

RG-28.01: DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP: COMMANDANT OFFICE
1941-1942

This collection comprises correspondences and reports between the Commandant Offices of the Dachau Concentration Camp and Secret State Police (Gestapo) in Munich in respect of the Soviet (Russian) Prisoners of War who arrived to Dachau from the prisoners of war camps: Stalag IV B, Stalag VII A, Stalag VII B, and Stalag Frt. 304. The mass killings of the Soviet Prisoners of War were conducted on the grounds of Dachau Concentration Camps. Every mass execution was followed by a report issued by the Commandant Office to the Gestapo in Munich.

Provenance: The Dachau files were given to the Museum by Rabbi and Mrs. Jacob Pressman, ca 1990s.

Organization: The document is a bound file. It consists of 15 typewritten sheets and telegrams. All reports have a stamp of entry; they are marked with a sign "secret."

Language: German

Bibliographical/Historical Note: the documents presented in this collection reflect the murdering activities of the several Nazi security agencies and concentration camps. The security agencies were the State Secret Police (Gestapo) in Munich, Regensburg, and Weimar. In the documents these agencies are often referred as regional and local SIPO (Security Police) and SD (Security Service) police organization, in fact a generic names for state police agencies. The hierarchy and administrative subordination is not shown with regard to the issued orders. Seemingly, in the case of murdering Soviet (Russian) Prisoners of War, the Gestapo played a role of a coordinating agency.

On the Munich, Regensburg, and Weimar Gestapo offices order, the prisoner of war camps, located in German, notably: Stalag IV B, Stalag VII A, Stalag VII B, and Stalag Frt. 304, were directing the transport with the earlier selected Soviet prisoners of war to the disposition of the Dachau, and Buchenwald concentration camp. The orders from the SIPO and SD were issued and directed to the Commandant offices of the Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps. These orders are not present in the camp files, although the camp reports and certified information permit to understand the character of those orders. The SIPO and SD offices in coordination with the regional Gestapo headquarters ordered executions of the consecutively arriving groups of the Soviet prisoners of war.

The documents on the pages 1-5 and 7, 8 are originated from the Office of the Dachau Camp Commandant. The documents on the pages 6, 9, 10 are originated from the Stalag VII A in Moosbourg. The documents on the pages 11, 12, 13 are originated from the Criminal Counsel Weyrauch.

All herein mentioned documented in forms of the reports, certified information, and orders were subsequently addressed to the Gestapo offices in Munich, Regensburg, or Weimar; while the engaged camp offices had received the copies.

Scope and Content Note: the Dachau Collections of documents sheds light on the murderous activities of the Nazi security agencies, concentration camps, and prisoner of war camps with regard to mass killings of the Soviet (Russian) prisoners of war in October-November 1941 and April-May 1942. The documents originating from the three different offices, namely the Dachau Concentration Camp Commandant, the Stalag VII A in Moosbourg, and from the Criminal Counsel Weyrauch, do not reveal the causes why the Soviet (Russian) prisoners of war, mainly young soldiers, had been shot in groups, day after day, on the grounds of the Dachau Concentration Camp.

The rationale behind this official correspondence could be presented as follows.

A security police carried out ongoing investigations on the grounds of the prisoner of war camps: Stalag IV A, Stalag VII A, Stalag VII B, and Stalag Frt. 304. Upon the completion of investigation, the charges were pressed and submitted to the Gestapo main office in Munich. The orders on liquidation (executions) were issued either by the Gestapo office or by the SIPO (Security Police) representative.

The Dachau Commandant Office executed the orders by mass killings, and then this office was submitting the lists of the executed back to the Gestapo Office in Munich, providing time-related details of the executions.

In the available to us set of the documents there are no indications on the incriminating charges or any official sentences imposed on the condemned to death Soviet (Russian) prisoners of war.

Russian prisoners of war shootings

Secret!

Russians.

Registries of the Russians transported to Dachau concentration camp

1. on October 15, 1941 = 27 Russians (Munich)
2. on October 22, 1941 = 40 Russians (Munich)
3. on November 8, 1941 = 65 Russians (Munich)
4. on November 12, 1941 = 135 Russians (Munich)
5. on March 27, 1942 = 176 Russians (Munich)

= 443 Russians

died 7

... 5

455

Letter, sent from Dachau concentration camp to the Gestapo in Munich on October 17, 1941

Secret

The commandant's office at Dachau concentration camp informs the Gestapo in Munich that the order of the head of the Security police (Sipo) and SD (Security Service) has been carried out and the following 27 Russian prisoners of war were shot on October 15, 1941.

Below is a list of 27 Russian names, birthdates, PW number and the Stalag (German prisoner of war camp) they came from. They were shot in batches of 5. The Nazis even took down the time when they shot them, leaving ca. 3 minutes in between each batch.

Sign on behalf of the SS head storm leader.

Letter, sent from the POW camp (Stalag) VII/A in Moosburg to the Gestapo in Munich on October 14, 1941

The POW camp informs the Gestapo that 27 Russian prisoners of war have been transported to the concentration camp Dachau (about 30 miles away, both near Munich)

The letter also has a seal that says it was received by the Gestapo on October 16, 1941.

Signed by an upper lieutenant and adjutant.

Letter, sent from Dachau concentration camp to the Gestapo in Munich on October 23, 1941

Secret

The commandant's office at Dachau concentration camp informs the Gestapo in Munich that the order of the head of the Security police (Sipo) and Security Service (SD) has been carried on and 40 Russian prisoners of war (on the list attached) were shot on October 22, 1941.

The time of the executions were taken down next to the list in ink.

Two prisoners of war, Michail Dotschuk, born on July 3, 1909 and Wasilij Mogutow, born in June 1919, were not transported from the POW camps because they were sick.

Sign on behalf of the SS head storm leader.

On the next page is the list, dated October 17, 1941.

Russian prisoners of war, who may not be used for work.

The list contains of 42 names, 2 (the ones mentioned above) crossed out. The columns are number, Stalag (POW camp they came from, most of them came from IV/B in Saxony, Germany and others from VII/A and VII/B, the POW camp in Moosburg near Munich), identification number, first and last name, and date of birth.

Letter, sent from the POW camp (Stalag) VII/A in Moosburg to the Gestapo in Munich on October 22, 1941

According to the order of the head of the Security Police (Sicherheitspolizei) and the Security Service (SD) 27 Russian prisoners of war were singled out on October 14, 1941 and 40 were singled out on October 22, 1941 and sent to Dachau concentration camp.

The letter also has a seal that says it was received by the Gestapo on October 23, 1941.

Signed by the first lieutenant and the adjutant.

Letter, sent from Dachau concentration camp to the Gestapo in Munich on November 10, 1941

Secret

The commandant's office at Dachau concentration camp informs the Gestapo in Munich that the order of the head of the Security police (Sipo) and SD (Security Service) has been carried out and 99 Russian prisoners of war (on the list attached) were shot on November 8, 1941.

The time of the executions were taken down next to the list.

The letter contains 3 pages, mostly the 99 names of the Russian POWs, Stalag (POW camp) number, identification number, and the time when they were shot in batches of five. The shootings took place between 9:36 and 10:25.

Sign on behalf of the SS head storm leader