

B. Concentration camps under the command of the concentration camp inspector.

POSITION OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP INSPECTOR WITHIN THE SS HIERARCHY

On December 10, 1934, the existing concentration camps were put under the command of the concentration camp inspector. His departments were incorporated into the SS Main Office (SS-Hauptamt), itself transformed on August 15, 1940 into the SS commanders' main office (SS-Führungshauptamt). On March 3, 1942, the inspection of the concentration camps became department group D (Amtsgruppe D) of the newly created SS main office for administrative and economic affairs (SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt = SS-WVHA).

The inspector was commissioned to supervise the concentration camps. It is known that SS-Gruppenführer Eicke (rank corresponding to)⁺ was the first concentration camp inspector. Together with this new duty, he continued his activity as commander of the Dachau concentration camp and was concurrently appointed inspector of the SS

+ The German SS rank is generally followed by its usual equivalent inserted between brackets :

Reichsführer-SS und Chef der deutschen Polizei: SS Reich chief and chief of the German police.

Oberstgruppenführer	
Obergruppenführer	
Gruppenführer	
Brigadeführer	= brigadier-general
Oberführer	
Standartenführer	= colonel
Obersturmbannführer	= lieutenant-colonel
Sturmbannführer	= major
Hauptsturmführer	= captain
Obersturmführer	= lieutenant
Untersturmführer	= second-lieutenant

"death's head" formations (SS-Totenkopfverbände), from which the supervising staff of the concentration camps was recruited. to prisoners in protective custody (Schutzhaft).

At the time he was commander of the Dachau concentration camp, from the end of June 1933 to 1935, Eicke had already instituted a policy of severe treatment for the prisoners and laid the foundations of camp organization and administration. The detention. The SS in their reports... predominantly negative. These regulations concerning the organization of the camps and the punishment prescriptions were to remain in force until the end of the war. The Dachau concentration camp was taken as a model for all the other concentration camps and a large part of the ruling camp personnel was trained at the Dachau concentration camp.

INCARCERATION AND RELEASE OF PRISONERS

Shortly after the beginning of the war, the procedure of incarceration and release of prisoners was standardized. The incarceration and release of the prisoners in "protective custody" (Schutzhaft) always remained within the powers of the State Secret Police (Gestapo). The local departments or local main departments of the state police (örtliche Stapo(leit)stelle) brought the request of incarceration before the State secret police departments (the Gestapa = Gestapoamt⁺), which, on September 27, 1939 became a branch of the Main Office for Reich Security (Reichssicherheitshauptamt = RSHA). After a superficial survey, this office would agree to the requests for incarceration.

This rule applies particularly to the release of civil servants and prisoners who have been particularly "active"

+ The Gestapa should not be mistaken for the Gestapo : the Gestapo was the state secret police, and the Gestapa, the state secret police department. These were two different organizations : the Gestapa was the system under Heydrich's control and the Gestapo, the authority with Himmler at its head.

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A similar procedure was adopted by the criminal police department of the Reich (Reichskriminalpolizei) with respect to prisoners in protective custody (Vorbeugungshäftlinge).

An inspection was to be held every second month if the term of detention had not been settled. The office in charge and the camp commander were then to decide on the extension of the detention. The commanders' reports were usually predominantly negative, except sometimes, when the main office for Reich security (RSHA) gave to understand that the release of a prisoner was being considered. However, there were a few cases of releases ordered by the main office for Reich security (RSHA) despite negative reports of camp commanders.

Shortly after the beginning of the war, this procedure was considerably simplified in pursuance of a letter of October 24, 1939 and prisoners were released only in exceptional cases.

The first paragraph of the aforementioned letter (actually a special delivery "Schnellbrief") can be quoted in support of this assertion :

"Re : "protective custody" (Schutzhaft)

As a general rule, the release of prisoners in "protective custody" (Schutzhaft) does not take place during the war. This rule applies particularly to the release of civil servants and prisoners who have been particularly "active" ("besonders aktiv", in the sense of a political activity opposed to the Party), public enemies already severely sentenced for common law offences, and notoriously "anti-

A similar procedure was adopted by the criminal police department of the Reich (Reichskriminalpolizei) in respect to prisoners in protective custody (Schutzhaft).

