S t a t e m e n t

Written in [Zeisheim](http://www.geonames.org/2804979/zeilsheim.html) [D.P.– camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/admin/keywords/ehri-skos-tema-278#desc-eng) near [Frankfurt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-3388) on 3. and 4. 11. 1945 with Hermann Przewozník, Šlomo Fuchs, and Chaim Schwarzwald about the [concentration camps](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) [Auschwitz II., Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571).

P r z e w o z n i k, born 16. 1. 1914 in [Plonsk](http://www.geonames.org/3088802/plonsko.html), [prisoner](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) of the [concentration camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) [Auschwitz II. Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) ([prisoner](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) number 84256 ), [Oranienburg,](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-131) [Sachsenhausen](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-151), [Kauffering](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-144), [Dachau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-110).

F u c h s, born 3. 5. 1908 was [imprisoned](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) in [Auschwitz II. Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) ([Prisoner](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) number 84033), [Oranienburg](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-131), [Flossenbürg](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-121), [Dachau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-110),

S c h w a r z w a l d, born 12. 11. 1921 in [Plonsk](http://www.geonames.org/3088802/plonsko.html), [imprisoned](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) in [Auschwitz I](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-43#desc-eng) (60.423), [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571), [Oranienburg](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-131), [Sachsenhausen](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-151), [Dachau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-110). All three are currently in the [Z e i s h e i m](http://www.geonames.org/2804979/zeilsheim.html) [D. P. Camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/admin/keywords/ehri-skos-tema-278#desc-eng) near [Frankfurt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-3388).

[We worked](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) in the Sauna – [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) disinfection chamber – from January 1943 to January 1945, i.e. until the [evacuation](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-153#desc-eng), I, Herman Przewoznik, as a scribe, I, Šlomo Fuchs, as a worker on the so-called unclean side, and I, Chaim Schwarzwald, as a worker on the ramp.

When the [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived, the people were pulled out of the cars, their things were taken away, and then they were turned over – [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) and [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) separately – for [selection](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) by the [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) [doctors](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-70#desc-eng) [Mengele](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000569), Thilo, Horstmann, König and others, who had the [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) rank of [Ober](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng)- or [Hauptsturmführer](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng). [Men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) always stood on the right, and [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) on the left. The people selected for the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) were sent to the left side, the others, who were to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng), to the right. In the years ‘42 and ‘43, on average 20% percent of the people were sent to the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng). However, there were [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) out of which only 5% or 10% were sent to the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng). Some [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) were sent to the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) without going through [selection](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng). This happened, for example, to the [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) from [Plonsk](http://www.geonames.org/3088802/plonsko.html) and [Nový Dvůr](http://www.geonames.org/763556/nowy-dwor-mazowiecki.html), carrying 2,000 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng), and other [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) of [Polish Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-866#desc-eng).

In 1944, a larger portion, up to 40%, were sent to the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng), but nevertheless even during this time entire [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) were sent to the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng), such as the [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) of [Lithuanian](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-old-1850) [Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) (1,886 [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) and [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng)), who were sent to the [gas chamber](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) from the sauna under the direct orders of [Mengele](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000569) and [Kramer](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000228) in the beginning of October. Around October 1943, a [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) arrived from[Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) with roughly 1,000 to 1,200 [children from Bialystok](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-546#desc-eng) with their [caretakers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-195#desc-eng) and [nurses](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-630#desc-eng). They had [Palestinian](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-7335) visas, but they were all [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) in [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I. Four weeks later, a [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived from [Hannover](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-90). Its occupants had [American](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-7#desc-eng) visas as [American](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-7#desc-eng) citizens, and we heard that they were to be exchanged for [German](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-431#desc-eng) prisoners of war. The artist Lola Lipmann from [Warsaw](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-36#desc-eng) was a passenger on this [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng). In the sauna, Rapportführer Schillinger, who was known and feared as the [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) executioner, wanted to hurry her along when she suddenly [shot](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) him with his own revolver and seriously wounded the Arbeitsdienstführer from [Auschwitz I](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-43#desc-eng). Until this incident, [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) [were gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) in [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) II and [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) in [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I. Afterwards, [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) and [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were immediately separated, and [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were either [shot](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) or [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) by [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) helpers. [Men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) [were gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) in [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) II.

