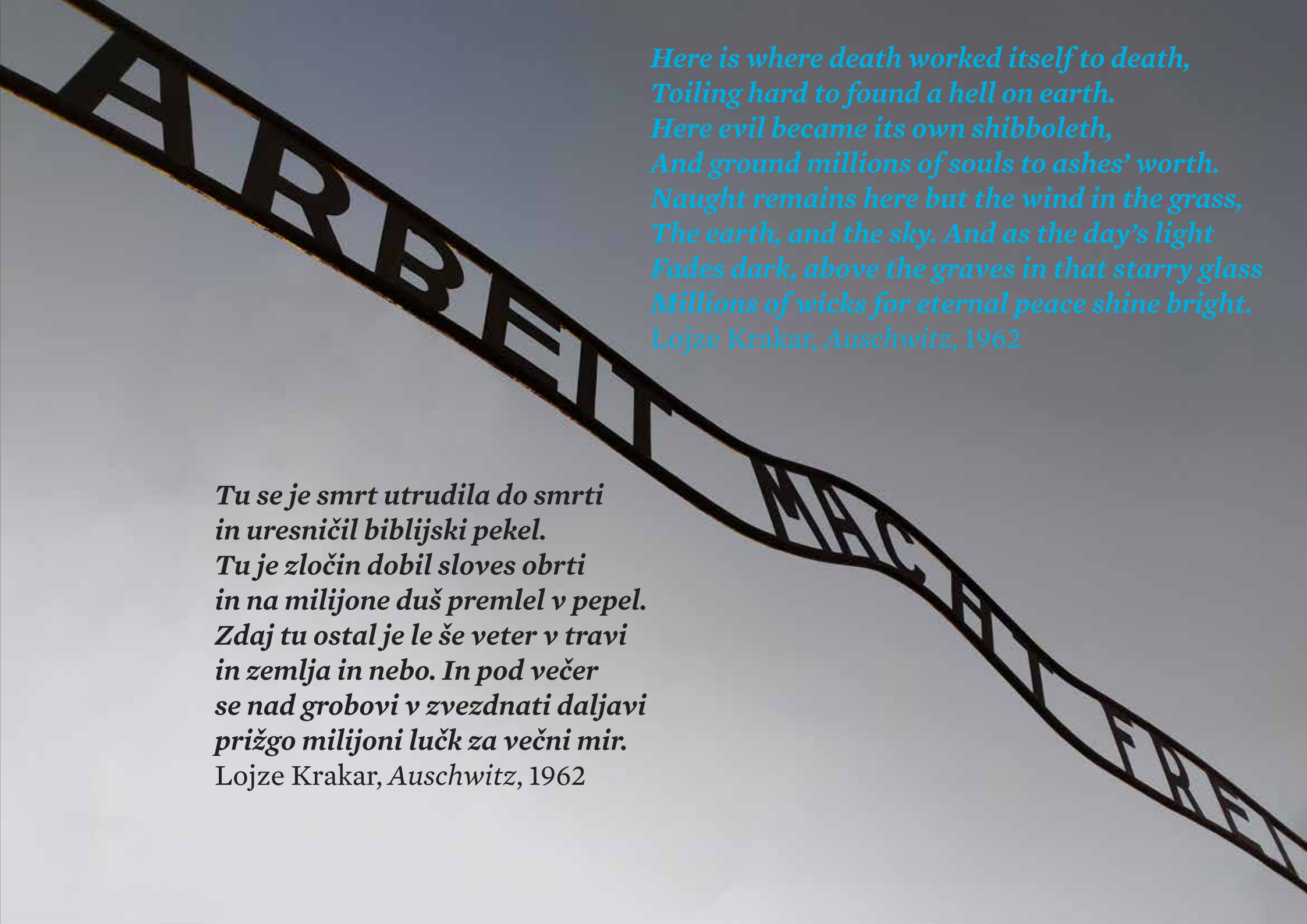
AUSCHWITZ

»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«

SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA

»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death...«

SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ



*Here is where death worked itself to death,
Toiling hard to found a hell on earth.
Here evil became its own shibboleth,
And ground millions of souls to ashes' worth.
Naught remains here but the wind in the grass,
The earth, and the sky. And as the day's light
Fades dark, above the graves in that starry glass
Millions of wicks for eternal peace shine bright.
Lojze Krakar, Auschwitz, 1962*

*Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti
in uresničil biblijski pekel.
Tu je zločin dobil sloves obrti
in na milijone duš premlal v pepel.
Zdaj tu ostal je le še veter v travi
in zemlja in nebo. In pod večer
se nad grobovi v zvezdnati daljavi
prižgo milijoni lučk za večni mir.
Lojze Krakar, Auschwitz, 1962*



Auschwitz I: glavni vhod z napisom
Arbeit macht frei, 6. december 2019
(fotografija: Domen Kodrič)

Auschwitz I: the main entrance with the
Arbeit macht frei sign, 6 December 2019
(photo: Domen Kodrič)

Spremna beseda

Foreword

S koncentracijskim taboriščem Auschwitz sem se prvič srečal kot osnovnošolec leta 1976, ko sem v takrat zelo priljubljeni reviji *Radar* prebral spomine francoskega Juda Sima Kessla (1919, Pariz), taboriščna št. 130665, z zloveščim naslovom *V Auschwitzu so me obesili*. Kessel je bil namreč zaradi poskusa pobega obsojen na smrt na vešalih, vendar se je vrv utrgala. Čeprav je bil nato obsojen na smrt z ustrelitvijo, mu je uspelo, da se je izognil tudi tej kazni, in je dočakal konec vojne. Spomnim se, da sem članek kljub precejšnjemu obsegu prebral na dušek. Mnogo let kasneje, leta 2002, ko sem kot zgodovinar in učitelj že poznal zgodovino in pomen Auschwitza na osnovni ravni, sem si ogledal film *Taborišče smrti* (izvirni naslov *The Grey Zone*) ameriškega režiserja in scenarista Tima Blaka Nelsona. Scenarij filma temelji na spominih romunskega Juda in zdravnika Miklósa Nyiszlija (1901, Șimleu Silvaniei – 1956, Oradea), taboriščna št. A-8450, z zgovornim naslovom *Bil sem patolog dr. Mengeleja v krematoriju Auschwitza*. Ne spomnim se, da bi me kateri koli film bolj pretresel. Življenjska pot me je kmalu zatem, leta 2003, prvič pripeljala do strokovnega ukvarjanja s holokavstom in v tem okviru tudi z Auschwitzem, kar počnem še danes. Prebral sem veliko člankov, knjig in dokumentov o Auschwitzu. A največ o Auschwitzu sem se naučil z do zdaj tremi obiski tamkajšnjega arhiva v letih 2013, 2014 in 2019. Ti obiski ne bi bili tako uspešni, če ne bi bilo izjemne naklonjenosti tam zaposlenih poljskih kolegov. Za to jim na tem mestu izrekam zahvalo. Najpomembnejše za moje delo o Auschwitzu pa je bilo srečanje z dvema preživelima taboriščnicama: Eriko Fürst (1931, Murska Sobota), taboriščna št. A-15981, leta 2010 in Sonjo Vrščaj (1925, Šepulje), taboriščna št. 82396, leta 2015. Brez njune pozitivne življenjske usmeritve in želje, da se trpljenje ne pozabi, ne bi bilo tega dela.

I had my first encounter with the Auschwitz Concentration Camp as a primary school pupil in 1976, when I was reading the, at the time, highly popular *Radar* magazine, which featured *Hanged at Auschwitz*, the ominously titled memoirs of the French Jew Sim Kessel (1919, Paris), camp no. 130665. Kessel had been sentenced to death on the gallows for an attempted escape from the camp, however, the rope snapped. Although he was then sentenced to execution by firing squad, he also managed to evade this punishment and lived to see the end of the war. I remember finishing the article in no time, even though it was a long one. Many years later, in 2002, when I was already familiar with the history and significance of Auschwitz at a basic level as a historian and teacher, I watched the film *The Grey Zone* by the American director and screenwriter Tim Blake Nelson. The screenplay of the film is based on the memoirs of the Romanian Jew and physician Miklós Nyiszli (1901, Șimleu Silvaniei–1956, Oradea), camp no. A-8450, with the intriguing title *I Was Doctor Mengele's Assistant*. I do not remember any other film having shocked me quite as much as this one. Shortly afterwards, in 2003, the Holocaust, and Auschwitz hand-in-hand with it, became part of my professional pursuits and have been to this day. I have read countless papers, books and documents on this topic. However, I learnt most about Auschwitz during my three visits to the Auschwitz archives in 2013, 2014 and 2019. These visits would not have been as successful without the generous support of my Polish counterparts working at the archives, to whom I would like to express my heartfelt thanks. The thing, however, that has proven most important for my Auschwitz-related work was meeting two Auschwitz survivors, namely Erika Fürst (1931, Murska Sobota), camp no. A-15981, in 2010 and Sonja Vrščaj (1925, Šepulje), camp no. 82396, in 2015. My work would not exist without their positive outlook on life and their aspiration to not let suffering fade into oblivion.

BORIS HAJDINJAK

direktor Sinagoge Maribor Director of Synagogue Maribor





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Na svetu ni kraja, kot je Auschwitz Auschwitz Is Unlike Any Other Place

Holokavst je sistematično uničevanje vseh za naciste rasno, versko, spolno ali zdravstveno nezaželenih ljudi. Za preganjanje in na koncu tudi usmrtitev ni bilo potrebno njihovo aktivno nasprotovanje nacizmu, zadostovalo je samo to, da so bili to, kar so bili. Na svetu ni kraja, ki bi bil bolj zaznamovan s holokavstom, kot je koncentracijsko taborišče Auschwitz: v času delovanja, od maja 1940 do januarja 1945, je bilo tam ubitih okoli 1,1 milijona ljudi, od tega 960.000 Judov ali skoraj vsak šesti od šestih milijonov Judov, ki so bili ubiti v holokavstu. Prav zato je bil 27. januar, datum osvoboditve Auschwitza, izbran za mednarodni dan spomina na holokavst. Auschwitz je tudi taborišče, v katero je bilo odpeljanih okoli 2.300 ljudi iz Slovenije. Večina je bila Slovencev, ki so bili v to taborišče poslani kot politični zaporniki. Toda tja je bilo pripeljanih tudi okoli 350 Judov, vsaj 78 Romov in vsaj en Jehovec z območja Slovenije. Za okoli 1.300 izmed njih je Auschwitz kraj smrti, kar pomeni, da je v tem kraju eno največjih pokopališč slovenskih žrtev druge svetovne vojne. Zato je 27. januar tudi slovenski dan spomina na žrtve holokavsta.

The Holocaust was a systematic destruction of the people who the Nazis deemed unwanted in terms of race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or medical condition. It did not take active opposition to Nazism for these people to be persecuted and ultimately also executed, being who they were was reason enough. There is no other place in the world more marked by the Holocaust than the Auschwitz concentration camp. During its operation from May 1940 to January 1945, about 1.1 million people were killed there – 960,000 of them were Jews, i.e. almost one in six of the six million Jewish people that were killed during the Holocaust era. The day Auschwitz was liberated, 27 January, was thus declared International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Among those who were taken to Auschwitz were 2,300 people from Slovenia. For the most part these were Slovenians sent to Auschwitz as political prisoners; there were, however, also about 350 Jews, at least 78 Romani and at least one Jehovah's Witness from the territory of Slovenia. For about 1,300 of them, Auschwitz was the place where their lives came to an end, which makes it one of the largest burial ground of Slovenian World War II victims. For this reason, 27 January is also the Slovenian Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: the main entrance – the so-called Gate of Death, view from the camp not long after the liberation (photo: Stanislaw Mucha, kept by: APMAB). There were more than 400,000 registered inmates at Auschwitz, who were – as was customary in other Nazi concentration camps – assigned a camp number. One of the peculiarities of this particular camp, however, was that actually many more people than that (at least 900,000) arrived there, but were not given a camp number. They were killed immediately after arriving at Auschwitz II-Birkenau, for the most part without any formalities.

Auschwitz II – Birkenau: glavni vhod ali t. i. Vrata smrti, pogled iz taborišča kmalu po osvoboditvi (fotografija: Stanislaw Mucha, hrani: APMAB). V Auschwitzu je bilo registriranih več kot 400.000 ljudi, ki so, kot je bilo običajno tudi v drugih nacističnih koncentracijskih taboriščih, dobili svojo taboriščno številko. Posebnost Auschwitza je bila, da je tja prišlo še veliko več ljudi (najmanj 900.000), ki sploh niso dobili svoje taboriščne številke, temveč so jih večinoma brez vseh formalnosti takoj po prihodu ubili v Auschwitzu II – Birkenau.

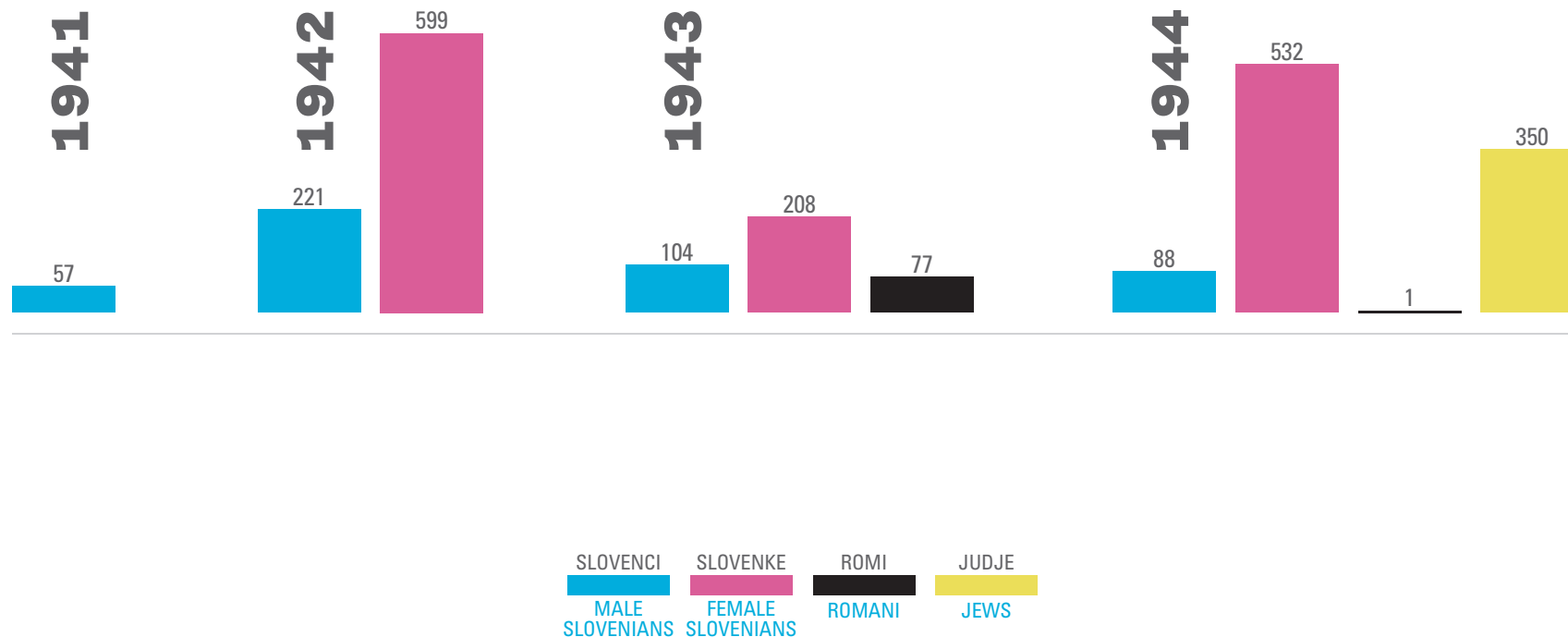
SKUPAJ

2237

TOTAL

Taboriščniki v Auschwitzu z območja današnje Slovenije 1941–1945
po letu prihoda (dopolnjeno glede na: Marija Kovač Zupančič, Linka Ksela (ur.),
*Auschwitz - Birkenau = (Oświęcim - Brzezinka): KL, koncentracijsko
taborišče: zbornik, 1982, str. 42, 49, 53, 54, 56 in 57–58)*

Auschwitz prisoners from present-day Slovenia 1941–1945
by year of arrival (supplemented based on data from: Marija Kovač
Zupančič, Linka Ksela (ed.), *Auschwitz - Birkenau = (Oświęcim - Brzezinka):
KL, koncentracijsko taborišče: zbornik, 1982, pp. 42, 49, 53, 54, 56 and 57–58)*





An unknown prisoner, camp no. 43818: on arrival at Auschwitz, 30 June 1942 (kept by: APMAB). Due to the high mortality rate, Auschwitz was the only Nazi concentration camp where all registered prisoners were eventually tattooed on the left forearm. For the prisoners of general series, the tattooing was introduced in mid-1942, i.e. when the unknown inmate seen in the photo arrived in Auschwitz. Judging from the *Pol:S* marking and the camp number, he was a Slovenian sent there from Begunje prison for political reasons. His ultimate fate is unknown. All the registered prisoners were initially photographed on arrival at Auschwitz. A total of about 200,000 prisoners were photographed, of which about 40,000 photographs have been preserved, including more than 800 photographs of Slovenians.

Neznani, taboriščna št. 43818: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 30. junij 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Zaradi velike smrtnosti je bil Auschwitz edino nacistično koncentracijsko taborišče, v katerem so postopoma vsem registriranim taboriščnikom na levo podlahet vtetovirali taboriščno številko. Za taboriščnike navadnih serij so to vpeljali sredi leta 1942, torej v času prihoda neznanca na fotografiji. Glede na oznako *Pol:S* in taboriščno številko je bil Slovenec, poslan zaradi političnih razlogov iz zapora Begunje. Njegova nadaljnja usoda ni znana. V Auschwitzu so ob prihodu prvotno fotografirali vse registrirane taboriščnike. Fotografiranih je bilo okoli 200.000 taboriščnikov in okoli 40.000 teh fotografij se je ohranilo. Med njimi je več kot 800 fotografij Slovencev in Slovenk.

AUSCHWITZ I (MAIN CAMP)
OSWIECIM, POLAND
13 SEPTEMBER 1944



COMMANDANTS QUARTERS

EXECUTION WALL

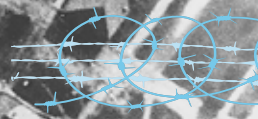
PENAL BARRACKS

HQ

ADMIN

KITCHEN

REGISTRATION BUILDING



ENLARGED FROM THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVE AND
CAPTIONED IN 1978 BY THE CIA




»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ


Nastanek koncentracijskega taborišča Auschwitz Establishment of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Koncentracijsko taborišče Auschwitz v bližini poljskega mesta Oświęcim (nemško Auschwitz) je bilo največje nacistično delovno in uničevalno taborišče. Vendar tako ni bilo že ob ustanovitvi maja 1940, saj je bilo ustanovljeno kot delovno taborišče za Poljake. Ta prvotni del se je kasneje imenoval Auschwitz I ali matično taborišče. V njem je bilo prvotno okoli 10.000 taboriščnikov, poleti leta 1944 pa okoli 18.500. Tukaj je bil sedež poveljstva in vseh osrednjih organov postopoma nastalega taboriščnega sistema, v katerem je bilo v poletnih mesecih leta 1944 okoli 135.000 taboriščnikov. Že od začetka so v Auschwitzu računali z veliko smrtnostjo in so takoj zgradili krematorij I z dnevno zmogljivostjo prvotno 100, kasneje pa 340 trupel. Auschwitz se je začel spreminjati v uničevalno taborišče potem, ko so konec avgusta in v začetku septembra 1941 izvedli prva poskusna ubijanja s plinom *Zyklon B*. Ker so bili rezultati v skladu s pričakovanji, so za uporabo tega plina v krematoriju I uredili plinsko celico z dnevno zmogljivostjo 700–800 ljudi.

The Auschwitz concentration camp near the Polish town of Oświęcim (German: Auschwitz) was the largest Nazi labour and extermination camp. This, however, had not been the case in May 1940, when Auschwitz was established as a labour camp for Poles. This original part was later called Auschwitz I or the main camp. More than 10,000 inmates were initially kept there and about 18,500 in the summer of 1944. The main camp included the headquarters of the camp command and all the central units of the gradually formed camp complex, where about 135,000 inmates were imprisoned during the summer of 1944. From the very beginning, the Nazis counted on a high mortality rate and immediately built Crematorium I with a daily capacity of 100 bodies initially and 340 bodies at a later time. Auschwitz was gradually turned into an extermination camp after the first trial killings by means of *Zyklon B* gas were carried out in late August and early September 1941. As the results were as expected, a gas chamber with a daily capacity of 700–800 people was set up for use at Crematorium I.



Auschwitz I: aerial photo, 13 September 1944 (photo: USAAF, kept by: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.). Marked on the photo: the *Penal Barracks*, the *Execution Wall* and the house inhabited by the camp commandant, Rudolf Höss (1900, Baden-Baden–1947, Oświęcim) and his family (*Commandant's Quarters*). Crematorium I, which was inactive when the photo was taken, is to the east of the *Commandant's Quarters* and opposite the camp administration building (*Admin*). The main entrance with the *Arbeit macht frei* sign is in the northwest corner of the *Kitchen* building.



Auschwitz I: zračni posnetek, 13. september 1944 (fotografija: USAAF, hrani: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.). Označeni so Blok smrti (*Penal Barracks*), Zid smrti (*Execution Wall*) in hiša, v kateri je živel poveljnik taborišča Rudolf Höss (1900, Baden-Baden – 1947, Oświęcim) z družino (*Commandants Quarters*). V času nastanka fotografije nedelujoči krematorij I je vzhodno od poveljnikove hiše in nasproti uprave taborišča (*Admin*). Glavni vhod z napisom *Arbeit macht frei* je ob severozahodnem vogalu kuhinje (*Kitchen*).

