

VICTIM

OF THE

H O L O C A U S T



**VICTIM
OF THE
HOLOCAUST**

by
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Poland During World War II

NEW "EICHMANN TRIAL" IN ISRAEL: "IVAN THE TERRIBLE" OF TREBLINKA



The drawing on this page shows how Polish witnesses remember Ivan of Treblinka. Other witnesses describe Ivan of Treblinka quite differently. However, none of these descriptions fits John Demjanjuk of Cleveland, Ohio.

PREFACE

As this book goes to print it seems noteworthy to comment on the use of the word "volunteer" in a wartime situation and its linkage to those who were forced to perform guard duty. Applying this word with but one level of meaning 40 years later can lead to distortions. To be more specific: to say that Ukrainians, who were trapped in a German/Russian vise in World War II, freely volunteered for concentration camp duty is utter nonsense.

The fact of the matter is:

- 1) There were about one million ex-Soviet soldiers who "volunteered" to get out of the German prisoner-of-war camps in order to escape hunger, disease and death. Eyewitnesses have attested to the fact that these men, fed sparingly and exposed to the elements in open-air camps, were dying in alarming numbers due to exposure, starvation and disease. It is also recorded that when some of these prisoners-of-war were released due to a lack of space in the camps, they had nothing to eat but weeds and died along the road.
- 2) When a prisoner-of-war "volunteered" to work, he was not told what kind of work he would be doing or where he would be sent. About 99% of these prisoners-of-war were used by the German authorities to do hard labor or, later, to be sent to the front lines at the most dangerous and difficult points.
- 3) The prisoners-of-war who were trained in Trawniki were not told where they would be sent after they had finished their training. There were about 5,000 trainees in Trawniki, but only about two or three percent of them were sent to perform guard duty in concentration camps in Poland. Prior to being sent to work as guards in these concentration camps, they were not even aware of the existence of such camps.
- 4) Generally speaking, the nationality of the guards (the number of Ukrainian guards is not known) made no difference to Germans who referred to them as "Ivans" or "Russians." When tried in German courts after the war for "crimes against humanity," the German commanders of "Ukrainian" guards often testified about these guards as "Russians." It is also known from the transcripts of the court proceedings of these trials that many guards who were called "Ukrainians" were neither Ukrainian nor Russian. They were ethnic Germans who had lived for hundreds of years in eastern Europe and were called "*Volkdeutsche*." These ethnic Germans spoke German and were on the preferred list for duty in Trawniki and in concentration camps. Most of the Ukrainian prisoners-of-war spoke no German at all and were unable to understand the German commands.

Recently, I was in Dusseldorf and Köln and had the occasion to visit and interview Kurt Franz, currently serving a life sentence for participating in the extermination of Jews. He was an overseer of the so-called "Ukrainian guards" in Treblinka and later became the commander of the entire Treblinka camp. Franz is the only person alive who could accurately describe "Ivan of Treblinka." I have previously interviewed Kurt Franz in person and wrote

down his description of "Ivan" in detail. I will again repeat my conversation with Kurt Franz who stated that John Demjanjuk and "Ivan from Treblinka" are not the same person. According to Franz, "Ivan from Treblinka" was a much larger man with grey hair at that time, and if he were alive today he would be about 80 years old.

After seeing John Demjanjuk on a prison television screen recently, Kurt Franz stated on videotape that the man he saw on television bore no resemblance to "Ivan from Treblinka." Who should know more about "Ivan from Treblinka" than the former commander of Treblinka himself?

Hans Peter Rullman

March, 1987

WHO IS JOHN DEMJANJUK?

For close to a year, John Demjanjuk has been waiting in Israel's Ramle prison for his trial to begin. The 65-year-old prisoner of the Israelis stares straight ahead, without emotion, for days on end. But he seems to be in good physical and mental health. He does not give his guards any trouble; they call him their "model prisoner."

The Israeli interrogators are less happy with John Demjanjuk because, despite his long detention, Demjanjuk remains steadfast in denying what they try to charge him with. Supposedly, he was the biggest mass murderer in the history of mankind.

When John Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel by the United States on February 17, 1986, the press was certain about it: John Demjanjuk was identical with the so-called "Ivan the Terrible" who "shared responsibility for the death of 500,000 men, women and children." This terrible accusation stirred people's imaginations. Soon, the 500,000 became "900,000 to 1.2 million people" who are said to have been gassed by Demjanjuk personally in the Treblinka concentration camp during 1942 and 1943.

Thus, "Ivan the Terrible" even outdid Adolf Eichmann, as not a single murder could be documented to have been committed by Eichmann personally. Eichmann was sentenced and put to death in Israel as a "desk criminal," who had ordered mass murder by a few strokes of his pen. "Ivan the Terrible," by contrast, is said to have personally worked the tank motor whose exhaust fumes killed hundreds of thousands of Jews.

Consequently, the trial against the worst murderer of all times was to have taken place not in a courtroom but in a sports arena, with the accused in a cage of safety glass, protected from possible avengers in the crowd and sentenced even before the court entered the arena.

"IVAN THE TERRIBLE?"

The principal actor, however, has refused the role relegated to him. Despite exhausting interrogations, against whose nature the defense has voiced a protest, John Demjanjuk declares he is not "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka. Even worse, despite advice to admit at least his presence in Treblinka, John Demjanjuk maintains that he has never been in Treblinka.

Recently, when the prisoner was led across a street in handcuffs, he used the opportunity to address passers-by, asking them when he would be let free, as the proceedings against him were being conducted without any concrete evidence. He thus denied what the Associated Press news agency had reported worldwide on August 21, 1986: that John Demjanjuk admitted he had been in Treblinka.

With all that, John Demjanjuk is by no means the type of prisoner who would be able to endure interrogations month after month without admitting his guilt. Anyone who has ever been in a prison camp or in a prison knows what type of prisoner is most likely to make a confession: a person like John Demjanjuk. But meanwhile, Demjanjuk has ruined all plans because of his denial: the big trial against Demjanjuk, scheduled for early fall of 1986, had to be postponed repeatedly. The plan of sentencing him in a sports arena has also been abandoned. The reason: the evidence against Demjanjuk is so questionable and so sparse that the Israeli Attorney General had to personally approach a few Communist states of Eastern Europe for better evidence, for otherwise there could hardly be any charges. According to the Israeli Attorney General, there has been insufficient cooperation, so far, on the part of Moscow, Warsaw, and East Berlin, in the attempt to convict John Demjanjuk.

Israel appealed to Moscow for evidence against Demjanjuk: a sad state of affairs, because Moscow has provided everything which could speak against Demjanjuk. Those "proofs," however, have turned out to be worthless. In order to exert political pressure Moscow is ready to falsify "evidence" against Demjanjuk. But even now one has to ask how the extradition of Demjanjuk was at all possible if there was no convincing evidence? This "mistake" will mar the proceedings against Demjanjuk to the end. Evidence constructed after the fact cannot alter history. In the end it will not be Demjanjuk who will be the accused but rather those who staged the proceedings against him.

There are three reasons why John Demjanjuk is "the wrong person:" there is no tangible evidence against him. He consistently denies any guilt and he himself is a victim.

UKRAINIAN FAMINE

John Demjanjuk was born on April 3, 1920 in Ukrainian SSR. Soon after the Bolshevik Revolution a famine of catastrophic proportions occurred, and it would not be the last.

The extent of that famine was so great that in 1919 American charitable organizations worked out a plan to help the starving Ukrainians and on that occasion first experienced the cynicism of the Communists. American Relief Administration workers who were allowed to travel to Ukraine to fight the famine were treated by the Bolshevik authorities not as friends and helpers in time of need but as suspect enemies. The "Cheka" (not yet a secret police but an openly operating precursor of the GPU, the NKVD and the present-day KGB) accused the American helpers of being "spies," with the result that the aid was stopped, while Ukrainians continued to die. Ukrainians who had temporarily worked with the ARA were arrested and often shot on the spot.

The Ukrainian population reacted to this terror through peasant uprisings which were crushed by the Soviet Union with a great amount of bloodshed occurring. 1920, the year of Ivan Demjanjuk's birth, was a year of hunger and terror. He was born under an unlucky star and this star was to follow him for a long time—until the 1950's.

It was the policies of Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Party which, paradoxically, saved Demjanjuk's life. In view of the devastating famine and the peasant uprisings, Lenin was forced to change his tactics. Suddenly, the food that had been requisitioned from the starving peasants was no longer taken by force. The peasants were allowed to keep part of what they produced and to sell the surplus in a free peasant market.

But in 1928, after Lenin's death, Stalin decided to transform the peasants' private property into "communal property." The Communist Party took away from the peasants what they had been given as the "achievement of the Great October Revolution:" the land.

It started with the formation of the so-called collective farms, the *kolkhozes*, (collectives) and noncompliance meant taking the grain away from the peasants who owned private property and letting them starve. That would force them to bow to Stalin's will.

Once again the terror of the secret police, then called OGPU, ruled the villages; it soon developed into the infamous GPU. At that time, the first concentration camps on the European continent were established in the Soviet Union. Later, they developed into Stalin's massive *gulag*, an extensive network of camps in which millions of slaves provided unpaid forced labor and lost their lives.

The new man-made famine in 1932-33 in Ukraine, caused by Stalin's policies that resulted in 7 million deaths by starvation, was impressed on Ivan Demjanjuk's memory. Until the beginning of World War II, when Ivan was 21, these miserable conditions continued essentially unchanged. Entire villages that were considered pockets of resistance were burned to the ground.

The terrible term "liquidation" was not invented by the Nazis. It is part of Soviet terminology and does not simply mean the annihilation of a few people. It was the Soviet Union that decided, based on its state ideology, that an entire class of people should be "liquidated," no matter whether any individual was objectively guilty or not.

PRISONER OF THE GERMANS

As Demjanjuk himself reports, he had been drafted into the Red Army even before the start of the German-Soviet war. He was wounded during the first battles and recuperated in several Soviet military hospitals. When he was sent back to active duty in the Crimea, he was taken prisoner by the Germans.

The fate of the Soviet prisoners of war during World War II was grave, especially since the Germans had not expected to capture such great numbers. Demjanjuk was put to work near Rovno repairing destroyed rail lines. Then he was transported to the camp of Kholm (Chelm Lubelski).

During the war, the camp in Kholm had originally been built to house at most 30,000 Soviet prisoners of war. But there was only room for such a large number of prisoners as long as the number of new arrivals did not exceed the number of "departures." The "departure" very often occurred due to death from starvation or epidemics. A Polish research regarding this camp reported that out of 90,000 prisoners of war, most were former soldiers of the Red Army.

Among the many camps in Kholm and the surrounding areas, the prisoner-of-war camp was the largest. In 1944 it had 20,000 prisoners. There were very few Frenchmen, Britons, Italians and Belgians. The majority were Russians, Ukrainians, and other Soviet peoples who had only one goal: leaving the camp alive.

ON THE SIDE OF THE GERMANS

Early in the conflict, a prominent prisoner-of-war had announced his resolve to fight side-by-side with the German troops against the common enemy: Bolshevik Communism. His name was Andrei Andrejevich Vlasov. At the beginning of World War II, Vlasov was commander of the 4th Soviet tank corps. In September 1941, as commander-in-chief of the 37th Soviet Army he defended Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, prior to its fall into German hands.

Vlasov also distinguished himself during the famous battle of Moscow in December 1941. Thanks to him, Moscow did not fall into Hitler's hands. On March 21, 1942, Stalin sent the General, known as the "rescuer in times of need," into the so-called Volokhov basin where large concentrations of Soviet troops were surrounded by German forces. It was there, on July 11, 1942, that Vlasov was taken prisoner by the Germans, almost at the same time as the unknown John Demjanjuk was taken prisoner by the Germans in Crimea.

Vlasov told the Germans that he wanted to fight on their side against Bolshevism. Vlasov, of course, was no fascist but after his experience with Stalin he was also no longer a communist. Stalin had his best marshals and generals executed before the beginning of the war and consequently was essentially responsible for the disastrous early course of the war. Vlasov wanted a "free Russia" and for this purpose he founded a committee in Smolensk with other Soviet officers as members. They made an offer to the Germans: They would help the Germans win the war against Stalin, but the price would be a peace treaty between a free Russia and the German Empire.

Russian prisoners-of-war were permitted to "volunteer" for auxiliary Wehrmacht units but only less than 10% of them fought side-by-side with the Germans against Stalin.

For many Russians, Ukrainians, and other "Soviet peoples," joining the Wehrmacht auxiliary units meant escape from death by starvation in German prison camps. Those among them who believed they were helping to free their homeland from Bolshevism were disappointed, however, for it was not until November 1944, shortly before the end of the war, that the Germans allowed General Vlasov to organize a "Committee for the Liberation of the Russian Nation" (KOR) and two special divisions of the Russian Liberation Army (ROA). These consisted of Soviet foreign workers, members of "volunteer" units and prisoners of war from the German camps. In the end, there were only 50,000 men, despite the fact that it could have been an army numbering a million. John Demjanjuk was put into one of these units.

The soldiers of the Vlasov army, who knew communism from their personal experience and hated it much more than the Germans did, proved to be brave fighters. Even as late as April 1945, the Vlasov army fought desperately at the Oder River—today the border between Poland and the "German Democratic Republic."

In early May 1945, when all was over, Vlasov made a last desperate attempt. He turned away from the Germans and went to the aid of the freedom fighters in Czechoslovakia. Together with anti-fascist (but at the same time anti-communist) Czechs he wanted to fight for a free Czechoslovakia. According to the plans of the nationalist Czechs, the country was to be liberated by the approaching Americans and be saved from being taken over by the approaching Soviets. Vlasov wanted to become an ally of the Western Allies—against Stalin. The United States, prior to this however, had made an agreement with Stalin about the division of Europe and handed over Vlasov and his soldiers to Stalin. John Demjanjuk was one of them.

THE TRAGEDY OF 1945

Thus, all of Eastern and Southeastern Europe came under Moscow's control, where it remains to this day. The "day of liberation from fascism" has since meant the beginning of a new, even more long-lasting tyranny for many millions of people in those countries. For Vlasov, the deal between the Western Allies and Moscow meant death. Together with many of his officers and soldiers, he was handed over to the Soviets and publicly executed in Moscow on August 1, 1946.

The Soviets were given not only Vlasov, his officers and soldiers; they demanded from the West all Soviet citizens—including political emigres who had lived in the West even before the beginning of World War II. The West was very accommodating and gave up these old-time emigres to the Soviets. Most of them were arrested immediately after being handed over and were put in Stalin's camps; others were executed.

NIKOLAI TOLSTOY

Today, forty years later, this tragedy is mentioned again in public. Nikolai Tolstoy, a descendant of the Russian Count Tolstoy, published a book entitled *The Minister and The Massacres*. In this book, Tolstoy holds Harold Macmillan, then a minister and later the Conservative British prime minister, personally responsible for the fact that at the end of the war tens of thousands of Stalin's opponents were handed over to Stalin's terror apparatus by the Western Allies ("Operation East Wind" and "Operation Keelhaul").

After 1945, anybody who was against Stalin or had fought against him had reason to be afraid of the Western Allies, who at that time had no qualms about handing over tens of thousands of anti-communists to Stalin. In order to escape this "repatriation," many of those involved, after 1945, declared that they had never been Soviet citizens. One of them was John Demjanjuk. And naturally, nobody would admit to having fought against Stalin side by side with the Germans. For fear of Stalin, some of those affected had themselves declared mentally ill and put into sanitariums in the hope of surviving the time of collaboration between the Western democracies and Stalinism. After the war, John Demjanjuk stated that he had lived in Poland since 1934 and had later wound up in Germany. This way he succeeded in being registered as a "displaced person" (DP), one of those millions of people who had been swept, like the driftwood of World War II, into the arms of the Americans.

He was put into a camp for displaced persons near Landshut and went back to his old occupation in the DP camp near Regensburg, Bavaria where he became a truck driver for the American occupation forces in Germany. On September 1, 1947, he married a Ukrainian woman and they subsequently had a daughter.

Life in the DP camps in occupied Germany was no paradise. In these camps both refugees and criminals of many different nations had found shelter. John Demjanjuk applied for immigration to the United States, and said nothing about having fought on the side of the Germans. At that time it was the only way of breaking away from the DP camp and its misery and for leading a normal life. One can say that Demjanjuk misled the American immigration authorities but up to that point, Demjanjuk had been cheated all of his life and he finally wanted to live like a human being.

DEMJANJUK IN AMERICA

In 1952, he succeeded in legally immigrating to the United States. In 1956 he moved into the first house he ever owned. His family now included three children. The Demjanjunks obtained their American citizenship in 1958. And John Demjanjuk became a content, modest and well-respected citizen of Cleveland, Ohio. He had landed a job at the Ford plant and saved his money so that he could afford a better house.

Demjanjuk was a member of an ethnic group which, because of its numbers, is wooed by American politicians. During Captive Nations Week, American politicians like to declare that they are for the liberation of the Ukrainian nation from Bolshevism and Soviet rule. There is hardly an American president who has not declared his solidarity with the Ukrainians—not only during, but also after, his political campaign. This solidarity between the American government and an ethnic group strong in numbers which not only rejects communism as an ideology but also rejects the Soviet Union as a state, makes the Ukrainians in the U.S targets of Moscow. The Soviet Union, therefore, strives to influence the activities of Ukrainians abroad and resorts to character assassinations when deemed necessary.

MOSCOW'S MOUTHPIECE IN NEW YORK

One of the methods used by the Soviet Union to neutralize Ukrainians in the United States is to create divisions among them. A Moscow-dominated newspaper in New York called *News From Ukraine*, which addresses the Ukrainians in the United States, pins the label of "fascist" on anyone who is against the Soviet Union and infers that no American politician can afford to be associated with such "fascists."

In this way, Moscow tries not only to put a wedge between the U.S. Ukrainians and American politicians but also to split apart the Ukrainian community, too: for anybody who plans on traveling to the Soviet Union to visit relatives is reminded by *News From Ukraine* that he must keep away from anti-Soviet Ukrainian nationalists.

Michael Hanusiak, a staff member of this pro-Moscow newspaper, is one of the U.S. Ukrainians who frequently travels to the Soviet Union. He does not visit family members there but his party bosses—functionaries in the Soviet propaganda apparatus. At the same time, Hanusiak probably also acts as an informant. He returned from one of his visits to the Soviet Union with extensive material from official Soviet sources.

MOSCOW'S ENEMIES ARE "FASCISTS"

For years the Soviets have tried to expose all Ukrainian nationalists in the United States as being "fascists," but that has not made much of an impression in the United States because on occasion the Soviet propaganda machine has even labeled the president of the United States a "fascist." Hanusiak had returned from the Soviet Union with "evidence" which supposedly revealed that certain Ukrainians, listed by name, had really been "fascists" during the war. In Cleveland alone, according to Hanusiak, there lived "more than seventy Ukrainian suspects who had collaborated with the fascists during the war."

The intention was clear: The Ukrainian communities in the United States were to be systematically compromised by depicting their leaders as "fascist collaborators."

Psychologically, this new campaign was much more skillful than the old one which made general accusations. The average American citizen of today knows practically nothing about the sufferings of the Ukrainians under Stalin and about the repressions to which they had been subjected earlier. Consequently, Americans have rather simplistic historical picture: on one side are the "German Nazis" and their friends, on the other side are "Democracy" and its allies during World War II—the Soviets.

This erroneous view of World War II events held by the average American was perfect for the purposes of the new Soviet propaganda campaign. But this new Soviet trick had one noticeable flaw: one could accuse honest American citizens of Ukrainian origin as "fascists" and "collaborators" but there was no proof.

