

**The Central
Construction Office
of the
Waffen-SS and Police
Auschwitz**

Organization,
Responsibilities,
Activities

Carlo Mattogno



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Carlo Mattogno:

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Organization, Responsibilities, Activities*

Translated by Carlos W. Porter

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Cover: Top: Interior view of the architects' room in the office building of the Central Construction Office at Auschwitz

www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/auschwitz_architecture/images/157_103.jpg)

Left: some of the staff of the CCO in early 1943

www.topfundsoehne.de/media_de/abb_040.html

Right: Organization chart of the CCO, see Doc. 4 in the Appendix

Background: GB-Bau Zettel, see Dokument 12 in the Appendix.

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Preface

After the Moscow archives were opened to historians, the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz – *Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz* – began to attract the attention of scholars, thanks above all to Jean-Claude Pressac.¹

The Central Construction Office is commonly mentioned by historians and journalists, but we still know practically nothing about this extremely important agency, which was responsible for the planning and construction of the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex. Apart from the scanty information supplied by French historians,² very little is known. The importance of a specific study on the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz lies not only in the clarification of an aspect of the history of the camp, which is still wrapped in obscurity for the most part, but also in understanding the standard operating procedures of the organization and of the tasks of the Central Construction Office of Auschwitz. This enables a more profound understanding of documents. This in turn provides protection against facile interpretive errors of such documents, a frequent occurrence among Auschwitz historians.

This study is based primarily on unpublished Moscow documents. It constitutes the first attempt to reconstruct the history of the Central Construction Office of Auschwitz. Although it is far from perfect, due precisely to its pioneering nature, it does delineate the structure, tasks, and essential activities of this office in an essential manner.

* * *

On January 27, 1945, Soviet soldiers of the 60th Army of the 1st Ukrainian Front entered Auschwitz. The various commissions of inquiry, which carried on their activities in February and March of 1945, confiscated an enormous quantity of

¹ Jean-Claude Pressac, *Les Crématoires d'Auschwitz: La machinerie de la meurtre de masse*. CNSR Editions, Paris 1993.

² *Ibidem*, pp. 132-135; more recent works on Auschwitz published after that of J.-C. Pressac are even shorter on information on this topic, including the most important ones: Franciszek Piper, *Arbeitseinsatz der Häftlinge aus dem KL Auschwitz*, Verlag Staatliches Museum in Oswiecim, 1995; Robert Jan van Pelt, Deborah Dwork, *Auschwitz 1270 to the Present*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1996; Robert Jan van Pelt, *The Case for Auschwitz. Evidence from the Irving Trial*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis 2002. Even the *opus magnum* in five volumes of the Museum of Auschwitz deals with the whole matter in little more than five pages: Aleksander Lasik, "Die Organisationsstruktur des KL Auschwitz," in: Waclaw Długoborski, Franciszek Piper (eds.), *Studien zur Geschichte des Konzentrations- und Vernichtungslagers Auschwitz*, Verlag des Staatlichen Museums Auschwitz-Birkenau, Oświęcim 1999, vol. I, pp. 300-305.

documents abandoned by the SS. Among the documents was also the archive of the Central Construction Office. The greater part of these documents was then taken to Moscow, while the remainder was left at Auschwitz at the disposition of the Polish examining magistrate, Jan Sehn, who began his activities in April 1945.

The archive of the Central Construction Office is conserved at Moscow in the *Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennii Vojennii Archiv* (Russian State War Museum, formerly known as the *Tsentr Chranenija Istoriko-documental'nich Kollektssii* (Center for the Conservation of the Historical-Documentary Collection) on Viborgskaja Street. The catalogue system is organized by the following: *fond* (fund), *opis* (list), and *delo*³ (file). A *fond* consists of several *opisi*, one *opis* of several *dela*. The documents of the Central Construction Office form part of the *fond* Number 502 and are contained in 4 *opisi*, indicated by the Arabic numbers 1, 2, 4 and 5; *opis* 1 contains 452 *dela*, consecutively numbered from 1 to 450 (2 files are double: 23a and 59a) and approximately 62,800 pages of documents; *opis* 2 contains 164 *dela* consecutively numbered from 1 to 154 (10 files are double or triple or quadruple: 1a, 1be, 1ve; 34a; 60a, 60be, 60ve, 60ghe; 84a and 124a) and consists of approximately 22,800 pages of documents; *opis* 4, which contained the original Auschwitz death books (*Sterbebücher*), subsequently ceded to the State Museum of Oswiecim-Brzezinka (Auschwitz), presently consists of 52 *dela* progressively numbered from 1 to 52, containing approximately 67,500 pages, of which nearly 300 pages are documents of the Central Construction Office, while the rest are photocopies of the death books; *opis* 5 contains 23 *dela*, progressively numbered from 1 to 23, and consists of approximately 2,300 pages. In total, the archive on Viborskaja Street contains approximately 88,200 pages of documents from the Central Construction Office. For every *opis*, there is a search register in which the individual *dela* are catalogued with a brief description of the content, the number of the pages of the file, and possibly the year to which the documents contained in it refer. The *opisi* do not have a precise logical order and contain *dela* on various topics; the *dela*, in the register of the *opis*, are by contrast grouped by topic (for example, invoices, electrotechnical installations, sewer pipes, administration, offices, disinfestation and disinfection, etc.); this system of cataloguing nevertheless only reflects to a small degree the archiving organization of the Central Construction Office. Many documents exhibit a double numbering: the older one probably corresponds to the first cataloguing done by the Soviets, the present one, existing in the registers of the *opisi*, dates back to the 1950s.

³ The pronunciation is approximately “*dyela*”.

In the citations contained in this study I have indicated the Moscow archives with the abbreviation *RGVA*, consisting of the initials of its name in transliterated Russian, followed by the numbers of the *fond*, then the *opis*, and finally the *delo* and the page number(s), with which the document is catalogued there (including the rare cases, in which this number is not legible on the photocopies in my possession), for example, *RGVA*, 502-1-11, pp. 55-57. Many documents are also written on the reverse of the sheet. This bears the same cataloguing number as the front page, but is identified by the letters “*ob*” (= *obratnaja storona*: rear part). I have indicated this with the letter “*a*”. For greater clarity I have also mentioned the type of document and its heading.