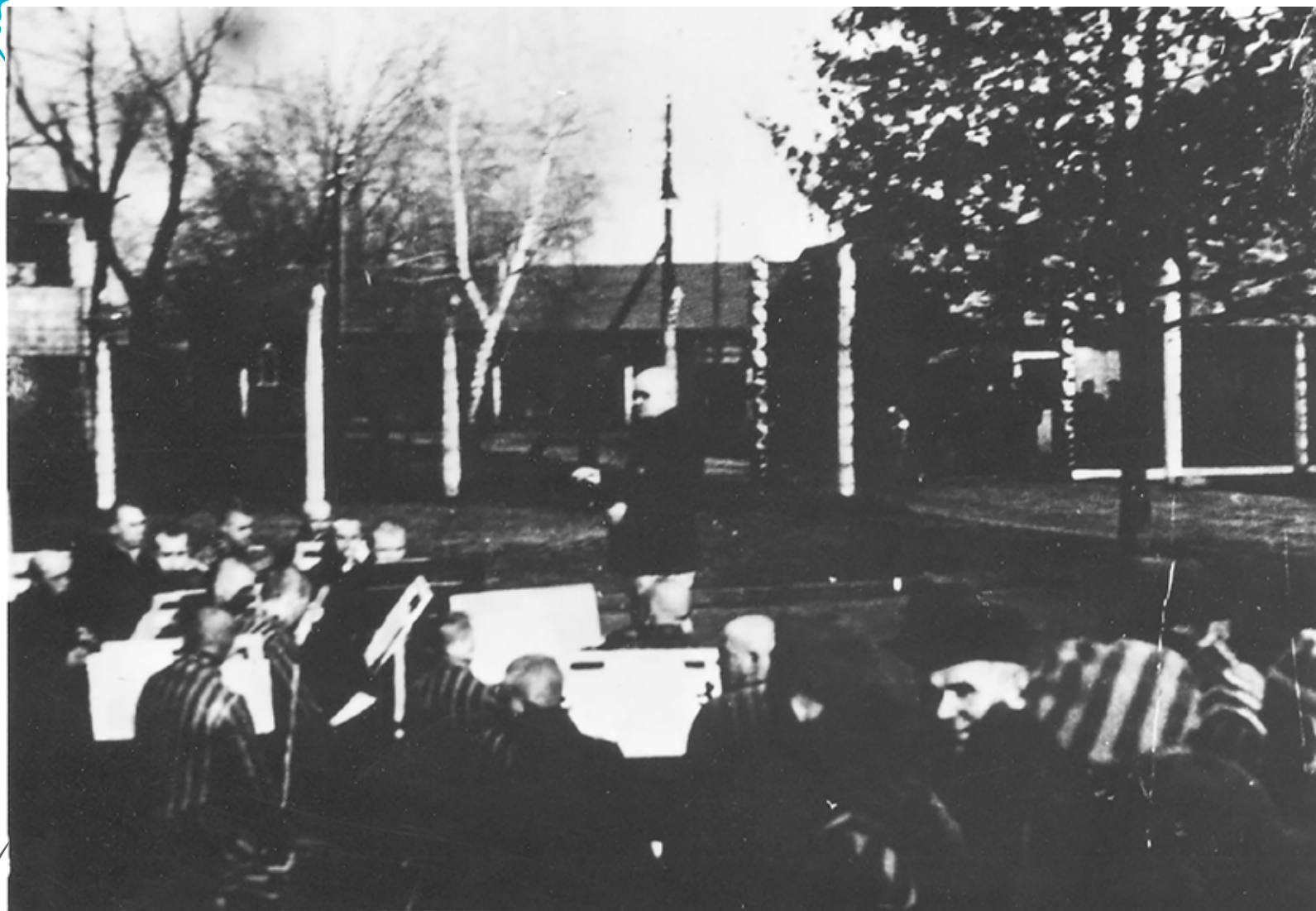


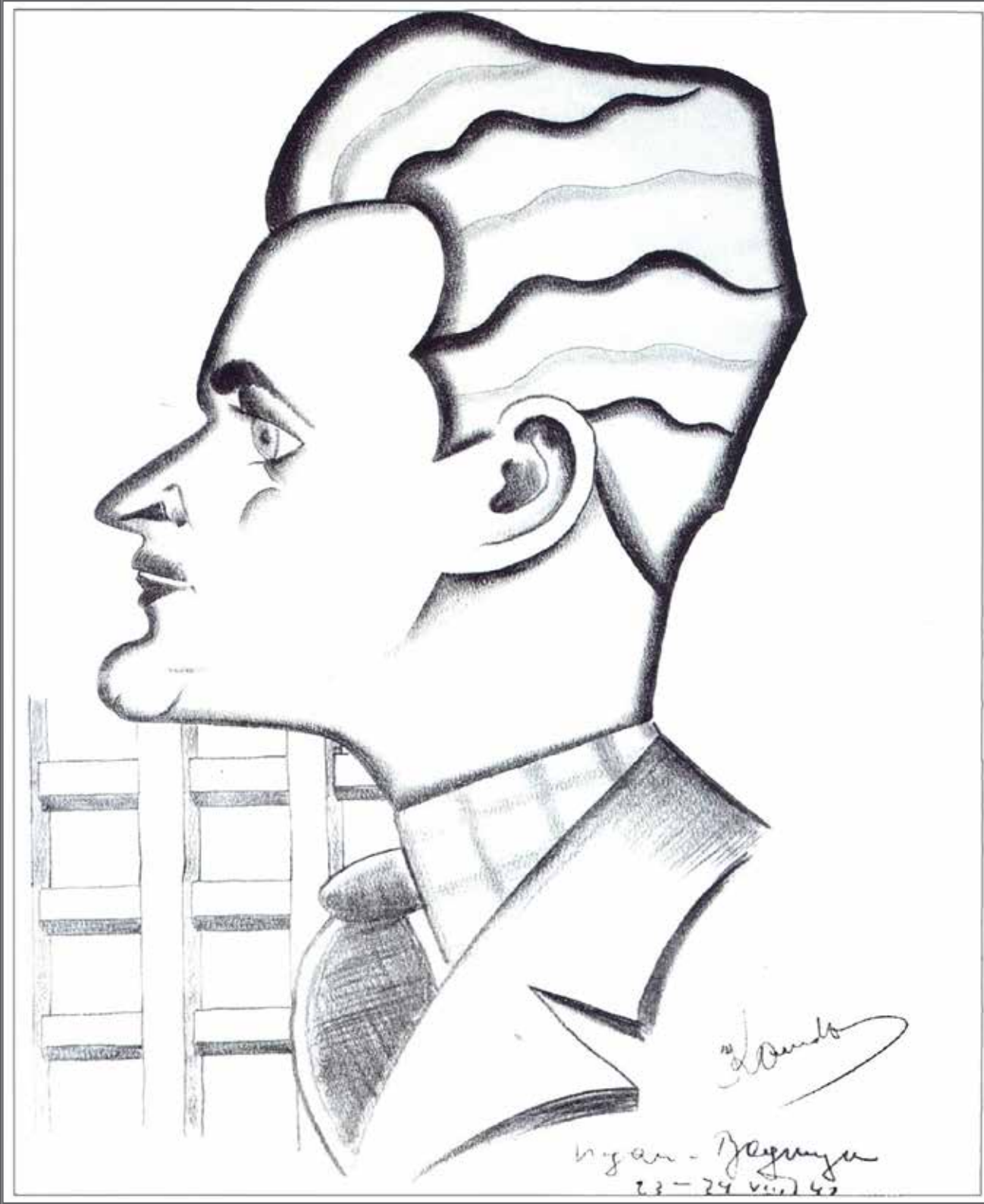
Auschwitz I: taboriščni orkester ob glavnem vhodu, 1941 (hrani: APMAB). V mnogih nacističnih koncentracijskih taboriščih je bila glasba spremljevalec taboriščnega vsakdana. V Auschwitzu I je orkester igral vedno ob jutranjem odhodu na delo in večernem prihodu z njega, pogosto pa tudi v nedeljo, ko taboriščniki niso delali. V ozadju levo so bloki 19, 20 in 21, v katerih je bila bolnišnica za taboriščnike.

Auschwitz I: a camp orchestra at the main entrance, 1941 (kept by: APMAB). Music was part of daily life in many Nazi concentration camps. At Auschwitz I, the orchestra played every morning when the inmates were leaving for work and in the evenings when they returned, and also often on work-free Sundays. Pictured in the background on the left are blocks 19, 20 and 21, which housed a prisoners' hospital.

Auschwitz I: a camp orchestra at the main entrance, 1941 (kept by: APMAB). Pictured in the background on the right is the main gate with the *Arbeit macht frei* sign. Much like the ironic phrase, the camp orchestra was used to mislead the new arrivals and humiliate the existing inmates. The Auschwitz camp complex had up to six men's, a Romani and a women's orchestra. The latter two played near the Crematoriums (and gas chambers) II and III at Auschwitz II-Birkenau.

Auschwitz I: taboriščni orkester ob glavnem vhodu, 1941 (hrani: APMAB). V ozadju desno glavna vrata z napisom *Arbeit macht frei*. Podobno kot ta ironični izrek je bil tudi taboriščni orkester namenjen za zavajanje novih taboriščnikov in poniževanje starih. V taboriščnem sistemu Auschwitza je delovalo do šest moških orkestrów ter po en romski in ženski orkester. Slednja sta igrala v bližini krematorijev in plinskih celic II in III v Auschwitzu II – Birkenau.








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Prvi Slovenci v Auschwitzu The First Slovenians at Auschwitz

Auschwitz je postal največje nacistično delovno taborišče zaradi odločitve podjetja I. G. Farben februarja 1941, da bo pri bližnji vasi Monowice (nemško Monowitz) zgradilo ogromen industrijski kompleks Buna-Werke. Za odločitev niso bili pomembni samo ugodna prometna lega (ta je bila kasneje pomembna za transportiranje Judov iz vse Evrope), obilje vode (reka Visla) in potrebnih surovin (rudniki premoga in soli, kamnolomi apnenca) ter zaradi oddaljenosti od Velike Britanije varnost pred bombardiranjem, temveč tudi nizka cena in obilica delovne sile, ki so jo predstavljali taboriščniki v Auschwitzu. Zato so v Auschwitz začeli pošiljati tudi pripadnike drugih narodov. Prva skupina 22 Slovencev je tako prispela 28. septembra 1941 iz zapora Begunje. Kaj je bil Auschwitz že v tej zgodnji fazi delovanja, jasno pokaže podatek, da je večina izmed njih tam umrla že po nekaj mesecih.


Auschwitz became the largest Nazi labour camp because in February 1941 company I. G. Farben, decided to build a vast industrial complex, Buna-Werke, near the nearby village of Monowice (German: Monowitz). The reasons for this decision were not only a strategic transport position (which later also proved important for transporting Jews from all over Europe), the abundance of water (the Vistula river) and the necessary raw materials (coal and salt mines, limestone quarries). In addition, due to the distance from the UK, it was considered to be safe from bombing and there was also low cost and plentiful labour, i.e. Auschwitz prisoners. That is why the Nazis also started sending members of other nations to Auschwitz; the first group of 22 Slovenians arrived on 28 September 1941 from Begunje prison. What sort of place Auschwitz was even at this early stage of operation is revealed by the fact that most of them died within a few months of arrival.



Dušan Zimič (1919, Celje–1942, Auschwitz): a caricature by Zimič's fellow inmate and the famous Prekmurje-born caricaturist Ladislav Kondor (1901, Kupšinci–1963, Opatija), drawn at Begunje prison, 23–24 August 1941 (kept by: Bronka Jarc). A clerk from Maribor, who feared arrest and found refuge at the home of his relatives in Gorenjska. He was arrested as a suspicious foreigner and sent first to Begunje and then to Maribor. Although there was no evidence against him, he was deported from Maribor to Auschwitz.



Dušan Zimič (1919, Celje – 1942, Auschwitz): karikatura, delo sojetnika in znanega prekmurskega karikaturista Ladislava Kondorja (1901, Kupšinci – 1963, Opatija), nastala v zaporu Begunje, 23.–24. avgust 1941 (hrani: Bronka Jarc). Uradnik iz Maribora, ki se je zaradi strahu pred aretacijo zatekel k sorodnikom na Gorenjsko. Kot sumljivega tujca so ga aretirali in poslali v Begunje, od tam pa v Maribor. Čeprav proti njemu ni bilo nobenih dokazov, je bil iz Maribora poslan v Auschwitz.





Pavel Lampe (1923, Črni Vrh–1942, Auschwitz), camp no. 21134: on arrival at Auschwitz, 28 September 1941 (kept by: APMAB). An 18-year-old worker from Stražišče near Kranj and a member of the resistance movement, sent to Auschwitz from Begunje in the first Slovenian transport. He spent six months at Auschwitz, which were characterised by hard labour, extremely poor diet and disastrous hygiene conditions. He died on 29 March 1942, two days after his 19th birthday.

Pavel Lampe (1923, Črni Vrh – 1942, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 21134: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 28. september 1941 (hrani: APMAB). Osemnajstletni delavec iz Stražišča pri Kranju in član odporniškega gibanja poslan iz Begunj v prvem slovenskem transportu v Auschwitz. V taborišču preživel šest mesecev težkega fizičnega dela, izjemno skromne prehrane in katastrofalnih higienskih razmer. Umrl 29. marca 1942, dva dni po 19. rojstnem dnevu.



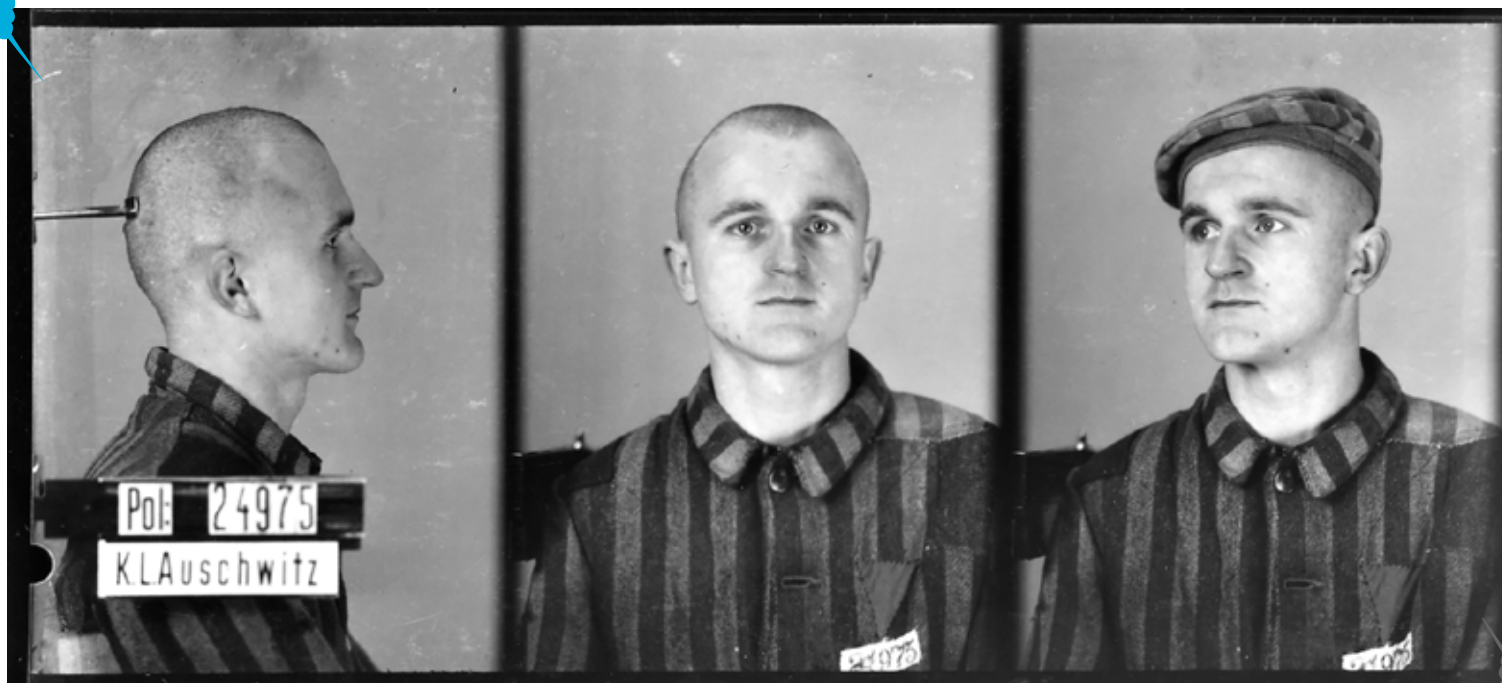
Ivan Ranzinger (1909, Vienna–1997, POD unknown), camp no. 23854: on arrival at Auschwitz, 6 December 1941 (kept by: APMAB). A glassmaker and pre-war communist from Hrastnik, imprisoned several times even in the First Yugoslavia, arrested immediately after the occupation and sent to Auschwitz from Maribor. After 15 months, he was transferred first to the Buchenwald concentration camp and then to a factory in Jena; he was still there on the day of liberation. In the new Yugoslavia, he was repeatedly imprisoned and convicted at one of the Dachau trials. He was rehabilitated in 1971.

Ivan Ranzinger (1909, Dunaj – 1997, neznano kje), taboriščna št. 23854: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 6. december 1941 (hrani: APMAB). Steklar in predvojni komunist iz Hrastnika, večkrat v zaporu že v prvi Jugoslaviji, aretiran takoj po začetku okupacije in iz Maribora poslan v Auschwitz. Po 15 mesecih premeščen v koncentracijsko taborišče Buchenwald in nato v tovarno v Jeni, kjer je dočakal osvoboditev. V novi Jugoslaviji ponovno večkrat zaprt in obsojen na enem izmed dachauskih procesov. Rehabilitiran leta 1971.



Auschwitz I, 2010
(fotografija: Aleš Topolinjak)

Auschwitz I, 2010
(photo: Aleš Topolinjak)



Dušan Zimič (1919, Celje–1942, Auschwitz), camp no. 24975: on arrival at Auschwitz, 21 December 1941 (kept by: APMAB). After almost five months in the camp, he fell ill with pneumonia and was transferred to a prisoners' hospital, where he died on 12 May 1942. His body was cremated in Crematorium I later that day. On this day, 109 other inmates were cremated in Crematorium I after having died of 'natural causes', failed escape attempts or suicide, as well as 112 inmates who were executed earlier that day.

Dušan Zimič (1919, Celje – 1942, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 24975: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 21. december 1941 (hrani: APMAB). Po skoraj petih mesecih v taborišču zbolel za pljučnico, bil premeščen v bolnico za taboriščnike in tam umrl 12. maja 1942. Njegovo truplo je bilo upepeljeno še isti dan v Krematoriju I. Tam so v tem dnevu upepelili še ostalih 109 taboriščnikov, ki so umrli ta dan zaradi »naravnih vzrokov«, neuspelih pobegov ali samomorov, ter 112 taboriščnikov, ki so bili ta dan usmrčeni.

AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU COMPLEX

OSWIECIM, POLAND
26 JUNE 1944



BIRKENAU
(AUSCHWITZ II)

SS BARRACKS

BODY ASHES THROWN
INTO MARSHES

AUSCHWITZ I

SOLA RIVER

PRZEMSA RIVER

VISTULA RIVER

SS WAR INDUSTRIES
(I.G. FARBEN ETC.)

AUSCHWITZ III (BUNA)

ENLARGED FROM THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVE AND
CAPTIONED IN 1978 BY THE CIA





»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Birkenau Birkenau

Marca 1942 je v bližnji vasi Brzezinka (nemško Birkenau) začelo delovati podružnično taborišče Birkenau ali Auschwitz II – Birkenau. Bilo je bistveno večje kot matično taborišče. V njem je bilo poleti leta 1944 okoli 70.000 taboriščnikov. V Birkenauu so od 26. marca 1942 naprej iz vse Evrope pošiljali čedalje številčnejše transporte Judov – tako odraslih kot otrok vseh starosti –, ki jih je čedalje bolj učinkovito organiziral Adolf Eichmann (1906, Solingen – 1962, Ramla). Jude s prvih transportov so brez izjeme takoj ubili. Kmalu pa so esesovski zdravniki takoj po prihodu transporta z Judi začeli izvajati selekcijo – izbrali so za delo primerne, ki so bili sprejeti v taborišče, in tiste, ki niso bili primerni in so bili zato takoj ubiti v plinskih celicah. Za usmrnitev Judov, ki so jih izbrali pri selekciji ob prihodu, ali taboriščnikov katere koli kategorije pri kasnejših selekcijah v taborišču so od februarja 1942 uporabljali dve improvizirani plinski celici pri taborišču Birkenau z dnevno zmogljivostjo 800 in 1.200 ljudi.

In March 1942, the Birkenau subcamp, i.e. Auschwitz II-Birkenau, started operating in the nearby village of Brzezinka (German: Birkenau). It was considerably larger than the main camp and approximately 70,000 prisoners were kept there in the summer of 1944. From 26 March 1942 onwards, transports with an increasingly large numbers of Jews – both adults and children of all ages – were being sent to Birkenau from all over Europe. The transports were organised increasingly efficiently by Adolf Eichmann (1906, Solingen–1962, Ramla). The Jews from the first transports were killed immediately, without exception. Soon, however, the SS doctors started making a selection straight after the arrival of the Jewish transport – they selected individuals that were deemed fit for work and were admitted into the camp, and those who were deemed unfit and therefore killed in the gas chambers immediately. From February 1942 onwards, two improvised gas chambers were used at Birkenau for killing those Jews who had been chosen to die during the selection on arrival or for killing inmates of any category selected during subsequent camp selections. The two gas chambers had a daily capacity of 800 and 1,200 people respectively.

Auschwitz: aerial photo, 26 June 1944 (photo: RSAAF, kept by: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.). The photo clearly shows the size of the main parts of the camp: the Auschwitz I administrative headquarters, the largest camp and killing centre – Auschwitz II-Birkenau, and the largest labour camp – Auschwitz III-Monowitz by the Buna-Werke industrial complex. The bodies of those killed at Birkenau were first buried in mass graves, while later they were cremated out in the open. At some point, the bodies that had already been buried were later also cremated. The ashes were disposed of in the nearby Vistula and Soła rivers, as well as on nearby marshes.