A DEAD WITNESS

Hanusiak, however, disclosed one document which he said he had seen in a file of the Soviet Justice Department; it was designed to prove his accusation on at least one point. This document was to change John Demjanjuk's life once again.

According to this Soviet file, a Ukrainian named Danilchenko had been tried in a Soviet court during the 1950's. He was accused of collaborating with the Germans during World War II. According to the charge, Danilchenko had been a guard in the German concentration camp of Sobibor where he participated in the annihilation of prisoners. Supposedly, the following is part of Danilchenko's testimony:

The first time I saw and met Ivan Demjanjuk was in March of 1943, in the death camp of Sobibor (Poland), where he was an SS guard. He was wearing an SS uniform and was armed accordingly. Demjanjuk participated as an SS guard in the mass murder in Sobibor, guarded the Jews so they could not escape, and accompanied them to the gas chambers. In the spring, Ivan Demjanjuk and I were sent to Flossenburg and then to Regensburg, where he again was a guard watching Soviet prisoners and people from various nations. He accompanied them to places where they had to do forced labor.

A DIFFERENT LIFE HISTORY—FROM MOSCOW

This way, an entirely different life history of Demjanjuk was put into circulation: John Demjanjuk is said to have already offered his services as a "collaborator" to the Germans in 1941. His first job is said to have been commanding the police in the central Ukrainian village of Uman, where his subordinates guarded the Jewish ghetto. This was only "disclosed" when Demjanjuk had long been in Israeli custody, and it was again a Russian language newspaper that "disclosed" it this time in Israel. A remarkable number of such "disclosures" stem from sources with ties to Moscow and most of the "disclosures" about "the true life story of Ivan Demjanjuk" took place after his extradition to Israel in spite of the fact that there had not been any such "disclosures" for forty years after the war.

But let us follow the entirely different life history of Demjanjuk as presented by Moscow. According to this version, John Demjanjuk was trained as a concentration camp guard by the Germans in a camp near Trawniki (at that time an occupied part of Poland) and on September 22, 1942, he was sent to a location named "L.G. Okzov." On March 27, 1943, he is said to have been sent to Sobibor where he took part in the extermination of Jews in the concentration camp located there. To prove this theory, there is not only the testimony of the above-mentioned Danilchenko but even a "document" which was presented by the Soviets and which we will discuss later.

First of all, let us concentrate on Danilchenko's testimony. It has a flaw: the witness is dead, presumably executed by the Soviets in the 1950's; that is, if he ever existed at all. There is no proof of that. But even if Danilchenko should have incriminated Demjanjuk during the 1950's as described above, one can be sure that Danilchenko did not speak the truth. There were guards in the German concentration camps, but these "helpers" did not wear SS uniforms. They wore foreign uniforms of inferior quality which the Germans had taken from prisoners of war. The Germans used to call such piecemeal uniforms "bandits' outfits." They were rather a type of work clothes, without badges or decorations. Naturally, these aides in camps were not allowed to wear the SS insignia on their uniform. That was the privilege of the purely German SS. If Danilchenko describes a man who wore an SS uniform in the concentration camp of Sobibor, he could only be referring to a German guard, not to an aide, and consequently not to John Demjanjuk. An aide in the concentration camp of Sobibor could not have been "armed accordingly," for members of the SS were armed quite differently from aides who were given only the absolutely necessary pieces of equipment. (As far as we know, only one "Ukrainian" guard was at Treblinka, Fedor Fedorenko; a question remains whether he was indeed a Ukrainian).

Unfortunately, as mentioned before, the "witness" Danilchenko cannot be questioned any more to determine how he could have managed to make so many obvious errors in such a short testimony. There are a few explanations for it, however. Immediately after the war, when German prisoners of war were interrogated by Soviet officials, they arbitrarily incriminated many German comrades in their statements who turned out to be totally innocent. The West German justice system, which had to deal with such statements, knows of many instances of German soldiers having been accused by their own comrades of crimes which they could not have committed, because they had been somewhere else—often thousands of kilometers away from the location of the alleged crime.

INTERROGATION METHODS DURING STALIN'S TIME

How did those statements come about? The prisoners of war were put under such pressure by the Soviet interrogation teams that they would incriminate even totally innocent comrades whose names they remembered. Preferably, they would incriminate comrades not in Soviet custody so there would be no

adverse consequences because of their incriminating statements. Applied to the "Danilchenko Case" this could mean that Danilchenko arbitrarily gave the names of any men he remembered in order to save his own neck.

There is no doubt that Danilchenko was lying. Even if Demjanjuk had been in Sobibor, he could not have been a member of the SS but only an auxiliary guard under the jurisdiction of the SS without any rights. Men who were employed as guards in Nazi concentration camps were even subject to beatings by any Nazi SS man. Many times they received the same food as the Jewish prisoners and had almost the same position as the so-called "work-Jews," who were forced to work for the Nazis in order to save their own lives. No guard would have dreamed of comparing himself to an SS man.

TRANSFERRED FROM SOBIBOR TO BAVARIA

But it is easy to verify, for on October 19, 1943, the so-called "Operation Reinhardt" in Poland was concluded. The ghettos had been dissolved long before. At this point the concentration camps were closed down. The camp Sobibor did not exist after late 1943. Consequently, Danilchenko and Demjanjuk could not have been sent to Bavaria from Poland in spring of 1944; it could only have been spring of 1943. So Demjanjuk could have been in Sobibor only a few weeks—if he ever had been there. Since May comes in the latter part of spring this means that at the latest, May 1943 on, Demjanjuk was no longer in Poland but in Bavaria. As we will see later, the charge against Demjanjuk is something quite different: supposedly, Demjanjuk had been in the Treblinka camp much later—that means in Poland, not in Bavaria. One can draw the following conclusion from this discrepancy: either one believes the dead Danilchenko—if so, then the prosecution in Israel is in error, or Danilchenko is lying. Why then should one take the alleged testimony of Danilchenko seriously?

There is, however, another explanation for "Danilchenko's testimony:" it was attributed to him after his death, at a time when it was important to accuse and discredit Ukrainians in the United States with at least one case. For such purposes, the Soviet Union has a complete falsification machinery, a department of disinformation with whose activities Western secret services and all emigrants from the Soviet Union have long been familiar. And there is nothing easier than putting a statement into the mouth of a witness who may not have existed at all. Any prosecutor would refuse to build a case on the testimony of such a mysterious witness.

Further analysis of the alleged testimony of Danilchenko shows the following: Allegedly, Demjanjuk was in Sobibor in March 1943. "In the spring" Demjanjuk supposedly was sent to "Flossenburg and then to Regensburg" (that is, Bavaria) with Danilchenko. This testimony does not specify which spring it was, so one cannot determine from it how long Demjanjuk supposedly had been in Sobibor.

The Soviets knew that, too, so they sent an additional document, again through the *News From Ukraine*, which would corroborate Danilchenko's testimony. For this purpose, another chapter had to be added to the "true history" of John Demjanjuk: his alleged stay in the training camp of Trawniki, where he was trained as a "concentration camp guard"—a story that American newspapers have repeated.

Many guards who had been recruited in German prisoner-of-war camps were sent to large farms where they had to guard barns, silos and fields and were armed with a simple carbine. A former Soviet prisoner-of-war who had actually been at Trawniki and had been trained as an auxiliary policeman there, consequently had nothing to do with German concentration camps.

TRAWNIKI

The "Demjanjuk Case" is riddled with "inaccuracies" which, when added together, are designed to form the picture of "Ivan the Terrible."

First of all, neither in Sobibor nor in Treblinka did there exist a guard named "Ivan the Terrible." Despite the fact that for 40 years after the war with all available witnesses having been heard, none recalled an "Ivan the Terrible." To make a long story short: The name "Ivan the Terrible" was invented by the American press after John Demjanjuk became a suspect. The training camp of Trawniki, however, actually did exist, but it was not a training camp for concentration camp guards, but a German camp in which auxiliary police were trained. From this camp most auxiliary policemen were dispatched to protect bridges and other important structures from partisans who at that time had been active in the area.

The camp Trawniki is fairly well documented because its commander, Karl Streibel, is still living. For years the German authorities investigated him but at the end of the proceedings they had to acquit him. First of all, no atrocities were committed in the Trawniki camp despite the presence of several Jews who worked there. During the trial, one female Jewish witness identified Streibel, the commander of the camp, as a man who was always kind to the Jews who worked there. Secondly, Streibel convinced the court during the proceedings that he did not train the foreign auxiliary policemen under his command for guard duty in concentration camps. The name lists of some of the Trawniki trainees survived. They show that the majority of the trainees were Russian ethnic Germans, so-called Volga Deutsche. Their personnel data are found in the casualties list of SS general J. Stroop who annihilated Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Streibel cannot exclude the possibility that some Russians, Volga Deutsche or Ukrainians who were trained in Trawniki were later sent to work in a German concentration camp. This may have been the case if a guard trained in Trawniki

had later been assigned to a different detachment, but from Trawniki there were no direct detachments sent to a concentration camp. For this reason the commander of Trawniki, Streibel, who now lives in a nursing home in Hamburg, was finally acquitted. He had neither taken part in committing nor in preparing for any type of crimes.

"NEVER WAS IN TRAWNIKI"

One can infer from this that, first of all, the majority of auxiliary policemen who had been trained in Trawniki never saw a German concentration camp, and secondly, that somebody's stay in Trawniki does not prove anything at all. Trawniki was a training camp like many others. The only difference was that so-called "foreign nationals" ("Ascaris" - foreign national ethnic Germans) were trained here—but for subordinate guard duty, i.e. in agricultural estates.

Demjanjuk, of course, says that he has never even been in Trawniki.

To prove the opposite, the Soviets launched the above-mentioned "document" in the *News From Ukraine*. It was to show that Demjanjuk had at least been in Trawniki.

A DOCUMENT FROM MOSCOW

This so-called document, only a copy of which was reproduced, allegedly had been issued in the camp of Trawniki as a "service identification card" (*see the following two pages*). This service identification card shows that Demjanjuk was trained as a "guard;" however, there is no mention of "guard in a concentration camp" in this document. Besides, this document supposedly shows that Demjanjuk was first sent to a mysterious location called "L.G. Okzow," according to an entry in handwriting. Then, again entered in handwriting, he allegedly was sent to Sobibor, on March 24, 1943. This roughly corresponds to the alleged testimony of Danilchenko that he saw Demjanjuk for the first time in March of 1943 in the concentration camp of Sobibor. But the handwritten entry does not indicate whether Demjanjuk—if he ever was in Trawniki—had been sent to the concentration camp of Sobibor at all, because there were many command posts in and around Sobibor which were in no way connected with the concentration camp. Unfortunately, one cannot even tell from this document who sent Demjanjuk to Sobibor in March 1943 because, from the Trawniki camp which allegedly prepared the identification card, nobody was sent directly to a concentration camp. This was established by a German court in Hamburg during the so-called Trawniki trial.

The so-called document contains a directive stating that the bearer can only stay where he has been sent, according to the entry. This document also bears the signature of Streibel, the camp commander of Trawniki. At first sight it looks quite genuine but it contains some puzzles: for instance, what is "L.G. Okzow?"

Raum für Anmerkungen der Dienststelle
 BEIRAT DER ANGEHÖRIGEN STAB
 MAJOREN ST 88 PR. T. 2
 BEZUGSNUMMER DER DIENSTSTELLE ZUHALTE

Kurz fassen, Barroso, Offizierslehre
 fassen, eintragen für, gestandene, 1917
 1917, wo, dazugehört, abgelehnt, v. 1917
 12/17-18, 1917-18, 1917-18

Vorname, Nachname, Geburtsort, Geburtsdatum
 Der Beauftragte des Reichshauptquartiers, 1917

Im Dienstort, im Dienstort, im Dienstort
 AUSBILDUNGS- und VERBANDSNUMMERN
 DIENSTSTELLE LÖBLIN

Dienstausweis Nr. 1392
 Dienstausweis Nr. 1392

Der Reichshauptquartiers, im Dienstort
 Dienstort, im Dienstort

ist in den Wachmannschaften des Hauptquartiers des
 Reichshauptquartiers als Wachmann tätig.
 im Dienstort, im Dienstort, im Dienstort
 im Dienstort, im Dienstort, im Dienstort



Handwritten signature and name: *W. H. Müller*
 Hauptmann, im Dienstort

SPICEMEN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 DATE

FORGED LIKE THE "HITLER DIARIES"

Before dealing with a document which is to serve as an important piece of evidence, one has to examine the physical qualities of such a document. A few years ago, when the West German illustrated weekly *Stern* published the "Hitler Diaries," renowned scientists and historians were convinced of their authenticity—until it was discovered in a forensic institute that this diary was made of materials which did not exist in Hitler's lifetime. This proves that historians and other scientists are more prone to error than a natural scientist who only looks at the physical qualities of documents. As the document which was presented by the Soviets in the "Demjanjuk Case" contains typewritten as well as handwritten entries, one could tell just from the age of the ink and typewriter ribbon from which year the document originates whether it was produced during the war or maybe long after the war.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine this, for the Soviets presented this so-called document in the original, when American courts were considering the extradition of Demjanjuk to Israel, but only long enough for the Americans to make a photo, or rather a photocopy, of it. The Soviet representatives who brought the original to the American authorities insisted that they get the original back immediately. As a result, no one of consequence had the opportunity to examine the physical qualities of the original document. In normal court procedures, as a rule, documents presented have to be originals because photocopies can be misused. In this case, regrettably, a different decision was made. One has no choice but to be content with photographs and photocopies of the so-called document. The physical qualities of the original remain a secret.

We have been told that this is a common practice used by the Soviets. In other proceedings against war criminals, the Soviets were likewise not willing to leave the original documents with Western courts. That detracts from all criminal proceedings in Western countries which rely on Soviet documents. But in the "Demjanjuk Case," in which this document at all times plays a central role, it casts the Soviets themselves in a doubtful light. Why have they refused to leave the original document with the Western investigative authorities if the photos and photocopies can be contested? How did the KGB get this document? Why were they silent about it after learning that Demjanjuk was alive?

DOCUMENT WITHOUT DATES

Therefore, first and foremost, Demjanjuk's defense is forced to examine, with the help of reproductions of an alleged original document, whether the original is a genuine document or forgery.

The document carries Karl Streibel's signature and since there were thousands of "foreign nationals," Streibel himself must have signed documents like that a thousand times. When we visited Mr. Streibel in his apartment, he immediately recognized the signature on the so-called document as his own, but then declared (as he did later, under oath):

"I notice that this document does not show any date of issue; documents as a rule are dated. I cannot remember that I have ever put my signature onto this or a similar document. I cannot say with certainty whether such documents have ever been issued by my office. Mr. Demjanjuk is not known to me."

Despite being of advanced age, Karl Streibel realized immediately what "experts" had not noticed: There was no date of issue on the "service identification card."

There was something else Karl Streibel did not notice and the "experts" had missed, too: not only the date of issue, necessary for all German identification cards, is missing but, even worse, there is no entry regarding an expiration date. The German officials during World War II would have taken that omission seriously—they do so even today: there is no German identification card, no passport, without an entry specifying the expiration and renewal date.

In World War II this was the rule for all German identification cards. The "Directives of the Chief of Security Police and Security Service" (No. 32:1940, page #), for instance, specifies that "Service Identification Cards" "are to be issued for one year" and have to bear "a corresponding annual index number."

AN IDENTIFICATION CARD THAT BREAKS ALL RULES

This precaution was entirely justified because a service identification card without an expiration date could easily be misused. Under conditions of those times, it could have fallen into the hands of a member of the political resistance. An identification card without an expiration date, identifying the bearer as a member of the Secret Police, would have been invaluable in the hands of a resistance fighter, saboteur or spy. For this reason, even German Security Police and members of the Security Service had to have their identification cards renewed once a year.

German authorities acted far more skeptically towards foreigners in their service. Soviet prisoners of war who had volunteered to help the Germans were considered extremely suspect. Even in the camp Trawniki, some of them had broken into the weapons depot in order to escape with their loot to join the partisans. Soviet prisoners of war held by the Germans had founded their own resistance organization together with forced laborers from occupied territories. No German official would have dreamed of issuing a service identification card without an expiration date to a practically unknown foreigner. Not even Heinrich Himmler carried an identification card without an expiration date. For even his service identification card was issued according to the regulation sheet whose essential elements were binding.

In Warsaw, the reissue of new cards was accomplished by stamping a small swastika every few months on the Kennkarte (I.D. card); this was exceedingly difficult to forge.

One of the essential features of any German official form is a series of numbers or a symbol that indicates from which printer the document came. It is still that way today: every official form, every identification card, even each postal return receipt contains such a symbol. And this symbol, too, is missing from the so-called "service identification card from Trawniki."

One can imagine the consequences for the internal security of the Nazi empire, if identification cards had been printed and issued which did not indicate what printer had made them. If that were the case, any private printer could have printed identification cards. And if such a forged identification card had fallen into the hands of the German Security Police, one would not have been able to tell whether it was really a forgery or whether it had been issued by a German office.

SIGNATURE IN THE WRONG PLACE

Another requirement for all German identification cards was that the bearer had to confirm receipt of the identification card by signature. It is still that way today: there is no German identification card, no passport without a signature of the bearer. First of all, the signature confirms receipt; secondly, it acknowledges certain regulations which specify for what purposes the identification card may be used, what to do when it is lost and whose property it is. An identification card remains the property of the issuing agency and has to be returned to it. On the military passport of German soldiers during World War II the "authentic signature of the bearer - first name, last name-" appears under the express note: "I have read the regulations on page 54, 55, and 56."

The so-called "service identification card," which the Soviets provided, does show a signature: Ivan Demjanjuk. But this signature acknowledges the receipt of a few pieces of equipment, not the receipt of the identification card. The signature in this "document" acknowledges the receipt of socks, not the receipt of an identification card.

"TRANSPLANTATION" OF A SIGNATURE

Naturally, the hasty observer of the service identification card can point out that this piece of paper does contain the signatures of both Streibel and Demjanjuk. But such signatures can be transplanted from one document to another with a simple copier in seconds. There were enough samples because Demjanjuk's signature was known to the Soviets; after all, he had been their soldier. Streibel's signature is on many documents which fell into Soviet hands. During the proceedings against Streibel in Hamburg, which ended in an acquittal for Streibel, every newspaper reader could see Streibel's signature. Streibel did not deny that this was his signature. But as far as he can remember, he never put his signature on a document like that, especially since it violated all German rules.

If John Demjanjuk really played the role ascribed to him, he must have had the kind of identification card described in the *Reich Gazette of the Chief of Security Police and Security Service*. In this official gazette there is a detailed description about what "identification cards for foreign national guards of the Security Police" had to look like. To prevent errors the *Reich Gazette* even printed a sample identification card. As one can see at first glance, such an identification card looked quite different from the "document" which the Soviets pass off as Demjanjuk's "service identification card" (see below).

Ausweis-Nr. 1

(Träger vom Tage der Ausstellung bis))

Der geb.

..... im im Reichsösterreichischen Wehrwesen bei der Staatspolizei
(einjährig) und bewaffnet, alljährig Uniform ohne Ab-
zeichen mit der Armabzeichen „Im Dienst der Wehrpolizei“ zu tragen.

..... das

(Mittel) **Herr Luder, der Staatspolizei-Hilfskraft**
(Unterschrift)

Ausweis

Unterschrift des Trägers

Identification Card #:.....

(valid from date of issue until)

Seal

Photograph

Seal

Name born
in is a foreign-national guard with
the State Police (command) post
and entitled to wear the pale grey uniform,
without insignia, with armband "In the
Service of the Security Police."

