

Chaque en-tête de page correspond à une catégorie de lieux de détention.

Le nom qu'a eu un lieu de détention est écrit en lettres majuscules espacées. Tous les noms de localités correspondent à la désignation de l'époque de ces lieux de détention; l'indication de la plus haute circonscription administrative est également indiquée, en se fondant sur la situation géographique en 1937. Pour les territoires incorporés au territoire du Reich ou se trouvant sous l'occupation allemande, le nom dans la langue du pays y figure aussi et ce, également d'après la situation géographique de 1937 (AUSCHWITZ 1939-1945 Preußen (Provinz Oberschlesien), Oswiecim Krakow Polska). Les subdivisions administratives ne sont mentionnées que lorsque deux ou plusieurs localités, situées dans une même unité administrative portent le même nom (TRZEBINIA 1939-1945 Preußen (Provinz Oberschlesien), Powiat Chrzanow Krakow Polska). Les lieux de détention portaient en général le nom de l'endroit où ils se trouvaient (DACHAU). Cependant, dans les grandes villes dans lesquelles se trouvaient plusieurs camps d'une catégorie, on avait recours aux noms de rues ou d'entreprises commerciales (MÜNCHEN Höchlstraße; LEIPZIG-SCHÖNEFELD HASAG); les commandos situés en dehors des localités pouvaient être désignés par des lieux-dits (ALTENHAMMER (Flossenbürg) Bayern).

Il convient de faire les remarques suivantes :

Date d'ouverture - première mention

Date de fermeture - dernière mention

Très souvent les dates d'ouverture ou de fermeture des lieux de détention n'ont pu être déterminées dans les documents du SIR. Dans ces cas, la première ou la dernière mention ont été indiquées, de sorte que la date réelle de l'ouverture ou de la fermeture était peu avant ou après.

Evacuation

Dans de nombreux cas des détenus malades sont restés dans un lieu de détention quand bien même la preuve de l'évacuation de ce lieu de détention se fonde sur des sources documentaires dignes de foi.

Libération et occupation

Lorsque la date de libération n'a pu être déterminée, celle de l'occu-

patation par les troupes alliées est indiquée.

Employeur

Ces indications ne sont mentionnées que pour faciliter l'identification des lieux de détention. Cela ne sera donc pas le cas pour les camps de concentration principaux dont la désignation est supposée être connue. Les noms d'entreprises ont été en général retrouvés grâce aux dépositions des détenus. Des erreurs sont inévitables, l'orthographe n'ayant pu être vérifiée que dans un petit nombre de cas.

Remarques

Les commandos des camps possédaient souvent des cryptonymes qui ne sont indiqués que dans la mesure où ils ne furent pas uniquement réservés à l'administration du camp. (ARTERN : Das Kdo wurde auch "Adorf" genannt).

Logement des détenus

Le lieu de cantonnement des détenus n'est indiqué que s'il ne correspond pas au lieu de détention.

Effectif

Seuls les commandos dont les effectifs étaient particulièrement réduits sont mentionnés. C'est pourquoi la rubrique "Logement et remarques" ne fait état que des effectifs des camps qui ne dépassaient pas 20 détenus.

Sources

Il n'est fait mention des sources que pour les dates d'ouverture ou de fermeture des différents lieux de détention. Les sources officielles du temps de guerre sont toujours préférées aux sources de l'après-guerre. Si l'existence d'un lieu de détention est établie d'après les documents du temps de guerre et si ces sources ne donnent aucune indication quant aux dates d'ouverture et de fermeture de ce lieu de détention, l'on porte sous le nom de celui-ci, outre les documents du camps de guerre, une mention telle par exemple "Existenz durch KL-Akten belegt" (1).

(1) existence attestée par les archives du camp de concentration

Documentation du temps de guerre

Les documents exploités sont désignés sous une forme abrégée. Les archives des camps de concentration sont constituées par l'ensemble de la documentation relative à l'enregistrement des détenus, actes d'état civil, des ordres et rapports d'ordre général émanant de la Kommandantur (1) du camp. Les documents en provenance de tous les autres services sont pour l'essentiel des ordres, des décrets et des rapports.

Documentation de l'après-guerre

Rapport officiel

Rapports d'enquête de l'immédiat après-guerre établis par des services de recherches nationaux, des autorités occupantes ou des autorités locales, telles les maîtres, les bureaux d'état civil.

Déposition de témoin
témoignage de détenu
témoignage du commandant du camp
etc.

Témoignages d'anciens détenus recueillis par les Amicales d'anciens détenus ainsi que ceux de détenus et du personnel des camps recueillis au cours des procès de l'après-guerre. Aux témoignages de détenus s'ajoutent les renseignements fournis au SIR lors d'une demande de certificat d'incarcération.

Ouvrages consultés

- Rapport sur la documentation du Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine (Paris) concernant la persécution des juifs en Pologne et dans les territoires avoisinants, présenté par M. Werner. Il parut en avril-mai 1952.
- Répertoire des ghettos, des camps de travaux forcés et camps de concentration. Ce répertoire a été rédigé par M. A. Ungerer. Il parut en août 1953.
- Répertoire des lieux de persécution des juifs en Pologne, rédigé par M. Ignacy Ettinger, avocat. Il parut en octobre 1955.
- "Biuletyn Głownej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce" (rapport de la "Commission générale d'enquête sur les crimes allemands en Pologne").

(1) état-major, en fait : poste de commandement, direction

Since publication of the Preliminary Register in 1969, it was possible to collect information on places of detention of this category, thus permitting the inclusion in this volume. Still, the source material, especially that of general character, continues to be very scarce even today, so that it could not be determined how many camps really had existed.

On examination of the Register of Camps, it is noticeable that numerous camps existed in the regions of the Rhine, the Ruhr and in Saxony; whereas, for example, only few camps are recorded in Bavaria and Hesse, and none in North Germany, Silesia or East Prussia. From the afore-said it is, however, evident that from this no conclusions can be drawn as to the existence of such camps.

Origin

A circular of the RF-SS (1) and Chief of the German Police (- S IV D Nr. 479/42 (ausl. Arb.) -) (2) dated 15 December 1942, addressed to all state police (main) offices (3), gives particulars with regard to the basis for the establishment of camps of this kind.

This circular treats the "combating of the breach of work-contract of foreign labourers" (4) and specifies on page 4 as follows:

...

"At larger factories with numerous foreign labourers, in the vicinity of which no labour reformatory camp is located, it seems possible, circumstances permitting, to tentatively organize reformatory sections in which foreign labourers because of not too severe laziness are kept working under guard like in labour reformatory camps. The state police (main) office would decide about the commitment to the reformatory sections, also about the guards, detached from the factory security service. The firm in agreement with the state police (main) office, would have to provide for separate housing and the assignment of work. Experience in this regard is to be reported."

...

- (1) Reichsführer-SS = Chief of the SS
- (2) ausländische Arbeiter = foreign labourers
- (3) Staatspolizei(leit)stellen
- (4) "Bekämpfung des Arbeitsvertragsbruchs ausländischer Arbeitskräfte"

The establishment of such camps may have only occurred sporadically in 1941/1942, likewise only to a small extent in 1943, but in large number not before the spring of 1944.

For the end of 1941 - beginning of 1942, only the camps in Hanover-Hainholz and in Cassel are recorded in the ITS documents.

Designation

It is to be assumed that no obligatory regulation for the designation of the camps existed, because apart from the before-mentioned designation, the following were also ascertained:

reformatory camp (1), special camp (2) - several times also on death certificates, thus as official designation - special camp of the Secret State Police (3), penal reformatory camp of the Secret State Police (4), disciplinary camp (5), police disciplinary camp (6), labour reformatory camp (7) or labour reformatory camp for antisocial elements (8).

Commitment and guard

The commitment by the Gestapo, mentioned in the quoted express letter of the RF-SS, the superintendence of the camps by the Gestapo, the guard and factory security service appear to have been generally observed. There were, for example, exceptions with regard to camps of the Railways of the Reich (9), in which the guard was the task of the railway-police. Leaving camp was not permitted.

The removal to these camps took place in part from the surrounding region. An exception were the Belgian detainees, most of whom were deported to the

- (1) Erziehungslager
- (2) Sonderlager
- (3) Sonderlager der Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei)
- (4) Gestapo Straferziehungslager
- (5) Straflager
- (6) Polizeistraflager
- (7) Arbeitserziehungslager
- (8) Arbeitserziehungslager für asoziale Elemente
- (9) Reichsbahn

"reformatory camps" partly in direct transports, partly via transit camps (1) in spring and summer of 1944. These were mainly persons refusing to do work (2), persons who broke work contract (3) or persons punished because of other offences; to a small extent there were also hostages.

Duration of detention

The duration of detention was, especially in 1944, to be three months. Partly shorter periods, partly longer ones, were recorded; this probably due to punishments inflicted during the detention. After their release from detention, these persons became free civilian labourers, in a series of cases in the same camp, according to the regulations then valid. The fences were then removed.

Camp strength

The size of the camps varied according to the place of assignment or housing; camps numbering between 50 and 100 persons seem to have been frequent.

Nationality of detainees

The detainees were chiefly men, whose nationality owing to lack of pertinent records could not be ascertained. They seem to have been foreign labourers from various nations. There is no indication available that German nationals also had been in these camps.

The presence of women was ascertained only in the aforementioned camp in Cassel and in the camp in Hanover, Hansastraße 10.

- (1) Durchgangslager
- (2) Arbeitsverweigerer
- (3) Kontraktbrüchige

Housing

The housing also varied a great deal. Often single barracks within large camps were fenced off with barbed wire, other camps were in assembly halls of hotels or auberges.

Clothing

In most of the camps the detainees wore civilian clothing, in others, uniform work clothes with or without coloured marking.

Supporters of the camps

The supporters of the camps were predominantly firms, in individual cases the labour office of the Gau (1), or the "German Work Front" (2) respectively the Railways of the Reich as employer. Wages generally were not paid or else kept back in order to cover the expenditures.

Number of camps

Up to now, 105 reformatory camps attached to firms have become known to the International Tracing Service.

Sources

Nominal documentary material is not available at the ITS. Investigations at other offices have also led to no positive result, so that the knowledge that has been gained stems exclusively from post-war reports.

