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Abstract of dissertation – *Female SS auxiliaries (SS Aufseherinnen) in KL Auschwitz*

More than four thousand women had been working as SS auxiliaries (SS-Aufseherinnen) in numerous concentration camps in between 1939 and 1945. Some of them have decided to do it voluntarily, while others were assigned to do this work by local employment offices or by the companies they had been employed in previously. The main aim of the following dissertation is to present the group of female SS auxiliaries who were employed in KL Auschwitz from the end of March 1942 until January 1945.

The conducted research resulted in establishing the names of 77 female SS auxiliaries working in Auschwitz. Due to the fact that no name lists of women female guards employed in that concentration camp survived the war, the main aim of this dissertation was to conclude both the number of female guards and all personal data regarding them. Based on the documents I obtained during my research in archives located in Poland and abroad (Germany, Austria, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) I have created a biographical note for each of the female SS auxiliaries. Having analysed each of the notes, subsequently I researched that group of women generally, concentrating on the age of the women, their nationalities before 1938, their marital status, level of education, religious and political beliefs and on their work in other concentration camps.

The second aim of the following dissertation is to present the SS auxiliaries from two opposite points of views: one of them being the perspective of their SS employers, and the other being the perspective of the prisoners. I have also tried to answer the question about what kind of features should a perfect female SS auxiliary have to perform her job in the most efficient way.

One of other significant subject this dissertation raises is to present the motives of the women who had decided to participate in the courses for auxiliaries run in Ravensbrück concentration camp, a camp which was established exclusively for women. Why have they decided to start a career like this? Could they have resigned from it anytime they wanted?

Another matter that is analysed in this dissertation is the two-folded question of responsibility for the crimes committed in the concentration camps and the question of female SS auxiliaries have ever being punished for the crimes that took place in KL Auschwitz.

All the aforementioned matters and questions are analysed in detail in the seven chapters of this dissertation. The dissertation is supplemented by the alphabetical list of

female SS auxiliaries who were employed in Auschwitz concentration camp between 1942-1945 and photographs of some of them. Many charts, figures and tables can be found inside this dissertation. They have been created based on the data obtained during the research.