..... Date

.....
(Signature of Bearer)

(Seal)

The Chief of the State Police
(Command) Post

(Signature)

This identification card had to be carried by all "foreign-national guards" who were "in the service of the Security Police." It was specified that the validity of such an identification card "is to be limited to three months at a time." That meant: This identification card had to show the date of issue, had to be acknowledged by the bearer through his authentic signature and had to be presented for renewal every three months. To avoid unauthorized use a "special safety paper" was prescribed for this identification card. "The photograph is to be stamped with the official seal in the upper left and lower right-hand corner." This regulation also extended to German military passports. But one can see at a glance that the seals on the photograph of the Soviet "document" are affixed in reverse: upper right and lower left.

In the *Reich Gazette* cited above, there is also the requirement that "foreign-national guards can only be employed in guarding foreign-national prisoners." That points to the low status of the "foreign-national guard." They were so lowly that they were not allowed to guard German prisoners—it would have offended German honor. There were only non-German, mostly Jewish, prisoners in the German concentration camps in Poland. The identification card as described above could have been carried by guards who were employed in German concentration camps in Poland. It conforms with the usual practices but looks quite different from the so-called "Demjanjuk document."

Of course, one can argue that the guards in German concentration camps reported to the SS and not to the State Police. One can deduce, therefore, that they were carrying different identification cards, but then they would have had to conform with the SS regulations.

Even identification cards for lower-ranking German members of the SS had to bear an "authentication seal" showing when the SS member was supposed to be at what location. An identification card like that had to be recertified periodically. The so-called "service identification card" which the Soviets presented, however, does not contain any authentication entries.

In documents of German SS members, no handwritten entries were allowed. In the so-called Demjanjuk document, however, there are numerous handwritten entries, made after the issue of the identification card. Under the photograph, entered in different types of handwriting, there are notes saying that he had been sent to L.G. Okzow on 9-22-1942 and to Sobibor on 3-27-1943. If such entries were not allowed in the identification cards of German SS members, why would the authorities have been so lax in dealing with foreigners?

FREE RAIL PASS FOR A FOREIGNER

One can imagine that if this were customary, then any bearer of such an identification card would only have to enter a new "transfer" on his card and could disappear somewhere in the German Reich. What would stop a foreigner in German service—possibly spying for the Soviets—from giving himself a transfer to Berlin?

For this reason, there was a special directive from the "Reich Commander SS," Heinrich Himmler, that prohibited handwritten added entries in SS identification cards. Besides, all identification cards were to be "collected and destroyed immediately after their expiration." It is a known fact, however, that the concentration camps of Sobibor and Treblinka were completely and systematically dismantled ten months before the arrival of the Soviets, so there was not a trace left. Foreign-Auxiliary guards were ordered to do the dismantling. During the destruction of the concentration camp in Sobibor, all identification cards for that camp were "immediately collected and destroyed." How can the Soviets present a "document" which never fell into their hands?

4,000 IDENTIFICATION CARDS DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE

It should be simple to prove that the so-called Soviet document, first of all, did not conform with German regulations and therefore had to be forged, and that, secondly, if there ever were such a document, it would no longer be in existence. Also, if such documents were issued to thousands of "foreign-nationals" being trained in the camp of Trawniki, then it should be possible to find at least one other document of this type.

It is estimated that 4,000 to 5,000 men were trained in Trawniki camp, so approximately 5,000 such identification cards must have existed. But even Dr.

Wolfgang Scheffler, who was used as an "expert" by the American authorities and swore to the "authenticity" of this document in America, had to admit, when questioned, "that he had never seen an identical card." He said he based his judgment on "clues." It must be noted here that Dr. Scheffler is not a document expert, which is the reason why he "missed" all of the basic errors in this so-called document. Actually, the American court that ruled on the extradition of Demjanjuk to Israel was wrong in asking Dr. Scheffler about the authenticity of this document—because this is entirely beyond his expertise.

This is expressed—unfortunately only in a tiny footnote—in the files of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division. It says: "No party to the proceedings was able to produce an exactly identical document, and the government does not know of the existence of any other document which would be similar to the Trawniki card."

The American authorities who pursued the extradition of Demjanjuk to Israel were well aware of the fact that this was a decisive question in the evaluation of the authenticity of the so-called "service identification card." For the authenticity of a document can only be assumed if a comparable copy is known, and even that does not exclude forgery.

A "DOCUMENT" OF WHICH THERE IS ONLY ONE COPY

The American authorities, therefore, urgently tried to find an identical or at least similar document—with negative results. We have retraced some of the steps of the American authorities on our own and have contacted all archives and offices which are in possession of any available identification cards from World War II.

At the Military Archives of the West German Federal Archives in Freiburg we were told that "a comparable document has not been seen here to date." In these Archives are many documents of that type and have to be considered the foremost authority in the field. It was pointed out at the Archives that from this "document" "one cannot tell offhand if Demjanjuk was assigned to guard duty in a concentration camp." In other words: even if this document should be authentic, the handwritten entry about transfer to Sobibor does not prove anything, as in and around the village of Sobibor there were many work assignments for "foreign nationals" which had nothing at all to do with the local concentration camp.

Another authority on war crimes is the District Attorney's Office of the city of Dusseldorf, where extensive files on German concentration camps in Poland are kept. Initially, when asked, the district attorney in charge thought he had once seen, during proceedings against German war criminals, a document which was similar to the "Soviet document." Supposedly, the accused Swidersky, a guard in a concentration camp, was in possession of such a document. But

when the Dusseldorf District Attorney's Office looked for the identification card in the "Swidersky file" they found a document which looked quite different: "Among the papers of the proceedings against Swidersky there is no identification document similar to the 'Demjanjuk document'."

FUTILE SEARCH

The *Deutsche Dienststelle in Berlin* ("German Office in Berlin") which deals mostly with "notification of next-of-kin of war dead of the former German Armed Forces," and for this purpose collects all kinds of documents and especially wartime identification cards, was only able to "determine that foreign volunteers in the armed forces would receive paybooks and metal identification tags worn on the left chest pocket of the uniform. They were similar to those of German soldiers as well as those of the SS."

The U.S. Office of Special Investigations (OSI), which most energetically pursued the extradition of Demjanjuk to Israel, was overly preoccupied with finding a document which would prove the authenticity of the Soviet document. But even in the U.S.-controlled Berlin Documentation Center (which contains some never-published Nazi documents among other things) nothing could be found. That is why the OSI had contacted the *Deutsche Dienststelle in Berlin*: "In the matter of Mr. Ivan Demjanjuk, we have already explored several options. Our investigations into possible services for the German armed forces have been unsuccessful." Nothing is known about Demjanjuk's other services either, and a document such as the one the Soviets presented has not been seen—neither in the *Deutsche Dienststelle Berlin* nor in the American Berlin Documentation Center, despite the fact that they have almost every known document from the Nazi period.

How, then, was it possible for the German expert Dr. Wolfgang Scheffler from West Berlin to say before the American court which ruled on Demjanjuk's extradition to Israel that this document was "authentic?" We were unable to locate the expert Dr. Scheffler, who in the American court had been identified as a professor of the Free University of Berlin, at that university: Dr. Scheffler has no office there, is not actually a faculty member, and does not teach there. We found him listed in the telephone directory under his own name. In a telephone conversation, Dr. Scheffler declared that he, too, does not know of any identical or even similar document from Germany. As an author, he had visited the Soviet Union on various occasions, but he told us that there, too, he had never seen an identical or similar document.

LIVING WITNESSES FROM TRAWNIKI

Arpad Wiegand had been SS and police commander in the district of Warsaw until May of 1942. The camp of Trawniki was under his jurisdiction. Wiegand declared that the foreigners in Trawniki were, of course, not "SS members," and that all German identification cards had one important point in common.

Confronted with the Soviet document, Arpad Wiegand said: "The date of issue is missing on this photocopy of a service identification card. There is a strong suspicion of forgery."

Fortunately, there are still some living witnesses from the camp in Trawniki, namely, witnesses who knew a lot about the camp because as Germans they worked in the camp administration. The American OSI knew about this, too. Representatives of that office visited one of these witnesses. The witness, Heinrich Schafer, was thoroughly questioned by the American investigators and had to state before the American Consul in the Federal Republic of Germany what he remembered. He was also shown a photocopy of the so-called "service identification card" and was asked whether he was familiar with such a document. Schafer answered "No." An impartial preliminary investigation of the "Demjanjuk Case" would have inquired further: whether Schafer considered the document to be authentic and what the identification cards looked like which were actually issued in Trawniki. But strangely enough, the OSI officials did not want to know that, for a simple reason: after he had declared that he did not know of such a document, one could only expect answers from Schafer which would have exonerated Demjanjuk. Consequently, it was decided to do without these answers.

When we asked Heinrich Schafer, he made the following statement under oath before a German official:

AFFIDAVIT

1.

Heinrich Schafer,
declare herewith under oath:

- 1) I have made a statement at an earlier date before the American Consul-General about my service in the training camp of Trawniki in Poland during World War II.
- 2) The training camp of Trawniki served for training of guards for big farms in Poland which were run by German nationals. These big farms were designed to provide food supplies under war conditions. The guards also had to protect railroad bridges and warehouses in which food supplies were stored. Some of the guards were also used for service in the concentration camps in the district of Lublin (Poland).
- 3) In Trawniki, I was in the department which identified and controlled the foreigners who had been assigned to the training battalion. It also included financial and general camp administration.
- 4) In the years of my continuous service in the camp of Trawniki, between the years 1941 and 1944, there was never an identification paper issued to a guard which also contained a list of equipment items received. The equipment list would be a separate document which was kept in the camp's administrative office where I worked.

- 5) The equipment list for guards always listed the carbine which was issued to the guard, and its number. The ammunition for the weapon would be issued where the guard worked. It is totally unimaginable that a carbine would not have been issued to a guard because the weapon was his right hand, so to speak, without which he could not perform his duty.
- 6) The copy of the identification card which was shown to me by the representative of the U.S. Government, in addition to an equipment list, also contains entries of official transfers to a big farm in Okzow and to Sobibor. This document could not have been issued in Trawniki.
- 7) Official transfers were never listed on identification cards. Such information was exclusively kept in the files of the command post in question. Furthermore, every identification card had to have a date of issue; without it, such a paper was automatically invalid.
- 8) Each guard in Trawniki, and that includes me, had an identification paper in which his name appeared—only once. I have never issued a card like the one that was shown to me which shows the name Ivan Demjanjuk twice. I do not know such cards.
- 9) During my previous interrogation before the U.S. Consul I was never asked my opinion about the authenticity of the "Demjanjuk card." I declared that I never had seen a card like it during the years of my service in Trawniki and assumed that testimony would be sufficient.

(signed) *Heinrich Schafer*

This testimony of Heinrich Schafer bears the official seal of the German official before whom he gave this affidavit. As can be ascertained from this testimony, witness Schafer noticed numerous additional "errors" in the Soviet document:

- a) The equipment list does not belong on the identification card, but on a totally different form. This observation of Schafer confirms the suspicion that we have here two different documents which have been combined into one—unless the so-called Demjanjuk document was put together from even more parts. The photograph of the alleged young Demjanjuk could have been taken from Soviet Army archives; after all, Demjanjuk had been a Soviet soldier.
- b) In the equipment list the carbine which the guards received is not listed so that the bearer of this identification card or Demjanjuk, if he had been caught carrying a carbine, would have been punished for illegal possession of a weapon. Under conditions of those times, that could have meant death. And, of course, not only would the carbine be listed but so would the weapon number which is also missing.
- c) Schafer is the only witness who can give information about the authenticity of this paper because he used to issue these papers himself. But Schafer says unequivocally: "I never issued a card like that."

A WITNESS IN HAMBURG

To be on the safe side, Demjanjuk's defense looked up a second important witness in Hamburg who had also worked in the administration of the training camp in Trawniki. The American investigators had "not found" him, despite the fact that his name appeared as a witness in the files of the proceedings against Streibel, the former camp commander of Trawniki. It would have been easy to question this witness, but the members of the OSI and the American prosecutors probably suspected that this witness would not say anything in favor of the authenticity of the so-called identification card.

The affidavit of this witness is as follows:

During World War II, I was drafted into the *Waffen-SS*. After having been wounded in 1941, I was transferred to the *SS* administrative headquarters in Lublin. From there I was sent to the outpost of Trawniki.

In Trawniki I worked as bookkeeper and paymaster for the *SS* members and the guards working in the camp as well as in surrounding outposts (big farms).

The document shown to me in a photocopy is unknown to me and in my opinion has not been issued in Trawniki.

The camp commander's office was responsible for recruiting, administration, equipment and assignment of guards. It was run by Drechsel, the chief of the security police, and was physically separated from us.

The camp in Trawniki was under the command of the chief of the *SS* and police in Lublin.

The command and the administration of our outpost (the Trawniki camp) was only responsible for the economic supplies of the camp (pay, food, clothing).

The official seal of the camp commander's office could only be used by the commander of the outpost for members of the command post administration.

The official seal of the camp commander's office was different from that on the photocopy shown. I have prints of it in my possession.

[Here follow the signatures of this witness and of the notary before whom he gave this affidavit on 12-7-1983.]

Naturally, this witness had nothing to fear, as he had not participated in any crimes during World War II. But, on the other hand, he had no reason to draw attention to himself. Nevertheless, he decided to travel to the United States in order to testify and repeat before the court in Cleveland, which ruled on the extradition of Demjanjuk to Israel, what he had already explained in his written affidavit: that the official seal on the so-called "service identification card" was different from the one used in Trawniki and that this document could not have originated in the training camp of Trawniki.

But instead of being welcomed as a witness who actually had been in Trawniki and had worked in the administration there, this witness, while in the United States, was treated as if he were himself accused. In court he had to listen to insulting questions and the press called him a "Nazi" who had come to America to defend another Nazi criminal, namely, Demjanjuk.

This is the manner in which truth was sought in the "Demjanjuk Case." Anybody striving for a complete explanation of the truth was denounced as a "Nazi."

A FORENSIC EXPERT'S OPINION

Finally, the defense turned to a totally impartial expert, Mr. Erich Schock, a forensic expert in documents, typewriting and handwriting, living in the Federal Republic of Germany. Schock had never heard of the "Demjanjuk Case" and was a disinterested party in the case. After examining a photocopy of the so-called "service identification card," he arrived at the following opinion:

Erich Schock

Expert opinion given on 3-26-86

Findings after examination and evaluation

The identification card presented for examination has been reproduced electrostatically with dry toner (sheet 1 through 4 and sheet 2 through 3). The similarly reproduced measuring unit in inches indicates that the photocopy is the same size as the original.

FORM

Because of faulty image reproduction, no statements valid in evidence can be made about the printing process of the form and the type of inking.

With regard to the printing style, an opinion of "authentic" or "forged" can only be given if there is an authentic form for comparison. Such a form is not available in this case.

The printed form, however, does show the following peculiarities:

- A combination of various types of print with different characteristics.
- Missing and obviously otherwise replaced umlaut signs on the letters "ö."
- The lines of print, especially on page 1 of the identification card, are not parallel.
- The special symbols for *Schutzstaffel*, "SS" have varying shapes and sizes. They were possibly added later by hand.
- Added by the publisher were: stylized signs of thunderbolts and not letters "SS" assumed for printing by non-Nazis.
- Spelling of the word *Große* on the identification card, page 2, is with "ss" instead of "ß."

The entries on the form:

The typewritten entries are of the "Pica" type. According to my information it is a type which has been manufactured since 1928 by the AEG company in Erfurt.

About the handwritten entries which were probably done with some type of writing fluid (ink), no evaluation can be made.

Evaluation Summary

The material under investigation is not open to an evidential statement as to whether this copy was made from a genuine (authentic) or falsified I.D.

Various defects in the appearance of the print type give rise to the supposition that the "identification card" of which this is a copy is an imitation.

(signed:)

Erich Schock
Forensic Expert

F. Winterberg, professor of theoretical physics at the University of Nevada in the U.S., points to further peculiarities in the so-called "service identification card:" from the mounting of the photo on the alleged document to spelling errors and misprints in an official identification card, e.g. *Schnurschuhe** and *fest zu nehmen***.

* (Translator's note: the correct spelling is "Schnürschuhe" = shoes with shoelaces, while "Schnurschuhe" does not exist).

** (Translator's note: correct spelling is "festzunehmen" = to arrest).

One should not exclude the possibility that a German officer's aide with little education might divide one word into three, because he does not know better, but it is hard to imagine that an official seal would contain such an error. Note by the publisher: the spelling error in the German word "arrest" is comparable to spelling the word "cat" with a k as in "kat."

"ONE CANNOT BUILD A CASE ON THAT"

Probably the most competent German who could give his opinion about the so-called "service identification card" was Adalbert Ruckerl, the chief public prosecutor of the Central Office of the State Justice Departments for Investigation of National-Socialist Crimes, in Ludwigsburg. He died recently. Ruckerl was not only a lawyer, but an expert on proceedings against Nazi criminals. In his central office in Ludwigsburg, documents are collected which deal with Nazi war crimes at the time of World War II. For this reason, shortly before his death, Ruckerl was decorated and honored by the Israelis.

When Adalbert Ruckerl saw the so-called document, he declared that he had never seen such a document before. He, too, pointed out serious defects in this "service identification card;" for instance, the issue date was missing. Such documents never existed in Germany. Naturally, even in the extensive documentation of the Central Office of the State Justice Departments for Investigation of National-Socialist Crimes, there was no counterpart for this "document" to be found. Furthermore, in the voluminous archives of this Institute there is not a single reference to "Ivan the Terrible." When Adalbert

Ruckerl was confronted with the document from the Soviet Union, he declared: "As an experienced public prosecutor, I would not attempt to build a case on just this document."

Immediately after Ruckerl retired, his successor in Ludwigsburg was also asked for his opinion. Prosecutor Dress answered that there had been no new findings. This means that a copy of this ominous identification card, which a document expert said was probably an "imitation," never did appear. To this day the German authorities have no data which would bear witness against John Demjanjuk.

As one can see from photocopies of the document, there have been numerous Russian notations made later on this dubious "service identification card." For instance, Russian translations of the German document were added in handwriting purportedly in March, 1948 instead of being put on a separate sheet as customary.

THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET SECRET SERVICE

Why was this document in the hands of the Soviet secret service? The secret service's main task is to fight "enemies of the Soviet system" among whom are, for the most part, Ukrainian nationalists in Soviet Ukraine and in foreign countries.

Because the Soviet secret service (KGB and GPU) have no dealings with war documents, such documents are kept in state archives and museums. When it comes to the investigation of yet untried war crimes, the Soviet court authorities have such documents in their possession. In cases where other countries are to receive judicial assistance, such documents are usually sent to the Soviet state department which forwards them to the foreign country.

The Soviet Union is engaged in disinformation campaigns and so-called "active measures" of international terrorism. For this purpose, the Soviet secret service maintains extensive forgery workshops in which a wide assortment of documents is manufactured in order to defame, disrupt and, if possible, destroy.

However, Neal Sher, chief of the Office of Special Investigations in the U.S. Department of Justice, declared: "It is highly improbable that the KGB, or whoever, would forge innumerable documents and induce dozens of witnesses to commit perjury." In other words, in the opinion of the OSI, the KGB is an exceedingly harmless Soviet office which has to be protected from the evil suspicion of committing forgery. The KGB should be very grateful to Neal Sher, for all Western wire services—even the wire services of the United States—know of a very different KGB.

The West German Secretary of the Interior published extensive documentation on the methods and purpose of forgery by the KGB and other Soviet secret

services. The Soviet forgeries serve the purpose of the "exposure and defamation of political groups or individuals before the world," and aim for the "destruction of political groups and personal reputations."

