

Carlo Mattogno

Healthcare in Auschwitz

**Medical Care and
Special Treatment
of Registered Inmates**



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Cover: Left: Warning poster for inmates in German concentration camps, urging cleanliness; right: drawing by an inmate, gift to Garrison Physician of Auschwitz Dr. Eduard Wirths as a thank-you for his struggle against typhus-transmitting lice (see p. 267); bottom: map of the troop hospital at Auschwitz, built on the initiative and under the supervision of Dr. E. Wirths, and opened in 1944.

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Introduction

Selection in hospitals of the Auschwitz complex and the subsequent gassing of sick inmates who had become unfit for work is notoriously one of the cornerstones of Holocaust historiography relating to this camp.

Although the German term “*Selektion*” is not part of the terminology used by the SS, who employed the terms “*Auswahl*” or “*Ausmusterung*,” for practical reasons I will continue to use the term “selection.”

Such selections form part of the program of extermination of “useless mouths,” *i.e.* inmates so worn out that they were no longer able to work profitably for the SS and were therefore, economically, dead weight, first among these the invalids and the inpatients.

The sentencing grounds of the Auschwitz trial in Frankfurt, in the section “The Auschwitz Concentration Camp as an extermination center of sick and debilitated inmates,” states in this regard (Rüter 1981, pp. 416f.):

“In the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, sick inmates of the camp who were considered unfit for work, especially Jews, were also murdered in large numbers.

a) In the HKB,^[1] among inmates who reported sick and, following an examination, were presented by an inmate physician (the so-called physician presenter^[2]) to the camp medical officer, those whom the camp medical officer judged unable to work were selected almost every day. Then they were killed with phenol injections. The number of inmates murdered in this way could not be ascertained. However, there were several thousand. More precise details on the selection process and the methods of killing will be discussed further in relation to the offences of the SDGs^[3] Klehr, Scherpe, Hantl.

b) Every now and then the camp doctor, in the company of an SDG, went into the wards of the HKB to check on orderliness and cleanliness and to assess whether the HKB was overcrowded. In this case, he selected a series of inmates who later were also killed with phenol injections. Particularly threatened were inmates who had already been in the HKB for a long time. The number of inmates chosen during these so-called small selections and then killed with phenol could also not be ascertained. We will also return later to these small selections.

¹ *Häftlingskrankenbau*: infirmary for inmates (HKB)

² *Arztvorsteller*

³ *Sanitätsdienstgehilfen*: SS corpsmen.

c) In addition to these minor selections, there took place in the HKB at certain time intervals so-called major selections. In these major selections, all sick inmates who were in the HKB were to be presented naked to the camp medical officer. Then with a look the camp medical officer decided whether a patient could still remain in the HKB or whether he should be killed. Often during these major selections 200-300 inmates were destined to die. Their temperature charts^[4] were brought into the clerks' office, where a list with numbers of inmates destined to die was compiled. One or two days later, inmates selected were called, loaded onto trucks and taken to the gas chambers, where they were killed with Zyklon B. The number of inmates murdered in this way also could no longer be ascertained.

d) Finally, there were from time to time so-called camp selections. In the course of these, camp inmates, except those who held a responsibility and others who were employed in special activities, were reviewed to verify their fitness for work. These so-called camp selections took place both in the Stammlager^[5] and in the various sectors of the Birkenau camp. The inmates in these selections had to line up naked. Their fitness for work was assessed by the camp doctors at a glance. Any inmates who did not appear fit for work – to this category belonged especially the so-called Muslims^[6] – were separated from the other inmates and allocated to a particular block isolated from other inmates. After a few days, the men selected were taken by truck to the gas chambers and killed there with gas.

As cause of death on death certificates of all inmates killed in this way, natural causes (e.g. cardiac weakness) were given.

It has not been possible to ascertain whether and to what extent these selections took place on the orders of the RSHA^[7] or WVHA.^[8]

They were probably based on the action, already mentioned, implemented in concentration camps with the secret code 14 f 13.

The Assize Court has, based on the presumption in favor of the accused, assumed that the SS doctors received from higher up (probably from Amt III^[9] of the WVHA) a general directive to select and unobtrusively kill sick and completely debilitated inmates whose labor could no longer be relied on. However, in addition to selections by the doctors, these selections were also carried out by SS officers, NCOs and nurses, at times without orders, on their own initiative. We will return later to specific cases in connection with discussions of the crimes of the defendants. ”

The historical framework sketched out here was evidently built on the basis not of documents, but of simple testimonies. However, there is considera-

⁴ The medical records of inmates, which also contained a daily temperature graph.

⁵ The Auschwitz Main Camp.

⁶ Emaciated inmates.

⁷ Reichssicherheitshauptamt: Reich Security Main Office.

⁸ SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt: SS Economic and Administrative Main Office.

⁹ Office D III of the SS WVHA “Sanitätswesen und Lagerhygiene” (Camp Health and Hygiene) commanded by SS Obersturmbannführer Enno Lolling.

ble documentation that categorically refutes this historical framework, as I will show in the present study. Precisely for this reason, orthodox Holocaust historiography has so far been unable to produce a scientific work on the fate of those registered inmates who became unfit for work and were admitted to hospitals in the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex.

The study here presented seeks to overcome this serious historiographical lacuna by outlining on the one hand, on the basis of documentary evidence largely unknown or ignored, the real picture of events, in particular the medical treatment of sick inmates, which went as far as to surgical operations, and by refuting on the other hand, by means of a well-documented critical analysis, the Holocaust narrative as created by orthodox Holocaust historian. In this second part of the present book, I address the issue of the “special treatment” of registered inmates. As such, this study is a supplement to my earlier work *Special Treatment in Auschwitz: Origin and Meaning of a Term* (Mattogno 2016c).

Nota Bene

This book contains many quotations, translated into the English language, from original German wartime documents. The original German text of them can be found in the German edition of this book, which is available as a free PDF download at holocausthandbuecher.com/index.php?page_id=33

Part One:

The Inmates

1. The Inmates' Living Conditions

1.1. Provisions to Improve Inmates' Living Conditions

From the end of March 1942, the economic aspect of detention in National Socialist concentration camps began to prevail over the strictly “re-educative.” On March 31, 1942 SS *Brigadeführer* Richard Glücks, head of *Amtsgruppe D – Konzentrationslager* (Office Group D – Concentration camps) of newly-formed SS *Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt*, sent commandants of all the concentration camps a secret letter in which they were informed:¹⁰

“By order of the Reichsführer SS, in a number of camps work is being carried out inside these preventive detention camps on behalf of the arms industry. These works are of military importance and therefore particularly urgent. With newly-arrived inmates, I must first fill these camps; then, according to the level of urgency, the needs of other camps will be met.”

A month later the change was already decided. On April 30, the SS *Gruppenführer* Oswald Pohl, head of the SS *WVHA*, sent a letter to Himmler with the subject “Incorporating the Inspectorate of the Concentration Camps into the SS *WVHA*,” in which he noted:¹¹

“The war has brought a clear structural change in the concentration camps and has radically changed their duties with regard to the inmates. Increasing the number of inmates solely for reasons of security, rehabilitation or prevention is no longer the primary factor. The center of gravity has shifted to the economic aspect. Mobilization of the full working capacity of inmates, primarily for war-related tasks (increased armament production) and subsequently for peaceful tasks, moves more and more into the foreground.

From this recognition, necessary steps result that require a gradual shift of the concentration camps from their previous entirely-political form toward an organization that corresponds to economic tasks.”

These new tasks of importance to the war required safeguarding of inmate labor. On December 15, 1942, Himmler, concerned about the high mortality of inmates in concentration camps, wrote the following letter to the head of the SS *WVHA*:¹²

“Dear Pohl, re our conversation in Hegewaldheim. In 1943, seek to acquire to a maximum extent for the inmates' sustenance raw vegetables and onions. During the vegetable season, distribute large quantities of carrots, kohlrabi, turnips and as many other similar vegetables as are available, and store a suf-

¹⁰ *Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt, Amtsgruppenchef D - Konzentrationslager*, March 31, 1942. AGK, NTN, 172, p. 38.

¹¹ R-129.

¹² Der Reichsführer-SS. Feld-Kommandostelle, 15.12.1942. BAK, NS 19/1542.

ficient quantity for the inmates in winter, so that inmates can receive a satisfactory amount of them every day. I believe that in this way we will significantly improve [their] state of health. Heil Hitler. Yours, Himmler."

On December 28, 1942, Himmler ordered concentration camp inmate mortality to be reduced at any cost. On the same day, *SS Brigadeführer* Glücks sent concentration camp medical officers (camp physicians) a letter concerning "medical activity in the concentration camps" (*Ärztliche Tätigkeit in den Konz.-Lagern*). To this was attached a summary of the variations in camp strengths, which showed that, of 136,000 inmates, there were 70,000 deaths. Glücks continues:¹³

"With a death rate so high, you can never bring the number of inmates up to the level that the Reichsführer SS has ordered. The chief physicians in the camps must strive with all means at their disposal to ensure that the death rate in individual camps falls substantially. The best doctor in a concentration camp is not one who seeks to attract attention with inappropriate harshness, but one who maintains the labor capacity as high as possible with surveillance and rotation in individual workplaces. Camp medical officers have to attach more importance to monitoring inmates' food and to make proposals for improvements to the camp commandants in agreement with the authorities. These must not, however, remain only on paper, but must be regularly checked by camp doctors. Camp doctors must also ensure that working conditions in individual workplaces are improved as much as possible. For this purpose, it is necessary that camp doctors check working conditions in person and on site. The Reichsführer SS has ordered that mortality absolutely must be reduced. For this reason, it is ordered as above, and each month a report must be submitted to the head of Office D II on what measures have been taken. Starting February 1, 1943."

On January 20, 1943 Glücks replied to Himmler's order and wrote to the concentration camp commandants as follows:¹⁴

"I forward for information the copy attached. As I have already pointed out, the mortality rate in the camps must be reduced by all available means. This is also possible with the full utilization and appetizing preparation of the food available, and good management of the reception of parcels. I hold the camp commandant and the head of the of the concentration camp administration personally responsible for exhausting every possibility to maintain the working capacity of the inmates, and will check in the future during staff assessments which must be submitted here whether in this case the SS officers responsible have fully performed their duty."

As a result of these measures taken by Himmler, in the first half of 1943 deaths in concentration camps dropped significantly. In the report on this by Pohl to Himmler, dated September 30, 1943, we read:¹⁵

¹³ AGK, NTN, 94, pp. 142f.

¹⁴ NO-1523.

“Reichsführer,

After mortality in December 1942 fell to about 10%, already in the month of January 1943 it dropped to 8%, and has since decreased steadily. In essence, this decline in mortality is due to the fact that hygiene measures requested for a long time have now been implemented at least to a large extent. Also, with regard to food, it has been ordered that a third of the nourishment, raw and properly chopped-up, be added to the cooked food just before serving.”

Other measures concerned the improvement of winter clothing, the shorter duration of roll calls, the right to receive food parcels, and a cookery class in Dachau for inmate cooks.

On October 26, 1943 Pohl issued an important secret directive that concerned the improvement of inmates' living conditions. Despite its length, I reproduce the full text of this directive, which was sent to the commandants of 19 concentration camps, including Auschwitz:¹⁶

“Within the framework of German war production, thanks to the construction work carried out during the past two years, concentration camps represent a factor of decisive strategic importance. We have created from nothing armaments factories that have no equal.

Now we must act with all forces at our disposal so that the achievements realized so far are not only maintained, but furthermore steadily increased in the future.

Since the workshops and factories are essentially set up, this is only possible by us maintaining the working strength of the inmates and further increasing it.

In recent years, as part of the tasks of rehabilitation then in force, it might have been unimportant whether an inmate could or could not provide useful labor. But now the working strength of the inmates is important, and all measures of the commandants, the heads of Office V⁽¹⁷⁾ and the doctors must chiefly focus on maintaining the health and the productivity of the inmates.

Not from hypocritical sentimentality, but because we need their arms and legs, because they have to contribute to the German people achieving a great victory. For this we need to take to heart the welfare of the inmates.

As a first goal, I set this: no more than 10% of all inmates may be unfit for work due to illness. This objective must be achieved by a joint effort of all those responsible.

For this the following are necessary:

- 1) a correct and appropriate diet,*
- 2) correct and appropriate clothing,*
- 3) the use of all natural health resources,*
- 4) avoiding all unnecessary effort, not directly essential to the ability to work,*
- 5) productivity bonuses.*

¹⁵ PS-1469.

¹⁶ AMS, I-IB-8, pp. 53-57. See DOCUMENT 1 in the APPENDIX.

¹⁷ The *Abteilung V–Standortarzt* (Department V–garrison physician) of the concentration camps.

1) Food

I have pointed out already multiple times the need for correct and appropriate food for inmates. I remind you of the following principles:

- a) Store vegetables and potatoes in such a way as to minimize loss of stock. First-class storage facilities.*
- b) When cleaning potatoes and vegetables, keep waste to the lowest level possible. Constantly monitor peeler teams.*
- c) Wash potatoes as briefly as possible; do not leave them in running water for hours. If soaking in water is unavoidable, keep them just covered with water, whole and not broken. Distribute boiled potatoes as far as possible in their skins.*
- d) Shortly before distributing rations, mix 10-50% of all vegetables raw with the cooked food.*
- e) Stir into the food about 10% of raw grated potato.*
- f) Only throw away vegetable cooking water when it has a bad smell or taste.*
- g) Distribute vegetables alongside meals also raw as salad, or uncooked (carrots, sauerkraut). (Sutlership!). The collection of wild greens and herbs must be done with great care as before.*
- h) Do not overcook warm meals!*
- i) The amount of the lunch ration should be between a liter and a quarter and a liter and a half; yet not a watery soup, but a substantial dish, rich in content.*
- j) The cooks must turn their attention mainly to proper seasoning. No excessive amounts of salt, in general no more than 20-30 grams per day. The supply of spices, to the extent that they are not rationed, should be implemented vigorously.*
- k) Inmate cooks must be supervised constantly and replaced immediately in case of negligence in the service.*
- l) In contrast to cooking for soldiers, in cooking for inmates, food must be chopped and cooked together. Only workers involved in heavy labor are to receive in their hands their additional sausage ration.*
- m) All possibilities of providing additional food must be fully exploited (e.g. yeast, curd).*
- n) In the concentration camps there must be no waste food.*
- o) Hot food and drinks must be given and consumed hot.*
- p) Bread may not be ovenfresh. Where possible, distribute bread in whole loaves.*
- q) Great attention must be given to distribution of the food in equal shares. An inmate who receives food late through no fault of his own is entitled to the same amount as those who ate before him. Portions of surplus food must be distributed equally or equitably in turn.*
- r) Inmates are to be encouraged to carefully peel potatoes boiled in their skins.*
- s) The receipt of additional packages is to be encouraged.*
- t) Eating and digesting well require peace and quiet. Therefore, sufficient time off when food is received. No unnecessary walking: take the food to the people, not the people to the food.*

Do not burden meal breaks with other tasks.

u) In the kitchens, living quarters and food receptacles there must be maximum cleanliness.

v) If a patient can recover faster with a special diet, it must be provided for him, but only in the infirmaries.

2) Clothing.

Clothing, along with hot meals, has the task of keeping the body warm and of protecting it from the common cold. This is of particular importance for inmates working outdoors.

I order that in winter, where these are available, hats, coats, woolen cuffs and socks be worn.

Several light garments keep one warmer than one heavy garment, so in the winter, if a coat is not available, wearing two shirts or similar must be allowed.

Newspaper is an effective protection against the cold (because it keeps in the heat). Therefore, if necessary, have several layers of newspaper worn on the chest, belly and kidney area. You must give attention to procuring a sufficient amount of paper.

If need be, inmates may make their own paper waistcoats. Shredded paper in socks is also a good protection against the cold. If no hat is available, allow close-fitting paper caps to be made as well. In this case, hair may be kept long as well to retain heat.

I will reward suitable designs of heat-retaining clothing of any kind.

3) Natural hygiene measures.

In winter, care must be taken that the inmates are not subjected to hypothermia. So in the case of outdoor work, have repeated short breaks for energetic body exercise. Make use of roll calls for warming-up exercise.

Hot drinks and foods promote blood circulation and warm the body from the inside. Always distribute cold food together with a hot drink.

Bedding should not be allowed to cool; therefore, in unheated barracks during the day, put blankets on straw mattresses. Constantly check that straw mattresses are properly filled.

You must provide an undisturbed night's rest of at least 7 to 8 hours.

Inmates who work during the day in dark areas, if possible, should be exposed during the lunch break to the light of day with a naked torso.

4) Avoid unnecessary exertion

Roll calls should be as short as possible; long periods of standing must be avoided. If it is cold, allow short exercises stamping the feet; if the weather is fine, have them sit [on the ground].

As far as possible organize workplaces with regard to layout and lighting so that all resources available work to the advantage of the labor process.

In the future, useful and easily-achievable proposals made by the inmates in this regard will be rewarded (facilitations, cigarettes).

5) Productivity bonuses.

Another key means to increase the performance of the inmates is awarding bonuses. The procedure is set out in the bill 'Service regulations for the granting of facilitations to inmates' of May 15, 1943. This bill is again attached to this letter. Its content must be made known in detail to all those in charge of the employment of inmates. Camp commandants must personally continuously and conscientiously take care that this possibility, too, is fully exhausted.

On the award of bonuses, especially on their effectiveness for the growth of productivity, you must report in detail on January 15, 1944. To these reports must be attached any suggestions for improvement.

I expect these rules to have a positive effect in a short time on growth of productivity in the concentration camps.

In the event that activities (e.g. the manufacture of paper waistcoats) are required on a fairly large scale, they should be performed in clinics and only by inmates in need of convalescence. They should be assembled there.

The necessary premises must be made available.

Every camp commandant who receives this letter must immediately forward it for information to the chief administrative officer and the camp medical officer. These two officers must certify with their signature on the letter that they have read it carefully.

I will take care personally to monitor the measures set out again in this letter."

