Auschwitz air photo maps

What did camp buildings and fields look like in 1944?

Were the supposed mass murder sites hidden, or completely visible?

A crematorium at Birkenau

View of the camp from an outside farm
Roads and villages around Auschwitz camps

1. Main roads connecting the villages and train stations with the camps
2. Industrial buildings and farmhouses
3. Plawy village
4. Folwark Ozernichow village
5. Wire fence around Birkenau camp
6. Birkenau train station
7. Rail lines
8. Brzezinka village
9. Wood furniture assembly shops and other work
10. Facilities for camp inmates
11. Auschwitz I camp
12. Zasole village
13. Sola River
14. 5 kilometers (3 miles) east to large chemical plant, and synthetic oil and rubber manufacturing complex
15. roof vents
16. Crematorium furnaces each with two doors
17. Alleged gas chamber would not have been next to the furnace room, as cyanide gas at 6% concentration by volume explodes at 540 degrees C. (1,000 d. F.).
18. Earth covering
19. 2 kms. (1 1/4 mile) northeast to Oswiecim (Polish pronounced Osh-vi-en-chim, German Auschwitz), 1944 population was 20,000.

Map 1: From 1944 air photos, and U.S. 1955 map # AMS M751 (Names from Mapa Szczegolowa 4828-J, 1939) (1)
Auschwitz I camp during 1944 - 31 buildings and inmates were concealed behind a solid fence

Map 2: Drawn from 1944 air photos and 1993 ground reconnaissance.
Map 3: Drawn from 1944 air photos and 1993 ground reconnaissance.
1 farms that were ploughed and tilled in 1944
2 roads entering camp
3 sewage ditches that drained to the Wisla River 1.3 kilometers (.8 mile) west, and Sola River
4 the White Cottage outside the camp fence, said to have been a human gas chamber in 1942
5 1942 victims did not use these buildings to undress as alleged; they were not built til June, '44
6 trees
7 there were no empty pits where it is alleged hundreds of gassing victims a day were incinerated in large open ditches from May to Aug., 1944, when the crematoriums were overloaded
8 two buildings with tall chimneys and adjacent gardens said to have been crematoriums and human gas chambers in 1942 and '43 were visible from all sides through wire fences
9 ditches six meters (20 ft.) long by 1.5 meters (5 ft.) deep had water in the bottom
10 Central Sauna where steam and air, over 70 degrees C. (155 d. F.) for 1 minute, killed body lice in clothes, and inmates also showered
11 the 30 Kanada barracks where inmates worked to sort and store clothing and personal effects that new arrivals had brought to camp
12 sewage treatment ditches and round tanks
13 two crematoriums with below ground morgues alleged to have been gas chambers where 1,400 a day were murdered in 1943 and '44
14 location where one of six Auschwitz I and Birkenau orchestras gave Sunday concerts
15 sports field with soccer goal posts
16 hospital buildings for inmates
17 gardens
18 Mexico camp extension did not have a fence, however after 1945 a fence was built
19 kitchens - 9 in men's camp, 3 in women's
20 two buildings where cyanide gas was used to kill typhus carrying body lice in leather goods
21 guard towers
22 wire fence three meters (ten feet) high
23 storage buildings for potatoes and vegetables
24 women's brick and wood sleeping barracks
25 train loading and unloading ramp
26 row of toilets and wash basins
27 men's wood sleeping barracks
28 main entrance gate
29 railway tracks
30 water pumping station
31 camp administration headquarters
32 Brzezinka town

Buildings with large furnaces and tall chimneys were used for unknown purposes - (number 8 on left):
1 The now destroyed furnaces were designed differently than crematorium furnaces (number 13). Inmates were told by barrack supervisors that they were bakeries for the thousands of loaves of bread used daily.
2 Alleged gas chambers would not have been in buildings with furnaces, as cyanide gas at over 6% concentration autoignites at furnace operating temperatures.