Concerning "disinformation," the documentation of the West German government says:

It supplies false, incomplete, distorted, superseded or obsolete information to the enemy news services, with the intention of inducing behavior in the recipient or recipients which the political leadership of the Communist states wants—consequently influencing political, military, economic, scientific, technical and informational conditions in the targeted countries.

WHO IS OSI'S SOVIET PARTNER?

As the German *Allgemeine Jüdische Wochenzeitung* (General Jewish Weekly) declared in its issue of August 1, 1986, "Since 1980 there has existed between the OSI and the Soviet judicial authorities a silent, unwritten agreement about Soviet legal assistance in proceedings against war criminals who had escaped to the United States." Since that time, "hundreds of copies of important documents from Soviet war archives have been received" from the Soviet Union "which are used as evidence against suspected war criminals." Obviously, the Soviet Union provides "copies" only—no original documents—despite the fact that an original document would be much more convincing. And almost all of the "war criminals" being hunted jointly by the Soviets and the OSI are declared to be anti-communists.

"ACTIVE MEASURES"

The importance which Eastern bloc news services attribute to "active measures" [disinformation] has historical roots. Lenin stated in 1902:

Political disclosures are intrinsically one of the most effective means for disintegration of enemy lines, a means for causing the enemy's incidental or temporary allies to disassociate themselves from the enemy, a means to sow hostility and distrust between the traditional carriers of absolute power.

Faithful to Lenin's statement, Soviet news services attempt, through a multitude of disinformation operations, to discredit and defame organizations and individuals who are obstacles to their foreign policy goals. They plant falsified information which is disseminated by wire services through the Western news media.

THE MEDIA AS DISINFORMATION AGENTS

The West German Office of the Secretary of the Interior states that for this purpose, the disinformation units like to use public media with the following objectives:

- Origin and truth content of the information will not be recognized or
- Its partially clear wire service background will be concealed or not considered important and
- Consequently, the information will be regarded as genuine and to the point and will be used for reporting purposes of the selected medium.

TOTALLY FALSIFIED AS A RULE

Probably the most frequently used method so far is the anonymous passing of information in the form of photocopied documents and photographs. As a rule, falsified documents, composite photographs, and publications partially augmented with legitimate facts, have formed the basis for defamation and smear campaigns. The enemy services have at their disposal in their archives extensive collections of legally and illegally acquired official and private original documents, signatures and photographs of leading personalities and other aids for the production of forgeries.

The "document" sent from the Soviet Union allegedly is an identification card which states that John Demjanjuk initially had been in the training camp Trawniki and then in the concentration camp Sobibor and appeared in the news media as described above. It came directly from the KGB and was at first provided to a news medium and only after that given to the American authorities, although only "on loan." The political target of this "active measure" was probably not even John Demjanjuk, but Ukrainian nationalism and the Ukrainian emigre community for, at the same time, there appeared in the Soviet Union new "evidence" designed to show that Ukrainian nationalism, which opposes Russian domination in the Soviet Union, is nothing but a product of fascism.

In the Demjanjuk case, obviously, the Ukrainian emigre community was to be unmasked before the eyes of the world, neutralized as an organized part of the opposition abroad, and alienated from its sympathizers whom Moscow at that time assumed to be in Washington. It was a coincidence that several organizations had just begun a campaign to find "Nazi criminals" all over the world—mostly in the United States.

THE "WALUS CASE"

Demjanjuk was not the first victim of this campaign and this set of circumstances. As early as February 1977, the U.S. government officially accused Frank Walus, from Chicago, of having participated in serious crimes against humanity in Poland during the war. Eleven Jewish witnesses testified in court under oath that they had seen him chase people into concentration camps and even murder children. He was found guilty and lost his U.S. citizenship, which paved the way for extradition and further sentencing. But two years later the appellate court ordered a new trial. Nine months later, Walus was completely cleared of all charges because there was new evidence found to the effect that he had not been in Poland at all during World War II. As it turned out during the trial, the overwhelming evidence which led to a "not guilty" verdict for Walus should have been known to the U.S. government long before the indictment was filed, but the U.S. Administration as well as the judge who had sentenced Walus, based on the witnesses' testimony, were only interested in demonstrating that they were intent on tracking down "Nazi criminals."

THE CRIMINAL HAD AN ALIBI

The Israeli authorities were intensely interested in the Walus case. They found eight witnesses who "recognized" Walus from photographs. When one of those witnesses was unable to find the "right" picture in a collection of photographs, the Israeli interrogator showed him only a single picture—that of Walus. When the witness still could not identify Walus, the inspector told him whose picture this was: that of Walus. Then there were eight witnesses instead of seven; finally there were eleven. When, after the first trial, Walus was pronounced guilty, the courtroom was filled with a crowd of hostile spectators. One woman screamed: "This courtroom smells of blood. There is no doubt about his guilt." And yet, as in the "Demjanjuk Case," the U.S. authorities had been totally unsuccessful in their search for incriminating evidence against Walus in all European archives.

Working for the defense, a Munich attorney found what the U.S. authorities had missed because they failed to look there: documentation of the German health insurance - AOK - which showed that Walus had worked in the southern part of Germany for German employers during the years 1940 to 1945. He had even been regularly insured. There was also a statement from the Red Cross Search Service in Arolsen and a letter from the American-controlled "Berlin Documentation Center" which showed that Walus had never been connected with activities of criminal or Nazi groups. Eleven Polish witnesses who had known Walus before the war swore that they had not seen him in Poland at all during the war, and certainly not in a Nazi uniform. The charge that Walus had been a member of the SS was ridiculous even at first glance: the accused is of such a small stature that he is far below the minimum size requirement which that organization required of its members. Even the farmers were found where Walus had stayed and worked during the war. They remembered him as "their Pole" and called him "Franzl."

PERSECUTED INTENTIONALLY AND AGAINST BETTER JUDGEMENT

An American journalist, Flora Johnson, described this "persecution of Frank Walus" as a "witch hunt, organized by the U.S. government, a federal judge, the Israeli police and the press—all of whom cooperated to convict a totally innocent man as a Nazi criminal." However, the acquittal of Walus, who is currently pressing charges against his former persecutors, caused much less of a stir in the American press than his initial conviction.

Today, Walus is among those Americans who offered his help to defend Demjanjuk, because they themselves have been victims of a disinformation campaign. The American media, however, apparently have not learned anything from the "Walus Case." Just as they turned against Walus in the beginning, so they are against Demjanjuk now—despite the fact that the methods of persecution are amazingly similar.

While the American press warns against the Soviet secret service and their methods, it is totally uncritical in declaring as "genuine" the "document"

which originated in the workshops of the Soviet secret service —despite the fact that everything speaks against this document.

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WARNING OF JEWISH NEWSPAPER

Allgemeine Jüdische Wochenzeitung (General Jewish Weekly) points to this possibility:

"Objective critics are seriously concerned that the goal of the Soviets may not be limited to bringing murderers and Nazi collaborators to justice, but may extend to an attempt to malign the traditional anti-Soviet groups of emigres and to discredit them in the eyes of their own people . . . Such concerns cannot be rejected altogether, because the Soviet authorities, in their agreement with the OSI, have insisted that American prosecutors will not have free access to the Soviet war archives, and they also reserved the right to control the access of American attorneys to Soviet witnesses."

So far, no Soviet witnesses have been allowed to travel to the United States to testify before American courts.

That the "witnesses" named by the Soviet Union are often themselves agents of the Soviet secret service became evident in the "Laipenick Case:" This Baltic national had been severely incriminated by a witness. Later, it turned out that in 1941, the witness had been an informer for the Soviet state security service and was responsible for the extermination of thousands of Lithuanians and Jews in Stalin's *gulag*.

In the "Demjanjuk Case," however, the Soviets only named a dead witness, and an alleged document which supposedly had been in Soviet archives since the end of the war. If this is true, then Demjanjuk has been known to the Soviets as a "war criminal" since the end of the war. Then why did Demjanjuk's mother receive a pension from the Soviet authorities into the 1970's, for her son who, until that time, was believed dead by the Soviet authorities? The survivor's pension was canceled only when Demjanjuk's wife

traveled to the Soviet Union to inform her mother-in-law that her son was alive. That eliminated the legal basis for the government pension.

No relatives of a known war criminal would receive a Soviet government pension in the Soviet Union—only John Demjanjuk's. That proves that the Soviet authorities had no knowledge of Demjanjuk's participation in crimes during the war until it became expedient to construct such an indication, that is, to forge one.

There is more evidence. Years ago, a trial against collaborators took place in Krasnodar. These collaborators had worked in German concentration camps in Poland. Even during those long proceedings which included testimony from numerous witnesses the name Ivan Demjanjuk was never mentioned—and neither was a so-called "Ivan the Terrible."

TO SUM UP:

- 1) There is not a single witness for the alleged presence of Demjanjuk in the Trawniki training camp, not even a dead witness. All living witnesses who can be questioned know neither an Ivan Demjanjuk nor a document such as the one presented by Soviet authorities.
- 2) For the alleged presence of Demjanjuk in the concentration camp Sobibor, there is also not a single living witness—only a dead one who can no longer be questioned as to why he was lying on several points during his alleged testimony.
- 3) There is also not a single witness confirming the alleged presence of Demjanjuk in the camps Flossenburg or Regensburg where—according to the dead witness Danilchenko—Demjanjuk allegedly guarded Soviet prisoners of war and "people from other nations," of whom at least a few should still be alive. Even after the worldwide publication of John Demjanjuk's picture after his extradition to Israel, not a single witness has come forward.

It is one of the peculiarities of the "Demjanjuk Case" that the more complicated it became, the less evidence there was. When it became clear that Demjanjuk's alleged presence in Sobibor could not be confirmed, the location of his heinous deeds was moved elsewhere—to the concentration camp of Treblinka.

It was a daring maneuver by the prosecution because it rendered the so-called "document" of the Soviets completely worthless. The alleged "service identification card," issued in Trawniki, shows that Demjanjuk could never have been in Treblinka because he was never ordered to go to Treblinka and was not allowed to remain anywhere but in the places listed on the identification card, and Treblinka is not among those places.

Even worse, the claim that Demjanjuk had been a concentration camp guard in Treblinka, made the alleged testimony of Danilchenko worthless, for Danilchenko (allegedly) had declared that he had received orders, together with Demjanjuk, to go to Bavaria. Consequently, Demjanjuk could not have been in Treblinka.

TREBLINKA

The concentration camp Treblinka was first mentioned in 1943, when a *Black Book of Polish Jewry*, edited by J. Spenszlak, was published in the United States. This book reported on a systematic extermination of Jews in Poland.

The *Black Book* quoted an *East London Observer*, a newspaper which allegedly had reported about Treblinka as early as the beginning of 1942. The report said that in a camp called Treblinka there were "steam baths" in which Jews were killed. The dead bodies were then buried. A diesel motor was needed to dig out large graves because muscle power was not sufficient. As we know, the world in those days did not believe such reports—in this case maybe rightfully so, because apparently there never was a newspaper called the *East London Observer*. When the Jewish Workers Congress of New York published a two-page advertisement in the *New Republic* on August 30, 1943, and referred to the camp Treblinka, this information was largely ignored and was probably considered to be based on dubious sources or rumors.

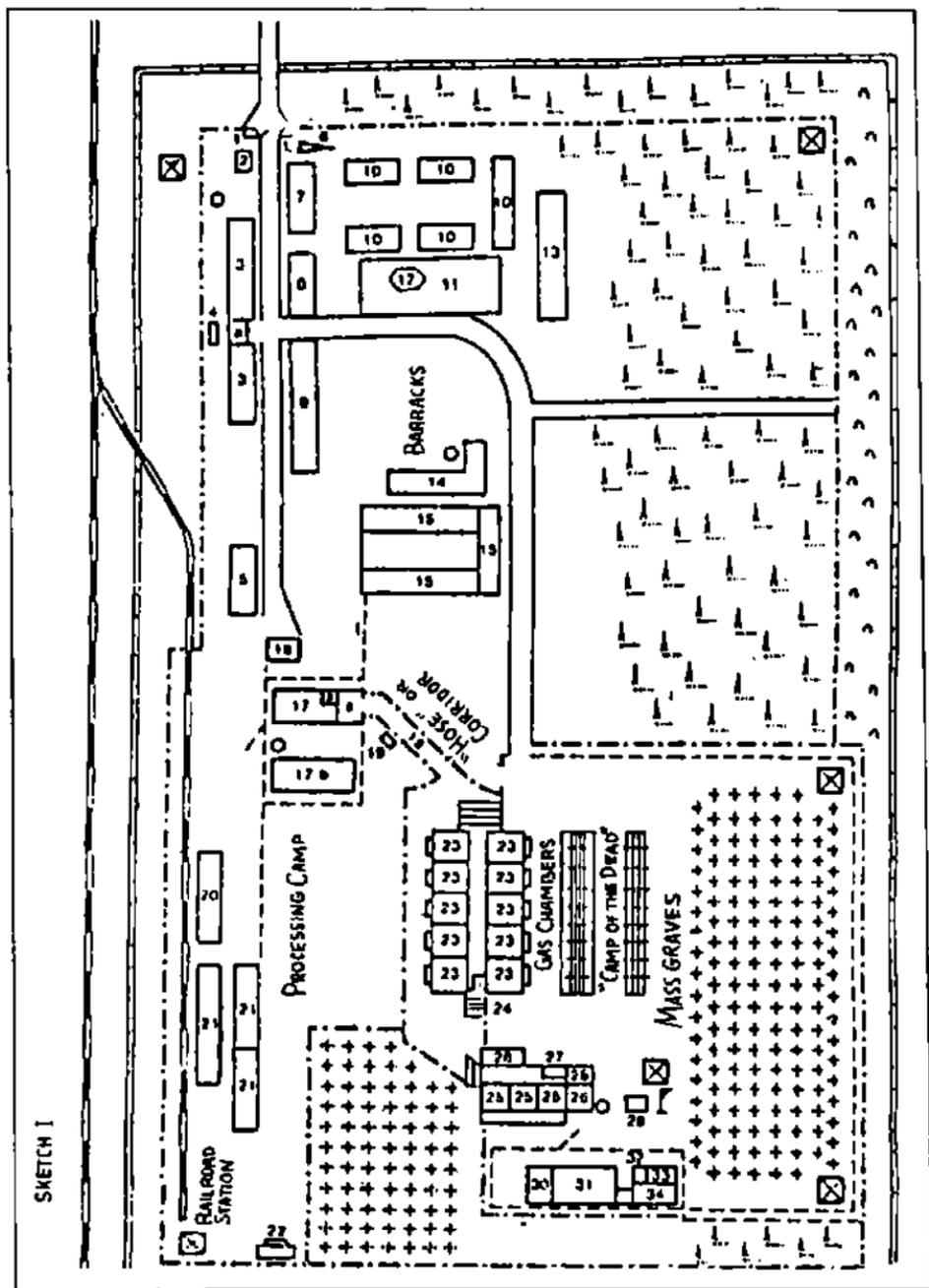
FIRST REFERENCES TO TREBLINKA

Only at the end of the war were documents made public which revealed details about this mysterious camp Treblinka. During the Nuremberg trials, a so-called "Gerstein Report" was presented. The German witness Gerstein reported that he had known about the existence of Treblinka as early as August of 1942. An SS member named Globocnik who had orders for mass extermination of Jews had called the existence of this camp "one of the biggest secrets." During an inspection of Treblinka he had seen eight gas chambers and giant mountains of clothes which had been taken from the victims. The mountains of clothes, according to Gerstein, were 35 to 40 meters high. Allegedly, still during the war, Gerstein informed the Swedish government, the Vatican and the Protestant Church in Germany about Treblinka. Unfortunately, Gerstein could no longer be questioned about details because he died under mysterious circumstances in French custody. Later, a variation of Gerstein's testimony appeared. No one could question him personally how it was possible to pile up underwear and other clothing in mountains 40 meters high. No other witness ever mentioned or saw these mountains. The area of the camp Treblinka was not large. As sketches prove, there was no room for such a mountain of clothes.

Comments on the Maps

Sketch I, based on witnesses' testimony, was used much later in court in the Federal Republic of Germany during the so-called Treblinka trial and is considered the "standard sketch." We took it from a Polish publication. Sketch II was done by SS leader Suchomel who had worked in Treblinka.

The concentration camp Treblinka, according to those two sketches and other testimony, consisted of several parts: the *Auffganglager* or Processing Camp where newly arrived prisoners were "sorted;" a section of living quarters or barracks, *Wohnlager*, for guards; an *Unteres Lager* or Lower Camp with workshops in which prisoners worked; and an *Oberes Lager* or Upper Camp.



which was completely isolated from the other parts. Into this Upper Camp led a pathway, the so-called "*Schlauch*" or hose or derisively called *Himmelstrasse*, a street to heaven, and at its end were the gas chambers. In this so-called *Totenlager* or Camp of the Dead were also the mass graves, *Leichengruben*.

But both sketches differ in important aspects: In Sketch I the watch towers are situated within the confines of the camp, in Sketch II, outside. In Sketch II, the "*Totenlager*," Camp of the Dead, is much smaller than in Sketch I. Whereas in Sketch I a larger area is marked as a place for mass graves; on Sketch II that is the so-called "*Anlage*" or Installation, which means, the gas chamber. There are many more gas chambers in Sketch I and they are bigger than in Sketch II and, as noted before, they are situated in a totally different area. There are no reliable figures to this day about the number and size of the gas chambers.

All in all, even today, there are varying opinions about Treblinka. Its area is estimated at 400 by 600 meters, i.e. less than a quarter of a quadratkilometer (1 qkm is 0.386 square miles), about the size of 6 soccer fields. In this relatively small camp there worked "about 35 to 40 Germans, who all wore the field-grey uniform of the SS," Jewish foremen, and "about 90 to 120 men who were assigned to guard duty." There was a "*Auskleide- und eine Sortierbaracke*" - an Undress Barracks and a Sorting Barracks - each with a small vestibule, but nowhere was there room for mountains of clothes 40 meters high (as reported by Gerstein).

Another witness was Rudolf Hoss who was imprisoned in Poland after the war. Between 1940 and 1943, Hoss had been commander of the concentration camp Auschwitz. He, too, pointed out in his courtroom testimony and prison cell memoirs that the mass annihilation of Jews had been the biggest secret of the Hitler state. When it came to the construction of extermination installations in Auschwitz, the chief of the SS, Heinrich Himmler, ordered him to keep that in "complete secrecy." Not even the immediate superior of Hoss, Gluck, who was inspector of concentration camps and reported directly to Himmler, was to know about it.

INSUFFICIENT EXTERMINATION INSTALLATIONS

Even before Auschwitz became an extermination camp, Hoss said, he looked at Treblinka. At that time, there had been 80,000 Jews annihilated within six months. He allegedly saw in Treblinka ten gas chambers holding 200 people each, but the extermination method was inefficient. While in the gas chambers of Treblinka, Jews were murdered by carbon monoxide which entered the gas chambers from a diesel motor. For his camp, Auschwitz, Hoss used the pesticide Cyclone B. Furthermore, he ordered a modern cremation facility which was installed by the economic division of the SS central command in Berlin.

The reference by Hoss to the inefficient extermination facilities in Treblinka is corroborated by scientific knowledge, for carbon monoxide is indeed a very inefficient and torturous means for the extermination of thousands, tens of

thousands or hundreds of thousands of people. There are engine experts who consider this quite impossible. It is said that Treblinka's gas chambers were later modified, but the diesel motor remained. This poses many questions: At the central command of the SS in Berlin, there was a complete scientific and economic division where experts worked on methods for the annihilation of the living and disposal of the dead. The *Deutschen Ausrüstungswerke Krematorien* (German Equipment Plants for Crematoriums), was an agency which belonged directly to the SS. To this day, it has not been determined why the same methods as in Auschwitz were not applied in Treblinka which was one of the largest extermination camps.