An inspection was made in this every second month in the form of detention had not been ordered. The office in charge and the camp commandant were to be held liable on the expiration of the detention. The commandant of the camp was usually present - ly negative, except possibly, when a camp office for Reich security (RSHA) gave to the commandant the release of a prisoner was being considered, however, there were in a few cases of releases ordered by the camp office of Reich security (RSHA) specific negative reports of camp commandants.

Shortly after the beginning of the war, this procedure was considerably modified in pursuance of a letter of October 24, 1939 and prisoners were released only in exceptional cases.

The first paragraph of the administrative letter (concerning a special delivery "Schutzhaft") can be passed in support of this assertion:

"Re: 'protective custody' (Schutzhaft)"

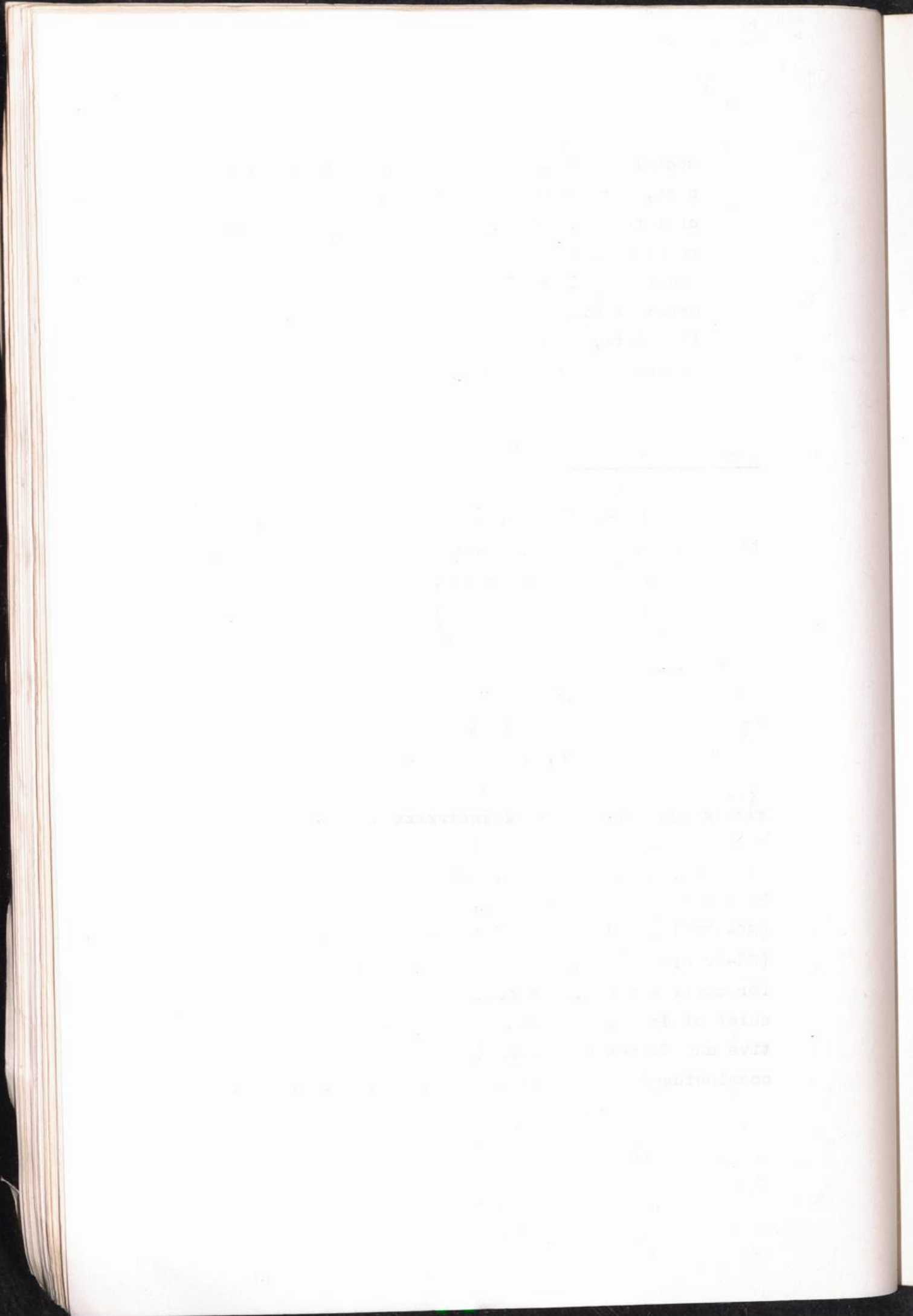
As a general rule, the release of prisoners in "protective custody" (Schutzhaft) does not take place during the war. This rule applies particularly to the release of civil servants and prisoners who have been previously "actively" ("personally active") in the sense of a political activity opposed to the Party, public enemies already severely sentenced for common law offences, and notoriously "anti-