The people who were selected to be sent to the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) went into the sauna, where their hair was cut, they bathed, and changed into different clothes. The rest of the things they were allowed to take with them from the train station were also taken from them here. Each person was given a tattered shirt, sometimes underwear, a skirt or pants, and so-called Dutch clogs. Starting in 1944, [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were no longer given any underwear, but only a dress or skirt, and a pyjama camisole. From the year [left blank], [selection](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) was conducted in Sauna II, during which [pregnant](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-140#desc-eng) [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) and other weak or injured people were sent to the [crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng)’s sauna or to Bunker V. This [selection](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) was ordered by [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) [doctors](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-70#desc-eng), [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) [members](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) Schniders and Haagen. Haagen regularly beat the [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) and personally brought them to the [crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng).

People who were selected to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) were taken directly from the ramp to one of the 4 [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) or to Bunker V, which was a rustic house with a straw roof and 4 small rooms. Everywhere there were signs: Zum Bad. People had to get undressed there. Some [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) were ordered to write [letters](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-716#desc-eng) in which they stated that they had arrived in one piece, were reunited with their friends, and were on their way to the baths.

In [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I and II, [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) was introduced from the top. The [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) used was [zyklon B](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-699#desc-eng) Degesch (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schädlingsbekämpfung, [Hamburg](http://www.geonames.org/2911298/hamburg.html)). In [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) III and IV, [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) was let in through small windows. Bunker V used the same method. In the middle of [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I and II, there were 4 four-sided poles out of tangled wire, into which [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) was let in from the top (through green or yellow pieces of cardboard that released hydrogen cyanide [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) when they came in contact with the humidity of the air). In [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) III and IV and in Bunker V, these [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) carriers were thrown into the [chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-554#desc-eng) through a side window by [SS members](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) wearing gas masks. The windows were then hermetically sealed. [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I and II had a capacity of 3,000 people; [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) III and IV and Bunker V had a capacity of 1,500 people. Rottenführer Schniders, Haagen (at the time in [Dachau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-110)), Sturmmann Gräf from [Romania](http://www.geonames.org/798549/romania.html), Dobrovolský from [Slovakia](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-108#desc-eng), and George from [Katovice](http://www.geonames.org/3096472/katowice.html) were in charge of the [gassing](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). Moll was the head of the [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng). Jews [worked](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) in all of the [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng). Fifteen [Russians](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-442#desc-eng), 3 [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) [Kapos](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-746#desc-eng), 2 [German](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-431#desc-eng) head [Kapos](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-746#desc-eng), and the Jewish [Kapo](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-746#desc-eng) Kaminský from [Grodno](http://www.geonames.org/627904/hrodna.html), who was [shot](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) by Moll in 1944, worked alongside them. [Death in the gas chamber](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) took about 3 minutes for [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng), 5 minutes for [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng). [Children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng), when they held onto their [mothers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng), died in about 7 minutes. If the bunker was damp, it took longer to [die in the gas chamber](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). The necessary dose of [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) for 3,000 people was 3 kg of [Zyklon](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-699#desc-eng). Schniders sometimes let less [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) in, thereby prolonging the [suffering](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) of those inside the chamber.

When an [Italian](http://www.geonames.org/3175395/repubblica-italiana.html) [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng), arriving probably in January ‘44 and carrying 1,500 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-865#desc-eng), was [sent to the gas chamber](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) (Haagen [administered the gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng)), a prisoner managed to throw a box containing the [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) out of the window, and only a small amount of [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) was released into the [chamber](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-554#desc-eng). Then the bunker was hermetically sealed. [Mengele](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000569), [Kramer](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000228), and Haagen listened at the doors. For a long time, about ½ an hour, we could hear the desperate cries of the [prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-865#desc-eng). Hauptschaarführer Moll, who beat [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) with a 2-meter whip, or used them for target practice, was also active around [those sent to be gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). He once tried to [shoot](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) 5 selected [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) with one shot. He like to pick beautiful [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) who he then [shot](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) in the neck while the others were [killed by gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). He would then clean his jackboots with their blood. Our friend Jankel Silberberg from [Zakroczym](http://www.geonames.org/754069/zakroczym.html), who previously resided in [Plonsk](http://www.geonames.org/3088802/plonsko.html) and is currently in the [Polish](http://www.geonames.org/798544/republic-of-poland.html) [Army](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-519#desc-eng), and who [worked](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) in the so-called [Sonderkommando](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-173#desc-eng), can corroborate this. We know this because we brought [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) for delousing to the [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) every day.

