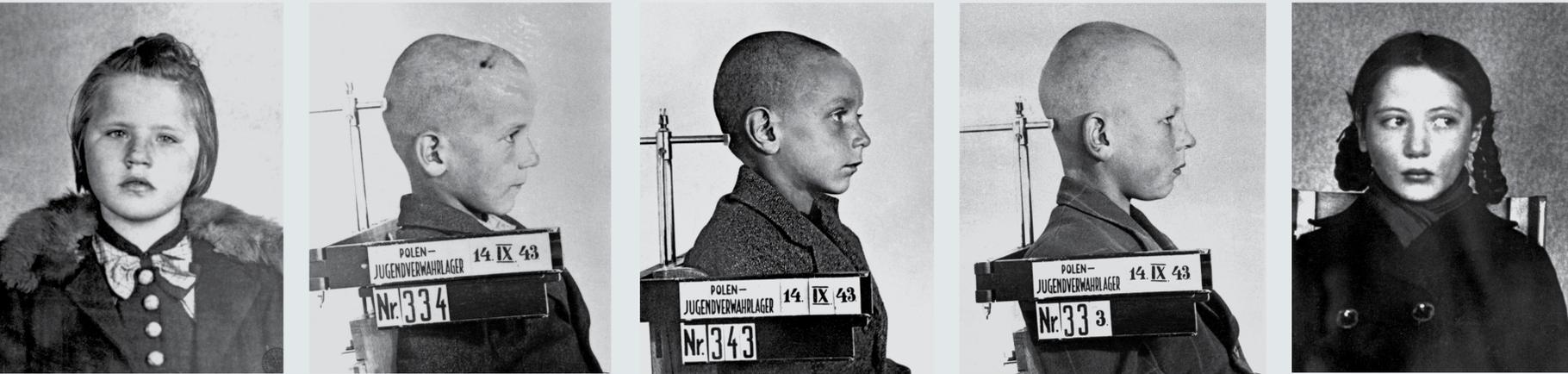


Children from Przemysłowa Street

German camp in Łódź 1942–1945



Police photographs of underage prisoners of the German labour camp for Polish children in Przemysłowa Street in Łódź: Jane/John Doe, Wojciech Papież (no. 334); Jerzy Grenda (no. 343); Jane/John Doe (no. 333); Brygida Sierant. /2/

After a year spent in Wronki, I was taken away together with other [inmates] to a correctional labour camp intended for children and adolescents in Łódź.

Testimony of Henryk Chrzanowski (b. 1928 in Bydgoszcz), 1969. /2/

Me and my sister Krystyna [married name Migacz] set fire to some buildings that belonged to the aforementioned farmer and for that we were incarcerated in the camp in Łódź.

Testimony of Janusz Prusinowski (b. 1934 in Warsaw), 1971. /2/

From 15 May 1944, I stayed in the camp in Przemysłowa Street. I had a fight with German girls and for that the Wrocław Gestapo took me to Łódź. I stayed in the camp until its liberation.

Testimony of Marianna Kowalewska (b. 1928), 1975. /2/

Her parents engage in smuggling and are always out. Illegal food provisions were found at their flat and hence her parents are still wanted on order of German court in Poznań.

German justification for directing Sabina Waligórska (b. 1929 in Poznań) to the camp, 1943. /2/

Devoid of parental care, unkempt, on some occasions she led smaller children, who skilfully went into shops and stole food stamps.

German justification for directing Augustyna Borowiec (b. 1929 in Jaworzno) to the camp, 1943. /2/

Their mother did not take care of the children and did not have permanent residence; she was constantly in hiding, since she did not want to be taken to work in Germany.

German justification for directing Teresa Małecka (b. 1929 in Gniezno) to the camp, 1943. /2/

Author: Artur Ossowski (Institute of National Remembrance, Branch in Łódź)

Visual design and typesetting: Urszula Sroczyńska

Peer reviewers: Iwona Demczyszak, PhD (Institute of National Remembrance, Branch in Wrocław), Joanna Lubecka, PhD (Institute of National Remembrance, Branch in Cracow)

Art reviewer: Magdalena Śladecka (Institute of National Remembrance, Branch in Lublin)

The photographs and accounts used on the exhibition come from the following archives or publications:

/1/ The Central Military Archives in Rembertów/Military Historical Office

/2/ Institute of National Remembrance, Branch in Łódź

/3/ German labour camp for Polish children in Przemysłowa Street in Łódź – multimedia tool, developed by: Artur Ossowski (author), Sebastian Kokoszewski (visual design), Łódź, 2018/Institute of National Remembrance in Łódź

Print: SATORIdruk.pl
Łódź, 2020



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

Oddział w Łodzi



1920 1940 1980

After the end of World War II, the memory of the German labour camp for Polish children in Przemysłowa Street in Łódź – situated within the borders of the Litzmannstadt Ghetto – began to fade away and almost all of its remnants were destroyed.

However, the greatest amount of material concerning the camp was collected by the District Commission for the Prosecution of Nazi Crimes in Łódź, which started to conduct an investigation into that matter in 1969. In December 1970, a former camp officer Eugenia Pol (before 1945, she used the surname Pohl), who signed a Volksliste during the War and worked in the camp from 1943, was detained. She was tried in the years 1972–1975 and sentenced to 25 years in prison for her crimes against children. Pol regained her freedom in 1989 and came back to Łódź, where she died in 2003.

Eugenia Pol was not the only camp officer that was sentenced by the Polish judicial system. In November 1945, Sydonia Bayer was hanged and a year later, Edward August was executed. Teodor Busch, in turn, did not live to see his own trial: in 1945 he was attacked in his prison cell by his fellow inmates. Polish workers employed in the camp by the German Employment Bureau were not judged either, even though their testimonies were collected during the preparatory phase of Pol's trial.



Female camp prisoners with their supervisor, Eugenia Pol, standing behind them. /2/

Aerial photograph of a housing estate that was developed in the 1960s at the site of the former German camp. /2/



The Voivodeship Court in Łódź, which adjudicated in Eugenia Pol's trial, did not confirm information quoted by a former prisoner of the camp and officer of the Voivodeship Department of Security in Wrocław Józef Witkowski (before 1961, he used the surname Gacek) that altogether ca. 12,000 minors were held in the camp, out of whom only 900 had survived. His publication entitled *Nazi concentration camp for minors in Łódź*, published in 1975 in 2700 copies, was not allowed as evidence either. That is why the Court and the District Commission for the Prosecution of Nazi Crimes in Łódź gradually lowered both the number of prisoners of the camp and the number of its victims. The final data suggest that between 2000 and over 3000 Polish children passed through the German camp. Nearly 200 prisoners died or were murdered, yet only one third of the victims' names has been determined.



Eugenia Pol was signed in the Volksliste in 1941. /2/

Building of the present District Court at 5 Dąbrowskiego Square in Łódź, where the former camp supervisor was tried. /2/



Today, perpetuating the history of the camp, we reach for the few surviving photographs and digitally recreate its buildings. We make use of the plan created for the needs of Eugenia Pol's trial and we compare it with the photographs of Łódź during the War as well as with aerial photographs from the early post-War years. We also add accounts of prisoners and court testimonies, relating them to the places connected with the camp.



Unveiling of the monument of Martyrology of Polish Children in the Park im. Młodzieżowego Oddziału Gwardii Ludowej „Promieniści” (currently, Park im. Szarych Szeregów) – Łódź, 9 May 1971. /2/

Aerial photograph of the site of the former camp, taken in 1949. /1/



The conception of setting up a camp for Polish children appeared as early as in the summer of 1941. The centre was modelled on a similar camp for underage Germans in Moringen (Mohringen/Solling) in Lower Saxony, where also boys from Czechoslovakia and Poland were imprisoned.