Auschwitz: zračni posnetek, 26. junij 1944 (fotografija: RSAAF, hrani: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.). Fotografija nazorno prikazuje velikost glavnih delov taborišča: upravnega središča Auschwitz I, glavnega taborišča in morišča Auschwitz II – Birkenau ter največjega delovnega taborišča Auschwitz III – Monowitz ob industrijskem kompleksu Buna-Werke. Trupla ubitih v Birkenauu so najprej pokopavali v množične grobove, kasneje pa so jih začeli kremirati na prostem. To so naknadno naredili tudi z že pokopanimi trupli. Pepel so stresli v bližnji reki Vislo in Soła ter bližnja močvirja.



Auschwitz IG-Farben-Werkskomplex Monowitz-Dwory: obisk državnega vodje SS in šefa policije Heinricha Himmlerja (1900, München – 1945, Lüneburg), 18. julij 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Desno od njega vodja gradnje ing. Max Faust (1891, Frankfurt ob Majni – 1980, Ludwigshafen) in poveljnik taborišča Rudolf Höss. Ob tem obisku si je Himmler ogledal ubijanje ljudi v plinski celici. Kljub svoji uničevalni komponenti pa je taborišče Auschwitz do konca delovanja ostalo delovno taborišče.

Auschwitz IG-Farben-Werkskomplex Monowitz-Dwory: a visit from the commander of the SS and the chief of the German police, Heinrich Himmler (1900, München–1945, Lüneburg), 18 July 1942 (kept by: APMAB). Pictured to the right of Himmler is the construction manager, engineer Max Faust (1891, Frankfurt am Main–1980, Ludwigshafen), and the camp commandant, Rudolf Höss. During the visit, Himmler was shown how the inmates were killed in the gas chamber. However, despite its extermination component, Auschwitz remained a labour camp until the very end.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: barracks in the BII sector immediately after construction, probably in March 1943 (kept by: APMAB). The main purpose of the labour camps was to use as many of the prisoners for slave labour at the lowest cost possible. Of course, the purpose of the camps was not to keep the prisoners alive, but to exterminate them through labour (German: *Vernichtung durch Arbeit*). Extremely poor living conditions were part of this system.

Auschwitz II – Birkenau: barake sektorja BII takoj po izgradnji, verjetno marec 1943 (hrani: APMAB). Glavni namen delovnih taborišč je bil s čim nižjimi stroški izkoristiti čim več taboriščnikov za suženjsko delo. Seveda pa ni bil namen, da bi taboriščnike z delom ohranili pri življenju, temveč da bi jih z delom uničili (nemško *Vernichtung durch Arbeit*). Del tega sistema so bile tudi izredno skromne bivalne razmere.







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Slovenke v Auschwitzu Slovenian Women in Auschwitz

Zelo kmalu po 22. marcu 1933, ko so v prvo nacistično koncentracijsko taborišče Dachau prispeli prvi taboriščniki, je v taborišču Moringen začel delovati tudi prvi oddelek za ženske. Taboriščnice tega oddelka je konec leta 1937 prevzelo prvo žensko koncentracijsko taborišče Lichtenburg. Njegovo vlogo je leta 1939 prevzelo novo taborišče Ravensbrück, ki je do konca druge svetovne vojne ostalo edino večinsko žensko taborišče. Auschwitz je bil za Ravensbrückom prvo nacistično koncentracijsko taborišče tudi za ženske. Prve taboriščnice so prispele v Auschwitz 26. marca 1942, prvi Slovenki pa 6. junija 1942 iz Maribora. V tem času so bile taboriščnice še v matičnem taborišču, kmalu zatem pa so jih premestili v ženski del Birkenaua. Tam je do konca delovanja taborišča ostala glavnina taboriščnic. Ker so v druga taborišča začeli pošiljati ženske šele leta 1944, je okoli 1.500 slovenskih taboriščnic dve tretjini vseh slovenskih taboriščnikov v Auschwitzu. Za okoli 850 izmed njih je Auschwitz tudi kraj smrti.

Shortly after 22 March 1933, when the first prisoners arrived in Dachau – the first Nazi concentration camp – the first women’s wing was set up at the Moringen concentration camp. In late 1937, prisoners from the women’s wing were transferred to the Lichtenburg concentration camp – the first concentration camp for female prisoners. In 1939, Lichtenburg’s role was taken over by the newly established Ravensbrück concentration camp, which remained the only majority women’s camp until the end of World War II. Auschwitz was the second Nazi concentration camp – after Ravensbrück – also used for female prisoners. The first women arrived in Auschwitz on 26 March 1942 and the first two Slovenian women on 6 June 1942 from Maribor. At the time, female prisoners were still in the main camp, but they were transferred to the Birkenau women’s section soon after. Most of the women remained there throughout the camp’s operation. Since it was not until 1944 that the Nazis started sending women to other camps, some 1,500 Slovenian female prisoners made up two-thirds of all Slovenian Auschwitz prisoners. Auschwitz was the place of death for around 850 of them.

Auschwitz I: women laying the foundations for a new building, 1942 or 1943 (photo: Dietrich Kamann, kept by: APMAB). Since about 50% of the 'Jews fit for work' that were transported from Hungary in 1944 were women, for whom not enough 'real women's work' was available, the camp administration asked Heinrich Himmler if women could be used in construction work. Himmler agreed to the idea and, in line with his vegetarianism, added: "In this case, make sure they have a healthy diet. It's important to eat raw vegetables. And don't forget to bring sufficient quantities of garlic from Hungary."

Auschwitz I: ženske pripravljajo temelje za novo zgradbo, 1942 ali 1943 (fotografija: Dietrich Kamann, hrani: APMAB). Ker je bilo v transportih leta 1944 z Madžarske med za »delo sposobnimi Judi« okoli 50 % žensk, za katere ni bilo dovolj »pravega ženskega dela«, so Heinricha Himmlerja vprašali, ali jih lahko uporabijo pri gradbenih delih. Himmler je odgovoril, da seveda lahko, in v skladu s svojim vegetarijanstvom še dodal: »V tem primeru poskrbite za zdravo prehrano. Pomembna je prehrana s presno zelenjavo. Pa ne pozabite pripeljati zadostnih količin česna z Madžarske.«



Štefka Štibler (1918, Selnica ob Dravi–1993, Ljubljana), camp no. 7602: on arrival at Auschwitz, 6 June 1942 (kept by: APMAB). An agronomy student in Belgrade and a pre-war communist from Šmartno pri Slovenj Gradcu. Owing to her education, she got a job in the camp administration and became a Yugoslav representative in the camp resistance movement. Her position allowed her to help a number of Slovenian female prisoners. She is one of the Slovenians that contributed the most important personal testimonies of life in Auschwitz.

Štefka Štibler (1918, Selnica ob Dravi – 1993, Ljubljana), taboriščna št. 7602: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 6. junij 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Studentka agronomije v Beogradu in predvojna komunistka iz Šmartnega pri Slovenj Gradcu. Zaradi izobrazbe je dobila delo v taboriščni upravi in postala jugoslovanska predstavnica v taboriščnem odporniškem gibanju. Zaradi tega položaja je pomagala mnogim slovenskim taboriščnicam in je med najpomembnejšimi slovenskimi pričevalci o Auschwitzu.



Pavla Blagotinšek, later Vrhovec (1925, Družmirje–1954, POD unknown), camp no. 7603: on arrival at Auschwitz, 6 June 1942 (kept by: APMAB). A sixteen-year-old member of the resistance movement from Škale near Velenje. Alongside Štefka Štibler, she was one of the first two Slovenian women in Auschwitz. The more experienced Štibler took care of her the entire time. She survived the war, but died of the consequences of camp imprisonment before she turned thirty.

Pavla Blagotinšek, kasneje por. Vrhovec (1925, Družmirje – 1954, neznano kje), taboriščna št. 7603: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 6. junij 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Šestnajstletna članica odporniškega gibanja iz Skal pri Velenju. S Štefko Štibler sta bili prvi dve Slovenki v Auschwitzu. Izkušenejša Štiblerjeva je ves čas skrbela zanjo. Preživela je vojno, a je umrla pred tridesetim letom zaradi posledic taborišča.






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Transporti s Štajerske leta 1942 Transports from Štajerska 1942

Nacistično nasilje na Štajerskem je bilo najhujše leta 1942. V tem letu so ustrelili največ talcev: v mariborskih Sodnih zaporih in celjskem Starem piskru jih je bilo ubitih 866, 788 moških in 78 žensk, ali več kot polovica vseh štajerskih talcev. Sorodnike partizanov ali talcev so aretirali. Aretacije so bile najbolj množične v začetku avgusta, ko so v prehodnem taborišču v Okoliški (danes I.) osnovni šoli Celje zbrali 1.261 ljudi. Tiste, ki so bili stari nad 55 let, so poslali v delovna taborišča na Bavarskem. Mlajše od 18 let so odvzeli staršem in zato jih imenujemo ukradeni otroci. Večino so poslali v mladinska taborišča na Bavarskem, nekatere mlajše in rasno ustrezne pa predali organizaciji Lebensborn za posvojitev v nemških družinah. Preostale so poslali v koncentracijska taborišča, največ v Auschwitz.


The Nazi violence in the Štajerska region was as its most extreme in 1942. During that year, the largest number of hostages were shot dead: a total of 866 people – 788 men and 78 women, i.e. more than half of all hostages from Štajerska – were killed in the Judicial Detention in Maribor and the Stari pisker prison in Celje. The relatives of the Partisans or hostages were arrested. The largest mass arrests took place in early August, when 1,261 people were collected in the transit camp at the Celje District (today's First) Primary School. People over the age of 55 were sent to labour camps in Bavaria. Those under the age of 18 were taken away from their parents and are thus called 'stolen children'. While most were sent to youth camps in Bavaria, some younger ones and those labelled 'racially valuable' were referred to the Lebensborn organisation for adoption by German families. The rest were sent to concentration camps, mostly to Auschwitz.



Celje: Stari pisker, 22. julij 1942 (hrani: MNZ Celje). A doctor and a police officer are checking if any of the hostages that had just been shot are showing signs of life. Top right: two prisoners who are about to prepare the space for the next group to be killed. Top left: two prisoners with a simple coffin for transportation to the Graz crematorium. One hundred hostages were shot that day: 84 men and 16 women. Farewell letters from 24 of them have been preserved.



Celje: Stari pisker, 22. julij 1942 (hrani: MNZ Celje). Zdravnik in policist pregledujeta pravkar ustreljene talce, ali še kažejo znake življenja. Zgoraj desno dva zapornika, ki bosta pripravila prostor za ustrelitev za naslednjo skupino. Zgoraj levo dva zapornika s preprosto krsto za prevoz do krematorija v Gradcu. Tega dne je bilo ustreljenih 100 talcev, 84 moških in 16 žensk. Od 24 so ohranjena poslovilna pisma.





Elizabetha Šarh (1900, Šentjanž–1942, Auschwitz), camp no. 16502: on arrival at Auschwitz, 10 August 1942 (kept by: APMAB). A farmer's wife from Lobnica near Ruše, the wife of the national hero Alfonz Šarh, a soldier in the Pohorje Battalion, and the mother of eight 'stolen children'. The three oldest sons escaped from the Frohnleiten children's camp near Graz and joined their father. The sons and the father lost their lives in the Pohorje Battalion's last battle at Osankarica on 8 January 1943. Elizabetha had died even before that, three months after arriving in Auschwitz. Other Šarh family members survived the war.

Elizabetha Šarh (1900, Šentjanž – 1942, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 16502: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 10. avgust 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Kmečka gospodinja iz Lobnice pri Rušah, žena narodnega heroja Alfonza Šarha, borca Pohorskega bataljona, in mati osmih ukradenih otrok. Trije najstarejši sinovi so pobegnili iz taborišča Frohnleiten pri Gradcu in se pridružili očetu. Vsi so z očetom padli v zadnjem boju Pohorskega bataljona 8. januarja 1943 na Osankarici. Elizabetha je že pred tem, po treh mesecih, umrla v Auschwitzu. Preostali Šarhovi so vojno preživel.



Angela Hlačun (1915, Žlavor–1943, Auschwitz), camp no. 16225: on arrival at Auschwitz, 10 August 1942 (kept by: APMAB). A single mother from Nazarje, arrested on account of her hostage brother, along with her less-than-one-year-old daughter, elder brother and younger sister. Her brother and sister were selected and killed in a gas chamber shortly after arriving at the camp. Angela, by contrast, had a strong will to survive, but died after nine months. Those who survived remembered her for her unselfish help to fellow prisoners.

Angela Hlačun (1915, Žlavor – 1943, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 16225: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 10. avgust 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Mati samohranilka iz Nazarij, aretirana zaradi brata talca skupaj z manj kot leto dni staro hčerko, starejšim bratom in mlajšo sestro. Brat in sestra sta bila kmalu po prihodu v taborišče selekcionirana in umorjena v plinski celici. Angela je, nasprotno, izkazovala voljo za preživetje, a je umrla po devetih mesecih. Preživelim je ostala v trajnem spominu zaradi nesebične pomoči sojetnicam.



Auschwitz I, 2010
(fotografija: Aleš Topolinjak)

Auschwitz I, 2010
(photo: Aleš Topolinjak)

Angela Hlačun (1915, Žlavor–1943, Auschwitz), camp no. 16225: a postal card sent to her sister Anica, Auschwitz, 27 September 1942 (kept by: Milena Žerič). Aryan camp prisoners were allowed to write postal cards, but only in German and without mentioning the actual situation in the camp. Therefore, instead of explicitly mentioning her brother and sister's death, she referred to it indirectly ("I'd like to tell you that I personally am alive and well..."). Especially noticeable is the concern for her less-than-one-year-old daughter Milena, who was a 'stolen child'. Milena survived the war.

Angela Hlačun (1915, Žlavor – 1943, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 16225: dopisnica sestri Anici, Auschwitz, 27. september 1942 (hrani: Milena Žerič). »Arijski« taboriščniki so lahko pisali dopisnice, vendar samo v nemščini in brez kakršne koli omenbe dejanskih razmer v taborišču. Zato bratove in sestrine smrti ne omenja izrecno, pač pa posredno («Naznanjam ti, da sem jaz živa in zdrava ...»). Izstopa skrb za manj kot leto dni staro hčer Mileno, ki je bila ukradeni otrok. Milena je vojno preživela.

27. IX. 1942.

Gef Liebe Anica!
 Gehe Dir bekannt das ich am Leben
 bin und gesund. Schreibe mir was
 mit meinem Kind ist? Wo ist es,
 bist Du gesund und wie geht es
 Dir. Wie ist es mit dem Vater.
 Grüsse Dich herzlich
 Deine Schwester
 Angela






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Transporti s Štajerske leta 1942 Transports from Štajerska 1942

Leta 1942 je bilo v Auschwitz poslanih največ slovenskih taboriščnikov: okoli 600 žensk in okoli 220 moških. Več kot 90 % jih je bilo poslanih iz Celja, Maribora ali z Borla. Samo s transportom, ki je 9. avgusta 1942 krenil iz Celja, je bilo pripeljanih 451 Slovencev, 333 žensk in 118 moških. Čeprav slovenski taboriščniki niso bili na dnu taboriščne hierarhije, tam so bili nedvomno Judje, so bile možnosti za njihovo preživetje slabe. Ob že tako skrajnih življenjskih okoliščinah je prav v času prihoda največje slovenske skupine v Auschwitz izbruhnila epidemija tifusa, ki je nekajkrat zahtevala tudi več kot 300 življenj dnevno. Veliko slovenskih taboriščnikov je bilo starejših in zato so bili zelo hitro selekcionirani ter poslani v plinske celice. Še posebej tragična je bila usoda žensk, ki so v taborišče prišle noseče.


In 1942, the largest number of Slovenian people were deported to Auschwitz: about 600 women and about 220 men. More than 90% of them were sent there from Celje, Maribor or Borl. The transport that left Celje on 9 August 1942 alone brought 451 Slovenians: 333 women and 118 men. Although Slovenian prisoners were not at the bottom of the camp hierarchy – this position was reserved for Jews – their chances of survival were slim. They faced extreme living conditions and, to make the matters even worse, a typhus epidemic broke out when the largest Slovenian group arrived in Auschwitz. Some days the epidemic claimed more than 300 lives. Many of the Slovenian prisoners were old and were therefore quickly selected and sent to gas chambers. The fate of women who arrived at the camp pregnant was particularly tragic.



Celje: District Primary School, August 1942 (kept by: MNZ Celje). A member of the SS and a police officer are separating the children from their mothers. The mothers and the children are relatives of the Partisans or hostages. On 10 August 1942, 441 'stolen children' were taken from here to the Frohnleiten children's camp.



Celje: Okoliška osnovna šola, avgust 1942 (hrani: MNZ Celje). Esesovec in policist ločujeta otroka od mater. Materi in otroka so svojci partizanov ali talcev. 10. avgusta 1942 so od tod v otroško taborišče Frohnleiten odpeljali 441 ukradenih otrok.





Anica Urisek, later Gruden (probably 1922, Šmartno ob Paki–1982 probably still alive), camp no. 13223: on arrival at Auschwitz, 31 July 1942 (kept by: APMAB). A pre-war member of the League of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia (SKOJ); from Pesje, now part of Velenje. She was pregnant at the time of arrest, which saved her from being shot, not, however, from being transported to Auschwitz. Her mother was already there at the time, but died two months later. The mother's death resulted in the premature birth of Anica's son. Hence, a telling title of her personal testimony: *My little son lived for three days only*. Her brother and sister-in-law were killed in the Pohorje Battalion's last battle at Osankarica on 8 January 1943.

Anica Urisek, kasneje por. Gruden (verjetno 1922, Šmartno ob Paki – 1982 verjetno še živa), taboriščna št. 13223: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 31. julij 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Predvojna skojevka iz Pesjega, danes dela Velenja. Ob aretaciji je bila noseča, kar jo je rešilo pred ustrelitvijo, ne pa pred transportom v Auschwitz. Tam je že bila njena mati, ki je umrla po dveh mesecih. Posledica materine smrti je bil prezgodnji porod sina. Njeno pričevanje ima zgovoren naslov *Sinek je živel le tri dni*. Brat in svakinja sta padla v zadnjem boju Pohorskega bataljona 8. januarja 1943 na Osankarici.



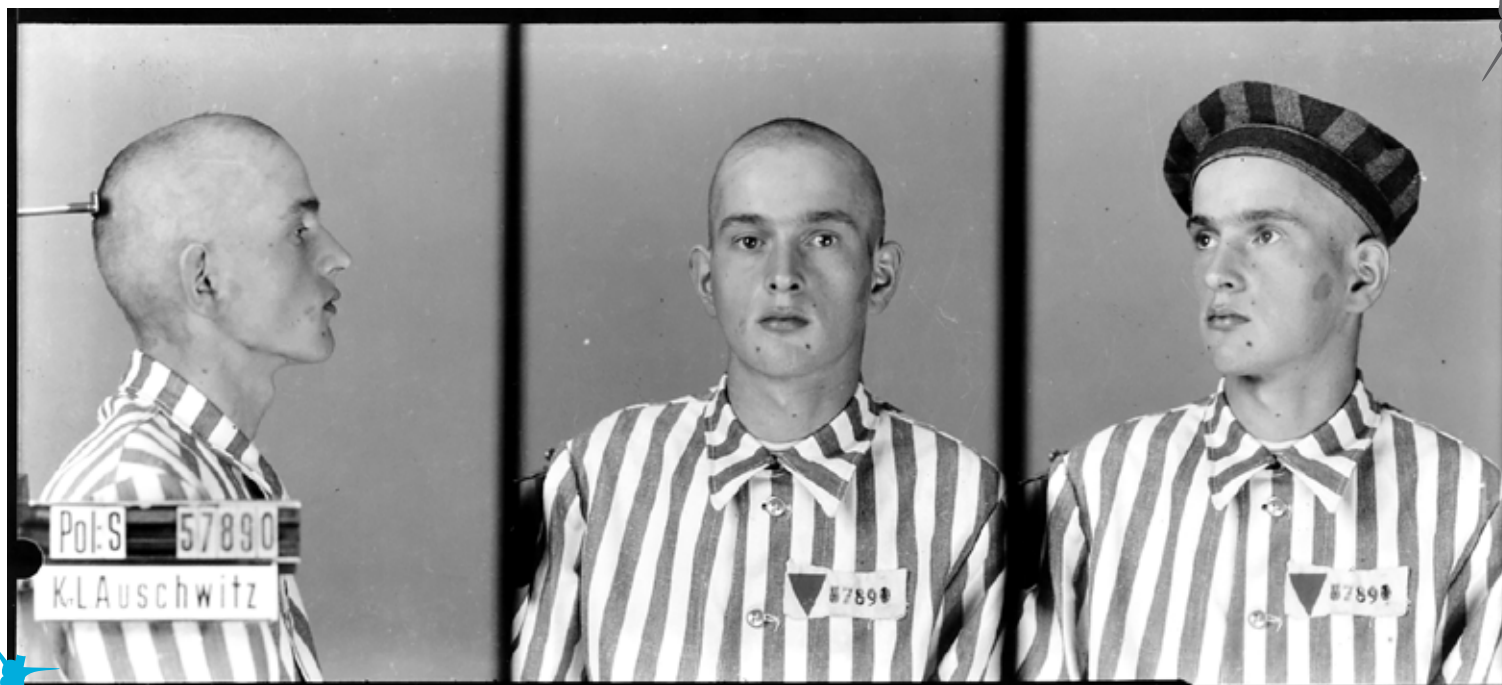
Zora Strman, later Kodelja (1921, Trbovlje–2008, POD unknown), camp no. 16432: on arrival at Auschwitz, 10 August 1942 (kept by: APMAB). From a miner's family in Senovo. She was arrested while pregnant just before her wedding on account of her hostage brother, along with her father and mother. Her father died in the camp after a mere two weeks. She gave birth to a daughter, who was taken away from her after a week and she never saw her again. Zora and her mother survived the war. After the war, she married her fiancé, who had not been in the camp.