In front of Bunker V there was a small birch grove that we called the little birch. It was mostly [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) who were [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) in Bunker V. If the [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) contained more than 1,500 [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng), the rest waited behind the bunker until the first 1,500 were [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) and made ready to be burned in the ditch. Bunker V did not have a [crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) nearby, but a ditch in which the [bodies](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) were doused with gasoline and burned in piles. About 6,000 [bodies](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) were burned all at once. The ash was used as fertilizer for the tree nursery, to seal potato bunkers in order to keep out the humidity, or to scatter over the paths in [Buna](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/ehri-camps-3). The rest was thrown into water.

[Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I and II were put into operation in March 1943. The first [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) was from [Krakow](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-old-92). Its [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) arrived at the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) and received the numbers 108 thousand and higher. It was followed by [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) from [Greece](http://www.geonames.org/390903/hellenic-republic.html) with numbers 109 all the way up to 117 thousand. About 2 months later, [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) II and IV were put into operation. Bunker 5 was used until the [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) were ready, which was later, once again in 1944, when [Hungarian](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html) [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived carrying 850,000 Jews, 70,000 Jews from [Lodz](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-48#desc-eng), and 2 [transports from Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng).

The [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) had 27 [buildings](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-258#desc-eng), 12 of which were wooden (former horse [stables](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-258#desc-eng)) and 15 of which were made of stone. There were up to 1,000 [prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3) in each wooden [building](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-258#desc-eng), and up to 1,500 [prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3) in each stone building. This was in the old [men's](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) camp, which was changed to the [women's](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) later in June, 1943. At the time, [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) were sent to [Camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) D, Bauabschnitt II ([B II](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) d). Until March 1943, the Blockälteste of block 15 was the [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) priest Vladyk. He was followed by the [French](http://www.geonames.org/3017382/republic-of-france.html) Jew Leon Cimbler, nicknamed the boxer, who killed up to 50 Jews a day. The Blockälteste of block 21 was the [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) officer Januš Pokřivnický, who sadistically beat and tortured the [prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3) of his block.

The Blockälteste of block 5 was a [German](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-431#desc-eng) named Albert Hammerle, who tortured and [killed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) many Jews every day. [French](http://www.geonames.org/3017382/republic-of-france.html) Jew Schaffmann carried out acts of equal cruelty in block 27. The [French](http://www.geonames.org/3017382/republic-of-france.html) Jew Pinkus was in block 22, where members of the new [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) were sent. He greeted newcomers by striking them with a cane, hammer, and an iron strap. He tried to [kill](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) as many as he could and also took from them what money, gold, and valuables they had left. He greeted them with the words: “I’ll make sure you’ll live for only 1 or 2 hours, you Hurensöhne.” The head of the sauna until March 43 was a [Pole](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) named Štefan, who was a dangerous sadist, especially towards the Jews. Other dangerous sadists were the [Germans](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-431#desc-eng) Alois and Martin, a certain Stefan – a Volksdeutscher from [Poland](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-427#desc-eng) ‒ Schilfsmeer, the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) [kapo](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-746#desc-eng) Thin, the [kapo](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-746#desc-eng) Chaim Kleinmann from [Plonsk](http://www.geonames.org/3088802/plonsko.html), and head [kapo](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-746#desc-eng) Rudi (a [German](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-431#desc-eng) who was also an executioner) from the More commando.

Camps [B I](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) A and [B I](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) B were [F](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng)[KL](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) ([women's](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) [concentration camps](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng)). The head [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) were, among others: Mandler, Drexler, Greise, Hasse, Brandl, Zarecki, Müller, and the [SS men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) were: Perschel – Arbeitsdienstführer, Teller – Rapportführer, Schluz – Arbeitsdienstführer. Hessler was the Lagerführer. All of them tortured [prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3) in indescribable ways. Schulz once grabbed a [woman](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) who was [working](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) on the road construction by the legs and beat her head with a stone. I, Chaim Schwarzwald, saw this with my own eyes.