The Treblinka escapees describe the bodies as yellow in color. However, carbon monoxide poisoning victims are strikingly pink in color (pleasant and fresh looking) due to the blood's carboxyhemoglobin content.

DEATH "THROUGH STEAM"

Hoss asserted that Heinrich Himmler personally inspected Treblinka. Rudolf Hoss could no longer be asked for details because he had been executed. Strangely enough, Polish authorities who heard Hoss' testimony described the extermination method in Treblinka quite differently: as in the "*Schwarzbuch*," the *Black Book*, in 1943, they report that in Treblinka Jews were killed by gas as well as by steam. Ruckerl, the German prosecutor in charge of prosecuting Nazi criminals, explains these variations by the fact that there were witnesses who "did not see the actual killing."

When the search for the culprits started in Germany and the first indictments were made, several witnesses declared that they had never seen a single gas chamber in Treblinka and had not even heard rumors about it. This led to more confusion and to the fact that some people today maintain that Treblinka was no extermination camp and that there had never been any gas chambers. The leading German Office for Prosecution of Nazi Criminals rejects this, of course, but it does suffer from a paucity of evidence, because prisoners "who worked in the extermination installations were themselves exterminated."

Again and again, Jewish witnesses would come forward during the trials of war criminals and claim that they had seen everything in detail. But for various reasons, they did not inspire much confidence: the victims were dead, of course, but prisoners who had been forced by the Germans to participate in the extermination were also no longer around. The mass extermination of Jews in the German Reich was so secret that so far there has not been a single document found which shows that such mass extermination had been ordered at all.

THE INFLUENCE OF RESTITUTION PROCEEDINGS

In 1966, when the jury in Hagen concluded the so-called "Sobibor Trial" in which 127 witnesses appeared, including witnesses from Israel and the United States, it was stated in the verdict that there had been "considerable dif-

facilities" in the evaluation of the numerous testimonies, mainly because "the events took place more than 22 years ago and that the memories of most of the witnesses were impaired by that fact." It is "intrinsically difficult to maintain a clear recollection of details of a multitude of painful and terrible events through almost a quarter of a century," and this is true especially of witnesses who themselves were not "uninvolved spectators." "Finally, it had to be taken into consideration that many of the Jewish witnesses had issued affidavits with testimonies in their own or other people's restitution (pension paid by the German government to the survivors of Nazi concentration camps) proceedings." Consequently, some witnesses may have made prior false claims and deemed it not in their interest to make any corrections.

"ZEUGENTOURISMUS" / WITNESS TOURISM

The Hagen verdict also states: "Another fact is that many witnesses who live in Israel occasionally meet and exchange reminiscences. This makes it possible that they later confuse what they actually witnessed and what they heard." Observers of other war crimes trials have also noticed that there are certain witnesses who constantly come forward to testify. This has developed into a certain "witness tourism": the formation of groups of witnesses (made up of the same individuals) who repeatedly travel around the world, staying together in hotels and streamlining their testimonies through a constant exchange of views.

THE VALUE OF WITNESS TESTIMONY

In other German criminal proceedings against accused "war criminals," independent German courts noticed that the witnesses often seem to have "agreed" on a position, because they were lacking objective memories. In a trial in Heidelberg, for instance, the innkeeper Clemens Druschke was called the "Eichmann of Slovenia" until it became evident that he could not be held responsible for a single murder. He had to be acquitted.

In Israel and in the United States, meanwhile, 130 scientific papers were published about "The Psychological and Medical Effects of Concentration Camps and Related Persecutions of the Holocaust." These titles are listed in a 1985 bibliography by the University of British Columbia Press in Vancouver. These studies disclosed that former victims frequently suffer from emotional and psychosomatic diseases, appear psychopathologically aggressive and, in general, suffer from camp syndromes which can lead to radical personality changes. In some of the survivors these symptoms are not the result of particular sufferings in the concentration camps, but stem from the fact that the survivors themselves played an active role in the annihilation of their companions; it was the only way to survive. Still other surviving witnesses frequently suffer from different guilt complexes, which makes them especially unreliable when it comes to identifying those guilty of the crimes in concentration camps. They are tormented by the fact that they survived while their relatives and friends died. They feel guilty of being alive and not helping others to survive.

Naturally, all descriptions of life in German concentration camps are based on the testimony of survivors, as the dead cannot testify. Everything known about German concentration camps comes from accounts of such "survivors," who are under great pressure to explain how they could have survived. Almost all "survivors" belonged, in one way or another, to the "privileged prisoners." The Austrian ex-communist Langbein, whose publications have quite significantly contributed to the picture of German concentration camps, admits that he has a "subjective point of view" and that he even has reasons to "justify" himself. For Langbein, according to his own admission, belonged to the "privileged prisoners" in the concentration camp. As secretary to an SS leader, he belonged to an "upper class of prominent camp officials" who, for example, did not know hunger.

"PROMINENT CAMP OFFICIALS" AND THE SS

During the entire period in which people were murdered en masse, Langbein was secretary to Dr. Eduard Wirths, the physician in charge of Auschwitz. Dr. Wirths took part in selecting those able to work, thus deciding who should or should not be sent to the gas chambers. Wirths also "could not resist the temptation to experiment on people marked for death." Langbein was suspected by former fellow prisoners of having participated in the crimes committed by prominent camp officials—after all, he was one of them. Langbein, therefore, is trying to show his concentration camp superior Dr. Wirths in a rather favorable light: he describes him as a tragic but sympathetic person.

According to Langbein, Dr. Wirths performed his duties "reluctantly" and treated prisoners humanely, even in a "friendly" fashion. On occasion he tried to strike up conversations with sick Poles in the Polish language. Wirths, who at the end of the war hanged himself while in British custody, had been, as Langbein maintains, extremely conscientious but always tried "to prevent the worst."

"GOOD" AND "EVIL"

These are the reasons why even so-called experts' testimonies should be met with skepticism—most of all, if they have "subjective reasons" for describing the events in the concentration camps in one way or another. What the world today knows about "national-socialist mass murder by poison gas" can essentially be traced to Langbein.

Kogon, another author of a book about "national-socialist mass murder by poison gas," was also one of the "prominent camp officials." He was also a secretary to a concentration camp physician. On the one hand, such "prominent camp officials" had more insight than ordinary prisoners but, on the other hand, this was linked to functions through which one could become an

accomplice—albeit from necessity. Langbein shows a tendency to describe people with whom he has had no direct contact as especially evil and terrible while SS members whom he served appeared rather agreeable.

“RUMORS,” “ERRORS” AND “MISTAKES”

Langbein himself realizes the difficulties of objective presentation of subjectively experienced events and therefore criticizes other writers who, according to him, had all reported incorrectly. He suggests that much of the concentration camp descriptions was “rumor,” “error” or “wrong”: he cites witnesses who appeared in trials of war criminals and could not even decide when they were arrested or put into a concentration camp—if at all. Also, quite often, “fanatical political testimonies” given by communists (the ex-communist Langbein now thinks) were especially prone to “subjectivity.” He accuses Jan Sehn, the Polish investigating judge, who assisted in the preparation of the big Auschwitz trials, of grave errors. But all those rumors, errors, mistakes and even lies that have been incorporated into the world literature about concentration camps have unquestionably become “common knowledge.” They appear in American television movies about the “German Nazis” although they are not related to facts.

As far as the concentration camp Treblinka is concerned there were, as mentioned before, no reliable sources of information, unless one wants to include Hoss and Gerstein, two witnesses who testified under the pressure of incarceration. Both are no longer available for comment: one was executed and the other died under mysterious circumstances. Nevertheless, there is a witness report from 1947.

A “Jewish Historical Commission” in Vienna tried to learn the truth from Jewish witnesses. On December 24, 1947, a certain Elias Rosenberg, born on May 10, 1924 in Warsaw, and in 1947 only 23 years old, gave the following information about conditions in the Treblinka death camp. We cite his statement:

BLOOD ON THE WALLS OF THE GAS CHAMBERS

“The first thing we saw was a brick building shaped like a tall barn. As I learned later, inside were the gas chambers where countless people died a terrible death. In that building were three divisions, about as large as a normal living room. The floor and half the walls were covered with red tile, so that one would be unable to see the blood which often was on the walls. As it was very dark in the chambers, one could not see that alongside the walls ran several pipes, about five centimeters in diameter through which gas—exhaust gas from a single diesel motor—was piped into the cabin. 400 people were pressed into one room. Since they could not move because of the terrible overcrowding, it was impossible for them to fall over

or to put up a struggle. The guards wanted to force as many people as possible in one "party" into the gas chamber, so that they would need less gas and the victims would suffocate sooner. As a rule, the gas was piped into the chambers for about 20 minutes; then they waited about another quarter of an hour until the last rattle of the dying was no longer heard."

"Gas chambers for 12,000 people"

But "shortly after that" (in early 1943) "new gas chambers were built, in which up to 12,000 people could fit. To save as much gas as possible, the cabins were constructed very low, so a tall man had to stoop in them." As the killing machine had been perfected to the point where every hour 20,000 people could be gassed in one of those giant gas chambers, there arose a serious problem with the dead bodies.

"Female corpses burned for hours"

The witness Rosenberg said that at first, corpses were thrown into a pit.

But after Himmler visited (in 1943), he ordered—after inspection of the camp—that all corpses in the pit be burned. There were several attempts at doing this efficiently. Two rails were set on the ground, parallel to each other. Then the corpses, lifted from the pit by steam shovels, were arranged on top of each other like wooden logs. Often it happened that the corpses, especially of the recently deceased, did not burn well and we had to pour gasoline over them. Next to the fires stood Jews with pitchforks. They had to throw the pieces of corpses that fell down into the fire. At that time we only had one furnace, which was insufficient, as we could not burn more than a hundred corpses a day.

As Rosenberg reported, it took hours to burn one single corpse:

"One SS man named Hermann had a favorite pastime. He would light a fire and look for an especially fat woman among the corpses which had been brought to his station. He threw the corpse into the fire and could watch it burn for hours, as it slowly charred."

"Excavator shovels 30 meters high"

Finally, from the neighboring camp Sabibo [Rosenberg must have meant Sobibor] came an SS leader named Herbert Floss who reorganized the job. He set up five or six furnaces and introduced a new way of layering. Shortly after his arrival he mentioned that if we burned a thousand corpses on the first day, and two-thousand on the second, and three-thousand on the third day, we would have the following Sunday free and would get more to eat. [The grammatical errors of the German original are hard to reproduce]. As the foreman had the task of counting the corpses and reporting the number to the *Ober-Capo* [chief overseer], we told them to report a bigger number each time than what we had actually burned. Only the heads were counted—mostly they were separated from the torsos. We worked like this for ten days. After that, two new excavating machines were brought to the camp. They were operated by two SS men who were especially sadistic. For instance, when the shovels of the excavator were up in the air, about 30 meters high, they let parts of corpses fall on the heads of the Jews who were working. They had great fun when one of those who were hit fell to the ground, unconscious. If he did not recover soon, he would be thrown into the fire.

NO TRACE LEFT OF ONE MILLION DEAD

Unfortunately, not a trace remains of the six furnaces—the excavators with their shovels reaching 30 meters into the soot-blackened sky of Treblinka and the one million dead who are said to have been annihilated there. A memorial park and a museum was built in 1960's at the site of the camp.

From other testimonies which were given later, in part before German courts, it becomes evident that most of the guards in Treblinka were only in the so-called Lower Camp. Their main task was to guard prisoners. In the so-called Upper Camp, or Camp of the Dead, only two guards were allowed: one was called "Ivan" and the other "Nikolai." It remains questionable whether one of them really was named "Ivan," for the Germans used to call all Slavs "Ivan," just as the Russians used the name "Fritz" for Germans. But, according to Rosenberg's testimony, it was exactly this unknown "Ivan" who played the leading role in the camp of Treblinka; he was the man who piped the gas into the gas chambers and so became the biggest murderer in the history of mankind.

Elias Rosenberg reported in 1947: "Ivan piped the gas in. This guard especially enjoyed hurting people. Most of all he went after women. He would cut off the noses and ears of old Jews whose looks he did not like, he poked women's legs and genitals with a saber, raped young women and pretty girls." [Editor's Note: Even individuals not familiar with atrocities will recognize exaggeration in the above-mentioned descriptions. It is extremely difficult to cut off noses or ears with ordinary knives since only special instruments have the capability to cut cartilage. One is hard-pressed to believe that this Ivan or other guards were allowed to rape and torture women on their way to the gas chambers in a death camp run under strict German discipline. Also, 100 feet high steam shovels or a single gas chamber "processing 20,000 people" every hour staggers the imagination.]

IVAN WAS KILLED WITH SHOVELS

He therefore attracted the particular hatred of the Jews imprisoned in Treblinka. As the witness Rosenberg reported for the record as early as December 24, 1947 in Vienna, it became "Ivan's" downfall, for the concentration camp Treblinka existed only for a few months. In March or April of 1943, the inmates of Treblinka started to plan an uprising. According to Rosenberg:

Every night, in the barracks, there was talk about the organization of the uprising. Almost the entire camp, with the exception of *Capos* [overscers] and the girls, knew about it. August 2, 1943 was chosen as the day of the uprising . . . At half past three in the afternoon, everybody got ready for the uprising, that is, people packed anything they still owned. Then they all lay down and feigned sleep. There was complete silence in the camp, everybody's nerves were at a breaking point; everybody waited for the signal for the uprising.

THE CHIEF WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

This inmate uprising in the concentration camp of Treblinka, meanwhile, has been incorporated into the history of Jewish resistance against fascism. Witness Rosenberg, according to his testimony, is one of three eyewitnesses who survived the death camp Treblinka. The following is the last page of his 1947 testimony:

So it finally was a quarter to four. Suddenly, a shot broke the silence, and shortly after that the explosion of a hand grenade from the first camp was heard. We did not know what to do at first because it was still a quarter of an hour before the agreed time. Then, one of the water carriers came storming to the barracks and shouted: "Revolution in Berlin!" That was the signal. There was a big riot, people stormed out of the barracks and at first did not know what they should do, as they could not see their leaders for the moment. The guard who stood near the well tried to shoot but disappeared in the well. Then several people stormed into the barracks of the guards, where Ivan was sleeping, and killed the guards and Ivan with shovels. They had been on night watch and were therefore especially tired, so that they did not wake up soon enough. Other people, armed only with shovels and pitchforks, ran to the other Germans and guards who were stationed in several checkpoints of the camp, and overpowered them after a quick scuffle. All this happened in a very short time while one could hear continuous firing from the first camp. It had not been planned to kill all of the guards, but at that point there was such commotion that the people no longer knew what they were supposed to do. After it was done, all the people ran to the fences surrounding the camp. The fences had been equipped with wire traps, but we did not know that; we had only seen the camouflage: flowers and shrubs in double rows. Three hundred meters from the edge of the camp was the forest. Most people tried to reach the forest but were caught in the wire traps from which they could not be freed, and the advancing Germans from the third camp, the *Straflager* [penal camp], shot them one by one. From the second camp, the so-called *Totenlager* [camp of the dead], only I and two other comrades managed to reach the forest alive. [Not corroborated by other witnesses.] From the first camp, about twenty people escaped; all the others were shot. That was the end of the uprising. As it was learned later, the missed signal was caused by the following events: the chief of the first camp, an SS man named Kiwe, noticed that people who were sorting gold valuables, were hiding gold in a little sack. He called one man to come forward, pulled his revolver and killed him with one shot. The man who was scheduled to throw the hand grenade saw this, and lost his composure. He threw the grenade at the murderer who was torn to pieces by the explosion. [Not corroborated by other witnesses; several accounts of the Treblinka uprising are known and they differ from each other.] This happened at a quarter to four. Had it been a quarter of an hour later, 1,500 people would have remained alive.

Taken to protocol: (signature)

(seal)

Signature:
Elias Rosenberg

If one follows this testimony of Rosenberg from 1947, when his capability to recall events, was still fresh, both guards who had been employed in the *Totenlager*, the Camp of the Dead, had been punished by the inmates: One guard who stood next to a well and tried to defend himself was drowned in the well. This well does not appear in any of the sketches but it is mentioned in a later report by a witness. The witness Rajchman later also mentioned an "Ivan"

and a "Nikolai" who had been working in "Lager 2," Camp 2, that is, in the *Totenlager*, of Treblinka, and also a well not far from the gas chamber. Rajchman was a so-called "dentist" in Camp 2. It was his task to pull the gold dentures from the mouths of the corpses. After this terrible work, Rajchman says, one would wash one's hands in that well.

To continue with Rosenberg's testimony, "several people" stormed "into the barracks of the guards, where among others Ivan was sleeping, and killed them with shovels. They had been on night watch and were therefore especially tired, so that they did not wake up quickly enough." This part of the testimony is not clear. It is evident that Ivan was one of those sleeping guards who were killed with shovels. So Nikolai has to be the guard who "disappeared in the well," that is, was drowned by the rioting inmates. Neither Ivan nor Nikolai could have survived the inmate uprising.

A DEAD MAN RETURNS TO LIFE

When it became clear that John Demjanjuk from Cleveland, Ohio could not have been a guard in the concentration camp of Sobibor since there is not a single witness claiming it, and when it was decided that he should be made into "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka, Elias Rosenberg suddenly appeared again, but this time with a totally different story: Now, he suddenly recognized the current John Demjanjuk to be the "Ivan of Treblinka" (Rosenberg had previously stated in 1947 that "Ivan" had been killed during the inmate uprising).

After 1947, Rosenberg left Austria for Palestine and worked for a while in the harbor of Jaffa. He is now 64 years old. Over 40 years separate him from the events in question, but today he claims to remember differently: that Ivan had not been killed—because otherwise, he could not be that John Demjanjuk of Cleveland, Ohio. One thing is certain: Rosenberg did not expect that his testimony of 1947 would still be in existence.

Friends of John Demjanjuk in the United States tried to clear up this obvious contradiction in Rosenberg's testimony in an attempt to meet and talk with the witness. But twice the Israeli authorities refused to let them talk to Rosenberg. Rosenberg informed them that he was not allowed to speak to anybody defending John Demjanjuk.

Suddenly, there are more and more witnesses against Demjanjuk. One of them is a certain Abraham Lindwasser who declared: "He used to pick young girls from the rows of inmates standing before him and rape them. I saw that myself, several times. After raping them he would shoot them, or he left that to the Germans." But Lindwasser, too, could not be questioned as to how it came about that Ivan, who was wearing a German uniform, was allowed to do what otherwise was strictly forbidden in Hitler's Germany: to commit *Rassenschande* (that is, miscegenation) with a Jewish woman.

As nothing at all remains of Treblinka death camp, one can only rely on witnesses: on victims who survived, on surviving criminals, and on the Polish population residing in the immediate vicinity of the camps who possibly saw that man "Ivan" who is rumored to have visited the surrounding villages.

There have been extensive investigations of the surviving criminals in the Federal Republic of Germany. Some of the criminal proceedings against German guards in the concentration camps of Sobibor and Treblinka continued for years. [Among the prosecuted individuals are Commandant F. Stangle, described in Gita Sereni's best seller *Into That Darkness*, his assistant Kurt Franz (*The Doll*) and others. "Ivan of Treblinka" was not mentioned during those criminal proceedings, although Elias Rosenberg and other recent accusers of Demjanjuk testified during the trials.]

