

BRONISLAW ZBIGNIEW BULKOWSKI, circa 1929-2005
2018.555.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Appendix A. Partial translation of diary (folder 3 of 6)

The following translation is housed in the donor files of the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum.
The translator is unidentified.

Translations of diary entries.
(As of 15 Nov 2017, 10am)

Bronistaw Zbigniew "Bruce" Butkowski.
Born 11 July 1920, [Ostrowiec horodenski](#).

31 January 1942 - 11 May 1946.

1. 31 Jan 1942. Farewells at Mr. and Mrs. Luba's home. 915am.
2. 1 Feb 1942. Last farewells at the station. Arrival to [Kotomyja](#). Nighttime in the corridor--its cold--black coffee--we head to [Przemysl](#).
3. 2 Feb. Loading onto the wagons. In a car without seats, about 80-100 people.
4. 3 Feb. [Przemysl](#). The bathhouse. The camp. Black coffee. They play "[Serenada wtoocz gi](#)" on the Pathefon.
 - a. [Written by Hal Hallifax and Melle Weersma, this is a 1930s tango released in released in Polish as "The Vagabond's Serenade," and in English-lyrics as "[Penny Serenade](#)." Pathefon is a player similar to a gramophone.]
5. 4 Feb. Morning incentive: evening in the hall there were about 400 people, packed like sardines. On 5 straw mattresses we slept 10 people, including 4 young ladies.
6. 5 Feb. Morning on our feet from the start [od natarcia].
7. 6 Feb. Tadeusz L goes to the hospital: congested, fever, and a cough. 9 o'clock in the evening we go for lunch.
8. 7 Feb. Transfer to a new room. The guys are hit in the face.
9. 8 Feb. At night another set of beatings. A German broke a large stick beating the guys.
10. 10 Feb. Tadeusz Luba returns from the hospital.
11. 10 Feb. I sleep on the stove because there is no space on the floor.
12. 11 Feb. 5:45 am. We leave for [Krakow](#), no transfers. Krakow, [Katowice](#), etc., etc., all the way to Berlin.
13. 13 Feb. In Berlin, the bathhouse, hot soup and once again on the trains.
14. 14 Feb. We arrive to [Altona](#).
15. 15 Feb. Morning on our feet, and the finger on my left hand swells so badly that at night I cannot sleep. I don't go to work, but help in the kitchen.
16. 25 Feb. For lunch we have potatoes cooked in their skins.
17. 27 Feb. I went to the doctor.
18. 28 Feb. Now the second finger begins to swell. A new group of 35 workers arrives.
19. 1 March 1942. In clothes and jacket I weigh 63 kilos (140 pounds)
20. 8 Mar. We can hear the artillery fire. Bombings in Dortmund. During the day there are air raids and alarms.
21. 14 Mar. Three guys escape.
22. 13 June 1942. The meal is radishes, but more like radish leaves.
23. 15 Jun. Left index finger is starting to swell.
24. 24 Jun. Someone stole 1.5 kg of tobacco from Tadeusz L.
25. 3 July. A train killed a worker. He is survived by a wife and 3 children.

26. 5 July. One of the workers is left crippled by a train, another partially.
27. 8 Aug. Train catastrophe at our station. An engine and ten cars went off the tracks. We work all day and all night.
28. 16 Aug. We leave for Siegen. We dig a tunnel 2651km in length. We work through the night from 10.10 till 5 in the morning. I serve as the translator, therefore I'm not laboring.
29. 20 Aug. For a 1.5 kg loaf of bread they charge us 30-40 reichsmarks, when the same bread in the stores would go for 0.60 rm.
30. 7 Sept. First time in Germany, a "vehicle" comes at 9.30 in the evening.
31. 10 Sept. We finish making the tunnel in one direction, and now we begin on the second track.
32. 14 Sept. Tadeusz L. had an accident. While working on the electrical lamp, the electricity got him, but he is fortunate, the electric was unplugged and about the whole accident everyone talked all night long.
33. 16 Sept. Frequent air raid sirens, three or four times a day.
34. 17 Sept. We have 2000m till the end of the tunnel.
35. 28 Sept. We are transferred to the barracks.
36. 5 Oct. Bombing of Siegen at 12:30, no casualties.
37. From 5 Oct. to 20 Nov. The train killed one of our workers. We finished the work in the tunnel and we began to work in Blirchammer, a station about 30 km from Siegean (one hour ride by XXX). We get up at 4 in the morning, depart at 6, and work starts at 8 am. We return to the barracks at 8 in the evening. Clocks from 1 Nov are wound back 1 hour. One of my pals is released from the hospital to a recuperating house for his lungs. Someone stole my shirt.
38. 22 Nov. News about the taking our people to Sniatyn. I started playing cards (21) at 5 in the afternoon on Sunday and played till 4 in the morning on Monday. I won 250 RM. On Monday I didn't go to work.
39. 15 Dec. We receive half our lunch and dinner, because we were once one and now we are two. We finish work at 4 and are in our barracks at 4.45.
40. 24 Dec. Christmas Eve. For the entire holiday we receive 2 loaves of bread, cheese, butter, margarine, candies, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a bottle of vodka, kielbasa, pasztet6wka [liverwurst] (naturally just a small piece), a pack of tobacco and 20 cigarettes. For lunch, potatoes with gravy. Through the whole holiday I am fed like a bull [American: stuffed like a turkey].
41. 28 Dec. The first snow. Work is simply sweeping, tossing, and removing snow.
42. 1 Jan 1943. New Year.
43. 2 Jan 1943. I won 110 RM. I eat bread which is cheaper after the holidays--20 RM.
44. 3 Jan 1943. I spend the day with the Soviets in their barracks.
45. 13 Jan. It has warmed up, there is wind and rain.
46. 19 Jan. Almost every day there are air raid sirens.

"Part III." Frequent air raid sirens. Bombs "eat"--almost one entire street is gone.

47. 15 Mar. I ride from one station to another on the bumper of the last car.

48. 25 Mar. I am riding a freight train and at full speed I have to jump out of it. Luckily, I only scraped some skin of my hands.
49. 7 May. I got acquainted with a Soviet lady; named Zina?
50. 8 May. Like before. I return home at 11 at night, rain, I enter the barracks soaking wet, but was it worth it?
51. 9 May. I bought an accordion for 100 RM.
52. 14 May. I've spent the entire month building a new barrack. There are supposed to be 80 Soviet POWs brought there.
53. 22 May. Zina has been replaced, Sourka now has her place. Green Week-Pentecost. Just like on Monday, I ate such a dinner I didn't eat again till Tuesday.
54. 20 June. Celina -we work under the tunnel--block W.S.
55. June. One of the workers is crippled by a train. They take him with Tadeusz to the hospital.
56. July. Inspection of provisions requires the registration of camp residents with the Kreisoppman .. [Kreishauptmannschaft -- the District Administration of County Authorities]
57. 21 July. Someone stole 80 RM from Tadeusz L.
58. 27 July. Tadeusz L got hurt in the hand.
59. 27 July. 2. 1.5 days, that is 32 hours.eight times the air ride sirens. Mussolini resigned, Marshal Badoglio. Amongst the Germans it is an awful ~~XXXX~~ and they are resigned. They don't believe they will win.
60. 1 Aug 43.