As for Auschwitz, the echo of this directive may be felt in the *Sonderbefehl* (Special Order) of the camp commandant, SS *Obersturmbannführer* Arthur Liebehenschel, of February 14, 1944, which contains, among other matters, these provisions:¹⁸

"On the other hand, as has been repeatedly ordered, we must do everything to preserve the capacity and working strength of inmates. This requires that the inmate, after performing the work accurately, is also treated correctly. To summarize the essentials:

1) There is to be only one roll call per day for counting, which is to last no longer than 10 to 15 minutes.

2) Free time is to be used for recovery of working strength consumed; this includes sufficient sleep. Unnecessary exertions or even bullying of inmates during leisure time is no longer to occur. Violations of this must be punished with severe penalties.

3) Closest attention must be paid to food, which means that every inmate must really receive what they are entitled to (supplements for hard and very hard work). Receipt of packages also plays an important role here. At Auschwitz, over a million parcels have arrived in two and a half months. The recipients of many parcels containing perishable items which, as I have convinced myself, they alone cannot consume, will, with proper education, if they do not already do so voluntarily, give them to other inmates who are worse off.

4) The condition of clothing must be monitored constantly, especially footwear.

¹⁸ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 80.

5) Promptly remove sick inmates. Better a short period at the hospital under proper medical treatment and then again healthy at the workplace than leave them for a long time on the job without working capacity.

6) To diligent inmates, all types of facilitations, even as far as re-obtaining their freedom; to lazy incorrigible inmates, the harshness of all possible penalties in accordance with regulations.”

In a letter “to the commandants of KLs Auschwitz I-III on the employment of inmates on March 8, 1944, Pohl, reiterating that the inmate workforce was the property of the Reich (*die Arbeitskraft der Häftlinge dem Reich gehört*) ordered commandants, among other matters, to take action to

“ensure undisturbed sleep for inmates who are employed in shift work. Under no circumstances may these inmates be awakened from their sleep, for example to ensure the completeness of Kommandos in a roll call.”¹⁹

On October 26, 1944, in a letter “to the commandants of KL Auschwitz III” (evidently intended to commandants of CCs Auschwitz I-III) Glücks stated that:²⁰

“Every inmate must be able to sleep at least 7½ -8 hours, if the following day he is to be at 100%. Attention must be paid specifically to ensuring that inmates employed on night shift, after returning from duty, can also sleep undisturbed the number of hours needed during the day, and their sleep must not be interrupted for roll calls.”

In the *Standortbefehl* (Garrison Order) 6/44 of February 7, 1944, Liebehenschel included provisions on “transport of inmates”.²¹

“When we have to transport men (inmates) to another work deployment, all necessary conditions must also be in place during transport to conserve working strength, so that the working capacity ascertained before departure does not suffer because of the transport. For this I order again as follows:

a) The camp commandant is personally liable for any departing transport.

b) Selection (inspection) is carried out, as ordered, by the camp medical officer, by the head of the preventive detention camp, and by the officer in charge of the inmates’ employment; in the case of transfer from one camp to another, possibly in the presence of relevant commandants of the new camp.

Until the departure of a train, the head of the preventive detention camp is solely responsible to the camp commandant for the proper preparation of the transport. This requires: assigning sufficient escort, weapons (machine guns) and enough food for them; in the case of larger transports (more than 4 cars) an SS officer must always be appointed as head of the transport. Similarly, proper clothing and enough food for inmates must also be taken along, as ordered. Regarding food provisioning, current traffic conditions must be taken into account, so always give more! Food for the transport must not be given to

¹⁹ NA, T-1021. Record Group No. 242/338, vol. 3, Roll No. 18, Frame no. 581.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Frame 598.

²¹ AGK, NTN, 121, p. 97.

the inmates all at once. The train for the transport must be furnished with packs of wood shavings to lie down on. In each car, there is a receptacle with boiled water or tea, a latrine bucket and safety lighting (stable lanterns). In case of very intense cold, railcars should be equipped with stoves by the Reich Railways. In case of moderate cold, to protect against the cold the floor covering already indicated and wrapping the feet and chest with newspaper will suffice. I Ask the camp administration to procure the necessary equipment for the transport, if it is not presently available, and to deliver it to the head of the preventive detention camp. The head of the preventive detention camp transfers the transport equipment in writing to the responsible officer in charge of the transport, who undertakes to return all equipment after delivery of the transport. Before loading the train for the transport, the cars have to be inspected with great attention to safety [issues] by the head of the preventive detention camp and the officer in charge of the transport. Deficiencies detected in this regard must be immediately rectified by appropriate tradesmen.”

The selection referred to in paragraph b) of the document was normal practice. For example, *Kommandanturbefehl* (Headquarters Order) No. 64 of CC Stutthof dated September 28, 1944 reads:²²

“In accordance with telex dated Sept. 15, 1944 from Amtsgruppenchef D (Head of Office Group D) of SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt, dated Sept. 29, 1944, 1,000 male Jewish inmates and 1,500 male Aryan inmates will be transferred from CC Stutthof to Schomberg Railway Station for the use of CC Natzweiler. Selection [Auswahl] of these inmates was conducted in accordance with verbal instructions by the first head of the preventive detention camp, the SS garrison physician and the head of labor deployment. [...]

According to telex no. 9485 dated Sept. 8, 1944 from Amtsgruppenchef D of the SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt, on Sept. 29, 1944 500 female Jews will be transferred to the train station in Hannover-Vinnhorst, siding 2, for the use of CC Neuengamme for Brinkerwerke Hannover. The inmates to be transferred were selected [ausgewählt] according to verbal instructions from the first head of the preventive detention camp, the SS garrison physician and the head of labor deployment.”

1.2. Selection of Inmates on Arrival

In the Auschwitz Museum’s comprehensive overview of its historiography of the Auschwitz camp in five volumes, Tadeusz Iwaszko, who died in 1988, is quoted as follows (Iwaszko 1999, pp. 18f.):

“Acceptance of mass transport of Jews deported to Auschwitz as part of the ‘final solution’ was carried out following a different procedure. In these transports also, the deportees were unloaded under circumstances similar to those of inmate transports, but later the ‘selection’ followed, and in the end, only some of the deportees were admitted to the camp. ‘Selection’ meant that the

²² AMS, I-IB-3, pp. 196f.

transport was divided on the ramp, and the criterion of this 'selection' was the fitness for work of the arriving deportees. Those responsible for the selection were the SS camp physicians. These selections were made quickly, and it sometimes also happened that bad lighting conditions prevailed. The member of the SS performing the selection based his decision only on the appearance [of the inmates]. All this took place so quickly that not even a superficial examination would have been possible. After usually travelling for several days in overcrowded railroad cars, after not receiving anything to drink for days, with their smelly clothes and the men with their unshaven faces, they did not make a positive impression. In these circumstances, to be classified as fit for work was a matter of chance. Those classified as fit for work and needed at the camp were taken into the camp under surveillance only after the end of the selection."

No document exists on the selection of inmates to be properly registered; everything depends on eye-witness accounts, so we do not know under what criteria the camp physicians were operating. However, a number of documents never mentioned before by any Auschwitz historian allow us to safely conclude that the work of the camp physicians was much more serious than Iwaszko would have us believe. According to these documents, which date back to 1943 and relate to the inmates in the men's camp, after the initial selection the camp physician had to examine all registered inmates, and every five days draw up a report on the results of the examination. That report was sent to the first head of the preventive detention camp of the CC. These reports, which also mention several Jewish transports, are drawn up in a standard pattern. The first is dated February 7, 1943.

I translate the report of 12 February:²³

"Copy.

*The camp medical officer
CCL Auschwitz*

Auschwitz, 12 February 1943.

To

Commandant's office

*The officer in charge of the preventive-detention camp of CC Auschwitz
A u s c h w i t z*

The 408 inmates interned from 6 to 10 February 1943 were examined by the camp medical officer.

389 inmates are healthy and fit for work

16 inmates are fit for light work

3 inmates are unfit for work.

New arrivals:

Nos. 100444 to 100497 from Katowice (prison)

100498 " 100522 " Vienna (prison)

²³ RGVA, 502-1-68, p. 119. See DOCUMENT 2.

100523 “ 100805 “ Jewish quarter Bialystok
 100806 “ 100839 “ Katowice (prison)
 100840 “ 100851 “ KL Stutthof

must undergo a quarantine of 3 weeks in the camp before they can be deployed for labor.

Only those inmates who do not come from a prison, a detention camp or the like can be used directly for labor.

*The camp medical officer of KL
 Auschwitz
 signed: signature
 SS Untersturmführer*

*certified true copy
 (Mulka)*

*SS Hauptsturmführer and aide-de-camp Stamp with the words:
 Waffen SS*

Commandant's Office KL Auschwitz.”

In the following table I summarize the data relating to the documents:²⁴

Date of report (1943)	Period (1943)	Inmates	Fit for work	Fit for light work	Unable to work
Feb. 7	Feb. 1-5	1,853	1,772	74	7
Feb. 12	Feb. 6-10	408	389	16	3
Feb. 16	Feb. 11-16	1,641	1,572	65	4
Apr. 8	Apr. 1-5	245	234	9	2
May 18	May 11-15	302	286	12	4
May 23	May 16-20	101	97	3	1
June 28	June 21-25	421	390	24	7
Aug. 19	Aug. 11-15	410	376	26	8
Sep. 6	Aug. 26-31	1,196	1,112	64	20
Dec. 4	Nov. 26-30	347	252	66	29
	Total	6,924	6,480	359	85

The total of those unable to work is therefore 85 inmates out of 6,924, or 1.2%. This means that the initial selection by the camp physician was not arbitrary at all. The camp physician had to subject to medical examination all inmate transports arriving at Auschwitz, and those unable to work were sent by him to the inmate hospital (*Häftlingskrankenbau*).

As we will see in Section 4.3, the documents that have been preserved show that the diagnoses of the camp physician were very accurate.

1.3. Treatment of Inmates

In German concentration camps, nothing was in any way arbitrary. A regulation issued by the *RSHA* defined the organization of the camp, assigned certain functions and responsibilities to each department, and defined the

²⁴ RGVA, 502-1-68, pp. 20-20a, 42-42a, 53-53a, 71-71a, 91, 94, 107, 117, 119, 121.

treatment of inmates. There exists for certain a 1941 edition of these regulations entitled “Regulations for concentration camps (camp organization),” of which I have found only the cover and the index. The booklet was divided into sixteen chapters with the following titles:²⁵

- I. *Purpose and organization of the concentration camp*
- II. *Access to the concentration camp*
- III. *The camp commandant*
- IV. *The adjutant*
- V. *The Political Section*
- VI. *The preventive detention camp*
- VII. *The camp administration*
- VIII. *The camp medical officer*
- IX. *Officer in charge of the Security Service, NCO in charge of daytime service and the camp police*
- X. *The guard escort service*
- XI. *Admission, release and transfer*
- XII. *Administration of inmates’ money*
- XIII. *Postal Censorship*
- XIV. *General regulations of the camp*
- XV. *Penal code.*

An excerpt from these regulations, signed by SS *Hauptscharführer* Jung, was transcribed by Jan Sehn and added to the file of the Auschwitz camp garrison trial. I will return to this document later. There are also “Regulations for the Ravensbrück women’s concentration camp (camp organization)” presenting variations necessary for a women’s camp.²⁶

General rules for guards who served in concentration camps expressly forbade mistreating inmates. A form with questions and answers entitled “Instructions on the tasks and duties of concentration camp guards” says in this regard:²⁷

“Question: What must the guard do if he observes laziness, negligence and idleness?”

Reply: He must report this to the team leader or the preventive detention camp commandant indicating the inmate’s number.

Question: What may he not do under any circumstances?”

Reply: It is prohibited to physically punish an inmate.”

The “Regulations for the Ravensbrück women’s concentration camp” stated:²⁸

²⁵ *Dienstvorschrift für Konzentrationslager (Lagerordnung)*, GARF, 7445-2-96, pp. 2f.

²⁶ *Dienstvorschrift für das Fr. KL Ravensbrück (Lagerordnung)*, NA, T-1021. Record Group No. 242/338, vol. 3, Roll No. 18, Frames no. 627-671.

²⁷ *Unterricht über Aufgaben und Pflichten der Wachposten in einem Konzentrationslager*, RGVA, 1367-1-2, p. 3.

²⁸ *Dienstvorschrift für das Fr. K.L. Ravensbrück (Lagerordnung)*. NA, T-1021. Record Group No. 242/338, vol. 3, Roll No. 18, Frame 632 (p. 6).

“Particular attention is drawn to the severe punishment in cases of proven ill-treatment of inmates”

and also indicated the punishment.²⁹

“Any ill-treatment of inmates in preventive detention is forbidden (dismissal without notice).”

They also declared punishable any inmate who lied to, stole from or abused another inmate.³⁰

In the “Memorandum for the instruction of SS officers serving on concentration camp duty” we read:³¹

“Particular attention must be paid to ensuring that the weapon’s safety catch is engaged at all times, in order not to unnecessarily endanger oneself, comrades, civilians or inmates, whose working strength must be preserved.

Each guard also has the duty to encourage inmates to work, and in case of laziness, negligence etc., to report them giving their number.

Guards are prohibited from punishing inmates themselves.”

The Auschwitz regulations strictly prohibited the SS from killing or arbitrarily mistreating an inmate. SS personnel who were transferred to the camp had to sign the following “Pledge”:³²

“I am aware that only the Führer may decide upon the life and death of an enemy of the state. I may not physically harm or kill any opponent of the state (inmate). Any killing of an inmate in a concentration camp requires the personal authorization of Reichsführer SS [Himmler].

I am also aware that any violation of this pledge will be inexorably accounted for.

CC Auschwitz, [day missing] November 1943.

Andreas Lang, SS Sturmman. ”

The pledge of the undersigned was then emphasized by a “Negotiation” (*Verhandlung*) summarizing all the duties of the SS. Here is that of SS *Schütze Anton Wessenhöfner*:³³

“ N e g o t i a t i o n

on the pledge of SS Schütze Anton Wessenhöfner.

I was instructed on December 7, 1943 by SS Hauptsturmführer Schemmel^[34] on my duties in general and in particular pledge to maintain silence on matters that may come to my knowledge during my service.

I was also instructed that the duty to keep the service secrecy continues even after my discharge from the SS.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, Frame 650 (p. 22).

³⁰ *Merkblätter für Unterricht an die SS Führer im KL Dienst, ibid.*, Frame 669 (p. 41).

³¹ AMS, I-IB-6, p. 18.

³² *Verpflichtung*, GARF, 7021-107-11, p. 30. See DOCUMENT 3.

³³ RGVA, 502-4-50, p. 3. See DOCUMENT 4.

³⁴ Alfred Schemmel, commandant of 7. *SS-Wachkompanie* from the end of May 1944 to September 1944.

I am aware that [otherwise] I am guilty of disobeying a service order, that a violation of this order constitutes high treason.

I know furthermore that only the Führer may decide over the life and death of an enemy of the state. No member of the SS and no one who is obliged to serve in the Waffen SS therefore has the right to lay hands on an enemy of state or to abuse him physically. The inmate may be punished only by the [camp] commandant. Similarly, executions to be carried out in concentration camps may be carried out only on the orders of the Reichsführer SS and by SS officers authorized by him.

I make the following declaration with a handshake:

'I solemnly affirm in lieu of an oath that I will promptly and conscientiously carry out my service duties in the Auschwitz concentration camp and to maintain service secrecy.'

In confirmation of this act of obligation, I sign after reading this negotiation. Auschwitz, December 8, 1943.

*Anton Wessenhöfner
SS Schütze."*

The prohibition to abuse inmates was not a purely formal rule that could be broken with impunity. If a medical investigation confirmed that an inmate had been mistreated, the SS garrison physician sent a brief report to the head of the protective-custody camp with a request to investigate the offense and punish the guilty party. This emerges from the following two documents. The first relates to the Monowitz (Buna) camp:³⁵

"The garrison physician *Auschwitz June 07, 1943*

A u s c h w i t z

S/Ref.: h (KL)/7.43/Dr.W.Ri.

Subject: Ill-treatment of inmate 115385 Richard J e d r z e j k i e w i c z

Reference: communication of the Buna medical officer July 05, 1943

Attachments: none.

To the

1st head of the protective custody camp

Auschwitz

The Buna camp physician has informed the Auschwitz garrison physician that inmate 115385, Richard Jedrzejewicz, was admitted to the inmate hospital with bruises to the left eye and the scalp, contusion of the back of the left hand, and bruises on the buttocks.

J.[edrzejewicz] was mistreated with a rubber hose by the block eldest of Block 24 (Buna), Inmate 113932 Otto Osterloh.

The Auschwitz garrison physician requests an investigation and the punishment of the guilty party.

³⁵ RGVA, 502-1-68, p. 63. See DOCUMENT 5.

For information to:
Commandant of CC Au.
Section IIIa.

The garrison physician
A u s c h w i t z :
(signature)
SS Hauptsturmführer.”

The second document concerns the Auschwitz camp:³⁶

“The garrison physician,
A u s c h w i t z

Auschwitz June 30, 1943

A/Ref.: 4 h (KL)/6.43/Dr.W/Ri.

Subject: Ill-treatment of inmate Z 4684, Jaroslaus Murka

Reference: communication of the camp medical officer of June 29, 1943

Attachments: none.

To the

Ist head of the protective custody camp
Auschwitz

The Auschwitz I camp medical officer informs the SS garrison physician that the inmate Jaroslaus Murka was admitted to the inmate hospital with numerous bruises to the head, the face, on both upper arms and chest, with impaired vision and concussion.

M[urka] was mistreated by block eldest 5a and by barracks eldest 6, who for a day prevented him from going to the hospital.

The Auschwitz garrison physician requests an investigation and the punishment of the guilty party.

For information to:
Commandant of CC Au.
Section IIIa.

The garrison physician
A u s c h w i t z :
(signature)
SS Hauptsturmführer.”

The two documents follow a fixed pattern and refer to a specific “protocol number”: 14 h. Copies thereof were then forwarded to the attention of the camp commandant as well as Department IIIa (labor deployment). From this it may be concluded that on the one hand, such incidents were fairly common and, on the other, that the injuries to the inmates concerned were sufficiently serious that the camp physicians had to inform the SS garrison physician, and that the latter, in turn, had to fill in the camp commandant on this.

