

CARLO MATTOGNO

**AUSCHWITZ:  
CREMATORIUM I  
AND THE ALLEGED HOMICIDAL GASSINGS**

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By CARLO MATTOGNO

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# Table of Contents

	Page
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter I: The Origin of the Homicidal Gassing Story .....</b>	<b>9</b>
1. The “Gas Chamber” of Crematorium I in the Reports from the Secret Resistance Movement at Auschwitz.....	9
2. Origin and Development of the Official Version.....	10
<b>Chapter II: Crematorium I at Auschwitz .....</b>	<b>17</b>
1. The Projects for the Ventilation System of Crematorium I.....	17
2. The Transformation of Crematorium I into an Air-Raid Shelter.....	22
<b>Chapter III: The Witnesses .....</b>	<b>25</b>
1. Stanisław Jankowski .....	25
2. Erwin Bartel .....	32
3. Filip Müller .....	33
4. Hans Aumeier.....	48
5. Rudolf Höss.....	50
6. Pery Broad.....	53
7. Maximilian Grabner .....	58
8. Hans Stark .....	62
<b>Chapter IV: The Historians.....</b>	<b>67</b>
1. Danuta Czech .....	67
2. J.-C. Pressac (1989).....	68
3. Franciszek Piper .....	70
4. Robert Jan van Pelt.....	72
<b>Chapter V: The Alleged Homicidal Gassings in Crematorium I According to Jean-Claude Pressac (1993) .....</b>	<b>77</b>
1. The Projects for the Ventilation Equipment of Crematorium I.....	77
2. The “First Gassing” and the Wearing Out of the Second Oven. ....	80
3. The Alleged Homicidal Gassings in Crematorium I.....	81
<b>Chapter VI: The Openings for the Introduction of Zyklon B: Material Evidence.....</b>	<b>89</b>
1. The Modifications of Crematorium I (1944–1947).....	89
2. The Alleged Openings for the Introduction of Zyklon B .....	90
2.1. Jean-Claude Pressac’s Interpretation .....	90
2.2. The Interpretation by the Holocaust History Project .....	93
3. Conclusion.....	96
4. Summary .....	96
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Appendix .....</b>	<b>101</b>
Documents.....	101
Abbreviations .....	134
Bibliography.....	134
Index of Names .....	137



## Introduction

The official history of the plan for the extermination of the Jews that was allegedly implemented at Auschwitz between 1942 and 1944 begins, as is well known, with an impalpable event: the first homicidal gassing in the basement of block 11 of Auschwitz. This deed is said to have taken place between September 3 and 5, 1941, and to have led to the death of 250 sick detainees and 600 Soviet prisoners of war. I dedicated an in-depth study to this alleged event in 1992<sup>1</sup> – recently published in English<sup>2</sup> and German<sup>3</sup> in a revised, corrected, and enlarged edition – in which I demonstrated that this event has no historical foundation.

Official historiography affirms that, because the basement of block 11 caused too much time to be lost in ventilation, the homicidal gassings were subsequently moved to the morgue (*Leichenhalle*) of crematorium I, the old crematorium (*altes Krematorium*) at Auschwitz, and that this space was then equipped with a ventilation device to make it suitable for such a purpose. There is, however, no trace in the documents of any such criminal use of this hall.

Initially at least, the homicidal activity, which allegedly went on in this morgue, is said to have been of an experimental nature aiming at a refinement of the method used. As in the case of the “first gassing,” this activity rests entirely on testimony. In view of the total absence of documentary confirmation, this alleged milestone of the official history of the camp was for decades relegated to the murky sidelines of historical research, generally dealt with in a few pages, if not a few lines of text.

In the present study, which is the logical sequel to *Auschwitz: The First Gassing*, I shall examine the topic of the alleged gassings in the morgue of crematorium I from three converging viewpoints: the origin of the account and its development in the testimonies; the ventilation projects for crematorium I and their implementation; and the material and documentary evidence.

The conclusions of this three-pronged approach, as we shall see in the chapters that follow, squarely contradict the assertions of official historiography and lay bare the true nature of their shaky conjectures, which have no objective backing.

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<sup>1</sup> C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: la prima gasazione*. Edizioni di Ar, Padua, 1992.

<sup>2</sup> C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: The First Gassing. Rumor and Reality*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2005.

<sup>3</sup> *Auschwitz: Die erste Vergasung. Gerücht und Wirklichkeit*, Castle Hill Publishers, in preparation.