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Chapter I: Organization and Tasks

1. Origin and Development of the Central Construction Office

In May 1940, when the first inmates were transferred to Auschwitz, the construction administrative sector of the concentration camps depended on Office II (*Amt II*) of the Main Office Budget and Construction (*Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten, HHB*), directed by SS *Oberführer* and doctor of engineering Hans Kammler. Office II comprised 7 main departments (*Hauptabteilungen*) and two departments (*Abteilungen*):⁴

Main Department II/1: General affairs relating to construction, subdivided into 5 sections

Main Department II/2: Accounting, subdivided into 5 sections

Main Department II/3: General Construction, subdivided into 5 sections

Main Department II/4: Special Construction, subdivided into 5 sections

Main Department II/5: Central Inspection of Construction, subdivided into 6 sections

Main Department II/6: Planning, subdivided into 5 sections

Main Department II/7: Specialist Technical Sectors, subdivided into 6 sections

Department II/Ro:⁵ Raw Materials Office

Department II/K:⁶ Vehicles.

On February 1, 1942, the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office (*SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt – SS WVHA*; see its organization chart in Document 2) was created with the merger of the Main Office Administration and Economics and the Main Office Budget and Construction, in which Office II became Office Group C (*Amtsgruppe C*), also directed by SS *Oberführer* Kammler.

Office Group C was organized into 6 offices (*Ämter*; see Table III in the Appendix):

⁴ See Document 1 in the documentary Appendix (organization chart of the *Amt II* of the *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten*).

⁵ *Rohstoffstelle*.

⁶ *Kraftfahrwesen*.

- C I: General Construction
- C II: Special Construction
- C III: Specialist technical sectors
- C IV: Artistic special sectors
- C V: Central construction inspection
- C VI: Building maintenance and business administration.

The competence of the treatment of the concentration camp inmates, which was a matter of precedence and had been the responsibility of the Office II-C of the Main Office Budget and Construction, was transferred to a new group of offices specially created within the *WVHA*, the Office Group D, directed by SS *Brigadeführer* and Major General of the *Waffen-SS* Richard Glücks.⁷ The *WVHA* was under the command of the SS *Gruppenführer* and Lieutenant General of the *Waffen-SS*, Oswald Pohl.

On June 30, 1941, Kammler, in his capacity as head of the Office II of the Main Office Budget and Construction, decided to reorganize the SS offices assigned to constructions (SS *Baudienststellen*), giving the following instructions:⁸

“1). The current field offices should be subordinated to Office II in all matters. They bear the designation: Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police (insert the place name).

2). In the future, the current New Construction Offices and the SS Construction Offices will be referred to as Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police (insert the place name).

3). The organization of the Central Construction Offices must follow the organizational plan attached to Annex 1 starting on July 1, 1941.

4). The organization of the Construction Offices must be carried out according to the organizational plan attached to Annex 2 until July 1, 1941.

5). Starting on July 1, 1941, on the 10th of every month, the Central Construction Offices and the Construction Offices must furthermore submit a communication on the strength of personnel according to the model attached to Annex 3.

To obtain a continuous overview of the state of the construction work, in future, on the 10th of every month, it will be necessary to submit a construction report [Baubericht] according to the model attached to Annex 4.

In regard to the installations, it will be necessary to observe the following:

Annex 1: organization of a Central Construction Office.

⁷ NO-111.

⁸ *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten. Amt II – Bauten, Amtsbeehl 3, Der Chef des Amtes II-Bauten, SS Oberführer Kammler, June 30, 1941. RGVA, 502-1-11, pp. 55-57.*

The central supply of construction materials takes place in sector I^[9] – general construction matters – under 3, construction materials.

The Central Construction Office comprises several construction projects. Every construction project comprises several construction sites. Several construction sites, which are to be executed within a given time frame, form a construction sector. Individual objects within individual construction projects hitherto called construction sectors are therefore called construction sites^[10] starting on July 1, 1941. In correspondence and in accounting the change must take place on the same date. The head of the Central Construction Office is called ‘Head of the Central Construction Office.’

Annex 2: organization of a Construction Office

With regards to the supply of raw materials, see as for the Central Construction Office.

The Construction Office includes a construction project with several construction sites. The head of the construction office is called head of constructions.

Annex 3: the communication of the strength of personnel is organized in the following sections:

Section 1 head of constructions [Bauleiter] and deputy head of constructions.

- a) employees of technical sector*
- b) assistants of technical sector (without finished academic occupational training)*
- c) employees of the administrative sector*
- d) salaried employees (workers of the administration, drivers, cleaning women, cooks, etc.)*

Section 2

- a) workers in the technical sector enrolled for military service*
- b) workers in the administrative sector enrolled for military service*

Section 3

- a) workers in the detached technical sectors (it is necessary to refer with an annotation the office to which or from which the personnel is detached)*
- b) detached typists*

Annex 4: in the form ‘Baufristenplan’^[11] it is necessary to report only the construction sites which are authorized for the second financial year of the war.

⁹ This refers to *Hauptabteilung 1* of *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten*.

¹⁰ *Bauwerk*. The term also refers to worksites.

¹¹ Construction deadline schedule. See Section 3 of Chapter II.

Moreover it is necessary to indicate in a particular manner the construction sites which are executed with special authorization. The duration must be traced graphically, where necessary, in red.

Annex 5: in the construction deadline schedule it is necessary to report separately also the following data, according to the model in Annex 5 – construction report:

- 1) List of all existing construction sites with the indication of the percentage of completion, data of provisional or final consignment (Übergabe).
- 2) List of all planned construction sites which have not yet been ordered for execution in the second financial year of the war, i.e., by 1th October 1941.

Indication of all estimated construction costs. Indication within the individual financial years of management costs of construction, of funds of the current financial exercise and of remaining payments.”

On November 12, 1941, Kammler supplemented these provisions by issuing the organization chart of a Central Construction Office (*Zentralbauleitung*; see Document 3) and of a Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police (*Bauleitung*; see Document 4). On November 17, he circulated the service order for the head of any Central Construction Office¹² and any Construction Office,¹³ accompanied by the respective work allocation plan.¹⁴ As regards the hierarchical pathway, the head of constructions was subordinated to the head of the Central Construction Office, the latter to the head of Construction Inspection (*Bauinspektion*) of the Waffen-SS and Police, which, in turn, depended on the Office II of the *HBB*. According to the organization chart promulgated by Kammler on November 12, the Construction Inspection was subdivided into 4 departments and 16 subsections (see Table V). In that time, Office II of the *HBB* exercised control over construction activities in the Reich, the annexed and occupied territories through eleven Construction Inspections; each supervised one or more Central Construction Offices and Construction Offices (see Table VI).