social elements" (asoziale Elemente). If, in an individual case, a release seems absolutely necessary for some special reason, an overall account of the grounds for this release must be given ; thereby, serious consideration should be given to the question whether the release of the prisoner will not imperil the security of the people and the State, also considering that there will be fewer possibilities of surveillance".

LABOUR ASSIGNMENT

Apart from a few exceptions, until the beginning of the war, there were only main concentration camps, usually sited near quarries and brickfields.

Minor camps were first created outside the existing concentration camps when Reich Minister for Armaments and Ammunitions (Reichsminister für Bewaffung und Munition) Speer ordered the total mobilization of the civil sector (within his sphere of influence, the SS Reich Chief commissioned the SS Main Office for Administrative and Economic Affairs (SS-WVHA) with this task) ~~within his own sphere of influence~~. These smaller camps were called outlying commandos (AUSSENKOMMANDOS) by the concentration camp administration, but the official name they were given by the SS Main Office for Administrative and Economic Affairs (SS-WVHA) was 'labour camp' (Arbeitslager) or 'SS labour camp' (SS-Arbeitslager), all of which led to confusion with the camps for civil workers. The concentration camp Inspector and the chief of department group D of the SS Main Office for Administrative and Economic Affairs (Amtsgruppe D des SS-WVHA) were then commissioned to control these outlying commandos.



Outlying commandos were usually established near existing armament manufactures ; sometimes factories were erected in their neighbourhood. Based on a minimum of 500 prisoners, the commandos actually numbered from one to several thousand prisoners.

By means of its outlying commandos, each concentration camp had to supply a certain geographical district with labourers in particular told off for work in factories owned by the SS. Such districts corresponded neither to the civil nor to the military districts ; there were even cases of overlap, the number of outlying commandos increasing constantly. Subsidiary commandos (Unterkommandos) were attached to larger commandos.

CONSTRUCTION BRIGADES

The SS construction brigades (SS-Baubrigaden) and SS railway brigades (SS-Eisenbahnbrigaden) were somewhat apart from the other brigades: they were mobile work-units which carried out urgent repair work, especially after air-raids. They therefore constantly changed quarters and were successively attached to different concentration camps.

The International Tracing Service chose a special form of description which takes the particular character of these brigades into account. They are gathered in a special group and classed by numerical order (cf. vol. I p. 246). The different quarters of the brigades are mentioned in chronological order, as well as the main concentration camps they were successively attached to.

Main concentration camps are classed alphabetically and followed by their outlying commandos also in alphabetical order, these followed in turn by their subsidiary commandos (vol. I p. 1 to 259).

Geographical considerations were left out of account in this classification.

The camps belonging to this group are identifiable in character as concentration camps, but it has not been possible to determine the main concentration camp they depended on as outlying commandos.

The International Red Cross Service has been able to prove the existence of these detention places through a careful study of its archives. Some German records, the transfer of a prisoner from a concentration camp to this kind of detention place, or from such a place of detention to a concentration camp.

The following camps in Germany belong to this category.

	Location in the files	Men/women
<u>RUSSIA-SPAIN</u>		
German Reich	December 1944 - Beginning of April 1945	women
<u>RUSSIA</u>		
Province of Hannover	3.9.1944 - 15.10.44	women
<u>RUSSIA</u>		
Province of	1.1.44 - 1.3.1945	men
Province of		

These cases have been cleared with the
and followed by their respective managers also in the
order, these followed in the order of the
(Vol. 1 p. 1 to 28)

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