

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS.

The descriptive text, which forms the main body of the book, is not arranged alphabetically, but according to the sequence of the G.S. G.S. 1:250,000 map series pages, issued by the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces, which were used for checking the geographical locations of all camps and prisons. For the benefit of those who may wish to check the locations on maps, the map reference is given. The Kreis or province is also mentioned. For ease of reference, an alphabetical index is given at the end of the book, listing camp names, type of camps, code names and code numbers, abbreviations and number of the page on which fuller information can be found. No information is given against the camp code names or numbers, these being cross referenced to the main locality.

Frontiers indicated are, of course, the post war boundaries. For example the former German territory east of the Oder/Neisse is regarded as Poland, however since in most cases a camp or prison will be more widely known under the former German name, both the old and the new name are usually given (e.g. Sonnenburg - Slonsk, Kreis Oststernberg, Germany, now Poland; Auschwitz - Oswiecim, Poland).

Each locality is dealt with in a separate paragraph; within each paragraph the type of camp or camps is indicated under one of the following main groups: -

1. Konzentrationslager ("Concentration Camp" e.g. Dachau, Buchenwald)

Under this heading are included all those camps which were under the jurisdiction of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA); many of the ghettos (Theresienstadt and Kaunas for instance) which were controlled by RSHA are listed as concentration camps.

RSHA was the usual authority for ordering imprisonment in concentration camps, and all types of prisoners were committed: - political prisoners (politische Haeftlinge or Schutzhaeftlinge), NN prisoners (Nacht & Nebel), Jehovah's Witnesses (Bibelforscher), habitual criminals (Berufsverbrecher), asocial elements (Asoziale), homosexuals (Homosexuelle), Jews (Juden) and other categories.

In some cases civilian workers employed in the manufacturing of secret weapons were at one time, for security reasons, housed in some concentration camps. At first they were not treated as prisoners but were free to come and go in the camps. Towards the end of the war, however, no distinction was apparently made between these free workers and the prisoners, the former receiving the same treatment and conditions as the prisoners.

2. Sonderlager ("Special Camps")

This type of camp housed persons segregated for special treatment. For instance foreigners and Germans who refused to work for the Reich, or who worked badly, might have been sent to Hinzert. Sentences were usually short term.

3. Arbeitserziehungslager ("Workers Educational Camps")

Persons sentenced to serve a term in these camps were usually workers who had broken their contracts, whose labour records or production records were considered unsatisfactory, or persons released from prisons and concentration camps and considered in need

of an "educational" course to fit them for industry. Terms were not supposed to exceed 8 weeks.

NOTE: - Conditions in Sonderlagern and Arbeitserziehungslagern were very somilar, and the death rate in both was high. There are indications that many prisoners served fairly long sentences although these camps were originally intended to hold short term prisoners.

4. Prisons.

In this group are included all penal institutions to which persons would have been committed by normal judicial courts. "People's courts" (Volksgerichtshof) or "Special courts" (Sondergericht). These are: -

Gefaengnisse, Strafgefaengnisse	- Prisons
Untersuchungsgefaengnisse	} - Remand prisons
Untersuchungshaftanstalten	
Arrestanstalten	- Police prisons
Gerichtsgefaengnisse	- Prisons attached to judicial courts
Frauengefaengnisse	- Womens prisons
Zuchthaeuser	- Penitentiary or convict prisons
Jugendgefaengnisse	- Juvenile prisons

5. Sicherungslager ("Security Camps", e.g. Schirmeck - Vorbruck).

Persons under a "Sicherungsverwahrung" (security custody) order could be held in a "Sicherungslager" for several months while awaiting trial or investigation. After trial, these prisoners, if not cleared and released, could be transferred to prisons or concentration camps. (Correspondence between Sicherungspolizei and Sicherungslager Schirmeck). Sicherungsverwahrung might also be ordered on expiration of normal prison or conc. camp sentences (War C.C.)

6. Straflager and Strafgefangenenlager ("Penal or Punishment Camps)

These camps were under the jurisdiction of the penal administration. The regime was much more severe than in "Zuchthaeuser", and similar to that of the concentration camps (e.g., the Emsland group camps).

7. Arbeitslager ("Work Camps").

These were usually forced labour camps and were guarded, and the movement of the inmates was restricted.

8. Civilian Workers Camps (Gemeinschaftslager).

These were unguarded communities, usually of foreign workers.

9. Wohnlager (Housing Unit). also unguarded community.

10. Civilian Internment Camps (Internierungslager).

The "Kalender fuer Reichsjustizbeante", 1939 edition, has been the chief source of information relating to prisons and penal institutions in Germany. Very little is known so far about the prison work details which were sometimes housed in small camps near the place of employment; investigation is still proceeding, and the ITS will eventually list these also.

"Arbeitsaemter" in the Western Zones of Germany have provided fairly complete information on the various forced labour and voluntary workers camps.

For concentration camps the ITS has consulted original camp records, formerly held by the War Crimes Commission and has also received help from the National Tracing Bureaux and ex-political prisoners associations. In the case of Dachau, Buchenwald, Flossenbuerg, Mauthausen, Natzweiler and Neuengamme sufficient material is available. However, for Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, Ravensbrueck, Gross Rosen, Auschwitz and other camps in the Eastern European countries and in the Soviet Zone of Germany, very little material has been obtained, and so far the ITS has had little opportunity of verifying the evidence at hand.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE CATALOGUE.

Symbols used for concentration camps and Kommandos, code names and abbreviations are explained as they occur in the text and in the index.

The source of information is given in an abbreviated form and is put in brackets after each item. For example (BNTB) indicates that Belgian National Tracing Bureau is the authority for the preceding statement.

Addr.	= Address,
AEK	= Amt fuer die Erfassung der Kriegsoepfer, Berlin
a.n.	= above named
AEL	= Arbeitserziehungslager
BNTB	= Belgian National Tracing Bureau
Burgermaster	= Burgermaster's report
CC	= Concentration camp
CC Kdo.	= Concentration camp Kommando
CC Au	= CC Kdo. of Auschwitz
CC Bu	= " " of Buchenwald
CC Daa	= " " of Dachau
CC Do	= " " of Dora
CC Fl	= " " of Flossenbuerg
CC GR	= " " of Gross Rosen
CC Mj	= " " of Majdanek
CC Ma	= " " of Mauthausen
CC Na	= " " of Natzweiler
CC Ng	= " " of Neuengamme
CC Pl	= " " of Plaszow,
CC Ra	= " " of Ravensbrueck,
CC Sa	= " " of Sachsenhausen
CC St	= " " of Stutthof,
CC V	= " " of Vught.