FACT OR FICTION?

The mixing of sheer fantasy with facts has played a role in the proceedings against Nazi criminals. [This is accentuated by the "Holocaust Survivor Syndrome;" This psychiatric condition affects at least 90% of the Holocaust survivors]. Dr. Adalbert Ruckerl was for years the leading prosecutor in the Central Office of the German State Justice Departments for the Investigation of National-Socialist Crimes, in Ludwigsburg. In his book *Nazi Extermination Camps in the Light of German Criminal Proceedings: Difficulties with Objectivity*, he points out that there are hardly any witnesses left among the victims who could testify about the annihilation of millions of people in death camps like Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibor. From camp Belzec, for instance, "only one survivor" escaped. From Kholm camp (Chelmo) there were only "four survivors." During an uprising in Sobibor, about one hundred escaped, of whom about fifty lived to see the end of the war. From the inmates of the extermination camp Treblinka, who were able to break free during an uprising, about forty survived." If there really were "about forty," then Rosenberg, who shall be the chief witness of the prosecution in the trial of Demjanjuk, cannot have told the truth in 1947, because he speaks about three survivors. But how many of those survivors are living today?

DID NOT OBSERVE THE ACTUAL KILLING

One has to take into consideration that the so-called Camp of the Dead was only one section of the whole camp complex of Treblinka. Someone who lived in Camp 1 was unable to observe what was going on in the so-called Camp 2, where the gas chambers and the facilities for disposal of the corpses were located. The so-called Camp of the Dead was intentionally and completely protected from outside view by a dirt wall. The path called "*Schlauch*" (hose), which led into the camp, had barbed wire and dense foliage around it.

THE TREBLINKA TRIAL

German judicial authorities had to deal with such difficulties, too, when the investigation of the "Treblinka complex" began in 1959. During those very lengthy proceedings the court determined that in Treblinka there had been "90 to 120 men who were mainly used as guards." Like the *Arbeitsjuden* or "work Jews," they worked under German supervision in the camp. Each unit was headed by a *Volksdeutscher* [ethnic citizen of Germany living outside the Reich], a necessary arrangement since *Reichsdeutsche* [Germans living within the borders of the Reich] were barely able to communicate with the foreign guards. These men were also assigned to guard duty outside the camp and at the railroad ramp when new prisoners arrived. All these activities took place outside the so-called Camp of the Dead. According to the findings of the court these men also participated in cruelty and shootings, but always on orders from the Germans. In major drives, such orders came from Christian Wirth—a German whom even his own compatriots feared to the point of calling him "*Christian der Schreckliche*," ("Christian the Terrible").

This is interesting: none of the many witnesses at the Treblinka trial remembered that besides "Christian the Terrible" in Treblinka there had also been "Ivan the Terrible." It has since become obvious that this name was invented by the press in the United States after the "uncovering" of John Demjanjuk and was also taken up by the witnesses so that not until forty years after the events does this name appear—and today is linked to John Demjanjuk of Cleveland, Ohio. This is another example of changing of details and the collaging of information by witnesses—a phenomenon unique to "Holocaust Survivor Syndrome" victims—who are convinced that John Demjanjuk must have been that "Ivan the Terrible," who, they say, had been called by that name even in the camp.

WHO IS IVAN?

During the Treblinka court proceedings which dealt with the crime of gassing "at least 700,000" people in Treblinka, several Ukrainian guards were also mentioned who, according to the testimony, worked in the so-called Camp of the Dead. When inmates were driven into the building in which the gas chambers were located, there stood a Ukrainian guard on either side of the entrance, one witness reported. Another witness thinks that there was also a Ukrainian guard in the motor room in which the tank motor was located, because he heard somebody calling in German: "Iwan, gib Wasser!" (Ivan, give water), which was the order for the guard to start the motor which would give off the deadly exhaust gas. But for the German guards and unit commanders, all Slavs were "Ivan," no matter what their name, and this witness could not say, either, what this Ivan who worked in the gas chamber looked like.

By the way, the reports of these witnesses about the number of gas chambers were not accepted by the German court—the witnesses had reported about ten

gas chambers, but the court finally said it must have been six—and of course, no gas chamber would be so big that it could hold 12,000 people, as the chief witness against Demjanjuk maintained. The court decided it could have been 700 people at the most.

WITNESS ROSENBERG

Despite the fact that in the two Treblinka camp court proceedings (Dusseldorf Trials of 1965 and 1970) many of the accused were found guilty only of aiding and abetting murder. The question about the real mass murderer, the person who operated the gas motor, remained open and was treated rather marginally. According to the decision of the court, the "*Hafenlagerist Ros.*"—meaning "the dock worker Ros" (an abbreviation used in the written decision for the names of witnesses)—was one of the "sworn and credible" witnesses. This points to the present-day chief witness against Demjanjuk: Elias Rosenberg. In 1947 the witness Rosenberg apparently knew nothing, either about an "Ivan the Terrible" or a John Demjanjuk.

For at the time of the German Treblinka trials Rosenberg still based his testimony on what he had said in 1947, that Ivan of Treblinka was long dead.

Many accused individuals did not appear before the German courts and could not be located because they had changed their names or had disappeared. Some died while in hiding; nevertheless, the search for them has continued in Germany. Interestingly, however, there is no longer a single Ukrainian on that German list of wanted criminals because both Ukrainians who were cited by the witnesses as the principal culprits in Treblinka are long dead. All of the other guards in Treblinka had, at most, played subordinate roles. No witness was able to describe any of them—even generally. [Fedor Federenko's trial in Florida in the late 1970's was no exception. This half-Russian/half-Ukrainian auxiliary guard at Treblinka was accused of atrocities by five Israeli witnesses. One of the Israeli witnesses, Eugene Turovski, when asked by the judge in a packed courtroom to recognize his tormentor, pointed to a Jewish-American Florida businessman—to the great consternation of all. Turovski, an obvious case of "Holocaust Survivor Syndrome," is listed as one of the witnesses in Demjanjuk's indictment].

In books about the German concentration camps, Ukrainians are treated marginally. In the *Report From Auschwitz and Other Concentration Camps*, Langbein, whom we mentioned earlier, does not speak about any Ukrainian guards at all. In his book, *Nicht wie die Schafe zur Schlachtbank [Not Like Sheep To Slaughter]*, Eugen Kogon says that the Germans had criticized Ukrainian guards for "insolence, laziness and lack of team spirit." Therefore, the Germans "did not permit" Ukrainians "to attain leading positions."

DISLOYAL UKRAINIANS

"Ukrainian auxiliary guards" were reported to be so disloyal to Germans that they even sold weapons to inmates—with which the inmates of Treblinka could carry out the uprising. Langbein also cites the author Stanislaw Nogaj who describes in his diary how, in a different camp, Ukrainian guards made a pact with the inmates for a risky plan for an uprising. This, too, casts doubts on the claim that the German SS in Treblinka had left it to such a Ukrainian guard to operate the gas motor. The Germans would at least have made sure that this most important witness to the gassing of hundreds of thousands of people would not have left the camp alive.

A WITNESS NAMES "IVAN DEMJANJUK"

The Jewish witness Goldfarb, cited by Langbein, also describes the Ukrainians as guards who helped with the unloading of the freight cars: "On the way to the gas chambers, at both sides of the fence, there stood Germans with dogs. The Germans beat the people with whips and iron bars. The Germans prodded the running victims with shouts."

There is no mention here of Ukrainian guards, as in other witness reports, except for a very important exception referring to the "Demjanjuk case," because on page 180 of the cited book by Langbein, the witness Goldfarb is quoted with the following words:

At the entrance to the gas chambers stood the two Ukrainian guards, Ivan Demjanjuk and Nikolai, one with an iron bar, the other armed with a sword. They also drove the people along with blows . . . As soon as the gas chambers were full, the Ukrainian guards closed the doors and started the engine.

WHERE DOES THIS KNOWLEDGE COME FROM?

Apart from the skepticism towards subjective witness testimony, which Langbein himself notes, many questions come to mind in connection with the above statement. For on page 162 of the same book we read: "The entrances were behind a special separating wall." If so, how could the witness Goldfarb see who drove the people into the gas chambers?" How did a Ukrainian guard, whose scanty weapons were strictly prescribed, come into possession of a "sword?" And most of all: Ukrainian guards did not habitually introduce themselves to the inmates by calling card or name. How could the witness Goldfarb have known in the concentration camp that the "Ukrainian guard who was armed with a sword" had the last name "Demjanjuk?"

READ IT IN THE NEWSPAPER

We can answer this question ourselves: The witness Goldfarb did not learn of the name "Ivan Demjanjuk" in the concentration camp until many years after the war when John Demjanjuk from Cleveland, Ohio was being publicly accused of being "Ivan the Terrible." That is when one could read the name Dem-

janjuk in every newspaper, and so could the witness Goldfarb, too, who compounded what he really remembered and what he additionally read in newspapers. Every judge knows of this problem of "synthesis" between one's own experience and information acquired at a later time even in those individuals who are not besieged by the "Holocaust Survivor Syndrome."

THE ONLY WITNESS REVOKES HIS TESTIMONY

But the witness Avraham Goldfarb saves us the trouble of proving this, for on March 29, 1986, after John Demjanjuk had been extradited to Israel as the alleged "Ivan of Treblinka," an article appeared in the *Jerusalem Post* under the headline: "Was Demjanjuk 'Ivan the Terrible?'" That article not only cites the statement of Elias Rosenberg from 1947—according to which "Ivan the Terrible" has long been dead—but it also says:

Last week, the Holocaust Research Center at the Bar-Ilan University received another witness report, according to which "Ivan the Terrible" had already been killed during the inmate uprising. This report comes from Avraham Goldfarb, from the late sixties; he has since died.

THE DEFENSE KNEW ABOUT IT LONG AGO

This means that the only witness who ever mentioned (or is alleged to have mentioned) the name Demjanjuk in connection with "Ivan the Terrible," has himself declared that "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka did not survive the inmate uprising of 1943. On this revelation, the *Jerusalem Post* comments: "The testimony discovered in Haifa and at the Bar-Ilan University give the impression that Demjanjuk is not "Ivan the Terrible."

What the *Jerusalem Post* either does not know, or keeps secret, is the following: Demjanjuk's defense has been in possession of Elias Rosenberg's testimony of 1947 and during the long extradition procedures in the United States had pointed out that the witness for the prosecution was in reality one of the most important witnesses for John Demjanjuk's defense.

But the American court in charge of the extradition ignored that information with uncharacteristic lack of concern. Consequently, it helped to create revisionist history which can become John Demjanjuk's doom, quite independently from whether he actually was "Ivan the Terrible" or simply the victim of mistaken identity or even of pure invention. For how can one honestly make a "case" disappear, into which, from the very beginning, a lot of propaganda and political intentions have been invested which had nothing at all to do with John Demjanjuk, the retired worker from the Ford plant in Ohio?

The witness Goldfarb, like some other witnesses in this matter, is dead and will no longer be able to explain why he mentioned the name "Demjanjuk" in connection with Treblinka, and how this name came into Langbein's book—especially since Goldfarb had written that "Ivan the Terrible" had been dead since 1943.

BELATED MEMORIES OF "IVAN THE TERRIBLE"

But no explanation will be forthcoming from the few Jewish witnesses alive today. The German attorney Stratmann in Dusseldorf who, as defense attorney of Kurt Franz (*The Doll*), carefully followed the Treblinka trial and throughout [the trial] "wrote down the statements of the Jewish witnesses completely" and has "once more gone through all [his notes]. In those notes, I didn't find any statement by any witness concerning Ivan or Nikolai." It becomes exceedingly clear that the name "Ivan the Terrible" did not yet exist at the time of the German Treblinka trials; it was invented later by the American press. When they started to identify John Demjanjuk in Cleveland, Ohio with that "terrible Ivan" there began in the minds of some witnesses a process which, under the influence of constant new disclosures in the press, totally obscures memories and turns them into entirely new testimony. Suddenly, not the Germans, who had been sentenced long ago or were no longer accessible, but the "Ukrainian," John Demjanjuk from Ohio, alias "Ivan the Terrible," became the central character in the concentration camp of Treblinka.

GERMAN WITNESSES

The German attorney Stratmann pointed out someone who "could recognize Ivan," namely, August Miete, the only still-living SS witness from Treblinka, presently imprisoned in the Ergste prison (Ergste is near Dortmund). With this, the German attorney points to an approach which the German judicial authorities have long tried to follow: as Jewish witnesses have to be "judged carefully" for several reasons, German courts, in war crimes trials, have tried to base their judgment on the testimony of participants in the crimes.

But an inquiry directed to Miete on March 6, 1984 in the Ergste prison resulted in the following: he "doesn't remember an 'Ivan.'" There had been "a whole company of Ukrainians," but he had had no direct connection with them. Miete "also doesn't know whether there was an 'Ivan' in the camp at the time of the uprising and whether he had been among the dead."

NEVER BEEN TO THE UPPER CAMP

The difficulty which we encounter with German witnesses like Miete is as follows: Miete does not deny having been in Treblinka, but he also maintains that he had never been to the Upper Camp which had been "strictly separated" from the Lower Camp. Consequently, Miete, as a possible witness, cannot know what happened in the Upper Camp: whether there was gassing and who did it. Miete has not been linked to the gas chambers in the testimony of Jewish witnesses: a few called him a "Malakh Ha-Movec" ["Angel of Death"], who worked in the infirmary in the Lower Camp where he allegedly killed the inmate Berliner after the inmate had become violent. Despite this, August Wilhelm Miete, now 78 years old, was found guilty by the Dusseldorf county court of "participating in the murder of at least 300,000 people, and of murder of eight persons in eight instances."

PRESENT IN THE UPPER CAMP: MATTHES

In 1961, there were still other Germans who could be questioned about "Ivan;" for instance, Matthes and Munzenberger. Matthes was found guilty of "participating in the murder of at least 100,000 persons and murder, in four instances, of at least eight persons." During the hearing of March 29, 1962, he declared:

"In the upper camp, about 14 Germans were on duty. And then there were always two guards in the upper camp. One of them was called Nikolai. The other one was short; I don't remember his name. To the question of whether his name was Ivan, I state: "I do not know." These two guards, who lived in the upper camp, worked in front of the gas chambers. They were the ones who closed the doors of the gas chambers.

They also took care of the motor room if Fritz Schmidt wasn't there. Schmidt was otherwise responsible for the motor room. The people who were brought up through the corridor had to go into the individual gas chambers. After the new gas chambers were built, in summer of 1942, which I believe could not be put to use until the fall, there were a total of six gas chambers available. I estimate that about 300 people would fit in each chamber.

The people went into the chambers without resisting. In the end, however, the guards pressed them in. I also saw myself that they pushed the people with their rifle butts. To the question whether the people were also beaten with leather whips, I state: "No, not when they were pushed in!"

When the gas chambers were full, the doors were closed. To the question of who gave the order to do that, I state: "The guards did that of their own accord." The gas chambers remained closed for about 30 minutes. Then Schmidt turned off the gas and the two guards in the motor room opened the gas chambers on the other side.

To the question of whether there were windows in the gas chambers, I state: "The new gas chambers had windows through which one could look into the chambers when they were closed." To the question of who would look in through the window to make sure that the people inside were dead before the gas chambers were opened, I state: "The people in the motor room, by a glance through the windows, made sure that the gas chambers could be opened." To the question of who were the people in the motor room, I state: "Schmidt and the two guards."

To the question of whether Schmidt was always present, I state: "If Schmidt was not there, the two guards worked alone."

But who the two guards were, he did not know either: only that one was taller than the other . . .

MUNZBERGER

Another witness who was available to the courts at that time was Munzberger, who was accused by witnesses for the prosecution of having stood in person in front of the entrance to the gas chamber and of having given the command to kill. Munzberger was found guilty of "aiding and abetting the collective murder of at least 300,000 persons" and was sentenced.

Excerpt from the hearing of April 1, 1960:

"Exhaust gases from a motor were piped into the gas chambers. When the big gas chambers were in operation, there was a special room for the motor. From the motor, connecting pipes led to the individual gas chambers. This motor room was set up by the SS man Fritz Schmidt whom I mentioned yesterday. He also instructed two guards in the use of the motor. Those two guards were there all the time. One of them was very tall and strong. They called him Ivan. The other one I knew neither by his name nor by his nickname. The two guards whom I just mentioned, who took care of the motors, slept up there because they also had to monitor the generator which was in the area of the small gas chambers."

GROSSMANN

Munzberger denied having worked in front of or at the gas chamber and had Grossmann, who was suspected of the same crime, confirm it. Excerpt from the hearing of Grossmann of July 5, 1961:

"As far as I know, he did not work in the immediate area in front of the gas chambers. As I remember, only Mathes and Hiller worked there, and two guards, Ivan and Nikolai."

Grossman, one day later:

"I am told that according to statements of Munzberger as recorded by the court in the Protocol of October 26, 1960, IV 7, it happened that the Jews did not voluntarily enter the gas chambers.

To this I state the following: I saw that once, too. The Jews did not want to go up the stairs from the Schlauch [corridor]. The guards drove them and pushed them ahead. Ivan came and kept hitting at them with a leather whip. I saw that only by chance. I mean, I came from the lower camp and observed that. I did not work in front of the gas chambers myself, as I said already yesterday."

DOUBTFUL TESTIMONY OF GERMAN WITNESSES

The testimony of all the German defendants regarding these matters is similar in that they themselves "did not work in front of the gas chambers" and naturally had nothing to do with the gassing. Many defendants even stated that they had been exclusively in the Lower Camp from which one could not see what was going on in the Upper Camp. Many of the accused gave the impression that they conceded the possibility of mass murder by gas only under the pressure of the long pretrial detention which they had already served, and of the expectations of the court in whose hands they knew their fate to be.

If the German courts at that time had exclusively relied on Jewish witnesses, the consequences would have been unimaginable: for instance, if the witness Elias Rosenberg who was found to be "credible" does not speak the truth and therefore contradicts himself, or if the witness Goldfarb retracts what he testified before a German court and what was accepted by German judges, then, but for the partial testimony of the German criminals, there would be no proof for the events of Treblinka.

Apparently it was also part of the strategy of the accused German guards to avoid incriminating each other. According to their testimony, the real blame fell on alleged wrongdoers who were inaccessible and could not be identified—such as the two mysterious guards, whom many of the German defendants saw but could not even generally describe. So these reports, too, do not produce any evidence against John Demjanjuk.

“THE BIG STRANGER”

“Ivan” remained “the big stranger” in both German Treblinka trials (the surname “the Terrible” was invented much later) but the German courts did not appear very convinced of the possible existence of a “big stranger.” They did not even ask what he looked like and the question of who that certain “Nikolai” might have been has not been asked by anybody to date. In answer to inquiries, the Center of the German State Justice Departments in Ludwigsburg, which concentrates on hunting Nazi criminals, reported as late as during the mid-1980’s, when John Demjanjuk had already been arrested in the United States, that there was no file on an Ivan of Treblinka. After all, the name had only been mentioned in passing, despite the fact that the man who operated the gas motor should have been a central figure.