The Construction Office of Auschwitz was originally referred to as the SS New Construction Office (*SS-Neubauleitung*).¹⁵ In June 1940, while it only con-

¹² *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten*: “Dienstanweisung für den Leiter einer Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei.” Wojewódzkiej Archiwum Państwowe w Lublinie (hereinafter referred to as *WAPL*), *Zentralbauleitung*, 3, pp. 19f.

¹³ *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten*: “Dienstanweisung für den Leiter einer Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei, der der Zentral-Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei unterstellt ist.” *WAPL*, *Zentralbauleitung*, 3, pp. 22f.

¹⁴ *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten*: “Geschäftsverteilungsplan für einer Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei and Geschäftsverteilungsplan für einer Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei.” *WAPL*, *Zentralbauleitung*, 3, p. 21 and 23.

¹⁵ This is apparent from the heading of the letters sent to and received by this office, for example, the letter to the Topf & Söhne company of Erfurt, May 27, 1940. *RGVA*, 502-327, p. 320. The

sisted of six men, this office was already sufficiently well organized. It consisted of four sections: the *Registratur* (registry), which dealt with correspondence; the *Kaufmännische Abteilung* (commercial department), in charge of purchases, upon which depended the *Materiallager* (material warehouses) inventoried in a suitable register (*Buchführung für das Materiallager*); the *Buchhaltung und Rechnungslegung* (accounting and reporting), which dealt with all the accounting questions; and *Planung* (planning), responsible for drafting construction plans. There were four construction sectors, in which the activities of the SS New Construction Office were carried out:

- I: *Um- und Ausbauten in den bestehenden Gebäuden* (remodeling and finishing work in existing buildings)
- II: *Verpflegungslager* (provisions warehouses)
- III: *Desinfektionsgebäude* (disinfection building)
- IV: *Krematorium* (crematory)¹⁶

Head of the SS New Construction Office was SS *Unterscharführer* August Schlachter,¹⁷ who was SS *Untersturmführer* at the beginning of September 1941;¹⁸ he made use of the collaboration of Walter Urbanczyk, at that time probably SS *Rottenführer*, who later became deputy head of construction,¹⁹ Wilibald Arloth, SS *Oberscharführer* in December 1942, Johann Wolter, SS *Untersturmführer* in June 1941, Paul Wilk, SS *Unterscharführer* in January 1941,²⁰ and two more non-commissioned SS officers whose names are unknown.

designation which appears in the stamps is: “Der Reichsführer SS. Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten. SS Neubauleitung K.L. Auschwitz.”

¹⁶ Schlachter’s *Tätigkeitsbericht*, June 20, 1940, relating to the period June 14-20, 1940, and June 27 relating to the period June 21-27, 1940. *RGVA*, 502-214, p. 103 and 101.

¹⁷ The name, as noted by J.-C. Pressac, op. cit. (note 1) note 17 on p. 98, appears in an undated telegram from the SS *Neubauleitung* to the Topf company (*RGVA*, 502-1-327, p. 223). On July 29, 1940, Topf acknowledged receipt of this telegram quoting the text (*RGVA*, 502-1-327, p. 218), as appears with certainty two or three days before. Schlachter, who almost always signed documents with an illegible signature, appears extensively in the *Kontrollzettel für die Firma J.A. Topf & Söhne, Erfurt*, dated August 1940 (*RGVA*, 502-1-327, p. 215).

¹⁸ Schlachter is mentioned in the letter from the *Gebietsbeauftragter des Generalbevollmächtigten für die Regelung der Bauwirtschaft im Wehrkreis VIII* to the commandant of K.L. Auschwitz on September 4, 1942, with the non-existent rank of SS *Sturmführer* (*RGVA*, 502-1-319, p. 57); this is evidently an error.

¹⁹ In the letter from Topf to the SS *Bauleitung* of Auschwitz dated September 24, 1941, Urbanczyk (with the erroneous spelling Urbanczek) is mentioned as SS *Oberscharführer*. *RGVA*, 502-2-23, p. 270. In very early November 1941, Urbanczyk was SS *Untersturmführer und stellvertretender Bauleiter*. (“Bericht über die Dienstreise des SS Unterscharführers(S) Urbanczyk mit SS Strm. Böhm als Vertreter der Kommandantur K.-L. Auschwitz zur Bau-Chemie nach Berlin wegen Zuteilung von Rohstoffen.” *RGVA*, 502-1-223, p. 77). In June 1940, as subordinate of SS *Unterscharführer* Schlachter, he probably held the rank of SS *Rottenführer*.

²⁰ His name appears in Schlachter’s telegram to Topf, January 13, 1941. *RGVA*, 502-1-312, p. 130.

In September 1941, the effective personnel of the SS New Construction Office increased to nine persons. A few months later, the *Vermessungsabteilung* (surveying department) was assigned to measuring work and the topographic surveys in the zone of interest in the camp (*Interessengebiet*).²¹

Starting on July 1, 1941, according to the provisions of Kammler dated June 30, 1941, the SS New Construction Office assumed the name of Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz, while its head held the position of *Bauleiter*. In October 1941 a Special Construction Office for the Construction of a Prisoner of War Camp of the Waffen-SS in Auschwitz²² was created for drawing up the first plans of the Birkenau camp, among those plans was the Situation Map of the POW Camp Auschwitz O.S., drawn by SS *Rottenführer* Ertl on October 7, 1941,²³ the later Situation Map on October 14, drawn by inmate no. 471 Alfred Brzybylksi,²⁴ the “Listing of drainage pipe lengths,” drawn by inmate no. 115, Kasimir Jarzembowski, on November 7, 1941,²⁵ and the “Elevation map of the POW camp drainage map,” also drawn on November 7, 1941, by inmate Jarzembowski.²⁵ In November 1941, the management of construction and camp-expansion works was taken over by then SS Sturmmann Josef Janisch.²⁶ In that capacity he was authorized to take photographs in the camp for the *HBB* the following month.²⁷

On October 1, 1941, at the beginning of the third financial year of the war (*Kriegswirtschaftsjahr*),²⁸ Schlachter was substituted by SS *Hauptsturmführer* Karl Bischoff, who assumed the function of Head of Constructions (*Bauleiter*). The replacement of a second lieutenant with a captain was due to the new construction tasks to be carried out by the Construction Office.

