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CONCENTRATION CAMP FLOSSENBÜRG INMATE ENTRY REGISTERS, 1938–1945

Introduction

On the two rolls of this color microfilm publication, M1935, are reproduced the extant entry books from Concentration Camp Flossenbürg, 1938–1945. Eight volumes contain names of arriving inmates primarily for the period October 1943–April 1945, with some name listings as early as 1938. One set of unbound pages lists the names of deceased inmates for the period February 28–April 12, 1945. Volumes might be missing, and therefore it cannot be verified that these records represent a full listing of camp inmates. American forces captured the books when they liberated and occupied the camp in April 1945. These records are part of the Records of the United States Army, Europe, Record Group (RG) 549.

Background

Flossenbürg was established in May 1938 as a relatively small concentration camp, located in northeastern Bavaria near the Czech frontier and situated close to rock quarries, which were regularly worked by the inmates. With time the camp expanded, so that by war's end approximately 94,200 prisoners, including 16,000 females, were imprisoned there or in its numerous outcamps at some time from 1938 to April 1945. In addition to German prisoners, inmates included Russian, Polish, French, Czech, Italian, Greek, Danish, Norwegian, British, Canadian, and American nationals, as well as Jews of all nationalities, some Allied prisoners of war (POWs), deserters from the German Armed Forces (Wehrmacht), and common criminals. Many of the prisoners at Flossenbürg were employed at the Messerschmitt factory that was established within the camp in 1942. The camp was liberated by American forces on April 23, 1945. An estimated 30,000 inmates perished over the course of the camp's history, including German resistance figures Wilhelm Canaris and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

The camp was managed by members of the Schutzstaffel (SS). Originally the elite bodyguard of Adolf Hitler, the SS evolved under Heinrich Himmler into an enormous organization operating in all areas of the Third Reich. SS units served as security police, fought as frontline combat troops, and operated the concentration camp system.

Records Description

The Flossenbürg entry lists include three classes of prisoners: prisoners of war (e.g., mostly Russian but also includes some French, British, Canadian, and American POWs), Jews (e.g., Polish and Hungarian), and political prisoners (e.g., French, Belgian, Italian, and Yugoslavian). Gender was also noted, and separate volumes were kept for men and women. In addition, there is a set of unbound pages listing deceased inmates for the period February 28–April 12, 1945.

The books cover primarily the period October 7, 1943–April 9, 1945, but include some earlier name listings. It is difficult to discern the date coverage for many of the volumes since the entry dates do not always appear in chronological order. Upon arrival, each inmate was assigned a prisoner number (from 1 to 94999). In the eight volumes, approximately 80,500 numbers have corresponding names of inmates. Each volume indicates the assigned prisoner number; their nationality (sometimes with the class of

prisoner notation, such as “J” for “Jude,” and “Sch” for *Schutzhaft*, protective custody); full name; place and date of birth; date of entry into the camp; date of death or transfer to another camp; and transportation information for many prisoners such as when they were brought in from a German city, a Nazi-occupied country, or another concentration camp. The legibility of the entry books varies considerably because prisoner entries are handwritten in pencil (additional notations are also in pencil). Also, there are several types of markings in color throughout the volumes, such as check marks and ink stamps, that have no explanation or annotation.

LISTS OF INMATES AT CONCENTRATION CAMP FLOSSENBÜRG — MEN

Roll 1 reproduces volumes 120, 121, 122, and 123 (listing prisoner numbers 1–44999). In Book No. 1, **volume 120**, prisoner numbers 5333–6160 document a large influx of Russian POWs who arrived at Flossenbürg during the spring and summer of 1944.

Book No. 2, **volume 121**, prisoner numbers 7000–19999 indicate the arrival of Russians and Yugoslavians into the camp, followed by a large number of Poles. Beginning with the number 9312, a large group of French prisoners are listed with many of them coming from Buchenwald. Note that prisoner numbers 9341–9691 are not listed in consistent numerical order. Besides listing nationalities, the volume includes the class of prisoner.

