

Proces Rudolfa Hoessa (Sygn. GK 196), 1946-1947

Trial Against Rudolf Franz Ferdinand Höss

RG-15.167M

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archive
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
Email: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive Summary

Title: Proces Rudolfa Hoessa (Sygn. 196) : Trial Against Rudolf Franz Ferdinand Höss

Dates: 1946-1947

RG Number: RG-15.167M

Accession Number: 1998.A.0243

Creator: Poland. Najwyższy Trybunał Narodowy

Extent: 7 microfilm reels (35 mm)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archive, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Languages: Polish and German

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Researchers must complete and sign a User Declaration form before access is granted to materials from the Institute of National Remembrance (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej).

Restrictions on reproduction and use:

1. Each researcher using the materials obtained from the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) or materials whose originals belong to the IPN must complete the registration procedure required by USHMM.
2. Publication or reproduction of documents (in the original language, in facsimile form or in the form of a translation of an excerpt or of the entire document) or making them available to a third party in any form requires the written consent of the Institute of National Remembrance.

- The use of an excerpt defined as the fair use right to quote does not require obtaining consent.
3. Researchers assume all responsibility for the use of materials that belong to the Institute of National Remembrance.
 4. References to documents that belong to the Institute of National Remembrance must cite the Institute of National Remembrance as the owner of the original documents and include the full reference citation of the Institute of National Remembrance in the citations.

Preferred bibliographic citation: Group reference, group name, extreme dates, archive name. The owner of the original documents (IPN, ref. XXXXX)

Preferred footnote/endnote citation: Archive name, group reference, group name, extreme dates, information identifying the documents (original documents' reference; IPN, ref. XXXXX)

Acquisition Information: Purchased from the Instytut Pamięci Narodowej-Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Poland. Forms part of the Claims Conference International Holocaust Documentation Archive at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This archive consists of documentation whose reproduction and/or acquisition was made possible with funding from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see the Archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Custodial History

Existence and location of originals:

The original files and the copyright to them are held by the Institute of National Remembrance - Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation (Institute of National Remembrance), ul. Wotoska 7, Warsaw 02-675, Poland. Phone no. + 48 22 581 85 00.

More information about this collection and other materials in the possession of the Institute of National Remembrance, including archival finding aids from the Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance, is available at their website: <https://ipn.gov.pl>

Processing History: Aleksandra B. Borecka

Related Materials

Testimony of Rudolf Höß at the Nuremberg Trials, available online at <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/nuremberg/hoesstest.html>
Höss, Rudolf. Commandant of Auschwitz: The Autobiography of Rudolf Hoess. (Constantine FitzGibbon, trans.) London: Phoenix Press, 2000.

Biographical Note

The Supreme National Tribunal (Najwyższy Trybunał Narodowy, NTN) was a war crime tribunal active in Poland from 1946 to 1948. The Tribunal aims and purpose were defined by the State National Council in the Decrees of 22 January and 17 October 1946 and 11 April 1947. The new law was based on the earlier Decree of 31 August 1944 (Sierpniówka) issued by the new Polish pro-Soviet government, with jurisdiction over fascist-hitlerite criminals and traitors to the Polish nation. The tribunal presided over seven high-profile cases (Total of 49 individuals).

The Institute of National Remembrance-Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation (IPN) was established by the Polish Parliament on December 18, 1998 with a special bill. The Institute is headed by the President whose post is independent of the state authorities. The President of the IPN is elected for a five-year term. The Institute started its activities on July 1, 2000. The headquarters of the Institute of National Remembrance is located in Warsaw. There are also eleven Branch Offices of the IPN, established in the cities where Appellate Courts are located, and seven Delegations throughout Poland. The IPN is responsible for gathering, assessing, disclosing and custody of the documentation created between July 22, 1944 and December 31, 1989 by Polish security agencies. The documentation would also include records regarding the Communist, Nazi and other crimes committed against Polish citizens in the period from September 1, 1939 to December 31, 1989, as well as political repressions carried out by officials of the former Polish investigative and justice organs in that time. The documentation concerning the activities of the security organs is also the subject of interest of the IPN. Another major responsibility of the Institute is to investigate Communist and Nazi crimes as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity and peace. The IPN investigates crimes against people of Polish origin, as well as Polish citizens of other origin and other citizens who were harmed in the Polish territories. Rudolf Franz Ferdinand Höss (also spelled Höß, sometimes spelled in English as Hoess; 25 November 1900[1] – 16 April 1947) was an SS-Obersturmbannführer (Lieutenant Colonel) and from 4 May 1940 to November 1943 was the first commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp, where it is estimated that more than a million people were murdered. Joining the Nazi Party in 1922, Höss joined the SS in 1934 and became a camp commander in May 1940. He was hanged in 1947 following his trial at Warsaw.

