

HUMAN SOAP

PRODUCED BY

NAZIS

Adapted from

Wikipedia
The Free Encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soap_made_from_human_corpses

Compiled and edited by

Campbell M Gold

(2010)

CMG Archives

<http://campbellmgold.com>

--()--

Human Soap Production at the Danzig Anatomical Institute during World War II

During the Nuremberg Trials, Sigmund Mazur, a laboratory assistant at the Danzig Anatomical Institute, testified that soap had been made from corpse fat at the camp, and claimed that 70 to 80 kg of fat collected from 40 bodies could produce more than 25 kg of soap, and that the finished soap was retained by Professor Rudolf Spanner. Eyewitnesses included British POWs who were part of the forced labor that constructed the camp, and Dr. Stanisław Byczkowski, head of the Department of Toxicology at the Gdańsk School of Medicine. Holocaust survivor Thomas Blatt, who investigated the subject, found little concrete documentation and no evidence of mass production of soap from human fat, but concluded that there was evidence of experimental soap making.^[13] Danzig was the German name of the now-Polish city of Gdańsk.

The recipe given by Mazur read, *"5 kilos of human fat are mixed with 10 liters of water and 500 or 1,000 grams of caustic soda. All this is boiled 2 or 3 hours and then cooled. The soap floats to the surface while the water and other sediment remain at the bottom. A bit of salt and soda is added to this mixture. Then fresh water is added and the mixture again boiled 2 or 3 hours. After having cooled, the soap is poured into molds."*^[14]

Testimony was given both by Nazis and by British prisoners of war about the development of an industrial process for producing soap from human bodies, the production of such soap on a small-scale basis, and the actual use of this soap by Nazi personnel at the *Danzig Anatomic Institute*.^{[15][16][17]}

Evidence does exist of small-scale soap production, possibly experimental, in the camp at Stutthof concentration camp near Danzig/Gdansk.^[18]

Holocaust historian Robert Melvin Spector concludes that the Nazis "did indeed use human fat for the making of soap at Stutthof," albeit in limited quantity.^[19]

In his book "Russia at War 1941 to 1945", Alexander Werth reported that while visiting Gdansk/Danzig in 1945 shortly after its liberation by the Red Army, he saw an experimental factory outside the city for making soap from human corpses. According to Werth, it had been run by "a

German professor called Spanner" and "was a nightmarish sight, with its vats full of human heads and torsos pickled in some liquid, and its pails full of a flakey substance - human soap".^[20]

Joachim Neander, in a German paper presented at the 28th conference of the German Studies Association, cites the following quote by Heinrich Himmler from a November 20th, 1942 letter of to the head of the Gestapo, Heinrich Müller. Himmler had written to Müller due to an exposé by Rabbi Dr. Stephen Wise, which mentioned the soap rumor and had been printed in the New York Times:

"You have guaranteed me that at every site the corpses of these deceased Jews are either burned or buried, and that at no site anything else can happen with the corpses."

Müller was to make inquires if "abuse" had happened somewhere and report this to Himmler "on SS oath"; Himmler hence did not from the outset exclude the possibility that such had taken place. Neander goes on to state that the letter represents circumstantial evidence that it was Nazi policy to abstain from processing corpses due to their known desire to keep their mass murder as secret as possible.^[21]

In 2006 a sample of the soap archived at the International Court of Justice in The Hague was given to Professor Andrzej Stołyhwo for analysis. Professor Stołyhwo is an expert in the chemistry of fats from the Gdansk University of Technology near Warsaw, Poland. He concluded that some of the fat in the sample tested was of human origin.^[22]



The photograph above shows the soap that was presented to the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal (IMT).

--()--

Notes

[13] Shermer, Michael; Alex Grobman, Arthur Hertzberg (2002). *Denying History: Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and why Do They Say It?*. University of California Press. pp.115–116. ISBN 0520234693.

[14] Some still deny the Holocaust, some simply refuse to listen, Stand-up comedy, targeted seriousness contemplate 'how one survives surviving,' The Villager, Jerry Tallmer, Volume 79, Number 5 | July 8 - 14, 2009, http://www.thevillager.com/villager_323/somestilldeny.html

[15] Justice at Nuremberg, Robert E. Conot, Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1984, pp. 298-9

[16] Nuremberg Trial Proceedings Vol. 7, SIXTY-SECOND DAY, 19 February 1946, Morning Session <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/02-19-46.asp>

[17] Hitler's death camps: the sanity of madness, Konnilyn G. Feig, Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1981, pp. 200. ff.