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- (1) Gauarbeitsamt
- (2) "deutsche Arbeitsfront" (DAF)

The SS-Special Camp (1) Hinzert inside of which there was situated a police detention camp (2), was opened in October 1939. Police detention camps as well as outlying commandos were subordinated to it. The idea behind and original purpose of this place of detention was the executing of police detention inflicted on the labourers of the OT (3) assigned to building the West Wall, on the labourers working on the Reichs-Autobahn, and on the workers of the pioneer units. These were subject to the martial laws (4), and were consequently under courts-martial, respectively provost courts in criminal matters.

The building projects on the West Wall were divided into higher departments of construction (5), to each of which a security staff (6) was attached. These security staffs officiated under the "Leader of the Security Staffs with the Inspector-General for the German Road System" (7) in Wiesbaden.

These security staffs were authorized - in agreement with the local offices of the Secret State Police (8) - to inflict up to 21 days of police detention for minor offences, whereas for the punishment of more serious offences or crimes the courts-martial, respectively provost courts were competent.

Structure of the camp complex (1st phase)

Establishment

Except where otherwise stated, the following information concerning the

- (1) SS-Sonderlager
- (2) Polizeihäftlager
- (3) OT = Organization Todt
- (4) Kriegsgesetze
- (5) Oberbauleitungen
- (6) Sicherungsstab
- (7) "Führer der Sicherungsstäbe beim Generalinspektor für das deutsche Straßenwesen"
- (8) Geheime Staatspolizei = Gestapo

establishment and the organization of this camp was taken from a report of the first camp commandant, SS-Major of the Reserve (1), Hermann Pister, addressed to the Chief of the SS Main-Office (2) on 25 July 1940:

...
 "As the local prisons were overcrowded by members of the Wehrmacht, the individual higher departments of construction established emergency lock-ups (3) in their areas which also were overcrowded, and in which the detainees were housed unworthy of human beings. Since the Gestapo offices also used these lock-ups for imprisonment of criminals, this condition was of great danger for the workers of the OT, as mostly juveniles were concerned. In addition there was idling, so that at the time I took up my post (beginning of October 1939) I abolished this bad state of affairs. Here the various higher departments of construction were very helpful to me in that single barrack-camps were placed at my disposal where, firstly, the workers could be housed worthy of human beings and, most important, the workers could be introduced to work during arrest. The smaller camps were dissolved and the detainees who were gathered from several higher departments of construction were housed in the well-equipped police detention camps." ...

With regard to his appointment as camp commandant, he explains in his statement of 2 July 1945, made before a commission of inquiry in Freising:

... "He (4) explained to me personally the following: The construction of the West Wall is delayed by slow rate of work. Too many juveniles and work-

- (1) SS-Sturmbannführer der Reserve
- (2) Chef des SS-Hauptamtes
- (3) Not-Arrestlokale
- (4) the Inspector for the German Road System and Minister for Armament and Ammunition, Dr. Todt

shy persons as well as habitual drunkards (1) have been assigned by the labour offices. The workers on the West Wall are placed under the military courts and receive major sentences of imprisonment in case of breach of work contract and even owing to desertion. Thereby they are withdrawn from the work procedure. The prisons are overcrowded.

Some camps must be established where these petty offenders (2) must be trained to perform work methodically. But these camps must not be concentration camps, nor should they resemble them. He promised me every pecuniary and material support.

To begin with, he placed an air force camp at my disposal, situated in Hinzert, near Hermeskeil (Hunsrück), which was partly destroyed by fire.

...

With the first arriving West Wall workers who were punished by the competent security staffs with 21 respectively 52 days police detention, instead of having been handed over to military courts because of refusal to work, I began the establishing of the camp. This arrangement of not handing over the first-time petty offender to the military court has - especially with regard to juveniles - proved to be very good. "

...

It is not evident whether the initiative for the introduction of a special detention for OT-workers was taken by the Organization Todt or the RF-SS.(3)

Subordination

All personal and impersonal expenses for the police detention camps as well as for SS-Special Camp Hinzert were covered by the Inspector-General for the German Road System in Wiesbaden to whom these camps were obviously

(1) Jugendliche und Arbeitsscheue sowie Gewohnheitstrinker

(2) Gestrauchelte = persons committed because of minor delinquency

(3) Reichsführer SS = Chief of the SS

subordinate.

Economically (buildings, assignment of labour, etc.), the camp Hinzert was subordinate to Department I of the State Police Office Treves. (1)

By order of the RF-SS and Inspector of the CCs, the "SS-Special Camp Hinzert and its attached western camps" (2), that is the police detention camps were subordinated to the Inspector of the CCs with effect from 1 July 1940. At the same time, the guard details were incorporated into the Death's Head Formations (3) of the Waffen-SS.

In 1942, according to the deposition of the former camp commandant of 2 July 1945, the SS-Special Camp Hinzert was taken over by the Office of the State Police (4) Luxemburg - Treves.

In January 1945, the subordination of SS-Special Camp Hinzert as outlying commando of CC Buchenwald took place. The letter of Lieutenant-General of the SS and Lieutenant General of the Waffen-SS (5), Richard Glücks, of 19 Jan 1945, to SS-Colonel (6) Brandt in the Personal Staff of the RF-SS gives information as to the reasons that made it necessary to subordinate the hitherto independent camp as an outlying commando; this letter says:

"Dear Comrade Brandt !

To the above letter I wish to inform you that in the meantime all non-commissioned officers fit for active service and men of the Security Service (7) of Special Camp Hinzert have been transferred. The previous Camp Commandant, SS-Hauptsturmführer(8) Sporrenberg, was transferred as leader of an outlying commando

(1) Interrogation minutes of the former Head of the State Police Office Treves and of the operation commando of the Security Police and the Security Service in Luxemburg of 13 June 1960 in the criminal case pending against the former Commandant of SS Special Camp Hinzert before the assize court with the district court Treves.

(2) "Sonderlager Hinzert mit den ihm angeschlossenen Westlagern"

(3) SS-Totenkopfverbände

(4) Staatspolizei (Stapo)

(5) SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS

(6) SS-Standartenführer

(7) Sicherheitsdienst (SD)

(8) SS-Captain

to Concentration Camp Buchenwald, Hinzert itself subordinated as outlying camp to CC Buchenwald.
Thus, in future, further anonymous letters about Hinzert would be of no effect at all. "

Concerning this subordination, the following could be gathered from the already quoted deposition of the former camp commandant, Pister, of 2 July 1945:

"Then in spring 1945, Hinzert was placed under CC Buchenwald as outlying commando. Strength ca. 800 police prisoners who were assigned to work in airfields and factories by the BdS (1) Coblenz under whose command the camp was now put. However, the settlement took so long that the prisoners were not taken over by Buchenwald anymore, especially as these had already served their sentences and new entries did not take place. "

In this connection it must be mentioned that SS-Special Camp Hinzert does not appear in the otherwise complete records of CC Buchenwald and its outlying commandos.

Administration and Guard

For each police detention camp an SS-Leader was responsible. All these camps were directed by the Commandant of the SS-Special Camp.

At the beginning the guard details were made up of members of the Organization Todt, who later were incorporated into the Waffen-SS.

In the further course of the war, partly also members of the Wehrmacht no longer fit for front service were used as guards.

Commitments, Duration of Detention and Releases

The commitments to the police detention camps were - as already explained - ordered by the individual security staffs up to a duration of 21 days.

In the already quoted report of 25 July 1940, is additionally explained:

... "Recidivous compatriots (2) or such workers who

- (1) Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD = Commander of the Security Police and Security Service
(2) Rückfällige Volksgenossen

are sentenced by the provost courts, respectively courts-martial to longer imprisonment, or who are considered to be habitual drunkards and notorious idlers, will be sent to SS-Special Camp Hinzert for an indeterminate period(1).

The permission for commitment to SS-Special Camp Hinzert is granted by the Inspector of the Security Police and Security Service (2) as Leader of the Security Staff of the Inspector-General of the German Road System in Wiesbaden. "

The duration of the detention in SS-Special Camp Hinzert was fixed at a minimum of 3 months.

About the fixing of the duration of the incarceration, the above-mentioned report contains the following statements:

"As far as the Inspector of the Security Police and Security Service has not ordered a temporary period of detention, the duration of detention in SS-Special Camp Hinzert is determined by the commandant on the basis of the offence specified in the records. "

Referring to releases, in a communication of the camp commandant of 16 Sept 1943, it is said:

In every individual case, the release of the detainees will be ordered by the competent Superior SS- and Police Leader. " (3) ...

" Education " (4) of detainees

To this the first camp commandant states in his report:

"Besides the training for efficiency, the detainees are, at the same time, educated to keep order, including clean-

- (1) längere Zeit
(2) Inspekteur der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD (IdS)
(3) Höherer SS- und Polizeiführer (HSSPF)
(4) " Erziehung "

liness, camp order and military training." ...

Those persons incarcerated in the camp were designated as "pupils" (1), "as with regard to the inmates, neither prisoners nor convicts are concerned." ...

The treatment or - according to the commandant - "education" in the police detention camps was supposedly the same as in the SS-Special Camp. In addition to the "education" there was a "training" (2) by a "tutor" (3) who in a staff chart of the SS-Special Camp of June 1941 is called "head educator" (4) or "tutor" (professor with rank of an SS-Leader), and who had five further "educators" (5) at his disposal. The "pupils" were cared for "culturally" (6) by the German Work Front (7) - Strength through Joy - (8).

Structure of the camp complex (2nd phase)

New characteristics after its subordination to the Inspector of the Concentration Camps on 1 July 1940

In the report of the first camp commandant of July 1940, used until now as source, this later period is no longer dealt with. From the incomplete detainees' records and other camp files held by the ITS, only the following could be gathered.

The Police Detention Camps subordinate to SS-Special Camp Hinzert

After the higher departments of the OT construction works were transferred

- (1) Zöglinge
- (2) Schulung
- (3) Schulungsleiter
- (4) Hauptzieher
- (5) Erzieher
- (6) kulturell
- (7) Deutsche Arbeitsfront (DAF)
- (8) Kraft durch Freude

from the territory of the Reich to the occupied parts of France, the police detention camps established for their use were presumably dissolved. The date of the dissolution is unknown. It could only be ascertained that the camp Vicht, according to a communication of the Secret State Police Düsseldorf of 11 Oct 1940, was to be dissolved. The detainees of this police detention camp, however, - according to the deposition of the former camp commandant in the mentioned assize court trial - were transferred to SS-Special Camp Hinzert in the middle of 1941.

The SS-Special Camp and its Outlying Commandos

These places of detention continued to exist until the respective territories were occupied by the Allied Troops. The region around Hinzert was occupied at the beginning of March 1945. Outlying commandos located to the right of the Rhine existed somewhat longer.