Zora Strman, kasneje por. Kodelja (1921, Trbovlje – 2008, neznano kje), taboriščna št. 16432: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 10. avgust 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Iz rudarske družine v Senovem. Aretirana je bila noseča in tik pred poroko zaradi brata talca skupaj z očetom in materjo. Oče je umrl v taborišču že po dveh tednih. Rodila je hčerko, a so ji jo po enem tednu vzeli in je ni videla nikoli več. Mati in ona sta vojno preživel. Po vojni se je poročila z zaročencem, ki ni bil v taborišču.



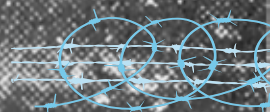
Auschwitz I, 2010
(fotografija: Aleš Topolinjak)

Auschwitz I, 2010
(photo: Aleš Topolinjak)



Stanko Vabič (1921, Hrastnik–1942, Auschwitz), camp no. 57890: on arrival at Auschwitz, 10 August 1942 (kept by: APMAB). A worker from Hrastnik. He was arrested on account of his hostage sister together with his father, mother and brothers. The father was not sent to Auschwitz due to his age, while the youngest brother was also spared due to his young age. Shortly after arrival, Stanko fell ill with typhus. He was beaten in front of his older brother's eyes for not being able to work, and was then shot dead during an *'escape attempt'*. The guards were rewarded for shooting prisoners that attempted to escape. The mother died two months later. The older brother survived.

Stanko Vabič (1921, Hrastnik – 1942, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 57890: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 10. avgust 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Delavec iz Hrastnika. Aretiran je bil zaradi sestre talke skupaj z očetom, materjo in bratoma; oče zaradi starosti, najmlajši brat pa zaradi mladosti nista bila poslana v Auschwitz. Kmalu po prihodu je zbolel za tifusom. Pred očmi starejšega brata je bil pretepen, ker ni mogel delati, in nato na »poskusu pobega« ustrelen. Stražarji so bili sicer nagrajeni za ustrelitev taboriščnika pri poskusu pobega. Mati je umrla dva meseca kasneje. Starejši brat je preživel.






»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

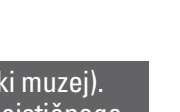
Transporti iz Begunj v letih 1942–1944 Transports from Begunje 1942–1944

Zapor v Begunjah je bil celotno obdobje okupacije središče nacističnega nasilja na Gorenjskem. V zaporniške knjige je bilo od 20. maja 1941 do 2. maja 1945 vpisanih 11.477 zapornikov, 9.196 moških in 2.281 žensk. 849 jih je bilo usmrčenih v streljanjih talcev na Gorenjskem. Veliko zapornikov je bilo iz Begunj poslanih v koncentracijska taborišča, med njimi vsaj 73 moških in vsaj 84 žensk tudi v Auschwitz. V to taborišče je bil prav iz Begunj 27. septembra 1941 poslan prvi slovenski transport 22 moških. Istega leta sta mu sledila še dva manjša moška transporta. Drugi begunjski zaporniki so v Auschwitz prispeli v manjših skupinah ali celo posamično v t. i. zbirnih transportih v letih 1942 in 1943 preko Celovca, nekateri tudi preko koncentracijskih taborišč Dachau, Mauthausen ali Ravensbrück. Večina poslanih iz Begunj v Auschwitz v letih 1942 in 1943 so bile ženske.

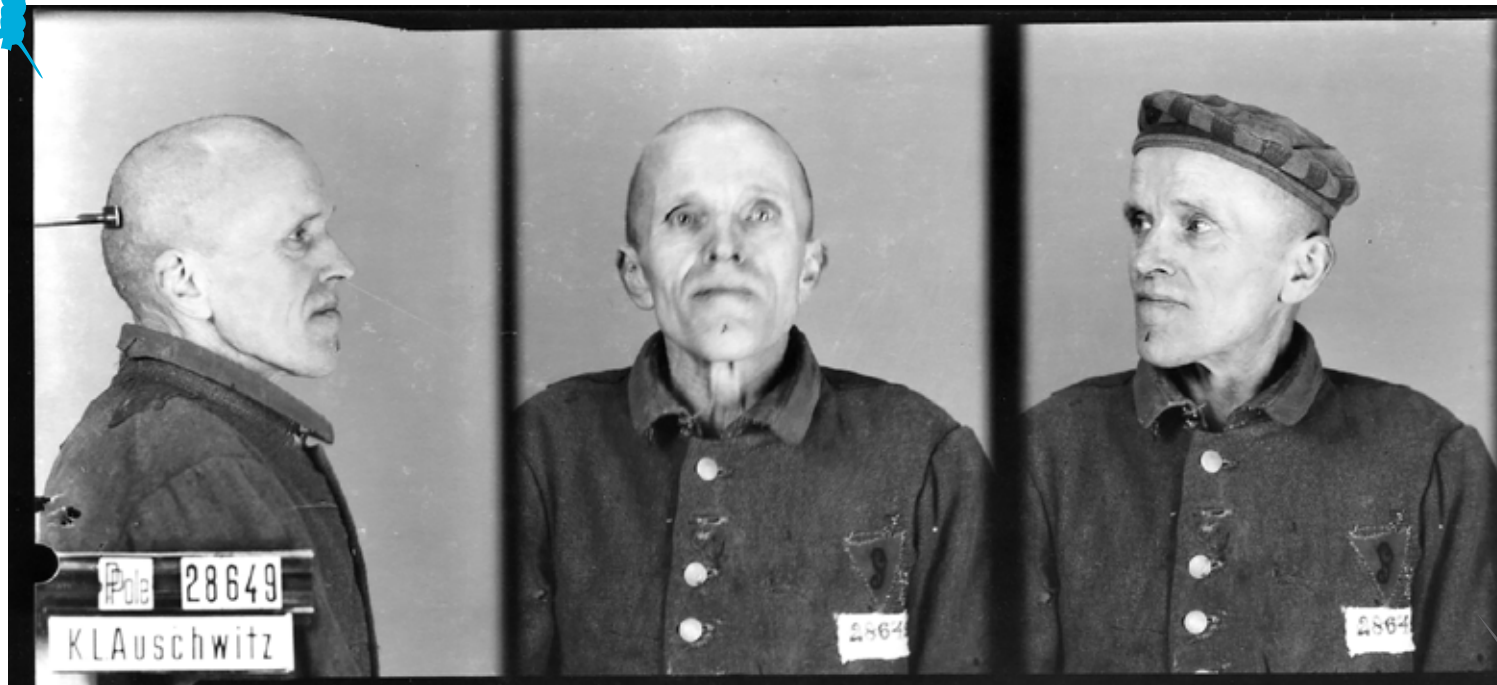
The Begunje prison remained the centre of Nazi violence in the Gorenjska region throughout the occupation. From 20 May 1941 to 2 May 1945, 11,477 prisoners, i.e. 9,196 men and 2,281 women, were listed in the prison registers. Of these, 849 were killed in hostage executions in Gorenjska. Many prisoners were sent from Begunje to concentration camps, including at least 73 men and at least 84 women to Auschwitz. The first Slovenian transport to Auschwitz left from Begunje on 27 September 1941 carrying 22 men. This was followed by two other smaller-scale transports of men in 1941. Other prisoners from Begunje arrived in Auschwitz in small groups or even individually as part of the so-called collective transports in 1942 and 1943 via Klagenfurt, and some also via the Dachau, Mauthausen or Ravensbrück concentration camps. Most of those sent to Auschwitz from Begunje in 1942 and 1943 were women.



Begunje: prison, a view towards the northeast, probably in 1942 (kept by: Gorenjski muzej). After the start of the occupation, the pre-war women's penitentiary became the centre of Nazi violence in the Gorenjska region. A police officer with a dog in the front, the Draga valley in the background; 172 hostages from Begunje prison were killed here and 161 of them buried. At least 157 people were sent to Auschwitz from Begunje prison.

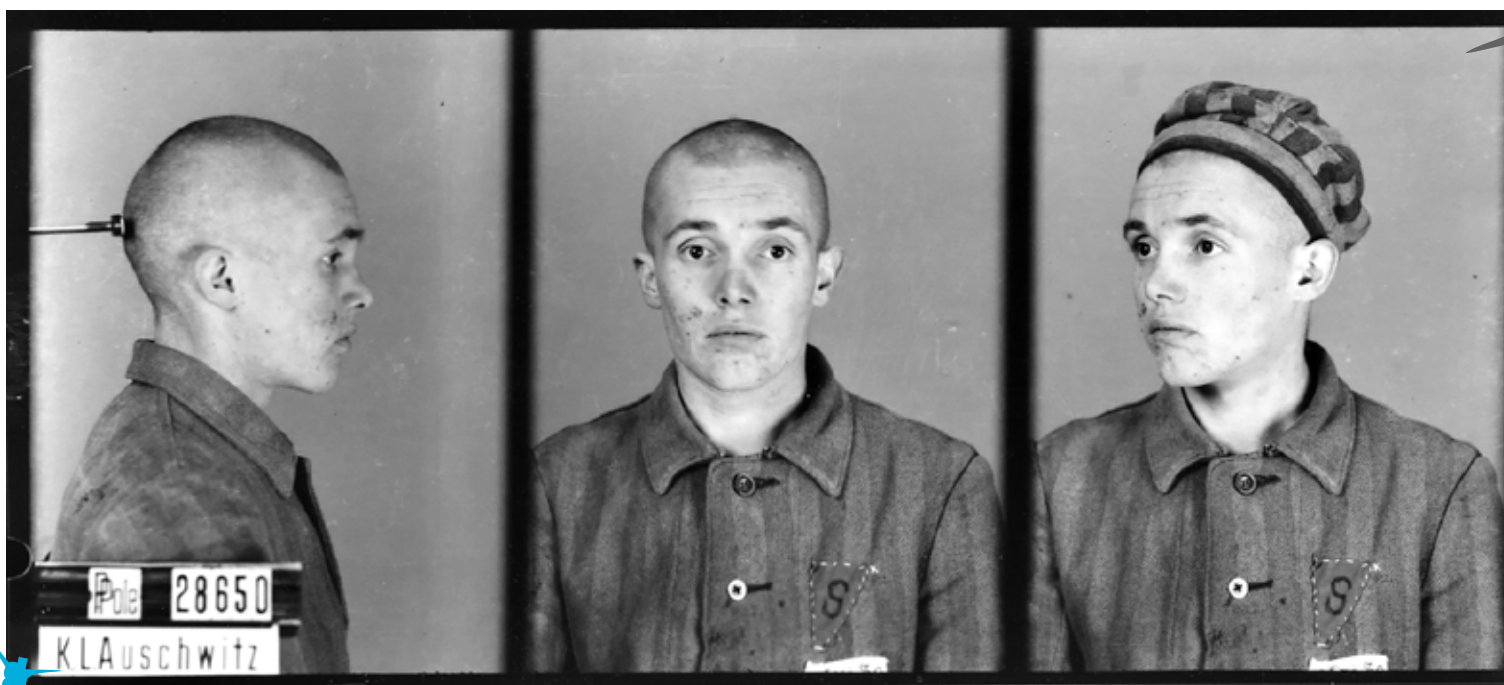


Begunje: zapor, pogled proti severovzhodu, verjetno 1942 (hrani: Gorenjski muzej). Predvojna ženska kaznilnica je po začetku okupacije postala središče nacističnega nasilja na Gorenjskem. Spredaj je policist s psom, zadaj dolina Draga, kjer je bilo usmrčenih 172 in pokopanih 161 talcev iz begunjskega zapora. Begunjski zapor je tudi kraj, od koder je bilo v Auschwitz poslanih vsaj 157 ljudi.



Franc Knez (1888, Dvor–1942, Auschwitz), camp no. 28649: on arrival at Auschwitz, 1 April 1942 (kept by: APMAB). A farmer from Dvor near Litija sent to Begunje along with his son to serve a sentence at the prison, and from there to Auschwitz via Klagenfurt. The reason he was sentenced is not known, however, judging from the colour of his triangular camp badge, he was certainly not a criminal. He died less than two months after arriving at the camp.

Franc Knez (1888, Dvor – 1942, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 28649: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 1. april 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Kmet iz Dvora pri Litiji. Skupaj s sinom je bil poslan v Begunje na prestajanje kazni, nato pa preko Celovca v Auschwitz. Kaj je bil razlog za kaznovanje, ni znano, vsekakor pa glede na barvo njegovega trikotnega taboriščnega znaka ni bil kriminallec. Umrl je po manj kot dveh mesecih taboriščnega življenja.



Martin Knez (1922, Dvor–1942, Auschwitz), camp no. 28650: on arrival at Auschwitz, 1 April 1942 (kept by: APMAB). A worker from Dvor near Litija. He came to Auschwitz the same way and at the same time as his father. While photographing them both, albeit separately, the photographer failed to replace the *Pole* marking left there from the previously photographed prisoners from Poland. Nevertheless, it is clear that they are Slovenians as both of them have the letter S embroidered on the triangular camp badge. He died after two-and-a-half months in the camp.

Martin Knez (1922, Dvor – 1942, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 28650: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 1. april 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Delavec iz Dvora pri Litiji. V Auschwitz je prišel po isti poti in istočasno kot oče. Fotograf ne pri njem ne pri očetu ni zamenjal napisa *Pole*, ki je ostal od prej fotografiranih poljskih taboriščnikov. Kljub temu je jasno, da gre za Slovenca, saj imata oba na trikotnem taboriščnem znaku izvezeno črko S. Umrli je po dveh mesecih in pol taboriščnega življenja.



Auschwitz II – Birkenau, 2010
(fotografija: Aleš Topolinjak)

Auschwitz II-Birkenau, 2010
(photo: Aleš Topolinjak)



Frančiška Pajer (1903, Polica–1982 probably still alive), camp no. 21343: on arrival at Auschwitz, 2 October 1942 (kept by: APMAB). An innkeeper from Hrušica near Jesenice, the wife of a hostage and the mother of a nine-year-old son, a 'stolen child'. She was sent to Auschwitz from Begunje via Klagenfurt in a group of 11 Slovenian women. Her group had their hair cut on arrival, perhaps as an additional humiliation, which was actually not usual for Slovenian women in Auschwitz. With the help of an SS guard – a Slovenian from Štajerska – she was able to send a letter to her mother-in-law, inquiring about her son's fate. She is one of the two survivors from her group.

Frančiška Pajer (1903, Polica – 1982 verjetno še živa), taboriščna št. 21343: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 2. oktober 1942 (hrani: APMAB). Gostilničarka iz Hrušice pri Jesenicah, žena talca in mati devetletnega sina, ukradenega otroka. Poslana je bila iz Begunj preko Celovca v skupini 11 Slovenk. Njeni skupini so ob prihodu, morda kot dodatno ponižanje, postrigli lase; to sicer za Slovenke v Auschwitzu ni bilo običajno. S pomočjo esesovskega stražarja, slovenskega Štajerca, ji je uspelo tašči poslati pismo s poizvedbo o sinovi usodi. Bila je ena izmed dveh preživelih iz svoje skupine.





»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Transporti s Štajerske v letih 1943 in 1944 Transportations from Štajerska 1943-1944

Leta 1943 se je zmanjšal obseg nacističnega nasilja na Štajerskem. Tega leta je bilo ustreljenih 55 talcev, najmanj v času vojne, in med njimi ni bilo nobene ženske. Tudi število poslanih v Auschwitz je bilo manjše kot leta 1942: vsaj 16 moških in vsaj 122 žensk. Zadnja večja transporta žensk sta bila v začetku leta, preostale pa so pripeljali v manjših skupinah ali celo posamično v t. i. zbirnih transportih. Posledica zmanjšane obsega nacističnega nasilja leta 1943 je bila, da Tončka Čeč, pomembne voditeljice odporiškega gibanja, niso ustrelili, temveč so jo poslali v Auschwitz. Leta 1944 je bilo s Štajerske v Auschwitz poslanih samo še okoli 10 ljudi, zadnji med njimi 2. maja 1944. Izhodišče vseh štajerskih transportov v letih 1943 in 1944 in velikega dela tistih v letih 1941 in 1942 so bili Sodni zapori v Mariboru. Ti zapori torej niso samo kraj, kjer je bilo ubitih največ talcev, pač pa tudi kraj, od koder je bilo v Auschwitz poslanih okoli 400 ljudi.

In 1943, the extent of Nazi violence in Štajerska decreased. A total of 55 hostages were executed that year, i.e. less than in any other year during the war and there were no women among them. The number of people sent to Auschwitz was also lower than in 1942: at least 16 men and at least 122 women. The last two large-scale transports of women took place in early 1943, while the rest were transported in small groups or even individually as part of the so-called collective transports. A consequence of the reduced scale of Nazi violence in 1943 was that Tončka Čeč, an important resistance movement leader, was sent to Auschwitz instead of being executed. Only about ten people were sent to Auschwitz from Štajerska in 1944, the last of them on 2 May 1944. The starting points for all transports from Štajerska in 1943 and 1944, as well as a major part of those in 1941 and 1942, was the Judicial Detention in Maribor. This makes it not only the place where the most hostages were killed, but also the place from where about 400 people were sent to Auschwitz.

Maribor: Judicial Detention and the Memorial to Hostages, 30 December 2019 (photo: Domen Kodrič). This was the centre of Nazi violence in the Štajerska region throughout the occupation. About 14,000 people passed through these prisons, 662 of whom were executed here and their names are inscribed on the memorial. The hostages' bodies were taken to the Graz crematorium. The ashes of some of them are stored in the memorial's urns. The Judicial Detention in Maribor is also the place from where many people were deported to various concentration camps, including about 400 people to Auschwitz.

Maribor: Sodni zapori in spomenik talcem, 30. december 2019 (fotografija: Domen Kodrič). Celotno obdobje okupacije je bilo tukaj središče nacističnega nasilja na Štajerskem. Skozi te zapore je šlo okoli 14.000 ljudi, 662 jih je bilo ustreljenih; njihova imena so izpisana na spomeniku talcem. Trupla talcev so bila odpeljana v krematorij v Gradcu. Pepel nekaterih je shranjen v žarah spomenika. Mariborski Sodni zapori so tudi kraj, od koder je bilo mnogo ljudi poslanih v koncentracijska taborišča, okoli 400 tudi v Auschwitz.



Auschwitz II – Birkenau, 2010
(fotografija: Aleš Topolinjak)

Auschwitz II-Birkenau, 2010
(photo: Aleš Topolinjak)

Tončka Čeč (1896, Trbovlje–1943, Auschwitz), camp no. 41???: during a public humiliation in Celje, 15 November 1942 (kept by: MNZ Celje). A clerk and pre-war communist who had already been imprisoned several times during the time of the First Yugoslavia. After the start of the occupation, she was active in the areas of Zasavje, Celje and Kozjansko, where she was captured on 29 August 1942. After two-and-a-half months of interrogations, she was subjected to a public humiliation in Celje together with 12 other captured and 12 dead Partisans. She was transferred first to Maribor and from there to Auschwitz in April 1943. Despite the help of her fellow inmates, she died on 2 November 1943. She was declared a national heroine in 1953.

Tončka Čeč (1896, Trbovlje – 1943, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 41???: med zasramovanjem v Celju, 15. november 1942 (hrani: MNZ Celje). Uradnica in predvojna komunistka, večkrat v zaporu že v prvi Jugoslaviji. Po začetku okupacije je delovala na območju Zasavja, Celja in Kozjanskega, kjer so jo 29. avgusta 1942 ujeli. Po dveh mesecih in pol zasliševanja so jo skupaj s še 12 ujetimi in 12 mrtvimi partizani javno zasramovali v Celju. Premeščena je bila v Maribor in od tod aprila 1943 v Auschwitz. Kljub pomoči sojetnic je umrla 2. novembra 1943. Od leta 1953 je narodna herojinja.





Magdalena Logar (1913, Solčava–1943, Auschwitz), camp no. 28804: on arrival at Auschwitz, 15 January 1943 (kept by: APMAB). In 1938, the five Logar sisters opened a hotel in the Logar Valley, which became a refuge for Partisans soon after the start of the resistance. In fact, the entire Logar family, including four brothers, cooperated with the Partisans and all of them ended up being arrested for it. The sisters were sent to Auschwitz via Celje and Maribor. Magdalena, the second youngest sister, died after three months in the camp. The others survived the war and rebuilt the burnt-down hotel, which has remained one of Logar Valley's landmarks to this day.

Magdalena Logar (1913, Solčava – 1943, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 28804: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 15. januar 1943 (hrani: APMAB). Pet sester Logar je leta 1938 v Logarski dolini odprlo hotel, ki je kmalu po začetku upora postal pribežališče za partizane. S partizani je sicer sodelovala cela družina Logar, tudi štirje bratje. Zaradi izdaje so bili vsi aretirani. Sestre so preko Celja in Maribora odpeljali v Auschwitz. Druga najmlajša, Magdalena, je umrla po treh mesecih v taborišču. Preostale sestre so vojno preživele in obnovile požgani hotel, ki je do danes ostal ena izmed znamenitosti Logarske doline.



Rozalija Klinec (1912, Medana—probably prior to 1982), camp no. 81287: on arrival at Auschwitz, 2 May 1944 (kept by: APMAB). She was from a family from the Primorska region which moved to Kamnica near Maribor on account of fascism. After the occupation, the family joined the resistance movement. They were arrested, her two brothers executed as hostages, the father died in Maribor's Judicial Detention, and the mother and Rozalija were sent as part of the last transport from Maribor to Auschwitz. The mother died after less than four months in Auschwitz, Rozalija survived.

Rozalija Klinec (1912, Medana – verjetno pred 1982), taboriščna št. 81287: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 2. maj 1944 (hrani: APMAB). Hči iz primorske družine, ki se je zaradi fašizma priselila v Kamnico pri Mariboru. Po okupaciji so se pridružili odporniškemu gibanju. Bili so aretirani. Brata sta bila ustreljena kot talca, oče je umrl v Sodnih zaporih v Mariboru, mati in Rozalija pa z zadnjim transportom poslani iz Maribora v Auschwitz. Mati je umrla po malo manj kot štirih mesecih, Rozalija pa je preživela.





