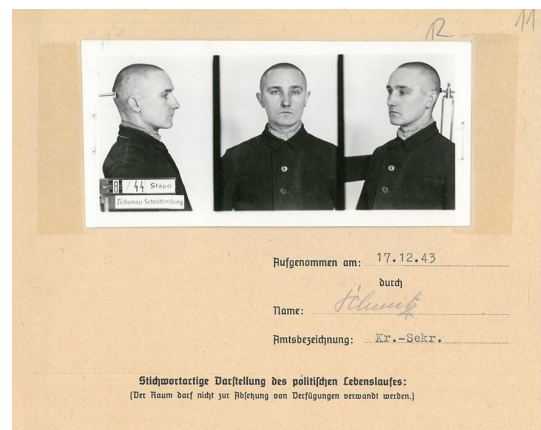


Center For Information On The Victims of World War II

<https://ofiary.ipn.gov.pl/ofe/victims-of-german-repre/7204,VICTIMS-OF-GERMAN-REPRESSIONS.html>
24.04.2024, 10:33

Documents on the German repressions and crimes committed against Poles and citizens of other nationalities in 1939–1945 were within the materials collected by our predecessor, i.e. the Main Commission for the Investigation of Crimes against the Polish Nation, taken over by the Institute of National Remembrance - Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation.

The Main Commission archive provided a total of 3,500 running meters of archival materials. The stored documentation includes both files drafted by the offices and security authorities of the Third Reich, including the Main Reich Security Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*) and the Secret State Police (*Geheime Staatspolizei*), as well as foreign institutions, including American Military Tribunals in Nuremberg . They are supplemented by the documentation received by the Main Commission as a result of multilateral cooperation with foreign institutions and Polish state archives, as well as materials donated by private persons.



The resource taken over from the Main Commission includes many priceless documents, such as the report by Jürgen Stroop regarding the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, the diary of General Governor Hans Frank or the diary of Johann Paul Kremer, an SS doctor at the Auschwitz-Birkenau German concentration camp. The collected archives were used, among others in the trial pending after the end of World War II before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg and in criminal proceedings before the Polish Supreme National Tribunal (including trials of Rudolf Höss and the personnel of the Auschwitz-Birkenau

concentration camp). The original files from German concentration camps (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buchenwald, Dachau, Gross-Rosen, Mauthausen, Mittelbau, Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen) and the documentation concerning Poles sent to forced labour in the territory of the Third Reich - including transport lists of labour offices in Warsaw and Cracow - are also of unique historical value.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Name: (bei Frauen auch Geburtsname) Serafinski										Wohnung: (bei Eintragung eintragen)					Dienstgeber:				
Vorname: Thomas															Bildnerwerb:				
Geburtsort und -zeit: 18.3.02 Bochum															Einger.-Bibrosch. Karte:				
Beruf:															Schulbesuch:				
Familienstand:																			
Staatsangehörigkeit: Pole																			
Religion: (Name, Bekenntnis)																			
Politische Einstellung:										Glaubensbekenntnis:									
Datum der Eintragung: 6.5.43										Sachverhalt: S. ist am 27.4.43 aus dem KL.Auschwitz geflüchtet.									
										Stempel- und Zeichennummern: Zeichenau IIF 2391/43									
CMBZ:										S. St. Nr. 14									

In addition to German-language documents, the resource also includes files of criminal proceedings initiated on the basis of the decree of the Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN) of 31 August 1944 *on the sentence for fascist-Nazi criminals guilty of murders and ill-treatment of the civilian population and prisoners of war, and traitors of the Polish nation*, as well as prosecutor's files of cases discontinued and suspended on the basis of the decree. Particularly noteworthy in this group of archives are procedural documents pertaining to Erich Koch, a former Gauleiter of East Prussia and persons convicted of preaching the truth about the Katyn Massacre. The collection also includes files about Polish forced labourers and persons arrested by the German Secret State Police (Gestapo) from the Ciechanów/Płock region.

During its existence, the Main Commission collected unique documentation, enabling the reconstruction of the fate of victims of German repression.