In Headquarters’ Order No. 4/44 of February 22, 1944, Monowitz Camp Commandant SS *Hauptsturmführer* Heinrich Schwarz wrote under the heading “Mistreatment of Inmates” (Frei *et al.* 2000. p. 413):

“It has happened in a satellite camp that inmates have been struck and otherwise mistreated by civilians with whom they worked in the same places such that they have had to be treated at the hospital. In those cases where working with civilians is intolerable, the camp commandant will be responsible for

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 70. See DOCUMENT 6.

maintaining order and must once more instruct the civilians, through the company, on how to deal with inmates. On the other hand, every case of mistreatment of an inmate is to be reported to me immediately.

I take this opportunity again to call attention to the standing order that no SS member may lay a hand on any inmate. In this fifth year of war, it is imperative to preserve the productive capacity of the inmates."

Of course, even more stringent provisions applied to investigations of unnatural deaths, therefore to suicide and murder. The regulations of the concentration camp assigned the duty of investigating (a) natural deaths; and (b) unnatural deaths and suicides to the Political Department. In connection with the second category, the regulations stipulated:³⁷

"The RSHA and the RKPA^[38] as well as cognizant offices are to be notified of cases of unnatural death and suicide by teletype. Notification of next-of-kin is to be by telegram (for example, husband shot escaping, or committed suicide, etc.). When stating the time in messages, do not say "about," but rather "at" 4:40PM, etc. The chief of Office Group D is to be informed by priority mail as well as by teletype. Furthermore, the staff of the Reichsführer SS in Berlin is to be advised by teletype. The cognizant legal officer as representative of the cognizant SS and police jurisdictions is to be notified immediately; he will initiate an inspection of the corpse and the scene of the incident. In every case, two interrogations are to be conducted and a sketch as well as (documentary) photographs to be made. The cognizant SS and police authorities are to be notified in writing. Attachments will include:

One each of
transcript of witnesses' testimonies
report of the legal officer
medical report.

Disposition reports will be forwarded regularly to the chief of Office Group D in two copies with the following attachments:

- (a) in cases of natural deaths, two copies each of*
post-medical-officer report of inspection of corpse
commandant's report
- (b) in cases of unnatural deaths and suicides, two copies each of*
transcripts of witnesses' testimonies
commandant's report
doctor's death certificate
dissection findings report
funeral certificate by SS and police court
order for withdrawal of prosecution by the SS and police court.

If the concentration camp in question has a crematorium, a cremation order signed by the camp commandant or his deputy must be transmitted to the crematorium after release of the body by the SS and police court or by the district attorney, respectively. [...] By the third of each month, per Regulation

³⁷ AGK, NTN, 131, pp. 186f.

³⁸ Reichskriminalpolizeiamt, Reich Police Office for Criminal Investigation.

*IKL*³⁹ Pol./Az. 14 f 1/ö 3/L./F., numbered name lists sorted by date of death are to be forwarded with surname, given name, age at death (last birthday), death sentence, class of offense and prior offenses in two copies in the following order:

I) natural deaths in concentration camp from ... to ...

II) suicides in concentration camp from ... to ...

III) fatal accidents in concentration camp from ... to ...

IV) executions by firing squad in concentration camp from ... to

Executions will be reported to the cognizant registrar's office for recording and issuance of the death certificates. The death certificates to be sent by the registrar's office to the camp headquarters will be passed on with the execution protocol to the RSMA, c/o SS Gruppenführer Müller. The cremation order will be issued by the camp commandant or his deputy."

In a letter of September 17, 1942 concerning "Reports of Cases of Unnatural Deaths of Inmates," the head of Office Group D of the *WVHA* made the camp commanders aware that in the future such reports were no longer to be addressed to the *RSMA*, Department IV C, but rather directly to the *Reichsführer SS* as well as Office Group D.⁴⁰

1.4. Punishments

Violation of camp rules brought on various disciplinary sanctions that—depending on the severity of the offense—ranged from warnings to corporal punishment. When an SS member had established such a violation of rules, he would file a report, which the 1st leader of the protective-custody camp had to countersign before he could submit it to the camp commandant with a recommended punishment.⁴¹ The camp commandant had final say over the punishment. In no case could corporal punishment be imposed without approval of the chief of Office Group D of the *WVHA*. The degree of punishment was prescribed according to predetermined two-page forms that had been promulgated by the commandant's headquarters of the concentration camp. Next to the offender's personal data, the reasons for incarceration, and the camp sector in which he committed the infraction in question, the front page contained the following disciplinary order, which listed all possible forms of punishment:

"In accordance with the penal code for concentration camps and by virtue of the administration of disciplinary punishment vested in me as camp commandant, I impose after due consideration the following punishments on the offender:

Administrative punishments:

³⁹ Inspekteur der Konzentrationslager. (Inspectorate of concentration camps)

⁴⁰ NO-3677.

⁴¹ Report concerning the inmate Davied Jsef [sic], Monowitz, January 22, 1944 AGK, NTN, 94, p. 138 see DOCUMENT 7.

... *Warning under threat of punishment.*
 ... *Hours extra duty during off hours under supervision of the SS NCO.*
Prohibition from writing or receiving personal mail, for the period of ... weeks.
Denial of lunch at full duty on ...
Assignment to the punishment company from ... to ... (until further notice).
Hard bedding after day's work in a cell in the following nights: ...
Detention:

<i>Level I standard</i>	<i>Level II enhanced</i>	<i>Level III harsh</i>	<i>Level III can be assigned by itself or day-by-day as need- ed as enhancement of Level II</i>
<i>up to 3 days</i>	<i>up to 42 days</i>	<i>up to 3 days</i>	<i>Completion!</i>
<i>plank cot</i>	<i>without opportunity to sit or lie</i>		<i>Lever I or II served from ... with...</i>
<i>lighted cell</i>	<i>dark cell</i>		
<i>Days</i>			<i>Level III (separately) served from... with...</i> <i>Level III (as enhancement of Level II) applied on... “</i>

On the reverse side of the form were listed the order for corporal punishment. In the upper left was a table with a blank captioned “Enter number,” in which the number of lashes prescribed was to be entered: 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25. In the middle was the following legend:

“Examination beforehand by a doctor! Lashes to be administered in rapid succession with a single-tail leather whip, counted as administered; stripping and exposure of certain body parts is strictly forbidden. The subject may not be tied down, but must lie unbound on a bench. Only the buttocks and thighs may be struck. “

A further box on the right side indicated whether the subject had received any similar punishment in the past: “The violator received corporal punishment: on ... lashes ...” It concluded with an affidavit from the camp doctor:

“Medical Affidavit:

The herein-named prisoner was medically examined by me before infliction of corporal punishment; I have no reservations from a medical perspective regarding application of corporal punishment.

As a doctor, I have reservations regarding application of corporal punishment because....

Camp Doctor.”

Below the medical affidavit, the finding of the WVHA was noted:

“Administrative supervision:

In view of the offense and the above medical affidavit, implementation of corporal punishment is approved – not approved. “

The seal “*SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt*” was affixed to this part of the form.

The final part of the form concerned those carrying out the punishment as well as witnesses:

“Executors:

The penalty of corporal punishment was administered by the following inmates on ... at ... o’clock:

Manual signature (signature, inmate no. 15473).

Witnesses and Supervisor:

As responsible SS officers and witnesses, the following were present:

Camp commandant

Manual signature leader of protective-custody camp

Camp doctor.”

Finally, instructions as to the distribution of copies as well as the signature of the camp commandant appeared on the form.⁴²

The “Procedure for Women’s Concentration Camp Ravensbrück (Camp Regulations)” stated the following regarding corporal punishment:⁴³

“Five to 25 lashes may be applied, but only to the buttocks and thighs. The number of lashes are imposed by the camp director and entered by him in the appropriate blank in the disciplinary order.

Medical examination of the prisoner by the camp doctor is performed first. The camp doctor notes with his signature whether any medical concern exists regarding the corporal punishment. Then the disciplinary order (in triplicate) is submitted for consideration and approval to the inspector of concentration camps and the Reichsführer SS and chief of the German police. After approval of the punishment by the inspector of concentration camps and the Reichsführer SS and chief of the German police, the punishment is carried out under the supervision of the camp director in the presence of the head supervisor and the camp doctor, who certify with their signatures the proper implementation of the punishment.”

1.5. Production Bonuses

As already mentioned, Pohl promulgated in his circular of October 26, 1943 the terms of incentive bonuses for the prisoners. He referred therein to a policy of May 15 of the same year with the heading “Regulations for the Granting of Perquisites to Prisoners,” which took effect on June 1. On June 4, the head of the Central Construction Office, SS *Hauptsturmführer*

⁴² Report on the punishment of the Jewish prisoner Haim Calvo, January 2, 1944. AGK, NTN, 94, p. 135f. See DOCUMENT 8-8a. Report on the punishment of the Jewish prisoner Maurice Aelion, December 6, 1944. GARF, 7021-108-33, pp. 65f. See DOCUMENTS 9-9a.

⁴³ NA, T-1021. Record Group No. 242/338, vol. 3, roll 18, frames 670f. (pp. 42f.).

Karl Bischoff, sent the following letter to 31 civilian firms that were involved in carrying out projects in the camp: ⁴⁴

“As the enclosed copy explains, the Reichsführer SS and chief of the German police wishes to attain maximum worker productivity through awarding production premiums to prisoners. The vouchers issued by the administration of the concentration camp for this purpose may be purchased only by the Central Construction Office itself, and may be acquired by individual firms at their stated exchange prices. Prisoners awarded with bonuses are to be reported to the respective head of construction in writing, giving their inmate number. In order to attain higher productivity of prisoners, it is requested that the bonus system be utilized without delay, and to send a brief report on its effects to the Central Construction Office by June 26, 1943.”

Bonuses normally took the form of vouchers (*Prämiescheine*) that could be used in the camp prisoners’ canteens. A series of reports of the Central Construction Office titled “List of Aggregate Prisoner Assignments for ... per Regulation of the SS Main Office V of August 12, 1943” contains under Section 7 the following heading: “Bonus Vouchers (in Reichsmark) Awarded to Prisoners in the Report Period.” The report indicates that, in the period in question, bonuses in the following amounts were distributed to prisoners:

Date	Period	Bonuses in RM	Source ⁴⁵
Aug. 31, 43	July 16 – Aug. 31, 43	7,114.00	142
	Aug. 1 – Aug. 31, 43	19,602.00	
Sep. 30, 43	Sep. 1 – Sep. 30, 43	11,207.50	135
Oct. 31, 43	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31, 43	20,355.00	132
Nov. 30, 43	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 43	33,360.00	127
Jan. 31, 44	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, 44	24,941.00	118
Feb. 29, 44	Feb. 1 – Feb. 29, 44	11,377.00	109
Mar. 31, 44	Mar. 1 – Mar. 31, 44	12,327.50	111
Apr. 30, 44	Apr. 1 – Apr. 30, 44	13,055.00	105
May 31, 44	May 1 – May 31, 44	16,472.00	102
Aug. 31, 44	Aug. 1 – Aug. 31, 44	19,084.00	84
Oct. 31, 44	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31, 44	16,389.00	90
Nov. 30, 44	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 44	8,835.00	88
	Total:	214,119.00	

Already this fragmentary data shows that the bonuses awarded the prisoners were considerable. For comparison: the cost estimate for the new bak-

⁴⁴ RGVA, 502-1-60, pp. 18-18a. See DOCUMENTS 10-10a.

⁴⁵ Page in File RGVA, 502-1-256.

ery at Birkenau, Construction Project 31, came in at RM234,000 including RM40,000 for five ovens.⁴⁶

From November 1943, Jewish prisoners also were able to receive production bonuses. Pohl promulgated a decree with the following words:⁴⁷

“There is occasion to note that Jewish prisoners, too, should enjoy production bonuses when they deliver especially good results.”

Irena Strzelecka has published various lists of the names of Auschwitz prisoners who received production bonuses, including one with the names of 31 prisoners, among them 19 Jewish ones (Strzelecka 1998, pp. 188f.).

1.6. Correspondence

Prisoners had the right to send and receive letters, and were also allowed to receive money via postal money orders. This right was confirmed by regulations that were printed on postcards which the prisoners sent from the camp:⁴⁸

“The following rules are to be observed in correspondence with prisoners:

1.) Every prisoner may receive mail from his family and send it to them twice a month. Letters to prisoners must be clearly legible and written in ink, and may contain only two pages of 15 lines each. Envelopes must be unpadding. A letter may contain no enclosure except a stamp for 6 pfennigs or 12 pfennigs. Everything else is prohibited. Postcards have 10 lines. Photographs may not be used as mail.

2.) Money may be sent only as postal money orders.

3.) Keep in mind that when sending money or mail, the exact address, consisting of name, birth date, and prisoner number, must be written on the piece. If the address is faulty, the piece will be returned to the sender or destroyed.

4.) Newspapers are allowed, but may only be ordered through the Auschwitz Camp post office.

5.) Parcels may not be sent, because the prisoners can purchase everything in the camp.

6.) Requests for release from custody addressed to the camp administration are pointless.

7.) Conversations with and visits to prisoners in the concentration camp are strictly prohibited.

The Camp Commandant”

⁴⁶ Cost estimate for construction of *Waffen* SS PoW Camp of October 1, 1943. RGVA, 502-2-60, p. 90.

⁴⁷ Pohl letter to the commandants of all concentration camps on “Production Bonuses for Prisoners,” November 18, 1943. AGK, NTN, 94, p. 140.

⁴⁸ See DOCUMENTS 11-11a. Author’s archive.

The postcards of the women's concentration camp were distinguished from other postcards only in that, instead of "Konz.Lager Auschwitz" they carried the legend "F.K.L. Auschwitz."⁴⁹

The "Concentration Camp Regulations" mentioned above contained the further provisions concerning prisoners' correspondence.⁵⁰

I. Outgoing mail.

II. Incoming mail.

As to Point I, every prisoner in the camp can write and receive a letter once a fortnight—reoffenders every 3 months. Prisoners in deportation proceedings, only in the conduct of their deportation (acquisition of passports and similar papers) may write and receive letters at any time (Rule RSHA III J). Every prisoner, upon his admission to a concentration camp, must submit the addresses to which he wishes to send letters. Educational prisoners are subject to the same general stipulations. Preprinted letter forms may not be used by prisoners in deportation proceedings; they must use plain paper and envelopes instead. For the return address, only the town and the legend 'General Delivery' may be given. Only the protective-custody leader may approve official letters. Such letters will, however, be approved only:

- 1. When the matter is so important and urgent that an immediate answer to the writer is essential.*
- 2. When a prisoner wants to write a letter to an authority, party office, lawyer, or such.*

Official letters under 1. can be forwarded to the mail office immediately by the protective-custody camp leader after endorsement, if the content contains nothing objectionable. The application for such a letter will be recorded in the prisoner's file with the exact dates of incoming and outgoing mail.

Official letters under 2. are subject to preliminary censoring by the protective-custody camp leader and, if objectionable, to be forwarded to the camp headquarters. Letters from the cell blocks are to be forwarded directly to the camp headquarters. The respective block eldest is to maintain a Mail Book in which the following is apparent regarding all outgoing letters:

1. Mailing of the letters – 2. Addressees – 3. Destination.

Letters subject to censorship by the referring authority^[51] or Office Group D will be presented to the camp headquarters by the mail office with an accompanying letter.

As to Point II: All mail addressed to prisoners goes to the mail office and there will be recorded in a card file and censored. Objectionable mail (except for mail subject to censorship by the referring authority or Office Group D) will be forwarded to the protective-custody camp and from there to the cognizant block eldest. Mail (letters, parcels, etc.) not in compliance with camp regulations is to be returned to the sender. In special cases, the postmaster must present the mailing to the commandant for decision."

⁴⁹ See both postcards shown by Irena Strzelecka (Strzelecka 1997a, pp. 58f.)

⁵⁰ AGK, NTN 131, pp. 178f. Transcription by Jan Sehn.

⁵¹ *einweisende Dienststelle*, authority which sent the inmate to a camp.

The presence of Jewish individuals such as Zionist veterans or rabbis in Auschwitz was known even to the British authorities. These even knew the specific block in which they were confined, for example in the case of Sigmund Sternberg: “Birkenau Labor Camp at Neubrunn, Upper Silesia, Block 19.”⁵²

At first, the regulations of the concentration camps prohibited the delivery of parcels to prisoners, but in the context of Himmler’s measures to reduce fatalities in the camps, he sent an October 29, 1942 order concerning “Parcels Sent to Prisoners” with five points to the *RSHA* and the *WVHA*. Under Point 1, one reads:

“I permit with immediate effect that prisoners may receive packages of food from their families.”

Point 2 made clear that prisoners could receive an unlimited number of parcels, but that the food must be consumed by the next day, because they otherwise would be divided among the other prisoners. Point 3 noted that these regulations applied not just to German, but to all other prisoners, and Point 4 warned:

“Every member of the SS who misappropriates the food package of an inmate will be punished by death.”

The same punishment awaited any prisoner, according to Point 5, who attempted to smuggle forbidden items into the camp in parcels.⁵³

This order was promulgated in slightly revised form on November 14, 1942 by the Reich Security Headquarters:⁵⁴

“The Reichsführer SS and Chief of the German Police has ordered with immediate effect that prisoners may receive parcels of food from their families.

The number of parcels that a prisoner may receive is unlimited, but the contents must be consumed by the prisoner on the day of receipt or the following day. Otherwise, they must be shared with other prisoners.

This order applies not only to German, but to all other prisoners who have the means to have food parcels sent to them.

Every abuse, for example, theft of food parcels, or misuse, such as smuggling of secret messages or other contraband, will be dealt with most severely.

The SS Economic and Administrative Main Office, Office Group D – Concentration Camps – has already advised the commandants of all concentration camps.

I announce this and ask to decide accordingly when approached by family members.

This decree is not applicable to local and county police.”

⁵² AGMAE, 15-b2. See DOCUMENT 12.

⁵³ NA, T-1021. Record Group No. 242/338, vol. 3, roll 18, frame 556.

⁵⁴ RGVA, 504-2-8, p. 14.

As we have seen above (p. 18), within two and a half months more than a million parcels arrived at Auschwitz after the special order of February 14, 1944.

In a directive of August 1, 1944, Pohl forbade the direct handover of parcels from foreign countries to the prisoners:⁵⁵

“The Supreme Chief – SS Obergruppenführer und General[major] der Waffen [SS] – has ordered that no parcels from abroad, even when they come from the Red Cross, may be turned over to prisoners.