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains investigation materials, evidence, and court documents relating to the trial of Rudolf Hoess (Höss). Includes Nazi guidebook for camp personnel on how to handle prisoners, medical histories of Polish prisoners, photographs, charts, maps and plans of Auschwitz concentration camp, SS personnel documents, testimonies by French and Hungarian physicians, Polish poetry from camp, memoirs written by Polish survivors, copies of Polish and German books on the camp and German war crimes, and statements by Hoess and Adolph Eichmann.

System of Arrangement

Records are arranged in the original order of their acquisition from the source archive. The museum has acquired only selected records from Institute of National Remembrance (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej-Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, or IPN). More information about this collection and other materials in the possession of the Institute of National Remembrance, including archival finding aids from the Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance, is available at the website: <https://ipn.gov.pl>

Arranged by a court case numbers. (Selected files: NTN File 82-115)

Indexing Terms

Höss, Rudolf, 1900-1947--Trials, litigation, etc.
Eichmann, Adolf, 1906-1962--Trials, litigation, etc.
Auschwitz (Concentration camp)
Crimes against humanity--Poland.
War crime trials—Poland—History--20th century.
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities--Investigations.
War victims--Legal status, laws, etc.--Poland.
Poland -- History -- World War, 1939-1945 -- Trials, litigation, etc.
Poland -- History -- Occupation, 1939-1945.
Photographs.
Testimonies.
Maps.
Poems.

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Volume	Description
1	NTN 82 Volume 1	Hearing on Rudolf Hoess, Krakow, 13 April 1945. 189pp. Evidentiary materials. -Polish legal citations as basis for trial -Hearing records -Polish poetry -Testimony
	NTN 83 Volume 2	Hearing record, May-June 1945. 186pp. Evidentiary materials. -Testimony of Polish witnesses. -Copy of brochure, in Polish, by O. Augustyn, "Behind the Barbed Wire of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp." -List of 160 Polish prisoners killed, December 1939.
	NTN 84 Volume 3	Hearing record, June 1945. 210pp. Evidentiary material.
	NTN 85 Volume 4	Hearing record, August 1945. 197pp. Evidentiary material.
	NTN 86 (5) Volume 4, Supplement	Evidentiary material. -Copy of "Falsch-Richtig," Nazi guidebook for camp personnel on how to handle prisoners; pen and ink drawings. 18pp.

	NTN 87 Volume 5	Evidentiary material. 136pp.
2	NTN 88 Volume 6	Evidentiary material. 303pp. -Statistical analysis of medical conditions and prisoners, 1943-1944 -Records on transportation of prisoners
	NTN 89 Volume 7	Evidentiary material. 222pp. -Individual testimonies.
	NTN 90 Volume 8	Evidentiary material. 164pp.
	NTN 91 Volume 9	Evidentiary material. May 1945. 63pp. -Medical testimony, medical histories of Polish prisoners. -List of names of 396 prisoners, p. 11. -Photographs of prisoners.
	NTN 92 Volume 10	Evidentiary materials. 150pp. -Statistics and analysis on daily deaths in camp, 1942.
	NTN 93 Volume 11	Evidentiary material. 153pp. -, SS documents.
3	NTN 94 Volume 12	Evidentiary materials. 224pp. -History of camp. -SS personnel documents, orders, 1943. -Statistics on prisoners, compiled by SS.
	NTN 95 Volume 13	Evidentiary material. 156pp. -Organization of camp, transportation of prisoners, statistics.
	NTN 96 Volume 14	Evidentiary material. 57pp. -Photos and detail on camp.
	NTN 97 Volume 15	Evidentiary material, 1946 trial. 71pp. -Medical evidence, photos.
	NTN 98 Volume 16	Evidentiary material. 214pp. -Reports on Auschwitz camp. -Medical documents. -Memoirs of camp by Polish survivors.
	NTN 99	Evidentiary material, 1946-1947. 172pp.