[18] Denying history: who says the Holocaust never happened and why do they say it? Michael Shermer, Alex Grobman, University of California Press, 2002, *The Human Soap Controversy*, pp. 114- 117

[19] World without civilization: mass murder and the Holocaust, history and analysis, Robert Melvin Spector, University Press of America, 2004, p. 392.

[20] Werth, Alexander (1964). *Russia at War, 1941-1945*. Dutton. p. 1019.

[21] Joachim Neander: „Seife aus Judenfett“, paper presented at the Oct. 2004 German Studies Association conference.

<http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/dachau/legends/NeanderSoap049.htm>

[22] Human Fat Was Used to Produce Soap in Gdansk during the War

http://en.auschwitz.org.pl/m/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=55&Itemid=8

--()--

TESTIMONY OF SIGMUND MAZUR
Before the International Military Tribunal in Nurnberg,
Case of Danzig Anatomical Institute

Adapted from

Wikipedia
The Free Encyclopedia

(19 February
1946)http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Testimony_of_Sigmund_Mazur_before_the_International_Military_Tribunal_in_Nuremberg_in_the_case_of_Danzig_Anatomical_Institute

Compiled and edited by

Campbell M Gold

(2010)

CMG Archives

<http://campbellmgold.com>

--()--

The prosecutor: The experiments of the Anatomical Institute in the production the soap from the corpses and tanning of human skin for industrial purposes were conducted on a wide scale. I submit a document[...] to the tribunal, which consists of the testimony of Sigmund Mazur, one of the direct participants of the production of soap from the human fat, he was helper-laboratory assistant at the Danzig Anatomical institute.[...]

"The question: Please tell us how soap was produced from the human fat at the Danzig Anatomical institute?

The answer: In summer of 1943 in the yard of the Anatomical institute a two-storey stone building containing three chambers was built. This building was designed for the purpose of utilizing corpses and cooking the bones, as the professor Spanner officially declared. The laboratory was defined as the institution of taking down skeletons, burning meat and superfluous bones, but in the winter 1943-1944 he the year of the Prof Spanner instructed us to collect the human fat which was not to be thrown away any more. This order was given to Reichert and Borkmann.

Prof Spanner gave me the recipe for the production of soap from the human fat in February 1944. According to this recipe 5 kg of the human fat appertained to be mixed with 10 the liters of water and 500 to 1000 grams of the caustic soda. This mixture was cooked for two up to three hours, then it was allowed to cool. Then the soap rose to the surface, while water and settlings were under it. To this mixture a pinch of salt and soda was added and it was cooked again for two up to three hours. After cooling the soap was poured into a mould.

The prosecutor: I will present to the tribunal these moulds, in which the soap congealed, and half finished samples of soap from the human fat, found in Gdańsk. I quote farther:

"The soap had a very unpleasant scent: the Bilzo formula was added to remove it. [...]

Borkmann and Reichert picked the fat from human corpses, and I cooked soap from the bodies of men and women. The process itself of cooking occupied from three to seven days. During production in which I personally participated, more than 25 kg of soap was produced; on this about 70 to 80 kg of

human fat was used, gathered from about four hundred corpses. We gave back ready soap to prof Spanner who kept them.

The case of producing soap from corpses was a matter of concern, as far as I know, to the Nazi government. We had at the Anatomical institute inspections of the minister of education Rust, the minister of health dr. Conti, the gauleiter of Danzig Albert Forster, the professors of medical institutes also visited the institute.

I took 4 kg of this soap for washing and cleaning clothes. [...]Reichert, Borkmann, von Barga and our boss, Prof Spanner, they also used this soap. [...]

Just like with human fat prof Spanner instructed us to collect the human skin which after cleaning from the fat was subjected the working of some chemical substances. Works connected with human skin were led under the direction of the older assistant von Barga and Prof. Spanner himself. Finished skins were packed in chests and used for purposes unknown to me."^[1]

--()--

Notes

[1] Protocol of the trial before International Military Tribunal in Nurnberg from the day 19 February 1946: Tadeusz Cyprian, Jerzy Sawicki "People and the matters of Nurnberg", Publishing house Poznańskie, Poznan, 1967, s. 239-240. Translated from Polish wikisource article

End

--()--

<http://campbellmgold.com>

05072010