All parcels are to be opened and their contents carefully inspected. Cans are to be opened, and all foodstuffs and confections as well as convenience items are to be searched carefully for prohibited messages, propaganda materials and the like.

Foodstuffs are to be turned over to the camp kitchen. All other convenience items are to be turned over to the prisoners as needed. Significant cases of prohibited messages are to be reported immediately to the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office via Office Group D.”

Security concerns undoubtedly underlay this directive.

1.7. Provisioning

In Section 1.1 we considered the regulations of the *WVHA* concerning improvement of living conditions of concentration-camp inmates including provisioning. Current orthodox knowledge on this issue depends—at least with regard to Auschwitz—almost entirely upon the testimonies of witnesses. A very few, little-known documents convey an outline of how the provisioning of the camp was organized. Responsibility for this fell to Department W III—Sustenance Enterprises—of the *WVHA*.

On September 20, 1942 SS *Untersturmführer* Ertl wrote the following file memo on the subject of “PoW Camp Auschwitz, Bakery. Concentration Camp Auschwitz, Stockyard”:⁵⁶

“Background: The interim bakery of the PoW camp is turned over to Department W III. To this purpose, the head of Department W III in Auschwitz was present and initiated negotiations with the head of the Central Construction Office relating to the further expansion of the bakery. The following were present:

Head of Department W III SS Sturmbannführer Ohle,

Head of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen SS and Police SS Hauptsturmführer Bischoff with his adjutant SS Untersturmführer (Specialist) Ertl,

Head of the SS General Mess Auschwitz SS Hauptscharführer Engelbrecht.

⁵⁵ Pohl letter to the commandants of all concentration camps on the subject of “Parcels for Prisoners from Abroad” August 1, 1944. Copy from Jan Sehn, AGK, NTN, 94, p. 141.

⁵⁶ RGVA, 502-1-19, pp. 88f.

Agreement: The bakery's capacity must be expanded so as to be able to produce sufficient bread for about 160,000 men.

Department W III has already launched negotiations with the following companies, and so far has reserved the following steam-heated baking ovens as well as received offers therefor:

1.) Werner & Pfleiderer Company

2 pullout ovens contracted

2 pullout ovens awaiting confirmation

2.) Oberle Company

3 pullout ovens offered

3.) Senking Company

3 each double-pullout steam-heated bakery ovens of 'Rekord' brand offered.

The four English-type bakery ovens of the Werner and Pfleiderer Company already ordered or reserved by the HWL (Camp Business Office) will not be supplied because they are of insufficient capacity. In their place, high-capacity steam bakery ovens will be adopted. For that reason, the foundations for the four bakery ovens cannot be completed for now.

SS Hauptsturmführer Bischoff proposed that, if possible, only one firm should be dealt with that could undertake the planning of the expansion of the bakery. After inquiry with the individual companies, Department W III will forward the addresses, upon which negotiations will be commence from here with the company in question.

For the stockyard, a generator with motor of 25KVA, at present available in Oranienburg, has been requisitioned and ordered for shipment here, plus used radiators. Regarding covering the walls with tiles or plate glass, Department W III is currently in negotiations; the floors and most of the walls in the stockyard will be done in terrazzo.

SS Hauptsturmführer Bischoff declared explicitly that the Central Construction Office could not make any provision available for the erection of the stockyard or the bakery, and that they would have to be provided directly by Department W III.

The construction of the stockyard, which is listed as Construction Project 33c in the documentation, began on April 1, 1942 and was completed at the end of July 1943.⁵⁷ As indicated in a survey of September 27, 1944,⁵⁸ it comprised a building of square plan with sides 36.02 meters long and three floors: basement, ground floor, and attic. In the basement was a refrigeration plant that provided two compartments. The ground floor contained, among other things, a bone-fat-recovery facility, already installed by September 1942.⁵⁹ The constituent bone-fat-recovery apparatus was supplied

⁵⁷ Baufriistenplan Konzentrationslager Auschwitz, 2 Oktober 1943. RGVA, 502-1-320, p. 4.

⁵⁸ Bestandplan des provisorischen Schlachthauses BW 33B. GARF, 7021-108-48, p. 14.

⁵⁹ *Baubericht für Monat September 1942*. RGVA, 502-1-24, p. 14: "Knochenentfettungsanlage eingebaut."

by the Berlin-Hannover firm of M. Trüsted, as may be inferred from a letter to the administration of Concentration Camp Auschwitz of June 25, 1942.⁶⁰ This facility permitted the extraction of the fat (marrow) from the bones of slaughtered animals for the enrichment of the diets of the inmates.

A letter from the “Butcher-Shop Supply and Scrap-Recovery Company Kattowitz, Upper Silesia” of February 2, 1943 to the camp administration of Auschwitz lies before us, in which the subject “Fat-Extraction and Dripping Collection” is addressed. It concerned an arrangement for the assessment of the fat contained in cooking water of the kitchens, which was collected and sent to the East German Fat Processing Company in Breslau. For this reason, theoretically secret information concerning the structure of the camp kitchens was available to this company. I quote a few critical passages from this letter:⁶¹

“Troop provisioning at Auschwitz:

2,400 hot meals are produced daily. Cooking vessels in service: 4 at 500 liters, 4 at 400 liters, so in total 3,600 liters [...].

Prisoner provisioning at Auschwitz – Jewish Camp.

At present, 15,000 hot meals are produced. Fat extractors are not available. 40 cooking vessels are in service, aggregate capacity 15,650 liters. [...]

Prisoner provisioning at Birkenau—Men’s Camp.

10,000 hot meals are produced daily. 22 cooking vessels of 300 liters are in use, aggregating 6,600 liters [...].

Prisoner provisioning at Birkenau—Women’s camp.

10,000 hot meals are produced daily. 22 cooking vessels of 300 liters are in service, aggregating 6,600 liters.”

A “Survey of Cooking Vessels and Capacities Thereof in the Temporary Prisoners’ Kitchen and Staffing Strength in Concentration Camp Auschwitz I” by Bischoff of December 7, 1943 showed 47 cooking vessels of total capacity of 17,850 liters for the Main Camp. The document continued:⁶²

“The present subsisting complement including the satellite camps, among which includes the women’s camp in the administration building, amounts to about 20,000 persons. From this emerges a cooking-vessel capacity of 0.9 liters per head. Because the daily feeding for prisoners amounts to 1-¼ to -½ liters, it is necessary for the present complement to cook in two batches, to which heating of coffee and tea is added. The maximum capacity of the camp amounts to 25,000–30,000 persons. With the present 47 cooking vessels, this load could be carried only by cooking three turns, which is hardly practicable. With a single turn, only 0.6 liters per capita would result.”

⁶⁰ GARF, 7021-108-44, p. 1. Pages 2-11 contain other documentation of this device, including user instructions and a technical diagram of the apparatus.

⁶¹ RGVA, 502-1-170, pp. 102-105.

⁶² AGK, NTN, 94, p. 33.

Since there was no possibility of expanding the kitchen building, the document proposed the construction of an already-planned new kitchen building.

Also preserved is an excerpt from a journal of the Provisioning Department of Auschwitz covering the period from December 11, 1944 to January 17, 1945. For this period, the camp census, the total quantity of food (in kilograms) in the storerooms as well as the portion available for each prisoner (likewise in kilograms) is listed. This portion ranged from a minimum of 4 kg for tea to a maximum of 100 kg for “precooked soup.”⁶³

It may be concluded from the journal that the stocks of provisions were regularly replenished in order to maintain a stable balance between the quantities of available food and the number of prisoners.

On November 6, 1942, the Birkenau camp had a capacity of 113,040 prisoners. There were 84 communal spaces in total containing 48 tables with 17 places, which altogether could seat 68,544 prisoners,⁶⁴ so that feedings had to be conducted in two sittings.⁶⁵

1.8. Releases from “Labor Educational Camp Birkenau”

Among the historical questions that most embarrass orthodox Holocaust historians belong, apart from those concerning the children born and regularly registered in the camp,⁶⁶ those concerning the release of prisoners from Auschwitz. Irena Strzelecka, a historian at the Auschwitz Memorial, devotes a very short chapter to this subject that strives primarily to minimize this remarkable fact. She writes (Strzelecka 1999a, p. 524):

“During the years 1942, 1944 and early 1945 (records for the years 1940-1941 and 1943 are lacking), including all educational prisoners sentenced to a specific time period (usually six weeks) in the Auschwitz concentration camp and the group of German criminal prisoners consigned to the ‘Special Regiment Dirlwanger,’ a total of 1,549 prisoners (men and women) were released from Auschwitz Concentration Camp.”

In Danuta Czech’s *Chronicle* altogether 1,255 releases are reported, which fall into the following categories: 575 educational prisoners, 465 protective prisoners, 167 female prisoners, 47 Jewish prisoners, 1 prisoner of war (see Table 1 in the Appendix.). The entries concerned fall in the very brief periods from July 19 to July 27, 1942 and from November 4, 1944 to January

⁶³ AGK, NTN, 94, pp. 127-131. See DOCUMENT 13.

⁶⁴ “Aufstellung über die normale Belegstärke im Kriegsgefangenenlager Auschwitz,” written by Bischoff on November 8, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-272, p. 50.

⁶⁵ Letter from Bischoff to Kammler November 13, 1942 concerning “Concentration Camp Auschwitz and PoW Camp Auschwitz. Establishment of Standard Capacity.” RGVA, 502-1-272, p. 45.

⁶⁶ I go into this question in Section 7.4.

17, 1945. This then supports the impression that no prisoners were released during the peak of the alleged mass exterminations—which of course would only be logical, if these exterminations had in fact taken place. Czech could hardly ignore the releases of 1942, because these were reflected in the Census Book,⁶⁷ upon which she relied to a great extent.

Of course, she swept under the carpet the releases that were recorded in the census report of the Women's Camp Birkenau for October 1944:⁶⁸ on the 7th of that month, nine prisoners were released, on the 12th, ten, and on the 13th, 38.⁶⁹ Twenty-three further freed prisoners, seven Jews among them, are indicated in the "*Kommandobuch*."⁷⁰ A further record that shows numerous releases is the "Serial-Number Book 150,000 – 200,000"; under the first 30,000 numbers, there are 168 male prisoners released between September 1943 and November 1944 (cf. Paragraph 6.1.4.).

In surviving installments of a series of reports on "Summary of Number and Utilization of the Women Prisoners at Auschwitz Concentration Camp," it is indicated that between April 2 and June 30, 1942, 83 prisoners were released (cf. Section 7.4.). To this we have to add the fact that educational prisoners were released not only in 1942, but also in 1943 and 1944 after serving short sentences.

On May 28, 1941 Himmler promulgated the first directives concerning the "Establishment of Labor Education Camps." The document begins with the following words:⁷¹

"With the intensified labor deployment of foreigners and other workers in projects important to the war effort and the national economy, cases of refusal to work are increasing. These must be countered by every possible means in the interest of the welfare of the German people. Those capable of work who refuse to work or in other ways endanger the work ethic, and who have to be taken into police custody for the preservation of order and safety, are to be concentrated in special labor education camps and exhorted to work regularly."

The maximum length of sentence for this category of prisoners was set at 56 days.⁷² In Auschwitz, educational prisoners were consecutively numbered starting in February 1942, with either the letter "E" or the letters "EH" preceding the number. Per Jan Sehn, this series covered the names of 9,339 male educational prisoners who were incarcerated in Auschwitz

⁶⁷ In the Census Book covering the period January 19 through August 19, 1942, 1,049 releases are recorded. AGK, NTN, 92, p. 83. "Stärkebuch," statistical inference by Jan Sehn.

⁶⁸ Series of reports on changes in census of the women's camp; the reports in question cover the period October 1 through December 1, 1944.

⁶⁹ APMO, Aull- 3a, FKL, pp. 56, 61a, 62a.

⁷⁰ AGK, NTN, pp. 149ff. 15f. See Table 2 in the Appendix.

⁷¹ RGVA, 1323-2-140, pp. 1f.

⁷² *Ibid.*, p. 4.

from October 21, 1941 to September 10, 1944. Czech mentions the last of this kind of registration in the entry for January 14, 1944. On that day, eight educational prisoners with the numbers EH-7234 through 7241 were taken in (Czech 1989, p. 706). A list compiled by the camp resistance mentions the assignment of 7,549 numbers of Series “E” to male prisoners during the period July 16, 1941 through February 20, 1944.⁷³ Finally, Smoleń speaks broadly of 10,000 male and 2,000 female educational prisoners (Smoleń 1968, p. 17).

Other than the prisoners listed in the Census Book, there is no list of names of reform prisoners, and no intake of any such is known after January 14, 1944, except for one particular group of prisoners.

In 1943 and 1944, numerous persons were taken into the so-called “Labor Education Camp Birkenau,” which later acquired the name “Labor Education Camp Auschwitz I.” It had to do with “foreign civilian workers in breach of labor contracts,” who after imposition of their punishments were sent to the Auschwitz branch of the Bielitz Labor Office. From there they were sent back to the company at which they had previously worked, or assigned to other work. These prisoners were not registered, for which reason their names do not appear in the Series “E” of previous mention. The surviving documents identify 304 persons of this category who were apprehended and released again after a certain number of days, among them 205 men and 99 women (see Table 3 in the Appendix). The following table affords a view of the chronological distribution of the releases:

July 1943	2	May 1944	27
August 1943	3	June 1944	57
September 1943	3	July 1944	67
October 1943	7	August 1944	37
November 1943	3	September 1944	50
December 1943	11	October 1944	29
January 1944	1	November 1944	2
April 1944	4	December 1944	1
TOTAL		304	

These numbers are obviously incomplete. In July 1944, 71 prisoners (33 men and 38 women) were released and assigned to the Bielitz Labor Office,⁷⁴ in August 84 prisoners (43 men and 41 women),⁷⁵ which already brings the total releases in this category up to at least 355.

According to Irena Strzelecka, the “Labor Education Camp Birkenau” was established in Auschwitz III-Monowitz, and was opened on January

⁷³ AGK, NTN, 155, p. 290.

⁷⁴ RGVA, 502-1-437, p. 24.

⁷⁵ RGVA, 502-1-437, p. 62.

15, 1943; the Polish historian, however, offers no details of this designation, but rather states (Strzelecka/Setkiewicz 1999, p. 152):

“The reasons behind the selection of this name are unknown.”

In my opinion, the apparently illogical choice of this name can be explained as follows: In Auschwitz III-Monowitz there was a labor education camp for the actual labor education prisoners who were registered in Series “E.” As it happened, there were many admissions to the Monowitz prisoner’s hospital that indicated prisoners of this category. One of the highest numbers is E-7943; it belonged to Stanislaw Skibiński, who was admitted on April 8, 1944 to the hospital and discharged on April 15.⁷⁶ On the other hand, there was no women’s camp in Monowitz, and this was the reason why the Labor Education Camp Birkenau, which could also accommodate women, was established in Birkenau.

Most of the preprinted release forms carry the heading “Camp Headquarters, Labor Education Camp Birkenau,”⁷⁷ but in some cases, “Camp Headquarters, Concentration Camp Auschwitz II.”⁷⁸ There can, therefore, be no confusion as to where the Labor Education Camp Birkenau was located. In addition, this designation appeared not only on the forms mentioned, but also in official documents such a letter from the “President of the District Labor Office and Labor Inspectorate of Upper Silesia” to the “Labor offices in the jurisdiction of the Labor Office of Upper Silesia” of March 29, 1944, in which are discussed “prisoners from Labor Education Camp Birkenau” as well as “pick-up at Birkenau by the Labor Office.”⁷⁹

The civilian workers in question were free and were merely bound to a firm by a labor contract. For what reason did the cognizant SS offices send them to serve their short sentences in Birkenau, of all places? So that they could discover the “terrible secret” of Auschwitz and immediately upon their release broadcast it to all the world?

One of these workers, a Pole of whom we know only the initials K. J., reported in June 1944 in Stockholm that he had found work in April 1943 with a company in Breslau. Because he had returned to work from vacation three days late, he was charged with breach of contract; he was supposedly arrested by the Gestapo and sentenced to ten weeks in labor education camps. The first three weeks he supposedly served in Camp Rattwitz in Silesia, the remaining seven in Birkenau. There, he said he was ordered to take the bodies of “the gassed” from the gas chamber. He described amazing extermination contraptions: a “mechanical conveyor belt,” that con-

⁷⁶ APMO, D-AuIII-5/1, Register des HKB von Auschwitz III-Monowitz, p. 374. See below, Section 2.4.

⁷⁷ See DOCUMENT 14. RGVA, 502-1-436, p. 105.

⁷⁸ See DOCUMENT 15; *ibid.*, p. 190.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

veyed the bodies “direct to the crematorium,” as well as a system of carts that “ran to the fat factory by means of a mechanical shuttle.” According to this witness, the (Jewish) “Section WVIII”⁸⁰ contained a gas chamber as well as a lubricating-grease factory in which the Germans “converted the bodies of the gassed Jews into grease that then was put into containers with labels that read ‘Auschwitz Grease Factory!’”⁸¹

Obviously, this is all nothing more than atrocity propaganda of the crudest sort, but had there been any kind of “terrible secret” to conceal at Birkenau, would the SS have taken the risk to send hundreds of civilian workers there who after a few short weeks had to be set free again?

2. The Prisoners’ Infirmary

2.1. Health-Care Provisions of the SS

The SS garrison physician and the SS camp doctors exerted themselves continually to improve hygienic and sanitary conditions in Camp Auschwitz, which occasionally placed them at odds with their superiors. Their responsibilities encompassed even the maintenance and repair projects in the prisoners’ infirmary. For example, the camp doctor of the Gypsy camp wrote to the Central Construction Office on May 29, 1943:⁸²

“It is urgently requested that the roofs in the area of the infirmary be repaired. These leak, and when it rains, the beds of the patients are in some cases soaked through.”