Zyclon B cyanide gas disinfection buildings: (number 20 on left)
1 ventilators used for airing the rooms only, as there were no furnaces in these buildings
2 room where lighter-than-air Zyclon B cyanide gas was used to kill typhus carrying body lice in leather goods such as shoes, and in heavy clothes and bedding.

Men's and women's sleeping barracks - (nos. 24 and 27)
1 bunk beds with mattresses three rows high
2 brick coal fed heaters down entire length of barracks
Two crematorium buildings where 1,400 a day were allegedly murdered

1 roads without gates
2 farms that were ploughed and tilled during 1944
3 Birch and Poplar trees
4 drawing 7 on next page is viewed from this location
5 drawing 8 on next page is viewed from this location
6 sewage and water drainage ditches
7 watchtowers
8 sewage treatment tanks
9 see-through wire fences 3 meters (10 feet) high
10 stairs where hundreds of people a day from April, 1943 to Sept., '44 were said to have been herded
11 gates through which groups of people were allegedly marched into crematorium yards
12 healthy garden that was not walked on and crushed
13 one meter high roofs of below ground rooms built as morgues, but said to have been undressing rooms
14 one meter (3 ft.) high roofs of alleged human gas chambers where SS men were said to have poured Zyclon B cyanide pellets through roof vents
15 ditches 2 meters (6.5 ft.) deep with water in bottom
16 crematoriums built to burn 102 bodies a day (13)
17 sewage settling ditches
18 kitchen in the women's camp
19 railway boxcars
20 train unloading ramp
21 spot where musicians from the women's symphony orchestra, or 120 member brass band, gave Sunday afternoon concerts during good weather (14)
22 sports field where soccer was popular, and inmates cheered their favourites at boxing matches (15)

Map 4
Cut-away showing inside rooms - Drawing 7: Viewed from location 4, page 6

1. fence posts
2. open gates
3. garden
4. stairs below ground
5. guard tower
6. morgue
7. alleged gas chamber
8. 5 furnaces (3 doors each), designed to cremate 102 bodies a day (max.), using 10 tons of coal (0.1 ton coal/body). Time needed to burn each body = 1.4 hours. (16)

Crematorium building from another angle - Drawing 8: viewed from location 5, page 6

1. garden
2. stairs
3. alleged undressing room
4. the 14 strands of barbed wire between posts were almost invisible from a 50 meter (160 ft.) distance
5. alleged human gas chamber
6. 2 meter (6.5 ft.) deep pit and 2 sheds
7. kitchen in women's camp
The Soviet 1940 mass murder site in the Katyn forest

Facts:

1940, March - The Soviet state police selected the center of a one kilometer (5/8 mile) wide section of the Katyn forest to dig mass graves for ordered executions.

1940, April and May - 118 Polish army officers per day were driven from the railway station in windowless trucks through the forest to the graves and were immediately executed.

1941 - German troops occupied the area, but as there were no witnesses, they did not find the graves until a wolf was seen digging human bones in January, '43, 1 1/2 years later. (18)

Map 5: Drawn from 1940 to '44 air photos. (19)
### 1. Comparing the Katyn forest, Auschwitz I, and synthetic oil plant to Birkenau

**Katyn remote forest versus Birkenau populated farmland**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Katyn forest</th>
<th>Birkeanu crematoriums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soviet state police executed 4,143 (average 118 per day) for five weeks in April and May, 1940</td>
<td>Germans allegedly murdered 750,000 (average 1,400 per day) during 1.5 years from April, '43 to Sept. '44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>near the center of a one square kilometer (5/8 of a mile) remote forest with hills and gullies, beside a narrow road</td>
<td>in a flat valley surrounded by farms, roads, and villages, yet wide forests existed 35 kms. (22 miles) away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no witnesses as graves hidden in a forest, entry was forbidden, and the closest farms were 3 Km. (2 miles) away</td>
<td>many witnesses from farmers and villagers outside camp, and inmates inside, through transparent wire fences.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Solid fences around other camps versus wire fences around Birkenau