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Transporti iz Ljubljanske pokrajine v letih 1943 in 1944 Transports from the Province of Ljubljana 1943–1944

Ob kapitulaciji Italije je območje Ljubljanske pokrajine prišlo pod nemško okupacijo in policijsko poveljstvo Erwina Rösenerja. Ta je isto funkcijo od decembra 1941 opravljal na Štajerskem in Gorenjskem. Njegovo ime je postalo sinonim za nacistično nasilje v teh pokrajinah, tudi zato, ker je bil podpisan na razglasih o streljanju talcev. Bistvena razlika v primerjavi z dogajanjem v omenjenih pokrajinah je bila kolaboracija dela prebivalstva Ljubljanske pokrajine najprej z italijanskim okupatorjem, od septembra 1943 z imenom Slovensko domobranstvo pa z nemškim. Posebej jo je Leon Rupnik, župan Ljubljane v letih 1942–1943 in predsednik uprave Ljubljanske pokrajine v letih 1943–1945. Prav ta kolaboracija je omogočila aretacije in odgon mnogih prebivalcev Ljubljanske pokrajine v koncentracijska taborišča, in to ne samo Slovencev, pač pa tudi Romov in Judov. Vsaj en transport 44 žensk je iz Ljubljane odpeljal v Auschwitz, kamor je prispel 11. decembra 1943. Pred njimi je 3. decembra 1943 prišla tja skupina 77 nekdanjih italijanskih taboriščnikov iz Ljubljanske pokrajine. Leta 1944 je iz drugih koncentracijskih taborišč v Auschwitz prišlo še vsaj nekaj deset Slovencev in vsaj en Rom iz Ljubljanske pokrajine.

Following Italy's capitulation, the Province of Ljubljana was occupied by Germany and came under Erwin Rösener's police command. From December 1941 onwards, Rösener also held the same position in Štajerska and Gorenjska. His name became synonymous with Nazi violence in these provinces, partly due to the fact that his signature was on the hostage execution announcements. What set the Province of Ljubljana apart from the other two provinces was that part of its population collaborated first with the Italian occupying forces, and also, from September 1943 onwards – under the name of the 'Slovenian Home Guard' – with the Germans. The collaboration was personified by Leon Rupnik, the mayor of Ljubljana from 1942 to 1943 and the President of the Provincial Administration of the Province of Ljubljana from 1943 to 1945. It was this collaboration that made possible the arrests and deportations of so many people from the Province of Ljubljana to concentration camps: not only Slovenians, but also the Romani and Jews. At least one transport of 44 women left Ljubljana for Auschwitz, arriving there on 11 December 1943. Before these women, a group of 77 former Italian camp prisoners from the Province of Ljubljana arrived in Auschwitz on 3 December 1943. In 1944, at least a few dozen Slovenians and at least one Romani from the Province of Ljubljana were transferred to Auschwitz from other concentration camps.

Ljubljana: the Slovenian Home Guard's oath of allegiance, 20 April 1944, in front of the Bežigrad stadium (kept by: MNZ Ljubljana). From left to right in the front: the President of the Provincial Administration of the Province of Ljubljana, Leon Rupnik (1880, Lokve–1946, Ljubljana), the Higher SS and police leader in the Alpine region, Erwin Rösener (1902, Schwerte–1946, Ljubljana) and the Bishop of Ljubljana, Gregorij Rožman (1883, Dolinčiče–1959, Cleveland). Behind them: three Home Guard soldiers and three Home Guard police officers, two of whom are in uniform and one in plain clothes. It is assumed that the latter group were those who were responsible for arresting the people of Ljubljana, most likely including those who were sent to Auschwitz.

Ljubljana: domobranska prisega, 20. april 1944, pred bežigradskim stadionom (hrani: MNZ Ljubljana). Spredaj od leve proti desni predsednik uprave Ljubljanske pokrajine Leon Rupnik (1880, Lokve – 1946, Ljubljana), višji vodja SS in policije v Alpskih deželah Erwin Rösener (1902, Schwerte – 1946, Ljubljana) in ljubljanski škof Gregorij Rožman (1883, Dolinčiče – 1959, Cleveland). Za njimi so vidni trije domobranski vojaki in trije domobranski policisti, dva v uniformi in eden v civilu. Za slednje lahko sklepamo, da so bili tisti, ki so izvajali aretacije Ljubljančanov, verjetno tudi tistih, ki so bili poslani v Auschwitz.

KL:

21. 7. 88.

HEIM-Nr.:
128066 Jugo Sch

Häftlings-Personal-Karte

Fam.-Name: Benigman Oberstellt
 Vorname: Stanislaw
 Geb. am: 22.9.21. in: Dolenske Toplice am: _____ an KL.
 Stand: led. Kinder: _____ am: _____ an KL.
 Wohnort: Dolenske Toplice 72 Krs Novo mesto
 Strasse: Bez Laibach am: _____ an KL.
 Religion: rk 1 Staatsang.: Jugoslawien
 Wohnort d. Angehörigen: Vater am: _____ an KL.
Leopold
Buenos Aires am: _____ an KL.
 Eingewiesen am: 2.10.43. Flo 19.1.45. GR
 durch: _____ am: _____ an KL.
 in KL.: Mauth., 15.2.45.
 Grund: Jugo Sch
 Verstrafen: _____ Entlassung:
 am: _____ durch KL.: _____
 mit Verfügung v.: _____

Personen-Beschreibung:

Grösse: _____ cm
 Gestalt: _____
 Gesicht: _____
 Augen: _____
 Nase: _____
 Mund: _____
 Ohren: _____
 Zähne: _____
 Haare: _____
 Sprache: _____

Bes. Kennzeichen: _____

Charakt.-Eigenschaften: _____

Sicherheit b. Einsatz: _____

Körperliche Verfassung: _____

Strafen im Lager:

Grund:

Art:

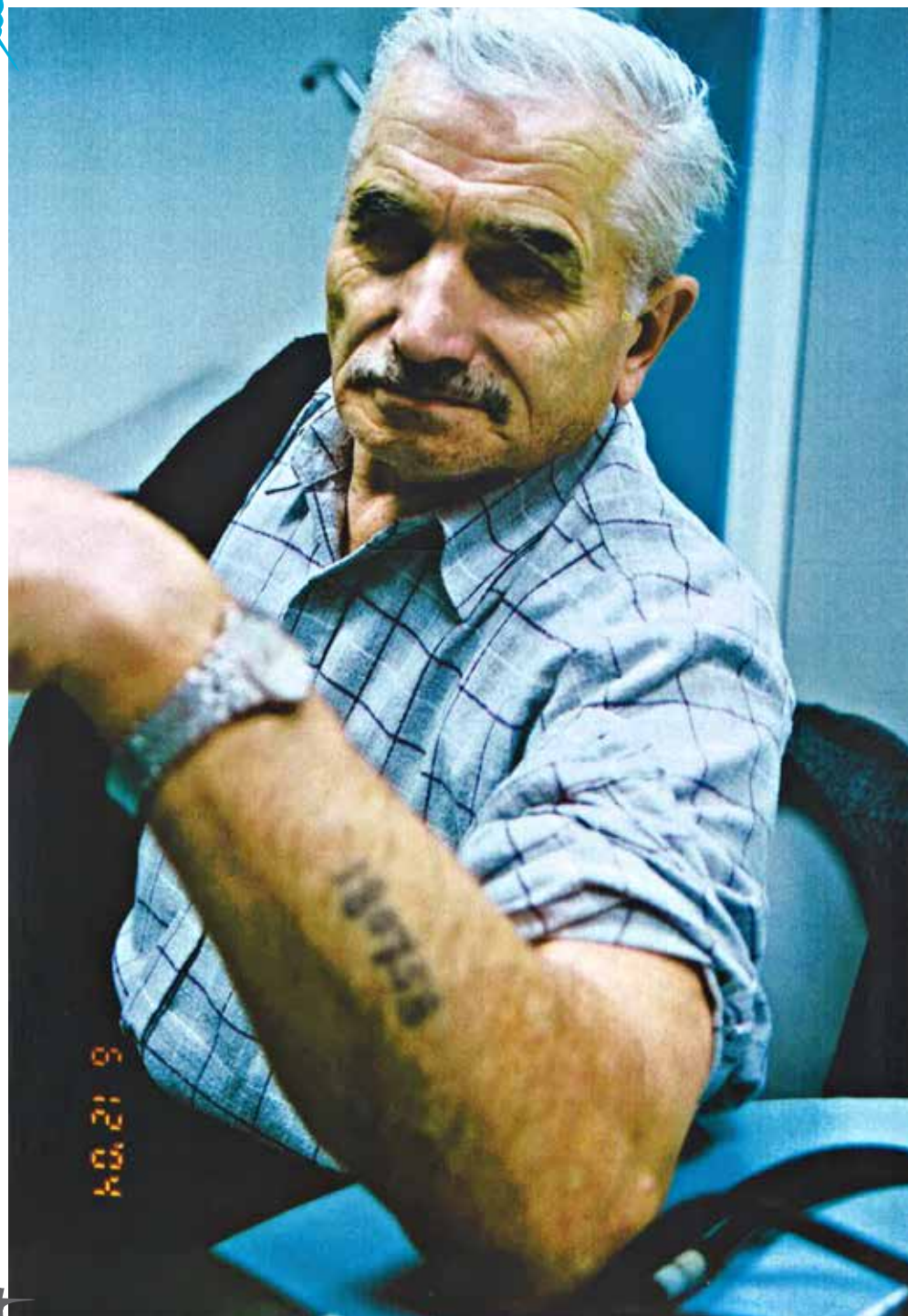
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KL-S-N 44 500.000

Stanko Henigman (1921, Dolenjske Toplice–2015, Novo mesto), camp no. 180758: personal card at the Mauthausen concentration camp (photo: Arolsen Archives) and in old age (kept by: Nada Bobnar). A shoemaker's assistant from Dolenjske Toplice, captured as a Partisan on 20 August 1942. He was sent to the Italian concentration camp on the island of Rab, and from there to Gonars and Renicci. Following Italy's capitulation, he was captured by the Germans and sent to a POW camp near Nuremberg, followed by the Flossenbürg concentration camp and Buchenwald, i.e. its most brutal subcamp, Dora. From Dora, he was transferred to the Lublin (Majdanek) concentration camp, and from there to Auschwitz. He spent nine-and-a-half months in Auschwitz until the evacuation on 17 January 1945, when he was sent first to the Groß-Rosen concentration camp and from there to Mauthausen. He was liberated in Mauthausen's subcamp, Ebensee.

Stanko Henigman (1921, Dolenjske Toplice – 2015, Novo mesto), taboriščna št. 180758: osebni list v taborišču Mauthausen (fotografija: Arolsen Archives) in v starosti (hrani: Nada Bobnar). Čevljarski pomočnik iz Dolenjskih Toplic, ujet kot partizan 20. avgusta 1942. Poslali so ga v italijansko taborišče Rab, od tam pa v Gonars in Renicci. Po kapitulaciji Italije so ga zajeli Nemci in poslali v ujetniško taborišče pri Nürnbergu, od tam v koncentracijsko taborišče Flossenbürg, iz njega pa v Buchenwald oziroma njegovo najhujšo podružnico Doro. Od tam je moral v koncentracijsko taborišče Lublin oziroma Majdanek, iz njega pa v Auschwitz. V Auschwitzu je preživel devet mesecev in pol do evakuacije 17. januarja 1945 v koncentracijsko taborišče Groß-Rosen, iz tega pa v Mauthausen. Osvobojen je bil v mauthausenski podružnici Ebensee.





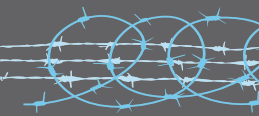
Auschwitz II – Birkenau, 2010
(fotografija: Aleš Topolinjak)

Auschwitz II-Birkenau, 2010
(photo: Aleš Topolinjak)

Marica Melik (1926, Črna vas–1946, Valdoltra), camp no. 70364: perhaps 1943 (kept by: MNZ Ljubljana). A seventeen-year-old A-student from the Poljane Grammar School, who wanted to become a doctor. Her plans were thwarted by a Home Guard arrest in her home village. On the morning after the arrest, members of the Home Guard killed her father and fourteen-year-old brother in the nearby Kozler forest. She was taken to Ljubljana and placed on the women's transport bound for Auschwitz, which left Ljubljana on 1 December 1943. She lived to see the day of liberation, but weighed only 27 kilogrammes. She died at the age of 20 despite treatment. Her diary titled *My Suffering Abroad* has been preserved.

Marica Melik (1926, Črna vas – 1946, Valdoltra), taboriščna št. 70364: verjetno 1943 (hrani: MNZ Ljubljana). Sedemnajstletna odlična dijakinja poljanske gimnazije, ki je želela postati zdravnica. Njene načrte je preprečila domobranska aretacija v domači vasi. Jutro po aretaciji so v bližnji Kozlerjevi gošči domobranci ubili njenega očeta in štirinajstletnega brata. Njo so odpeljali v Ljubljano in uvrstili na ženski transport v Auschwitz, ki je Ljubljano zapustil 1. decembra 1943. V Auschwitzu je dočkala osvoboditev s samo 27 kilogrami. Kljub zdravljenju je umrla, stara 20 let. Ohranil se je njen dnevnik z naslovom *Moje trpljenje v tujini*.







»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Transport dolenjskih Romov leta 1943 Transport of the Romani from Dolenjska 1943

Od 26. februarja 1943 so v Birkenau pošiljali tudi transporte Romov. V Auschwitz je prispelo okoli 23.000 Romov, med njimi tudi skupina 77 Romov iz okolice Novega mesta, ki so tja prispeli 2. decembra 1943. Samo okoli 3.000 Romov je preživel v Auschwitzu. Romov ob prihodu v taborišče niso ostrižili, pustili so jim civilno obleko in osebne predmete. Vsi Romi so bili po družinah nameščeni v barakah sektorja BIIe ali »Ciganskega taborišča«. Kot drugi taboriščniki so tudi Romi morali delati, vendar samo v taborišču. Ob večerih se je iz romskega dela taborišča vedno slišala glasba, saj jim glasbil niso odvzeli. Umrljivost romskih taboriščnikov je bila kljub nekaterim ugodnostim zelo velika. Nekatere Rome so iz Auschwitza prestavili v druga koncentracijska taborišča, tako tudi pet dolenjskih Rominj v Ravensbrück in enega dolenjskega Roma v Buchenwald. V noči z 2. na 3. avgust 1944 so v plinskih celicah umorili zadnjih 2.897 Romov. V zgodovino Auschwitza se je ta dogodek zapisal kot »noč, ko so violine obmolknile« in je danes dan spomina na porajmos ali genocid nad Romi. Med žrtve porajmosa sodi tudi vseh 77 dolenjskih Romov, ki so bili v Auschwitzu.

From 26 February 1943 onwards, transports to Birkenau included the Romani. About 23,000 Romani arrived in Auschwitz, but only about 3,000 of them survived. Among the Romani prisoners of Auschwitz was a group of 77 Romani from the Novo mesto area, who arrived at the camp on 2 December 1943. On arrival, the Romani's hair was not cut, neither were their civilian clothes and personal belongings taken away from them. All the Romani families were kept together in the barracks of the BIIe sector in the so-called 'Gypsy Family Camp'. Like the rest of the inmates, all the Romani had to work, but only inside the camp complex. Every evening, music could be heard from the Romani camp section as their instruments were not taken away. Despite the benefits they enjoyed, the mortality of Romani prisoners was very high. Some of them were transferred from Auschwitz to other concentration camps, including five Romani women and a Romani man from the Dolenjska region, who were sent to Ravensbrück and Buchenwald respectively. During the night of 2 August 1944, the last 2,897 Romani were killed in the gas chambers. In the history of Auschwitz, this event is remembered as 'the night that silenced the violins' and 2 August is now a day of commemoration of the Romani genocide. All 77 Romani people from Dolenjska who were imprisoned in Auschwitz became the victims of this genocide.

Dina Gottliebová, later Babbitt (1923, Brno–2009, Santa Cruz), camp no. 61016: portrait of a Romani woman in Auschwitz, 1944 (photo: PMAB). Painter Gottliebová, a Jewess from Czechoslovakia, was chosen by the infamous SS officer and physician in Auschwitz, Josef Mengele (1911, Günzburg–1979, Bertioga), to paint colour portraits of the Romani prisoners in Auschwitz. Mengele probably wanted such portraits for the sake of genetic research. Colour photographs did exist at the time, however, they were rare and also more expensive than the work of a camp prisoner.

Dina Gottliebová, kasneje por. Babbitt (1923, Brno – 2009, Santa Cruz), taboriščna št. 61016: portret Rominje v Auschwitzu, 1944 (slika: PMAB). Češka Judinja in slikarka Gottliebová je na zahtevo najbolj zloglasnega esesovskega zdravnika v Auschwitzu Josefa Mengeleja (1911, Günzburg – 1979, Bertioga) naredila barvne portrete Romov v Auschwitzu. Verjetno je Mengele hotel imeti takšne portrete zaradi genske raziskave. V tem času so sicer že obstajale barvne fotografije, a so bile redke in seveda dražje kot delo taboriščnice.

Standortarzt
Auschwitz
1. Lagerarzt d.K.L.
Auschwitz II - Z.L.

23. MRZ. 1944

15400-15429/3a 24
Auschwitz II-BIIe den 22. März 1944

Betreff: Blutproben auf Weil-Felix-Untersuchung
An die
Hyg.-bakt. Untersuchungsstelle der Waffen II-Südost
A u s c h w i t z

Gleichzeitig erhalten Sie 28 Blut-Proben mit der Bitte dieselben der
Untersuchung auf Weil-Felix-Reaktion vorzunehmen:

1. Z	1594/2610	Grünholz Brigitte	400	17. Z	2392/2626	Gross Karl	16
2. Z	3219/	1 Schmidt Martha	1	8. Z	3253/	7 Hartmann Hans	17
3. Z	2632/	2 Rettich Frieda	2	9. Z	2760/	8 Düttke Josef	18
4. Z	3081/	3 Laubinger Martha	3	20. Z	8993/	9 Herzenberger Karl	19
5. Z	3129/	4 Rose Anna	4	1. Z	9027/2630	Rose Maximilian	20
6. Z	3270/	5 Schmidt Luzie	5	2. Z	422/	1 Strauss Alfred	21
7. Z	9735/	6 Pietruszewska Sophie	6	3. Z	9014/	2 Jaulonski Bolesl.	22
8. Z	9736/	7 Pietruszewska Bronislawa	7	4. Z	9007/	3 Burianski Franz	23
9. Z	7969/	8 Schütz Vlasta	8	5. Z	2756/	4 Laubinger Gottfr.	24
10. Z	9739/	9 Pietruszewska Rosalie	9	6. Z	7295/	5 Stein-Serynek Jos	25
1. Z	4645/2620	Reinhardt Katharine	10	7. Z	2844/	6 Janson Albrecht	26
2. Z	479/	1 Fischer Anna	11	8. Z	2801/	7 Adler Oskar	27
3. Z	9662/	2 Kovac Maria	12				
4. Z	9635/	3 Brajdic Rosalie	13				
5. Z	9650/	4 Brajdic Kristine	14				
6. Z	9648/	5 Brajdic Agnes	15				

Der 1. Lagerarzt
d.K.L. Auschwitz II

[Signature]
II-Untersuchungsführer

Nalog za laboratorijske preiskave romskih taboriščnic, ki so bile uporabljene za medicinske poskuse, 23. marec 1944 (hrani: APMAB). Še posebej temno poglavje zgodovine Auschwitza so medicinski poskusi na Romih. Med navedenimi so tudi štiri dolenjske Rominje: Marjana Kovačič (1932, Podbočje), taboriščna št. Z-9662, Mimi Brajdič (1937, Gotna vas), taboriščna št. Z-9635, Kristina Brajdič (1927, Šmihel), taboriščna št. Z-9650, in Agnes Brajdič (1889, Raka), taboriščna št. Z-9648. Samo za zadnjo je znan datum smrti: umrla je tri dni kasneje, 26. marca 1944. Preostale tri so najverjetneje umrle v »noči, ko so violine obmolknile«.


An order for lab tests of Romani women prisoners that were used for medical experiments, 23 March 1944 (kept by: APMAB). A particularly dark chapter in Auschwitz's history are the medical experiments on the Romani. Four of those listed were Romani women from Dolenjska: Marjana Kovačič (1932, Podbočje), camp no. Z-9662, Mimi Brajdič (1937, Gotna vas), camp no. Z-9635, Kristina Brajdič (1927, Šmihel), camp no. Z-9650, and Agnes Brajdič (1889, Raka), camp no. Z-9648. The date of death is known only for the last of the four: she died three days later on 26 March 1944. The other three most likely died during 'the night that silenced the violins'.

Edvika Jurkovič (1925, Šentjernej–1944/45, POD unknown), camp no. Z-9622: personal card in the Buchenwald concentration camp (photo: Arolsen Archives). This is an actual personal card from Auschwitz that accompanied her during the transfer to Ravensbrück and then to Buchenwald. She was marked with a black triangle, which could otherwise also be used to identify a prisoner as a criminal. The most noticeable of the described physical characteristics is her malnourished body ('*Gestalt: unterschl.*').

Edvika Jurkovič (1925, Šentjernej – 1944/45, neznano kje), taboriščna št. Z-9622: osebni list v taborišču Buchenwald (fotografija: Arolsen Archives). Dejansko gre za njen osebni list iz Auschwitza, ki jo je spremljal pri premestitvi v Ravensbrück in nato v Buchenwald. Označena je s črnim trikotnikom, ki je sicer lahko pomenil tudi taboriščnika kriminalca. Med opisanimi telesnimi značilnostmi izstopa podhranjena postava (»*Gestalt: unterschl.*«).

KL: Birkenau 28.422 35817

Hollert'st. 36.118

Häftl.-Nr.: 7-9622 

Häftlings-Personal-Karte

Fam.-Name: Jurkovic Überstellt

Vorname: Edrika am: 19.4.44 an KL.

Geb. am: -.-.29 in St. Bartholome Ravensbrück am: 31.8.44 an KL.