The SS garrison physician as well as the SS camp doctors also suggested architectural modifications to existing or planned buildings. On February 9, 1943, the camp doctor of PoW Camp Birkenau, Helmut Waldemar Vetter, insisted in a letter to the camp commandant:⁸³

“Besides the 11 standard barracks for housing in PoW Camp Birkenau, Section 2, a latrine barracks in the area of the infirmary is planned for inpatient prisoners. According to what the camp doctor has heard from the Construction Office, it is planned to place the latrine barracks at the very end of the double-rowed infirmary facility. With the planned placement of the latrine barracks, the sick prisoners would be forced to walk a great distance from their respec-

⁸⁰ The Auschwitz camp was divided into six departments: I: Headquarters; II: Political Department; III: Protective-Custody Camp Leadership; IIIa: Labor Deployment; IV: Administration; V: Garrison physician; VI: Logistics, Training and Staff Welfare.

⁸¹ Central Dept. Poland No. 26. 18th June 1944. Political Memorandum. From: Press Reading Bureau, Stockholm. To: Political Intelligence Department, London. “Rapport de M. Waskiewicz sur l’interrogation de K.J.,” PRO, FO371/39451, pp. 137-140. On this, see Mattogno 2005a, pp. 168f.

⁸² RGVA, 502-1-170, p. 307.

⁸³ RGVA, 502-1-261, p. 107.

tive barracks to the latrine. It is to be expected that because of the length of the trip, many prisoners will relieve themselves outdoors in the area of the infirmary.

In view of this, the camp doctor, provided that no serious objections exist, requests that the original plans be modified so that the latrine barracks will be placed centrally among the infirmary area, so that it is built between the second row of infirmary barracks and the horse stable barracks (storage barracks) behind it."

The chief business of the senior doctors in Auschwitz consisted primarily of inspecting the camp's medical installations, as well as submitting suggestions for improvements.

On March 20, 1943, the SS garrison physician, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Eduard Wirths, sent the camp commandant the following report on the subject of the "PoW Camp Infirmary":⁸⁴

"After discussion with the camp commandant, the number of adequate sick-beds for a census of 45,000 prisoners in PoW Camp Sector 2 is settled. Accordingly, at an average sick rate of 10% inpatients, 4,500 beds are required. In the space in PoW Camp Sector 2 planned for the prisoners' infirmary there are currently 7 standard barracks, of which 2 must be fitted for use as outpatient-treatment spaces, therefore not allocated to the accommodation of patients.

In each of the remaining standard barracks, 70 two-level bunk beds can be placed in the tightest possible spacing, therefore providing for 350 patients.

For the accommodation of the remaining 4,150 patients, the substantially larger air-force-style barracks, in which 190 beds can be placed with a separated nurse's room, are to be erected per the commandant's specification. According to this, 22 more air-force-style barracks should be erected for accommodating the remaining 4,150 patients. Furthermore, the allocation of a space for binding and treatment is planned, in that the availability of such a space is of extraordinary importance. Also, the partitioning of a small space for handling bedpans is planned, which must in any case be provided for hygienic reasons.

For every 10 beds, one nurse must be figured on, for which the load of 10 beds for the performance of the associated work is already exceptionally high. Altogether 450 nurses would have to be planned for the care of the patients. In the planned treatment rooms in the air-force-style barracks, 12 beds can be requisitioned, so that altogether 264 beds are available for nurses. For the accommodation of the remaining 186 nurses as well as the nurses for the outpatient barracks (about 50 in all), a further air-force-style barrack would have to be erected, so that now the outstanding requirement for the prisoners' infirmary of PoW Camp Sector 2, is 23 air-force-style barracks.

For handling the outpatient treatment of a population of 45,000 prisoners, 2 barracks are needed, as already mentioned, which must be constructed according to the attached drawing.

⁸⁴ RGVA, 502-1-261, pp. 111f.

In the vicinity of the prisoners' infirmary it is further essential that 2 wash barracks and 2 latrine barracks be erected, because bedridden inpatients can under no circumstances walk the great distance to the wash and latrine barracks of PoW Camp Sector 2.

Bedridden patients must use dry toilets (bedpans lined with lime and peat moss) which, as also already mentioned, are kept in an isolated space in each barracks. For a load of 190 patient-prisoners, 14 dry toilets are required for this, 5 for each 70 patients, thus 343 dry toilets altogether.

Furthermore, a disinfection and disinfestation facility with laundry must be provided within the vicinity of the prisoners' infirmary in order at least to enable disinfestation of the prisoners being admitted to the infirmary. The provision of this facility can, in keeping with wartime conditions, be attained with the simplest means. In one of the planned wash barracks, a diet kitchen must also be installed, in order to provide alimentary fiber and tea for the numerous prisoners with intestinal infection to be expected.

For the removal of corpses from the prisoners' infirmary to the crematorium, two covered handcarts must be obtained, with a capacity of 50 bodies.

Furthermore, the SS garrison physician Auschwitz proposes the consideration of a dedicated kitchen for the prisoners' infirmary for 4,500 patients, since this number by itself very much accords with the demands of an entire camp.

The scheme here presented has as its premise that a provision for the sick will be attained in the traditional manner."

When SS *Brigadeführer* Hans Kammler, head of Office Group C of the *WVHA*, inspected Auschwitz on May 7, 1943, the garrison physician submitted an unflinchingly frank report on the hygienic conditions in the camp to him, which he described in the following file memo of May 9:⁸⁵

"II. Buildings under Cognizance of the Garrison Physician:

General description from the garrison physician that the maintenance of the prisoners' health appears tenuous, due to the bad conditions in the latrines, an inadequate drainage system, lack of medical barracks and separate latrines for the sick, as well as lack of laundry, bathing and disinfestation capabilities. For the improvement of the PoW camp, the renovation of the latrines is called for, that these be provided with toilet seats and lids. Due to the often-clogged sewer lines, many of them [the toilets] have to be emptied out on occasion, and the feces have to be removed and recycled for agricultural purposes.

The head of the Central Construction Office opposed this approach, and recommended an outlet from the water-supply network in which the latrines would be flushed by means of a ramp over which water would flow continuously. He opposed the septic-tank scheme because of the high groundwater level, from which contamination of the groundwater is to be expected, since the necessary but difficult tub-style insulation works cannot be performed at the moment, and because rough estimates indicate that the amount of feces cannot be deposited anywhere near the camp. The greatest difficulties could be overcome only by

⁸⁵ RGVA, 502-1-233, pp. 36f.

fitting the entire drainage system with pipes and with a pumping station, for which, however, the necessary allotments [of construction material] are missing. The Brigadeführer has recognized the very special urgency of these matters and promises to do everything possible to remedy them. He wonders, however, that on the one hand he receives favorable reports from physicians about the sanitary and hygienic conditions, and on the other hand later receives completely opposite reports. The head of the Central Construction Office is instructed to submit suggestions to the head of Office Group C until May 15, 1943 for the resolution of the deficiencies and the design of an effective drainage system, while ignoring the current contingency difficulties, which the head of Office Group C will sort out himself.

The doctor has indicated that the horse-stable barracks are inadequate to serve as treatment facilities, and has complained of the lack of light and water in the standard barracks in this sector. Likewise, the number of barracks is inadequate, so that the possibilities for additional barracks in this medical area must be explored. On closer inspection, the noted deficiencies repeatedly appeared as the result of interdependencies of the initially mentioned difficulties, and this underscores the necessity of separating them from all other construction issues and resolving them with special assiduity.

In order to arrive at a permanent solution for disinfection in the PoW camp, the garrison physician suggested to create for every subdivision of the construction sectors new, complete delousing facilities including bathing facilities—that is, 10 of them. Against this, the head of the Central Construction Office has indicated that the main disinfection facility of the PoW camp is under construction, and must be finished first. If no further shortages of skilled labor arise, this could be the case by the end of August. SS Sturmabführer Bischoff could not commit to a firm completion date. As a stopgap to this point in time, the Brigadeführer makes available as a loan a mobile microwave-disinfection device.”

As we will see in the third chapter, a series of “special measures for the improvement of the hygienic facilities” was initiated in Auschwitz as a result of Kammler’s visit. These included, among other things, entire buildings, such as Construction Project 160: “Laundry and Intake Building with Disinfection Facility and Prisoners’ Bath,” as well as a “Microwave Disinfection Facility,” the first microwave facility in the world. Kammler’s order to build this facility was transmitted to the Auschwitz Central Construction Office with the endorsement of the head of Office CV of the *WVHA* dated July 22, 1943.⁸⁶ There is a comprehensive article by Hans Jürgen Nowak on the subject of the Auschwitz microwave facility, to which I refer (Nowak 1998).

⁸⁶ RGVA, 502-1-337, p. 24.

2.2. Reports on the Medical Treatment of Prisoners

On December 16, 1943, the camp doctor of CC Auschwitz I submitted a report to the attention of Office D III of the *WVHA* with the subject “Quarterly Report of the Health Service in CC Auschwitz I.” From this report a preliminary draft has been preserved, into which quantitative data had yet to be added. Reference was made therein to a regulation of Office Group D of May 25, 1940 in which the camp doctors of the concentration camps were evidently obligated to submit four “Quarterly Reports” on the situation in the hospitals. Each report was due on the twentieth of the last month of each quarter. The first was due on March 20. Ten appendices were attached to the report in which the various sections of the prisoners’ infirmary were covered; unfortunately, only one of these has been preserved. I give the text in question here (Point 12 is partly illegible).⁸⁷

“The following is reported on the individual points of the above order for the 4th (fourth) quarter of 1943:

1.

The average strength of CC Auschwitz I, with the satellite camps: Babitz and Birkenau Commercial Park, included in the period September 16 to December 15, 1943 overall _____ prisoners.

2.

The average census of inpatients at the Prisoners’ Infirmary in the reporting period included _____ prisoners (____.____%).

3.

The average number of deaths included in the 4th (fourth) quarter of 1943: _____ ÷ 92 = ____ per day.

4.

The census of inpatients at the Prisoners’ Infirmary in CC Auschwitz I and the above-named satellite camps varied between a daily low of ____ and a high of _____. Treatment of the prisoners was guaranteed by the available medical personnel.

5.

The number of inmate nurses at the end of the reporting period was _____. Of these _____ are inmate physicians.

In the reporting period 15 German inmate nurses were transferred from CC Buchenwald, who were assigned to duty in the Prisoners’ Infirmary. Likewise, all physicians among the admittees to the camp were acquired for medical duties.

The satellite camps Lagischa, Grube Gute Hoffnung, Fürstengrube and Sosnowitz, newly established during the reporting period, were provided with a

⁸⁷ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 93-98. See DOCUMENT 16.

numbers of inmate physicians and nurses in proportion to their respective strengths.

The activities of the inmate physicians and nurses were divided among the various wards of the medical facilities, the outpatient clinic, x-ray room, chemical laboratory, dental clinic, light therapy, apothecary, and medicinal herbs warehouse. Their additional duties included monitoring of the camp blocks, in particular contagion and lice control as well as supervision of the intake quarantine.

The work of the inmate physicians and nurses are under the direct supervision of the camp doctor and the SS medical personnel.

Disinfestation of the individual work details, new admissions, those seconded to branch camps, releases, and well as disinfection of housing is the responsibility of the disinfestation team of the prisoners' infirmary.

6.

No change has been made during the reporting quarter in the subdivision of the various wards of the prisoners' infirmary, nor in their accommodation.

In Block 28 (central ward and outpatient clinic) the warm-water devices for the shower room were extended and improved, so that it is now possible for new admissions to the prisoners' infirmary to take a hot shower before seeing the doctor.

In Recovery Ward 9 an outpatient clinic has been installed which made possible minor surgical interventions. Further in this ward, a room for physical therapy has been installed. For carrying out rehabilitative exercises, the erection of a dedicated gym would be necessary, especially since exercises are frequently frustrated by bad weather even during the summer months.

7.

The prisoners' infirmary offered the following specialty wards in the reporting quarter:

- X-ray room*
- Pathology and hematology laboratory*
- Ear-nose-throat ward*
- Optician*
- Light therapy*
- Medicinal herbs pharmacy*
- Dietetic kitchen*
- Dental clinic*

The efforts in the special departments of Ward 10 continue.

8.

Outpatient and inpatient treatments outside the facilities of the prisoners' infirmary were not needed during the reporting period.

9.

Activities of the dental clinic are covered in an attached separate report.

10 a.

The population of the camp continued to be high during the reporting quarter. Consequently, the quartering capacities also remained unchanged compared with the previous reporting period. The admissions-quarantine blocks (Blocks 2, 2a, 8 und 8a) are especially overcrowded, where prisoners must sleep two to a bed.

The wash and toilet facilities, just like the bathing facilities, are absolutely sufficient even for high occupancies. The prisoners get a bath once a week at least.

Likewise, the disinfection and laundry installations meet the needs of the camp at a high occupancy. Laundry can be exchanged every 14 days.

A rat-eradication campaign was conducted with Zelio poison paste during the reporting quarter in all buildings of the camp, in sewers and the like. The results achieved are satisfactory.

In the latter part of November, prisoners who belong to work detachments working in CC Auschwitz II (Birkenau) were diagnosed with typhus. These were admitted for treatment as inpatients.

In each case diagnosed, the barracks, room, and detachment of the prisoner were precisely determined, and the appropriate disinfection measures applied. Where several cases arose from a particular barrack, the most affected rooms therein were quarantined.

To combat the danger of a typhus epidemic, louse and infection controls were introduced, as well as the disinfection and disinfection of all barracks were decreed. A broader spread of typhus infections could be prevented in this way. The experimental vaccination program against erysipelas in the last reporting quarter were a failure and has been discontinued.

A brothel was established in Block 24 with 19 women. Before their selection, the women were tested for Wa.^[88] and for Go.^[89] These tests are re-administered at regular intervals.

Admission into the brothel is permitted every evening after roll call. An inmate physician and an inmate nurse orderly are always present during operating times who perform the required sanitary measures.

Supervision is assigned to an SS doctor and a corpsman.

During the reporting quarter, experiments were made to impregnate laundry and clothing items of the prisoners with Bayer LAUSETO. The results obtain are highly satisfactory. The prisoners involved reported that, after the impregnation of their laundry and clothing, they were not bothered by lice or fleas, even though for these test prisoners, their laundry was done only after several weeks.

During the autumn months, bugs invaded certain blocks in massive numbers. The infested blocks were fumigated with Zyklon-B and have been free of vermin ever since.

⁸⁸ Wassermann Reaction: Named after its inventor August Wassermann (1866-1925) chemical reaction to diagnose syphilis.

⁸⁹ Gonorrhoea.

The soap supply is at present insufficient, likewise that of dental care. The effective capacity of the prisoners' medical buildings remained unchanged during the reporting quarter, since the [rate of] new cases has remained substantially unchanged since the prior reporting period. The ability to receive packages from home has a favorable effect on the prisoners' state of health; in comparison to the last reporting quarter, the nutritional state of the prisoners remained about the same. Separate reports on the activities of the individual wards of the prisoners' medical buildings are attached hereto.

10 b.

The food supply in general underwent no great change and may be considered adequate. The supply of potatoes at present is not entirely adequate. The bread and sausage rations are likewise unchanged. Furthermore, the prisoners receive milk soup about twice per month. With the onset of colder weather, the clothing of the prisoners has been improved accordingly. At present all work details have been outfitted with woven clothes, overcoats, caps, stockings, wool vests, gloves, ear protection. The provision of shoes to the prisoners has likewise been improved accordingly.

10 c and d.

In the reporting period ____ castrations and ____ sterilizations were requested and performed, of these ____ upon female prisoners.

10 e.

The quarantine protocols continue to be strictly maintained. Among the prisoners transferred to the concentration camp from prisons, some cases of scarlet fever have been encountered during the reporting period. In all cases, specific protocols of disinfection and quarantine have been followed. To suppress an outbreak of malaria, an extermination campaign against flies and mosquitos with the Gigs mosquito-control chemical was conducted. Those infected with malaria, including prisoners who have undergone malaria treatment, were by the end of the reporting quarter transferred to CC Lublin, which is an area considered to be free of the anopheles. The disinfection of the worksite latrines and lavatories as well as chlorination of wells is seen to with heightened assiduity as before.

11.

The supply of medicinals was overall secure during the reporting period. Certain unavailable drugs could be replaced by mixtures of medicinal herbs and constituent drugs. Experiences with phytotherapy demonstrated that various drugs can be entirely substituted for with medicinal plants and herbs.

12.

The trend of the incidence of illness in the Auschwitz Prisoners' Infirmary shows that ... for the last quarter no significant [changes] have been encoun-

tered and that the health conditions [of the prisoners], as previously mentioned, may be considered [adequate] in general. The ... in the last ... exceptions to admissions ... attribute to the time of year ... was caused by an increase in conditions causing colds.

It may be noted from the trend of infectious diseases that essentially [illegible] tuberculosis cases have arisen.

The typhus [cases] could be overcome, sicknesses due to typhus ... only in rare cases in which the source of infection is always to be sought outside the camp."

On a separate sheet appears the following comment, which is obviously an addendum to Point 10:

"In order to avoid the further spread of typhus, those prisoners who are deployed for a long period of time in CC Auschwitz II (Birkenau), were transferred there. Furthermore, all unnecessary traffic of prisoners between Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II was prevented. If these measures are rigorously implemented, it may be assumed that new infections arising from Auschwitz II won't happen again."

In the X-ray rooms, diagnoses and therapies by means of x-rays were carried out; the names of the patients were recorded in a special register, the "X-ray Book."⁹⁰

On December 16, 1943, the head doctor of Auschwitz Concentration Camp submitted a "Report on the Activity of the Surgical Department of the Hospital for Prisoners of Auschwitz I Concentration Camp from September 16, 1943 to December 15, 1943." Here is the text of this report:⁹¹

"The surgical department was, as before, housed in Block 21 during the reporting period. Because of space limitations in Block 21, many surgical patients were treated in Block 19. The outpatient treatments were performed in Block 28.

In the reporting period, 1,800 prisoners were in the surgical department, of whom 314^[92] prisoners received aseptic surgeries. Septic surgeries (for phlegmons, abscesses, etc.) were performed on 2135 patients.

Of the septic surgeries, the following are to be listed:

<i>Stomach resectioning</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Removal of neck lymph nodes</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Gall bladder excisions</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Laparotomies</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Appendectomies</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Hernia operations</i>	<i>102</i>
<i>Castrations</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Genital surgeries</i>	<i>5</i>

⁹⁰ One page of this register is reproduced in Staatliches Museum... 1995. Vol. 1, p. 131.

⁹¹ GARF, 7021-108-50, p. 62f. See DOCUMENT 17.