In June 1942, Germans excluded a parcel of five hectares from the Litzmannstadt Ghetto and dedicated it to the construction of a labour camp for Polish children. The zone was marked out within the block of today's Górnicza, Emilii Plater, Bracka and Przemysłowa Streets. A dozen or so pre-War buildings were used to satisfy the needs of the concentration camp. Prior to that, they had been used by the Jews locked up in the Ghetto.

11



View of the camp wood tar factory – photograph reconstructed digitally on the basis of the surviving prisoners' accounts and camp plans. /3/

25



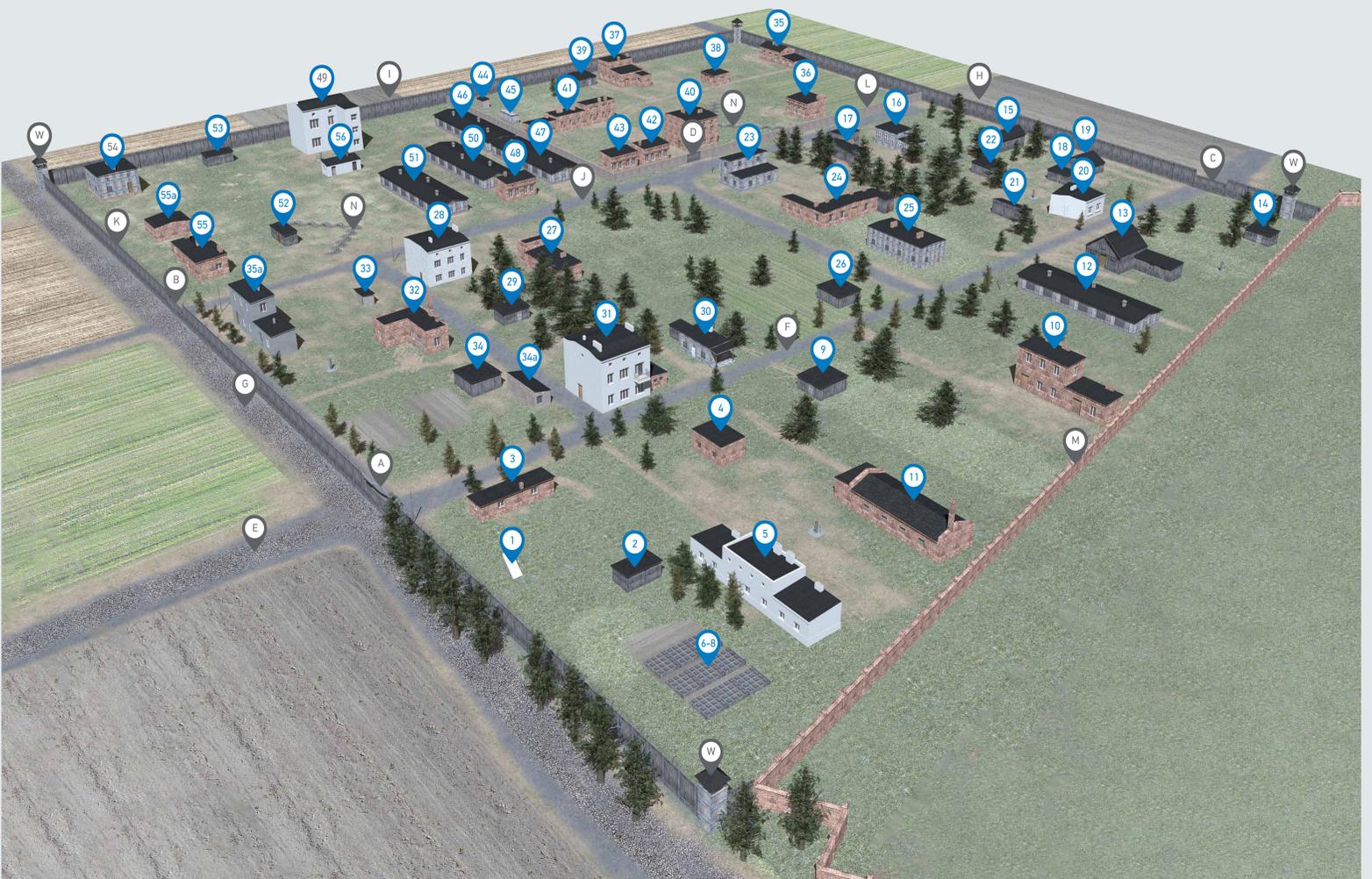
View of the digitally recreated wooden multifamily building, in which there was a room under the stairs where the prisoners' clogs were repaired during the functioning of the camp. In turn, the belongings taken away from the children imprisoned in the camp were collected in the so-called deposit warehouse in the attic. In the camp nomenclature, facility no. 25 was called „Haus IV”. /3/

20



Brick-built two-family building in an atypical diamond shape. In the camp conditions, it acted as quarantine site for the newly arrived prisoners and was called „Haus V”. It survived until today (the facility was digitally recreated). /3/

Plan of the camp with reconstructed facilities in isometric projection. Their numbering – in the case of described places – was repeated on the exhibition panels. At the same time, the digitally recreated camp infrastructure was exposed in the form of big, colour photographs. /3/



The first prisoners were registered in the Łódź camp on 11 December 1942, although formally it had begun its operations already ten days earlier. In German terminology it was known under the name *Polenjugendverwahrlager der Sicherheitspolizei in Litzmannstadt* (in English Isolation/Educational Camp for Young Poles of the Security Police in Łódź); the name indicated its intended use, ethnic character, prisoners' age and determined the supervisory body. In turn, describing the significance of the camp, the Polish side emphasised mainly the aim to which it was created, as well as the dependency and age of the inmates by employing the name *Preventative Camp of the Security Police for Polish Youth in Łódź*.

At first, we didn't realise what kind of camp it was and what conditions will prevail, because we didn't know those conditions. The longer we stayed there, the tougher the discipline became, and the easier it was to notice that everything was aimed at harrowing us, at tormenting us.

Account of Stefan Marczewski (b. 1930 in Łódź), 1962. /2/

We got letters once a month. If within that month we deserved a punishment, we were deprived of the possibility to get letters. It was a punishment in itself. The very first letter I got was handed to me by [Eugenia] Pol. We were told to write in our letters that we felt all right and that we played with dolls. When we did not write that, we were deprived of letters from our parents. I heard that, purportedly, for writing a good account we could get into the fitness group, where the situation was a bit better. I know that some girls ratted to the supervisors on the behaviour of other children.

Statement of Barbara Olejniczak (b. 1933), 1973 /2/

23



For a few months of the functioning of the camp, „Haus VIII” remained unused due to its poor technical condition. Then, children suffering from problems with the urinary tract were transferred there. In the background, we can see the subcamp for girls and the camp alley (currently, Tadeusza Mostowskiego Street) – digital reconstruction. /3/

Prisoners' assembly in front of a wooden multifamily building „Haus VIII”. /2/



34a

Digitally recreated building of the camp post office. /3/



Children from other towns and cities were transported to Łódź as well, i.a. from Greater Poland and Kuyavia: Potulice, Kiekrz, Mosiny, Poznań, from Upper Silesia: Mysłowice, Kietrz and Pogrzebień, and from Gdańsk Pomerania: Wejherowo. The smallest number of prisoners came from the General Government: Cracow, Warsaw and Lublin. As a general rule, underage Poles from the education centre for minors in Grodków (Grottkau in German) in the Opole region were appointed room leaders and block leaders, since they spoke German and were disciplined.