November 1941 was a month of great change. The Construction Office, which now consisted of fifty SS men, was reorganized into four main departments: *Rechnungslegung* (accounting), *Hochbau* (above-ground construction), *Tiefbau* (below-ground construction), *Landmesser* (land surveying). This general subdivision appears in the protocol stamp for incoming mail towards the middle of the month (see Section 5.2. of Chapter II).

²¹ Schlachter's *Tätigkeitsbericht*, February 10, 1941, relating to the period February 2-8, 1941. *RGVA*, 502-1-214, p. 71. The surveying work (*Vermessungsarbeiten*) was already finished in November 1940. Schlachter's *Tätigkeitsbericht*, November 27, 1940, relating to the period November 17-27, 1940. *RGVA*, 502-1-214, p. 79.

²² *Sonderbauleitung für die Errichtung eines Kriegsgefangenenlager der Waffen-SS in Auschwitz O.S.*

²³ APMO, BW 21, neg. no. 21135/1. Published by J.-Claude Pressac in *Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers*, The Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York 1989, p. 185.

²⁴ APMO, BW 2/2, neg. no. 21135/2, published by J.-C. Pressac, *ibid.*, p. 186.

²⁵ *RGVA*, 502-2-24, p. 226, *Zeichnung* no. 1244.

²⁶ *RGVA*, 502-1-57, p. 366 (characteristic notes of some members of the *Zentralbauleitung* compiled by Bischoff in January 1943).

²⁷ *Bescheinigung* of Bischoff, December 22, 1941. *RGVA*, 502-1-44, p. 3.

²⁸ The first financial year of the war extended from October 1, 1939 to September 30, 1940.

The Construction Office had now broadened to such an extent and had assumed such important tasks that on November 8, Bischoff asked Kammler that his office be promoted to Central Construction Office, adducing as his motive, among other things, the fact that the area of interest (*Interessengebiet*) of the concentration camp presented a surface area of 15 km² (6 square miles), where extensive construction works were expected, that they were in the course of constructing a POW camp for 125,000 prisoners of war, and that his office was responsible for the installation of a factory of the *Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke GmbH* of Berlin.²⁹ The request was approved, and on November 14, the Construction Office was promoted to Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz.³⁰ On November 25, 1941, a letter reached Auschwitz from Kammler on the saving of iron; the SS men addressed in this order appear in a list of names, which had to be signed in acknowledgement of receipt by each person named, and upon which 62 typewritten names and 34 signatures appear (see Document 5 and Table VIII). At least 52 of these SS men certainly belonged to the Central Construction Office, which, in addition to Bischoff, also had a few civilian employees (*Zivilangestellte*, abbreviated as *Z.A.*), among them the employee Nowak.³¹ The Special Construction Office for the Construction of a Prisoner of War Camp of the Waffen-SS in Auschwitz operated under this name until January 1942³² and later lost its Special (*Sonder-*) character, becoming the Construction Office of the POW Camp.

Starting on February 1, 1942, the Central Construction Office was restructured into ten departments:

1) *Hochbau* (above-ground construction), assigned to the construction of all buildings (barracks, wash-houses, kitchens, disinfestations installations, lodgings, etc.) for inmates and SS. In May 1942, the head of this department was SS *Unterscharführer* Ertl,³³ and SS *Unterscharführer* Kirschnek was head of construction. SS *Schütze* Werner Jothann formed part of this section as early as February 1942, at which time he was head of construction of nine construction sites, including the lodgings for civilian workers of the Central Construction Office (House 24).

²⁹ German Equipment Works, Ltd.; *RGVA*, 502-1-295, p. 203.

³⁰ *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten*. "Übersichtsplan der Bauinspektion und Zentralbauleitungen der Waffen-SS und Polizei." *WAPL*, Zentralbauleitung, 3, p. 24.

³¹ The name appears in the transcription of the telegram from Topf to the *Bauleitung* dated November 11, 1941. *RGVA*, 502-1-312, p. 102.

³² The last known project drawn up by this is the *Lagerplan des Kriegsgefangenlagers Auschwitz-Ober-Schlesien*, drawn on January 5, 1942, by SS *Unterscharführer* Karl Ulmer. APMO, BW 2/6, neg. no. 21135/4. Published by J.-C. Pressac, *op. cit.* (note 23), p. 189.

³³ As such Ertl is mentioned in the "Reisebericht über die Dienstreise nach Berlin vom 11-17. Mai 1942," compiled by Ertl himself on May 18 and filed on June 3, 1942. *RGVA*, 502-1-43, p. 14.

2) *Tiefbau* (below-ground construction), dealing with the construction of roads (*Straßenbau*), water supply (*Wasserversorgung*), surveying (*Vermessung*) for installations under its responsibility, including topographic maps of the area of interest of the camp, construction of railways, and drainage. At the end of 1942, SS *Unterscharführer* Ewald Schenk was head of this department. SS *Rottenführer* Walter Schuhknecht was assigned to the department *Strassenbau* in December 1942. In November 1942, the drainage work was carried out by the subsection *Kulturbau*, directed by the SS *Untersturmführer* Bernhard Wallergang.

3) *Planung* (planning) directed by SS *Untersturmführer* Walter Dejaco.

4) *Vermessung* (surveying), which worked in cooperation with *Tiefbau*.

5) *Technische Abteilung* (technical department)

6) *Kaufmännische Abteilung* (commercial department)

7) *Buchhaltung* (accounting), in which SS *Unterscharführer* Heinz Giesenberg and civilian employee Heinrich Teichmann worked, who was also head of construction of six construction sites in April 1942, among them the reception building of the newly arrived inmates, the laundry house, and the slaughterhouse (see Section 4 of Chapter II and related documents).