⁹² The data here presented covers 326 operations.

<i>Hydrocele operations</i>	9
<i>Vascular operations</i>	7
“	2
<i>Amputation of extremities</i>	11
<i>Mastoidectomies</i>	30
<i>Tonsilectomies</i>	30
<i>Deviated septums</i>	16
<i>Ovariectomies</i>	2
<i>Rotator-cuff resectioning</i>	1
<i>Tubal ligations</i>	1
<i>Skin grafting</i>	2

Aside from these, various other septic surgeries were performed. Treatment of septic illnesses, such as phlegmons, suppuration, etc., was divided up as follows:

<i>Lower extremities</i>	997
<i>Upper</i>	555
<i>Various surgical illnesses</i>	583

Aseptic surgeries were performed with ether anesthesia or 2% Novocain. For small abscess surgeries, chloroethyl was used. A shortage of short-term anesthesia (chloroethyl) was noticeable in the reporting period. The lack of compartments for the treatment of wounds in the aseptic section has had a deplorable effect on postoperative cases and frustrated these efforts.

Surgical linens are in a deplorable state on the score of uninterrupted usage and lack of sufficient quantities to permit concurrent launderings.”

The “Monthly Report on Temporarily Accommodated Hungarian Jews in the Camp” of July 27, 1944 has the following statistics on the treatment of prisoners in the “Prisoners’ Infirmary Outpatient Clinic B II/a”:⁹³

“Cases treated:

In the reporting period 3,138 prisoners [were⁹⁴] treated in the clinic.

Of these:

<i>Surgical cases</i>	1426
<i>Diarrhea</i>	327
<i>Constipation</i>	253
<i>Angina</i>	79
<i>Diabetes</i>	4
<i>Congestive heart failure</i>	25
<i>Scabies</i>	62
<i>Pneumonia</i>	75
<i>Flu</i>	136
<i>Heat rash/impetigo</i>	268
<i>Other</i>	449
<i>Infectious diseases:</i>	
<i>Scarlet fever</i>	5
<i>Mumps</i>	16

⁹³ GARF, 7021-108-32, p. 76. See DOCUMENTS 18-18a.

⁹⁴ The subsequently shown list shows only 3,135 cases.

<i>Measles</i>	5
<i>Erysipelas</i>	5.”

The surgical operations were recorded in their respective registers, of which two were found after the war. The Polish historian Henryk Świeboccki wrote on this (Świeboccki, p. 330):

“The operation books contain the names and prisoner numbers of prisoners, the dates of admission, the diagnoses, and the kind of operation. They cover the period from September 10, 1942 to February 23, 1944. In this period, as the entries reflect, 11,246 operations of various kinds were performed.”

This works out to an average of more than 20 operations per day!

On December 9, 1943, Glücks promulgated the following circular on “Treatment of the Currently Held Jewish Prisoners” to the commandants of all concentration camps, including Auschwitz:⁹⁵

“In coordination with the RSHA, I direct in amendment to my circular D I/I Az.: 14 c 9/U./S.-Geh.Tgb.Nr. 1113/44 of August 30, 1944, that Jewish prisoners who urgently need surgeries may be transferred to the nearest hospital. The transfer may be effected only when the required surgery will be performed by a Jewish physician, who must also be transferred. The transfers back of the patient and the physician must then occur immediately after the surgery is completed. I expect of you that you that you will apply the strictest standards to the potentially eligible cases, and transfer only those prisoners for whom a surgery is inevitable.”

A few days later, on December 14, Rudolf Höß, the then-head of Office DI, advised the camp commandants of the following amendment to the circular just referred to:⁹⁶

“Further to the above circular, I advise with authorization of the head of Agency D III that, when a Jewish inmate physician is not available for the surgery to be performed, a qualified non-Jewish inmate physician may perform the needed surgery.”

On the same day, the head of Agency D III of the *WVHA*, SS *Standartenführer* Enno Lolling, transmitted the following directive to the camp physicians for implementation of the order circulated by Glücks⁹⁷

“The camp physicians are advised to make themselves familiar, through the camp commandants, with Circular DI/I, Az.: 14Sep. U./We. Of December 9, 1944. In this is to be noted that surgeries in civilian hospitals can be performed even if no Jewish inmate physician is available to perform the surgery. In such case, a qualified non-Jewish inmate physician is to be substituted. It is under no circumstances to be permitted for a physician of a civilian hospital to perform the surgery.”

⁹⁵ AGK, NTN, 94, p. 143. Transcription by Jan Sehn.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 145. Transcription by Jan Sehn.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 144. Transcription by Jan Sehn.

A corpsman or matron is to be present at every surgery performed by an inmate physician. The return transfer is to be conducted immediately upon completion of the surgery. The head camp physicians are to coordinate with the hospitals and assure the smoothest possible transitions.

The head camp physicians will correspondingly instruct the physicians and corpsmen posted to the satellite camps and assure that the above order is complied with faithfully."

2.3. Drugs

Among the preserved documents a journal is to be found that shows on its cover the legend "Birkenau Prisoners' Infirmary Drug Consumption from Nov. 1/42 to" [no second date entered].⁹⁸ The pages are divided into six columns with the following headings: Serial Number; Date; Prisoner Number; Prisoner's Block; Surname; Drug Administered.⁹⁹ The journal begins with number 6472 and the date of November 1, 1942 and ends with number 14754 and the date of July 15, 1943. Many of the 8,282 entries have to do with prisoners who received drugs repeatedly, which indicates that they were undergoing some kind of treatment. For example, Prisoner No. 134, Choroszy, received on November 6, 1942, Coumadin, on the 7th aspirin, on the 8th Uritone, on the 9th as well as on the 10th digitalis, on the 13th and on the 16th Coumadin. Prisoner No. 772, Gołębiowski, received on November 27 Coumadin, on the 28th caffeine, on the 29th Uritone, on the 30th Cardiazol, on December 2 again Cardiazol, on the 3rd Coumadin, on the 6th Cardiazol, on the 7th Coumadin, on the 8th activated carbon and on the 13th Coumadin. Sodium salt was prescribed on February 12, 1943 for Prisoner No. 13, Polechin, on the 13th aspirin, on the 16th as well as the 17th sodium salt and on the 22nd calcium.

The most frequently used drugs in the treatment of the prisoners were:¹⁰⁰

Dextrose, Coumadin, Butamirate, Cardiazol, aspirin, Karlsbad salt, prednisone, Metamizole, activated carbon, Uritone, ether, valerian, caffeine, strychnine, kaolin, bromide, Quinine, Combelin, Transpulmin, Coramin, Gardenal, Combetin, Eubasina, Sympatol, camphor oil, Prontosil, sulfanilamide, calcium, Eleudron, Novalgin, Istizin, Tannalbin, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, digitalis, Albocid, sodium salt.

2.4. The Prisoners' Infirmary in Monowitz

Monowitz Camp was opened in November 1942. At that time, it provided only an outpatient clinic for the treatment of minor illnesses. It was proba-

⁹⁸ AGK, OB, 382, p. 2. See DOCUMENT 19.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3. See DOCUMENT 20.

¹⁰⁰ Some of the proper names listed were brand names of the era which we did not try to translate; translator's remark.

bly built under an undated project with the title “Prisoners’ Health and Dental Clinic.” This project bore the stamp of the SS garrison physician and the signature of Rudolf Höß as well.¹⁰¹ But a camp hospital was indeed planned at the time, as may be inferred from a letter of November 5, 1942 from SS *Obersturmbannführer* Lolling to SS *Brigadeführer* Kammler. In the text, the following is written with reference to a previous telephone conversation:¹⁰²

“In order to bring about a complete separation of Camp ‘Buna’ from Auschwitz Concentration Camp in the manner discussed on November 4, 1942, the erection of the infirmary facility proposed for the camp branch by the Auschwitz garrison physician is requisitioned, and it is requested to move forward as possible with the construction and furnishing of the infirmary barracks.

For the infirmary, 6 barracks are planned for the camp ‘Buna’ (2 surgical, 2 medical, and 2 for infectious diseases). In these 6 barracks, the laundry and bathing facilities are still lacking, as well as latrines. These sanitary installations could be realized in a connecting corridor yet to be erected between the surgical and medical barracks, as was done, for example, in CC Dachau. For the surgical barracks, a room for aseptic surgeries is still missing. The construction of such a room is absolutely indispensable for the anticipated camp population and to prevent a great upsurge in prisoners incapable of working. The installation of the operating room is the responsibility of the I. G. Farben Company.

Latrine, laundry and bathing facilities are likewise required for the infectious-diseases barracks. In order to prevent any infestation of the prisoners from the start, the installation of a disinfection and delousing facility is the first order of business.

In connection with these facilities, a morgue and an incinerator could be installed in the basement rooms.

It is reiterated here that the foregoing planned installations are to be considered as the most urgent hygienic-medical requirement.”

The Monowitz hospital has been extensively described by the Italian Jewish doctor Leonardo de Benedetti as well as by the well-known author Primo Levi. Both were deported to Auschwitz on February 26, 1944. In 1946 they published a “Report on the Hygienic-Sanitary Organization of the Monowitz Concentration Camp for Jews (Auschwitz, Upper Silesia),”¹⁰³ from which the following passages are taken:

“Illnesses of the stomach and digestive tract. [...] The standard treatment was of a dual nature and encompassed both nutrition and pharmacological therapies. After their admission to the hospital, the patients underwent a total fast for 24 hours, after which they received a special diet until their condition im-

¹⁰¹ RGVA, 502-1-261, p. 110. See DOCUMENT 21.

¹⁰² RGVA, 502-1-332, pp. 269-269a.

¹⁰³ L. de Benedetti, P. Levi, “Rapporto sull’organizzazione igienico-sanitaria del campo di concentramento per Ebrei di Monowitz (Auschwitz – Alta Slesia).” ISR, C 75.

proved discernibly and the number of bowel movements had declined, the stools had become firm and the prognosis became clearly favorable. For this regimen, the sausage ration as well as the soup was eliminated from lunch, white bread substituted for black bread, and for supper there was a very nutritious sweet semolina soup. Further, the doctors ordered the patients to take little, or best of all, no liquids, although the morning and evening doses of coffee were not reduced by the administration. The pharmacological treatment consisted of three or four Tannalbin pills and the same number of activated-carbon tablets; in severe cases the patients also received five drops of tincture of opium each day as well as some drops of ‘Cardiazol.’” (p. 8)

“Infectious diseases. [...]

In view of the ever-greater spread of these skin diseases, on the one hand prophylactic measures were employed such as the prohibition of shaving for the patients, to combat the transmission [of germs] on razors and brushes, while on the other hand patients were treated with ultraviolet light. The severe cases of psoriasis were transferred to the Auschwitz hospital to receive x-ray treatments.” (p. 9)

“Surgical Cases.

Here also, we will not dwell long on those ailments requiring surgical interventions which had no connection with life in the camps. We shall cover such matters with the remark that even surgeries requiring a high surgical standard were performed, above all those involving penetration of the body wall such as gastroenteroanastomosis for duodenal ulcers, appendectomies, rib resectioning for emphysema, as well as orthopedic interventions for fractures and sprains. Where the overall condition of the patient did not assure that the trauma of the surgery could be withstood, the patient received a blood transfusion before initiating the procedure; transfusions were also performed to alleviate secondary anemia as well as severe hemorrhage from an ulcer or trauma sustained in an accident. For donors, recent arrivals to the camp were selected who were in good health; donation of blood was voluntary and was rewarded with 15 days’ stay in the hospital, during which time the donor receives a special diet, so that there was never any lack of volunteers for blood donation. [...]

The surgical suite is equipped with an extensive assortment of instruments, which were at least adequate for the surgeries in prospect; the walls were clad in washable white tiles; there was an adjustable operating table that, although a bit old-fashioned, still was in good condition and made it possible to place the patient into the main positions for surgeries; further there was an electric autoclave for sterilization of surgical instruments; for lighting served several portable spotlights as well as a large, fixed lamp in the center of the suite. On one wall, behind a wooden screen, were lavatories with running hot and cold water in which the surgeon and his assistants washed their hands.

On the subject of aseptic surgery, we note that inguinal hernias were regularly operated upon at the request of the patient, at least until mid-Spring 1944; after that such operations were discontinued, except in cases of very serious her-

nias that were actually a hindrance to work; it had to be assumed that the patients requested the operation in order to secure a month's rest in the hospital. The greatest number of interventions were against phlegmons and were conducted in a department specifically for septic surgery. Next to diarrhea, phlegmons were the most common sickness in the concentration camp. [...] During the surgery on the patient, numerous incisions were made as a precaution, but then it took a long time for the wounds to heal, and with the cessation of purulence, the incisions had no tendency to form scars. Postoperative treatment consisted only in keeping the wound dry; no therapy to stimulate the immune system was employed. For this reason, there were a good many relapses, and because of these, many 'follow-on operations' on the same persons with the purpose of opening and drying of the suppurations that had formed around the previous incision site; when the recovery process eventually displayed unmistakable progress, the patients were released from the hospital and sent back to work, although the wounds were not yet fully healed; follow-up treatment was done on an outpatient basis. It is only to be expected that the majority of those released under these circumstances had to be readmitted to the hospital after a few days, whether for relapses on the original site or for the formation of new phlegmons at other sites.

Acute ear infections were also rather numerous, which arose in extraordinary numbers from complications of mastoiditis; these also were regularly operated on by specialists in otorinolaryngology.

The treatment of skin infections relied on the use of four ointments, which were applied according a standard protocol, depending on the state of the lesions. First, at the stage of infiltration, the lesion and the area surrounding it were treated for relief with an Ittiol salve; after lancing and opening of the wound, its bottom was coated with a Collargol salve to disinfect it; finally, after drainage had ceased or at least diminished, a Pellidol salve was applied to support scarring, and finally a further salve of zinc oxide was applied to strengthen the skin." (pp. 9-11)

"Later the first beginnings of a medical-care service were attained with the establishment of a clinic, where anyone who thought himself ill could present himself, but those whom the doctors pointed out as malingerers would be subject to severe physical punishment by the SS. Where the illness was seen to impair the ability to work, a couple of days' rest could be prescribed. As time went on, several barracks were converted into infirmaries, which with time continually acquired new departments, such that during our stay in the camp, the following departments were in regular operation:

Clinic for general medicine; clinic for general surgery; ear, nose and throat clinic; dermatology clinic; dental office (where also fillings were done as well as the crudest of dentures); suite for aseptic surgery with attached otorinolaryngological department; suite for septic surgery; suite for general medicine with a section for nervous and mental ailments (the latter even equipped with a small electroshock device); suite for infectious diseases and diarrhea, as well as finally a ward designated for 'recovery,' in which dystrophic and

edematic patients were placed along with certain convalescents. The hospital possessed a physical therapy room with a quartz lamp for ultraviolet light as well as a lamp for infrared light; in addition, a room for chemical, bacteriological and serological analyses.

There was no x-ray machine, and when an x-ray was judged necessary, the patients were sent to Auschwitz, where there was a good facility of the kind available, and from which they returned with an x-ray diagnosis.

From this presentation one might form the impression that it portrays a hospital that, although small, still was fully equipped and that functioned well in most respects. In fact, however, there were deficiencies, some of which could perhaps not be remedied, such as the shortage of medically trained personnel and the lack of medication, which may be explained from the grave situation in which Germany found itself at the time; after all, from the one side it was threatened by the inexorable advance of the Russian troops while from the other side it was bombarded day in and day out by the British and American air forces; other shortages could clearly have been borne with a bit of forbearance and better organization of the health service.” (p. 12)

“A great deal of intravenous barbiturates as well as bottles of chloroethyl for anesthetization were available; the latter was often used even for minor procedures such as lancing boils.” (p. 14)

“The flow of patients was always very large and overwhelmed the capacity of the various departments; in order to deal with new arrivers, a certain number of patients were released each day who were not yet fully recovered and found themselves still in a serious state of general debilitation, but had nonetheless to return to work the following day.” (p. 15)

Of course de Benedetti and Levi mentioned the alleged homicidal gas chambers, but they limited this to parroting the propaganda stories put about by the Jewish ex-prisoners Rudolf Vrba alias Walter Rosenberg and Alfred Wetzler, to which they added of their own accord certain fantastic details (cf. Mattogno 2005a, pp. 173f), such as “a large opening [in the ceiling of the gas chamber] that was hermetically sealed with three plates that were opened by means of a valve” (pp. 115f).

Antoni Makowski described the surgery room of the Prisoners’ Infirmary as follows (Makowski 1978, p. 134):

“This surgery room was built well for a concentration camp; it had a smooth floor of concrete and a pair of wash basins with running water and a surgical light hanging above the operating table. In Block 19, a recovery room was installed for patients who had just undergone ‘proper operations.’ This hall was amply spacious; it provided beds in one place and had a special layer of insulation beneath the roof of the barracks.”

Subsequently the author discussed the sections attached to the surgery room (p. 137):

“For the smooth operation of the hospital as well as good health conditions in the camp, the utilities sections were very important. Among these, the first to mention are:

1) The bathhouse with warm water in the tubs and showers, in which all new arrivals in the camp washed, 2) the clothing disinfection section, which was integrated with the bathhouse, 3) larders, where sustenance for the different departments of the hospital were distributed, 4) the hospital kitchen, where coffee was prepared, 5) a small vegetable garden surrounding the hospital.”

As to the kitchen, A. Makowski noted (pp. 144, 146):

“Around mid-1943, a small kitchen was built in the hospital where coffee service in the mornings and evenings and occasionally diet soups were prepared, which assured the sick prisoners an adequate source of fluids and spared them having to fetch these items from the main kitchen. In the kitchen and the larder, the distribution of nourishment for the various barracks as well as departments was accomplished. There the nurses distributed the subsistence rations to the patients and staff under the supervision of the barracks chiefs. In general, the distribution was done very conscientiously and fairly. [...]

For those patients with more serious illnesses—involving impairments of the digestive system after surgical procedures—the hospital received 50 dietetic meals from the main kitchen: instead of the usual soup, black bread and spreads, they received a half-liter of milk soup with grits, sugar as well as 200 grams of white bread. From time to time the hospital received a little sugar and rolled oats, which was given to the convalescents in the form of a dry mixture.”