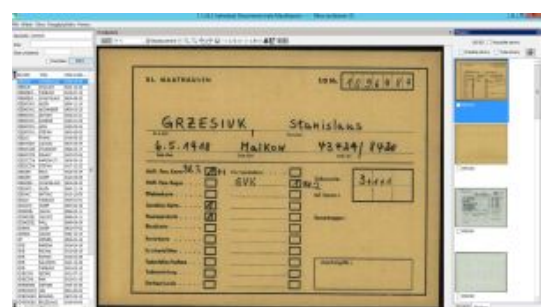
The Arolsen Archives (former International Tracing Service - ITS) in Bad Arolsen was established to search for and register missing persons during World War II. From the

beginning of its activity, even during the war, it collected various types of documents regarding people repressed by the Third Reich, which today constitute a powerful resource consisting of 26 km of files. For over a decade, these materials have been digitized, which allows access to collections via a specially constructed database.

The Institute of National Remembrance is the only institution in Poland, and one of several in the world, which has the full version of this unique application. Obtaining it was possible thanks to the accession of the Republic of Poland, as the only country from the former Eastern Bloc, to the Bonn Agreements, which took place on 7 March 2000, and as a result of their amendment of 16 May 2006, when it was decided to make available ITS digital copies to the signatories of the treaty. In 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland decided to transfer digitized materials to the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw, while the archivists of the Institute began to use them in 2010.

The database is divided thematically into three parts. The first - *Incarceration and Persecution* is a collection of camp, prison, investigation and court materials. The camp files that form the basis of this section mostly refer to individual concentration camps. Particularly noteworthy are the collections regarding KL Dachau, KL Buchenwald and KL Mauthausen – camps of which original documentation has been preserved to a large extent. We mainly deal with scans of prisoner cards, transport lists of people arriving and leaving the camp, lists of the imprisoned in labour commandos, death certificates or materials from camp hospitals.

Gestapo documentation, prison and forensic materials were collected in the *Prisons and Persecution* subset. We will find here, among others, police files, prosecutorial documentation and court proceedings, as well as prison records.



The second part of the documentation contained in the database (*Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees by Public Institutions, Social Securities and Companies*) is a collection of materials regarding persons registered and employed in the Reich territory, mainly foreign forced labourers. An important part of the collection are lists of people residing in individual municipalities in Germany during the war, drawn up in the post-war years by order of the Allied occupation authorities.

They were drafted based on the original local documentation - police, prison, registration or medical records. One can also find here registers of the deceased and information about burial places. The second part contains original documents drawn up during the war - work cards, registration cards, personal cards of prisoners of war. They are supplemented by post-war materials of registry offices regarding persons remaining on the territory of Germany and Austria (marriage, birth, death certificates).

The third part (*Registrations and Files of Displaced Persons, Children and Missing Persons*) are mainly materials recording the fate of the so-called *displaced persons* (DPs), i.e. people who were outside their homeland after World War II, mainly in the former Reich. These documents contain information about their stay in transit camps, help received and finally repatriation or emigration. The third part also contains documentation of the office dealing with finding missing children during the war, e.g. taken away from parents and placed in Lebensborn facilities, as well as help for orphaned children located in Germany.

The application contains records relating to the fate of over 17,000,000 people, and the digitized Arolsen Archives central personal file, which is the basis for searching the database. It contains about 50,000,000 cards.

An auxiliary role towards the archival resource of the Institute of National Remembrance and the Arolsen Archives database is played by the public online database of the Personal Losses and Victims of Repression under German Occupation programme (www.straty.pl), which is run by the Polish-German Reconciliation Foundation and supervised by the Institute of National Remembrance.



The database contains over 5 million records related to the fate of Polish citizens repressed by the Third Reich, and is created on the basis of documentation stored in Polish and foreign archives, museums, memorial sites and institutions dealing with the history of World War II. It contains records regarding forced labourers, displaced persons, prisoners of war, fallen soldiers, prisoners of German prisons and concentration camps, victims of executions. Currently, the programme is supplemented with, among others, the names of Polish citizens who were buried in the territory of the Third Reich. Each record entered in the programme contains information about repression and a source basis indicating the institution which is the disposer of a given document.

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