Stand: led. Kinderr Arbeit. am: 31.8.44 an KL.

Wohnort: St. Bartholome b. Buchenwalde am: 31.8.44 an KL.

Strasse: Gurkfeld Rudolfswerth am: 31.8.44 an KL.

Religion: r.k. Staatsang.: eh. Jug. am: 31.8.44 an KL.

Wohnort d. Angehörigen: am: 31.8.44 an KL.

Eingewiesen am: 2.12.1943 am: 31.8.44 an KL.

durch: Kripo Marburg am: 31.8.44 an KL.

in KL.: 910 am: 31.8.44 an KL.

Grund: asoz. Arb. Jugoslavien. Lig-in Entlassung: 31.8.44 durch KL.

Vorstrafen: 31.8.44 am: 31.8.44 durch KL.

mit Verfügung v.: 31.8.44 durch KL.

Personen-Beschreibung:

Grösse: 155 cm

Gestalt: unterschl.

Gesicht: ova l

Augen: braun

Nase: norm. gradl.

Mund: norm.

Ohren: norm.

Zähne: vollst.

Haare: braun

Sprache: jugosl.

Bes. Kennzeichen: keine

Charakt.-Eigenschaften: keine

Sicherheit b. Einsatz: keine

Körperliche Verfassung: keine

Strafen im Lager:		
Grund:	Art:	Bemerkung:

KL/5/4.43 - 500000





»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Transporti s Primorske leta 1944 Transports from Primorska 1944

Takoj po kapitulaciji Italije je območje Primorske postalo del nemške Operacijske cone Jadransko primorje, ustanovljene 10. septembra 1943. Cona je zajemala območja italijanskih pokrajin s sedeži v Vidmu, Gorici, Trstu, Pulju, na Reki in v Ljubljani. V vsej operacijski coni, razen v Ljubljanski pokrajini, je policijsko upravo vodil Odilo Globocnik. Pred prihodom v Trst so pod njegovo poveljstvo v Lublinu na Poljskem sodila taborišča smrti Belžec, Majdanek, Sobibor in Treblinka, ki so bila v letih 1942 in 1943 največja morišča holokavsta. Z njim je s Poljske prišel tudi del moštva teh taborišč. Ti ljudje niso samo okrutno zatirali odporniškega gibanja, pač pa so tudi ustanovili koncentracijsko taborišče Rižarna. Čeprav je to ime do danes ohranilo zlovešči sloves, je bila večina aretiranih primorskih Slovencev zaprtih v zaporu Coroneo v Trstu in v zaporu v Gorici. Od tod so mnoge poslali v koncentracijska taborišča. V Auschwitz so s Primorske pošiljali izključno ženske: okoli 450 Primork na več transportih od 12. januarja do 5. novembra 1944. Večina je bila po nekaj tednih ali mesecih iz Auschwitza premeščena, zato je v tej skupini taboriščnic delež preživelih višji kot pri preostalih skupinah.

Immediately after Italy's capitulation, the territory of the Primorska came under the German Operational Zone of the Adriatic Littoral, established on 10 September 1943, which comprised the territories of the Italian provinces with seats in Udine, Gorizia, Trieste, Pula, Rijeka and Ljubljana. With the exception of the Province of Ljubljana, the police administration throughout the Operational Zone was under the direct command of Odilo Globocnik. Prior to his arrival in Trieste, the death camps of Belzec, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka – these were the Holocaust's major killing centres in 1942 and 1943 – were under his command in Lublin, Poland. A part of the team from these camps came with Globocnik from Poland. Not only did they brutally suppress the resistance movement, they also established the Risiera di San Sabba concentration camp. Although the camp's name has remained infamous to this day, most arrested Slovenians from the region were imprisoned in the Coroneo prison in Trieste and the prison in Gorizia. From there, many were sent to concentration camps. When it came to Auschwitz, all of the deportees from Primorska were women: about 450 women were sent there in several transports between 12 January and 5 November 1944. Given that after a few weeks or months most of them were transferred from Auschwitz elsewhere, the survival rate in this group of female camp prisoners is higher than in other groups.

Odilo Globocnik (1904, Trieste–1945, Paternion): Higher SS and police leader of the Operational Zone of the Adriatic Littoral in front of the Palazzo di Giustizia in Trieste, 20 April 1944 (kept by: MNZ Ljubljana). One of the vilest Nazis, whose father was a Slovenian. Under his command, probably about 2 million Jews and about 50,000 Romani were killed in Poland in 1942 and 1943. Behind the pictured building is the Coroneo prison, from where a large part of the approximately 450 Primorska female prisoners of Auschwitz were sent there.

Odilo Globocnik (1904, Trst – 1945, Paternion): višji vodja SS in policije v Operacijski coni Jadransko primorje v Trstu pred Sodno plačo, 20. april 1944 (hrani: MNZ Ljubljana). Eden najmračnejših nacistov, čigar oče je bil Slovenec. Pod njegovim poveljstvom so v letih 1942 in 1943 na Poljskem ubili verjetno okoli 2 milijona Judov in okoli 50.000 Romov. Za zgradbo na fotografiji je zapor Coroneo, iz katerega so v Auschwitz poslali velik del okoli 450 primorskih taboriščnic iz tega taborišča.



Fanika Gomišček (1926, Deskle–1944, Auschwitz), camp no. 70379: perhaps 1942 or 1943 (photo: *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, 1982). As a seventeen-year-old girl, she joined the Gradnik Brigade following Italy's capitulation. Women's participation in warfare – previously considered unusual – was one of the special features of the Yugoslav Partisans. She was captured after two months of fighting, and was taken to Ljubljana for questioning and torture. She was sent to Auschwitz in a transport of women from Ljubljana, arriving there on 11 December 1943. This makes her one of the first two women from the Primorska region in Auschwitz. She passed away after two months in the camp and was thus the first woman from Primorska to die at Auschwitz.

Fanika Gomišček (1926, Deskle – 1944, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 70379: verjetno 1942 ali 1943 (fotografija: *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, 1982). Kot sedemnajstletno dekle je po kapitulaciji Italije vstopila v Gradnikovo brigado. Do takrat neobičajno sodelovanje žensk v vojskovanju je sicer ena izmed posebnosti jugoslovanske partizanske vojske. Po dveh mesecih bojevanja so jo ujeli ter odpeljali na zaslišanje in mučenje v Ljubljano. S transportom Ljubljančank je bila poslana v Auschwitz, kamor je prispela 11. decembra 1943. Tako je postala ena izmed prvih dveh Primork v Auschwitzu. Po dveh mesecih je umrla in zato je tudi prva Primorka, ki je umrla v tem taborišču.



Marija Čefarin (1927, Deskle–1945, Merano), camp no. 82402: perhaps 1943 or 1944 (photo: *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, 1982). She was arrested in her home village on 21 June 1944, three days before she turned 17. On that day, 27 girls and 19 men were taken from Deskle to the prison in Gorizia. All the girls were sent to Auschwitz, most of them arriving on 1 July, and some on 14 July 1944. In the autumn, most of them were transferred to less strict labour camps, and some to Bergen-Belsen, where the pre-liberation conditions were even worse than in Auschwitz. Marija was one of those who never returned home. She did live to see the end of the war, but died on the way home due to the consequences of life in the camps.

Marija Čefarin (1927, Deskle – 1945, Merano), taboriščna št. 82402: verjetno 1943 ali 1944 (fotografija: *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, 1982). Aretirana 21. junija 1944, tri dni pred 17. rojstnim dnevom, v domači vasi. Tega dne so iz Deskel v zapor v Gorici odpeljali 27 deklet in 19 moških. Vsa dekleta so prispela v Auschwitz, večina 1., nekatere pa 14. julija 1944. Večino so jeseni prestavili v milejša delovna taborišča, nekatera pa v Bergen-Belsen, kjer so bile razmere pred osvoboditvijo še hujše kot v Auschwitzu. Marija je bila med tistimi, ki se niso vrnil domov. Dočakala je konec vojne, a je zaradi posledic taborišč umrla na poti domov.



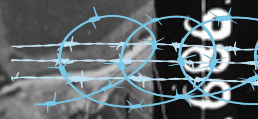
Ilka Bignami, née Devetak (1896, Tolmin–1944, Auschwitz), camp no. 86987: bust (photo: Marko Grego, kept by: Tolminski muzej). An Italian general's wife and a Partisan informer. She was arrested and sent to the Gorizia prison, and from there to Auschwitz, where she arrived on 17 August 1944. She could speak several languages and thus had no problems making contacts that were helpful to inmates. When she was with one of her contacts, she was late for the roll call and was punished by being made to kneel in the snow with her arms raised, laden with stones. She fell ill afterwards and died on 19 December 1944.

Ilka Bignami, roj. Devetak (1896, Tolmin – 1944, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 86987: doprsje (fotografija: Marko Grego, hrani: Tolminski muzej). Žena italijanskega generala in partizanska obveščevalka. Bila je aretirana in preko zapora v Gorici poslana v Auschwitz, kamor je prispela 17. avgusta 1944. Ker je znala več jezikov, je hitro navezala stike, ki so bili koristni za sotrpinke. Pri enem izmed teh stikov je zamudila apel. Kaznovana je bila s klečanjem v snegu z dvignjenimi rokami, obteženimi s kamni. Zaradi tega je zbolela in 19. decembra 1944 umrla.



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»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Tovarna smrti The Death Factory

Šele ko so bili v taborišču Birkenau do poletja leta 1943 zgrajeni krematoriji (in plinske celice) II, III, IV in V z dnevno zmogljivostjo 4.416 ljudi in ko so do jeseni istega leta prenehala delovati uničevalna taborišča Bežec, Majdanek, Sobibor in Treblinka, je Auschwitz II postal cilj skoraj vseh transportov Judov, ki jih je organiziral Adolf Eichmann. Zaradi pomena, ki ga je Birkenau sicer postopoma dobil za »dokončno rešitev judovskega vprašanja«, je bilo od okoli 1,3 milijona ljudi, poslanih v Auschwitz, kar okoli 1,1 milijona (ali 85 %) Judov. Judje zato predstavljajo tudi ogromno večino žrtev Auschwitza: 960.000 (ali 87 %) od skupnega števila 1,1 milijona žrtev. Ubijanje je bilo izvedeno tako, da je Birkenau upravičeno dobil ime »tovarna smrti«. Učinkovitost ubijanja Judov so ves čas izboljševali: zadnji korak je bilo maja 1944 dokončano podaljšanje železniških tirov skozi t. i. Vrata smrti do krematorijev (in plinskih celic) II in III. To je pomenilo, da so tisti Judje, ki so bili selekcionirani za smrt, od prihoda do smrti živeli samo še eno ali dve uri.

It was not until the summer of 1943, when Crematoria (and gas chambers) II, III, IV and V with a daily capacity of 4,416 people were built at Birkenau and when the Belzec, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka extermination camps ceased to operate by the autumn of that same year, that Auschwitz II became the final destination of almost all transports of Jews organised by Adolf Eichmann. Due to the importance Birkenau gradually assumed in terms of the 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question', about 1.1 million (or 85%) of a total of about 1.3 million people sent to Auschwitz were Jews. For this reason, Jews make up the vast majority of Auschwitz victims, i.e. 960,000 (or 87%) of the total number of victims, which amounted to about 1.1 million. The killings were carried out in such a way that Birkenau was aptly named 'the Death Factory'. The effectiveness of the killing of Jews was constantly improved: the last step was the final extension of the rail tracks in May 1944 through the so-called Gate of Death to Crematoria (and gas chambers) II and III. This meant that the Jews who were selected to die only had another hour or two to live from the time they arrived.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: aerial photo, 23 August 1944 (photo: RSAAF, kept by: The National Collection of Aerial Photography, Edinburgh). A new ramp is visible in the centre of the right side of the photo; in May 1944, the rail tracks were finally extended through the so-called Gate of Death all the way to the Crematoria (and gas chambers) II and III. To the right of the ramp is the BI sector, while the BII sector is to the left of it in the central part of the photo. On the left side of the photo is the unfinished BIII sector known as 'Mexico'. By the bottom left corner of the BII sector is a birch grove with Crematoria (and gas chambers) IV and V. On account of the massive scale of the killings, the bodies were also burnt out in the open next to crematorium V and the smoke of the cremated bodies is visible. To the right of Crematorium IV are storehouses for personal belongings seized from the prisoners called 'Kanada'.

Auschwitz II – Birkenau: zračni posnetek, 23. avgust 1944 (fotografija: RSAAF, hrani: The National Collection of Aerial Photography, Edinburgh). V sredini desno nova »rampa«: maja 1944 dokončano podaljšanje železniških tirov skozi t. i. Vrata smrti do krematorijev (in plinskih celic) II in III. Desno od »rampe« sektor BI, levo od nje v sredini sektor BII, povsem levo nedokončani sektor BIII »Mehika«. Ob levem spodnjem kotu sektorja BII je brezov gozdiček, v katerem sta krematorija (in plinski celici) IV in V. Ob slednjem so zaradi izrednega obsega usmrtitev sežigali trupla tudi na prostem, saj je viden dim od sežganih trupel. Desno od krematorija IV »Kanada«, skladišča za predmete, odvzete taboriščnikom.



Auschwitz II – Birkenau: krematorij (in plinska celica) III med gradnjo, 1943 (hrani: APMAB). Krematorija II in III sta bila enaka. Pod zemljo sta imela slačilnico, žrtvam so namreč povedali, da se gredo tuširat, in plinsko celico. Z električnim dvigalom so trupla dvignili nadstropje višje. *Sonderkommando*, taboriščniki, ki so delali v krematoriju, so pred upepelitvijo ženskim truplom postrigli lase, vsem odraslim truplom pa pregledali zobovje in izdrli zlate zobe. Krematorija sta prenehala delovati novembra 1944, 20. januarja 1945 sta bila razstreljena.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: Crematorium (and gas chamber) III during construction, 1943 (kept by: APMAB). Crematoria II and III were identical. They each had a dressing room – the victims were told they were going to take a shower – and a gas chamber, both of which were underground. An electric lift was used to lift the dead bodies up to the next floor. The *Sonderkommando*, i.e. the prisoners who worked in the crematorium, cut the hair of the women's dead bodies before they were cremated, examined the teeth of all adult bodies and extracted any gold teeth. The two crematoria ceased to operate in November 1944 and were blown up on 20 January 1945.

Solahütte: a resort for the SS from Auschwitz, June or July 1944 (a photo album belonging to Karl-Friedrich Höcker, kept by: USHMM). The people in charge of the 'Death Factory' (row 1, from left to right): 1 – Karl-Friedrich Höcker (1911, Engershausen–2000, Lübbecke), adjutant to Auschwitz I's commandant, 3 – Rudolf Höss, Auschwitz commandant, 4 – Richard Baer (1911, Floß–1963, Frankfurt am Main), Auschwitz I commandant, 5 – Josef Kramer (1906, München–1945, Hameln), Auschwitz II-Birkenau commandant, and 7 – Josef Mengele, chief physician at Auschwitz II-Birkenau.

Solahütte: počitniški dom za esesovce iz Auschwitza, junij ali julij 1944 (fotografski album Karla-Friedricha Höckerja, hrani: USHMM). Ljudje, ki so vodili »tovarno smrti« (1. vrsta, od leve): 1 – Karl-Friedrich Höcker (1911, Engershausen – 2000, Lübbecke), adjutant poveljnika Auschwitz I, 3 – Rudolf Höss, poveljnik Auschwitza, 4 – Richard Baer (1911, Floß – 1963, Frankfurt ob Majni), poveljnik Auschwitz I, 5 – Josef Kramer (1906, München – 1945, Hameln), poveljnik Auschwitz II – Birkenaua, in 7 – Josef Mengele, glavni zdravnik Auschwitz II – Birkenaua.







»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Transporti prekmurskih Judov leta 1944 Transports of Jews from Prekmurje 1944

Največji obseg je »tovarna smrti« Auschwitz dobila zaradi nemške zasedbe Madžarske 19. marca 1944. V t. i. *Ungarn Aktion*, ki jo je vodil sam Adolf Eichmann, so od konca aprila do začetka julija 1944 odpeljali več kot 430.000 Judov s takratne Madžarske v Auschwitz. Prekmurski Judje so bili med prvimi žrtvami te »akcije«. 19. aprila 1944 je bila namreč sprejeta odločitev, da aretirajo najprej Jude iz območij blizu jugoslovanskih partizanov in jim tako preprečijo, da bi se zatekli k njim. 26. aprila 1944 so madžarski žandarji okoli 280 prekmurskih Judov – otroke, starke in starce ter ženske in kot najmanj številne moške, saj je bila večina že vpoklicana v delovne enote madžarske vojske – odpeljali v murskosoboško in lendavsko sinagogo. Naslednji dan so jih pripeljali v Čakovec in jih skupaj z medžimurskimi Judi predali esesovcem. Vse so 28. aprila 1944 odpeljali v Nagykanizso. Takoj so izbrali za delo sposobne in jih še istega dne popoldne z vlakom poslali na »delo v Nemčijo«. V Budimpešti so jim priključili še Jude iz internacijskega taborišča Kistarcsa. Kot prvi izmed 147 transportov *Ungarn Aktiona* so 2. maja 1944 prispeli v Auschwitz. Ker so bili na tem transportu za delo sposobni, je bilo okoli dve tretjini prispelih sprejetih v taborišče. Preostale so takoj ubili v plinskih celicah.

More prisoners than ever were kept at Auschwitz's 'Death Factory' following the German occupation of Hungary on 19 March 1944. Between late April and early July 1944, more than 430,000 Jews from the then Hungary were taken to Auschwitz during the so-called *Ungarn Aktion*, led by Adolf Eichmann himself. The Jews from Prekmurje were among the first victims of this campaign. In fact, on 19 April 1944, it was decided that Jews from areas close to the Yugoslav Partisans must be arrested first to prevent them from finding refuge with the Partisans. On 26 April 1944, the Hungarian Gendarmerie took about 280 Jews from Prekmurje – children, women, elderly women and men, as well as younger men, although the latter were outnumbered by all the others as most of them had already been enlisted in the Hungarian Army's work units – to the Murska Sobota and Lendava synagogues. The next day they were taken to Čakovec and handed over to the SS together with the Jews from Međimurje. On 28 April 1944 they were all taken to Nagykanizsa. Those deemed fit for work were immediately selected and were sent 'to Germany to work' by train later that afternoon. In Budapest, they were joined by Jews from the Kistarcsa internment camp. They arrived at Auschwitz on 2 May 1944 as the first of the 147 *Ungarn Aktion* transports. As the new arrivals on this transport were fit for work, about two-thirds of them were admitted into the camp. The rest were immediately killed in the gas chambers.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: the ramp, probably on 27 May 1944, the arrival of a transport of Jews from Subcarpathian Ukraine (*Auschwitz Album*, kept by: Yad Vashem). Top left and in the middle: the barracks and brick buildings of the B1b sector, where the women's part of the camp was located at the time; top right: Crematorium (and gas chamber) II. All the new arrivals in the photo are clad in winter coats although it was late spring at the time. When they were arrested, they had no idea what lay in store for them, so they took their warmest clothes. Most people in the photo had only an hour, or maybe two, left to live.

Auschwitz II – Birkenau: »rampa«, verjetno 27. maj 1944, prihod transporta Judov iz Podkarpatske Ukrajine (*Auschwitz Album*, hrani: Yad Vashem). Zgoraj levo in v sredini barake in zidane stavbe sektorja B1b, kjer je bil tedaj ženski del taborišča, zgoraj desno krematorij (in plinska celica) II. Vsi pravkar prispeli so oblečeni v zimske plašče, čeprav je bila že pozna pomlad. Ko so jih aretirali, so, ker niso vedeli, kaj jih čaka, vzeli najtoplejšo obleko. Večina ljudi na fotografiji ima pred seboj še uro, morda dve življenja.



Auschwitz II – Birkenau: »rampa«, verjetno 27. maj 1944, selekcija Judov iz Podkarpatske Ukrajine (*Auschwitz Album*, hrani: Yad Vashem). Desno za delovno taborišče, levo za plinske celice, tako tudi ženska z dojenčkom. V ozadju t. i. Vrata smrti. Vidni so tudi taboriščniki *Kanada Kommando*, ki so v skladišča odnesli prtljago pravkar prispelih. Ti so morali vso prtljago pustiti v vagonih. Taboriščniki *Kanada Kommando* so morali tudi pomagati pri selekciji. Kljub ostrim kaznim so nemalokrat tvegali in pravkar prispelim svetovali, kaj naj povedo pri selekciji. Takšen nasvet je rešil prekmurskega Juda Tomislava Schwarzarja, v Izraelu Yoela Shacharja (1931, Lendava – 2018, Izrael), taboriščna št. A-3576.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: the ramp, probably on 27 May 1944, the selection of Jews from Subcarpathian Ukraine (*Auschwitz Album*, kept by: Yad Vashem). To the right for the labour camp, to the left for the gas chamber – the woman with the baby was sent there. In the background: the so-called Gate of Death. Also visible are the *Kanada Kommando* inmates carrying luggage belonging to the new arrivals, who had to leave it all in the wagons. The *Kanada Kommando* inmates also had to assist with selection. Despite harsh punishment, they often took the risk, advising the new arrivals what to say during selection. Such advice saved the life of Tomislav Schwarzar, a Jew from Prekmurje, known as Yoel Shachar in Israel (1931, Lendava–2018, Israel), camp no. A-3576.

The family of Lajos/Ludvik Blau (1903, Lendava–1998, Murska Sobota), probably Lendava, prior to 1941 (kept by: Galerija-Muzej Lendava). Standing: brother Jenő/Evgen (1907, Lendava–1945, Agfalva), wife Magda, née Preiss (1914, Lendava–1944, Auschwitz), Lajos and sister Margit, married name Nemes (1909, Lendava–1944, Auschwitz); sitting down: mother Malvina, née Dreisiger (1881, Páka–1944, Auschwitz), daughter Livija (1938, Zagreb–1944, Auschwitz) and father Henrik (1875, Petišovci–1944, Auschwitz). Lajos spent the war as a prisoner of war in Germany. All his relatives in the photo, except for his sister and brother, were killed at Auschwitz on 21 May 1944. His sister died there some time later. His brother died in a Hungarian Army work unit.