THE WITNESS HORN

A German witness Otto Horn, who was accused as an “accessory to murder,” was much less considerate of his former comrades during the German Treblinka trial. He was acquitted despite admitting that he had supervised the corpse bearers, and had been assigned to the pit for the dead and later to the crematoria grates where the corpses were burned—all in the Upper Camp of Treblinka. According to the judgment of the German court, this witness had “promoted” the murder: “If the corpses had not been quickly transported from the gas chambers to the pit and later to the crematoria grates, then a new filling-up of the chambers would not have been possible in the short time allotted for it, and the mass extermination would have come to a halt.” The acquittal of this major criminal is astonishing since he had been participating in the German euthanasia program even before coming to Treblinka. [According to the early 1945-55 Treblinka survivor testimonies and the Fedorenko trial, it was especially at the pits that the Nazi personnel excelled in cruelty. The corpse carriers were worked to the point of physical exhaustion, constantly at a running pace. The Nazis walking on the dikes would shoot them like sitting ducks at the slightest slowing down of the pace—not to speak of insubordination. How, after his testimony, witness Horn was acquitted is difficult to understand. Perhaps a secret plea bargain was struck between Horn and the prosecutor after which he was acquitted].

DEFENDANT AND WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

Despite the fact that Otto Horn's actions were “premeditated” and that he was “aware of the unlawfulness of his actions” and that there was no “justification” for his active participation in the emptying of the gas chambers

and the disposal of the corpses, the court allowed him a "perceived duress." Horn had believed that he had to follow orders in Treblinka or else he would have had to fear for his freedom and even his life. But his acquittal "for lack of evidence" was possibly also facilitated by the fact that he had testified as an eyewitness to the events in the Camp of the Dead. This testimony was tested by his former comrades who were accused at the same time as Horn.

Horn did not deny his service in the Camp of the Dead and confirmed everything in court which the prosecution wanted to hear. Most seriously, he incriminated his co-defendants Matthes and Munzberger:

Hearing of November 6, 1961

"Matthes stayed in front of the gas chambers, together with a few SS members from the upper camp. As far as I remember, those were Schmidt, Munzberger and others whose names I no longer remember. Also, there were two guards present most of the time, who constantly were on duty at the gas chambers. I think that these two guards took care of the motors, together with Schmidt."

But the German court apparently was not interested in knowing who those two guards were of whom Horn spoke. The eagerness with which Otto Horn, anxious for an acquittal, was confirming the charges against him, caused the American authorities to take an interest in him much later, when they suddenly took John Demjanjuk to be one of those guards [at Treblinka].

Horn lives in West Berlin today, a free man, but an old man who for understandable reasons no longer wants to hear about his time in Treblinka. Twenty years later, U.S. investigators visited him in his apartment in the Kreuzberg Yorkstrasse. They showed him several photos, from which Otto Horn identified John Demjanjuk as one of the guards in front of the gas chambers. Since that day, Otto Horn has been a witness against John Demjanjuk.

However, when Horn was subsequently visited by John Demjanjuk's defense, his unequivocal judgment immediately became shaky: he said that he had been shown over and over one particular picture to the point where he "recognized" the man. Horn declared that in reality he could not remember at all what that guard looked like. He reported this in detail for the record and swore this in an affidavit before Clay-Allee, an official of the U.S. Consulate in West Berlin. Horn said that the guard of Treblinka was "about 28 years old." As a result, Otto Horn can no longer be a useful witness against John Demjanjuk.

THE LAST WITNESS: KURT FRANZ

There is another important witness for the events in Treblinka: Kurt Franz. Franz was the first assistant to the camp commander and then became commander of Treblinka and at present is serving a life sentence in the Federal Republic of Germany for "participating in the murder of 300,000 people, for murder in 35 instances of at least 139 people and for attempted murder." Witnesses say that Kurt Franz was "always accompanied" in the camp of Treblinka by the mysterious Ivan.

But this was not the object of the proceedings during the Treblinka trial in Germany, for at that time no witness mentioned this constant companion. The "memory" of the witnesses was revived only when John Demjanjuk was being publicly accused in the United States. In the Treblinka trial, a dog was mentioned as the constant companion of Kurt Franz. That dog named Barry was discussed in detail because Franz had allegedly trained him to bite the inmates' genitals. It was not that simple—if at all possible—to prove this allegation, because Franz declared he had never owned a dog like that.

At that time, when the witness Pinchas Epstein—who is now testifying against John Demjanjuk—made himself available to the prosecution, his testimony was as follows:

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned Pinchas Epstein, herewith declare that I have been informed by the notary public that making any false statement in lieu of oath is punishable according to Par. 126 of the Israeli Penal Code and make the following statement in lieu of oath:

About my person: My name is Pinchas Epstein
born 3-15-1925 in Czestochowa, Poland
now residing in Petach-Tikva, Israel, Schik Agduth 62.

About the matter:

On September 23, 1942, I was brought to the camp Treblinka from the Czestochowa ghetto. I remained there as a prisoner until the uprising in that camp (August 1 and 2, 1943) and escaped during the uprising.

The camp Treblinka was an extermination camp for Jews. Many thousands of Jews were mistreated and killed. The most feared and most cruel among the SS men were the following whom I only know by their first names: assistant unit commander Franz, troop leader Mathis, assistant troop leader Richard, SS man Erwin, assistant troop leader Karl and two of which I know the family names: assistant troop leader Löffler and assistant troop leader Frankenstein.

I saw with my own eyes how Franz, in summer of 1943, shot to death an acquaintance of mine, the Jew Eliahu.

Before my eyes, in the fall of 1943, SS man Erwin shot to death the Jews Ruben Slomnicki, Leibl Itzkowitz and Jehuda Saczerbara.

In winter of 1942/43 I saw troop leader Mathis bring about 40 Jews from Czestochowa who were suffering from typhoid fever out of their barracks and shoot all of them dead, among them Abraham Dziubas and Mordechai Friedmann, both from Czestochowa. About three months later I saw assistant troop leader Richard shoot a sick Jew (his first name was Löbl) in front of the barracks. Assistant troop leader Löffler shot to death hundreds of Jews before my very eyes.

Assistant troop leader Frankenstein had all weak Jews from newly arrived transports put into the so-called infirmary, a big hole, where he shot them to death himself. I only remember one acquaintance among the people Frankenstein shot, it was Mrs. Blaufuks. All the SS men mentioned above have mistreated and killed many thousands of Jews. Even if I cannot name the last names of Franz, Mathis, Gustaw, Richard and Karl and the first names of Frankenstein and Löffler, I declare that the silhouettes of the SS men above have remained in my memory and that I could recognize ALL of them.

I am willing to travel to Germany and identify the above-mentioned criminals and testify before German authorities and courts as witness.

(signature)
Pinchas Epstein

This document, reproduced above, does not contain anything indicative of a key role played by a Ukrainian guard in the mass extermination in Treblinka. The witness at that time incriminated only German SS personnel, among them Kurt Franz, but exclusively for individual atrocities of which "many thousands of Jews" became victims, and it is not even made clear whether those victims were all killed or only severely mistreated.

In February of 1984, when Kurt Franz was visited in prison in order to be questioned about that Ivan of Treblinka, he declared: "The Ivan of Treblinka was a good deal taller than me. I am 1.81 meters tall. Ivan was at least 1.90 meters. He was a giant hulk. Ivan was many years older than me. At the time he was at least 40 years old and had some gray hair."

WAS IVAN OF TREBLINKA TWICE AS OLD ?

On December 5, 1984, Kurt Franz was questioned again and shown a picture which is being used in the prosecution of John Demjanjuk and which allegedly shows "Ivan the Terrible" in the year 1942. He said: "The Ivan of Treblinka did not look at all like this." Franz pointed out again "that Ivan was already 40 years of age or older in Treblinka." Incidentally, Kurt Franz stressed again that the "Ivan of Treblinka" was by no means a constant companion of his.

While the witness Horn described "Ivan of Treblinka" as "about 28 years old," Franz was of the opinion that Ivan was "at least 40." Then "Ivan of Treblinka" was twice as old as John Demjanjuk, who at that time was barely 20 years old and, of course, did not have gray hair.

POLISH WITNESSES

Besides Jewish and German witnesses, there are Polish ones, too. To begin with, we have to remember that the Polish courts dealt with Treblinka as early as at the time of the Nuremberg trials against the major war criminals. Document #3311-PS accuses Hans Frank, who during the war was governor general of Poland, of establishing "in March of 1942, the extermination camp Treblinka, for the mass murder of Jews." The Jews, the document says, were murdered there through "steam" which was piped into the chambers. According to that report, there were 10 steam chambers in Treblinka, a statement that was also made by witnesses during the German Treblinka trials but was not accepted by the German court for reasons of lack of objectivity.

This first Polish report mentions "Ukrainian guards" working under the command of SS man Sauer: these "camp guards" had also participated in executions. But no guard in particular is mentioned, and to this day Polish authorities declare they never heard of "Ivan the Terrible." Therefore, there are no Polish investigations—neither against "Ivan the Terrible" nor against John Demjanjuk, whose name came up for the first time in American press releases.

THE END OF TREBLINKA

Under count 6 of the indictment of the Polish government against Hans Frank, which deals exclusively with Treblinka, one reads:

It is not possible to determine an even approximately correct number (of victims), because in spring of 1943 the Nazis began to exhume and burn the bodies in order to destroy all evidence of their crimes. These exhumations continued until the summer of 1943, when the victims organized an uprising and were able to kill some of the guards, which enabled about 40 Jews to escape from the camp.

If one follows this description, there must have been hundreds of thousands of exhumed and fresh corpses from the gas chambers of Treblinka that were burned from spring to summer of 1943 without a trace. In summer of 1943, a constant thick cloud of smoke must have enveloped Treblinka. Such clouds of smoke were seen by the witness Stanislaw Swistek, who was questioned in Poland, but he saw them only on the day of the uprising when rioting victims set camp barracks afire.

IVAN WAS "KILLED"

From Swistek's testimony we learn that Swistek heard: that Ivan "had been killed by the prisoners during the uprising."

Stanislaw Swistek

During the German occupation of Poland 1939 to 1944, my two brothers Wladyslaw and Waclaw Swistek were deported by the Germans to the concentration camp Auschwitz, where they died. I remained alone on our farm which extends over a few acres of land. I was repeatedly forced to work with my horses in both camps of Treblinka. During my trips there I noticed a guard named Ivan, a big burly man whose terrible temper even scared other guards. Sometimes he came to Poniatowa for Bimber (illegally manufactured vodka) and for women. I never dared to personally speak to him, but I knew that he spoke some Ukrainian, but mostly German. On August 2, 1943, during the uprising of the Jewish prisoners which happened in the afternoon, we saw columns of smoke and fire over Treblinka 2. Shortly afterwards a few Jewish prisoners ran through our village and were helped by our farmers. They were chased by the Germans and other guards, among whom I did not see Ivan. I heard that he was killed during the uprising by the prisoners. A few times, I was forced to help with my wagon and horses during the dismantling of the camp which occurred shortly afterwards.

IVAN "WAS MIDDLE AGED"

As reported by Jewish witnesses, "Ivan the Terrible" was allowed to leave the camp at will to buy food and brandy in the village; consequently, there must be witnesses who could describe him.

Testimony

I, the undersigned, Josef Wujek, declare as follows:

While I was still living in Wolka-Okraglak, I was arrested by the Germans and brought to the camp Treblinka I. I was there from December 20, 1941 to April 15, 1942.

On September 3, 1942, while my parents were away, their estate was raided by the Germans and they tried to get from my younger brother and me information about "Jews and Ukrainians" who allegedly were hiding in my parents' house. At this time, my parents were in a neighboring village, Kosow Lacki. The Germans were looking especially for Jews, and since they didn't find any, they beat my brother and me so badly that we were unconscious and only woke up again when they threw water on us. From the severe blows, the bones in my forearm were crushed and they broke my brother's ribs while they were trampling on us with their boots. They bound our hands with wire and threw us on a truck and brought us to the extermination camp Treblinka II.

At the entrance gate I saw guards whom I got to know better later on. The most noticeable among them was one named Ivan, whose looks and behavior were just terrible. Even the other guards were afraid of him. For instance, he took a camera from the guards who wanted to take pictures of his cruel behavior and trampled it with his boots. He was of middle age and was known for his visits in neighboring villages. His characteristic appearance remains deep in my memory and I would recognize him anytime, anywhere.

Jozef Wujek

Warsaw, April 12, 1984

A "GIANT" OF 1.90 METERS?

From such Polish witnesses comes the "phantom picture" [reproduced on the title page of the German original and the second page of this translation] but other witnesses, for instance, the German Treblinka men Horn and Franz, declared that this phantom picture did not correspond with the image that they remember. But all of the German and Polish witnesses agree that "Ivan the Terrible" was a man of giant proportions who scared people by his very size. John Demjanjuk, on the other hand, is 1.80 meters tall and thus is shorter than the man who Kurt Franz remembers was perhaps even 1.90 meters tall.

Another testimony:

Testimony

I, who signed this document below, Eugenia Samuel, testify that in summer 1943 I was arrested for being Jewish and brought to the death camp in Treblinka because many Jewish escapees from the camp were being sheltered by Polish peasants, which was a crime punishable by death as, for instance, the whole family of Samsel, which was exterminated by the Germans for sheltering Jews. Fortunately, the family to which I came from Warsaw was brave enough to state that I was not Jewish, thus causing my release from the tortures which left traces on my body such as torn earlobes and scars on my body inflicted with special shoes equipped with protruding nails.

During my stay in the Treblinka death camp, I knew a guard with a terrible temper who was known as "Ivan the Terrible," a strong man with bushy hair and protruding eyes. I didn't see him at the trial in Krasnodar, USSR, where Joseph Wujek and I traveled as witnesses in 1960 (April 6 to April 19) and I don't see any similarity between him and the photograph shown to me on an ID card made out to the name Demjanjuk.

Warsaw, January 23, 1984

(signed) Samuel Eugenia

What is remarkable about the last two testimonies is that the witness Swistek is of the opinion that Ivan spoke "mostly German." Could he have been not a Ukrainian but a *Volksdeutscher* (ethnic German) chief of the guards? Like Wujek, the witness Eugenia Samuel had served as a witness in Krasnodar, U.S.S.R., in 1960. During that trial there had been no mention of an "Ivan" or of Demjanjuk.

The Polish authorities looking for information on Treblinka were facing a vacuum. Treblinka Camp after the rebellion of prisoners on August 2, 1943 was completely dismantled by the Germans. Of the few Jews remaining in the camp, most were brought to Sobibor to help in dismantling the Sobibor camp. Subsequently, they were shot and killed. Only a few Jews remained in Treblinka as a rear guard. They, too, were shot to death by the German SS men in November 1943. Flowers were sown on the Treblinka camp grounds which was converted into a farm. Only one guard remained there who had the task of policing the grounds which was now devoid of any trace of a camp. [According to A. Donat, editor and publisher of the Holocaust Library in New York, the guard Streibel settled at the site of Treblinka.]

ACCESSORIES WERE "LIQUIDATED"

After the completion of Operation Reinhardt in Treblinka and elsewhere all pertinent files — among them the personnel lists of the German camp crews of Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka — were destroyed without a trace, which is one reason why there was no Treblinka trial in Poland, the scene of the crimes. Adherents of the "Auschwitz lie" theory base their assertion that the mass extermination camp Treblinka with its gas chambers never existed because of the complete lack of physical evidence—so carefully were all traces removed. But if it was so, and if the criminals in charge so carefully liquidated all Jewish accessories and accomplices, the question is: why did they not also liquidate, as a potentially troublesome witness, the so-called Ukrainian guard who operated the gas motor (that is, if he survived the 1943 camp uprising)?

GUARDS DID NOT RANK HIGH

The guards assigned to Treblinka were at times given food from the same kitchen from which the Jewish inmates received theirs. This alone shows that in the eyes of the German SS they were barely better than the "work Jews." They

guarded Jewish work commandos who gathered brushwood and wood in the forest outside the camp for the crematoria grates. But as in all activities guards, in turn, were supervised by Germans.

In such camps, guards were equipped with whips, but certainly not with "swords." Jewish *cajos* (foremen) were also issued whips. They had to "carry out the orders of any German overseer," and were beaten by the SS if they did not apply themselves to their job of beating Jews. They were lower in the camp than any German. As Kogon reports, they were considered to be corrupt and unreliable. A few guards accepted bribes from Jews and not only sold them weapons but also smuggled messages from the "death camp" to the outside world. Consequently, stories about the gas chambers which today are reported by Jewish witnesses as their own experiences are possibly based on such messages. The guards even planned to poison the German camp crew. In several instances, they let themselves be disarmed. This is how the Sobibor uprising started.

GUARDS WERE SHOT, TOO

While German judicial authorities maintain that "Germans who refused to participate in crimes had nothing to fear for themselves," the "unrefuted testimony of the accused makes clear that Wirth (who was called "the Terrible") had members of the guard squad shot" because they bartered with Jews or had tried to desert. In the camp, they were subject to the special jurisdiction of the camp authorities who had them shot to death for the least infraction of regulations. According to survivors' testimonies there was even a special jail for the guards at Treblinka.

ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER DURESS

This poses a theoretical question: the guards, before being transported to the concentration camps, were not informed of the tasks to which they would be assigned and could not refuse any order, as they, unlike the Germans, had no possibility of dodging the assigned duties in a camp. Therefore, they undoubtedly acted in "putative distress;" that is, they assumed that they would lose their lives unless they complied. According to Article 52 of the German Penal Code, however, a person under irresistible compulsion cannot be punished. He can plead duress. According to Article 54 of the German Penal Code, nobody can be punished for acting under irresistible compulsion; the penal codes of the USA and Israel also have corresponding provisions. Such compulsion certainly existed for the guards; they were young soldiers in the Soviet army who had been taken prisoner and feared to die from starvation and disease in German captivity. Some of the prisoners of war were chosen to work as guards in German installations, farms and camps. They received only perfunctory training and were assigned to guard objects without knowing what they were. In this way, only a few of them ended up in German concentration camps.

“NEVER SAW THIS FACE”

When Demjanjuk's picture was circulated worldwide, after his extradition to Israel, one assumed that a few witnesses would surely come forward and recognize Demjanjuk as “Ivan the Terrible”—if he ever had played such a role. Instead, a witness from Catalonia, Spain, Joaquin Garcia Ribes, 85 years old, came forward and declared that he was absolutely certain that John Demjanjuk was not identical with “Ivan the Terrible.”

Ribes had fought alongside the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War. After the defeat of his party he escaped to France, where he was interned and then arrested by the German occupation forces. In February 1943, he was brought to Treblinka where he participated in the construction of the open crematoria grates. Consequently, he had the opportunity to get to know the guards. But the picture of John Demjanjuk which was circulated worldwide in early 1986 does not remind him of any of them. He says: “I have never seen this face before.” If John Demjanjuk of Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. should actually be found guilty by an Israeli court, the 85 year old Joaquin Garcia Ribes, has threatened that he will take his own life, for he says he did not survive Treblinka—by escaping from the camp—in order to let a new injustice be done.

EVEN BOOKS TESTIFY TO IT

Since the end of the war, this old survivor in Spain has been concentrating on the terrors of the past, especially in Treblinka. He collected many publications about Treblinka and finds his own recollections confirmed in five books, all of which report that “Ivan the Terrible” was killed by inmates in Treblinka. Joaquin Garcia Ribes agrees on this point with the authors of all those books and also with the 1947 testimony of chief witness Rosenberg: “He [“Ivan”] died on August 2, 1943, when the Jews rebelled in the camp.” But when Berger, one of those authors, was asked about the “discovery” of John Demjanjuk, he suddenly declared what is not evident from his book at all: that it is a fictionalized presentation, not a documentary.

This kind of declaration does not serve the memory of the Holocaust well. If suddenly something is declared fiction which for years was believed to be fact, the belief in everything which had been held to be true diminishes.

That does not seem to disturb Demjanjuk's persecutors. They do not even shrink from massive falsifications. As the only document in the case is a forgery (and, incidentally, contradicts the theory of Demjanjuk's presence in Treblinka), and as the witnesses are hardly useful because of untruths, exaggerations and contradictions, one “circumstantial proof”—a tattoo—is mentioned again and again, in an attempt to prove that John Demjanjuk was, after all, “Ivan the Terrible.”

