

BY CARLO MATTOGNO

**AUSCHWITZ:  
OPEN AIR INCINERATIONS**

PUBLISHED BY THE BARNES REVIEW  
P.O. BOX 15877  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

# HOLOCAUST HANDBOOKS SERIES—VOLUME 17:

## *Auschwitz: Open Air Incinerations*

By CARLO MATTOGONO

Translated by HENRY GARDNER

Copyright by CARLO MATTOGONO

*Originally published by Castle Hill Publishers (an imprint of Theses & Dissertation Press) —August 2005*

*Reprinted by THE BARNES REVIEW—November 2010*

ISBN: 978-0-9818085-3-6

ISSN: 1529-7748

Published by THE BARNES REVIEW

Manufactured in the United States of America

Distribution USA/America:

TBR BOOKS, THE BARNES REVIEW

P.O. Box 15877

Washington, D.C. 20003, USA

1-877-773-9077

Distribution Europe/Africa: Castle Hill Publishers

P.O. Box 243

Uckfield, TN22 9AW, UK

Distribution Australia/Asia: Peace Books, P.O. Box 3300

Norwood, 5067, Australia

[www.BarnesReview.com](http://www.BarnesReview.com)

[www.HolocaustHandbooks.com](http://www.HolocaustHandbooks.com)

If these sites are inaccessible, try it with [www.anonymizer.com](http://www.anonymizer.com)

Set in Times New Roman

Photos on front cover, left to right: 1) Northern yard of crematorium V, outdoor cremation site; 2) Photograph by the secret resistance movement at Auschwitz. APMO, negative 277; 3) Polish photograph, spring 1945. Birkenau, area of crematorium V, fence 35. APMO, negative 1334/137. Color background: Birkenau, northern yard of former crematorium V, in 1997. Area in which cremation site was located in August of 1944, © Carlo Mattogno.

# Table of Contents

	Page
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Part One: Open Air Corpse Cremation at Birkenau in 1944 .....</b>	<b>9</b>
1. Official Theses .....	9
2. The Genesis of the Story of Mass Cremations: The Reports from the Auschwitz Resistance Movement.....	10
3. Cremation Trenches in the Soviet and Polish Investigations .....	11
4. Testimonies Concerning the Cremation Trenches .....	13
4.1. Henryk Tauber .....	13
4.2. Henryk Mandelbaum.....	14
4.3. Stanisław Jankowski (alias Alter Feinsilber” alias Fajnzylberg) .....	15
4.4. Szlama Dragon.....	16
4.5. Sigismund Bendel .....	16
4.6. Miklos Nyiszli.....	17
4.7. Dov Paisikovic .....	18
4.8. Joshua Rosenblum.....	19
4.9. Filip Müller .....	20
4.10. Josef Sackar.....	21
4.11. Saul Chasan.....	21
4.12. Jaacov Gabai .....	22
4.13. Shlomo Venezia .....	22
4.14. Summary .....	22
5. Cremation Trenches in Official Historiography.....	24
6. Historical and Technical Analysis of Documents .....	28
6.1. Projects of Mass Cremation at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943 .....	28
6.2. Documents Regarding Outdoor Cremations in 1944 .....	31
6.3. The Groundwater Level at Birkenau.....	33
7. Historical and Technical Analysis of Ground-Level Photos.....	34
7.1. Photos of Corpses Cremation.....	34
7.1.1. The Authors .....	34
7.1.2. The Localization of the Images and the Position of the Photographer.....	36
7.1.3. The Dating of the Photographs .....	36
7.1.4. The Field of View of the Images .....	37
7.1.5. The Contents of the Images .....	38
7.2. Photo of Women “Sent into the Gas Chambers” .....	39
7.3. Origin of the Photos According to Alter Fajnzylberg.....	41
8. Official Analyses of Air Photos .....	43
8.1. The Analysis by Dino A. Brugioni and Robert G. Poirier .....	43

8.2. The Analysis by Mark van Alstine.....	44
8.3. The Analysis by Carroll Lucas.....	44
8.4. The “Addendum” to Carroll Lucas’ Analysis.....	45
8.5. The Analysis by Nevin Bryant of NASA.....	46
8.6. Comments on the Analyses of Air Photos .....	47
9. What Air Photographs Should Show.....	49
9.1. The Deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz .....	49
9.2. Number and Distribution of Cremated Bodies.....	50
9.3. Surface Area Required for Cremation Trenches .....	50
9.4. Earth Removed from Pits.....	51
9.5. Fire Wood Needed for Corpse Cremation .....	51
9.6. Quantity of Ash Produced.....	54
10. What Air Photos Really Show.....	56
10.1. The Area of “Bunker 2” .....	56
10.2. The Area of Crematorium V .....	58
10.3. The Photo of August 23, 1944 .....	59
10.3.1. The Area of “Bunker 2” .....	59
10.3.2. The Area of Crematorium V .....	61
10.3.3. The Historical Framework .....	62
10.3.4. The Problem of the Absence of Smoke Rising from the Chimneys of the Crematoria .....	63
11. Recapitulation.....	66
<b>Part Two: The Birkenau Crematoria in 1944.....</b>	<b>69</b>
12. The Crematoria Personnel at Birkenau and the Alleged Extermination of Hungarian Jews .....	69
12.1. The Problem.....	69
12.2. Strength and Composition of Crematorium Personnel in 1944.....	70
12.3. Explanations and Comments.....	70
12.4. The Day and Night Shifts.....	76
12.5. The Birkenau Mortuaries and the Alleged Extermination of Hungarian Jews .....	78
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>80</b>
Tables .....	80
Documents.....	90
Abbreviations .....	127
Bibliography .....	127
Index of Names .....	130

# Introduction

In 1979, two CIA agents, Dino A. Brugioni and Robert G. Poirier, published for the first time a selection of air photos of Auschwitz-Birkenau taken by the U.S. Air Force in 1944. They argued that these photographs demonstrated the reality of the mass extermination of Jews perpetrated at Birkenau, but because of their incompetence both in the field of air photogrammetry and in history<sup>1</sup> the result was a superficial and fanciful interpretation.