29



Outbuilding in which stayed one of the prisoners who acted as the camp trumpeter – digitally reconstructed view. /3/

The youth in that camp came from different parts of the country, from Warsaw, Łódź, Poznań, Mosina near Poznań, Gdańsk, Silesia. It so happened that young people whose parents were imprisoned in Oświęcim [Auschwitz] were brought in as well.

Testimony of Emilia Mocek, née Kamińska (b. 1930 in Poznań), 1969. /2/

Beating children, with even the slightest reason or without any reason at all, was of daily occurrence. Among the prisoners who beat other inmates there were the so-called „Góral” (“Highlander”) and „Sylwek”. These were the names we called those prisoners. They spoke German well. They were adults. Sylwek supposedly came from [Upper] Silesia and „Góral” from the Cracow region [currently, Lesser Poland Voivodeship].

Testimony of Mieczysław Stawicki (b. 1927 in Inowrocław), 1973. /2/

In the camp there was one older prisoner tasked with summoning the children to assemblies. When we heard the sound of his trumpet, we had to run to the assembly ground. The prisoner, whose name I do not know, beat children as well.

Testimony of Mieczysław Stawicki (b. 1927 in Inowrocław), 1973. /2/

55



Guardhouse, which acted as checkpoint for those using gate „B”. It was the place where visitations took place sometimes, here packages for prisoners were received and punishment by whipping was inflicted upon the inmates (digitally recreated facility). /3/

The competition for bread was huge. The children were so hungry that they gnawed at their own hands. If somebody was sent a package, their situation improved; other children had nothing to eat. When a bigger package with food was delivered, the Germans took away part of the food. They said they took it for those who hadn't received anything; possibly, they took it for themselves.

Testimony of Gertruda Skrzypczak, née Nowak (b. 1930 in Żegrówek), 1975. /2/

Map of the occupied Poland as of autumn 1941. /2/



As a target, about 1800 underage Poles of both sexes were supposed to be imprisoned in the camp. However, the camp never reached that size. It reached the greatest number of inmates in the spring of 1944. If we add over a hundred female prisoners staying in the agricultural branch of the camp in Dzierżazna near Biła (not very far from Zgierz), ca. 1200 persons were registered in the camp at that time. It is known that in the years 1943–1944, the Germans took some of the prisoners away, i.a. to the labour camp in Potulice and to the Germanisation centre, the so-called Gaukinderheim, in Kalisz. Additionally, those children who turned 16, were transported to concentration camps, i.a. to Auschwitz, Gross-Rosen and Ravensbrück.

After my first escape [in February 1943], I spent seven days in the solitary confinement cell and got nothing to eat. Those who stayed in the solitary confinement cell were not given complete food rations, they got some water and a slice of bread. During the evening assembly, they were inflicted punishment by whipping. During those assemblies, [Sydonia] Bayer was not always present. [She was executed on 9 November 1945]. There was also an eighteen-year-old girl, the defendant's right hand, who was a prisoner too. The defendant [Eugenia Pol] beat me so hard that after a few days I had wounds. Wet towels were applied to my body and then I was beaten through those wet towels. The defendant beat me in such a way. The beating must have been intense, since I lost consciousness every single time. The girls doused me with water and the flogging went on. The defendant issued orders to whip us. [...] [In the solitary confinement cell] there was no bed, there was only a wooden plank and cement covered in water. You couldn't lie down, because then you would be lying in water. I was marked with a red stripe.

Testimony of Apolonia Szkudlarek, née Beda (b. 1927 in Pabianice), 1974. /2/

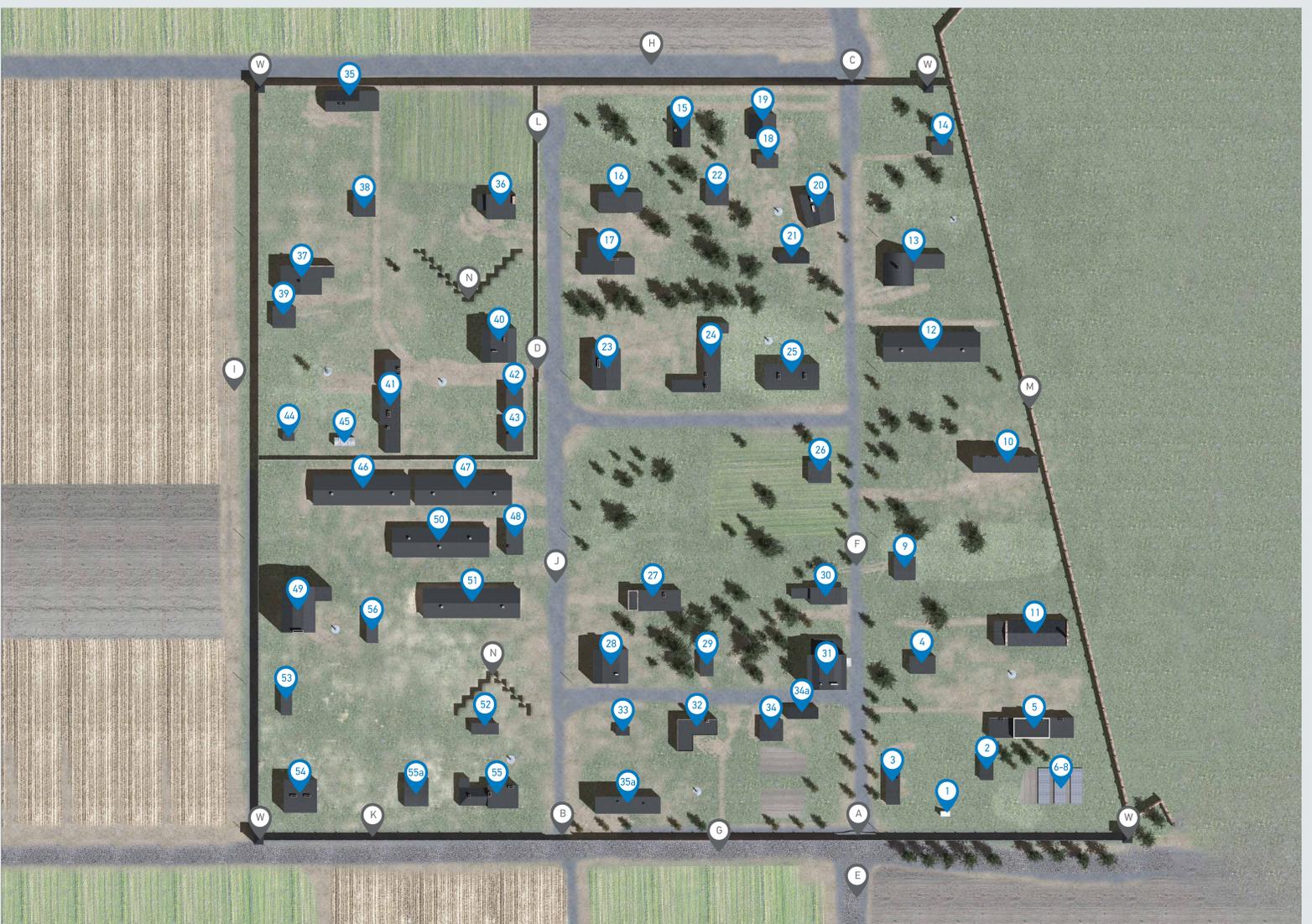
4



Digitally reconstructed view of the pre-War one-family building, turned solitary confinement in the camp reality. In place of the former rooms, five or six small cells were erected, each with a wooden plank bed and a metal bucket for relieving oneself. The cells were neither heated nor lighted. They did not have windows either and the circulation of air was possible thanks to the vent holes mounted above the doors. In the wall dividing them from the corridor there were two barred windows. /3/

Most prisoners wore drill uniforms, but the youngest children were allowed to move around the camp in the clothes they were wearing at the time when they were brought in. /2/

Plan of the camp with reconstructed facilities – view from above. Inside the camp, a smaller zone was fenced off for the female prisoners; the visible zigzags are air-raid trenches. In turn, the camp staff had a bunker at their disposal, which on the plan is marked with the number „1”. /3/



The camp area was divided into two zones: for boys and for girls. Due to the fact that the majority of inmates were boys, as much as 75 per cent of the terrain was allocated to them. The girls who came to the camp were accommodated in the remaining part – fenced off in April 1943. Moreover, a few prison barracks, utility sheds, warehouses, garages, greenhouses and latrines were erected, although most often the already existing facilities were adapted to serve a new purpose. Altogether, 35 buildings and barracks were used, only 10 of which functioned as living quarters.