8) *Rohstoffe* (raw materials), directed by SS *Unterscharführer* Paul Wilk.³⁴

9) *Materialverwaltung* (materials administration)

10) *Fahrbereitschaft* (transportation department), in February 1942 directed by SS *Untersturmführer* Fritz Wolter, with SS *Sturmmann* Gertl assigned to the use of sidecars;³⁵ in May 1942, the post of head of transportation department was occupied by SS *Scharführer* Kurt Kögel, promoted to SS *Oberscharführer* in January 1943, who maintained it uninterruptedly until July 1943. In 1942, he was replaced by SS *Unterscharführer* Georg Bergmann.

The first official list of the SS men forming part of the Central Construction Office dates back to December 15, 1942. By order of the Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police, Reich East, Posen, all members of the SS – SS *Führer*, SS *Untersturmführer* and SS *Männer* – had to be subjected to a medical examination to ascertain their suitability for service on the front. For this purpose, Bischoff drew up a complete list of the SS of the Central Construction Office for the army doctor of Auschwitz. 70 men are in this list with rank and date of birth (see Document 6 and Table IX.)

³⁴ In Ertl's "Reisebericht..." op. cit. (note 33), Wilk appears as *Leiter der Rohstoffsstelle*. *RGVA*, *ibid*.

³⁵ Gertl's *Tätigkeitsbericht*, February 23, 1942. *RGVA*, 502-1-24, p. 409.

In January 1943, the Central Construction Office was divided into five Construction Offices and 14 sections (*Sachgebiete*) according to the following organization chart:³⁶

CENTRAL CONSTRUCTION OFFICE OF THE WAFFEN-SS AND POLICE AUSCHWITZ

Head: SS *Hauptsturmführer* Bischoff

Outer Office

SS *Unterscharführer* Thoma, businessman

SS *Sturmmann* Kofler, employee of construction office

Responsibilities

personal reporter and for special occasions

personal reporter

1) Above-Ground Construction

SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Ertl, civil engineer

Drawing up of all construction matters for the *Construction Offices* of the concentration camp, the POW camp, *Landwirtschaft, Industriebauten* (Krupp, Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke, Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke), construction depot, Main Economic Camp (HWL),³⁷ Auschwitz, Troop Economic Camp (TWL),³⁸ Odersberg, Freudenthal, Gut Partschendorf, Werk und Gut.

SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Wolter, civil engineer

Construction management, construction policy, construction requests, documents relating to quota system, matters relating to G.B. Bau,³⁹ and B.f.H.⁴⁰ for the above-mentioned *Construction Offices*.

2) Below-Ground Construction

SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Schenk, Underground technician

SS *Oberscharführer* Strang, construction assistant

Planning and realization of construction of streets, sewer pipes, water purification plants with plant for obtaining sewer gas, including the main

³⁶ “Geschäftsverteilungen der Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz und der Unterstellten Bauleitungen.” Document without date but drawn up in January 1943. *RGVA*, 502-1-57, p. 312-317.

³⁷ *Hauptwirtschaftslager*.

³⁸ *Truppenwirtschaftslager*.

³⁹ See following paragraph.

⁴⁰ *Bevollmächtigter für den Holzbau*: plenipotentiary for construction in wood.

SS *Unterscharführer* Fränzen, paver
 SS *Unterscharführer* Gerhard, paver
 SS *Sturmmann* Krause, mason

used water and rain water collection channel, construction of bridges, railways for the above-mentioned Construction Offices.
 Construction volume: 4,700,000 RM.

3) Water and Sewer

SS *Untersturmführer* Eggeling, agrarian engineer
 SS *Schütze* Schwab, Tiefbau technician
 SS *Rottenführer* Schuhknecht, stone-cutter
 Civilian employee Wolf, smith.

Planning and realization of galleries for wells, water purification stations, provisional autoclave plant, elevated tanks, supply network as well as water supply for the above-mentioned Construction Offices.
 Construction volume: 1,600,000 RM.

4) Melioration and Surveying

SS *Untersturmführer* Wallergang, agronomist
 SS *Untersturmführer* Töffler, civilian engineer
 SS *Rottenführer* Schmid, subforeman drainage
 SS *Rottenführer* Dragoni, subforeman pumping
 SS *Schütze* Fischer, surveyor

Planning and realization of repairs, administration of water and basins in the *Interessengebiet* of the Concentration Camp Auschwitz, implementation of a water savings plan, construction of a dam plant on the Sola and of a water supply for the fish tanks in the *Interessengebiet*, draining and pumping in the POW camp, building measurement for all construction projects, preparation of a new 1:2000 map, determination of the trigonometric network, tacheometry and traversing of the area of interest.
 Construction volume: 14,700,000 RM.

5) Planning

SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Dejaco, architect
 SS *Schütze* Gierisch, architect
 SS *Schütze* Splitt, building designer
 Civilian employee Werkmann, architect
 Civilian employee Schimmel, construction expert
 Civilian employee Walther, architect

Planning or [realization of] sketches, building designs, execution of designs in particular and of building designs of existing buildings and realization of the inventory designs for the Construction Offices concentration camp, POW camp, farming, industrial construction (Deutsche Ausrüstungs-Werke, Krupp, Deutsche Erd- und

Steinwerke) Main Economic Camp Auschwitz, Troop Economic Camp Oderberg, as well as for the construction of Construction Depot Auschwitz.

6) Raw materials and purchasing

SS *Unterscharführer* Wilk, buyer
 SS *Oberscharführer* Arloth, technical buyer
 SS *Unterscharführer* Bracht, buyer
 SS *Unterscharführer* Hoffmann, carpenter
 SS *Unterscharführer* Pruchnik, employee
 SS *Sturmmann* Kunert, foods buyer

Acquisition and planning of raw materials, raw materials requests, allocation of ID code, space for transport for all construction projects.

Construction Depot I

SS *Oberscharführer* Stiller, buyer
 SS *Unterscharführer* Holz, buyer

Taking on consignment, warehousing and administration, distribution of materials, machines and tools for all construction projects.

Construction Depot II

Civilian employee Niendorf, farmer

Administration of Construction Depot Posen.

7) Administration

SS *Scharführer* Betzinger, buyer
 SS *Unterscharführer* Giesenberg, buyer
 SS *Unterscharführer* Weislav, leather worker

Reporting, accounting, care of weapons, matters relating to accommodations.