From that moment on the air photos of Birkenau became part of the argumentative tools of holocaust historiography. On the one hand, these photos led to a heated internal debate about the reason why the Allies did not bomb Auschwitz and thus destroy the “factory of death.”<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, the thesis of the alleged proof of a mass extermination was moved into the background in favor of the proof of the presence of alleged introduction holes for Zyklon B on the underground morgues of crematoria II and III in some of these photographs. Already in 1989 Danuta Czech had used the photograph of August 15, 1944, for that purpose.<sup>3</sup> The most important of these photographs were published and discussed in 1992 by revisionist scholar John C. Ball.<sup>4</sup>

The thesis of the “proof” of the Zyklon B apertures was further developed until it reached its climax with Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman<sup>5</sup> as well as with Robert Jan van Pelt.<sup>6</sup> This thesis has, however, no foundation and has been radically refuted by revisionist scholars.<sup>7</sup> Perhaps for that very reason John C. Zimmerman wanted to redirect the attention on the thesis, according to which these air photos constitute the “proof” of the alleged mass extermination. The nucleus of this “proof” is said to be the “cremation trenches,” and Zimmerman has devoted many pages to this topic in a book he published in

<sup>1</sup> The authors based their “historical” analysis on two strongly propagandistic works: Jan Sehn’s article “Concentration and extermination camp at Oświęcim (Auschwitz-Birkenau),” in: Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, *German Crimes in Poland*, Warsaw 1946, vol. I, pp. 25-92, and the book by Ota Kraus and Erich Kulka, *The Death Factory*. Pergamon Press, Oxford-New York 1966.

<sup>2</sup> One of the first books of this trend was *Warum Auschwitz nicht bombardiert wurde* by Heiner Lichtenstein (Bund-Verlag, Köln 1980), which contains the reproductions of six air photos.

<sup>3</sup> D. Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939-1945*. Rowohlt Verlag, Reinbek bei Hamburg 1989, p. 862.

<sup>4</sup> J.C. Ball, *Air Photo Evidence. Auschwitz, Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor, Bergen Belsen, Belzec, Babi Yar, Katyn Forest*. Ball Resource Services Limited, Delta, B.C. Canada, 1992.

<sup>5</sup> M. Shermer, A. Grobman, *Denying History. Who says the Holocaust never happened and why do they say it?* University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 2000 (First paperback printing 2002, p. 145).

<sup>6</sup> R.J. van Pelt, *The Case for Auschwitz. Evidence from the Irving Trial*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis 2002, pp. 174f.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. My articles “C. Mattogno, “No Holes, No Gas Chamber(s),” *The Revisionist* 2(4) (2004), pp. 387-410; C. Mattogno, “Denying Evidence,” *The Revisionist*, 3(1&2), (2005), in preparation. All reprinted in a slightly revised version in Germar Rudolf, Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz-Lies*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2005.

2000.<sup>8</sup> Even though he did turn to two “experts” on air photogrammetry, Mark van Alstine and Carroll Lucas, his conclusions are even farther off the mark than those of Brugioni and Poirier.

In this matter, the most surprising aspect is that in spite of the enormous demonstrational value, which official historiography attributes to the air photos of Birkenau, these people have never produced a general study of such documents. Zimmerman’s own work is intentionally truncated: while he does in fact present an (imaginative) analysis of the photographs, he does so without confronting them with the corresponding testimonies. As the reality of the alleged event (the mass extermination of Jews) is based solely on self-styled eyewitnesses, a proper historiographic method would require a comparison of the statements by these witnesses with what can actually be seen in the air photos, and only if the photographs fully confirm the testimonies can they be taken to prove the reality of the extermination.

And if they do not? In that case they constitute the proof of the fact that the testimonies are false. It is clear that Zimmerman did not want to run that risk. But from the point of view of method and science, the problem must be viewed precisely along those lines. The first part of this study is dedicated to this approach.

Besides the air photos, the holocaustic historiography makes use also of documentary “proof” of the extermination of the Jews in 1944: the increase in the workforce of the Birkenau crematoria in line with the arrival of the Hungarian Jews at Birkenau is claimed to demonstrate that these Jews were for the most part gassed and then cremated. In the second part of this study, I will therefore discuss the available documentation (much more abundant than the holocaust historians might think) in an effort to decide on whether this interpretation is, in fact, inevitable or whether there are not other and quite innocuous explanations in this respect.

---

<sup>8</sup> *Holocaust Denial. Demographics, Testimonies and Ideologies*, University Press of America. Lanham, New York, Oxford 2000, pp. 208-253 and 275-301.