I was assigned to the „Blumenstube”, or the artificial flowers works. The supervision over the commando in the „Blumenstube” was exercised by the watchwoman [Maria] Linke and, partly, by Genowefa Pol [a.k.a. Eugenia Pol], who chose us for work in the hothouse with the gardener. [Maria] Linke and Pohl punished us with flogging even for minor offences; the flogging consisted in beating us with a stick all over our bodies. I personally took a beating from Linke, but I also saw Pohl beat other girls and she didn't mind which part of their bodies she hit. Supposedly, she was acting upon [Sydonia] Bayer's order. [Bayer was executed on 9 November 1945].

Testimony of Helena Ofiara, née Leszczyńska (b. 1931 in Poznań), 1970. /2/

Reception of newly arrived prisoners. The girls in the foreground will soon be separated from the boys. /2/



Assembly of younger boys – autumn of 1943. /2/



38

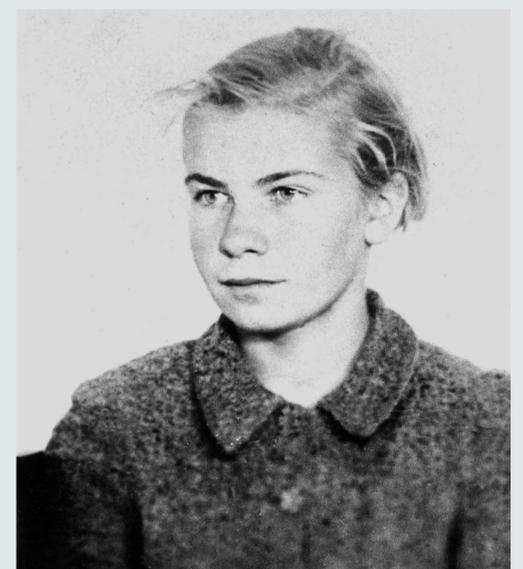
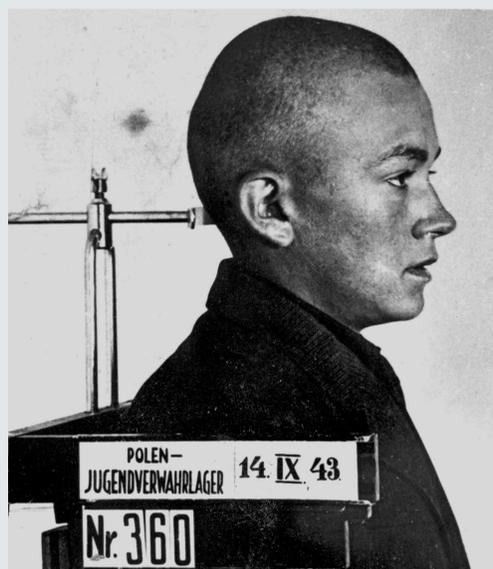
Building that accommodated the workshop in which artificial flowers were manufactured, bags were glued and weaving needles were straightened (digital reconstruction). /3/



According to the assumptions of German authorities, the camp was supposed to accommodate prisoners at the age of 12 to 16. In practice, however, it turned out that also children that were only several years old and still in need of constant care were brought along in the transports. The youngest were taken care of by the female inmates, who supervised a building that was called „the isolation ward” or „the house for little children”.

I remember that assemblies were called at the assembly ground and then a commission chose from among the children adequate persons in order to determine their usefulness to be Germanised. The children and adolescents that were chosen by the commission were sent to the camp in Poznań, but I don't know any closer details. I remember a situation when three children from one family (their mother and father died in the camp in Auschwitz) were brought in to our camp. The children's names were: Jerzy [b. 1928], Gertruda [b. 1930] and Edward [b. 1937] Nowak from Mosina near Poznań. I remember that the four-year-old Edward was taken away to an orphanage in Poznań, from where a German family was supposed to pick him up. I know nothing of the fact that newborns were brought in to our camp.

Account of Zofia Szope, née Maciejczak (b. 1929 in Krzywosądzka), 1969. /2/



35

Starting in the spring of 1943, only children who had not yet turned eight and whom German authorities were preparing for Germanisation were accommodated in that building; later, they were transported to the Lebensborn centres in Ludwików and Pyszczykowo. Before the denationalisation procedure was implemented, the young inmates were examined in the nearby race camp (before the War, it was the monastery of Fathers Bernardines) at 73 Sporna Street (currently, 5 Pankiewicza Street) – digital reconstruction of the camp premises and building. /3/

Jerzy Nowak (b. 1928 in Żegrówek) got to the camp at the age of 15. Several months later, he was taken away to the labour camp in Potulice and then to Żabików. In December 1944, he was directed to the concentration camp in Gross-Rosen. Most probably, he died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near the end of the War. /2/

Gertruda Skrzypczak, née Nowak, Jerzy's sister (b. 1930 in Żegrówek). /2/



In Przemysłowa, I stayed from 1944 until the liberation [19 January 1945]. For about seven months. I didn't have to do with the defendant [Eugenia Pol]. I had an older friend, who decided to escape from the camp. He didn't manage and was shot to death. Since the escape took place at night, I got to know about it. He was fleeing in my jacket, so later I was called for interrogations. I didn't sustain any personal injury. There was also the escape of the [Jewish] tailor, dressed in a German uniform. He was captured near Warsaw, brought back to the camp and shot to death there.

Testimony of Stanisław Owczarek (b. 1929 in Łódź), 1975. /2/



On three sides, a three-metre high fence was erected from closely fitted wooden planks and topped with barbed wire (digital recreation of the camp premises). /3/