**Auschwitz I** - mass murders are not alleged, but a solid fence prevented villagers from seeing inside

**Synthetic oil plant** - murders and mistreatment are not alleged, but a solid fence surrounded the plant

**Birkenau crematoriums** - alleged 1,400 murdered daily, yet no solid fences were built to conceal the area

### 3. Coal piles at the gas producing plant versus absence of coal at the crematoriums

**Gas production plant**
- over a hundred tons of coal a day were burned at the chemical plant \{1\} to release methane gas used to make synthetic oil
- 140 tons of coal/day, at 0.1 ton of coal/body, would have been needed to cremate average 1,400 bodies a day (20)
- had coal storage yards and 80 meter (260 foot) long coal piles \{2\} beside the rail lines \{3\} to ensure steady coal supply
- had 70 meter long coal conveyor systems \{4\}

**Birkenau crematoriums**
- had no coal storage yards or coal piles beside the rail lines or in the crematorium yards
- had no coal conveyors
1993 Cyanide Sampling from Buildings where Zyclon B Cyanide Gas was Allegedly Used

During March, 1993, ten samples were taken by the author from each of the six locations below:

1. Alleged:
   Zyclon B cyanide gas in a ventilated room killed typhus carrying body lice in leather and clothing

2. (same as 1)
   A blue cyanide residue called Prussian Blue today coats the walls and shows previous cyanide gas use

3. Alleged:
   Cyanide gas was used in a below ground level room to kill 700 people per day for 1.5 years in 1943 and '44

4. (same as 3)

5. Alleged:
   Cyanide gas was used at the White Cottage to kill thousands of people during 1942 and '43

6. Alleged:
   Cyanide gas was used in one room to kill thousands of people during 1943

Map 6: Samples were of either cement, mortar, or brick from walls or ceilings of rooms or now collapsed rooms: (17)
Average amount of cyanide in the ten samples from each location.

**Measurement:** (left column)
Total amount of cyanide per sample, measured in milligrams per kilogram (mg/Kg) or parts per million.

**Detection limit:**
Figures below 1.5 mg/Kg are considered the same as "0", because the laboratory analysis equipment could not accurately detect cyanide below this level.

**Samples:**
Bags of scrapings from the surfaces of brick, cement, or mortar each weighed 0.2 kilograms (.4 pounds)

### RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE LOCATIONS</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>DETECTION LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3170</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2780</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAMPLE LOCATIONS**

1. the outside brick, and inside cement and mortar, on the disinfection room walls
2. (Sample site same as 1)
3. the cement roof and brick walls inside the now-collapsed below ground level room
4. the cement roof inside and outside of the now-collapsed below ground room
5. foundation bricks of the so-called White Cottage, also known as Bunker II
6. the collapsed mortar walls and roofs of the alleged gas chamber room

**Results:**

1. 2 had high values
2. 3 to 6 had extremely low values that are considered to be "0"

**Reason:**

1. cyanide bonded with iron in the bricks, cement, and mortar
2. cyanide did not bond with iron on the walls or ceilings of these rooms

**Conclusions:**

1. cyanide gas was used at least once to allow cyanide to bond with iron in the walls
2. sample results show cyanide gas was not used in any of these rooms
In May, 1944 five buildings on farmland existed at the alleged Treblinka camp area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allegations: 1942 and '43</th>
<th>800,000 people were murdered by the Germans in gas chambers and buried.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March to July, 1943</td>
<td>800,000 were exhumed and burned on open fires. (21)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. trees in forest
2. roads
3. railway line
4. village
5. farmhouses
6. farms tilled during 1944
7. alleged Treblinka murder camp
8. Wolka Okraglik village, with 65 buildings, 500 mtrs.
9. sand and gravel pit
10. labour camp