The "pupils" appear on the incomplete detainees' files until the middle of November 1940. A further commitment cannot be ascertained; it can, therefore, be assumed that until the arrival of detainees in protective custody (1) only the "pupils" incarcerated for the duration of the war constituted the remainder.

New categories of detainees

Detainees in protective custody

At the end of April - beginning of May 1941, the detainee number series for the "pupils" were either supplemented or replaced. The first numbers were issued to those detainees who had been incarcerated by the State Police Treves as detainees in protective custody in the Court Prison Treves and who were transferred at the above mentioned time to Hinzert. Concerned was a group of Italians and later Luxemburgers.

Labour reformatory detainees (2)

A labour reformatory camp (3) was established inside SS-Special Camp

- (1) Schutzhaftlinge
- (2) Arbeitserziehungshäftlinge
- (3) Arbeitserziehungslager (AEL)

Hinzert at an unknown date.

Labour reformatory detainees appear in the records as of July 1941. The communication of the Reich Security Main Office (1) of 30 Sept 1941, (II C 3 Nr. 5022/41-273-2-Trie.) addressed to the State Police Office Treves contains the following paragraph:

... "I agree to the continuation of the designation "SS-Special Camp Hinzert". I request, however, that the designation "labour reformatory camp" be added."

Temporary incarceration of detainees transferred from France

As of 1943 two categories of detainees transferred from France were temporarily incarcerated in SS-Special Camp Hinzert:

- the NN (2) detainees, who were transferred from there to Silesia. (Communication dated 25 July 1944, of the senior prosecutor in Breslau to the attorney general of the same place). Names of these detainees are not available in the records kept by the ITS.

- re-arrested persons who had broken their work contracts, even if they were intended for incarceration in a CC were for some time to be committed to a labour reformatory camp, primarily to the labour reformatory camp in Hinzert. (Circular decree of the RF-SS of 30 Nov 1943).

Foreign Legionaries

After July 1941, Foreign Legionaries of German nationality transferred from France were incarcerated in the SS-Special Camp. The reason for the commitment is not evident from ITS records, but apparently it is a question of a screening since most of the detainees were transferred after a certain time to Kislau, Karlsruhe, Rastatt and Sandweiler. It seems that these were in part transfers

- (1) Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA)
(2) Nacht und Nebel = night and fog

to penal institutions of the judiciary.

Department for persons suitable for Germanization (1)

According to the communication of 20 Feb 1943 of the Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of the German National Character (2) addressed to the Superior SS- and Police Leaders, a department for this purpose was opened in the Special Camp. Polish civil workers, because of having had intercourse with German women, were transferred to that department "for examination" (3) for 6 months. In special cases, the term of detention could be extended; one case of a detention of about 2 years has been ascertained. In his reports on the detainees' conduct, the commandant of SS-Special Camp Hinzert was to give his opinion about the question of Germanization.

Camp punishments

In the report of the camp commandant, the following is stated with regard to the punishment company:

... "The pupils housed for the duration of the war, as well as the notorious idlers, repeatedly previous convicted and asocial persons will be included in a punishment company and detailed for hard labour. Moreover, the same will further receive military training every day after work."

In the already cited assize court trial, the following punishment measures are also mentioned:

Dark confinement in the standing cell located in the prison

- (1) Abteilung für Eindeutschungsfähige
(2) Reichskommissar für die Festigung des deutschen Volkstums
(3) "zur Überprüfung"

barrack, partly combined with deprivation of food (a warm meal only every third day).

Corporal punishment, for the infliction of which the camp commandant was responsible.

Moreover, the "briquette commando" (1) existing in the camp was considered as a punishment commando (2) too.

Evacuation

SS-Special Camp Hinzert became a commando of CC Buchenwald on 19 Jan 1945. The detainees were evacuated on 3 March 1945.

Number of camps

6 police detention camps and 16 outlying commandos subordinate to SS-Special Camp Hinzert could be ascertained on the basis of documentary material.

Sources

This information is based essentially on trial records, as well as on incomplete detainees' records and other camp documents.

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- (1) "Brikettkommando"
- (2) Strafkommando

A few days before the opening of the "Security Camp" (1), the Commander of the Security Police and Security Service (2) in Strasbourg, on 2 July 1940, writes to the Subordinated Commanders of Operation Commando 1 (3) in Strasbourg respectively of Operation Commando 2 in Mulhouse with regard to the establishment of transit camps and concentration camps, still without mentioning Schirmeck-Vorbruck:

"The necessity to remove disagreeable elements from the territories occupied by the Operation Group (4) renders the establishment of two transit camps (5) and one concentration camp there indispensable." ...

As to the function of these camps, it is furthermore stated therein:

...

"The transit camps should only serve for the temporary commitment of such persons who will be deported to the unoccupied French territory as soon as possible after their arrest.

Whereas to the concentration camp, persons are to be committed who probably have to remain in this camp for a longer period."

...

The following is said as to the commitment to the CC:

...

"To the concentration camp are to be committed:

- a) Red Spain Fighters (6) of German origin,
- b) persons who might be expected to disturb through their conduct the German construction work in this area,
- c) persons who through action have offended German troops or German nationals."

...

- (1) Sicherungslager
- (2) Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD (BdS)
- (3) Kommandeure der Einsatzkommandos
- (4) Einsatzgruppe
- (5) Durchgangslager
- (6) Rotspanienkämpfer

Origin

As evident from a letter of the Commander of the Security Police and Security Service in Strasbourg of 15 July 1940 (III Häu/HI. 544), the Camp Schirmeck-Vorbruck was established on this date.

Subordination

The "Security Camp" was subordinate to the Commander of the Security Police and Security Service in Strasbourg.

Regulations for the handling of cases of protective custody(1)

In his letter of 1 Sept 1941 (Pa. Se/Du/1), to the Gauleiter and Representative of the Reich concerning "commitment of Alsatians to the Security Camp" (2), the Chief of the Civil Administration in Alsace (personnel office) orders the following:

...

"For the commitment of Alsatians to the Security Camp, the consent of the authorized Party regional leader has to be obtained stating the circumstances. Before expiration of the term of imprisonment, a certificate of conduct with reference to the detainee, which is taken into consideration at the decision of the personnel office, should be submitted by the Commander of the Security Camp to the personnel office of the Chief of the Civil Administration. The decision of the personnel office is not to be anticipated by any promises towards the detainees by the security police." ...

As to the aim of the "Security Camp" the Chief of the Civil Administration in Alsace explains in his letter of 23 Aug 1941 (Nr. Pö/4901) to the RF-SS (3) and Chief of the German Police in the Reich Ministry of the Interior:

...

"The Schirmeck camp presently houses about 650 detainees, among whom there are very many Alsatians who cannot be considered

- (1) Schutzhaftfalle
- (2) "Einweisung von Elsässern in das Sicherungslager"
- (3) Reichsführer-SS

as actual criminals or political offenders, but whose incarceration for the duration of war for various reasons has proved to be absolutely necessary. Especially among the security detainees (1) there are many Grenzgänger, i.e. juvenile Alsations of an age liable for military service, who had made the attempt to illegally cross the border to go to France.

As experience has shown that a great number of these juveniles were enlisted in France for the de Gaulle movement, incarceration of these Grenzgänger for the duration of war became necessary. The Schirmeck camp not only serves the purpose of isolating these Grenzgänger during the war, as well as numerous other Alsations arrested for Francophile activity, but in this camp first of all these Alsations shall by an appropriate education and systematical training be regained for Germany. Thus the Schirmeck camp differs fundamentally from the concentration camps in the German Reich, not only in the structure of its inmates, but also in the methods employed for the treatment of the detainees. Not least because in Schirmeck - contrary to the concentration camps in the German Reich - the possibility exists by an individual treatment to have far-reaching influence on the education of each particular detainee. I consider it absolutely necessary that the Schirmeck camp be maintained in its present form. An eventual dissolution of the camp and transfer of its detainees to a concentration camp in the German Reich would not only mean that the educational results achieved so far in Schirmeck would be made illusory, but beyond that extremely unpleasant political reactions in Alsace would occur. "...

The following can be gathered from the reply to this by the RF-SS of 27 Jan 1942, (S II C 3 Nr. 5807/41):

"As regards the prisoners in Alsace, I am absolutely of your opinion that the stubborn (2) young Alsations, who want to join de Gaulle must be placed (3) in a camp like Schirmeck, and undergo a treatment that differs from how communists and professional criminals (4) are treated. However, I have to ask you to transfer

- (1) Sicherungshäftlinge
- (2) dickköpfig
- (3) untergebracht
- (4) Berufsverbrecher

all severe cases to the interior of the Reich (1) and that the Schirmeck camp can only be a temporary solution. "...

"Education" (2) in the camp

As to this subject in the letter of the Chief of the Civil Administration in Alsace to the Chief of Department IV in the Reich Security Main Office (3) of 21 April 1944 concerning the security camp Schirmeck-Vorbruck, the following is stated:

...

"The population of Alsace has, by influence of the French democracy, adopted an attitude towards work and towards life altogether, which is far different from ours. Therefore from the very beginning in Alsace a particular education of the population was necessary. This education has been taken over by the Party. Further it was necessary to support the educational work of the Party by special measures of the security organizations of the State. Education in the camp in Vorbruck was part of these measures.

With regard to the difficulty of this task, we were - at the time - unable to observe that the commitment to a labour and education camp (4) be imposed for 56 days. Taking into consideration the special circumstances, the hard to educate elements had to be committed to the education camp in certain cases for one year and longer.

Here we followed the conviction that the elements that were to be educated not necessarily are or might be antisocial elements (5). The weaknesses which the Alsatian often shows are normally to be attributed not to hereditary predisposition but to a lack of education. Therefore in our opinion it was necessary to keep the hard to educate elements (6) in Vorbruck as long as deemed necessary."

- (1) Altreich=Designation of the German territory in its borders of 1937
- (2) "Erziehung"
- (3) Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA)
- (4) Arbeits- und Erziehungslager
- (5) asoziale Elemente
- (6) die schwer erziehbaren Elemente

Referring to the "lack of education" (1) in Alsace mentioned by the Chief of the Civil Administration in the same letter, it is stressed:

"This attempt undoubtedly has been worthwhile. The Vorbruck education camp evidently has served its purpose in every respect."

Categories of detainees

The aforementioned explanations already give a general idea of the type of persons intended for a commitment to the security camp.