Moreover, four watchtowers were erected, now digitally reconstructed. /3/



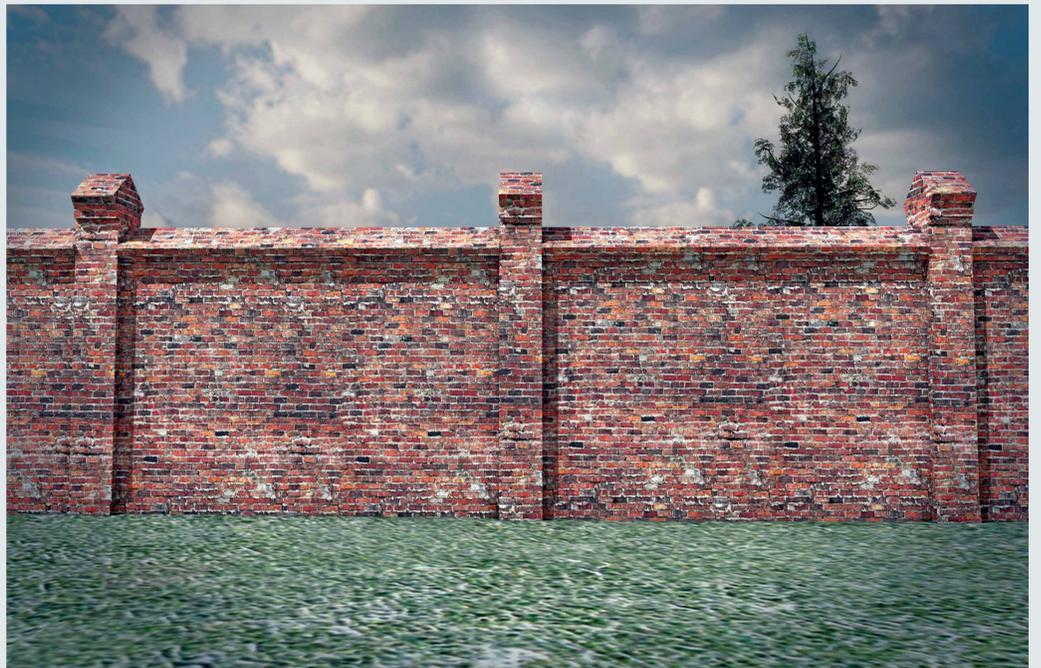
My workshop was located in the male part of the camp. The defendant [Eugenia Pol] walked around the camp in a blue suit, she spoke to me in bad German, she didn't know German well. During the typhoid fever epidemic there were many deaths, but I didn't see them, because I couldn't leave the Ghetto. Doctor [Emil] Vogel didn't see the deceased either. He treated them the best he could and then they took them away. There were about seven hundred children [in the camp] at the same time. The children were chosen due to their race [to be Germanised]. The Polish children were children of parents who were executed by a firing squad or taken away to the camp. Children were ordered to work for work itself, to get tired. It was work that didn't yield any benefits. Girls wore heavy clogs. Summer clothing didn't differ much from winter clothing. I didn't see any coats or stockings. There were no medicines, we just measured the temperature and prepared compresses soaked in cold water. There wasn't even any aspirin. A week ago, I went to see Doctor Vogel, who asked me to communicate that the function of doctor [in the camp] was very limited. [...] The watchmen fell ill with typhoid fever too, but they were treated. At that time, Germans did not enter the camp. Poles fell ill. I don't know if the defendant Pol got typhoid fever. [...] I didn't have any gold teeth when I was in Oświęcim [Auschwitz], maybe that's why I avoided death. I passed through many camps and I managed to avoid death. I was in extermination camps. They can't be compared to the camp in Przemysłowa Street, because it was a labour camp.

Testimony of electrician Walter Weil

(b. 1907 and transported in 1941 from Prague to the Litzmannstadt Ghetto), 1974. /2/



From the direction of today's Sporna Street, the camp adjoined the wall of the Jewish cemetery – digitally recreated view. /3/



The locksmith's workshop and electric workshop were situated the nearest to the cemetery wall – digitally reconstructed view. /3/





Handing out camp accoutrement to the newly arrived prisoners before directing them to „Haus I”. /2/

It was a camp where we came in cars of a French make – Reynolds. The camp was just being organised, yet ready to accommodate a certain number of people. We were handed out a blanket, a spoon and a bowl each, and directed to block no. 1. On the first day, I was assigned the number 127. On the basis of conversations held with my friends, I learned that the last number on that day closed with the number of 131 prisoners.

Account of Jan Woszczyk (b. 1929 in Ostrów Górniczy), 1969. /2/

I was brought in to the camp on 18 December 1942. I stayed in the block no. 1 [Haus I]. [...]. I worked in different departments. My first job consisted in pulling down dilapidated houses as well as in levelling and repairing roads that were supposed to be of use in the camp. During work we were beaten and kicked. [...] At first, we slept on bunk beds, under one blanket and on straw mattresses. Children messed themselves out of exhaustion, cold and emaciation. When it happened three times, such a child was isolated in a special barrack, where they slept on plank beds, under one blanket [facility no. 25].

Account of Jan Ryszard Kuczyński (b. 1929 in Łódź), 1962. /2/

54



It was the first house adapted to suit the needs of the camp by Jewish workers, coerced to work by the Germans who supervised them. In the camp nomenclature it was called „Haus I”. /2/



A

Most often, the children were brought in from the Łódź Kaliska railway station, where trains from the Upper Silesia, Greater Poland and Kuyavia arrived during the German occupation. The main gate was situated at the mouth of 27 Przemysłowa Street, which before the War only went as far as to Bracka Street, but did not intersect with it. Through here all cars came in and this was the route along which the German criminal police ushered the detained underage residents of Łódź onto the premises of the camp. /2/

54

Division walls in the individual rooms of the building were demolished in order to create four prison cells. On the plan of the camp, this facility – digitally reconstructed – is situated on the corner of Bracka and Emilii Plater Streets. /3/



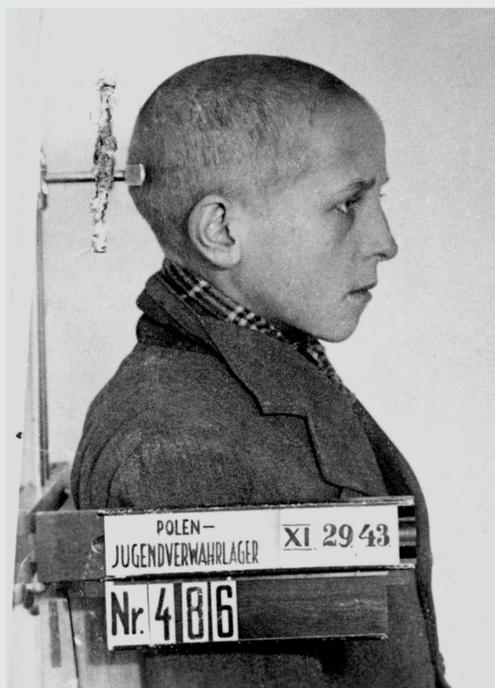
When everything was prepared for taking photos, the Lagerführer [commander of the camp] issued an order to photograph all the children that already were at the Lager and those that were yet to come there. The photographs were supposed to be taken in two poses: en face and in profile. Moreover, forms containing all the personal data and a short description of each child as well as their fingerprints were supposed to be filled in. Then it became clear to me that the Lager was not only for children who were homeless and devoid of parental care, but that it was a common concentration camp on a smaller scale, adequate for its delinquents.

Testimony of Józef Borkowski (camp photographer and pre-War police officer), 1971. /2/

Fingerprints of Gertruda Skrzypczak, née Nowak, whose photograph appears on one of the previous panels, next to the photograph of her brother Jerzy. The person tasked with taking fingerprints was a pre-War police officer called Boratyński. /2/



Elżbieta Nowak, née Konarska (b. in 1933 in Poznań), got to the camp at the age of 10. /2/



An unknown prisoner who was registered in the camp on 29 November 1943. /2/

Name: Nowak		Formel:		Geburtsjahr: 1930	
Vorname: Gertrud					
Damm.		Zehnfinger.	Mittelfinger.	Ringfinger.	Kleinfinger.
Rechts					
Links					
Linke Hand.			Rechte Hand.		
<p><i>Nowak Gertrud</i> Eigenhändige Unterschrift</p>					
Familienname: N O W A K		Vor- und Zuname des Vaters: Sulwenter			
Vorname: Gertrud		Vor- und Zuname der Mutter: Juliana			
Geburtsort: Klein-Seege		Wohnung der Eltern:			
Geburtsjahr: 7. J. 1930		Name und Wohnung sonstiger Ankaufspersonen:			
Verwaltungsbezirk (Kreis):		Vorname:			
Staat: P o l e n		Klassifiziert am von			
Stand (Beruf, Gewerbe): O.B.		Nachgeprüft am von			
Letzter Wohnort: Burgdorf Kr. Sch...					
Staatsangehörigkeit: ehem. Polen					
Glaubensbekenntnis (auch früheres): Kath.					
Familienstand, led., verh., verw., gesch.: ledig					
Vor- und Geburtsname des Ehemannes:					
Wohnung des Ehemannes:					

13

Wooden multifamily building with attic adapted as a dactyloscopy laboratory and photo atelier. The main part of the building housed a bedding and clothing warehouse. In turn, in the sidebuilding the Germans held children who suffered from scabies (in German: Krätze), and hence the prisoner called this place „kreca” – digitally recreated view. /3/



I realised that I would cut hair of the prisoners: children and adolescents, and that I would be a nurse as well. My workplace was low and small, and dark, like a 2 m x 2.5 m shed. Inside, it was difficult to turn around freely. The floor was made of concrete, thus those children who didn't wear shoes were cold when they had to stand on it. At first, I had to do all the work myself: to cut the hair of all the children. Then I taught 4-5 boys to cut hair and it got easier. [...] Apart from being a hairdresser, I also acted as a nurse in the „Krankenstube” or the infirmary [facility no. 42], where they isolated children that soiled themselves out of exhaustion. In the dreadful conditions that prevailed there, I tried to keep the infirmary clean.