Registry

SS *Unterscharführer* Putzker, hotel employee
 Civilian employee Uttinger, buyer

Telephone communication

SS *Rottenführer* Cerne, regional employee
 SS *Unterscharführer* Nitsche, stone-cutter

Ordnance

SS *Rottenführer* Steinert, smith

8) Transportation

SS <i>Scharführer</i> Kögel, driver	Use, maintenance, and repair of
SS <i>Sturmmann</i> Seitner	11 motor buses,
SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Bergmann, driver	2 railcars,
SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Olschar, driver	motor cars,
SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Kling, driver	72 construction machines
SS <i>Sturmmann</i> Bärwolf, driver	in addition to 45 horse-drawn carts.
SS <i>Schütze</i> Depta, driver	
SS <i>Sturmmann</i> Rosenauer, driver	

9) Technical department

SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Swoboda, electrotechnician	Planning and realization of the electrical installations, transformer station, transferred voltage monitoring station, heating stations, distance
SS <i>Sturmmann</i> Beck, expert mechanic	heating plant, machine construction for concentration camp, POW camp, farming, industrial construction, installation team and electric workshop with 165 inmates.
Civilian employee Bendorff, electrotechnician	
Civilian employee Jährling, heating technician	

10) Manpower deployment

SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Hochscherf, testing employee	Assistance, lodgings, and employment, initially for 1,000 civilian workers.
SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Pantke, manufacturing director in a furniture factory	Employment of inmates (approximately 8,000) for the concentration camp, POW camp, etc.
SS <i>Rottenführer</i> Steinstrasser, gardener	

11) Workshops

SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Kywitz, head of shop	Management and supervision of the inmate workshops
SS <i>Schütze</i> Blanke, carpenter	(locksmith shop: 232 inmates)
SS <i>Rottenführer</i> Dengler, painter	(cabinet shop: 190 inmates)
Civilian employee Wachs, internal architect (transfer will be requested)	(glazier shop: 22 inmates)
	(paintery: 76 inmates)
	Invoicing, design, and details for internal finishing of all construction projects.

12) Carpentry and roofing shop

SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Vieth, carpenter	Self-employed carpenters: 77
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SS *Rottenführer* Lugert, carpenter (carpentry and roofing activities) inmates: 1,919; performing of carpentry work, maintenance work, barracks assembly.

13) Landscaping

SS *Unterscharführer* Kamann, gardener Realization of gardens for all construction projects.

Secretaries

Civilian female employee Quitzau, stenotypist

14) Statistics

vacant

CONSTRUCTION OFFICES

I. Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz, Concentration Camp Auschwitz and farming Auschwitz

Heads of Construction

SS *Unterscharführer* (F) Kirschnek, construction expert a) Concentration Camp Auschwitz construction of the remaining new buildings and erection of 6 inmate accommodations, barracks of the provisional laundry house in the old Protection Camp.

Civilian employee Teichmann, construction assistant
 SS *Scharführer* Jäger, construction expert
 SS *Unterscharführer* Oschinski, mason
 SS *Sturmmann* Lubitz, assistant construction help
 Civilian employee Lehmann, secretary
 SS *Hauptscharführer* Wiechmann, joiner
 SS *Schütze* Genur, designer

15 new inmate buildings
 5 security workshops for inmates, laundry house and reception building with disinfestations plant and bath for inmates, expansion of the slaughterhouse, bakery building, distance heating plant with pipes, emergency electrical generating plant, courtyard for the canine squad.

3 accommodation barracks for *Führer*, building for commando and accommodation building for commando, garages for commando, entry building, economic building, accommodations for 1st battalion housing development.

Construction volume: 20,030,000 RM.

b) Farming Auschwitz

II. Construction Office of the POW camp (carrying out of Special Treatment Auschwitz)Heads of Construction

SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> (F) Janisch, engineer	New construction, installation or expansion of accommodations (343 barracks), in addition to storehouse barracks, for laundry house, for supplies, disinfestation, wash-houses, latrines, infirmary and <i>Blockführer</i> (158 barracks), 4 crematoria, 4 mortuary chambers, disinfestation plant, entry building, guard building, warehouse, command building, security plant, camp subdivision, guard towers, 16 troop barracks, 6 workers' barracks, 6 latrine barracks, 11 barracks for supplies, offices and infirmary. Disinfestation and sauna plant. 2 emergency electrical generator groups and 3 transformer buildings. Construction volume: 18,700,000 RM
SS <i>Untersturmführer</i> Peetz, architect	
SS <i>Untersturmführer</i> Kastner, civil engineer	
SS <i>Hauptscharführer</i> Böttjer, carpenter	
SS <i>Oberscharführer</i> Kayser, works supervisor	
SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Ulmer, designer	
SS <i>Schütz</i> Sihorsch, mason	
SS- <i>Sturmmann</i> Scheffel, mason	
Civilian employee Uhl, designer	
Civilian employee Lippert, secretary	

III. Construction Office Industrial area Auschwitz

(*Krupp factory halls, Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke Auschwitz, Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke Auschwitz*) as well as construction of the Construction Depot Auschwitz.)

Heads of Construction

SS <i>Sturmmann</i> Jothann, construction expert for above ground	Sheds, accommodation buildings, office buildings and other secondary plant for Krupp, 1 storage room and 1 drying room, silo barracks, etc., for Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke Auschwitz. Sheds for the storage of construction materials, installation of the new construction depot with 7 warehouses and offices, camp for the civilian workers I and II with accommodation barracks for workers and latrines, etc. Construction volume: 6,700,000 RM.
SS <i>Unterscharführer</i> Penn, construction entrepreneur	
SS <i>Rottenführer</i> Wolff, mason	
Civilian employee Götsch, secretary	

IV.) Construction Office Main Economic Camp of the Waffen-SS and Police and Troop Economic Camp Oderberg

Head of Construction

SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Pollok

1 warehouse barracks with basement.
1 office barracks, potato bunkers for the HWL, expansion or broadening of the camp for the TWL Oderberg, in addition to technical assistance to the administrative offices.

Construction volume: 240,000 RM

V.) Construction Office Works and Estate Freudenthal and Estate Partschendorf

Heads of Construction

SS *Unterscharführer* Mayer, construction assistant

Civilian employee Partsch, secretary

Construction of 2 warehouse barracks for machines and fruit juices, 2 accommodation barracks for foreign civilian workers, various supplementary constructions and restructuring *in opera*, 4 double accommodations for agricultural workers, reconstruction and finishing work for the estates Freudenthal, as well as for the estate Partschendorf and for the 9 double accommodations for agricultural workers.

