

Proces Hansa Biebowa (Sygn. SOŁódź, 3-5a), 1945-1948 Trial Against Hans Biebow

RG-15.171M

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archive
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Proces Amona Goetha (Sygn. NTN 39-47)
(Proces Amona Goetha)

Dates: 1945-1948

RG Number: RG-15.171M

Accession Number: 1998.A.0249

Extent: 1 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

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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

Biographical Note

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. Hans Biebow (December 18, 1902 – April 24, 1947) was the chief of German Nazi war criminal, administration of the Łódź Ghetto in occupied Poland. Before becoming the overseer of the Ghetto, he was a coffee importer in Bremen. Among the Nazi hierarchy, Biebow was an early exponent of using the Jews as cheap labor rather than killing them, but he readily adapted to the extermination policy. Survivors report his encouraging the last surviving Jews of the Ghetto in the summer of 1944 to board the trains to Auschwitz with a speech that began "My Jews..." and promised them work in the West. Biebow was able to escape into hiding in Germany in 1945 after the unconditional surrender, but was recognized by a survivor of the ghetto and subsequently arrested. After he was extradited by the Allies to Łódź, he stood trial from April 23 to April 30, 1947. He was found guilty on all accounts and executed.

Realted Materials

Jerzy Lewiński. Proces Hansa Biebowa : Zagłada Getta Łódzkiego : Akta i Stenogramy Sądowe. Warszawa: Główna Komisja Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce, 1987. [USHMM Library, KKP44.B54 P76.1987]

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains investigation files, evidence, and court documents relating to the war crimes trial of Hans Biebow. Includes testimonies and name lists of witnesses, documents on Chełmno concentration camp, report on Łódź ghetto, lists of confiscated Jewish jewelry, list of Jewish victims, lists of SS staff, and list of ghetto leaders. Contains also Biebow autobiography, letters and correspondence.

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 chronologically in two series: 1. Evidentiary materials (Testimony of witnesses); 2. Trial protocols and the verdict.

Indexing Terms

Biebow, Hans, 1902-1947--Trials, litigation, etc.

Chełmno (Concentration camp)

War crime trials--Poland--Łódź.

War criminals--Government policy--Poland.

World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities--Poland--Łódź.
Jewish ghettos--Poland--Łódź.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Łódź.
Jews--Persecutions--Poland--Łódź.
Forced labor--Poland--Łódź.

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Description
1	<p>Section One:</p> <p>November 8, 1948: Special Court, Łódź, 1945-1946, court documents, witness statements, on trial of Hans Biebow, chief of Łódź ghetto administration. Pages 1 to 64.</p> <p>Charges against Biebow, for killing 200,000 Jews in Łódź ghetto; response from Biebow. Pages 65 to 66.</p> <p>Witness statements. Pages 67 to 79.</p> <p>Section Two:</p> <p>Documents on Chełmno extermination camp, not dated. Results of investigation into the camp. Pages 1 to 34.</p> <p>Documents, 1947. Page 36.</p> <p>Autobiography of Biebow; his letters on Łódź administration, 1940-1947. Translations from German to Polish. Page 39.</p> <p>Lists of confiscated jewelry. Documents entered as evidence.</p> <p>Lists of Jews and SS-men.</p> <p>Section Three:</p> <p>Folder Syn VII/15/1947, from Łódź Regional Court, 5/III.</p> <p>Indictment, charges against Biebow, March 1, 1947. Pages 1 to 2. List of 25 witnesses, index to testimony, mostly Jewish names. Page 13.</p>

Court documents, 1946. Pages 14 to 8.

Letter from Biebow in prison to Łódź court, 1947. Page 19.

List of 122 ghetto leaders.

List of witnesses, court documents, witness statements, 1946-1947. Handwritten, in Polish. Pages 21 to 125.

Death sentence on Biebow, April 30, 1947. Pages 126 to 127.

Court statement, expanded justification, documents. Pages 128 to 132.

Letter to President Bierut, asking for clemency, 1947; court documents. Pages 139 to 183.

Polish Military Mission in Berlin, documents, 1946-1947. Pages 184 to 185.

US POW documents on Biebow, 1946.

US War Crimes Investigation Team Report on Łódź ghetto, 1940 to 1944; table of contents. Pages 198 to 239.

Names of witnesses; proceedings and findings. Testimony against Biebow; court documents.

NOTE: These documents were not as well organized as others and many were hard to read.