



It is surprising that those thrown into the craters were in possessions of valuable belongings. The only logical explanation is the suggestion that they were thought to have typhus which may explain the hurry in burying them.

The human remains and some clothes, wigs and other items collected during the grave exploration were placed in 68 paper and foil bags and sent to the Department of Forensic Medicine in order to determine the number of people, age and cause of death.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

On emptying the individual bags the research presented by the public prosecutor was confirmed. The bags contained commingled bones of multiple individuals. Therefore, it was decided to treat the material collected as a whole. As the reconstruction of complete individual skeletons was impossible, it was decided to separate the hip bones, the sacral bones, the long bones of the upper and lower limbs and the cranial bones with the mandibles and to perform more precise examinations of the above bones.

To find possible gunshot wounds or any pathological changes, the bones of ribs, scapulas, clavicles, vertebrae were thoroughly examined. However, no such lesions were observed because of much bone erosion, especially in the region of the flat parts of the scapulae.

Among the separated bones there were also single animal bones (pig, dog and birds). These were much better preserved than the human bones. Although completely defatted, dry and light, without any periosteum they showed no defects of the compact substances both in the shaft and the metaphyseal areas.

All the human bones presented different degrees of erosion, both in the compact as well as the spongy bone. Moreover, they had some spongy defects in the metaphyseal areas. All such defects were mostly brown and had brittle margins. All cranial materials were separated. Seventeen skulls had relatively intact facial portions while the cranial vault bones revealed many breaks and cracks. Twenty three gunshot wounds were found in the area of the cranial vault bones (among 17 skulls). Such lesions were also observed in the regions of the facial skeleton (1), the mandible angle (1) and the pelvis (1). In four cases, detailed examinations of gunshot wounds of skulls showed entrance and exit openings in the same skull. The remaining gunshot wounds were observed in individual fragments of cranial bones.

The majority of the remains belonged to adults. In 33 cases, however, we found the remains of adolescents i.e. before bone growth was completed, and children several deciduous teeth among which no buds of permanent teeth were visible.

In four cases the permanent tooth buds were observed beneath the deciduous teeth whose crowns showed marked attrition. There were also edentulous mandibles with alveolar atrophy.

Among the long bones of the lower limbs there were 172 right thigh bones and 190 left thigh bones. The majority of them were the bones of adults. In 23 cases, however, incomplete maturation was observed with exposure of the epiphyseal area. That group included femur bones measuring 10 and 12 cm in length.

In the material examined there was one case of a completely fused right knee joint with the femur and tibia articulating of the knee joint almost at a right angle and with complete remodelling. In addition, degenerative lesions were observed in the region of the attachments of the calf muscles and of the fibular head. From the medial side of the knee joint, a deep defect was found both in the cortical and the spongy layers.

Among the items collected with the human remains was an orthopaedic splint with a foot support. The splint was bent at a right angle at the level of the knee (i. e. 34 cm from the foot support). The splint and the fused knee joint together with additional data might provide grounds for individual identification.

## RESULTS

The exhumed material consisted of human bones, animal bones and remnants of clothes, shoes (Gulliver company), hair, wigs, rusty keys, tools, combs, watches (Doxa, Longines), pacifiers, paper money and coins, personal documents and food tickets.

Our studies indicate that the bones belonged to at least 190 persons. Commingling of the bones made reassociation of individual skeletons impossible. That was also the reason of giving up the sex determinations as well as the measurements of the individual long bones and the sizes of the dead.

The majority of the skeletons belonged to adults although there were also the remains of small children and elderly people.

The lack of soft tissue, cartilage, periosteum, dryness of the bones and intensive bone erosion as well as the kind of soil where the remains were found is consistent with the probability that the bodies were buried in this common grave about 40–50 years ago.

It should be emphasised that we found only a few complete or nearly complete skulls. In the remaining cases the skull bones were fragmented with brown surfaces at the breaks. This fact can account for gunshot wounds or other mechanical injuries as the long presence in the grave cannot justify such a dismembering of the skull bones.

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## STRESZCZENIE

W niniejszej pracy przedstawiono wyniki ekshumacji grobu żydowskiego, przeprowadzonej w kwietniu 1988 roku. W toku wykonanych badań ustalono, że kości należały do 190 osób. Większość przebadanych przez nas kości należała do osób dorosłych (kobiet i mężczyzn), lecz stwierdzono także w badanym materiale kości należące do młodych ludzi, którzy nie ukończyli jeszcze procesu dojrzewania jak również do małych dzieci. Wszyscy osobnicy, których kości były przedmiotem naszych badań, zginęli śmiercią gwałtowną, tj. wskutek postrzałów z broni palnej kulowej lub wskutek urazów mechanicznych, prowadzących do uszkodzenia kości czaszki.



Fig. 1. General view of the human remains



Fig. 2. 2 a. The view of the gunshot inlet and outlet



Fig. 3 The permanent tooth buds visible beneath the deciduous teeth

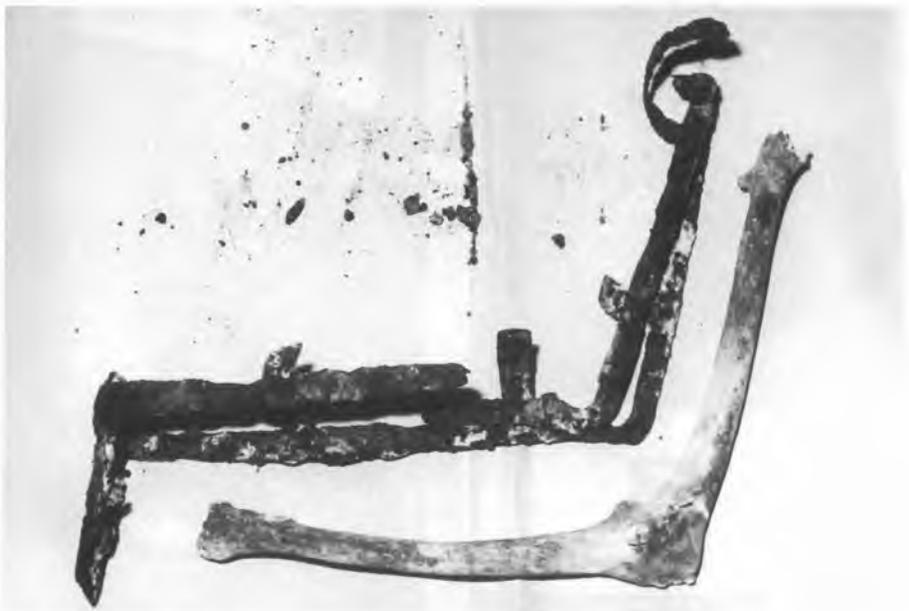


Fig. 4. The pathologically changed bones of the lower limb and the metal prosthesis