The following is a short description of particular groups of detainees not to be found in other camps or who differ because of special measures imposed on them:

Grenzgänger :

juvenile Alsations of an age liable for military service who had attempted to move to France. This category was to remain incarcerated throughout the entire duration of the war.

Training detainees :

to this the Commander of the Security Police and the Security Service in Strasbourg in his letter of 11 Dec 1941, (7361-PA 4 - Bü/Dr-VA. -46) to the Chief of the Civil Administration in Alsace states:

"By order of the then Commander of the Security Police and the Security Service in Strasbourg, SS-Oberführer (2) Dr. Scheel, about 60 persons who, during the time while Alsace was in French hands, in one way or the other offended Germany through word or through action in public, or who were known as deserters from the World War 1914-1918, were committed as training detainees to the Vorbruck Security Camp for a period of six weeks. They were held separate in the camp. They did not have their hair cut. They continuously received ideological training (3) with the aim of indoctrination.

(1) "Mangel an Erziehung"

(2) Intermediary rank between colonel and brigadier

(3) weltanschaulicher Unterricht

Moreover the commandant of the camp was instructed at the time to expressly inform them at their discharge among other things that all of them could return to their former working place."

Juvenile detainees :

in a memorandum of the representative of the Chief of the Civil Administration of 21 Feb 1942, concerning a discussion with the Commander of the Security Police and the Security Service in Strasbourg with regard to:

"Security Camp Vorbruck; here;
Housing of the juvenile detainees" it is said;

"The opinion of the Representative of the Reich is that the juveniles - like the political detainees - are to be separated from the avowed antisocial and inferior detainees."

Gipsies :

the letter of the Security Police/Operation Commando 1/III of 14 Aug 1940 (Tgb. Nr. III (II) - 584/40 L/H.) to the State Criminal Police (1) in Strasbourg concerning "Clearing the Alsace of gipsies, professional criminals and antisocial elements" (2) defines:

"Commitment of gipsies, professional criminals and antisocial elements to the Schirmeck Camp or to the Strasbourg Police Prison is to be started at once. The gipsies are to be brought to the Schirmeck Security Camp, the professional criminals and antisocial elements to the Strasbourg Police Prison.

To the gipsies are to be added all persons roaming about like gipsies. Women and children are to be committed with them."

(1) Staatliche Kriminalpolizei

(2) "Säuberung des Elsasses von Zigeunern, Berufsverbrechern und asozialen Elementen"

Female detainees :

as regards these, the Commander of the Security Police and the Security Service in Strasbourg, in his letter of 30 May 1941 to the Chief of the Civil Administration as well as to the Gauleiter and the Representative of the Reich, states as follows :

III.) Education Camp for Women

In Vorbruck Security Camp a special barrack, which is separate from the others, is at disposal for the incarcerated women. This barrack continuously houses some women and there is room enough for numerous additional female detainees. " ...

Liberation

The date of the liberation of the detainees of the security camp Schirmeck-Vorbruck cannot be ascertained in the available documents of the ITS. The camp is mentioned for the last time on 22 Nov 1944.

Number of camps

On the basis of the documents available to the ITS, the outlying commandos Gaggenau (with its subsidiary commandos Villingendorf and Weisenbach), Haslach and Rastatt are known.

Sources

The documentary material concerning the Security Camp Schirmeck-Vorbruck has only been preserved fragmentarily. Not only the individual documents, but also the documents of general character show considerable gaps.

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Origin

With regard to the purpose and the aim of the establishment, as well as the tasks, organization and methods of the camps for the protection of juveniles, available at the ITS are both the official gazette of the Reich Criminal Police Department (1) of December 1944 and a report of the SS-Colonel and "Colonel of the Police" (2) in the Reich Security Main Office (3), Paul Werner, given at the juvenile court judges' conference (4) of the Ministry of Justice of the Reich in 1943 on the subject of the "Commitment to the Police Camps for the Protection of Juveniles" (5), published in issue 4 of "Juvenile Law" (6), presumably after 1 Oct 1943.

Because of the minuteness of detail of the report, it will serve essentially as basis for the statements put forward here. In addition to general subjects concerning crime prevention with special consideration to juvenile criminality, the report treats - among other things - the following points in direct connection with commitment to and treatment in the camps for the protection of juveniles:

"Already before the war, and in increased quantity after the beginning of the war, the Criminal Police observed a certain increase in severe and most severe criminality of minors. Thereby it was to be ascertained, that quite frequently concerned were punishable acts of offspring of antisocial groups, especially former correctional education pupils (7). Not infrequently such crimes were committed by minors whose previous behaviour would have anticipated state reform measures, but who, however, on account of reaching a certain age, could no longer be accepted by the Correctional Education, or who were to be released therefrom. ...

A development of that kind, which stops using State measures just where the most dangerous, abject and worse minors, thus inclined to criminality,

- (1) Reichskriminalpolizeiamt = (RKPA)
- (2) SS-Standartenführer und "Oberst der Polizei"
- (3) Reichssicherheitshauptamt = (RSHA)
- (4) Jugendrichtertagung
- (5) "Die Einweisung in die polizeilichen Jugendschutzlager"
- (6) "Jugendrecht"
- (7) Fürsorgezöglinge

are concerned, could only be stopped by establishing additional accommodations and educational facilities (1), here and now by the Security Police, as the idea of custody, approved on all sides, had so far not come forth elsewhere. An assignment of young, still immature persons to the existing concentration and labour education camps obviously was out of the question. The point was to create something completely new and adequate to the characteristics of the persons in question."

Concerning the considerations to be started from when planning the camps for the protection of juveniles, it is further said:

"The deprivation of freedom in the scope of correctional education is not absence of ulterior motive, but necessary evil while education is put first. Whereas in the concentration camps, the confinement, and thereby the protection of the nation as a whole against the committed person, is the real purpose; the education of the detainees rendered possible by their confinement is a useful accompanying result. When establishing camps for the protection of juveniles, the deprivation of freedom as necessary means of security, but also at the same time the education of the still immature people, should be used as so to speak a last attempt according to different principles of education.

Thus the Reichsführer-SS ordered in February 1940 to establish camps for the protection of juveniles. ...

With regard to the task of the camps for the protection of juveniles, it is laid down in the communication of 24 June 1942 (A 3 Nr. 2116/42) of Office V (RKPA) of the Reich Security Main Office concerning the regulations for the co-operation of the "Criminal Biological Institute of the Security Police" (2) and the "Department for Criminal Political Matters and Prevention in the RKPA" (3), including the direction of the camp for the protection of juveniles:

"1. It is the task of the camps for the protection of juveniles to classify their inmates according to criminal biological

- (1) Unterbringungs- und Erziehungsmöglichkeiten
- (2) KB 1 = Kriminalbiologisches Institut der Sicherheitspolizei
- (3) Ref. A = Referat für kriminalpolitische Belange und Vorbeugung im RKPA

aspects, to promote those still capable of improvement in such a way that they are able to fill their place in the nation as a whole, and to take into custody the ineducable - using their ability to work - until their definite further accommodation." (The next sentence is illegible).

Subordination

The camps for the protection of juveniles were subordinate to the RSHA/Office V (Reich Criminal Police Department).

Guard

The guard personnel was provided by the Inspector of the Concentration Camps, who also was superintendent of the camp personnel.

Because of the characteristics of the camps for the protection of juveniles, the Chief of the Security Police and the Security Service (1) was reserved the participation in the choosing of the camp leaders and the educating personnel.

Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Moringen

The first camp for the protection of juveniles was Moringen am Solling, which was established on 15 Aug 1940 by order of the Council for the Defence of the Reich (2) for the housing of "antisocial and most seriously incriminated persons" (3). At the beginning it was intended for a capacity of 400 "places" (4) (housed in the Provincial Workhouse of the Province Hanover, which was rented by the Provincial Association (5) of Hanover for this purpose). Through additional barrack construction, the housing capacity was extended to 800 "places" in 1943.

According to the communication of the Inspector of the Concentration Camps dated 16 Jan 1942, (V 3 - 47 A/1.42), the camp was also designated

- (1) Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD (Cds)
- (2) Reichsverteidigungsrat
- (3) "Asozial und schwerstens belastete Menschen"
- (4) "Platze"
- (5) Provinzialverband

as SS-Special Camp (1)

Commitment

Only male juveniles were committed. In camp they were called "pupils" (2).

Concerning the commitments the following is evident from the already quoted statements put forward by the SS-Colonel Werner :

... "The commitments ensue exclusively through the Reich Criminal Police Department upon application of the Criminal Police Offices in an exact regulated procedure. Committed are only minors, for whom the Correctional Education, because of attainment of age limit or because of incapability of reform, can no longer be ordered or maintained.

Minors who, because of severe imbecility or for other reasons, are not able to meet with the simplest demands of camp order, must indeed be housed elsewhere." ...

The circular of the Reich Minister of the Interior of 3 Oct 1941 (IV W II 41/41-8400) contains the regulation:

... "The Reich Criminal Police Department decides upon the housing in each particular case. Before the housing, an expert opinion of the District- (Provincial-) Juvenile Office (Young People's Correctional Education Authority) (3) must have been submitted. ...

2. The District- (Provincial-) Juvenile Offices (Young People's Correctional Education Authorities) report to the competent main criminal police office those correctional education pupils under their care, who have the prerequisites for the housing in the camp for the protection of juveniles (para. 1) and whose housing in the camp for the protection of juveniles they deem necessary."

Moreover, in the decree of the Reich Security Main Office/Office V (V A 3 Nr. 2212/41) of 12 Nov 1941, concerning "Commitment to the Camp

- (1) "SS-Sonderlager"
- (2) "Zöglinge"
- (3) Gau- (Landes-) Jugendamt (Fürsorgeerziehungsbehörde)

for the Protection of Juveniles Moringen" (1) among other things, it is laid down that the leader of the competent Hitler-Juvenile district was to give a comment before the commitment of a juvenile under 18 years of age which was to be enclosed with the application or to be sent in later.

Age limits of the "pupils"

With regard to the age of commitment it is ordered per decree of the RSHA (V A 3 Nr. 4421/40) of 8 Nov 1940 concerning "Applications for housing of criminal and antisocial minors in the camp for the protection of juveniles" (2):

"Now the applications for the housing of minors up to their 21st year of age are to be submitted to the Reich Criminal Police Department - Reich Central Office for Combatting Juvenile Criminality (3) - in accordance with the formal regulations given in the decrees above. If the commitment to the camp for the protection of juveniles does not seem expedient, the commitment to a concentration camp will be arranged from here. The lower age limit of 16 years of age remains, except for especially well-founded individual cases."

