

Summary of Chapters 2, 3, and 4

Comparing the sizes of the mass graves at Hamburg, Katyn, and Bergen Belsen

Name: **Particulars:**

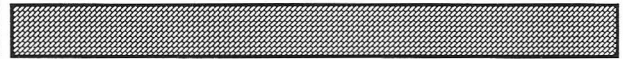
Sizes of mass graves:

Hamburg

When excavating the wide graves dirt was piled on the sides. If the long trenches had been parallel to each other, at least 10 meters (30 feet) would have had to be left in between each trench to be able to pile this amount of excavated dirt. The depth of the graves is assumed to have been 3.5 meters (11 feet).

each of 4
graves held
10,000

each grave was
130 meters
(400 feet) long

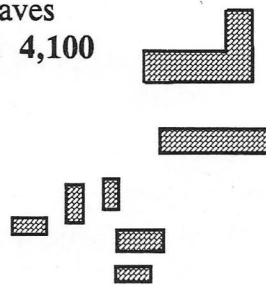


by
16 meters
(52 feet) wide

Katyn

The average depth of the graves was about 3.5 meters. They had steep walls because the organic rich soil in the forest held together well. The bodies were neatly stacked in the graves to allow more room. It took the Germans two months to dig up or exhume 4,100 bodies.

7 graves
held 4,100

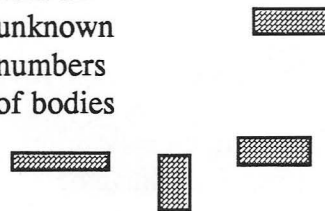


placed end to
end the 7 graves
were 96 meters
(312 feet) long
by 6 meters
(20 feet) wide

*Bergen
Belsen*

Earth was pushed out by a mechanical excavator to piles on either side of the graves. The graves were dug about 30 meters apart to allow room for depositing the earth fill. The depth of the pits was about 3.5 meters.

held an
unknown
numbers
of bodies



one of the
graves was
20 meters
(65 ft) long
by 7 meters
(23 feet) wide

*grave sizes
needed to
bury large
numbers of
corpses*

Accepting the figure of 10 meters (33 feet) between the graves to hold the excavated dirt, then:

**The area needed
to bury 25,000 corpses
is**

**100 x 100 meters
(325 x 325 feet)**

number of corpses

grave size

1,000

20 x 10 meters
(65 x 32 feet)

25,000

100 x 100 meters
(325 x 325 feet)

100,000

400 x 100 meters
(1300 x 325 ft)