Testimony of Stanisław Mikołajczyk (camp hairdresser), 1971. /2/

From the autumn of 1942, I stayed there with my brother and in 1943 my sister was brought in to the camp. Even though I have a German-sounding name, I am Polish. I was taken to the camp, because my family did not want to sign the Volksliste. In 1943, also my sister Gertruda arrived at the camp. I got a message that my sister was brought in and I met her. She told me that the defendant [Eugenia Pol] beat her. [...] She was carried out of a barrack, out of the infirmary. In fact, I don't know where she was carried out from. It was a low barrack, similar to the building where the solitary confinement cells were. After that event, I never saw my sister Gertruda again. All I was left with was grief in my heart.

Testimony of Bronisław Weinhold (b. 1932 in Myśliwiec), 1974. /2/



Gertruda Weinhold (b. 1929 in Myśliwiec) got to the camp at the age of 14. She died on 1 of August 1944. /2/

30

Wooden building with porch, adapted into a medical care unit for prisoners. Next to it, in a small sidebuilding, there resided also the camp hairdresser, who shaved the newly arrived prisoners – digital reconstruction of the original photograph. /3/



12

Wooden prison barrack. In January 1944, when the typhoid fever epidemic broke out, it was converted in to a medical care unit for the camp staff (digital reconstruction). /3/



For example, if a prisoner passed a watchman by in an improper manner, incorrectly folded his clothes or dusted his place in the barrack, then they were beaten. Punishment by whipping was public, between fifteen and twenty-five blows were inflicted. The prisoners were beaten during the main assembly, beaten on a stool and with a whip, the blows were counted out loud, sometimes the beaten person had to count the blows.

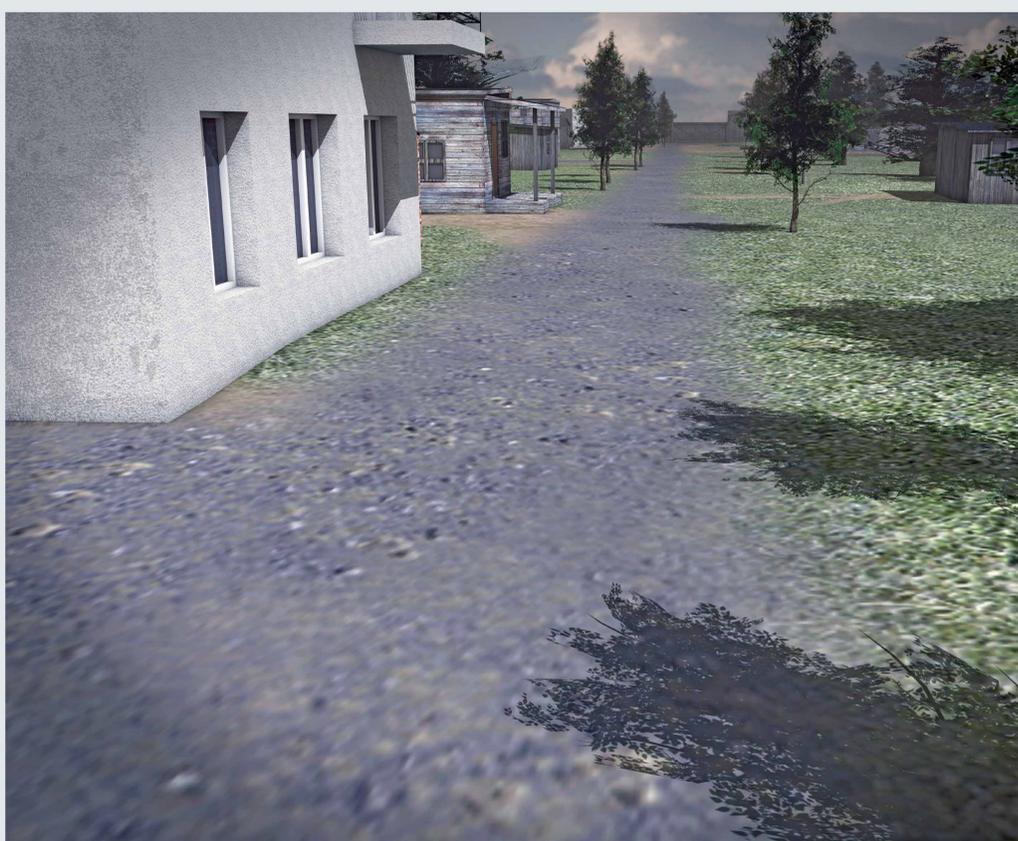
Testimony of Gabriela Penteluk, née Jeżewicz (b. 1929 in Mosina), 1974. /2/

Both the somatics [bodily tissues] and the psyche of the prisoners were influenced by three principal traumatic factors experienced in the camp: hunger, cold and beating. The children witnessed their friends being abused by the camp staff and, frequently, die in consequence of the sustained injuries. The experiences connected with the brutal treatment in the camp exceeded the boundaries of experience of every adult person and the boundaries of ordinary human endurance. They left an indelible mark in the form of chronic ailments and permanent disability, significantly limiting or completely precluding their ability to work. Currently, the morbidity rate of ex-prisoners is five to ten times higher than the morbidity rate of persons who have never been imprisoned in camps.

Opinion of Doctor Czesław Kempista, medical practitioner, submitted to the court, 1974. /2/



The main camp alley (currently, part of Przemysłowa Street), view towards Górnicza Street – digitally recreated site. /3/



The smaller camp gate for Jewish workers from the Ghetto, food-supply carts and wagons that took away ill children to the hospital or bodies of the deceased to the Catholic cemetery of St. Adalbert at 81 Kurczaki Street. View from the direction of Górnicza Street towards Przemysłowa Street (digitally reconstructed photograph). /3/



In that camp, I stayed from the summer of 1943 to October 1944. I was released from the camp due to persistent efforts of my parents. I was brought to the camp in the summer of 1943 (I don't recall the exact date) together with a bigger group of girls, from which I now remember Krystyna Pacut, Salomea Fraś, Maria Orlicka and Augustyna Borowiec [we were all residents of Jaworzno], but these were their maiden names.

Account of Irena Bogacz, née Hardyn (b. 1930 in Jaworzno), 1970. /2/

Such clothing consisted of a skirt, a blouse and a jacket, and I was given a pair of clogs and some socks to cover my feet. Camp underwear consisted of a pair of large-sized knickers and an undershirt. Then, we were all taken to the girls' part of the camp that was situated inside the „green bus” [that was the name used by the Germans to denote the camp] that I have described. I can't determine the year in which I was brought to the camp for Polish children and adolescents in Przemysłowa Street in Łódź, but I remember that it was still warm when I was brought in, that is we were wearing only dresses and only when some time had passed, we were allowed to put the jackets on. Back then there were probably about 30-40 girls in the camp.