After 1945, John Demjanjuk wore a so-called blood group symbol. This tattoo now serves his persecutors as proof that he was an "SS man" and therefore must have served as a guard in a concentration camp. But in reality, this just contributes to the confusion, not to the discovery of the truth.

Guards in German concentration camps did not have blood group tattoos because they did not belong to the SS. However, as a rule, Ukrainians or Russians or other "foreign nationals" who, during the mid-1940's joined a combat unit, did receive such a symbol. Its purpose was to enable a wounded soldier to get an immediate blood transfusion without blood group determination "in case he needed one and his paybook was lost." Therefore, only soldiers who belonged to a combat unit had the blood group tattoo.

WAS HITLER'S GREATEST KEEPER OF SECRETS SENT TO THE FRONT?

Demjanjuk himself has stated that he was a member of a combat unit during the last years of the war: only in that capacity could he ever have received such a tattoo. Thus the tattoo proves exactly the opposite of what his persecutors want to imply. The only thing one can deduce from it is that Demjanjuk was a soldier.

This leads to a basic fact: that in Treblinka and in other concentration camps hundreds of thousands, maybe even millions, of Jews were killed by poison gas, and this was kept a state secret until the end of the war. As is well known, the Nazis did everything including grow grass over the concentration camps. Troublesome witnesses were murdered. But if he really drove hundreds of thousands of Jews to their death by gas, then the biggest keeper of secrets of the Third Reich must have been Demjanjuk himself.

Nobody denies that Demjanjuk was a soldier during the last years of the war. He could have been taken prisoner by the enemy at any time—and then spilled the best kept secret of the Reich. It would have been a worldwide sensation if Demjanjuk, as a prisoner-of-war, had disclosed in 1943, 1944 or early 1945 that he himself had poisoned hundreds of thousands of Jews.

The question is: would the biggest mass murderer in history, who, on orders from the Nazis, drove hundreds of thousands to their death by gas then be sent by the Nazis to a battlefield where he could fall into the hands of the enemy at any time? Certainly not. They would have killed him before he had a chance to speak about his role. If today's persecutors of Demjanjuk accept as a fact that he had been assigned to danger spots on the front during the last years of the war, then they have to concede that this could not have been the same man who previously gassed hundreds of thousands of Jews.

WHEN ONE ACCUSATION BREAKS DOWN, ANOTHER TAKES ITS PLACE

In the persecution of John Demjanjuk, methods like those in Stalinist investigative proceedings are used; that is, when all arguments of the prosecution are exhausted, new charges are invented. For instance, the newspaper *Alef*, published in the Russian language in Israel, reported in August 1986 that Demjanjuk had been working for the Germans even before 1942. Allegedly, on German orders, he was in charge of the Jewish ghetto as police chief of a major Ukrainian town of Uman. Supposedly, he had never been a prisoner of war of the Germans, but a collaborator from the very beginning. Meanwhile, they also say that it may have been his father, not John Demjanjuk, who played that role. This is a ridiculous charge followed by an even more ridiculous one. John Demjanjuk could hardly have been police chief at the age of twenty, and neither could his father, since the Soviets themselves know nothing of this.

Hence there was an urgent appeal by the Israeli Attorney General to the Soviet Union, to Poland and to the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) to provide additional "evidence" because the evidence at hand could not support an indictment.

When John Demjanjuk's picture appeared on television, people started "remembering" an "Ivan the Terrible"—even in Italy. This time, he did not commit his alleged crimes in Sobibor or Treblinka, Flossenburg or Regensburg, in Uman or elsewhere, but in a former rice mill near Trieste.

As the Yugoslav news magazine *NIN* (Belgrade) reported on March 16, 1986, a few weeks after the extradition of Demjanjuk to Israel, witnesses had identified Demjanjuk through published pictures as the man who had participated in horrible crimes, even after 1943, in the "San Sabbo" rice mill near Trieste.

THE "SAN SABBO CASE"

In 1943, they say, Himmler had a new concentration camp constructed in San Sabbo, after the concentration camps in Poland had been dissolved. The camp commander of San Sabbo had been Globocnik, the same SS and police chief who had directed Operation Reinhardt in German-occupied Poland. The goal of Operation Reinhardt was the annihilation of all Jews. Globocnik, the Yugoslav news magazine *NIN* maintained, was accompanied by "fifty of his most faithful SS men" who had distinguished themselves in the extermination of Jews in Poland. Now it was time for the Jews of northern Italy who had been spared so far. For this purpose, the concentration camp San Sabbo near Trieste was built where "Jews and anti-fascists" and "seventy-thousand mentally retarded young people" were to be killed. The Yugoslav tabloid does not give any information as to where "seventy-thousand mentally retarded young people" were coming from.

More important for the "Demjanjuk Case" is the statement by *NIN* that Demjanjuk had also been among Globocnik's people and had participated in the murder of "thousands of anti-fascists" and Jews, as well as an "undetermined number of partisans from Italy, Slovenia and Croatia."

NIN maintains that Demjanjuk not only survived the war but lived "undisturbed for seven years, until fleeing to the United States in 1952." Inquiries in Yugoslavia have shown that no evidence whatsoever exists for those charges. In Belgrade, they cite the Italian press which had printed similar reports. In addition, the prosecutor's office in Trieste is investigating Demjanjuk which is astonishing because during the mid-1970's that office had made extensive investigations with regard to the San Sabbo camp. At that time, John Demjanjuk's name did not appear.

As investigations revealed, some of the German police and SS officers who had participated in the extermination of Jews in Poland were actually shipped to northern Italy in 1943. Globocnik became the commander of the so-called "Adriatic Coast Zone of Operations" but his most important task was apparently not the persecution or extermination of Jews, but the protection of this strategically important military zone against Yugoslav and Italian partisans who operated there. Of the 92 men who were his subordinates in Trieste, about 60 had operated under his command in Poland. This group was much too weak. Globocnik therefore surrounded himself with foreign volunteers in Italy, too. They were mostly Italians for whom there was even a training school established.

UKRAINIANS IN NORTHERN ITALY

The camp of San Sabbo was not an extermination camp. Imprisoned Jews and other inmates worked there, but it was the purpose of the camp to transfer such prisoners to other camps. There was a crematorium — German camp commanders did not bother with individual graves — but there was no gas chamber. The Germans ran the camp but the guards were mostly Italians. In the "Adriatic Coast Zone of Operations" there were also Croatian and Slovenian units, but they were mostly assigned to guard strategically important railroad lines. Ukrainians played a minor role. They are barely mentioned. But it is known that a Ukrainian with the first name of Nikolai worked with the German road police; so it can be assumed that there were a few Ukrainians in the "Adriatic Coast Zone of Operations." They apparently were used to fight the partisans. Partisans who were caught were brought to the camp of San Sabbo.

But in the 1970's, when the Italian judicial authorities investigated San Sabbo, they concluded after 33 days of proceedings that there may have been approximately 3,000 people killed. There had never been a mass extermination camp such as Treblinka or Sobibor in Italy. During the trial, depositions were taken from 150 witnesses who remembered a variety of details, but none of them mentioned Ivan or Demjanjuk or "Ivan the Terrible."

It would have been only logical to bring charges against Ivan Demjanjuk, too — that is, if he had played a role in San Sabbo at all. The trial took place in the absence of all the accused. One German defendant, Allers, had died. Another, the German Josef Oberhauser, worked in a Munich restaurant during the mid-1970's, but as a German citizen he could not be extradited to Italy. Also, he had already been sentenced in Germany for his role in the Third Reich. This did not prevent the Italian authorities from opening the main proceedings and conducting them in front of an empty dock. If John Demjanjuk had played a role in San Sabbo he, too, would have been tried in absentia.

But there was no hint of Demjanjuk's presence in San Sabbo. When the camp was liberated in 1945 it was already totally destroyed. The Germans had burned almost all of the documents in the crematorium. A list with the names of 52 guards from San Sabbo was found—all of them Italians, not Ukrainians. As collaborators they were granted amnesty in 1946 and, thirty years later, they were not charged again. There were also a few lists of prisoners which went into Yugoslav archives and have been "lost" there without a trace. One could have learned from those lists how many prisoners and dead there were in San Sabbo.

750,000 DEAD OR A FEW HUNDRED ?

Israel News has maintained as late as June 24, 1979 that in San Sabbo "750,000 Italians and Yugoslavs" had been murdered, but five days later the *General Jewish Weekly* said about San Sabbo: "5,000 communists, partisans and Jews died there." The Italian court assumed a figure of 3,000 dead, greater than the estimate of 2,000 by Professor Claus Gatterer, a contributor to the Austrian radio and television who published a book entitled *Fight Against Rome* in which he deals with San Sabbo. A historian who lives in Trieste even speaks of "a few hundred" dead in San Sabbo. San Sabbo was terrible, like any camp, but it cannot be said that more people died here than in any other camp of the war and post-war period, including the prisoner-of-war camps of the Allies, especially those in the Soviet North.

But quite aside from the issue of the number of victims in San Sabbo, that camp is in no way connected to John Demjanjuk. One of the foremost Yugoslav experts on this subject is Toni Ferenc, who was for a time the director of the Slovenian Institute for Research into the History of the Working Class, and took a special interest in San Sabbo and its participants. He was a witness before the court in Trieste and wrote a book about this whole theme entitled *Satan, His Works and His Death* (Zalozba Borec, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, 1979). But in that book there is only one reference to a Ukrainian—Nikolai. John Demjanjuk is not mentioned at all.

Incidentally, even the Communist press of Yugoslavia and of Italy admit that there is no proof that John Demjanjuk participated in the mass extermination of prisoners in San Sabbo. Unfortunately, they say, there are "only a few

witnesses left" who saw the "torture to which prisoners were subjected before they were killed." But none of those "few witnesses" incriminated John Demjanjuk during the Trieste criminal proceedings in 1975-76.

It is amazing how, in 1986, one suddenly stumbled upon Demjanjuk: his photo had gained notoriety in Italy, too, even before his extradition to Israel. And as John Demjanjuk was already thought of as "Ivan the Terrible" in the eyes of the world, his arrest offered a welcome opportunity to also make him responsible for the "mass crimes" in San Sabbo.

THE CHARGES AS PART OF COMMUNIST AGITATION

One must not overlook the fact that San Sabbo plays a certain role in internal politics in Italy. Italy's Communists have maintained for years that an "artificial wall of silence" had been built around San Sabbo. This statement by the Communist Party of Italy is aimed mostly at right-wing politicians, who, they say, had "good reason" for wanting to "hush up" the events in San Sabbo. The Italian Communists maintain that these anti-communist politicians had been "Fascist collaborators" themselves during the war and therefore attempted to protect the criminals of San Sabbo.

COMMUNISTS ATTACK THE UNITED STATES

UNITA, the principal newspaper of the Italian Communist Party, maintains that "many SS men" were living in Trieste long after the war ended, protected by "Italian reactionaries." And the Americans, they say, had helped them, too, because valuable documents about San Sabbo had disappeared from American warehouses without a trace. The "San Sabbo Case" is part of a political campaign directed by the Italian and Yugoslav Communists, whose aim is to discredit anti-communist politicians and the United States. For this reason they fabricated another story: that from 1945 to 1952, John Demjanjuk had lived in Trieste, unrecognized, because he was protected by "influential" Italian circles until his "escape to America" in 1952.

Just how indefensible this statement is can be unquestionably proven by documents and dates which show that after 1945, Demjanjuk did not live in northern Italy but rather in southern Germany, and that he emigrated from Germany to the U.S. legally and under his real name.

The longer John Demjanjuk is held prisoner in Israel, his extradition and imprisonment becomes more and more inconceivable. It is obvious that "evidence" against Demjanjuk is being collected only now. The Israeli investigative judge Yakov Maltz noticed this, too, for after the Israeli prosecutor's office could not find any evidence against its prisoner for half a year, the Associated Press news agency gave the following interim report on 8-23-86 from Ramle, the place where Demjanjuk is imprisoned:

JUDGE WARNS DEMJANJUK'S PROSECUTORS

RAMLE, Israel (AP) — A judge granted a prosecution request to extend John Demjanjuk's detention until Oct. 1, but he warned prosecutors that the intervening period could be their last chance to indict Demjanjuk on charges of being a Nazi war criminal.

Demjanjuk, 66, a retired autoworker from Seven Hills, accused prosecutors of wasting time. Making his first extensive public statement since his Feb. 28 extradition from the United States, Demjanjuk again denied that he was a gas chamber operator known as Ivan the Terrible in Nazi-occupied Poland.

"I am here because Israel demanded my extradition, and now that I am here they are not doing anything," Demjanjuk said. "I am ready to stand trial tomorrow."

"Six months is enough time for justice, but it could take years to prepare false evidence. The prosecution is gathering false witnesses from places where I never was."

Supreme Court Judge Yakov Maltz said: "There is a limited period for which the court will be willing to hold the suspect in jail. I expect the indictment to be presented in the next six weeks."

Otherwise, he said, "it will be very difficult to convince the court to grant further extension."

Haim Cohn, retired Supreme Court deputy chief justice, said in an interview that if charges were not presented by Oct. 1, "Demjanjuk likely will have to be released."

In seeking Demjanjuk's extradition, Israel said he was a Ukrainian guard who ran the gas chambers at Treblinka death camp, where about 900,000 Jews and others were murdered. Treblinka survivors said Ivan the Terrible beat prisoners to death, killed children with his own hands and raped women inmates.

If convicted, Demjanjuk could be sentenced to death.

He told the court he was a victim of mistaken identity and had never collaborated with the Nazis. He said he was "a former Soviet soldier who never had anything to do with the murder of the Jews."

Dennis Gouldman, deputy state attorney, told the judge that he needed six more weeks to complete investigations, receive new evidence from abroad and have it translated and analyzed.

"Questioning the witnesses makes them recall the horrors of the past, and so we have to proceed with great consideration and not drag out the conversations," Gouldman said.

The result of this method of questioning, "to make them recall the horrors of the past," will always remain doubtful: why should witnesses remember—forty years after the events—something that they had not remembered up to that time?

These proceedings have become dangerous for all parties involved:

- for their victim, John Demjanjuk—with so much political and personal prestige at stake in this affair; can he expect to be freed?
- for Israel which now, of all things, appeals to the Communist powers "to help justice to prevail,"
- for the Jews: the dubious and, in part, freely invented witness testimony which will have to be brought against John Demjanjuk in a trial, will raise doubts about everything that has been known so far about the Holocaust.

EPILOGUE

EPILOGUE

Translation of a three-part reportage in the Hebrew-language Israeli newspaper "*Yedioth Akharonot*" by Zvi Tal, Haifa.

February 27, 1987:

"I, who have been tracking down Nazis for years, am getting a 'collaborator' label pinned on me." Tuvia Freedman, "Nazi hunter," was extremely upset yesterday during the hour when he was listening in his room to the testimony of Eliyahu Rosenberg on a radio broadcast which was reporting on the trial of John Demjanjuk.

The voices grated on his nerves. His name was used frequently. He was outraged: "What does Eliyahu want from me? Does he really think that during the press conference in Haifa I said that he is not among the living? To the winds with this! I said that a survivor of Treblinka by the name of Goldfrev is not among the living. I wish that Eliyahu lives for many more days. Why should I want him dead?"

The next day after the press conference, Freedman said that he contacted Eliyahu by phone. "He yelled at me and said that he would kill me. I tried to explain to him that this was an error that was printed in only one newspaper and that the rest of the newspapers wrote something else . . . but he hung up on me."

In reference to the denial of Eliyahu Rosenberg regarding his testimony given in the past in Vienna about "Ivan the Terrible" being dead, Tuvia Freedman related that this testimony was given to Freedman by Rosenberg personally.

Tuvia Freedman pouted out his pain: "It is possible to go insane. I, Tuvia, whose mother and sister perished in Treblinka . . . I, who for 42 years fought tooth and nail to bring Nazi criminals to justice, suddenly get labeled as a collaborator of O'Conner [Demjanjuk's defense counsel]."

March 1, 1987:

"This is the hour to settle the accounts with Jews who helped Nazis," said Nazi hunter Tuvia Freedman, who received life-threatening telephone calls because of his possible appearance as a witness at Demjanjuk's trial. I told them: "Come on over; I'll be home."

Answering the question as to why he is cooperating with Demjanjuk's attorney Freedman answered: "What cooperation? What kind of babbling is this? Defense attorney O'Conner went to the Documentation Institute in Vienna and found Eliyahu Rosenberg's testimony — copies of which are found in several German courts. He came to me and asked about this testimony. What was I supposed to do? Was I supposed to change what was written and signed by Rosenberg?"

"To this day I have not been asked to testify at Demjanjuk's trial: neither from the prosecution nor from the defense. If I am asked, of course I will go. But when I get the chance to testify, I will tell everything that I know as a historian of the Holocaust, not only about the crimes of the Nazis and their "goyim" helpers but also about the participation of Jews and their help given to the Nazis.

"I wanted to do this a long time ago but I was always putting it off. I was intent on settling the account with the Nazis and Ukrainians, for instance. Today, however, I believe that there will not be any more Demjanjuk-type trials. This could be the last chance to unmask those Jewish "heroes" who keep appearing at the trials of the Nazi war criminals and tell all, but keep silent about their role which they played in the reality of the situation where the victims of the Nazis went like sheep to slaughter and did not rise up against them.

"In Treblinka, there were only 30 Germans plus 130 Ukrainians and 700 Jews who collaborated with them. How could it happen that the Treblinka uprising took place a full 400 days after the gas chambers were in operation nightly? How was it that the uprising broke out only when the death transport trains with new victims stopped coming to Treblinka? It was clear to the Jewish collaborators: they saw that it was their turn to enter the gas chambers.

"The truth will rise from the earth. This is the hour to bring forth the truth and let it see the light of day. It is absolutely necessary to tell the truth to our future generations. I will expose the participation of those Jewish so-called heroes who misled the victims of the Holocaust. They had better stop posing as national heroes . . ."

March 5, 1987

The "Nazi hunter" fears for his life . . . Nazi hunter Tuvia Freedman disregarded the directives of the Demjanjuk court and yesterday sent a second letter to the Chief Justice of the court, Dov Levine . . . "Taking into consideration the fact that I have no peace from the constant telephone calls from the survivors of the Holocaust who have threatened my life in order to prevent me from testifying at the trial because they consider me to be a traitor to the Jewish nation and a defender of "Ivan the Terrible," I want you to know, should I die, that I have neither sinned against the people of Israel nor against world Jewry."

. . . Before his departure, I asked Tuvia Freedman whether he would fear for his life when visiting the United States. Freedman answered: "I am going there with a heavy heart because of all of the events. I think that there is a serious possibility that some survivor of the Holocaust in New York could commit an irrational act under the influence of continuous campaign threats against me."

If Freedman is summoned to testify, his testimony will pertain to the testimony of Eliyahu Rosenbetg.

Freedman revealed to me that he received a telephone call from defense attorney O'Conner. In his conversation with Freedman explained to O'Conner about the extreme pressure exerted on him by the Holocaust survivors in order to stop Freedman from testifying at the trial. O'Conner answered: "Mr. Freedman, if you don't show up at the trial, you are in trouble . . ."

"I answered him: They are accusing me that you paid me off. Why are you keeping silent about it? Your silence is tantamount to confirmation that you did give me money. O'Conner promised to clarify this matter. I am in a difficult situation from all sides. If I testify, the survivors of the Holocaust will condemn me. But if I decline to testify, O'Conner will denounce me."

