

Proces Alberta Forstera (Sygn.GK 196), 1946-1948

Trial Against Albert Forster

RG-15.168M

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Proces Alberta Forstera (Sygn.GK 196)
(Trial Against Albert Forster)

Dates: 1946-1948

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Administrative Information

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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

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. Albert Maria Forster (July 26, 1902 - February 28, 1952) was a Nazi German politician. Forster was responsible for the expulsion of thousands of Poles to the General Government and to the Stutthof concentration camp. He was also one of those responsible for Mass murders in Piaśnica, where approximately 12,000 Poles and Kashub intelligentsia were killed in 1939-1940.

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains investigation materials, evidence, and court documents relating to the trial of Albert Forster. Includes preliminary hearings and presentation of evidence against Albert Forster, trial protocols, testimonies of Polish legal and medical expert witnesses, German documents on restrictions on Polish language, people, and on germanization of Polish children, personal documents and speeches of Albert Forster, name list of Poles killed by Germans, name list of Poles enrolled in Volksliste, census of 1939 of Gdansk and West Prussia, press clippings, and the actual trial and sentencing of Albert Forster.

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 in two series: 1. NTN evidence books, preliminary hearings and presentation of evidence against Albert Forster (176 through 232/ volumes 1 through 17), Reel 1-11; 2. NTN evidence, the actual trial and sentencing of Albert Forster (books 233 through 238/ volumes 1 through 10), Reel 12-14.

Indexing Terms

Forster, Albert, 1902-1952--Trials, litigation, etc.
Hirschfeld, Otto--Trials, litigation, etc.
Jahnz, Hans--Trials, litigation, etc.
Crimes against humanity--Poland.
War crime trials--Poland--History--20th century.

War criminals--Poland--History--20th century.
 War crimes--Poland--History--20th century.
 Germanization.
 Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Gdańsk.
 Poland--History--World War, 1939-1945--Trials, litigation, etc.
 Poland--History--Occupation, 1939-1945.
 Prussia, West (Poland)
 Gdańsk (Poland)
 Bydgoszcz (Poland)

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	File	Description
1	NTN 176 519 (In two parts.)	Evidentiary materials, 1938-1939. 16pp. -Court administrative documents.
	NTN 176	Evidentiary materials, 1938-1939. -Population and economic statistics on Germans and Poles in Gdansk region, 1938-1939.
	NTN 177	Evidentiary materials, 1938 and 1948. 8pp. -German documents on the German authorities in City of Gdansk.
	NTN 178	Evidentiary materials, 1939-1944. 51pp. -List of names of 787 Polish railroad workers killed by the SS in the city of Gdansk.
	NTN 179	Evidentiary materials, 1939. 124pp. - SS occupation of Bydgoszcz region.
	NTN 180	Evidentiary materials, 1939-1943. 365pp. -Chronicle of German occupation of Bydgoszcz. -Court records, 1947.
	NTN 181	Evidentiary material, 1939. 232pp. -Special German trials of Poles in Bydgoszcz, 1939.
	2	NTN 182

- Evidentiary Materials,
-Hearing protocol, 8 August 1947, Vol. IX, No. 3213.
- NTN 183 Evidentiary materials, 1940. 40pp.
-SA members Otto Hirschfeld and Hans Jahnz, 1940.
- NTN 184 Evidentiary materials, 1940, 55pp.
-Polish murder of a German resident of Solec.
- NTN 185 Evidentiary materials, 1940-1942, 64pp.
-Murder of Michal Kozuszek
-German confiscation of Polish land.
- NTN 186 Evidentiary materials, 1941. 20pp.
-German trial of Pole Pawel Krainski, 1941.
- NTN 187 Evidentiary materials, 1939-1941. 210pp.
-Police and Polish people in Upper Silesia.
- NTN 189 511z Evidentiary material, 1940-1942. 28pp.
-Population survey, December 1-8, 1940, Gdansk and West Prussia;
1941 – 1942.
- NTN 190 Evidentiary Materials, 1939-1941. 40pp.
-Census of 1939.
- NTN 191 Evidentiary Materials, 1940. 59pp.
513z -Results of census in Gdansk.
- 3 NTN 192 Evidentiary materials, 1940-1941. 66pp.
502 a -Evacuation of Poles from Torun and vicinity.