Construction volume: 1,030,000 RM.

This organization chart (see Table VII) covered 74 SS men and 16 civilian employees (see Table X).

In January 1943, the Central Construction Office was threatened with a drastic reduction in personnel. On the one hand, Kammler had informed Bischoff that he intended to send 44 Central Construction Office SS men “fit for active service” (*kriegsverwendungsfähige*)⁴¹ to the front. On the other hand, Höß had decided to transfer all Polish inmates working on the Central Construction Office to other tasks (see in this regard Section 2 of Chapter III). No doubt, Kammler requested the organization chart reproduced above from Bischoff precisely in view of this reduction. Bischoff, preoccupied by the consequences which this would have had for the activities of the Central Construction Office, attempted to keep at least the most important men. To this end, he compiled a

⁴¹ In the documents, this adjective is normally indicated by the initials “KV”.

list of functions of subordinates for Kammler, which Bischoff considered indispensable: SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Pollok, SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Eggeling, SS *Oberscharführer* Strang, SS *Unterscharführer* Wilk, SS *Unterscharführer* Bracht, SS *Unterscharführer* Vieth, SS *Unterscharführer* Swoboda, SS *Sturmann* Beck, SS *Scharführer* Betzinger, SS *Unterscharführer* Pantke, SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Kirschnek, civilian employee Teichmann, SS *Untersturmführer* (F) Janisch, and SS *Sturmann* Jothann.⁴²

The list of indispensable men eventually sent to Kammler, however, was drastically shorter and included only the heads of construction Eggeling, Kirschnek, Janisch, Jothann, and in addition the head of the carpentry shop Vieth.⁴³ On February 1, 1943, Bischoff was promoted to SS *Sturmbannführer*. In early July 1943, the Central Construction Office consisted of at least 63 persons, both SS men and civilian employees, as indicated by a list from July 2 listing personnel of that office having been issued a service bicycle.⁴⁴ Even Bischoff's wife had such a bike, without being a part of the Central Construction Office, of course.

On October 1, 1943, coinciding with the beginning of the fifth financial year of the war, SS *Sturmbannführer* Bischoff was replaced by SS *Obersturmführer* and specialist Jothann. For local bureaucratic reasons, transfer of office was dated January 1, 1944.⁴⁵ Bischoff was promoted to Head of Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police "Silesia." Jothann had had a meteoric career, which had brought him in just ten months from the rank of SS *Sturmann* to that of SS *Obersturmführer*.

We have only very few documents about the year 1944. On July 17, 1944, SS *Oberscharführer* Pollok, who had been recalled to an operational unit, left his post to SS *Obersturmführer* (F) Krauss.⁴⁶ The list of September 1, 1944, related to the service bicycles assigned to the members of the Central Construction Office contains 72 names, including 61 SS men and 11 civilian employees.⁴⁷

⁴² *RGVA*, 502-1-57, pp. 306-311.

⁴³ Letter from Bischoff to Kammler, January 27, 1943. *RGVA*, 502-1-28, pp. 247-250.

⁴⁴ Aufstellung from Kirschnek, July 2, 1943., *RGVA*, 502-1-201, pp. 596-597. See Table XI.

⁴⁵ Letter from Bischoff with the subject "Übergabe der Zentralbauleitungen durch SS Sturmbannführer (S) (Sonderführer) Bischoff an SS Obersturmführer (F) [Fachmann] Jothann" and "Verzeichnis der Akten," January 5, 1944. *RGVA*, 502-1-48, pp. 42-49. See Document 7.

⁴⁶ "Übergabenederschrift" by Pollok, dated July 17, 1944, *RGVA* 502-1-48, p. 14 (only the first page of this document has been preserved).

⁴⁷ Aufstellung über die an die SS Angehörigen und Zivilangestellten der Zentralbauleitung ausgegebenen Dienstfahrräder nach ZBL Nr. geordnet, September 1, 1944. *RGVA*, 502-1-201, pp. 565-566. See Table XII.

2. The Position of the Central Construction Office in the Hierarchy of Technical, Financial, Administrative, and Economic Institutions

The Auschwitz concentration camp initially represented the construction projects “SS accommodations and Concentration Camp Auschwitz” of the Waffen-SS and Police and, as such, depended for all its technical, financial, and administrative aspects on Office II – Constructions of the *HHB*, administered by SS *Oberführer* Kammler. Since the camp was located in the territory of the Reich, in Upper Silesia, it was subordinated to the inspection body of Office II, which had jurisdiction in that region, the Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police Reich East, headquartered at Posen, which, in November 1941, superintended the Central Construction Offices of Auschwitz, Danzig, Posen, and Breslau (see Table VI).

Regarding construction management (*Bauwirtschaft*), the construction projects (*Bauvorhaben*) of Auschwitz depended on the regional representative for the regulation of all constructions in defense district VIII, headquartered in Kattowitz, which was the representative of *Reichsminister* Speer in his capacity as Plenipotentiary for the regulation of all construction projects (G.B.-Bau; see Table I). The realization of a construction project required as a first administrative step its classification in the list of priorities of the defense district to which it belonged (*Wehrkreisrangfolgelisten*). The next required step was the construction authorization (*Baufreigabe*). According to the provisions of *Reichsminister* Speer of July 12, 1941, for the third financial year of the war, this authorization was initially issued by the control commission of defense district VIII – a body of Speer’s regional representative in defense district VIII – through presentation of a documentation consisting of a situation sketch (*Lageskizze*; Document 8), a description of the project (*Baubeschreibung*; Document 9), and an approximate cost calculation (*Kostenüberschlag*; Document 10),⁴⁸ later replaced by a proper cost estimate (*Kostenvorschlag*; see Document 10a). The project description could also be in form of a written explanatory report (*Erläuterungsbericht*; Document 11). Speer then assigned the construction volume, a term that also described the costs of the project.