[B II A](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). A [Quarantine](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-168#desc-eng) [Camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) for newcomers. [Quarantine](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-168#desc-eng) lasted from 3 weeks to 3 months. It consisted of 16 wooden [buildings](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-258#desc-eng). Sometimes, Dr. [Mengele](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000569), Thilo, and others carried out the [selection](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) process there. Most were sent to the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng), and the rest was transferred to [Camp D](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) or other [camps](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-592#desc-eng). This [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) was put into operation when the [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) from [Sosnowiec](http://www.geonames.org/3085128/sosnowiec.html) and [Bedzin](http://www.geonames.org/3103719/bedzin.html) arrived. At the beginning of August 1943, the people from these [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) received the numbers 132,000 and higher.

[B II A](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-594#desc-eng). The so-called [Czech camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-594#desc-eng) was opened to accommodate the [Theresienstadt transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) in September 1943 with numbers 146,000 and higher. [Men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng), [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng), and [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) were housed together in this [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-594#desc-eng). When these [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived, [selection](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) didn’t take place by the tracks and the arrivals did not have their hair cut. On 8. 3. 1944 during Purim, the entire [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) but for a few exceptions was [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). Later, this [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-594#desc-eng) was changed to an [FKL](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng). At the time, Greise was the Rapportführer there.

[B II C](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). It was opened in June 1944 for the [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) from the [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) from [Hungary](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html) and [Lodz](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-48#desc-eng). The [SS woman](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) Kuk was the Rapportführer. This [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) was liquidated in October 1944. The majority was sent to the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). Only the [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) employed in the weaving mill were spared. [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) [guard](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-60#desc-eng) Hasse [oversaw](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-60#desc-eng) this [selection](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng).

[B III D](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571).

A [labor camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-619#desc-eng) for [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng), 32 blocks. The [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-619#desc-eng) opened in 1943 and was in operation until the [evacuation](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-153#desc-eng) of [Auschwitz](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-43#desc-eng).

[B II E](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). The so-called [Gypsy](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-867) [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) opened in the spring of of 1943. [Gypsies](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-867) from everywhere in Europe were there until 1944. Afterwards, some were put onto [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) and the rest were killed in the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). [Transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) from [Hungary](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html), [Lodz](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-48#desc-eng), and [Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/ehri-ghettos-449) then arrived in the camp. This [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) was in operation until the [evacuation](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-153#desc-eng).

[B II F](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). [Krankenbau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-135#desc-eng) was [supervised](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-60#desc-eng) by the [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) [doctor](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-70#desc-eng) Zengfeller, a mass [murderer](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) and [assistant to the doctors](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-70#desc-eng) during the [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng).

[B II g](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). The so-called Effektenlager and sauna. At the beginning of May 1944, all of the luggage from the people on the latest [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) was brought there. A total of 1,200 [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) and 600 [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) worked in the Effektenlager, which was called [Kanada](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-304#desc-eng). The head of the Effektenlager was Oberstrumführer Krätze, who said that luggage was insignificant, the main thing was the destruction of the Jews. The luggage was sorted by [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) and sent to [Germany](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-220#desc-eng). Also, human hair was disinfected, packed, and sent.

[B III.](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571), so-called Mexico. This [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) opened in May 1944 for [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) from [Hungary](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html), [Lodz](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-48#desc-eng), and [Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/ehri-ghettos-449). Here, too, there were only [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng), at least 90% of whom were sent to the [gas chamber](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) at the beginning of 1944. [Kramer](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000228), [Mengele](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000569), and most of the [doctors](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-70#desc-eng) and [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) [female wardens](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-60#desc-eng) personally took part in this [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng).

The newly arrived generally didn’t know what lay ahead for them. At night, they sometimes saw the glow of the fire and the loading of [dead bodies](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng). Acts of resistance would sometimes occur. There was shooting, but the [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) usually managed to calm them down. They were shown the sauna and told it was a [delousing](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-213#desc-eng) station, and, when their anger subsided, people were led to the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng).

I, Herman Przewoznik, saw with my own eyes a mother with 3 small [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) try to [run away](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-196#desc-eng) at night, horrified at what she’d seen. She came upon Sturmmann Wagner in [Camp D](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). He calmed her down and led her to the [gas chamber](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng).