Duration of Custody and Release

To this from the report of SS-Colonel Werner is evident:

"The housing in camps for the protection of juveniles is of an indefinite duration. About the release formally again the Reich Criminal Police Department decides, so that a uniform and fair handling is guaranteed."

- (1) "Einweisung in das Jugendschutzlager Moringen"
- (2) "Anträge auf Unterbringung krimineller und asozialer Minderjähriger im Jugendschutzlager"
- (3) Reichskriminalpolizeiamt - Reichszentrale zur Bekämpfung der Jugendkriminalität.

Office V of the RSHA decides in the already mentioned "regulations" (1):

...
"VI. After one and a half years stay in camp, the question of the release of the pupil, if it has not already been suggested, is examined. If the discharge cannot yet take place, the point of time of the renewed examination is decided in each individual case."
...

Educational staff

As already mentioned in section "Guard" of the camps for the protection of juveniles, the Security Police (2) and the Security Service (3) took part in the selection of the educational staff. From a communication of the RF-SS and Chief of the German Police, the Chief of the Main Office of Budget and Construction (4) (Office I/1 149 - 4 Pr/Qu. -) of 2 Sept 1941 to the Reich Minister of Finance, concerning maintenance of the camps for the protection of juveniles of the Security Police, in economic and construction matters through the Main Office of Budget and Construction is obvious that the commandant is a SS-Sturmbannführer and experienced criminal-councillor (5) with four detectives to assist him. The remaining camp personnel consists of detached of the Waffen-SS (6) and employees.

For educational work there are at disposal besides the chief educator 12 educators of various trade groups "with the necessary intellectual horizon". (7)

Organization

In the camp for the protection of juveniles Moringen, the "pupils" were assigned to different blocks.

Block B - (Observation Block) (8) for new arrivals,

- (1) Richtlinien
- (2) Sicherheitspolizei (Sipo)
- (3) Sicherheitsdienst (SD)
- (4) Chef des Hauptamtes Haushalt und Bauten
- (5) Kriminalrat
- (6) Kommandierte der Waffen-SS
- (7) "mit dem nötigen geistigen Horizont"
- (8) Beobachtungsblock

Block U - (Block of the unfit) (1) for the temporary housing of mentally impaired,

Block S - (Block of disturbers) (2) for juveniles who live in continual conflict with the community,

Block D - (Block of continual failures), (3)

Block G - (Block of occasional failures), (4)

Block F - (Block of questionable educable persons), (5)

Block E - (Block of educable persons), (6)

From this block ensued the releases into freedom.

Block St - (Block of the Stapo) (7) for political camp "pupils".
The register of arrivals at the disposal of the ITS lists "pupils" of the Stapo (8) from the middle of 1943 on.

The statements in the following sections were also taken from the report of SS-Colonel Werner.

Labour Assignment

The labour assignment was multiform and had adapted itself, after various changes, to the necessities of war.

200 camp pupils worked in the vicinity of the camp in the army munition factory Volpriehausen, and about 180 camp pupils worked in an engine fitting workshop (firm Piller, Osterode - branch Moringen) in the near vicinity of the camp. Others were employed in various workshops. In the outlying commando (9) in Berlin-Weißensee, pupils of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Moringen performed gardening for the RKPA.

- (1) Block der Untauglichen
- (2) Block der Störer
- (3) Block der Dauerversager
- (4) Block der Gelegenheitsversager
- (5) Block der fraglichen Erziehungsfähigen
- (6) Block der Erziehungsfähigen
- (7) St-Block für politische Lagerzöglinge
- (8) Staatspolizei = State Police
- (9) Außenkommando (Akdo)

Camp Penalties

The most various disciplinary means were at the disposal of the camp commandant such as correction and admonition, disciplinary penalties, extra duties, deprivation of food, disciplinary standing combined with deprivation of food, intensified arrest up to 3 weeks, hard bunk up to 3 weeks etc.

...
"The single members of the camp personnel have no disciplinary powers whatever. The decision is always taken by the Camp Commandant or the chief educator. Thereby limits of the rights of the chief educator are fixed. A right of the guards to inflict corporal punishment in particular does not exist."

Evacuation respectively liberation

The evacuation of the "pupils" of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Moringen took place on 6 April 1945 in the direction of the Harz. The sick remained in camp and were liberated on 9 April 1945.

Outlying commandos of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Moringen

Two outlying commandos of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Moringen are known to the ITS. One was Commando Volpriehausen, whose "pupils" were assigned to the Army-Ammunition Plant, the other was Commando Berlin-Weißensee, whose "pupils" performed gardening for the Reich Criminal Police Department.

Protection of Juveniles Camp Uckermark, Post Fürstenberg/Mecklenburg

According to an express letter of the RSHA (V A 3 Nr. 507/42) of 30 March 1942 to the Chiefs of the Main Criminal Police Offices concerning "Opening of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Uckermark for female minors" (1) the 1 June 1942 was intended as earliest date of commitment. In the same communication it is said:

"The regulations for the housing of male minors also apply here" (2).

- (1) "Eröffnung des Jugendschutzlagers Uckermark für weibliche Minderjährige"
- (2) "Die Richtlinien für die Unterbringung männlicher Minderjähriger gelten auch hier"

Composition of inmates

The composition of the inmates generally resembled that of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Moringen. At Camp Uckermark however, was a higher percentage of "pupils" who were committed by the Secret State Police (1), as among these, a considerable number of girls was included, who were sentenced because of sexual intercourse with foreign labourers.

Labour assignment

The education for work also played an important part here - next to the education for discipline and order "the basic prerequisite of life of every community" (2).

The "pupils" were assigned to work in

- the vegetable nursery (experimental station for species cultivation),
- a farm with small animal breeding,
- an embroidery workshop for uniform badges of rank,
- a workshop for the production of toys.

Moreover, labour was performed for various armament works and "pupils" were placed at the disposal of farmers of the vicinity for the bringing in of the harvest.

According to the report of SS-Colonel Werner each "pupil" received a work premium, like the male "pupils" of the protection of juveniles camp Moringen, 10 Pfennige. For good efficiency, premiums were settled.

Camp Penalties

Applied as punishment measures were:

- Admonition,
- Deprivation of privileges,
- Deprivation of food,
- Arrest.

(1) Geheime Staatspolizei = Gestapo

(2) "der Grundvoraussetzung jeden Gemeinschaftslebens"

Camp Staff

The female chief of the camp Uckermark was an experienced criminal councillor of the Female Criminal Police (1). Assisting her was a female criminal inspector and several further female officials, who all, apart from the police training, had concluded a pedagogical and sort of national welfare work training (2). Besides these were there as experts: 1 female national social welfare worker (3), 1 female work instructor (4) and 1 female coach (5).

Releases

Releases could ensue after corresponding probation after allotment to the selection block. One part of the "pupils" was released as far as possible to working places or offices in the vicinity of the camp, which were carefully chosen in order to render possible a thorough supervision, which was exercised from the camp.

From other sources is known, that on 1 June 1944 in Dallgow-Doberitz a transit camp (6) was opened. There "pupils" released on probation, could tentatively prove themselves further in more free conditions and could gain a final release.

From January 1945 on, "pupils" were released on a larger scale and a part of the camp was ceded to Concentration Camp for Women Ravensbrück (7), whereby a strict separation of the Camp for the Protection of Juveniles and the CC was retained.

Evacuation

The "pupils" of the Protection of Juveniles Camp Uckermark were evacuated on 20 April 1945.

Outlying commandos of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Uckermark

Only one outlying commando of Camp for the Protection of Juveniles

- (1) Weibliche Kriminalpolizei
- (2) pädagogische und volkspflegerische Ausbildung
- (3) Volkspflegerin
- (4) Werklehrerin
- (5) Sportlehrerin
- (6) Übergangslager
- (7) Frauen-Konzentrationslager (FKL)

Uckermark is known to the ITS. This was the commando Dallgow-Döberitz that served as transit camp for "pupils" who had been in Camp for the Protection of Juveniles Uckermark, however, did not yet seem stable enough for a final release.

Detention Camp for Polish Juveniles
of the Security Police in Litzmannstadt (1)

This camp too belonged to the category of the camps for the protection of juveniles, although conditions of commitment as well as treatment and stay in camp differed in many respects from the detention camps for the protection of juveniles described above.

According to the circular of RSHA (VA 3 Nr. 3050/42) of 28 Nov 1942 concerning "Commitment of neglected Polish children and juveniles to the Polish Juvenile Detention Camp Litzmannstadt" (2), it was opened on 1 Dec 1942 "for the police housing of children and juveniles of Polish nationality" (3). It was intended for a holding capacity of 2 000 children and juveniles.

Further it is said in the above circular:

...

- " (2) To be committed are criminal or otherwise neglected young Poles of both sexes of 8 - 16 years of age, who have no sufficient home upbringing, so that their police detention is urgently necessary, because through their behaviour they endanger German children in their development, or further criminal acts are to be feared. "

...

Age Limits of Composition of Inmates

During the first period only male juveniles of 12 - 16 years of age were to

- (1) Polenjugendverwahrlager der Sicherheitspolizei in Litzmannstadt
- (2) "Einweisung von verwahrlosten Kindern und Jugendlichen polnischen Volkstums in das Polen-Jugendverwahrlager Litzmannstadt"
- (3) "zur polizeilichen Unterbringung von Kindern und Jugendlichen polnischen Volkstums"

be committed.

After this original restriction, according to the circular of the Reich Minister of the Interior (NJ 1 8/43 8400X) of January 1943, a section for female minors was established and the age limit changed for both sexes to 8 - 16 (later 17) years of age. In the camp for female juveniles, also children of 2 - 8 years of age (boys and girls) were housed.

According to a circular of the Reich Minister of the Interior, of 3 Dec 1942 (IVJ 1/76/42 8400) Polish minors, who were in correctional education, were at once to be reported by the Young Peoples' Correctional Education Authority to the competent criminal police office for commitment to the detention camp for Polish juveniles. In future, juvenile offices should no longer submit applications for correctional education for Polish minors, but submit applications for transfer to the detention camp for Polish juveniles.

Through these commitments an alleviation of the welfare facilities of the Reich was intended.

The Reich Minister of Justice, with decree of 18 March 1943 (4210/1 III Aa 365), informed all offices of the judiciary, especially those judges and prosecutors concerned with the care of the law for juveniles, about the above circular of the Reich Minister of the Interior in which, among other things, it is also stated:

...