Družina Lajosa/Ludvika Blaua (1903, Lendava – 1998, Murska Sobota), verjetno Lendava, pred 1941 (hrani: Galerija-Muzej Lendava). Stojijo: brat Jenő/Evgen (1907, Lendava – 1945, Agfalva), žena Magda, roj. Preiss (1914, Lendava – 1944, Auschwitz), Lajos in sestra Margit, por. Nemes (1909, Lendava – 1944, Auschwitz); sedijo: mama Malvina, roj. Dreisiger (1881, Páka – 1944, Auschwitz), hči Livija (1938, Zagreb – 1944, Auschwitz) in oče Henrik (1875, Petišovci – 1944, Auschwitz). Lajos je vojno preživel kot vojaški ujetnik v Nemčiji. Vsi njegovi sorodniki na fotografiji razen sestre in brata so bili usmrčeni v Auschwitzu 21. maja 1944. Tam je malo kasneje umrla tudi sestra, brat pa je umrl v delovni enoti madžarske vojske.








»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ


Transporti prekmurskih Judov leta 1944 Transports of Jews from Prekmurje 1944

Večina 26. aprila 1944 aretiranih prekmurskih Judov, predvsem otroci z materami in starejši ljudje, so ostali v Nagykanizsi. 18. maja 1944 je od tam odšel drugi transport v Auschwitz. Prispel je 21. maja 1944. Ta dan je bil najbolj grozljiv v vsem času obstoja taborišča Auschwitz: s šestimi transporti iz Madžarske, eden od njih je bil drugi transport iz Nagykanizse, je prispelo več kot 17.000 Judov, od katerih so jih okoli 13.000 takoj po selekciji usmrtili. Prekmurska Judinja Šarika Heimer (1925, Murska Sobota – verjetno 2002, Izrael), taboriščna št. 80860, se je teh dni spominjala: »... ogromni transporti ljudi, ki so jih dan za dnem vozili v taborišče. Vsak dan se je slišalo strahotno vpitje nedolžnih ljudi. Bilo je strašno, nebo nad krematorijem pa je žarelo.« Verjetno je bil 21. maj 1944 tudi dan, ko je bilo v drugi svetovni vojni usmrčenih največ ljudi iz Slovenije. Sicer velja za najbolj krvav dan 2. oktober 1942, ko je bilo v Mariboru ustreljenih 143 talcev. Okoli 25 Judov z območja Šalovcev in Motvarjevcev so pripeljali v Auschwitz v začetku julija 1944 preko Szombathelyja in Zalaegerszega.

Most of the Jews from Prekmurje arrested on 26 April 1944, in particular children with mothers and the elderly, stayed in Nagykanizsa. On 18 May 1944, the second transport left Nagykanizsa for Auschwitz, arriving there on 21 May 1944. This was the most horrifying day of the entire existence of the Auschwitz concentration camp: more than 17,000 Jews arrived on six transports from Hungary, one of them being the second transport from Nagykanizsa; about 13,000 of them were killed immediately after selection. A Jewess from Prekmurje, Šarika Heimer (1925, Murska Sobota – probably 2002, Israel), camp no. 80860, remembered those days with the following words: “... massive transports of people arrived at the camp day after day. Every single day, you could hear the blood-curdling screaming of innocent people. It was horrible and the sky above the crematorium was lit aglow.” 21 May 1944 was probably also the day when the largest number of people from Slovenia were killed in a single day during World War II. Apart from this day, 2 October 1942, when 143 hostages were shot in Maribor, is considered the bloodiest day. About 25 Jews from the area of Šalovci and Motvarjevci were brought to Auschwitz in early July 1944 via Szombathely and Zalaegerszeg.



Auschwitz II-Birkenau: a birch grove in front of Crematorium (and gas chamber) IV, probably on 26 May 1944 (*Auschwitz Album*, kept by: Yad Vashem). There were so many transports of Jews during the *Ungarn Aktion* that those selected to die – such as those in the photo – sometimes had to wait a while to be executed. It is very likely that the Jews from Prekmurje who arrived in Auschwitz on 21 May 1944 on the second transport from Nagykanizsa waited at the same location as the people in the photo. In the background the barracks in the ‘Kanada’ sector are visible: storehouses for belongings seized from the inmates.



Auschwitz II – Birkenau: brezov gozdček pred krematorijem (in plinsko celico) IV, verjetno 26. maj 1944 (*Auschwitz Album*, hrani: Yad Vashem). V času *Ungarn Aktiona* je bilo toliko transportov Judov, da so izbrani za smrt, tako kot ti na fotografiji, včasih morali počakati na usmrnitev. Zelo verjetno se je to prav na istem mestu, kot je na fotografiji, zgodilo tudi prekmurskim Judom z drugega transporta iz Nagykanizse, ki so v Auschwitz prispeli 21. maja 1944. V ozadju barake sektorja »Kanada«: skladišča za predmete, odvzete taboriščnikom.



Družina Šarike Hahn, kasneje por. Horvat (1928, Murska Sobota – 2000, Murska Sobota), verjetno Murska Sobota, pred 1941 (hrani: Irena Horvat Šavel). Stoji oče Izidor (1893, Bodonci – 1945, Čotýčany), taboriščna št. 186793, sedijo Šarika, mama Irena, roj. Kemény (1902, Moščanci – 1944, Auschwitz), in brat Andrej (1932, Murska Sobota – 1944, Auschwitz). Oče je prišel v Auschwitz s prvim transportom iz Nagykanizse. Umrl je po evakuaciji Auschwitza na poti v Mauthausen. Mama in brat sta bila usmrčena 21. maja 1944 v Auschwitzu. Šarika je selekcijo preživela. Junija 1944 so jo poslali v delovno taborišče Geislingen an der Steige. Osvoboditev je dočakala 30. aprila 1945 v Seeshauptu.

The family of Šarika Hahn, later Horvat (1928, Murska Sobota–2000, Murska Sobota), probably Murska Sobota, prior to 1941 (kept by: Irena Horvat Šavel). Standing: father Izidor (1893, Bodonci–1945, Čotýčany), camp no. 186793; sitting down: Šarika, mother Irena, née Kemény (1902, Moščanci–1944, Auschwitz), and brother Andrej (1932, Murska Sobota–1944, Auschwitz). The father arrived in Auschwitz on the first transport from Nagykanizsa. He died on the way to Mauthausen following the evacuation of Auschwitz. The mother and the brother were executed on 21 May 1944 in Auschwitz. Šarika survived selection. In June 1944, she was sent to the Geislingen an der Steige labour camp. She was liberated on 30 April 1945 in Seeshaupt.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: Jews from Subcarpathian Ukraine after completed registration in camp uniforms, 27 May 1944 (*Auschwitz Album*, kept by: Yad Vashem). Primo Levi (1919, Turin–1987, Turin), camp no. 174517, wrote the following: *“Nothing belongs to us any more: they took our clothes, our shoes, even our hair; if we speak, they won't listen to us; and even if they did, they wouldn't understand us. And now they'll take our names away too; ...”* The Jews who survived the initial selection were not destined to live. Thus, only 26 Jews from Prekmurje – 23 women and three men – survived Auschwitz.

Auschwitz II – Birkenau: Judje iz Podkarpatske Ukrajine po končani registraciji v taboriščnih uniformah, 27. maj 1944 (*Auschwitz Album*, hrani: Yad Vashem). Primo Levi (1919, Torino – 1987, Torino), taboriščna št. 174517, je zapisal: *»Nič več ni naše: vzeli so nam obleko, čevlje, celo lase; če bomo spregovorili, nas ne bodo poslušali; in četudi bi nas poslušali, nas ne bi razumeli. Vzeli nam bodo še imena ...«* Judom, ki so preživeli začetno selekcijo, ni bilo namenjeno, da preživijo. Tako je Auschwitz preživelo samo 26 prekmurskih Judov, 23 žensk in trije moški.



8. JUN. 1944

Birkenau, 7. Juni 1944.

Der Lagerarzt des
KL Auschwitz II.
(Frauenlager)

An das
Hygiene-Institut der Waffen- u. Polizei,
A u s c h w i t z.

33831-33868 IX 2084-2124

Anbei wird Urinmaterial zur Untersuchung auf:
Eiweiss, Zucker, Sediment, Urobilin, Urobilinogen
u. Indikan, u.zw.:

B l o c k 11 (Zwill.)

95/38

1. A 7049 Kepesz Eva 8
2. A 7050 Kepesz Terez 32
3. A 7051 Lebowicz Lili 3
4. A 7052 Lebowicz Eva u
5. A 7053 Rosenbaum Rosa T
6. A 5770 Molnar Zsuzsanna 6
7. A 5771 Molnar Maria 7
8. A 7200 Gruban Berta 8
9. A 7201 Gruban Joan 9
10. A 7061 Hoffmann Olga 40
11. A 7062 Hoffmann Ida 1
12. A 6035 Moszkovicz Hejen 2
13. A 6034 Moszkovicz Rosa 3
14. A 3624 Schlesinger Klara 4
15. 80913 Kohnstein Josefa 5
16. A 3626 Weiss Olga 6
17. A 5126 Fried Joan 7
18. A 3627 Weisz Malwin 8
19. A 5125 Fried Sarika 9
20. A 13 Friedmann Cily 50
21. 80912 Kohnstein Emilia 1
22. A 14 Friedmann Henryka 2
23. A 3629 Deutsch Malvine 3
24. A 3623 Nuchomovic Iren 4
25. A 5418 Zelikowits Magda 5

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26. A 3622 Nuchomovic Le
27. A 3633 Lichtenstein Malwa
28. A 5136 Demel Lili 8
29. A 3628 Deutsch Eitel 9
30. 13632 Lichtenstein Lili 60
31. A 3625 Schlesinger Lorika 1
32. A 5135 Demel Teresa 2
33. A 5134 Szenderovicz Roza 3
34. A 5133 Szenderovicz Gisela 4
35. A 3635 Weisz Piroška 5
36. A 3634 Weisz Edit 6
37. A 6033 Lazarovics Gusti 7
38. A 5772 Aftis Sari 8

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Der 1. Lagerarzt des
KL Auschwitz II.
[Signature]
4- Hauptsturmführer

Beilagen.



»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Transporti drugih slovenskih Judov Transports of other Jews from Slovenia

Leta 1937 je na območju današnje Slovenije živel 778 Judov. Malo več kot polovica, natančneje 417, jih je živel na območju Prekmurja. Več kot 300 prekmurskih Judov je bilo poslanih v Auschwitz in samo 26, 23 žensk in trije moški, jih je vojno preživel. V Auschwitz je bilo poslanih še vsaj 26 Judov iz Maribora, Ljubljane in s Ptuja. Od teh sta preživela samo en moški in ena ženska. Vsaj dva mariborska Juda, ki sta bila rojena na območju Neodvisne države Hrvaške, sta se po začetku okupacije vrnila v rojstna kraja in v Auschwitz so ju s transporti odpeljali od tam. Nekateri so v to taborišče prispeli v okviru transportov *Ungarn Aktiona*. Več slovenskih Judov se je v času pred kapitulacijo Italije zateklo ali bilo konfiniranih v Italijo. Nekateri so po začetku nemške okupacije poslani v Auschwitz s transporti italijanskih Judov, tudi preko Rižarne.

In 1937, a total of 778 Jews lived in the territory of present-day Slovenia. Over half of them (417) lived in the Prekmurje area and more than 300 of these were sent to Auschwitz. Only 26 of them – 23 women and three men – survived the war. At least 26 other Jews were sent to Auschwitz from Maribor, Ljubljana and Ptuj, of whom only one man and one woman survived. At least two Jews from Maribor, who were born in the Independent State of Croatia, returned to their hometowns after the start of the occupation and were taken to Auschwitz by transport from there. Some Jews arrived at Auschwitz as part of the *Ungarn Aktion* transports. Prior to the capitulation of Italy, a number of Jews from Slovenia either took refuge in Italy or were placed in confinement there. Following the German occupation, some were sent to Auschwitz on transports carrying Italian Jews, including via Risiera di San Sabba.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: a typed order for urine tests of twins, 7 June 1944 (kept by: APMAB). All the listed twins were Jews, including the Kohnstein twins from Maribor, Gizela (1927, Maribor–2014, Polička), camp no. 80913, and Milica (1927, Maribor–1946, Budapest), camp no. 80912. Signed by Josef Mengele. Experiments were performed on one of the twins – when it came to the Kohnstein twins this was Milica – not, however, on the other, who was used as a control sample. Milica did live to see the day of Auschwitz's liberation, but died soon after from the consequences of the experiments. Gizela was a witness in an investigation against Mengele in the 1970s, when he was still alive.

Auschwitz II – Birkenau: naročilo preiskave urina dvojčkov, 7. junij 1944 (hrani: APMAB). Vsi so Judje, tudi Mariborčanki dvojčici Kohnstein, Gizela (1927, Maribor – 2014, Polička), taboriščna št. 80913, in Milica (1927, Maribor – 1946, Budimpešta), taboriščna št. 80912. Podpisan je Josef Mengele. Poskuse je opravljal na enem od dvojčkov, pri dvojčicah Kohnstein je bila to Milica, na drugem, ki je bil kontrolni vzorec, pa ne. Milica je doživela osvoboditev Auschwitza, vendar je zaradi posledic poskusov kmalu umrla. Gizela je bila v sedemdesetih letih 20. stoletja, ko je bil Mengele še vedno živ, priča v preiskavi proti njemu.



Bratranca Milan Singer (1931, Zagreb – 1944, Auschwitz) in Oto Kohnstein, danes Konstein (1929, Čakovec), taboriščna št. A-3227, Maribor, 1935 (hrani: Oto Konstein). Bratranca sta prišla v Auschwitz 21. maja 1944. Mlajši Milan je bil umorjen istega dne skupaj z mamo Erno Singer, roj. Kohnstein (1904, Jihlava – 1944, Auschwitz), babico Marijo Singer, roj. Zeissler (1860, Szombathely – 1944, Auschwitz), ter tetama Pavlo Kohnstein (1889, Okříšky – 1944, Auschwitz) in Olgo Kohnstein, roj. Singer (1895, Hodošan – 1944, Auschwitz). Oto je Auschwitz preživel in dočakal osvoboditev v Bergen-Belsnu.

Cousins Milan Singer (1931, Zagreb–1944, Auschwitz) and Oto Kohnstein, today Konstein (1929, Čakovec), camp no. A-3227, Maribor, 1935 (kept by: Oto Konstein). The cousins were brought to Auschwitz on 21 May 1944. The younger cousin, Milan, was killed later that day together with his mother Erna Singer, née Kohnstein (1904, Jihlava–1944, Auschwitz), grandmother Marija Singer, née Zeissler (1860, Szombathely–1944, Auschwitz), and aunts Pavla Kohnstein (1889, Okříšky–1944, Auschwitz) and Olga Kohnstein, née Singer (1895, Hodošan–1944, Auschwitz). The older cousin, Oto, survived Auschwitz and was at Bergen-Belsen at the time of liberation.

Vera Moskovič (1919, Ljubljana–1944, Auschwitz), camp no. A-8482: prior to 1941 (photo: Ana Benedetič, *Slovenski študenti in Univerza: 1941–1945*, 1999). A student of pedagogy and Liberation Front activist from Ljubljana. In 1942 she was placed in confinement in Italy together with her father, Feliks (1878, Varaždin–1944, Auschwitz), and her brother, Julij (1924, Ljubljana–1944, Flossenbürg), camp no. A-15???. Following Italy's capitulation, they were all arrested and sent to the Fossoli camp and thence to Auschwitz, where they arrived on 30 June 1944. While she and her brother were selected for forced labour, the father was killed later that day. She spent the last month of her life in Birkenau in a hospital in barracks 22, sector B1b. On 30 October 1944, she was 'transferred', but actually sent to a gas chamber. On 1 or 2 November 1944, the Auschwitz gas chambers ceased operation.

Vera Moskovič (1919, Ljubljana – 1944, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. A-8482: pred 1941 (fotografija: Ana Benedetič, *Slovenski študenti in Univerza: 1941–1945*, 1999). Ljubljankanka, študentka pedagogike in sodelavka OF. Z očetom Feliksom (1878, Varaždin – 1944, Auschwitz) in bratom Julijem (1924, Ljubljana – 1944, Flossenbürg), taboriščna št. A-15???, je bila leta 1942 konfinirana v Italijo. Po kapitulaciji Italije so vse aretirali in jih poslali v taborišče Fossoli, od tam pa v Auschwitz, kamor so prispeli 30. junija 1944. Na selekciji je bila z bratom izbrana za delo, oče pa še istega dne umorjen. Zadnji mesec je preživela v bolnišnici v baraki 22 sektorja B1b Birkenaua. 30. oktobra 1944 je bila »premeščena«, dejansko pa poslana v plinsko celico. 1. ali 2. novembra 1944 so plinske celice v Auschwitzu prenehale delovati.



KL:

HMNL-Nr.:
125588 DR. Bifo

Häftlings-Personal-Karte

Fam.-Name: P a p e s c h
 Vorname: Anton
 Geb. am: 5.6.09 in: St. Martin
 Stand: led. Kinder: _____
 Wohnort: Marburg
 - Strasse: Custozagasse 23
 Religion: konf. los Staatsang.: DR.
 Wohnort d. Angehörigen: keine

 Eingewiesen am: 5.6.42 KIAU
 durch: KLM 2.2.45
 in KL.: DR. Bifo
 Grund: _____
 Verstrafen: _____

Oberstellt
 am: _____ an KL.

 am: _____ an KL.

 am: _____ an KL.

 am: _____ an KL.

 am: _____ an KL.

 am: _____ an KL.

Entlassung:
 am: _____ durch KL.;

 mit Verfügung v.: _____

Personen-Beschreibung:
 Grösse: _____ cm
 Gestalt: _____
 Gesicht: _____
 Augen: _____
 Nase: _____
 Mund: _____
 Ohren: _____
 Zähne: _____
 Haare: _____
 Sprache: _____

Bes. Kennzeichen: _____

Charakt.-Eigenschaften: _____

Sicherheit b. Einsatz: _____

Körperliche Verfassung: _____

Strafen im Lager:

Grund:	Art:	Bemerkung:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

11 3. 4. 88.



»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Zadnji transporti The Final Transports

Bolj ko se je slabšal nemški položaj na frontah, bolj se je povečevala potreba po taboriščnikih in bolj se je slabšal njihov položaj. Premiki taboriščnikov iz enega taborišča v drugo so bili čedalje manj smiselni. To se je najprej pokazalo pri evakuaciji Majdanka pri Lublinu, prvega koncentracijskega taborišča, ki ga je osvobodila kakšna zavezniška vojska, konkretno Sovjeti 22. julija 1944. Vanj je bilo v prvih mesecih leta 1944 poslanih več deset Slovencev in Slovenk iz različnih koncentracijskih taborišč. Zaradi hitrega približevanja Sovjetov so iz njega v več transportih od aprila do julija 1944 prišli v Auschwitz. Zaradi številnih transportov iz vse Evrope je bil Auschwitz sicer največje delovno taborišče. Predvsem poleti 1944 je imel tudi presežke za delo primernih taboriščnikov, ki so jih zato pošiljali v druga taborišča. Število transportov iz Auschwitza v druga taborišča se je jeseni 1944 še povečalo zaradi samo še 200 km oddaljene fronte. Kljub temu je še 3. decembra 1944 iz Mauthausna prišel velik transport taboriščnikov, med njimi tudi nekaj deset Slovencev kot zadnjih slovenskih taboriščnikov v Auschwitzu.

As Germany's position on the fronts deteriorated, this resulted in a growing need for camp prisoners and their situation became increasingly grave. Transferring prisoners from one camp to another made less and less sense. This was first revealed during the evacuation of the Majdanek camp in Lublin – the first concentration camp liberated by the Allied powers, specifically by the Soviets on 22 July 1944. During the first few months of 1944, dozens of Slovenians were sent there from various concentration camps. However, due to the rapid approach of the Soviets, they were transferred to Auschwitz on several transports from April to July 1944. On account of the many transports from all over Europe, Auschwitz was the largest labour camp. In the summer of 1944 in particular, it had a surplus of inmates who were fit for work and were therefore sent to other camps. The number of transports from Auschwitz to other camps increased in the autumn of 1944 due to the distance to the front, which was now a mere 200 km away. Nevertheless, a large transport of new prisoners arrived from Mauthausen on 3 December 1944, including a few dozen Slovenians, who were the very last Slovenian Auschwitz prisoners.

Anton Papež (1909, Šmartno ob Paki – after 1945 unknown fate): personal card at the Mauthausen camp (photo: Arolsen Archives). A tailor from Maribor arrested as a Jehovah's Witness (labelled as *Bifo* = *Bibelforscher* or Bible student) and sent to Dachau, where he arrived on 6 June 1942. He was transferred from Dachau to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and thence to Lublin (Majdanek). From there, he was sent to Auschwitz on the last transport, arriving on 28 July 1944. He was at Auschwitz for five-and-a-half months, until 17 January 1945 and the evacuation to Mauthausen, where he was at the time of liberation.

Anton Papež (1909, Šmartno ob Paki – po 1945 neznana usoda): osebni list v taborišču Mauthausen (fotografija: Arolsen Archives). Krojač iz Maribora, aretiran kot jehovec (oznaka *Bifo* = *Bibelforscher* ali proučevalec Biblije) in poslan v Dachau, kamor je prispel 6. junija 1942. Iz Dachaua bil premeščen v koncentracijsko taborišče Sachsenhausen, od tod pa v Lublin oziroma Majdanek. Iz njega je bil z zadnjim transportom poslan v Auschwitz, kamor je prispel 28. julija 1944. V Auschwitzu preživel pet mesecev in pol do evakuacije 17. januarja 1945 v Mauthausen. Tam je dočakal osvoboditev.