Testimony of Danuta Teresa Siwek, née Jakubowska (b. 1939 in Poznań), 1971. /2/



The third outer gate was situated in Bracka Street and charted along today's Tadeusza Mostowskiego Street. A guardhouse was furnished in its vicinity and here, starting from 1944, children were brought for visits with their parents. View from the direction of Bracka Street – digital reconstruction of camp space. /3/



Inside the camp there was yet another gate, through which one could get from the part camp of the camp intended for male prisoners to the subcamp for girls. View from the direction of Tadeusza Mostowskiego Street – digitally recreated photograph. /3/



I remembered that I had a school friend in Łódź. She was German and, being in my situation, with her help I could find some work. I needed a job, no matter what kind of job, just not to be so horribly at risk. My friend – Kriga Schilbert – was employed at Kripo [the German criminal police] as a secretary to the Chief Commanding Officer [Karl] Ehrlich. Thanks to her, in September 1943, I got into the children's camp. Only then did I realise what kind of camp it was. I saw the conditions in which those beaten, abused children lived. [...] It all scared me so much.

Testimony of Stefania Otto (camp seamstress), 1971. /2/

The significance of the function and part that the camp in Przemysłowa Street played in the system of extermination of the Polish nation is attested by the fact that the commanding officer of the criminal police in Łódź, SS-Sturmbannführer Karl Ehrlich, was at the same time the commander of the camp. It was him who personally inspected the camp, participated in selecting girls and boys for the needs of the racial office and decided about the employment of camp staff members. For the purposes of everyday management of the camp's affairs, he appointed camp leaders in the persons of: Hans Fuge (from the establishment of the camp to the spring of 1943), Arno Wrack (until the end of 1943), Karl Enders (until 19 January 1945). In compliance with the plan of the then organised camp, it was divided into six different units. Unit VI was intended for girls. It was led by the supervisor Sydonia Bayer [executed on 9 November 1945], aided by Genowefa Pohl [after 1945, she changed her name into Eugenia Pol].

Excerpts from the bill of indictment against the former camp supervisor Eugenia Pol, 1974. /2/

Inspection of the camp conducted by the chief of the German criminal police in Łódź, SS-Sturmbannführer Karl Ehrlich, who was delegated from Chemnitz to Łódź in December 1941. /2/



31

For the twenty-five months of the camp's existence, the commander's office, located in the pre-War building at 34 Przemysłowa Street, near the main gate, was the most important facility in the camp. View of the digitally reconstructed building from the direction of Przemysłowa Street. The house survived until today. /3/



First and foremost, the camp acted as „a giant workshop”. That is why it was the duty of the inmates to support the German economy and the German army. Working for more than a dozen hours per day was gruelling for the children. They performed their tasks under stress, in very bad conditions, they were often beaten, starved and humiliated by the staff that supervised their work.

Later, I worked in the barrack where we made shoes for the Germans from braids of straw. Soles were manufactured on one side of the barrack, uppers on the other side. The minimum quota for children was to make sixty elements, on which we worked (both soles and uppers) for all day long. For meeting the quota, we got an additional dinner or the so-called „fachmańskie”, that is an additional serving of soup or an additional slice of bread. Then I moved to the workshop of the wickerworkers, who made baskets [building no. 17]. During work, I got scabies. In the camp, I suffered from all sorts of illnesses, including the aforementioned scabies, typhoid fever, scarlet fever and trachoma.

Account of Jan Ryszard Kuczyński (b. 1929 in Łódź), 1962. /2/

16

Digitally reconstructed wooden building, called „the bast-shoe house”. Here, the children wove straw plaits, which they later sewed together into shapeless shoes sent to the German troops fighting on the Eastern Front. /3/



17

L-shaped wooden building. Until 1944, it was where army boots were repaired; then, a wicker workshop was located there. There, children wove baskets for bullets and pads that were placed under the wheels of lorries (digitally recreated photograph). /3/



The work in the needle room was very hard and exhausting. It consisted in the employee getting a [knitting] needle, fifteen centimetres long, which ended in a hook. The needle had to be hammered gently on a watchmaker's anvil until its surface was spotless. I don't know the purpose of those needles. Every day, we had to meet our daily quota, that is to straighten about two hundred needles. For not meeting the quota, we were deprived of food or locked in the solitary confinement cell.

Account of Henryk Chrzanowski (b. 1928 in Bydgoszcz), 1969. /2/



Boys were also assigned to the so-called „needle room”, where they straightened weaving needles. /2/



Another two rooms were sectioned off within the building for German guards and Poles employed in the camp (supervisors and masters). /2/



View of digitally reconstructed brick-built, two-storey building with characteristic protruding staircase. Inside the building there were three large rooms for the inmates and the „needle room”. /3/



The barracks were located in the immediate vicinity of the fencing that separated the premises of the girls' subcamp from the boys' zone. They were built in the spring of 1943 from ready-made elements. Two of them were used as living quarters for the prisoners and those situated closer to the inner fence acted as workshop halls. In the sewing room, elements of uniforms and camp workwear were sewed. Those tasks were performed by boys and girls alike. Girls additionally darned shot holes or tears in uniforms.

I started working with the tailors. The workroom was located near the kitchen, on the first floor. I had been working there until I left the camp. The staff included, among others, Jews [directed to work in the camp by the Germans] – the master was called Zylberstein and he helped me to get food. One day, a significant incident happened. We were sewing and repairing prison clothing. When I was working, the loop-taker of my sewing machine broke. It was a horrible thing. Surely, I wouldn't get off with that. However, the master brought a new loop-taker from the Ghetto and installed it in the machine, so that nobody learned about my guilt.

Account of Stefan Marczewski (b. 1930 in Łódź), 1962. /2/



German officers inspecting camp sewing room situated in a barrack. /2/

46

One of the four camp barracks (digitally recreated) and another barrack behind it, acting as sewing house. In the background there are visible buildings of the female prisoners' subcamp. /3/



Some girls also made artificial paper flowers, knitted hats, gloves and scarves as well as crocheted and embroidered tablecloths. From the spring of 1943, the strongest children were sent to the agricultural estate of ca. 160 hectares in Dzierżązna, where they worked the field, groomed farm animals and harvested fish in the pond.

In the camp, I worked in the laundry, then I cleaned offices. My supervisor was the defendant [Eugenia] Pol and the leader of the camp, [Sydonia] Bayer [executed on 9 November 1945]. I wasn't beaten very often. Once, I got twenty-five lashes from Pol for having lice and the second time I got twenty-five lashes as well, for missing stockings, but it wasn't me who had taken them. I heard that two girls died. [...] There were room leaders in the barracks [supervisors of groups of prisoners, appointed by the camp authorities. Prisoners that acted as the so-called block leaders stood higher than them in the camp hierarchy]: Mela and Anna, they walked everywhere with Pol and were favoured by her. They whipped us up to work. Later, I was in the Ravensbrück [concentration] camp, where my situation was better, because I got better food and nobody beat me. I knew German.

Testimony of Eugenia Krzywicka, née Kazimierczak (b. 1928 in Mosina), 1975. /2/

I want to mention the fact that the kettles in the laundry were recessed into the furnaces, yet their upper edge was at the level of my head, that is at about 120 cm. Next to the furnaces there were wooden steps the children climbed in order to take the underwear out. Standing on those steps, a child had the upper edge of the kettle at chest level. It was enough to give them a push and the child would fall into the kettle.