A register of the Prisoners' Infirmary of Monowitz covering the period July 7, 1943 to June 19, 1944 remains among the preserved documents. The pages are divided into six columns, which were headed as follows: serial number; inmate's registration number; surname and given name of prisoner; date of admission into hospital (*“Eingang”*); date of discharge from hospital (*“Abgang”*); as well as finally *“Notes.”*¹⁰⁴ In this column the prisoners discharge from the hospital are registered with the stamp *“discharge.”* The names of those who died in the hospital were indicated with a stamp depicting a cross; transfers to Auschwitz I, Birkenau, as well as—in very limited numbers—to other places (for example Sosnowitz, Gleiwitz, Günthergrube) are noted in handwriting. The total number of registered prisoners in that document runs to 15,707, of whom 766 or 4.8% died in the Prisoners' Infirmary.

In 1945, a certain Mrs. Los undertook a trip to Poland in search of documents relating to Auschwitz; she ultimately wrote a report titled *“A Short Report on Records to Be Found in Poland: Auschwitz Records.”* She mentioned therein the fact that the *“War Crimes Commission”* in Krakow was

¹⁰⁴ APMO, D-AuIII-5/1, Register des HKB von Auschwitz III-Monowitz, p. 165. See DOCUMENT 22.

in possession of various documents, among which was a register of the Prisoners' Infirmary of Monowitz:¹⁰⁵

"A register of admissions with 15,706 names covering the period from July 7, 1943 to June 19, 1944. It appears for the most part to have to do with foreign Jews; only a few are marked 'nicht Isr.' Their nationality is unknown. Of the total, 12,341 are listed as 'discharged,' 766 show crosses. One may infer with confidence that these are dead, since none of the Jews was released from Auschwitz (476 pages)."

This demonstrates how perfunctorily the documents were interpreted at the time. As this theory became untenable, recourse was taken to another, no less unfounded assertion, namely that the 2,599 prisoners transferred to Auschwitz and Birkenau were gassed. I will revisit this point in Section 7.6.

2.5. Disinfestation Facilities for Sick Prisoners

On May 28, 1943, the SS garrison physician wrote the following letter to the Central Construction Office:¹⁰⁶

"After examination of the description of the disinfestation equipment and cost estimates, the recirculatory disinfestation equipment for use in CC Auschwitz and particularly for the disinfestation and fumigation of the sick prisoners and their clothing seems very suitable for installation in the individual subsections of the concentration camp.

For that reason, the SS garrison physician Auschwitz requests 6 units to be ordered immediately and of these, to set up as quickly as possible the two mentioned in the proposal as immediately available.

It is sensible to set them up in the air-force-style barracks according to the plan provided to me by the head of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen SS and Police."

The first contacts with the company that produced this equipment, the Berlin *Umluft-Apparatebau-Gesellschaft MBH* (Air-Circulation Equipment Corporation), were established on May 18, 1943 by Office C III of the *WVHA*.¹⁰⁷ A letter from that company to the Central Construction Office of July 7, 1943 conveyed confirmation that four units had already been supplied to Auschwitz, two on June 25 and two on July 5.¹⁰⁸ However, in a letter of SS *Obersturmführer* Werner Jothann, who had replaced Bischoff on October 1, 1943 as head of the Central Construction Office, it says there were only three "recirculatory disinfestation units" warehoused in the construction yard, since the installation of the microwave disinfestation units

¹⁰⁵ ROD, c[2]31.

¹⁰⁶ RGVA, 502-1-336, p. 97.

¹⁰⁷ RGVA, 502-1-336, pp. 98-98a.

¹⁰⁸ RGVA, 502-1-170, pp.129-129a.

had made them superfluous.¹⁰⁹ Bischoff, who in the meantime had been named head of the Buildings Inspectorate of the Waffen SS and Police for Silesia, decided therefore to send the three units to the Groß-Rosen concentration camp.¹¹⁰

3. The Prisoners' Sickbay in Section III of Birkenau

3.1. Jean-Claude Pressac's Discovery

In the preceding chapter I have described the activities of the garrison physician as well as the camp doctors in the maintenance of the prisoners' health. These activities arose not from individual initiatives, but from orders of the *WVHA*. Also from this agency arose one of the most significant projects concerning Birkenau Camp that revealed what its actual function was in the eyes of the SS.

In his first study of Auschwitz, appearing in 1989, J.-C. Pressac publicized a plan (Plan 2521) for Section III of Birkenau, which was developed in Berlin on June 4, 1943 and bore the title *Auschwitz Concentration Camp—Section III. Prisoners' Sickbay and Quarantine Department* (Pressac 1989, p. 512).

Therein, Section III was divided into two quarantine camps—one for men and one for women—with a capacity of 4,088 prisoners each, as well as two medical compounds—likewise one for men and one for women—with a capacity of 3,188 prisoners. In each of the medical compounds, there are two barracks for “surgery,” two for “x-ray and treatment,” two for a “pharmacy,” four for “post-operation,” and finally four for “intensive care.”¹¹¹ Pressac further published Plan 2471, implemented one day later, which showed a “Sick Barracks for Prisoners” for Auschwitz Concentration Camp; in this plan appear six bed rooms, two for “30 beds,” two for “24 beds,” and two for “18 beds.” (*ibidem*, p. 513)

The French historian commented on these documents as follows (*ibidem*, p. 512):

“The implications of Photo 20 [of the plan of June 4, 1943] are a genuine god-send for the revisionists. According to the original specifications for the third construction phase in Birkenau (Concentration Camp Section III) it is unambiguously shown that this is merely to serve as a dual-purpose sickbay and quarantine camp. There exists an INCONGRUITY between the provision of a health facility and the existence of four crematoria only a few hundred meters

¹⁰⁹ RGVA, 502-1-170, pp. 180-180a; cf. Nowak 1998.

¹¹⁰ Letter from Bauinspektion der Waffen-SS und Polizei “Schlesien” to Zentralbauleitung von Auschwitz, 13. Oktober 1944. RGVA, 502-1-170, p. 179.

¹¹¹ RGVA, 502-2-110, p. 36. See DOCUMENT 23.

away where, according to the official narrative humans in vast numbers were eliminated. The depiction of Plan 2471 of a barracks for sick prisoners in Section III, in which the arrangements of the beds provides unmistakable images, supports this theory. Both drawings come from June 1943, just as the construction office had completed the erection of four new crematoria, and it is obvious that Birkenau Concentration Camp could not concurrently two mutually contradictory functions: health maintenance and mass extermination. The plan for the construction of a very large medical sector in Section III therefore shows that the crematoria were erected solely for incineration, without any human gassings, because the SS wanted to ‘keep’ the concentration-camp labor resource. This argument appears logical and is not easy to contradict. The plan exists and for that matter comes from the WVHA in Berlin, so that it may not be taken as a local humanitarian initiative.” (capitalization in original.)

Pressac was of the opinion, however, that he had found a document that refuted this “plausible, but theoretical” line of argument (ibid.):

*“The decisive argument that proves that Plan 2521 was only a PROJECT arises in a comparison with an overall diagram of Birkenau, Plan 3764 of March 23, 1944 (Photo 22), where Section III no longer as planned has 16,600 inmates, but **60,000**, which implies that the population density of the barracks had risen by a factor of four, so that the degree of overpopulation was now comparable to that of Section II. Under these circumstances, it is quite meaningless to speak of ‘hospital barracks.’” (Capitalization and emphasis in original).*

But is this in fact a “decisive argument”? And did the sickbay really remain just a “project”?

Numerous documents unknown to Pressac make it possible to give a dispositive and unambiguous answer to these questions.

3.2. Origins and Realization of the Sickbay of Birkenau

On May 14, 1943 SS *Brigadeführer* Kammler transmitted to the commandant of Auschwitz the written order to initiate “special measures for the improvement of the hygienic facilities” in Camp Birkenau.

Pursuant to these measures, Kammler ordered on May 17, 1943¹¹² the conversion of Section III of Camp Birkenau into a hospital for prisoners. This comes from a letter of Bischoff to the garrison physician of July 15, 1943, which begins as follows:¹¹³

“The development of Section III in the PoW camp as Prisoners’ Sickbay was ordered on May 17 by SS Brigadeführer and Generalmajor of the Waffen SS Dr.-Ing. Kammler.”

¹¹² According to the Bischoff letter of July 18, 1943 the date was May 15, 1943. See below.

¹¹³ RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 115.

The planning was entrusted to Agency C of the *WVHA*, or more precisely to SS *Sturmbannführer* Wirtz, the head of Department C/III Technical Specialties, as well as to SS *Untersturmführer* Birkigt, head of Division C/II/3-Sickbays and Infirmaries. Together with the head of Division C/III/1-Engineering Works, SS *Obersturmführer* Grosch, these two men were also signers of Plan 2521 of June 4, 1943.¹¹⁴

In a note dated May 28, 1943, Birkigt wrote, referring to himself in the third person, the following:¹¹⁵

“Per the order of head of Office Group C it is urgently necessary that SS Untersturmführer Birkigt overhaul the comprehensive health facilities of Auschwitz with the Central Construction Office and the garrison physician.

A separate quarantine area for 8,000 to 12,000 patients is to be established for the camp. Thereof, 2,500 to 4,000 permanent barracks, the rest flexible expansion capacity as currently planned in Lublin. “

On June 1, Bischoff sent Kammler a letter on “immediate measures in the PoW camp for improvement of hygienic facilities,” in which he sought approval for the recently launched project, among which was:¹¹⁶

“Planning of Section III as sickbay for 8-10,000 prisoners, including isolation quarters and quarantine, separated for men and women.”

Birkigt remained in Auschwitz from May 31 to June 2 in order to discuss the “special measures in Auschwitz Concentration Camp” with the local authorities responsible for it. In a note dated June 4, he wrote:

“On orders from the head of Office Group C, SS Untersturmführer (Specialist) held discussions on site with the Head of the Central Construction Office of Auschwitz SS Sturmbannführer Bischoff, the garrison physician, SS Hauptsturmführer Wierts [correct: Wirths] and the current construction superintendent, SS Untersturmführer Janisch, to finalize the basis for the planning of the special measures in Auschwitz PoW Camp.”

Birkigt then got to the decisions that had to do with the sickbay project:¹¹⁷

“B. Prisoners’ Sickbay.

- 1.) The development of Section 3 has been discussed by all, and put on paper as sketches by me.*
- 2.) The site visit found that the first three rows of barracks and a part of the fourth have been built.*
- 3.) According to the Central Construction Office, only 89 barracks are available for the sickbay area. The head of central construction therefore wishes that*

¹¹⁴ To indicate his approval of the project, the plan was endorsed by SS-Hauptsturmführer Wirths, garrison physician of Auschwitz

¹¹⁵ Birkigt note of May 28, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 270. On the hygienic facilities planned for the Lublin-Majdanek camp, see the report of SS-*Untersturmführer* Birkigt of March 20, 1943, published in Graf/Mattogno 2012, pp. 62-64.

¹¹⁶ RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 133.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 267f.

at least the 16 special barracks be transferred from the 1000-bed sickbays east. These must then be brought to the size 42 x 50. (Against this is the fact that the transfer of these barracks would require 120-140 freight cars. The completion of RLM¹¹⁸ barracks seems entirely possible.) The decision will be made by C II.

4.) A sketched proposal for upgrading a RLM barracks as prisoners' sickbay barracks has been submitted to the Central Construction Office. Number of beds about 150 in bunkbed configuration."

As early as June 1 the Polish prisoner Stefan Millauer (registration number 63003) had shown the plan for a "Wooden Accommodation Barracks (Luftwaffe Type) Medical Barracks" for Section III per the orders of the Central Construction Office.¹¹⁹

As we have seen above, Wirtz and Birkigt developed Plan No. 2521 "Auschwitz Concentration Camp – Section III. Prisoners' Sickbay and Quarantine Department" on June 4; on June 5, they submitted Plan 2471 for the "Medical Barracks for Prisoners."¹²⁰

Plan 2637 of the Central Construction Office was undated, but clearly from June 1943. It presented a design for the "Layout of the Men's Section" of the "Prisoners' Zone in Section '3' of the PoW Camp." It showed the barracks for "post-operative" (6a) and for "major internals" (6b) in full detail.¹²¹

A "List of Barracks Needed for Implementation of Special Measures in the PoW Camp" of June 11, 1943 mentions a total of 183 barracks (plus two for the troops' sickbay), including:¹²²

- 4 Special Barracks 6a¹²³ (post-operative)
- 4 Special Barracks 6b (major internal)
- 2 Special Barracks 2 (X-ray and treatment)
- 2 Special Barracks 1 (surgical)
- 111 Barracks for minor illnesses.

Construction began at the end of June 1943. 26 barracks were completed by July 13; furthermore, the excavation of ring ditches for drainage as well as a temporary sedimentation tank had been begun.¹²⁴

On July 19 Bischoff protested against the fact that the German Armaments Works had taken over two barracks in Section III without authorization; he wrote:¹²⁵

¹¹⁸ *Reichsluftfahrtministerium* – German Aviation Ministry, hence referring to airforce-type barracks.

¹¹⁹ RGVA, 502-2-110, p. 5.

¹²⁰ NO-4470, see DOCUMENT 24.

¹²¹ RGVA, 502-2-110, Page number illegible. See DOCUMENT 25.

¹²² RGVA, 502-1-79, p. 100. See DOCUMENT 26.

¹²³ In Plans 2521 and 2637 these barracks bear the designations 6a, 6b, 2 and 1.

¹²⁴ Report on the progress of work on the special measures in the PoW camp and the Main Camp, set forth by Bischoff on July 13, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 119.

“In order to allow completion of the construction of Section III as prisoners’ infirmary as ordered by SS Brigadeführer and Generalmajor of the Waffen SS Dr. Ing. Kammler on May 15, occupation during construction is not possible. Construction of the sickbay is already begun, and as is known, sanitary facilities (wash and toilet facilities) are to be installed in each barracks.”

On July 31, six more barracks had been built; the ring ditches for drainage were completely excavated, and erection of the fence had begun.¹²⁶ On the same day the garrison physician complained to Bischoff that individual plans for eight types of barracks were still lacking “in the master plan for the prisoners’ sickbay and the quarantine department in Section III.”¹²⁷

In a report submitted by Bischoff on September 30, 1943 on the extension of the PoW camp of the *Waffen* SS in Auschwitz, Section III of the camp was described as follows:¹²⁸

“Section III:

- BW 3e 114 Ward barracks Type 5Jan. 34
- BW 4c 5 Utility barracks
- BW 4e 2 Utility barracks Type 260/9
- BW 4f 13 Supply and laundry barracks Type 260/9
- BW 4f 4 Supply and laundry barracks Type 5Jan. 34
- BW 6c 4 Disinfestation barracks Type VII/5
- BW 7c 11 Staff barracks (“Swiss” barracks)
- BW 12b 12 Barracks for major illnesses 5Jan. 34
- BW 12d 2 Block leader barracks Type IV/3
Conversion of an available house for special measures
- BW 33a 3 Barracks for special measures Type 260/9.”

On September 25 bricklaying works were underway in Barracks 68, 70, 71, 74, 89, 91, 92 and 93, as well as carpentry works in Barracks 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 94, 128 and 146.¹²⁹ On October 1, 1943 Jothann produced a cost estimate for the PoW camp of the *Waffen* SS in Auschwitz, in which a cost estimate was submitted for every building already erected or planned. For Section III—called Prisoners’ Sickbay—which covered the buildings listed in the detail report just mentioned, the expected costs appeared as follows:¹³⁰

¹²⁵ RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 111.

¹²⁶ “Progress Report on Work for the Special Measures in the Concentration Camp and in the Main Camp,” submitted by Bischoff on July 31, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 100.

¹²⁷ RGVA, 502-1-332, p. 196.

¹²⁸ Detail report on construction of the PoW camp of the *Waffen*-SS in Auschwitz, Upper Silesia. RGVA, 502-2-60, p. 81.

¹²⁹ Progress report on work for the special measures in the concentration camp and in the Main Camp, submitted by Bischoff on September 25, 1943. 1943. RGVA, 502-1-83, pp. 215f.

¹³⁰ Cost estimate for construction of the PoW camp of the *Waffen*-SS in Auschwitz. RGVA, 502-2-60, pp. 86f.

BW 3e	114 Ward barracks	4,542,216	RM
BW 4c	5 Utility barracks	138,150	“
BW 4e	2 Utility barracks	167,304	“
BW 4f	13 Supply and laundry barracks	241,618	“
BW 4f	4 Supply and laundry barracks	127,500	“
BW 6c	4 Disinfestation barracks	80,940	“
BW 7c	11 Staff barracks	103,488	“
BW 12b	12 Barracks for major illnesses	515,625	“
BW 12d	2 Block leader barracks	16,240	“
	Conversion of an available house for special measures	14,242	“
BW 33a	3 Barracks for special measures	55,758	“
	Total	6,003,081	RM.”

On October 5, Jothann represented the status of work in the Prisoners' Sickbay thus:

“To date Barracks Types 1-2^[131] – 6a and 6b^[132] have been erected as first priority. Overall there are 12 barracks for the major-illnesses department as well as operations and x-ray. These barracks are structurally complete but for one. In 9 barracks all interior walls and chimneys are installed insofar as they required additional installation. In 4 of these barracks, plastering of the walls has begun. The establishment of connecting ways between these barracks is ¾ complete. 8 units of Barracks Type 7^[133] are structurally complete, and installation of walls and chimneys has begun. Further, 4 laundry barracks Type 9, 3 kitchen barracks Type 12, and 20 ward barracks Type 7, therewith in total 47 barracks are structurally complete since March 43.”

Jothann further mentioned the status of construction work on the fence, on streets (access streets, camp streets and throughways), drainage work, planning work as well as wastewater treatment facilities; the last encompassed four sedimentation tanks, which were almost complete.¹³⁴

In a file memo of October 11, Jothann referred to a visit by a Mr. A. Knauth in Auschwitz. Knauth was the owner of the firm of the same name, from which the missing barracks for the infirmary of Section III had been ordered:

“Mr. Knauth of Dresden was introduced to the project manager Mr. Obersturmführer (Specialist) Jothann, and the a.[bove-mentioned] site inspection was conducted. It was established at the site that the special barracks for sur-

¹³¹ Barracks of Type 1: Special Barracks 1 (Surgical); Type 2: Special Barracks 2 (X-ray and Treatment).

