

Paul Behr (1894-1969)



Profession: miner, criminal police officer

8 years of primary school, dropped out of preparatory training to become a school mentor after 3 years. Then miner

1914-1918: Participation in World War I. Private

1919-1923: miner; on 1.8.1923 transferred to the mounted police force.

1934: Gestapo (Secret State Police), Dept. counterintelligence

1937: NSDAP

1941: Lublin Security Police, Cholm Branch, Judenreferat (Department for Jews)

1942: From March Head of Sniatyn border police post; on 2.4.1942 he led an action in Sniatyn - the arrested Jews were taken via Kolomea to the Belzec extermination camp; from June 42 Drohobycz security police field office.

1942-44: Participation in the organisation and execution of mass shootings and several individual murders. His wife and two children lived with him in Drohobycz.

1944-45: Special Action 1005 (removal of traces of mass murders). Retreat to Krakow with Polish and Ukrainian informers led by him. From 11/44 to 05/45 assignment with the security police in Denmark.

1946: In November internment; 1948 sentenced to 2 years imprisonment for Gestapo affiliation; released on 26.4.1949

From 1949: Occasional work, at times as a miner

1957: Miner's pension

From 1960: First interrogations; incriminating statements by survivors.

1964: Investigations into Nazi crimes against Behr

1966: Went into hiding; Arrest in July; further interrogations

1969: Death

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Rena Fleischer, born 1910 in Drohobycz, forced labourer for the Gestapo. At the end of 1942 and in 1943 she was in charge of the Gestapo gardens. In a witness interview (22.11.1962 in Tel Aviv) she recalls:

»I myself heard Behr say in our camp: "I got rid of the Badian." Behr's wife also told me: "My murderer (by this she meant her husband, who often beat her) put an end to the Badian today."« (BArch B.162, vol. 5832, p. 351)

Sources: Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg (BArch), B 162, vol. 5831, 5832, 5834, 5836, 5837

Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein (LASH), dept. 352.4, vol. 1731, 1734, 1736, 1738