

Survivor Edi Weinstein on Assumptions Regarding International Intervention

Several days passed without transports. The workers cleaned the platform, covered it with ashes, and laid fresh branches along the fence. But the stench of charred corpses hung in the air. In the barracks at night we bolstered one another's morale, trying to construe the changes as an indication that the ordeal was about to end and our release was imminent. The older workers cited the absence of transports and the clean-up work ordered by the SS men as evidence that a Red Cross team from Switzerland would soon visit to investigate the camp. Some went further and asserted that Allied aircraft were bombing German cities because the Germans were murdering innocent people. We wanted to believe that the world was reacting to the mass murder in some fashion. These prophecies definitely strengthened our resolve. Others did not share our optimism, though; several of these realists hanged themselves each night. Workers hauled their bodies away in the morning.

Source: Edi Weinstein, *Quenched Steel. The Story of an Escape From Treblinka*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 2002, p. 51.