One night during the arrival of a [transport from Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) in October 1944 the [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) supposedly resisted. We heard a scream and Moll’s voice, shouting: „Quickly get back inside. You’re only going for a bath and then you’ll be out again.“ Then we heard them being hit with canes and dogs barking. During the [selection processes](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) in the [camps](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-593#desc-eng) people knew what was truly happening, but they never resisted.

In 1942, when the [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) weren’t yet in operation, Bunker V was never enough. Once, [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) were thrown into the fire. Some had previously been [killed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng), but some were still alive.

Until March 1943 the [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) took place 2 to 3 times a week in the camp. The [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) was carried out by [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) [doctors](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-70#desc-eng), with the help of a [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) [doctor](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-70#desc-eng) named Dr. Zenkfeller, who was a dangerous anti-semite. During the [roll calls](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-198#desc-eng), the selected had their numbers taken down and they were sent to block 7. Prior to this, they were tattooed with the letter L next to their number. During each [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) 1,500 [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) and 1,500 [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were selected to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). Then, from March until [Yom Kippur](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-217#desc-eng) 1943, the [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) didn’t occur. At that time, the [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) from [Camp B I a](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) and [B I b](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) were taken to their [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571)’s sauna, and Obersturmführer Roder [selected](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) and ordered 5,500 [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). At the same time, 6,500 [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) from all of the [camps](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-592#desc-eng) that were part of [Auschwitz](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-43#desc-eng) were selected to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng)[.](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) These 12,000 [Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) were led to the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) at the same time as the Kol Nidre was being sung. Naked [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) and [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were led to the [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) to the sound of the Kol Nidre and Hatikvah being sung. Afterwards, only smaller [selection processes](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) resumed, until the day of 1.1.1944, when Drs. [Mengele](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000569) and Thilo conducted a large [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) in the [men's](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) and [women's](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). This was repeated on 19.1.1944. After these [selection processes](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng), only about 800 [Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) remained in the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). On 7. 3. 1944, the September [transport from Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng), numbering 5,000 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng), were [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng).

This is how it happened: On March 7th, the entire [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) was led to Camp [B II a](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). During the evening of March 8th ([Purim](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-221#desc-eng)) at 11 o’clock at night they received refreshment packages and the order to write the date March 27th on [pieces of paper](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-716#desc-eng). They were told that they would be taken to another [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-619#desc-eng) in [Heidebreck](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-211). In order to confuse them, they were first taken to [Auschwitz I](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-43#desc-eng) and from there back to [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571).

During the arrival of the December [transport from Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng), when the people were having their jewelry and gold taken away, an older [woman](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) wanted to keep her wedding ring. Rottenführer Waldemar Bedarf, a Volksdeutscher from [Poland](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-427#desc-eng), violently pulled her ring off and beat her. Bedarf was one of the leading [executioners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) in [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). The [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) that I have just mentioned was taken to Family Camp [B II b](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-594#desc-eng) without going through the [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng). One thousand six hundred and twenty five [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) and about 500 [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) from this [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) were sent to work and the rest were [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) in May 1944, with the exception of roughly 80 [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) aged 10-12, who arrived at [Camp D](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) and later departed on another [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng).

In May 1944, [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) of [Hungarian](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html) [Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) began arriving in [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571), first from [Transylvania](http://www.geonames.org/664661/transilvania.html), and then from Carpatho-Ukraine. Eight to ten [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived every day, each carrying 2,000 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng). [The selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) took place on the ramp. [J. Kramer](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/authorities/ehri-pers-000228) was personally charged with liquidating the [Hungarian](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html) [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng). A total of 800,000 [Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) came from [Hungary](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html), 115,000 of whom were sent to the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571), most of them [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng). After the [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) from [Hungary](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html), in August several [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived from [Lodz](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-48#desc-eng), totaling about 70,000 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng). Roughly 9,000 of them were sent to the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). At about the same time, 7,000 [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) arrived from other [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-427#desc-eng) [labor camps](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-619#desc-eng) and from [Lublin](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-35). A [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived with about 5,000 non-Jewish [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng), among them around 300 young, healthy, Jewish [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) and girls from the [Lublin](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-35) [labor camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-619#desc-eng). These [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were sent to the [quarantine](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-168#desc-eng) [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571), and 3 days later were sent from there to the [crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). They fought back, but were quickly subdued. They then asked to be given more [gas](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng), and their wish was granted. It’s unclear why these young, fit to [work](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng).