Testimony of Leokadia Zielińska, née Dziedzic (b. 1929 in Kalisz), 1971. /2/

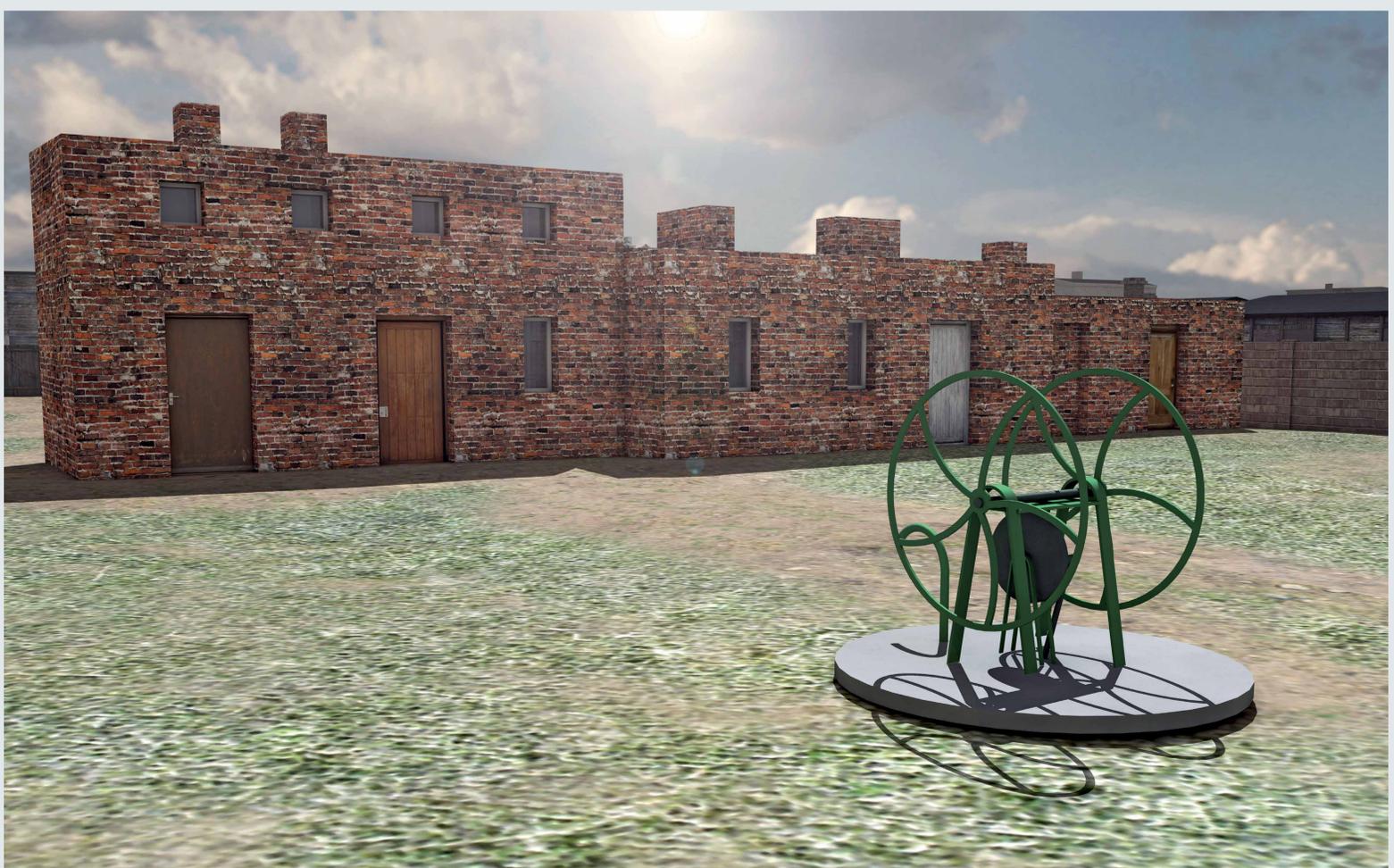
40

Multifamily building with four prison rooms (two downstairs and two upstairs). Downstairs there was a room for the supervisor and upstairs, next to the two prison rooms, the Germans situated a room for the so-called function prisoners. In the camp nomenclature, this building was given the name „Haus VII”, while on the plan of the camp, developed for the needs of the court, it was called „facility no. 40” (digitally reconstructed photograph). /3/



41

View of digitally reconstructed buildings of the former candy factory – the biggest facility in the subcamp for girls. From January 1944, during the epidemic of typhoid fever, it was the place where clothing was decontaminated. Also a bathhouse was opened, yet not all children could use it. The building also housed a laundry; the water used in it was channelled inside from a nearby well powered with two flywheels propelled by prisoners. /3/



During my work as a cook, I had a chance to see what was cooked for the children, the Polish staff and the German staff. The prepared breakfasts, dinners and suppers differed significantly, that is the Germans got the best food, the Poles employed as „carers” – worse, and the worst was given to the prisoners of the Lager [camp]. The meals of the „pupils” consisted of breakfast for which they got coffee and a small slice of bread, dinner for which they were given some watery soup and supper in the form of bread and coffee. [...] Each time, the meal was collected by the prisoner under the supervision of the „carers”. The children carried heavy kettles with coffee and soup. Two children, irrespective of their sex, were assigned to each kettle.

Testimony of Wacław Sobczyńska (camp cook), 1971. /2/



Queuing for camp food. /2/



Digitally recreated view of a brick-built, multifamily house with characteristic tall chimney, which was erected when the camp was already functioning and the building had been converted into the camp kitchen. /3/



The last day of functioning of the camp was 18 January 1945. In the morning, the guards left the facility and once they've decamped, the main gate in Przemysłowa Street was left wide open. The Red Army was fast approaching Łódź, its troops marched into the city the next day. In the deserted camp, only several hundred children, frozen and weakened with hunger and diseases, were found. Two hundred of them, as orphans, stayed in Łódź for the years to come, initially occupying the building of the City Emergency Shelter for Children at 36 Kopernika Street. The greatest number of the aggrieved was among the children assigned to the penal company.



Prisoners setting out to work to clear the premises of the camp of snow. /2/

In early 1943 (May, June), for those children who wouldn't or couldn't work as the Germans wanted them to, the barrack no. 3 was opened. In that barrack, the penal team [brigade] was marked with red stripes on their clothes, on the right arm and on the right leg. If someplace else work lasted till 4 PM, in our penal brigade it lasted until nightfall. We ran instead of walking, we leaped like frogs, dogs were set on us. The latter was often repeated by [Edward] August [Volksdeutsch, executed on 29 December 1946] and the aforementioned Józef Stankiewicz [died in 1971]. If somebody lagged behind, couldn't keep up with the others running, then that person was beaten and kicked. We also worked on Sundays, sweating and toiling, from dusk till dawn. That was the worst block I had stayed in.

Account of Jan Kuczyński (b. 1929 in Łódź), 1962. /2/

In the camp there was also a penal block, marked with the number 3, in which inmates coming directly from prisons or others who violated the camp discipline were placed. Together with my brother, I stayed in the aforementioned block for preparing an alleged escape. The prisoners from the penal block had specially marked clothing, that is they had red stripes painted on their shirts and trousers, they were assigned to harder work, performed additional tasks after 6 PM and slept on bare planks instead of straw mattresses.

Testimony of Teofil Tratowski (b. 1931 in Międzychód), 1971. /2/

Working on levelling the camp grounds. The boys are supervised by one of the civilian supervisors (the figure in the background, visible on the right) – Józef Stankiewicz. /2/



Another one of the four camp barracks in which prisoners of the so-called penal company stayed – digitally reconstructed. The facility was called „barrack III” by the inmates; behind it there is yet another barrack that acted as camp sewing house (facility no. 46). Wall separating the zone for female prisoners from the rest of the camp running along the barracks. /3/