Jakob Osojnik (1925, Javorje–1945, Mauthausen), camp no. 199521: on arrival at Auschwitz, 20 September 1944 (kept by: APMAB). A farmer's son from Javorje near Črna na Koroškem. He was arrested together with his father Jakob Osojnik (1895, Javorje–1945, Mauthausen), camp no. 199520. They were sent to Dachau, arriving on 16 May 1944, and then transferred to Auschwitz. They were photographed on arrival, but the father's photo has not been preserved. The letter J (= Jugoslawe, i.e. Yugoslav) on a red triangle (= a political prisoner) is visible on the son's photo. They stayed in Auschwitz until the evacuation to the Groß-Rosen concentration camp on 17 January 1945. They were transferred to Mauthausen, where they arrived on 15 February 1945. They both died here: the father four and the son 20 days after arrival.

Jakob Osojnik (1925, Javorje – 1945, Mauthausen), taboriščna št. 199521: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 20. september 1944 (hrani: APMAB). Kmečki sin iz Javorja pri Črni na Koroškem. Aretiran je bil skupaj z očetom Jakobom Osojnikom (1895, Javorje – 1945, Mauthausen), taboriščna št. 199520. Poslali so ju v Dachau, kamor sta prispela 16. maja 1944. Premeščena sta bila v Auschwitz in ob prihodu fotografirana, vendar se očetova fotografija ni ohranila. Na sinovi fotografiji je vidna črka J (= Jugoslovan) na rdečem trikotniku (= politični zapornik). V Auschwitzu sta bila do evakuacije 17. januarja 1945 v koncentracijsko taborišče Groß-Rosen in poslana v Mauthausen, kamor sta prispela 15. februarja 1945. Tam sta oba umrla: oče štiri dni po prihodu, sin pa 20.

Arnošt Kohnstein (1888, Okříšky–1944, Stutthof), camp no. 186838: the questionnaire completed on arrival in Stutthof, 28 October 1944 (photo: Arolsen Archives). A leather factory owner from Maribor. Following the start of the occupation, he and his family found refuge with their relatives in Čakovec. He arrived in Auschwitz on 2 May 1944 on the first transport from Nagykanizsa and was then transferred to Stutthof. His answers: "... Wife's Name: Olga, née Singer; Race: Jew; Place of Residence: unknown (= she was actually killed in Auschwitz on 21 May 1944) ... Special Features: left forearm tattooed: '186838'..." The date of death is added in the top right corner: 16 December 1944.

Arnošt Kohnstein (1888, Okříšky – 1944, Stutthof), taboriščna št. 186838: vprašalnik izpolnjen ob prihodu v Stutthof, 28. oktober 1944 (fotografija: Arolsen Archives). Mariborčan, lastnik tovarne usnja. Na začetku okupacije se je z družino zatekel k sorodnikom v Čakovec. V Auschwitzu je prispel 2. maja 1944 s prvim transportom iz Nagykanizse. Premeščen je bil v Stutthof. Odgovori: »... Ime žene: Olga, roj. Singer. Rasa: Judinja. Bivališče: neznano (= dejansko je bila umorjena 21. maja 1944 v Auschwitzu) ... Posebne značilnosti: leva podlaha tetovirana: '186838' ...«. Desno zgoraj pripisan datum smrti: 16. december 1944.

Konzentrationslager Stutthof

Art der Haft: *Schl. H.* Gef.-Nr. *99603*
16. 12. 1944

Name und Vorname: *Kohnstein Ernst*
 geb.: *19. 5. 1888* zu: *Oxriohko, Deutschland*
 Wohnort: *Tschakertusa Ungern*
 Beruf: *Gärtner, Pelzgerber, Gärberei Techniker* Rel.: *alt.*
 Staatsangehörigkeit: *Jugoslawien* Stand: *verh.*
 Name der Eltern: *Salomon G. Yantke geb Blum* Rasse: *Jude*
 Wohnort: *tot.*
 Name der Ehefrau: *Olga geb Singer* Rasse: *Judene*
 Wohnort: *unbekannt*
 Kinder: *3* Alleiniger Ernährer der Familie oder der Eltern:
 Vorbildung: *Volksschule, Gärberschule.*
 Militärdienstzeit: von — bis
 Kriegsdienstzeit: von — bis
 Größe: *165 cm* Nase: *gebogen* Haare: *blond* Gestalt: *untersetzt*
 Mund: *normal* Bart: Gesicht: *länglich* Ohren: *normal*
 Sprache: *deutsch, serbokroat. uah.* Augen: *blau* Zähne: *gut.*
 Ansteckende Krankheit oder Gebrechen: *keine*
 Besondere Kennzeichen: *L. u. arm tetoviert; 186838"*
 Rentenempfänger:
 Verhaftet am: *20. 4. 1944* wo: *am Orte*
 1. Mal eingeliefert: *28. 10. 1944* 2. Mal eingeliefert:
 Einweisende Dienststelle: *K/L. Auschwitz.*
 Grund:
 Parteizugehörigkeit: von — bis
 Welche Funktionen:
 Mitglied v. Unterorganisationen:
 Kriminelle Vorstrafen: *keine*
 Politische Vorstrafen: *keine*

Ich bin darauf hingewiesen worden, dass meine Bestrafung wegen intellektueller Urkundenfälschung erfolgt, wenn sich die obigen Angaben als falsch erweisen sollten.

v. d. u.

Ernst Kohnstein

Der Lagerkommandant



Auschwitz I, 2010
(fotografija: Aleš Topolinjak)

Auschwitz I, 2010
(photo: Aleš Topolinjak)

Ferdinand Šlamberger (1912, Pokošje–1945, POD unknown), camp no. 20????: prior to 1944 (kept by: Marinka Hasenbihel). A telephone supervisor from Gornja Radgona arrested for cooperation with the resistance movement. He was sent to the Šterntal (present-day Kidričevo) labour camp and from there to Dachau, where he arrived on 10 September 1944. Four days later, he was transferred to Mauthausen. On 3 December 1944, he was sent to Auschwitz on a transport of 1,120 prisoners. His family received his last letter on 12 January 1945. His ultimate fate is unknown.

Ferdinand Šlamberger (1912, Pokošje – 1945, neznano kje), taboriščna št. 20????: pred 1944 (hrani: Marinka Hasenbihel). Telefonski nadzornik iz Gornje Radgone, aretiran zaradi sodelovanja z odporniškimi gibanjem. Poslan je bil v delovno taborišče Šterntal (danes Kidričevo), od tam pa v Dachau. Tja je prispel 10. septembra 1944, že čez štiri dni pa je bil premeščen v Mauthausen. 3. decembra 1944 so ga na transportu 1.120 taboriščnikov poslali v Auschwitz. Domači so zadnje pismo prejeli 12. januarja 1945. Njegova nadaljnja usoda ni znana.







»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Osvoboditev Auschwitza The Liberation of Auschwitz

12. januarja 1945 se je začela dolgo pričakovana sovjetska ofenziva, zato so 17. januarja 1945 v vseh glavnih in podružničnih taboriščih še zadnjič opravili zbere (t. i. apele) in našteli 67.012 taboriščnikov ter začeli evakuacijo. Vsi evakuirani taboriščniki so vsaj del poti prehodili, kar je bilo ob njihovi siceršnji oslabelosti, izjemno mrzlem vremenu in visokem snegu izjemno težko. Vsakogar, ki je zaradi onemoglosti zastal ali pa naredil kakršen koli disciplinski prekršek, so stražarji neusmiljeno ustrelili. Ni pretiravanje, da so ti pohodi dobili ime »marši smrti«. Okoli 7.500 taboriščnikov, ki so bili prešibki, da bi preživeli »marše smrti« v druga taborišča, stražarji pa jih pred odhodom še niso ubili, je ostalo. V desetih dneh do prihoda osvoboditeljev jih je veliko umrlo, nekatere pa so ustrelili esesovci, ki so odstranjevali dokaze o zločinih. 27. januarja 1945 so v Auschwitz prišli sovjetski vojaki. Prvi, ki so vstopili v Birkenau, so bili oblečeni v bela maskirna oblačila in taboriščnikom so se zdeli kot duhovi. Tudi sovjetskim vojakom so se zdeli prizori, ki so jih zagledali v taborišču, povsem neresnični.

The long-awaited Soviet offensive started on 12 January 1945. As a result, on 17 January 1945 the daily roll calls took place in all the main camps and subcamps for the last time, counting a total of 67,012 prisoners, and then the evacuation started. All the evacuated prisoners had to walk at least part of the way, which was extremely difficult due to their weakened state, the bitterly cold weather and thick snow. Anyone who was unable to keep pace due to exhaustion or who committed a disciplinary offence was mercilessly shot dead by the guards. The marches were thus aptly named 'death marches'. Some 7,500 prisoners who were too weak to survive the death marches to other camps and who the guards failed to kill before leaving stayed behind. During the ten days leading up to the arrival of the liberators, many prisoners died while some were shot dead by the SS who were removing evidence of the crimes committed inside the camps. Soviet soldiers arrived at Auschwitz on 27 January 1945. The very first Soviet soldiers to enter Birkenau were wearing white camouflage clothing and seemed like ghosts to the prisoners. The soldiers, meanwhile, found the scenes they saw in the camp totally surreal.

Jože Bradač (1900, Podhosta–1963, Ljubljana), camp no. 166153: leading Yugoslav prisoners home from Auschwitz I, March or April 1945 (photo: *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, 1982). A World War I veteran from Dolenjske Toplice, who lost both his legs in an accident in 1922. He was arrested as a Liberation Front activist and first taken to the Gonars concentration camp in Italy and then to Renicci. Following Italy's capitulation, he was captured by the Germans, who sent him to a POW camp near Nuremberg and from there to the Flossenbürg concentration camp. On 3 December 1943, he was transferred to Auschwitz, where, as a disabled person, he was saved from the gas chamber by his knowledge of German.

Jože Bradač (1900, Podhosta – 1963, Ljubljana), taboriščna št. 166153: taboriščnike iz Jugoslavije vodi iz Auschwitza I domov, marec ali april 1945 (fotografija: *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, 1982). Veteran prve svetovne vojne iz Dolenjskih Toplic je leta 1922 v nesreči izgubil obe nogi. Kot aktivist OF je bil aretiran in odpeljan v italijansko taborišče Gonars in nato Renicci. Po kapitulaciji Italije so ga zajeli Nemci in poslali v ujetniško taborišče pri Nürnbergu, od tam pa v koncentracijsko taborišče Flossenbürg. 3. decembra 1943 je bil premeščen v Auschwitz. Kot invalida ga je pred plinsko celico rešilo znanje nemščine.



Auschwitz II – Birkenau: baraka, trupla in preživeli (film: Elizaveta Svilova, 1945, objavljeno: *The Liberation of Auschwitz*, 2005). Na posnetku, nastalem kmalu po osvoboditvi, sta preživeli Judinji Bojana/Boriska Taus (1906, neznano kje – po 1945 neznana usoda), taboriščna št. 81215, iz Novega Sada, ki je prispela s transportom 2. maja 1944 iz Bačke Topole, in Katarina Beer (1937, Zvolen – po 1945 neznana usoda), taboriščna št. A-26857, s Slovaške, ki je prispela s transportom 3. novembra 1944 iz Sereda. Deklica je prispela v Auschwitz samo dan po tem, ko so nehale delovati plinske celice.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau: the barracks, dead bodies and the survivors (film by: Elizaveta Svilova, 1945, from: *The Liberation of Auschwitz*, 2005). The two women in the photo taken shortly following the liberation are Jewish survivors, Bojana/Boriska Taus (1906, POB unknown–after 1945 unknown fate), camp no. 81215, from Novi Sad, who arrived on the transport from Bačka Topola on 2 May 1944, and Katarina Beer (1937, Zvolen–after 1945 unknown fate), camp no. A-26857, from Slovakia, who arrived on the transport from Sered on 3 November 1944. The girl arrived in Auschwitz a mere day after the gas chambers stopped operating.

The family of Erika Fürst (1931, Murska Sobota), camp no. A-15981, Murska Sobota, 1940 (kept by: Erika Fürst). Standing: father Edvard (1892, Bakovci–1944/45, POD unknown), camp no. 186710, sister Šarika (1928, Murska Sobota–1948, Maribor), camp no. A-15980, and Erika; sitting: mother Terezija, née Hirschl (1901, Szombathely–1973, Murska Sobota), camp no. A-15979. The mother and the sister, who were both seriously ill at the time of evacuation, stayed at Birkenau. Erika fled from the 'death march', returned to Birkenau and cared for them for ten days until the arrival of the liberators, thus saving their lives.

Družina Erike Fürst (1931, Murska Sobota), taboriščna št. A-15981, Murska Sobota, 1940 (hrani: Erika Fürst). Stojijo oče Edvard (1892, Bakovci – 1944/45, neznan kje), taboriščna št. 186710, sestra Šarika (1928, Murska Sobota – 1948, Maribor), taboriščna št. A-15980, in Erika; sedi mama Terezija, roj. Hirschl (1901, Szombathely – 1973, Murska Sobota), taboriščna št. A-15979. Ob evakuaciji težko bolni mama in sestra sta ostali v Birkenau. Erika je pobegnila z »marša smrti«, se vrnila v Birkenau in deset dni, do prihoda osvoboditeljev, skrbela zanj. Tako jima je rešila življenje.







»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA
»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death ...«: SLOVENIAN VICTIMS OF AUSCHWITZ

Ohranjanje spomina Remembrance

Ohranjanje spomina na trpljenje v Auschwitzu se je začelo že ob osvoboditvi taborišča, ko je Poldka Kos zabeležila 57 preživelih Jugoslovank in njihove taboriščne številke. Slovenski časopisi so zaradi procesov proti vojnim zločincem v prvih letih po vojni omenjali Auschwitz in druga taborišča, vsekakor pa v desetletjih po vojni ta tematika ni imela takšnega pomena kot oboroženi odpor. Zato so spomini Jožice Veble-Hodnik (1914, Celje – 1982 verjetno še živa), taboriščna št. 34634, z naslovom *Preživela sem taborišče smrti* iz leta 1960 in zbirka dokumentov s pesmimi Lojzeta Krakarja (1926, Semič – 1995, Ljubljana), ki je sicer preživel Dachau in Buchenwald, z naslovom *Od tod so bežale še ptice* iz leta 1962 prej izjema kot pravilo. Proces proti Adolfu Eichmannu leta 1961 v Jeruzalemu in trije procesi proti esesovcem iz Auschwitza v Frankfurtu ob Majni v letih 1963–1968 so tudi v slovenski javnosti obudili zanimanje za Auschwitz. Sad tega zanimanja je bila razstava predhodnika današnjega Muzeja novejšje zgodovine Celje leta 1970. Na tej razstavi je bilo predstavljenih 800 fotografij slovenskih taboriščnikov z željo, da se jih čim več identificira. Žal ob razstavi ni izšel katalog. Temeljno, do zdaj nepreseženo delo sta leta 1982 z zbornikom *Auschwitz - Birkenau* naredili Marija Kovač Zupančič in Linka Ksela. Avtor te razstave upa, da je uspešno nadaljeval delo omenjenih predhodnikov.

Endeavours to keep alive the memory of the suffering at Auschwitz began as soon as the camp was liberated, when Poldka Kos wrote down the names of the 57 surviving Yugoslav women and their camp numbers. During the first few years after the war, Slovenian newspapers mentioned Auschwitz and other camps because of the war crimes trials. However, in the decades that followed the war, not as much importance was attached to this topic as to armed resistance. That is why Jožica Veble-Hodnik's (1914, Celje–1982 probably still alive), camp no. 34634, 1960 memoirs titled *I Survived the Death Camp*, and the 1962 collection of documents with poems by Lojze Krakar (1926, Semič–1995, Ljubljana), a Dachau and Buchenwald survivor, titled *Even the Birds Fled from Here*, are the exception rather than the rule. The 1962 trial against Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem and the three trials against the SS personnel who served at Auschwitz, held from 1963 to 1968 in Frankfurt am Main, also aroused the Slovenian public's interest in Auschwitz. The result of this interest was an exhibition staged by the precursor of today's Museum of Recent History Celje in 1970. This exhibition featured 800 photographs of Slovenian concentration camp prisoners with the aim of identifying as many of them as possible. Unfortunately, no accompanying exhibition catalogue was published. A fundamental work on this topic was authored by Marija Kovač Zupančič and Linka Ksela, who published a collection of personal testimonies *Auschwitz - Birkenau* in 1982. The author of this exhibition hopes he has successfully continued the work of his predecessors.

Sonja Zabric, later Vrščaj (1925, Šepulje), camp no. 82396: with students of Slovenian grammar schools at Birkenau in the BI sector, near the barracks where she stayed in 1944, May 2015 (photo: Boris Hajdinjak). She was arrested as a Liberation Front activist and was brought from Trieste to Auschwitz on 1 July 1944. Despite her great age, the long-time chairwoman of the Slovenian Auschwitz Prisoner Committee still works with young people, sharing her memories.

Sonja Zabric, kasneje por. Vrščaj (1925, Šepulje), taboriščna št. 82396: z dijaki slovenskih gimnazij v Birkenau v sektorju BI blizu barake, v kateri je bivala leta 1944, maj 2015 (fotografija: Boris Hajdinjak). Aretirana je bila kot aktivistka OF in iz Trsta v Auschwitz pripeljana 1. julija 1944. Dolgoletna predsednica taboriščnega odbora Auschwitz kljub visoki starosti še vedno prenaša svoje spomine na mlade.



Linka Ksela (1924, Ruše–2005, Maribor), camp no. 66278: on arrival at Auschwitz, 23 October 1943 (kept by: APMAB). The only surviving Pohorje Battalion woman combatant. She was sent to Auschwitz from Maribor together with her elder sister, Zora Ksela (1920, Ruše–1944, Auschwitz), camp no. 66279. In 1982, she worked alongside the pre-war communist Marija Kovač Zupančič (1914, Radeče–2010, Ljubljana), camp no. 65096, sent from Maribor to Auschwitz on 15 October 1943, on a collection of personal testimonies *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, which remains the most important work on Slovenian prisoners in Auschwitz.

Linka Ksela (1924, Ruše – 2005, Maribor), taboriščna št. 66278: ob prihodu v Auschwitz, 23. oktober 1943 (hrani: APMAB). Edina preživela borka Pohorskega bataljona. Iz Maribora je bila v Auschwitz poslana skupaj s starejšo sestro Zoro Ksela (1920, Ruše – 1944, Auschwitz), taboriščna št. 66279. Skupaj s predvojno komunistko Marijo Kovač Zupančič (1914, Radeče – 2010, Ljubljana), taboriščna št. 65096, poslano iz Maribora v Auschwitz 15. oktobra 1943, sta leta 1982 pripravili zbornik *Auschwitz - Birkenau*, ki ostaja temeljno delo v slovenščini.

Viri - neobjavljeni / Sources - unpublished

Arhiv avtorja / Author's archive

Pričevanja taboriščnikov ali njihovih sorodnikov / Testimonies of prisoners or their relatives:

Nada Bobnar, Dolenjske Toplice;
Avgust Bradač, Dolenjske Toplice;
Erika Fürst, Murska Sobota;
Marinka Hasenbihel, Slovenske Konjice;
Irena Horvat Šavel, Murska Sobota;
Bronka Jarc, Maribor;
Oto Konstein, Zagreb;
Franc in / and Helena Kulovec, Dolenjske Toplice;
Helena Romano, Jeruzalem;
Ivica in / and Alice Singer, Zagreb;
Gizela Straková, Svitavy;
Srečko Šarh, Lobnica;
Sonja Vrščaj, Ljubljana;
Milena Žerič, Šempeter v Savinjski dolini.

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Muzej novejšje zgodovine Slovenije, Ljubljana (= MNZ Ljubljana);
Państwowe Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau (= PMAB) in / and Archiwum Państwowego Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau (= APMAB), Oświęcim;
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»Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«

SLOVENSKE ŽRTVE AUSCHWITZA

»Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death...«

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Birkenau



Veleposlaništvo
Države Izrael

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Vsem se iskreno zahvaljujemo.

/ We sincerely thank everyone for his or her contribution.

Pri pripravi razstave in v katalogu so bile uporabljene tudi avtorske fotografije, fotografije iz različnih publikacij in na medmrežju dostopno gradivo / The exhibition and the catalogue feature photographs by various individuals, photographs from different publications and materials accessible online: Boris Hajdinjak (90); Domen Kodrič (naslovnica / cover image, 2, 44); Aleš Topolinjak (16, 30, 36, 42, 46, 54, 84); Benedetič, Ana: *Slovenski študenti in Univerza: 1941–1945: [fotografski zbornik, II. del]*. Ljubljana: Univerza – Zveza združenj borcev in udeležencev NOB, 1999 (79); Kovač Zupančič, Marija – Ksela, Linka (ur. / ed.): *Auschwitz - Birkenau = (Oświęcim - Brzezinka): KL, koncentracijsko taborišče: zbornik*. Maribor: Obzorja – Ljubljana: Borec, 1982 (6, 62, 86, 92);

Silova, Elizaveta: *The Liberation of Auschwitz (DVD)*. Oświęcim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum – Berlin: Chronos-Media, 2005 (88); Arolsen Archives, Bad Arolsen: <https://arolsen-archives.org> (52, 59, 80, 83); National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.: <https://www.archives.gov/> (RSAAF – 18, USAAF – 8); The National Collection of Aerial Photography, Edinburgh: <https://ncap.org.uk/> (RSAAF – 64).

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Avtor razstave se je trudil zbrati natančne osebne podatke o na razstavi omenjenih osebah. Žal mu to ni uspelo pri vseh osebah. Zato se vnaprej opravičuje za morebitne napake. / The author of the exhibition tried to collect accurate personal data about the persons mentioned at the exhibition. Unfortunately, he did not achieve this for all persons. Therefore, he apologizes in advance for any errors.

Razstava »Tu se je smrt utrudila do smrti ...«: slovenske žrtve Auschwitza je bila pripravljena v sodelovanju z Državnim muzejem Auschwitz – Birkenau (orig. Państwowe Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau). / The exhibition »Here Is Where Death Worked Itself to Death...«: Slovenian Victims of Auschwitz has been prepared in cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

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