

ALEKSANDER TYDOR

On 21 July 1947 in Kraków, a member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, District Investigative Judge Jan Sehn, acting upon written request of the first prosecutor of the Supreme National Tribunal, this dated 25 April 1947 (file no. NTN 719/47), and in accordance with the provisions of and procedure provided for under the Decree of 10 November 1945 (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland No. 51, item 293), in connection with Article 254, 107 and 115 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interviewed the inmate of the Auschwitz concentration camp named below as a witness, who testified as follows:

Name and surname	Aleksander Tydor
Age	46 years old
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Nationality and citizenship	Polish
Occupation	merchant
Place of residence	Kraków, [...]

As a Polish political prisoner (no. 62061), I stayed in the concentration camp in Auschwitz from July 1942 to 7 March 1943. Upon my arrival in the camp, for about three weeks, I was in quarantine in block 11 of the parent camp. Once the quarantine was over, I was put in block 24. On 7 March 1944 they transferred me from block 24 to Monowitz where I stayed until the liquidation of the camp in January 1945. During my detention in block 11, an SS man by the name of Gehring served as *Blockführer* and *Aufseher* [overseer] of the block's bunkers. He was a tall, blonde man with bright eyes whom I later met in Monowitz. I don't know what his official function in Monowitz was – he probably served as *Rapportführer*. During the final months of the camp's existence he held the rank of *Hauptscharführer*. While in

block 11, he inflicted much torment on prisoners. He would kick them and force them to perform exhausting exercises known as "sport". I saw him throw an old priest down the stairs because the priest wasn't descending fast enough. As far as I can remember the old man fell and broke his hand. My colleague Władysław Piątkowski who resides in Kraków at Miedziana Street (I don't know the number) can also provide some information regarding Ghering's conduct in the bunker.

In Monowitz, in the first half of 1944, Ghering beat and kicked prisoners. Taking part in public hangings, he was the man who carried them out. I saw him turning the crank of the gallows trapdoor. He hung up on those who had been hanged, pulling their legs down. Once, *Lagerführer* [head of the camp] Schöttl admonished him to stop putting on these "shows". I saw Ghering taking part in four or five executions of this type in Monowitz. Prisoners were led to the gallows from the bunker. Then, the political department's functionary (Wieczorek) read out the sentence. Other prisoners, following Ghering's orders, put the noose around the victim's neck, and Ghering released the trapdoor mechanism. People were usually hanged for their alleged attempts to escape or for theft, that is, for stealing bread. Starving people had their minds set mainly on how to obtain food. Prisoners were hanged irrespective of their age. I saw the Germans hang three teenage boys – two of them were Ukrainians from Russia and one was a Jew from Białystok. While standing on the gallows, one of the Ukrainians said: "O maty, coś me rodyła" [O mother, why did you give birth to me!].

The report was read out. At this the report was concluded.