Book No. 3, **volume 122**, documents the arrival of a wider diversity of national groups (such as Russians, Italians, French, and Belgians, and Jews from Hungary, Poland, Serbia, and Yugoslavia) between August 28 and November 11, 1944. Prisoner numbers 22334–22627 indicate that a large group of Polish prisoners arrived at the camp in September 1944 from Sachsenhausen. This volume lists a duplicate series of prisoner numbers 23230–23329 with no corresponding names.

The last entry book on roll 1 is Book No. 4, **volume 123**, which lists many Hungarian Jews who entered the camp from November 1944 through February 1945.

On roll 2 are volumes 124, 125, 126, 127, and a set of unbound pages containing the names of deceased inmates (February 28–April 12, 1945). Book No. 5, **volume 124**, indicates the arrival of Polish and Hungarian Jews from Sachsenhausen on February 6, 1945, and on February 13 and 25 groups of diverse nationalities, Jews, and political prisoners from Gross-Rosen arrived. Prisoner numbers 80471–80569 and 83723–83767 (all from Gross-Rosen) are labeled as *Unbekannt* (unknown) because they died on their arrival to the camp or within a few days. There is also a large gap in the prisoner numbers (50000 to 80001) that may be attributed to the entrance of women into the camp. Their names were listed in volumes 126 and 127.

Book No. 6, **volume 125**, documents the arrival of more prisoners from Gross-Rosen on February 15, 1945. Prisoner numbers 89961–94999 do not have corresponding names.

LISTS OF INMATES AT CONCENTRATION CAMP FLOSSENBÜRG — WOMEN

Book No. 7, **volume 126**, lists women inmates arriving from August to December 1944. The listing of women inmates at Flossenbürg continues in book no. 8, **volume 127**. This volume spans the period from fall 1944 to April 1945. As in book no. 7, the women were mainly Hungarian and Polish Jews who arrived from other camps, including Auschwitz, Ravensbrück, Gross-Rosen, and Bergen-Belsen. Prisoner numbers 66060–73000 do not have corresponding names.

DAILY LISTS OF DECEASED INMATES AT FLOSSENBÜRG AND ITS OUTLYING CAMPS, FEBRUARY 28–APRIL 12, 1945

The lists record subtractions and additions to the male and female inmate populations of the main camps as well as the outlying camps. They are arranged in chronological order, one for each day during this time period. The subtraction lists provide the prisoner's number, full name, and date of birth. Most of the subtractions are due to death. Flossenbürg camp officials created these typewritten accounts on unbound onionskin pages.

Related Records

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

T580, *Captured German Records Filmed at Berlin (American Historical Association), 1960*, rolls 69 and 70. Record Group (RG) 242.

The Third U.S. Army created these alphabetical lists of Flossenbürg inmates.

A3355, *Miscellaneous Lists and Registers of German Concentration Camp Inmates, Originated or Collected by the International Tracing Service, Arolsen, Germany*. RG 242.

These records are listed by camp name and do not include Flossenbürg.

M1204, *Records of the United States Army War Crimes Trials: United States of America v. Friedrich Becker et al., June 5, 1945 – June 11, 1958*. RG 549 (formerly part of RG 338).

The U.S. military investigation and trial records of Friedrich Becker document various aspects of internment at Concentration Camp Flossenbürg. Becker's trial date was June 12, 1946–January 22, 1947 (Case No. 000-50-46).

TEXTUAL RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Proceedings of the Flossenbürg trials held in Dachau by an American Military Tribunal in 1946–47 are located in the following:

File no. 12-583. Case Files, 1944–1949. War Crimes Branch. Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army), RG 153.

File nos. 000-50-46-1 through 6 and 000-Flossenbürg-1 through 18. War Crimes Case Files ("Cases Tried"), 1945–1949. Flossenbürg. Records of the Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR). War Crimes Branch. Records of United States Army, Europe, RG 549 (formerly part of RG 338).

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2	Book No. 5, volume 124, nos. 45000–84999 Book No. 6, volume 125, nos. 85000–94999 Lists of Inmates at Concentration Camp Flossenbürg — Women Book No. 7, volume 126, nos. 50000–59999 Book No. 8, volume 127, nos. 60000–73000 Daily Lists of Deceased Inmates at Flossenbürg and Its Outlying Camps, Feb. 28 – Apr. 12, 1945