

Sergey GLYANTSEV

**Doctor of Philosophy, Biology and Medicine,
Professor Johann Paul Kremer – Auschwitz
Physician, Executioner and War Criminal
(Based on the Materials of J. P. Kremer's Diary)**

The scientific career of Johan Paul Kremer (1883—1960s), a graduate of the Universities of Heidelberg and Berlin, Ph.D. in philosophy, biology and medicine, associate professor at Berlin University, developed successfully until he began to study the inheritance of acquired injuries. Colleagues criticized these studies and voted against his professors. For further career advancement, in 1932 Kremer joined the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei), and then — in the SS (Schutzstaffeln). This allowed him to become a professor of Münster, but World War II was begun and the 58-year-old Kremer was drafted into the SS-troops (Waffen-SS). Initially, he served as a surgeon in SS hospitals, and in 1942 he was sent to the Oświęcimiu concentration camp (Konzentrationslager Auschwitz) located in Poland, where he served for about a year. His function as a camp physician included the selection of Jews brought to the camp from France and the Netherlands on able-bodied and to be destroyed in gas chambers. In total, as a „doctor“ Kremer participated in the executions of about 10,000 people. But this seemed to Kremer not enough. He continued to collect observations of „hereditary“ injuries and, as a morphologist, began to study dystrophy, taking fresh autopsy material for research from specially selected prisoners killed by a phenol injection in the heart. Previously, he interviewed prisoners, being interested in their weight before imprisonment and the length of their stay in the camp, intending to create their own research laboratory after the war and make the world happy with their discoveries. Kremer met the end of the war in Münster, where he taught at a local university and was horrified by the inhuman (according to him) bombing of the city by British and American aircraft. After the war, the British extradited Kremer to the Government of Poland. In 1947 the Krakow Tribunal sentenced him to 10 years in prison. However, the Poles considered it inhuman to hang the 64-year-old victim of the Nazi regime. The report considers the phenomenon of unconditional acceptance by a “man of science” of anti-human ideology, when a scientist becomes a killer, who justifies his behavior by serving the Fatherland and science. At the same time, as Kremer wrote in his diary, he could enjoy delicious food, classical music and the beauties of nature, sent to his relatives and friends objects selected from prisoners of the camp, and soap made from human fat, not understanding the

whole depth of his moral decline and not counting his acts immoral. Unfortunately, Kremer did not realize this even in a Polish prison, leaving which he continued to call himself not an executioner, but a victim. The historian's task is to awaken the conscience of our readers and listeners, preventing the appearance of such "cremers". Otherwise, the world around us may disappear. Forever and ever. And we are with him.

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Lena Sidarenko and Cardiosurgery in Ukraine and Russia

In the history of cardiology and cardiac surgery in Ukraine and Russia there are few famous men who connected the two countries together. This is Vasily Obratsov and Nikolai Amosov from Vologda, Nikolai Strazhesko from Odessa, Alexander Shalimov from Lipetsk and several others. Their equally famous colleague is Lena Sidarenko. She was born in Yevpatoriya (Republic of Crimea), worked in Kiev (Ukraine) and Tver (Russia), and ended her life in Zelenograd (Moscow region). After graduating from the State Medical Institute (Simferopol, Republic of Crimea), Sidarenko took up lung surgery, wrote a PhD thesis on surgery for pleural empyema of tuberculosis origin (1960), and almost simultaneously defended her doctoral dissertation on surgery for septal heart diseases (1961). Since 1962 for 16 years she headed the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Institute of Thoracic Surgery in Kiev (Ukraine), where she developed heart surgery in children. In 1965 she was nominated for the Lenin Prize — the highest scientific award in the USSR. Introducing her student to Lenin Prize laureate, her teacher academician Nikolai Amosov wrote that in those years Sidarenko was the only one woman in the world who regularly performed heart surgery under extracorporeal circulation. Alfred Blalock from Baltimore, Robert Wallace from Mayo Clinic and Frank Gerbode from San Francisco dreamed of meeting her. Lena Sidarenko was the first in the country to analyze the causes of mortality after operations with cardiopulmonary bypass. In 1971 she represented Ukraine and the USSR at the XXIV Congress of the International Society of Surgeons in Moscow with an oral report in which she analysed on the results of her heart operations in children