Before the arrival of the [Hungarian](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html) [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng), a [transport from Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) arrived in the [Czech family camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-594#desc-eng) in May 1944, again without going through the [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng). Later, those able to [work](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) were sent away.

In the fall of 1944, many [transports from Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) arrived, totalling 20,000 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng). These [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) weren’t sent to the [family camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-594#desc-eng) like the previous ones from [Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/ehri-ghettos-449), but went through the [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) on the ramp. The number of the [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) [selected](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng) is unknown, but it can be assumed that no more than 25% of the individual [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) were sent to the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). On January 24th, 1945, a sauna was to be prepared for the rest of the [inhabitants](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) from [Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/ehri-ghettos-449). Since all of the [mothers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) who had their [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) with them from the [Theresienstadt transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) – like all the others – were [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng), sometimes the [mothers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) were advised to give their [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) to older [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng). There were even cases of [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) being violently torn away from their [mothers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng). Only rarely did a [mother](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) know what awaited her and still handed over her [child](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng). There were some cases of [children](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-273#desc-eng) who were more mature and understood the situation, who stated that they were [orphans](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-282#desc-eng) and thus saved their parents.

If a smaller [transport](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) – under 50 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) – arrived, its occupants weren’t taken to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng), but were [killed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) with a shot to the back of the head. This was done with a nail gun and then the [corpses](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) were burned. This was also done in the [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng). These executions were often carried out by [SS men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng): Moll and a certain Unterschaarführer nicknamed Mojše Borek. [People](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) who were sentenced to [death](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) were led to their [executions](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-179#desc-eng) individually by a special commando of 12 [prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) called shooters. The [corpses](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) were then dragged away, and so the next people in line didn’t know what was happening, although blood could be seen.

After the [transports from Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng) came the [transports from Slovakia](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-865#desc-eng), roughly 10,000 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng). They were put through the usual [selection process](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-145#desc-eng).

On December 10th, 1944, [Crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I and II and Bunker V began to be torn down. The whole [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) was mobilized and made to perform this [work](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) under the supervision of several [SS men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng). After this date, only very small [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) arrived. [Gassing](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) stopped altogether. The [crematoria](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) were blown up on January 7th, 1945, several hours before the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) was [evacuated](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-153#desc-eng) . [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) IV remained standing.

During this whole time, smaller and larger [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) continued to arrive from all over Europe. Once, 3 Jews from [Tunisia](http://www.geonames.org/2464461/republic-of-tunisia.html), [Corfu](http://www.geonames.org/2463678/corfu.html), and [Rhodes](http://www.geonames.org/400665/rhodes.html), and a Jewish [American](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-7#desc-eng) navy soldier arrived by airplane. Later, they were [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) with a group of [pregnant](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-140#desc-eng) [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng). During [Passover](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-218#desc-eng) 43, 2 [Rabbis](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-628#desc-eng) who had privileged positions arrived from [Thessaloniki](http://www.geonames.org/734077/thessaloniki.html). They were allowed to keep their clothes, their hair and beards weren’t cut, they didn’t have to [work](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng), they were often photographed, and had to write a [letter](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-716#desc-eng) stating that they were treated well and that they were performing their religious functions. This comedy didn’t last long. They were sent to the [gas chambers](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). In the fall of 1944, twins, midgets, and people with other physical disabilities were selected from the [Hungarian](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html), [Theresienstadt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-267#desc-eng), and [Slovak transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-865#desc-eng) and sent to the [Krankenbau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-135#desc-eng) in order to be [experimented](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-131#desc-eng) upon.

From 1942 to 1944, the Lagerführers in [Birkenau](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) were: Obersturmführer Schwarzhuber, who was replaced for a short time by Obersturmführer Thumann, then Obersturmführer Krause. Of the Lagerältestes from [B I a](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) and [B I b](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571), we mention additionally the [Polish woman](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) Stenia (currently a defendant in the [Lüneburg](http://www.geonames.org/2875115/lueneburg.html) [trial](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-739#desc-eng)) and the [Slovak woman](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-445#desc-eng) Ila Klein from [Bardejov](http://www.geonames.org/725168/bardejov.html), both of whom are responsible for the deaths of a countless number of [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng).

