

EDUCATIONAL SESSION | OCTOBER 28TH (THURSDAY), 2021

"80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE SOVIET PRISONERS OF WAR TO AUSCHWITZ"

After the start of the war with the Soviet Union, in July or August 1941, a new group of prisoners numbering about 200 people was brought to the camp. Rumors went around the camp that the new arrivals were commissars from territory occupied by the Germans. They wore civilian clothes. These prisoners were treated in an exceptionally inhumane way... I remember that the Lagerführer [camp director; Karl Fritzsch at this time] ordered them to be employed in the gravel pit that was located not far from the Blockführerstube [the guardhouse next to the Arbeit macht frei gate], across from the prisoner kitchen. Before long there was a deep hole there. Fritzsch ... gave the Kapos to understand that they were to liquidate these prisoners. From then on, it was judgment day. As they worked, the Kapos and the SS beat them unrelentingly with rifle butts, clubs - anything that fell to hand. The corpses were thrown into wooden crates that the others had to carry to the crematorium. We sometimes watched these scenes through the fence, and we knew the rest from stories.

Excerpt from an account by Adam Jurkiewicz, APMA-B (Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum). Statements Collection, vol. 76, p. 66.



SESSION PROGRAMME

16.00-16.10

Opening of the session

Andrzej Kacoryk - director of the International Centre of Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust
dr. Ernest Wyciszkiewicz - director of the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding

16.10-16.55

Tragedy of the Soviet prisoners of war during the World War II in Polish historiography

Lecture, **prof. Grzegorz Motyka**, Polish Academy of Sciences

16.55-17.05

Break

17.05-18.05

Soviet prisoners of war in the Auschwitz, Majdanek and Łambsdorf camps

Discussion panel to be attended by:

Beata Siwek-Ciupak, State Museum at Majdanek

dr. Renata Kobylarz-Buła, Central Museum of the Prisoners of War in Łambinowice-Opole

dr. Jacek Lechendo, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

The discussion will be moderated by **dr. Łukasz Adamski** from the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding

18.05-18.20

Traces of the Soviet prisoners of war in KL Auschwitz

Presentation, **dr. Maria Martyniak**, International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust

NOTE:

The session is organized online.
The programme covers **3 teaching units**.
The session is free of charge.

Please submit your registration form until
October 25th, 2021

Contact and coordination:

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