1 road and rail to Treblinka station 3 kms. (2 mi.) north
2 trees
3 branch rail line south to labour camp
4 roads
5 farms that were ploughed and tilled during 1944; 1940 air photos show farming occurred at this time as well
6 five buildings without fences during May, 1944, were destroyed between May and Sept. '44, so that only the walls remained (Soviets entered the area August, '44)
7 boundaries of alleged 1942 and '43 murder camp
8 scars in ground vegetation in 1944 photos that could have been caused by buildings without cement foundations that had been dismantled
9 location on supposed eye-witness maps that show cement gas chambers, graves, and cremation grills, however 1944 air photos show no evidence of previous buildings, graves, or scorched earth. It is alleged that cement foundations were removed, however cement foundation floors of all buildings at the labour camp were not removed, and existed in 1993. Comparing the Katyn grave sizes, 1/40th of 800,000, or 20,000, could have been buried here.

Map 8: Drawn from May to October, 1944 air photos. (22)
Treblinka - map from alleged eye-witness shows 36 buildings and mass murder area

Treblinka Map Legend:
1. entrance
9. barber, sick bay, dentist
10. Polish and Ukrainian girls
11. bakery
13. 'gold Jews' working area
15. zoos, stables, pigs
17. tailor, carpentors, sickroom
18. kitchen and laundry
20. locksmith
24. storage disguised as station
25. deportation square
27. barber for women
30. execution site
Extermination area:
31. approach to gas chambers
32. 10 new gas chambers
33. 3 old gas chambers
34. burial pits
35. 'roasts' for burning bodies
36. prisoners kitchen & beds

Map 9: Drawn on information from an alleged survivor for a 1965 Treblinka trial in Germany
Ref: (a, page 39)

Compare - Katyn forest mass murder site and Treblinka alleged murder site

Katyn forest

- 4,143 executed in five weeks (118 per day) in April and May, 1940
- 4,143 bodies buried in seven mass graves totalling 108 by 8 meters (350 by 26 feet)
- 4,143 bodies dug up, examined, and 2,914 identified, from March to June, 1943 = 60 per day
- in the center of a 1 km. (5/8 mile) forest with hills and gullies, beside a narrow winding road
- no witnesses as no one allowed forest entry, and there were no nearby houses or villages

Treblinka

- alleged 800,000 gassed and buried (2,700 a day) in 1942 and '43
- only 20,000 could have been buried in a mass grave area 90 by 50 mtrs. (295 by 163 ft.)
- alleged 800,000 dug up and burned from March to July, '43=4,500 a day (same dates as Katyn!)
- on farmland near a road to a labour camp, close to villages, yet 1/2 Km. north was a large forest
- thousands of witnesses from open farms, a village 1 kilometer (5/8 mile) away, and roads
Belzec supposed murder camp was actually a logging camp in May, 1944

Allegations: 1942 - 600,000 people were murdered by the Germans in gas chambers and buried Nov., '42 to March, '43 - the 600,000 bodies were exhumed and burned on open fires

Map 10: Drawn from May to September, 1944 air photos.

1 roads
2 main rail line passed through Belzec train station one kilometer (5/8 mile) north
3 trees
4 farms that were ploughed and tilled in 1944
5 cleared line may have been a power cable
6 short railway spur
7 the lower building appears to have been a sawmill
8 the alleged 1943 murder camp between the ridge top and the railway spur was actually a 240 by 250 meter (790 by 810 foot) hillside logging camp where trees were removed from 1940 to '44.
9 site of the supposed 1942 human gas chambers
10 hill-top ridge 30 meters (100 ft.) higher in elevation than the railway spur in the valley
11 location shown on alleged survivor's maps where 600,000 bodies were buried: but it would have been necessary to inefficiently transport the bodies uphill from the supposed gas chambers
12 heavily worn path in the soil appears to have been a skid for sliding logs downhill to the rail cars
13 rail cars