	Volume 17	-Testimony by French, Hungarian physicians.
	NTN 100 Volume 18	Evidentiary materials. 36pp. -Press reports on trial, 1945-1946 -Polish poetry from camp.
	NTN 101 Supplementary volume 19	Evidentiary material. Unpaginated. -Charts of camp population, organized by job -Construction planning, August 1942-July 1943.
4	NTN 101 Volume 19	Evidentiary material. Unpaginated. -Maps and plans of camp
	Volume 19 Nr. 6	Evidentiary material. Unpaginated. -Maps, charts, camp building details, blueprints, topographical charts, 1944.
	NTN 102 Volume 20	Copies of 14 Polish and German books on the camp and German war crimes, 1946. 191pp. -N. Blumental -Tadeusz Borowski -Krystyn Olszewski -Friedman and Oluj -Internationles Lagerkomitee -Zofia Kossak -Ph. Lueble, S.J. -Pelagia (Barbara) Lewinska -Ludwik Rajewski -Jan Sehn -Seweryna Szmaglewska -N.O. Szternfinkiel -Erwin Weber -Krystyna Zywulska
5	NTN 102 Volume 20, number 9	Evidentiary Materials, 1946-1947. 382pp. -Description of camp, map, sketches, photos. -Copies of books in Polish and German. -Bulletin of the Main Commission to Investigate German Crimes in Poland, in Polish, 316pp. ; . -Seweryna Szmaglewska -Mgr. Natan Oliasz Szternfinkiel -Dr. Erwin Weber (in German) -Dr. Jan Olbrycht

	NTN 103 Volume 21	Evidentiary material. 182pp. -Statement by Hoess
		TRIAL PROTOCOL September 28, 1946 to 11 January 1947, Krakow
		Evidentiary material. 275pp. -Court proceedings. -Biographies and accounts of individual Germans charged. -Statements by Hoess, witnesses. -Statement by Adolph Eichmann, pp. 186-189.
6	NTN 104 Volume 22	Trial records of former members of the Auschwitz Staff. Evidentiary materials, February 1947. 135pp. -Indictment of Hoess, summary of charges, pp. 1-4. -Full statement of charges, pp. 5-98. -Index and list of 48 witnesses, pp. 99-109. -Personnel documents on Hoess. -Outline of trial and witnesses called, pp. 114-116. -Trial protocol from 10 March 1947. -Court documents.
	NTN 105 Volume 23	Evidentiary material. 222pp. -Index -Trial record of days 1 and 2, March 11-12, 1947.
	NTN 106 Volume 24	Trial record of days 3 and 4, March 13-14, 1947. Pp. 1-256.
	NTN 107 Volume 25	Trial record of days 5 and 6, March 15 and 17, 1947. 230pp
	NTN 108 Volume 26	Trial record of days 7 and 8, March 18-19 March 1947. 227pp.
7	NTN 109 Volume 27	Trial record of days 9 and 10, March 20-21 March 1947. 209pp. -Index to evidentiary photos
	NTN 110 Volume 28	Trial record of days 11 and 12, 22 and 24 March 1947. 196pp.
	NTN 111 Volume 29	Trial record of days 13 and 14, 25-26 March 1947. 268pp.
	NTN 112 Volume 30	Trial record of days 15, 16, and 17, March 27, 28, and 29, 1947. 113pp.

NTN 113 Volume 31	Supplementary evidence, 25 March 1947. 113pp.
NTN 114 Volume 32	Verdict, 2 April 1947. 71pp. Details of sentence
NTN 375 or 115 Volume 33	Background material, history of Nazi movement, transcript of Nuremburg trial of 30 September and 1 October 1946. 238pp.