At the beginning of the third financial year of the war, on October 1, 1941, the construction projects “SS accommodations and Concentration Camp Auschwitz” were included in Speer’s construction projects under reference number (*G.B.-Bau Kennnummer*) “2 U Kattowitz 1.”⁴⁸ On January 20, 1942, the

⁴⁸ Letter from the head of Office II of the *HHB* to the Auschwitz *Bauleitung*, October 1, 1941. *RGVA*, 502-1-319, illegible page number on my photocopy.

number was changed to “2 Kattowitz 3001”.⁴⁹ The number relating to the construction of the future camp of Monowitz⁵⁰ was initially “0. Wo-E (Chem.) Katt. 3009”,⁵¹ but was later changed to “VIII E wo 19”.⁵² In June 1942, the G.B.-Bau reference number of Concentration Camp Auschwitz again changed to “VIII Up a 1”, in which the symbols had the following significance:

VIII = Roman letter of the defense district

Up = responsible for allocation of materials (*Kontingenträger*)

a = sector (*Sachgebiet*); there were 4 sectors:

a = armaments and military hospital construction

c = provisions and clothing

c = dwelling-place construction

d = general construction

1 = the rank of the district in the scope of the sector of the entity responsible for allocations and simultaneously an indication of urgency; the degree of maximum urgency was Grade 1. Grade 0 (zero) was no longer in use.

The new G.B.-Bau reference number was valid for the third financial year of the war and, in particular, for the period from April 1 to December 31, 1942.⁵³ In October 1942, the construction projects “POW Auschwitz” received the G.B.-Bau reference number “VIII Up a 2,” and the future Monowitz camp was designated “VIII E Ch-m/wo 19.”⁵⁴

Starting on February 1, 1942, the Auschwitz Central Construction Office was subordinated in financial, technical and administrative matters to Office Group C—Construction Projects of the *WVHA*, directed by SS *Oberführer* Kammler, while it continued to depend on *Reichsminister* Speer for construction management. Office C/I (general construction tasks) of the *WVHA*, headed by SS *Sturmbannführer* Sesemann, exercised control over construction projects and cost estimates of ordinary construction projects. Office C/III (technical areas), commanded by SS *Sturmbannführer* Wirtz, carried on the same activity

⁴⁹ Letter from the head of Office II of the *HHB* to the Auschwitz *Bauleitung*, January 20, 1942. *RGVA*, 502-1-319, illegible page number on my photocopy.

⁵⁰ Construction project “Lagerausbau im Zusammenhang mit dem Aufbau des Werkes Auschwitz der I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G.”

⁵¹ Letter from Auschwitz *Zentralbauleitung* to *Amtsgruppe* C V/I of the *WVHA*, March 17, 1942. *RGVA*, 502-1-319, p. 202.

⁵² Letter from *Zentralbauleitung* to *Gebietsbeauftragter für die Regelung der Bauwirtschaft*, July 8, 1942. *RGVA*, 502-1-319, p. 88.

⁵³ Letter from *Amtsgruppenchef* C of *WVHA* to *Zentralbauleitung*, June 14, 1942. *RGVA*, 502-1-319, p. 119.

⁵⁴ List of BW with G.B.-Kennum., October 26, 1942. *RGVA*, 502-1-317, p. 43.

on technical construction projects. The management of Construction Inspections of Office II of *HHB* was taken over by Office C/V (Central Construction Inspection), which developed a double activity: inspection, through Office V/1a (Construction Inspection, Central Construction Offices und Construction Offices), and financial, through Office V/2a (Budget and Invoicing). The Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police, Reich East, which controlled the Auschwitz Central Construction Office from November 1941 onward, depended on these two agencies. Later this control function was taken over by the Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police Silesia, headquartered in Kattowitz, which was formed in the second half of 1943 and was likewise subordinated to Office C/V of the *WVHA*. Regarding construction management, the Central Construction Office was subject to Speer's authority through two of his subordinate officials: Speer's regional representative in Defense District VIII, headquartered in Kattowitz, which dealt with administrative matters (classification, authorization, etc.), and Speer's regional representative in Defense District VIII, headquartered in Breslau, which was in charge of allocation of materials. On September 14, 1942, Speer reorganized his department in the following manner:

Speer was plenipotentiary for the regulation of construction management in the framework of the German four-year plan. His principal agency, headquartered in Berlin, was subdivided into four sections: construction management, development of armaments, allocation of materials, and transport of construction materials. Speer's regional representatives in a German state (*Gau*) carried the name *Gau* representative (*Gaubeauftragter*); defense districts were renamed to districts of armaments inspection, and regional representatives for the regulation of construction were renamed to the construction plenipotentiary of *Reichsministerium* Speer in the district of armaments inspection. The 21 different districts received Roman numerals. The Central Construction Office of Auschwitz was within District VIII and was therefore subordinate to Speer's regional representative in Kattowitz for administrative matters, and to Speer's construction plenipotentiary in the district of armaments inspection VIII, headquartered in Breslau, for the allocation of materials (see Tables II and IV). The Central Construction Office directed its construction materials requests to the materials-allocation office of the latter institution, which forwarded them to the central office in Berlin. For the transport of construction materials, the transport section of Speer's central office issued GB Bau sheets (see Document 12).

In technical, financial, and administrative matters, construction activities in annexed and occupied territories depended on the respective Construction Inspections, which were organized as follows:

- Central Construction Inspection for the East
- Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police East–North
- Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police East–Center
- Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police East–South
- Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police East–Tiflis.

The construction management, on the other hand, was controlled by an office headed by an SS manager, Group C–Construction, and located at the local Higher SS and Police Headquarters, organized as follows:

- Higher SS and Police Headquarters in the Generalgouvernement (occupied central Poland), headquartered in Krakow
- Higher SS and Police Headquarters in Ostland, headquartered in Riga
- Higher SS and Police Headquarters in Russia–Center, headquartered in Mogilev
- Higher SS and Police Headquarters in Russia–South, headquartered in Kiev
- Higher SS and Police Headquarters in Serbia, headquartered in Belgrade.

Norway had its own Construction Inspection of the Waffen-SS and Police and its own Higher SS and Police Leader in Oslo.

This organizational structure remained unchanged at least until the end of February 1944.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ *Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten. Amt II. Bauten.* “Nachweisung der Bauinspektion der Waffen-SS und Polizei bei den Höheren SS- und Polizeiführern,” *WAPL*, Zentralbauleitung, 2, pp. 4-5; *SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt. Amtsgruppe C.* Letter to *Bauinspektionen und Höhere SS- und Polizeiführer*, December 14, 1942. *WAPL*, Zentralbauleitung, 54, p. 32; *SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt. Amtsgruppe C.* Letter, February 12, 1944, to all subordinate institutions. *WAPL*, Zentralbauleitung, 54, p. 99.