66pp.
- NTN 193 Volume 193
520z Evidentiary materials, 1933-1936. 184pp.
-Nazi policy toward Polish population, Danzig.
- NTN 194 Evidentiary materials, 1939-1942. 67pp.
498 z -German documents on restrictions on Polish language and people.
- NTN 195 Evidentiary Materials, 1940-1941. 16pp.
-Documents on treatment of Poles in Gdansk.
- NTN 196 Evidentiary materials, 1941-1943, 42pp.
-List of Poles enrolled in Volksliste, German program for Poles to sear

- 504 z allegiance to Germany.
- NTN 197 Evidentiary materials, 1940-1944, 217pp.
516 z -Poles signing and refusing to sign Volksliste.
 -German index.
- NTN 199 Evidentiary materials, 1940. 55pp.
493 z -Documents on Volksliste, 1940.
- 4 NTN 200 Evidentiary materials, 1939-1944. 36pp.
 521 z -Documents on Volksliste.
- NTN 201 Evidentiary materials, 1940-1952. 69pp.
 495 z -Documents on Volksliste.
 -Index to papers, 1952.
- NTN 202 Evidentiary materials, 1940-1941. 39pp.
 507 z -Documents on Volksliste.
- NTN 203 Evidentiary materials, 1942-1944. 68pp.
 -Documents on Volksliste.
- NTN 204 Evidentiary materials, 1941-1942. ?? Pp.
 518 z -Meetings and speeches of Albert Forster.
 -Documents on Volksliste.
- NTN 205 Evidentiary materials, 1939-1941. 42pp.
 519z/I -Press clippings and other materials on Albert Forster.
- NTN 205A Evidentiary materials, 1925, 1927-1931, 1940. Unpaginated.
 -Personal documents and speeches of Albert Forster
- 5 NTN 206 Evidentiary materials, 1938-1940. 70pp.
 519 z/II -Newspaper clippings and activities of Albert Forster.
 -Population statistics, German occupied territories.
- NTN 207 Evidentiary materials, 1934-1951. 25pp.
 519 z/III -Albert Forster, 1934-1943.
 -Discussion of evidence, 1951.
- NTN 208 Evidentiary materials, 1939. Unpaginated.
 -Activities of Albert Forster
 -Reports to Berlin from Bydgoszcz.
- NTN 209 Evidentiary materials, 1931, 1935-1939. Unpaginated.
 523z -Press clippings on Forster

	NTN 210 423 z/a	Evidentiary materials, 1941-1943. Unpaginated. -Press clipping on Volksliste. -Court documents, 1948.
	NTN 211 526 z	Evidentiary materials, 1940. 8pp. -German execution of Poles on 23 November 1940.
	NTN 212 5262 (a)	Evidentiary materials, 1940. 9pp. -Police reports.
	NTN 213 512 z	Evidentiary materials, 1942-1944. Pages (??) -German correspondence on Volksliste.
	NTN 214 510 z	Evidentiary materials, 1933-1939. 114pp. -Forester speeches.
	NTN 215 515 z	Evidentiary materials. In shorthand. 13 pp.
	NTN 216	Records on Hearing on Albert Forster. Volume 1: Hearing records on the accused Albert Forster. 1947. Pp. 1-279. -Index of evidence, inventory of documents, outline of trial protocol.
6	NTN 217	Volume 2: Hearing records. Pp. 280-647. -Table of contents.
	NTN 218	Volume 3: Hearing records. Pp. 648-896. -Index
	NTN 219	Volume 4: Hearing records. Pp. 897-1186. -Table of contents.
7	NTN 220	Volume 5: Hearing records. Pp. 1187 - 1505. Evidentiary materials. -Actions of German self-defense troops. -Lists of Poles killed by Germans.
	NTN 221	Volume 6: Hearing records. Pp. 1506-1872. Evidentiary materials. -Table of contents. - Mass graves. -Actions of German self-defense troops. -German personnel records.

- Testimony of Polish legal expert witnesses on charges against Forster.
- NTN 232 Volume 17: Hearing records, pp. 5038-5374.
 Evidentiary materials, 1947-1948.
- Table of contents.
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 - Forster as Gauleiter.
 - Relationship of administrative authority to police organizations.
 - Germanization.
 - Extradition of Forster and other Germans.
 - News clippings.
 - Statement by Forster.
 - Closing statements, January 1948.
- 13 NTN 233 War Crimes Trial of Albert Forster. Trial protocols.
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- Day 1, April 5, 1948, 94pp.
- Legal staff.
 - Indictment.
- Day 2, April 6, 1948, 123pp.
- Witnesses
- Day 3, April 7, 1948, 90pp.
- Witnesses, documents.
- Day 4, April 8, 1948, 91pp.
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- Witnesses, documents.
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- Witnesses.

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		Day 16, April 27, 1949, 178pp. -Witnesses.
		Day 17, April 29, 1948. 1p. -Witnesses.
	NTN 238 609 z/1	April 29, 1948. Verdict and sentence, explanation of case against Forster, 10pp. Death sentence, 8pp. Explanation of sentence, 80pp. Copy of explanation, 80pp. Explanation of sentence, 96pp.