- " Examination of the possibilities of Germanizing (1) the Polish children is initiated by the camp, in agreement with the branch office Litzmannstadt of the SS-Racial and Settlement Main Office. (2) "

...

The "racially suitable" (3) children were housed in so-called racial offices (4) for the purpose of Germanization. The others had to remain in the camp and were "educated according to the principles of Nazi politics and according to the directions of the Reichsführer-SS himself" (5).

- (1) Eindeutschungsfähigkeit
- (2) SS-Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt
- (3) "rassisch geeigneten"
- (4) Rassenämter
- (5) "nach den Prinzipien der Nazipolitik und nach den Richtlinien des Reichsführers-SS selbst erzogen"

For the year 1943 various decrees are available, according to which "children of gangs" (1) could be, and were also committed to the camp. These were children of arrested members of the Polish resistance movement.

Liberation

The detainees of the detention camp for Polish juveniles were liberated on 18 Jan 1945.

Outlying commandos of the Detention Camp for Polish Juveniles of the Security Police in Litzmannstadt

For the relieving of Detention Camp for Polish Juveniles Litzmannstadt, Commando Tuchingen was placed at disposal, by the Resettlement Centre Poznań (Poznan). Furthermore known to the ITS is the outlying commando Dzierzazna which was an estate where the "pupils" were housed and at the same time drawn upon to perform agricultural work.

Sources

The stock of preserved documentary material is extremely meagre and makes possible only a fragmentary reconstruction of the affairs of these camps. A completion of the facts, for which documentation exists, is therefore only possible on the basis of secondary sources which for the most part rest on witness depositions, experience reports, publications and similar materials.

For Detention Camp for Polish Juveniles Litzmannstadt, various documentary material was found which renders a partial survey of the inmates

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Administrative structure of the camp

As with the penal camps, which is proved by the fact that the camp was administered by the German government (1), were administrative structures of the camp, this being an exceptional case in the history of the camp.

In April 1944, a "Kommando" was established in the camp. On 20 May 1944, in the official publication of the Reich Ministry of Justice, the Minister of Justice and the Reich Minister of Justice, the Administration of Justice and Police of Justice, it is published that the camp is subordinate to the Administration of Justice and Police of Justice (1). The taking over by the judicial administration was done with the Agricultural Administration. The latter was given the name

- (1) Strafgefangenenlager
 - (2) Hauptleiter des ... Chief of the ...
 - (3) ...
 - (4) ...
- Organ des Reichsministeriums der Justiz, des Reichsministeriums der Justiz und des Reichsministeriums der Justiz und des Reichsministeriums der Justiz
- (1) "Bandenkinder"
- (2) "Verwaltung des Strafgefangenenlagers"

Reason for the inclusion in the Register of Places of Detention

Although the penal camps (1) of Emsland were not subordinate to the RF-SS (2), they are dealt with in the present Register on the following grounds:

- certain camps were temporarily used as concentration camps (see pages:
- after 1933, in the camps subordinate to the administration of the law, methods of treating the convicts were introduced, for which no parallel can be found in any other establishments of this time for the execution of punishment on the part of the administration of the law.

Origin

Some of the Emsland camps were already established by the Prussian judicial administration in 1923 for the purpose of cultivating the Emsland moors in order to improve the nutritional basis. These penal camps were classified as "penitentiary" (3). The convicts were to be assigned to work outside the camps in the moors.

Subordination of the camps

In 1934 the penal camps, which in general used to be subordinated to the competent public prosecutor general (4), were subordinated directly to the Reich Minister of Justice, this being an unprecedented case in the judicial execution of punishment of that time. In April 1934, a "Kommandeur" was appointed head of the camps.

On 25 May 1934, in the official publication of the Reich Minister of Justice, the Prussian Minister of Justice and the Bavarian Minister of Justice, "German Justice, Administration of Justice and Politics of Justice" (Edition A, No. 21/p. 661) (5) is published that the camps Børgermoor, Brual-Rhede, Neu-Sustrum and Oberlangen are subordinated to the "Administration of the Penal Camps" (6) in Papenburg (Ems). The taking over by the judicial administration ensued in agreement with the Agricultural Administration. The leader was provided with the powers

- (1) Strafgefängenenlager
- (2) Reichsführer-SS = Chief of the SS
- (3) Zuchthaus
- (4) Generalstaatsanwalt
- (5) amtliches Organ des Reichsministers der Justiz, des Preußischen Justizministers und des Bayerischen Justizministers "Deutsche Justiz, Rechspflege und Rechtspolitik" (Ausgabe A, Nr. 21/s. 661)
- (6) "Verwaltung der Strafgefängenenlager"

of a "Special Institution" (1). The controlling authority for the camps was the Ministry of Justice directly. In addition, in 1938 a commissioner of the Reich Minister of Justice (2) was appointed for the camp complex. This position remained occupied till the end of the war. The official seat of this commissioner was Berlin; he appointed deputies whose offices were in the central administration of the camps in Papenburg.

The labour assignment was under the control of the Prussian State, Agricultural Administration, under the overall responsibility of the Reich Office for Territorial Order (3).

Organization of the individual camps

Since the already mentioned appointment, the penal camps were under the control of the "Kommandeur" who, in his capacity as civil servant and SA-Leader (4), combined the functions of chief for the entire execution of punishment and of Colonel (5) of the SA-Unit (6) "Emsland" entrusted with supervision and guard. The individual camps were directed by "chiefs" (7), to whom the respective prison officials were subordinate, whose first position was held by the "yard foreman" (8), responsible for the discipline of the convicts.

From 1934 until 1938, the unit leaders of the guard details (9), that is to say the "old SA-Leaders" (10) were the chiefs of the individual camps. In 1938 on suspension of the "Kommandeur", the Reich Minister of Justice ordered that the respective highest ranking penal officials should take charge of the post of chiefs of the camps (11). Also the administration of the camps at that time was

- (1) "Besondere Anstalt"
- (2) Beauftragter des Reichsministers der Justiz
- (3) Reichsstelle für Raumordnung
- (4) SA-Führer
- (5) Standartenführer
- (6) SA-Standarte
- (7) Vorsteher
- (8) Platzmeister
- (9) Einheitsführer der Wachkommandos
- (10) "die alten SA-Führer"
- (11) Lagervorsteher

reassigned to professional wardens.

As, however, the commander succeeded in his efforts to admit SA members without adequate preparatory training as wardens to the penal administration, the measures mentioned above had no great effect.

Guard

The first measure to be mentioned characteristic of this camp complex is the fact that as of 1934, the SA-Standarte "Emsland" took charge of the guard and administration of the camps. The "Kommandeur" of the penal camps, appointed in 1934, became at the same time the leader of this SA-Unit. The guard of the camps was in the hands of this SA-Standarte of Emsland until the end of the war.

Internal self-administration of the convicts

On his appointment the "Kommandeur" introduced in the Emsland camps the system of self-administration (1) of the detainees, known to him from the concentration camps; this is a further unprecedented case in the scope of the infliction of punishment by the administration of the law.

Among others, the following functions were allotted to the convicts; in the first place was the block elder (2), whose duties were especially the supervision of cleanliness and order in the barrack, the waking up of the convicts and the distribution of the food. Besides, room elders, hall elders, table elders (3) and work instructors (4) were assigned.

According to the deposition of a camp chief, by an order of the central administration, no political detainees were to be assigned to functions. Therefore, only the criminal elements remained.

Inmates

Originally it was intended to assign only inmates of prisons (5) to the Emsland camps who "after having served their sentences" should "be reintegrated

- (1) Selbstverwaltung
- (2) Barackenältester
- (3) Stuben-, Saal- und Tischälteste
- (4) Arbeitsanweiser: the convicts assigned these various functions are called "function convicts" (Funktionshäftlinge or Funktionsgefangene); in this text they are designated as "convicts in charge"
- (5) Gefängnisgefangene

into the national community" (1).

The decree of the Reich Minister of Justice of 5 July 1937 (III s 3 8465), concerning the "handing over of prison inmates to the penal camps Papenburg (Ems)" (2), gives information about the selection of the prison inmates. The age groups from 21 to 50, as regards physically thoroughly fit persons, up to 55 years of age, were considered, whereby inmates with certain illnesses and physically impaired persons were excluded because of "moor disability" (3).

Moreover, the following categories were excluded:

- persons sentenced for treason against country (Landesverrat) and betrayal of military secrets, or for those reasons previously convicted,
- persons sentenced for high treason (Hochverrat) or preparation to commit high treason except "mere accomplices" (4),
- condemned persons, subject to a subsequent security detention (5),
- persons particularly suspected of attempting to escape,
- foreigners,
- Jews.

As evident from the subject of the decree, it concerns prison inmates. Regarding penitentiary inmates (6), the decree mentions that the order of respective monthly reports remains reserved. No such texts are known to the ITS.

- (1) "nach Verbüßung der Strafe wieder in die Volksgemeinschaft aufgenommen werden"
- (2) "Abgabe von Gefängnisgefangenen an die Strafgefangenenlager Papenburg (Ems)"
- (3) "Moorunfähigkeit"
- (4) "blosse Mitläufer"
- (5) Sicherungsverwahrung
- (6) Zuchthausgefangene

Security detainees (1)

In accordance with the decree of the Reich Minister of Justice of 21 March 1939 (III s 3 982), a section was opened for the "security detainees" who had been excluded in 1937. Already on 1 Oct 1940, however, the Reich Minister decided anew "that all security detainees are to be removed from Emsland, and to be replaced by other detainees" (2).

The letter of the Reich Minister of Justice to his commissioner for the penal camps, of 7 June 1939 (III s 1650), gives particulars as to the number and categories of detainees for the time being intended for housing, whereby he repeats that foreigners and Jews are to be excluded:

- security detainees (3)	2 200
- inmates of penitentiaries	6 800
- inmates of prisons	3 000
	<u>12 000</u>

Convicts for whom protective custody was ordered following the release

According to a letter of the Reich Minister of Justice of 7 Jan 1936 (III s 3 10539), addressed to the Central Administration of the Penal Camps in Papenburg, the following is decreed concerning the housing of convicts in protective custody:

"I request that convicts, on whom protective custody is imposed for the time after release, in the event that at the moment of their release nothing has yet been definitely decided concerning their housing, after expiration of their sentence, be taken to the local court prison in Papenburg." ...

