

INQUIRY CONFIRMS NAZI DEATH CAMPS

1,715,000 Jews Said to Have
Been Put to Death by the
Germans Up to April 15

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By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GENEVA, Switzerland, July 2—Information reaching two European relief committees with headquarters in Switzerland has confirmed reports of the existence in Auschwitz and Birkenau in Upper Silesia of two "extermination camps" where more than 1,715,000 Jewish refugees were put to death between April 15, 1942, and April 15, 1944.

The two committees referred to are the International Church Movement Ecumenical Refugee Commission with headquarters in Geneva and the Fluchtlingshilfe of Zurich, whose head, the Rev. Paul Voght, has disclosed a long report on the killings.

This report says national "clean-ups" are periodically ordered by the Nazis in various occupied countries and when they are enforced Jews are shipped to the execution camps. Totals compiled two months ago show the following number of Jews "eradicated" in the two camps, excluding hundreds of thousands slain elsewhere:

Poland	900,000
Netherlands	100,000
Greece	45,000
France	150,000
Belgium	50,000
Germany	60,000
Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway.....	50,000
Bohemia, Moravia and Austria	30,000
Slovakia	30,000
Foreign Jews from vari- ous camps in Poland.	300,000

Hungarian Jews Slaughtered

To this total must now be added Hungary's Jews. About 30 per cent of the 400,000 there have been slain or have died en route to Upper Silesia. Discussing "malicious, fiendish, inhuman brutality" in the treatment of Hungarian Jews, the Ecumenical Commission says:

"According to authenticated information now at hand, some 400,000 Hungarian Jews have been deported from their homeland since April 6 of this year under inhuman conditions to Upper Silesia. Those that did not die en route were delivered to the camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau in Upper Silesia, where during the past two years, it has now been learned, many hundreds of thousands of their co-religionists have been fiendishly done to death."

After a fortnight to three months' imprisonment, during which they were "selected" or worked to death, the Jews were led to the execution halls, it was said. These halls consist of fake bathing establishments handling 2,000 to 8,000 daily.

Cyanide Gas Caused Death

Prisoners were led into cells and ordered to strip for bathing. Then cyanide gas was said to have been released, causing death in three to five minutes.

The bodies are burned in crematoriums that hold eight to ten at a time. At Birkenau there are about fifty such furnaces. They were opened March 12, 1943, by a large party of Nazi chiefs who witnessed the "disposal of 8,000 Jews from 9 o'clock in the morning until 7:30 that night," according to the report.