

Holocaust Pyres - Hiding Evidence or Smelting Gold?

It appears to have been assumed by many historians of the Nazi holocaust that the single reason why hundreds of thousands of corpses of victims of the holocaust were exhumed from their mass graves and burnt in huge cremation pyres during the course of the Second World War is that the perpetrators of the holocaust had become worried about the consequences of their crime being discovered and had therefore decided to try and eliminate, or "hide", all evidence of it.

The following account confirms this view.

"The SS Panic to hide their nefarious deeds

When the Germans realized that their war was not quite going according to plan, they began to contemplate the possible aftermath of their genocidal policies. On April 30, 1942, District Commissars throughout the occupied territories received instructions requesting them to immediately submit details of all mass graves in their district to the RSHA in Berlin."

from:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/belzec1/bel100.html>

However, is it not possible that a more significant reason for the instigation of this action was that the Nazi SS had come to believe that a considerable quantity of material wealth may have been buried in the mass graves along with the bodies in the form of gold dental restorations?

There are many verified accounts of large quantities of dental gold being stolen from holocaust victims murdered and cremated in death camps.

Is it possible that the true amount of dental gold passing through the death camps only became apparent after the purpose-designed crematoria were built and put into operation? (Gold melts at around one thousand degrees Celsius. It would not have evaporated or turned to ash in the crematoria.)

And is it possible that only then did the SS begin to contemplate the value of the dental gold that may have been buried in the mass graves that were utilised during the early part of the holocaust before the more efficient killing procedures of the death camps had been established?

(A couple of years ago whilst I was researching this subject on the internet I found an article by a serious holocaust commentator stating words to the effect that whatever the initial reasons were which had led the Nazis to embark upon the holocaust, its course and principal motivation appear to have eventually developed into providing the most effective system of accumulating what has since become known as "victim gold". I have been unable to relocate this source, and I would be grateful if anyone who knows of it could direct me to it.)

The following is from an article describing events in the occupied Soviet Union:

"34 mass graves (some up to 50 m long) in Blagovshchina forest were opened, a number of which contained as many as 5,000 corpses. After the cremation of around 100,000 corpses was completed, a team of Soviet POWs were made to sift the ashes in search of gold. The ashes were used as fertilizer for the camp fields."

see:

<http://www.deathcamps.org/occupation/maly%20trostinec.html>

So it appears that gold was routinely searched for in these operations.

Is there any evidence to indicate that the construction of the pyres was designed to facilitate the reclamation of gold from the victims' teeth?

Does anyone know if any attempt has ever been made to determine an accurate estimate of how much of it would have been found?

Did any such exhumations ever take place before any serious threat of defeat, or being brought to account, would have been apparent to the Nazis?

And is there any direct documentary evidence that one Nazi said to another, "we must do this in order to hide the evidence of our crime"?

Keith P Walsh

PS, related questions may be found by searching Google Groups for:

Holocaust Dental Gold Underestimated?

Holocaust Dental Gold: 20 Pounds per Crema per Day

Holocaust Dental Gold: Questions Unanswered

Holocaust Dental Gold: Eyewitness Testimony

Holocaust Dental Gold: The Fast Track to the Gas Chamber

<http://www.bookbootusers.co.uk/underestimated.htm>

Written 1 September 2006

Uploaded in PDF format with corrections – May 2014