Evidence Sobibor was also a logging camp:
The same thing occurred 300 meters (1000 feet) north of the Sobibor railway station and lumber mill, where a supposed murder camp was actually a 150 by 190 meter (485 by 620 foot) forest area that was logged between 1940 and '44, and in May '44 photos showed no ground scars from the supposed railway lines, building foundations, or fences.
Babi Yar ravine in Kiev on September 26th, 1943 shows no evidence of mass excavations

**Allegations:**

1941 to '43 - Over 100,000 people were shot by Waffen SS soldiers and buried in Babi Yar ravine, located in northwest Kiev, Ukraine ('Yar' means 'ravine', so the Ukrainian name translates as 'Babi ravine')

August 18th to Sept. 29th, 1943 - 70,000 bodies were exhumed with bulldozers, and burned using railroad ties, in the ravine at the average rate of 1,600 bodies per day, by over 200 workers (25)

Map 11: Drawn from September 26th, 1943 air photos. (26)
Conclusions from air photo evidence

Birkenau
Birkenau would not have been used for murder operations, as all the buildings and yards were visible through wire fences, and large scale cremations could not have occurred, as there were no coal delivery systems. Samples show cyanide was not used at alleged murder sites.

Katyn
The Soviets selected the center of a 1 Km. (5/8 mile) wide forest to murder 4,143 prisoners, to ensure there would be no witnesses.

Treblinka
The site would not have been used for mass murder, as it was visible from surrounding roads, farms, and villages. Only 20,000 could have been buried in the alleged grave area.

Belzec
The alleged murder camp was a clear-cut on a hillside that was logged from 1940 to '44. Sobibor was also a clear-cut. Only 25,000 could have been buried at the alleged grave site.

Air photos filed in Nat. Archives, Wash., D.C.:)

Map 1 to 4 (Auschwitz & Birkenau) from air photos:
April 4, '44: RG 373 Can F 5631, exposure 4028
May 31, '44: RG 373 Can D 1508, exp 3055, 3056
June 26, '44: RG 373 Can C 1172, exp. 3022
Aug. 25, '44: RG 373 Can F 5631, exposure 4028

Map 5 (Katyn Forest) from air photos:
July 9, '41: GX 2169 SK, exp. 10
Sept. 2, '42: GX 1562 SG, exp. 105
Oct. 13, '43: GX 4344 SD, exp. 76

Map 7 and 8 (Treblinka) from air photos:
May 25, '40: TU GX Misc. 937, exp. 22
May 15, '44: GX 120 F 932 SK, exp. 124, 125
Nov. '44: GX 12225 SG, exp. 259

Map 10 (Belzec) from air photos:
May 26, '40: TU GX 932 F7 SK, exp. 089
May 16, '44: GX 8095 33 SK, exp. 155

Map 11 (Babi Yar) from air photo:
Sept. 26, '43: GX 3938 SG, exp. 104, 105

References

a Arad, Y., Belzec...Treblinka: The...Camps, University Press, Ind., 1987.
b Ball, John, Air Photo Evidence, Ball Res. Ser. Ltd.: 160-7231-120 Street, Delta, B.C., V4C6PS, Canada, 1992
Cost = $12 (Can.) postage included.
c Dall, Z., Sport...krema toriow (Sport in the Shadows of the Crematories) Mlodzi idq. N. 11, '45, pp. 786-808.
e Kopyciński, A. Orkiestraw oswiecimskim ...(The Orchestra in Auschwitz ...) 1964, Przeglad Lekiarski, Poland, pp. 112-116.

Books and personal contacts:

k Setkiewicz, Peter, History Dept., Auschwitz Museum. Data given to author in 1993 interviews and tours.


All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means without written consent of the publisher: Ball Resource Ser. Ltd. 160-7231-120 St., Delta, B.C., V4C6PS, Canada. Cost: 1-10=$2.00, 11-50=$1.50, over 50=$1.00.