The [underground movement](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng) in the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) began in May 1943 in the sauna in the old [men's](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). One [Polish Jew](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-866#desc-eng) (Fuchs) and 2 [Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) from [France](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-old-19) (Stein and Handelsmann) first agreed to mutually help [illegal](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-199#desc-eng) workers. Those who [worked](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) in the so-called better commandos agreed to help their comrades. The [movement](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-199#desc-eng) did not have a clear ideology. It was an [underground liberation movement](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng). The [organization](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng) could exist because at the time people could move around the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) with greater freedom than before ([prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) could meet after [work](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng), the [death](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) penalty was banned, etc.) Their [membership](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng) was small because they only accepted [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) who were known to have performed [illegal work](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-199#desc-eng) before arriving in the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571). Later, the [organization](http://v) also contained [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng), mainly [French](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-old-19) and [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-427#desc-eng). In terms of nationality, its members were mainly [Polish](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-866#desc-eng) and [French](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-old-19) [Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng), there were also several [Czech Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-279#desc-eng), several [Jewish women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng), and one [German](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-431#desc-eng) who was not a Jew. When the [Hungarian](http://www.geonames.org/719819/hungary.html) [transports](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-142#desc-eng) began to arrive, [gassing](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng) was supposed to cease and so we decided to procure explosives and weapons. The [women](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-271#desc-eng) who [worked](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-170#desc-eng) in the Union commando, [Auschwitz I](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-43#desc-eng) (a munitions factory), acquired dynamite in small doses. The dynamite was used to make small handmade grenades in [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I. With the help of [Russian](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-442#desc-eng) [prisoners](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng), we managed to acquire 4 revolvers. One [Belgian](http://www.geonames.org/2802361/kingdom-of-belgium.html) [Jew](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) got a machine gun with the help of the [Russians](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-442#desc-eng). The committee that orchestrated the [uprising](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng) was composed of Alexandre Lazar ([France](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-jmp-old-19)) and two [Polish Jews](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-866#desc-eng), David and Minko, who fought in the [Spanish](http://www.geonames.org/2510769/kingdom-of-spain.html) Civil War. To establish contact with the outside world, the [Pole](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-435#desc-eng) Kostek was sent to the join the [partisans](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-582#desc-eng) in the area. We soon received an order from the outside that we shouldn’t start anything without outside help. Nevertheless, we continued [organizing](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng) and creating [cells](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng). The [movement](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng) was rather strong at the time. For example, in the Effektenlager 110 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) were part of the [movement](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng). We were never betrayed. We got in touch with the [Russians](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-442#desc-eng) and began planning an [uprising](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng). But the [Russians](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-442#desc-eng) were also of the opinion that we shouldn’t prepare anything more without help from the outside. On 7. 10. 1944, at 1 in the afternoon, 300 [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) from the [special commando](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-173#desc-eng) were to be [gassed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-698#desc-eng). They attacked [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) III, threw dynamite grenades into the fire, and [crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) III caught fire was reduced to ashes. The [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng), headed by [Hauptsturmführer](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) Hahn, who was personally armed with a rifle, arrived at the scene. They [killed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) 378 [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng). Half an hour later, the [Sonderkommando](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-173#desc-eng) of [Crematorium](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-177#desc-eng) I [killed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) the head [capo](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-746#desc-eng) and threw him into the fire. Then, they cut the wires, shouted: „the [Russians](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-442#desc-eng) are here!“ and ran. The [SS](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-349#desc-eng) surrounded the area and all of them were [shot](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng). All in all, 455 [men](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-272#desc-eng) were [killed](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-175#desc-eng) that day. The whole [uprising](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-806#desc-eng) was spearheaded by a [special commando](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-173#desc-eng), but the [illegal](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-199#desc-eng) organization didn’t participate in it because it didn’t get an order from the outside.

On January 17th, 1945, the [camp](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) was finally liquidated. At the time, it still had 6,000 [people](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-3#desc-eng) in it. On January 18th, it was completely liquidated. Only the [sick](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-terms-keyword-jmp-105#desc-eng) from [Camp B II f](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-1571) remained.

DrRobert Weinberger

Statement written up by: Dr. Robert Weinberger and Dr. Erich Nasch during his visit to [Zeisheim](http://www.geonames.org/2804979/zeilsheim.html) near [Frankfurt](https://portal.ehri-project.eu/keywords/terezin-places-place-iti-3388).