- (1) Sicherungsverwahrte. It seemed appropriate to create a term which would differentiate "Sicherungsverwahrte" from "Schutzhäftlinge"; thus the term "security detainees" was adopted for this purpose.
- (2) "dass sämtliche Sicherungsverwahrte aus dem Emsland abzutransportieren und durch andere Gefangene zu ersetzen sind"
- (3) (as of 1 Oct 1940 again excluded)

Jews

Decrees of the years 1937 and 1939, by which Jews were excluded from the assignment to the Emsland camps, have already been mentioned. In spite of the intended exclusion, Jewish convicts were incarcerated there. According to a post-war statement of the former commander, the last Jewish convicts are supposed to have been transferred to prisons or concentration camps in 1944.

"Action Jews" (1)

On 10 Nov 1938, 82 Jews, who had been arrested in the rural district of Aschendorf-Hümmeling, were committed to the camp III (Brual-Rhede).

They were housed in a convicts' barrack cleared out for this purpose, which had been separated from the rest of the convicts' section by a wire fence.

NN-detainees

A letter of the "Kommandeur" of the penal camps, addressed 20 July 1943 (443 E 1 - A/18) to the commissioner of the Reich Minister of Justice for the penal camps in Emsland, contains the following text:

...

"On the 20th of May 1943, Camp "Süd" intended for the commitment of NN-detainees, was established within the camp VII. In order to gain space, several hundred detainees had to be transferred to other camps." ...

In March 1944, 920 NN-detainees were transferred to Camp I (Börgermoor), as Camp VII (Esterwegen) was overcrowded. They were housed in five barracks cleared for this purpose. As to their administration, the detainees continued to be subordinate to Camp VII. The retransfer to Camp VII took place in April of the same year.

Foreigners

Until the beginning of the war, foreigners were excluded from the Emsland camps. Then, mainly Poles were incarcerated there, partly so-called "Volksdeutsche", drafted by the Wehrmacht, who had deserted, also those who came

- (1) "Aktionsjuden"

from prisons in Poland. Later on, occasionally Belgians, Frenchmen and Dutchmen, who were sentenced because of offences against the orders of the occupation forces, were transferred to these camps.

Persons sentenced by court-martials of the Wehrmacht

From 1940 on, a constantly increasing number of convicts of the Wehrmacht was committed to the camps (up to 60% of the housing strength were former members of the Wehrmacht), who had been sentenced by court-martials of the Wehrmacht and mostly had been declared as being unworthy of serving the fatherland (1). The actual serving of the sentences for these convicts was intended to begin after the war.

The arrivals from January 1941 and January 1944 clearly indicate the shifting between the categories of convicts:

	January 1941	January 1944
1. Offences of a political character (listening to enemy broadcasting stations, sabotage, undermining of the total defence potential, offences against racial laws, preparation for high treason, activity as Jehovah Witness ...)	6.0%	12.3%
2. Desertion, dodging of military service, absence without leave, guard offences, refusal to obey orders, disobedience, self-mutilation	2.4%	51.3%
3. General offences of civil character	91.6%	36.4%

Camp punishments

The sources show an extensive scale of punishments which are indicated here in the sequence of their severity.

The infliction of disciplinary penalties, according to a Special Service Regulation of 17 April 1939, was imposed by the "Kommandeur":

- Admonition;
- Special roll-calls;

(1) wehrunwürdig

- Cleaning and mending hour, occasionally also at night;
- Disciplinary drill or disciplinary sport up to 60 minutes;
- Reformatory barrack (1) up to 14 days;
- Confinement from 1 to 28 days with curtailment of food;
- Intensified confinement from 7 to 14 days with continuous limitation of food;
- Dark confinement up to 28 days;
- Punishment company (2) up to 3 months.

Punishment companies existed in all the camps, but due to lack of personnel finally were only in Commando X-West.

In addition to the regular punishment measures, the convicts were constantly beaten with rubber truncheons, especially by the SA-guard details. As of 1934 distribution of these was cancelled; however, substitutes for these were quickly procured by the guard details.

Of the numerous punishments, only confinement and intensified confinement were intended by the judicial execution of punishment; the other measures along with the system of the "convicts in charge" (3) were introduced by the "Kommandeur" after his appointment in 1934.

The terror exerted by certain "convicts in charge" over their fellow-convicts, without having any competence to punish, is said to have had especially devastating effects in the reformatory barrack of Camp I.

The "Kommandeur" sanctioned the beating by the guard details in the order of 29 May 1940, by which he permitted "also the breaking of passive resistance by immediate force" (4). The reason he gave for this was the distance of the working places from the camps which rendered impossible a retransport to the camp during working time in order to inflict "immediate force".

Medical treatment

The stationary treatment of the convicts in Emsland was carried through in the Lazaret Lingen.

- (1) Erziehungsbaracke
- (2) Strafkompagnie
- (3) Funktionsgefangene or Funktionshäftlinge
- (4) "auch das Brechen des passiven Widerstandes durch unmittelbaren Zwang"

According to a letter of the Reich Minister of Justice of 2 July 1943 (V s 3 3114), addressed to the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces (1), it was to serve as central lazaret for the penal camps in Emsland. At the beginning of the war (according to a letter of the Reich Minister of Justice of 3 April 1940), it temporarily was ceded to the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht, as the number of the inmates in the penal camps in Emsland had decreased considerably, and, therefore, the infirmaries available in the different camps were considered as being sufficient.

Commandos outside Germany

1.) Commando X, also special action detachment X or Group West (2)

As of October 1943, this commando was assigned to the Organization Todt (OT) to work in France and on the British Channel Islands. Number and position of the camps, as well as strength could not be ascertained. In September 1944, the commando was retransferred to Germany, and at the end of September - beginning of October 1944, was located in Lendingsen, Province of Westphalia. As of 1 Feb 1945, it became an independent penal camp.

2.) Commando Nord (External address: Office of the field post number 23319 A)

The Commando Nord was ordered to labour assignment by OT-assignment Polar Region and the OT operation group Wiking in Northern Norway, original seat of the administration of the commando in Alta, Province of Finnmarken, Norway. The labour camps, of which the number and exact geographical locations are unknown, were all situated north of the Arctic Circle. The figures known to the ITS are the following:

Strength of the commando:	25 April 1944:	1404
	5 Nov 1944:	1019
	9 March 1945:	1019

All convicts were transferred to Germany before the end of the war, the first 395 with a transport from the Lofoten Islands on 9 March 1945.

In a letter of 7 March 1945 (V s 32552/5), addressed to the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces - Legal Section (3), the Reich Minister of Justice

- (1) Oberkommando der Wehrmacht
- (2) Kommando X, auch Sonderinsatz X oder Gruppe West
- (3) Wehrmachtsrechtsabteilung

requests the retransfer of the commando to the Reich and writes regarding the labour assignment of this commando as follows:

"The convicts were assigned to construction work of the OT of military importance and to transport work, that is under conditions which were incomparably more severe than those in regular penal institutions on the territory of the Reich." ...

Evacuation and liberation of the Emsland camps

From March 1945 until the liberation of the camps by the Allied Troops, the convicts of various camps were shifted from place to place for security reasons, in order to prevent a liberation.

Number of Camps

On the basis of available documents, the ITS could ascertain the existence of 21 outlying commandos and 15 subsidiary commandos of the penal camps in Emsland.

Sources

The preserved documents are incomplete, but permit a presentation of the events.

On publication of the Preliminary Register in 1969, the ITS had at disposal only records of trials which were held by British and German authorities against the camp personnel during the post-war period, and the decrees, instructions and orders which were cited therein. They contain no indications of the state of health of the convicts. It is only mentioned once in an incidental way that the medical treatment and care were bad.

In 1974, through examination of the fragmentary records of the penal camps, preserved in the prison Lingen, the documentation could be considerably supplemented.

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Aktion

This word followed by a proper noun used as a code, most of the time designated collective actions of repression against the persons hostile to the regime, or actions decided for racial reasons. ("Aktion Meerscham" literally means "sea foam action" led in 1943 in France against non Jews).

Altreich

German territory within its borders of 1937.

Arbeitserziehungslager

This term is sometimes translated as "camp of reeducation through work". The literal translation "labour reformatory camp" is simpler. It clearly indicates what was the nature of these camps for those who had conceived the idea for them, i.e. to "educate the persons who were work-shy" according to the norms of order established by National Socialism.

Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes (BdS)

Commander of the Security Police and the Security Office.

They performed their functions in the occupied territories.

Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes (Cds)

Chief of the Security Police and the Security Office.

Official title of the Chief of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt.

Eingegliederte Gebiete

Various territories placed under the authority of the Reich and administrated according to different ways and means.

Funktionshäftlinge or Funktionsgefangene

Detainees who were assigned some kind of function in the administration of a camp.

Gaswagen "gas vans"

Specially equipped vehicles into which motor exhaust gas was led causing death by asphyxiation.

Gau

Old term re-used in the period of National Socialism. The Third Reich was divided into 42 Gaue mostly representing political subdivisions. The Gau leaders (Gauleiter) were appointed by the Führer and were directly placed under his authority. The Gauleiter represented the authority of the Party and co-ordinated its activities. Afterwards, the Gaue were called defence districts (Verteidigungsbezirke) and the Gauleiter became Defence Commissioners of the Reich (Reichsverteidigungskommissare). Refer to the decree published in the Reichsgesetzblatt 1 on 16 November 1942, part I, page 649.

Generalgouvernement

Government-General of Poland

Through a decree of 8 October 1939 (RGBl. 1939, part I, page 2 042), the four Occidental provinces of Poland were annexed to the territory of the Reich. According to a decree of Hitler of 12 October 1939, the rest of Poland was constituted in the Government-General. Hans Franck was appointed Generalgouverneur; his deputy was Seyß-Inquart (RGBl. 1939, part I, page 2 077).

Geschlossenes Ghetto

"Closed" Ghetto

"Jewish quarters" were created through ordinance in the Generalgouvernement. They were administratively partially autonomous, but it was forbidden to leave them under penalty of death. They were established inside closed precincts.

Gestapo = Geheimdes Staatspolizeiamt

Secret State Police Main Office

Created on 26 April 1933 and placed under the direction of Obergrouppenführer Heydrich on 22 April 1934. Not to be confused with the next term :

Gestapo = Geheime Staatspolizei

Secret State Police

Großdeutsches Reich

The greater German Reich

The term "Großdeutsches Volksreich" ("Greater Reich of the German Folk")

is mentioned for the first time in an ordinance of Hitler about a referendum concerning the reunion of Austria with the Reich in the Federal Law Gazette of the Reich of 18 March 1939 (part I). After the annexation of Austria and the Sudetenland, that term was slightly modified and became "Großdeutsches Reich".

