

Tuesday, May 8, 1945

4 MILLION DIED IN POLISH CAMP, RUSSIA REVEALS

Oswiecim Surpasses Anything Yet Disclosed, Official Report States

MOSCOW, May 7 (AP)—More than 4,000,000 persons were put to death by the Nazis in the "most horrible crime against the peoples of Europe" at the Oswiecim concentration camp in Poland, an official report of the Extraordinary State Commission declared today.

(This was the first official Soviet report on the number of persons killed in Oswiecim. On April 11, Dr. Bela Fabian, president of the dissolved Hungarian Independent Democratic party, in an interview near Erfurt, Germany, accused the Germans of killing 5,000,000 Jews at Oswiecim, from which he himself narrowly escaped. He said the executions had been carried out over a 10-month period.)

The committee report said that the dead included citizens of Russia, Poland, France, Belgium, Holland, Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia and "other countries" and that they had been killed by various means, including torture, poison, gas and cremation.

Medical Experts Joined Tribe

The committee stated that Oswiecim surpassed anything heretofore disclosed as perpetrated by the Nazis against the people of Europe.

Medical experts and scientists from France, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia participated with the Russians in the inquiry, conducted during February and March.

The report was made on the basis of the questioning of persons who escaped from the horror camp and from captured German documents. Other evidence included crematory stoves and gas chambers.

As part of the camp's routine, German doctors had carried out systematic experiments on live men, women and children, which included sterilization and castration. Children were infected with typhus, cancer and malaria, the report added, and the reaction of young children to certain poisons was "observed" by the Nazi medical men.

Extensive "Labs" Found

The report said investigators found the most extensively and elaborately equipped Nazi death laboratories yet. Gas chambers where thousands lost their lives had signs above the doors reading "special baths," "disinfection point," or simply "entrance to baths."

The investigating committee placed the full blame on Heinrich Himmler, declaring him the organizer of the camp in 1939 for the special purpose of wiping out citizens of occupied Europe.