Hochverrat

Literally: High Treason

Crime of High Treason.

Höhere SS- und Polizeiführer (HSSPF)

Superior SS- and Police Leaders

It was originally foreseen that all the forces subordinate to the RF-SS inside a military district were to be placed under the authority of competent HSSPF. After the beginning of the war and especially on the initiative of Himmler, the powers of the HSSPF were increased; they were more extended in the occupied territories than in the Reich.

In his district the HSSPF acted for the RF-SS.

Moreover, he was the "territorial judge" of the SS. (Gerichtsherr)

Honved

Hungarian military organization created in 1848, the name of which means "defender of the fatherland". That term has been re-used in 1867 to designate the Hungarian territorial army at the time of the introduction of the compulsory military service.

Judentum

Collective term designating Jews as an entity either racial or religious.

Kommandeur der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes (KdS)

"Kommandeure" of the Security Police and the Security Service.

They were subordinate to the respective Bds.

Landesverrat

Treason

Crime against the outer security of the State.

Nacht und Nebel (NN Detainees)

Literally "Night and Fog"

German expression describing an action secretly carried through by "Night and Fog". An order of Hitler at the end of September 1941 ordained the arrest of the persons suspected of activities in the Resistance in the different territories occupied by the Reich. These persons were to be secretly brought to Germany, to be isolated and no news was to be given about their place of detention. This category of deported persons was designated by the term "Nacht und Nebel". Refer to the order of Keitel of 7 December 1941.

Organisation Todt

The Organization Todt, created in 1933, is called after the name of the Inspector-General for the construction of bridges and motorways who directed at that time the construction of the motorways. Up to 1937, the OT was in charge of constructions of strategic importance and units of qualified workers were created. The leading services, which were called till then Westwallbauleitungen (management of construction work on fortifications in the West), were given the name of Frontbauleitungen (management of the front line construction). A "Frontbauleitung" was attached to each chief commander of the army (Armeeoberkommando) and on the eastern front, to various army groups. The management of the OT, the OT central in Berlin, was under the authority of the Inspector-General for the construction of bridges and motorways. On the 15 February 1942, the OT was re-assumed by the Reichsminister Speer who was at that time Minister for Armament and War Production. Through a decree of the 2 September 1943 published in the Official Paper (RGBl. 1943, part I, page 530) Speer attached to his Ministry the Organization Todt as group of offices (Amisgruppe).

Reichsführer-SS (RF-SS)

Heinrich Himmler was appointed RF-SS in 1929.

Reichskriminalpolizeiamt (RKPA)

Reich Criminal Police Department

Since 1937, of first instance of the criminal police. On 1 October 1939, the RKPA became an integral part of the Reich Security Main Office as Department V.

Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA)

Reich Security Main Office

As of 1 October 1939, the institutions responsible for the police and internal security of the Reich and all the territories placed under the German authority were centralized in the RSHA. Seen from outside, the Gestapo and RSHA appeared to be the most important offices.

Schließung

By "closing" liquidation of the camp must be understood, either through extermination of the deportees, or by total evacuation to another place of extermination.

Schutzhaft

This term literally means "detention, protective custody". In fact it concerns the political detention of the adversaries of the régime (Schutzhäftlinge). The preventive custody, juridical term, is usually translated as "Vorbeugungshaft".

Schutzstaffel (SS)

SS protection unit

The SS was originally a "Stabswache" (staff guard) created by Hitler for his own protection. At the end of the summer 1925, it was renamed "Schutzstaffel". It also had to protect the main leaders of the Party as well as its organization. The SS was placed under the supreme command of the SA. After the elimination of Röhm on 30 June 1934, it became autonomous. The guard of the CCs and the Secret State Police was placed under the authority of the SS after the assumption of power by the National Socialist Party on 30 January 1933. Two months later, a new guard was created in Berlin; later on it was to be called "kasernierte Hundertschaften" (organized bodies of a hundred men) and "Politische Bereitschaften" (political squads). These formed the basis of the "Verfügungstruppe" (disposition troops). During the war it was called "Waffen-SS".

Selektion

In the SS-terminology, "selection" meant choice in view of extermination.

Sicherheitsdienst (SD)

Security Service

It was originally an information service that the Party created for purposes of surveillance of all persons living in Germany. As of 1933 it became a general information service and was charged with surveillance of the activities of political opponent groups (communists, etc.), religious groups, some of their purposes being political.

SS-Totenkopfverbände (SS-TV)

SS-Death's Head Formations

Guards of the CCs, definitively separate from the general SS in 1934. They were placed under the command of the Inspector of the CCs and Chief of the "Death's Head Formations". During the war, the mobilizable contingent was sent to the front.

SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt (SS-WVHA)

SS Main Office of the Economic Administration

The Main Office of Budget and Construction (Haushalt und Bauten), the Main Office of Administration and Economy (Verwaltung und Wirtschaft) and the SS-Administrative Office (Verwaltungsamt-SS) were dissolved on 31 January 1942 and their activities were further assumed by the SS-WVHA on 1 February 1942. As of 3 March 1942, the inspection of the CCs was integrated as Department D (Amtsgruppe D) to the Main Office of the Economic Administration. The task of that integration was to use all the work capacity of the detainees for the German war effort.

Staatliche Konzentrationslager

State concentration camps

Between March 1933 and the summer 1934, the "Schutzhäftlinge" were incarcerated in "unofficial concentration camps" (wilde Konzentrationslager = wild concentration camps, cf wild strike) and other places of detention. After that date, the "Schutzhaft" was to be executed only in state concentration camps.

Strafdrill

Word composed of a German element and an English one, and that could be translated as "disciplinary training".

Sturmabteilung (SA)

Storm troops

Paramilitary formations created in 1924. The elimination of Röhm in summer 1934 marks a decline of the political influence of the SA.

Volksdeutsche

Concerned are all persons belonging to German minorities settled abroad, mainly in the eastern and southeastern European countries, and considered as belonging to the German culture (term that designates a German entity according to the National Socialist ideology.)

Vorbeugungshäftling

Literally this term means "detainees in preventive custody", in the sense of common law.

Wannsee-Konferenz

The Wannsee conference took place in Berlin on January the 20th, 1942 at 56/58 of the "am Großen Wannsee" avenue. Leaders of the security police (Sipo) and the security service (SD) of the Party and various authorities of the Reich participated in it. The subject was the organization of the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" (Endlösung der Judenfrage).

Wehrmacht

Collective name given to the German land forces, air forces and navy between 1935 and 1945.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE OF THE REGISTER

The categories of the individual places of detention are indicated by the heading of each page.

The designation of a place of detention is given in spaced capital letters. All names of localities correspond to the designation at the time of the existence of the places of detention; in addition, the higher administrative district is indicated according to the status of 1937. With regard to the territories which were annexed to the territory of the Reich or which were under German occupation, the designation is additionally given in the language of the respective country, also according to the status of 1937 (AUSCHWITZ 1939-1945 Preußen (Provinz Oberschlesien), Oswiecim Krakow Polska). If there were two or more places with the same name in a higher administrative district, then, in addition, the lower administrative districts are indicated (TRZEBINIA 1939-1945 Preußen (Provinz Oberschlesien, Powiat Chrzanow Krakow Polska). In most cases the places of detention had the same name as the localities where they were situated (DACHAU). Only in large cities, in which there were several camps of one category, were street or firm names used too (MÜNCHEN Höhlstraße; LEIPZIG - SCHÖNEFELD HASAG); regarding places of detention outside of urban centres, names of the countryside also occurred (ALTENHAMMER (Flossenbürg) Bayern).

As to the meaning of the entries, the following should be mentioned:

Opening - first mention
Closing - last mention

For the majority of the places of detention, the dates of the opening, closing respectively, cannot be determined on the basis of the available documentary material. In these cases the first, respectively the last mention is entered, so that the date of the actual opening and closing could have been earlier or later.

Evacuation

Even if the evacuation of a place of detention is proven by documents, in many cases detainees who were ill remained behind in the camp.

Liberation and occupation

Only if the dates of liberation could not be ascertained, is the occupation by the Allied Troops mentioned.

Employer

These particulars serve only to facilitate the identification of the places of detention. For the CC-main camps, the designations of which can be assumed to be known, these particulars have been omitted. The firm names have in most cases been taken from the depositions of detainees so that errors in spelling are possible. A check of the spelling was only very rarely possible.

Remarks

The commandos frequently had code-names which, however, are only indicated if they were also known outside of the camp administration. (ARTERN : Das Kdo wurde auch "Adorf" genannt).

Accommodation of the detainees

The place where the detainees were housed is only indicated if the designation of the places of detention is not identical with this locality.

Camp strength

In the Register attention is only drawn to particularly small commandos. For that reason under "Accommodation and remarks" only camp strengths of 20 detainees or less are mentioned.

Sources

Sources are only added to the dates concerning the duration of the existence of the places of detention. Preference was always given to official war-time sources, over the post-war sources. If the duration of the existence of a place of detention cannot be gathered from the official war-time sources, but the existence as such, then, for example, under the indicated post-war sources is additionally remarked: "Existenz durch KL-Akten belegt" (1).

War-time documents

The designation of source material is given in abbreviated form. The concentration camp records consist of all the registration records of the

(1) existence proved by concentration camp records

detainees, personal status documents as well as of general orders and reports of the Kommandantur (1) of the camp. The documents originating from all other offices are mainly orders, decrees and reports.

Post-war documents

Official report

Investigation reports of the immediate post-war period, established by national tracing bureaux, occupation authorities or local authorities, such as mayors, registry offices etc.

Witness report

Detainee deposition
Deposition of the camp leader
etc.

Depositions of former detainees, which were gathered by associations of the persecutees, as well as depositions which were made by the detainees or the camp personnel in post-war legal proceedings. To the depositions of detainees also belong the particulars given to the International Tracing Service upon request for Certificates of Incarceration.

(1) staff, actually command post, direction

Literature

- Report on the documentary material of the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine (Paris), concerning the persecution of the Jews in Poland and the adjacent territories, submitted by the Landgerichtsrat Werner, April - May 1952.
- Register of ghettos, forced labour camps and concentration camps compiled by Oberregierungsrat Dr. Ungerer, August 1953.
- Register of places in Poland where persecution of Jews occurred, compiled by Dr. Ignacy Ettinger, Attorney-at-Law, October 1955.
- "Biuletyn Glownej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce" (Bulletin of the Main Commission of Investigation of the Nazi Crimes in Poland), 1946.