¹³² Barracks of Type 6a: Special Barracks 6a (Post-Operative); Type 6b: Special Barracks 6b (Major Internal).

¹³³ Ward barracks.

¹³⁴ Advice on the status of construction work in prisoners' sickbay Concentration Camp Section III, as of October 1, 1943, compiled by Jothann on October 5, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-83, pp. 396f.

gical patients etc. were completed and could be put into operation immediately.”

Among other things, the following was agreed upon:¹³⁵

“For the accommodation barracks, of which there were 111, the cost was significantly reduced because it was a very large, confirmed order, so that a new quotation was forthcoming.”

In a report dated October 30, Jothann reported:¹³⁶

“To date 47 barracks erected. Interior work (i.e., masonry and finishing work) is currently underway on these. The pole structure^[137] for 7 additional barracks is complete, and erection of the barracks will begin in the next few days.”

The succeeding reports to the end of November mentioned the progress of construction of the barracks and the associated work on the erection of the “prisoners’ infirmary” in Section III.

On February 24, 1944, Jothann directed a request to the Building Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police of Silesia for the allocation of metal to the Knauth Company; he justified this request as follows:¹³⁸

“This concerns the allocation of 1844.4 kg of zinc-aluminum and 87.8 kg of brass for the provision of furnishings and fittings needed for Section III—prisoners’ sickbay and quarantine camp— of the PoW camp. [...].

For the justification of the requested metals it is noted that Section III of the PoW camp comprises in all 180 barracks including kitchen, surgery, treatment, ward and quarantine barracks.”

In a “Report on the Status of Construction in Auschwitz Concentration Camp Including Prisoners’ Deployment,” Jothann wrote on March 25, 1944:¹³⁹

“In Section III of the PoW, first only the 2 with empty spaces were started. The barracks are almost all set up, and internal buildout has been started.”

On March 31, 1944, 700 prisoners were deployed to Section III. On Kammler’s instructions, work on the sites had to be suspended for three days because the prisoners were needed in Sections I and II of the camp.¹⁴⁰

On March 23, 1944, the day Plan 3764 mentioned by J.-C. Pressac was drawn, the Central Construction Office was still working on the realization of the project for the prisoners’ infirmary in Section III. Later we will see how the supposed conflict claimed by the French historian between the two plans can be explained.

¹³⁵ Jothann file memo of October 11, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 395.

¹³⁶ Progress report on work for the special measures in the concentration camp submitted by Jothann on October 30, 1943. RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 198.

¹³⁷ *Pfahlroste*, probably referring to a supportive pole structure put into the swampy soil.

¹³⁸ RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 158.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 38.

¹⁴⁰ Letter to Jothann from Bischoff of March 31, 1944; *ibid.* p. 34.

In 1944 the Central Construction Office finalized all bureaucratic practices pertaining to the camp sickbay. On May 25 Jothann submitted a “Detail Report on Construction of the PoW Camp of the *Waffen* SS in Auschwitz, Upper Silesia. Erection of 111 Medical Barracks,” which stated:¹⁴¹

“Work began March 15, 1943 [actually May 15, 1943]. 37 barracks are built and partly built out internally.”

In the attached “Cost Estimate” that Jothann submitted on the same day, a total amount of 3,799,000 RM appeared.¹⁴²

Both documents carry the stamp “Approved in Advance” of the Buildings Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police Silesia (with the date June 27, 1944) as well as the stamp “Approved” of Agency C/II of the *WVHA* (with the date July 13, 1944). In August 1944, the head of Agency C/V (Central Construction Inspectorate) of the *WVHA*, which had received the mentioned documentation on June 26, issued the corresponding construction order after the fact, as was common bureaucratic practice in those days:

“On the basis of the attached documents, I transmit herewith the order for construction of 111 medical barracks in the PoW Camp, Camp II, Auschwitz, Section III, Projects 3e and 3f.”

As to the status of the work, a writing directed to the Construction Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police Silesia stated:¹⁴³

“Because of its urgency, work has already begun. Progress and status of construction is to be reported to schedule.”

The construction application for the “12 barracks for critically ill” was submitted to the Building Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police Silesia on August 12, 1944 by Jothann.¹⁴⁴ The documentation accompanying it also included a “Detail Report on Extension of the PoW Camp of the *Waffen* SS in Auschwitz, Upper Silesia. Erection of 12 Barracks for Critically Ill in Section III, Project 12b,” which stated that the work had already begun on July 15, 1943;¹⁴⁵ further a cost estimate for 373,000 RM¹⁴⁶ as well as finally an “Attachment to the Cost Estimate for 12 Barracks for Critically Ill,” which referred to ancillary work pertaining thereto.¹⁴⁷ On October 31, Agency C/V of the *WVHA* issued the appurtenant construction order retroactively.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴¹ RGVA, 502-2-110, pp. 1-1a. See DOCUMENT 27.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*, pp. 2f. See DOCUMENTS 28-28a.

¹⁴³ RGVA, 502-1-281, p. 49. See DOCUMENT 29.

¹⁴⁴ RGVA, 502-1-261, p. 117. See DOCUMENT 30.

¹⁴⁵ RGVA, 502-2-110, pp. 38-38a. See DOCUMENTS 31-31a.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 40f. See DOCUMENTS 32, 32a.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 42f. See DOCUMENTS 33, 33a.

¹⁴⁸ RGVA, 502-1-281, p. 47. See DOCUMENT 34.

Besides these, a “Construction Order for Construction of 11 Staff Barracks in Section III – Project 7e” is known which was issued by Bischoff on October 9, 1944.¹⁴⁹

On May 31, 1944, 63 barracks existed in Section III.¹⁵⁰ The deportation of the Hungarian Jews found the Central Construction Office totally unprepared and threw its plans for the medical compound into a cocked hat.

At the beginning of June, Section III, although it was not ready for occupation at the time, was converted together with Camp BIIC and part of Camp BIICa as well as of Camp BIIC into a “transit camp” for the unregistered Jews, who were to be transferred to other camps later on.

On June 2, Kammler gave Jothann the instruction to make 14 barracks in Section III available for the accommodation of these Jews, but the Central Construction Office raised objections against this. Upon inquiry by Kammler,¹⁵¹ Jothann explained that such a measure would be inadvisable “on hygienic and sanitary grounds.”¹⁵² Of course Jothann had to give in, and on June 2 the commandant of Concentration Camp II, SS *Hauptsturmführer* Kramer, relinquished the 14 barracks to the desired purpose.¹⁵³

On June 16, “The Hygienist of the Building Inspectorate Silesia,” SS *Obersturmführer* Weber, sent the head of the Building Inspectorate as well as—for information—the “Reich Doctor SS and Police. Chief Hygienist” in Berlin a report on the subject “PoW Camp-Section III.” which began as follows:

“In connection with a review of the water supply of Birkenau on 6/15/44, an inspection of the hygienic conditions in the newly occupied Section III of PoW Camp Birkenau took place.

The first transport of prisoners arrived on 6/9/44. At present the section is occupied by 7,000 female (Jewish) prisoners.

With regard to construction and hygiene, Section III is in no way fit for occupation, as even the most primitive sanitary facilities are lacking.”

According to the report, the requirements for survival of the female prisoners concerned were exceedingly tenuous:

“According to Corpsman SS Oberscharführer Scherpe, the accommodation barracks are occupied by 800-1,000 prisoners. The covering of the barracks with roofing felt is not completely done, and the connecting camp streets are

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, page number illegible.

¹⁵⁰ Aerial photograph of Birkenau of May 31, 1944. NA, Mission 60 PRS/462 60SQ, Can D 1508, Exposure 3056.

¹⁵¹ Teletype message from Head of Agency C *WVHA* to Central Construction Office, June 2, 1944. RGVA, 502-1-83, p. 5.

¹⁵² Teletype message from Jothann to Kammler June 2, 1944. *ibid.*, p. 2.

¹⁵³ Letter from Jothann to Building Inspectorate of the *Waffen-SS* and Police “Silesia” vom June 2, 1944. *ibid.*, p. 3.

still under construction. For lack of bedsteads, the prisoners are sleeping on the floor."

After commenting on the inadequacy of the water supply as well as the sewage disposal, the hygienist addressed the quarantine procedures:

"Since the prisoners of Section III are to be consigned to work as quickly as possible, a quarantine as such will not be conducted. In order to avoid greater delays in work deployment from any developing epidemics, it is expedient, in place of the normal quarantine measures, to divide the camp into 4 separate zones in advance. In this way, at least a part of the prisoners can be deployed or transported elsewhere."

Weber's report closed as follows:¹⁵⁴

"In consequence of the occupation of Section III before the completion of construction, an imminent threat of an outbreak of epidemics exists due to the lack of the most rudimentary hygienic provisions."

As I have shown elsewhere (Mattogno 2001, pp. 387f.), the Central Construction Office was completely unprepared for the enormous wave of Hungarian Jews, and was unable to provide any accommodations for a great part of the future forced laborers of the Reich.

The project of the medical compound in Section III was finally abandoned on September 23, 1944. This derives from a letter by Jothann of December 6, 1944 to the Building Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police Silesia on the subject "Construction of 12 Barracks for Critically III in Section III—Project 12b," which states:¹⁵⁵

"Per discussion by the head of the agency on 9/23/44 in Auschwitz, the cessation of construction in Section III of the PoW camp has been ordered, and demolition of the 12 barracks for critically ill has been started."

It remains to clarify finally, why Plan 3764 of the Central Construction Office of March 23, 1944 planned for the medical compound in Section III of Birkenau for 60,000 prisoners, although at that time that part of Birkenau Camp had only just been conceived. The explanation of this apparent contradiction is very simple if one knows the operating methods of the construction department of the Central Construction Office, where the technical drafts were created, and indeed practically always by prisoners who were engineers, architects and draftsmen by profession.¹⁵⁶ In order to save time and materials, several copies were produced of every drawing, upon which in case of necessity revisions of the plan were annotated. This applied also to the "Layout of the PoW Camp" No. 3764, which was submitted on March 23, 1944 by the Polish prisoner Stefan Millauer (Registration

¹⁵⁴ RGVA, 502-1-168, pp. 6-6a.

¹⁵⁵ RGVA, 502-1-261, pp. 115-115a.

¹⁵⁶ In February 1943, 96 prisoners worked in the construction office. RGVA, 502-1-256, pp. 171-173.

No. 63003) and was endorsed by Jothann on March 24. This plan had the purpose of showing the future locations of the 111 ward barracks of Section III. In it, the rectangles representing the barracks were marked in red.¹⁵⁷ In accordance with usual practice, this plan bore three stamps: The already-mentioned stamps “Approved in Advance” of the Building Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police Silesia (of June 27, 1944) and “Approved” of Agency C/II of the *WVHA* (of July 13, 1944) as well as in addition the stamp “Entered in Plan Registration Book” (of May 22, 1944).

The dates of these stamps permit the conclusion that the layout drawing formed part of the documentation that Jothann submitted to the Building Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police Silesia on May 25, 1944,¹⁵⁸ that is, of the “Detail Report on Construction of the PoW Camp of the *Waffen* SS in Auschwitz, Upper Silesia. Construction of 111 Medical Barracks” and of the accompanying “Cost Estimate.” These three documents—detail report, cost estimate and layout drawing—were, according to bureaucratic procedure, indispensable to receive a construction permit for every construction project desired (see Mattogno 2015c on this).

In the detail report it was further explicitly noted as to this layout drawing:¹⁵⁹

“The placement of buildings on the site in question is specified by the enclosed layout drawing.”

A copy of this layout drawing was later used to show the locations of the 6 morgues (Projects 3b and 3d). It was enclosed as the layout drawing for these projects in the “Detail Plan for Construction of Camp II of the *Waffen* SS in Auschwitz, Upper Silesia. Construction of 6 Morgues” that Jothann submitted on June 12, 1944 and which the Building Inspectorate of the *Waffen* SS and Police Silesia reviewed on August 28, 1944.¹⁶⁰ The latter date appears on the “Approved” stamp of the Building Inspectorate that was applied to Layout Drawing 3764. The registration stamp in the plan registration book indicates the date July 18, 1944. The 6 morgues had to be installed in Sections I and II, and as to these the unambiguous sentence appears on the layout drawings:¹⁶¹

“The morgues to be installed are indicated in red on the layout drawing.”

Yet another copy, which is registered in the plan registration book under the date of August 18, 1944,¹⁶² was enclosed with the documentation of the

¹⁵⁷ RGVA, 502-2-110, p. 13. See DOCUMENTS 35-35a.

¹⁵⁸ The registration stamp of the plan registration book erroneously shows “5/22/44” instead of “2/25/44.”

¹⁵⁹ RGVA, 502-2-110, p. 1a.

¹⁶⁰ RGVA, 502-2-95, p. 10a.

¹⁶¹ RGVA, 502-2-95, p. 14. See DOCUMENT 36.

¹⁶² AGK, NTN, 93, p. 39.

retroactive construction orders for the crematoria of Birkenau issued by Kammler on June 23 and 24, 1944.¹⁶³

Let us turn now to the copy of Layout Drawing No. 3764 published by Pressac. On this copy one reads, “Section 3 for 60,000 prisoners.” The document bears no stamp from which one might conclude that it had been reviewed, but instead merely the registration stamp in the plan registration book with the date “Dec. 7, 1944.” From this it is clear that this date pertains to a project that is of a later date than the projects for the construction of 111 medical barracks and 5 morgue barracks. It clearly originates from autumn 1944.

Plan No. 2521, developed by Office Group C of the WVHA in Berlin on June 4, 1943 was sent to the Central Construction Office in Auschwitz on June 30, 1943. In the upper right-hand corner appears the inscription “Page 6b,” because this plan was part of a series of plans for the prisoners’ sickbay, which then were duplicated by the planning department of the Central Construction Office. One of these duplicates that Pressac did not know, Plan No. 2503, was drawn on June 19, 1943 by Prisoner No. 471, the Pole Alfred Brzybylski (see Documents 37, 37a). In contrast to Plan No. 2521, which merely showed the layout of some buildings (as shaded rectangles), Plan No. 2503 gives an overview of the medical compound. Above every rectangle representing a barracks the project number is shown, and under it a reference number, for example: ^{12b} = Project 12b; _{6b} = “Special for Critically Ill Dep.[artment]” = intensive care unit.

As is revealed by a handwritten note, this plan was approved by the cognizant department of the WVHA on September 5 (“Approved Agency CIII Technical Services”) and bore the registration stamp of the plan registration book with date of October 25, 1944. This confirms that the project of the Prisoners’ Sickbay in Section III of Camp Birkenau remained in force until its effective abandonment on September 23, 1944.

In view of these facts the following conclusions are justified: because the medical compound was planned and also partly built, and because the “decisive” counterargument of J.-C. Pressac is in no way admissible, the following sentences of the French researcher remain resoundingly applicable:

“There exists an INCONGRUITY between the provision of a health facility and the existence of four crematoria only a few hundred meters away where, according to the official narrative humans in vast numbers were eliminated... The plan for the construction of a very large medical sector in Section III therefore shows that the crematoria were erected solely for incineration, with-

¹⁶³ RGVA, 502-1-281, p. 42 (Krematorium II), p. 36 (Krematorium III), p. 43 (Krematorium V), p. 35 (Krematorium IV, 24. Juli 1944).

out any human gassings, because the SS wanted to 'keep' the concentration-camp labor resource."

The planning and partial realization of the Prisoners' Sickbay in Section III of Birkenau with its 12 barracks "for critically ill" is an irrefutable proof that the policy of the SS vis-à-vis those prisoners unfit for work was aimed not at their destruction, but at their medical treatment.

On December 13, 1943, the commandant of the main Camp Auschwitz, Liebehenschel, recommended Dr. Wirths for the War Service Cross Second Class with the following justification:¹⁶⁴

"With a unique exertion from early until late and in a ceaseless effort, garrison physician, SS Hauptsturmführer Dr. Wirths, has succeeded since Sept. 1, 1942 in reducing the danger of epidemics in Auschwitz Concentration Camp to a minimum and thereby in maintaining the health and productivity of the SS men as well as the prisoners in general. His activities here in Auschwitz are acknowledged by all. To me personally, SS Hauptsturmführer Dr. W i r t h s is an indispensable assistant whose efforts and energy I value most highly. I recommend the award of the War Service Cross without reservation."

He received the War Service Cross Second Class with Crossed Swords on January 30, 1944.¹⁶⁵

4. The Fate of Registered Prisoners Unfit for Work

4.1. Treatment of Registered Prisoners Unfit for Work

In all preserved documents on the camp population of Auschwitz from 1942 to 1945, a very high number of "Prisoners unfit for work or deployment" is consistently to be seen. The legal status of these prisoners was established by the *WVHA* as early as 1942. On June 24 of that year, the head of Agency DII, SS *Obersturmbannführer* Gerhard Maurer, sent the commandants of the concentration camps new instructions for the submission of reports on the utilization of prisoners for work. Under Point 1 it stated.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁴ NA, T-1021. Record Group No. 242/338, vol. 3, roll 18, frame 476f. "Vorschlagliste Nr. 1 für die Verleihung des Kriegsverdienstkreuzes II. Klasse," Auschwitz, 13. Dezember 1943.

¹⁶⁵ Garrison Order No. 5/44 of February 1, 1944. Frei *et al.* 2000, p. 401.

¹⁶⁶ PS-3677.

“Prisoners unfit for work or deployment. These are to be listed in the daily reports under ‘Remarks’ in the following order:

1. Sick
 - a) outpatients
 - b) inpatients
2. Invalids
3. Outpatients
4. Under interrogation
5. Released
6. limited fitness
7. Arrest
8. Quarantined
9. Admissions.”

As we shall see, these categories appeared regularly in various forms in reports from the year 1944, of which a number of exemplars have been preserved. These are the “Summary of Number and Utilization of Prisoners in Auschwitz II Concentration Camp,”¹⁶⁷ the “Summary of Number and Utilization of Female Prisoners of Auschwitz, Upper Silesia Concentration Camp,”¹⁶⁸ as well as the monthly report “Labor Deployment of Birkenau Women’s Camp.”¹⁶⁹ In the “Summary of Prisoner Deployment” as well as in the “Comprehensive Summary of Labor Deployment,” however, only the category “Unfit for work or deployment” appears.

On September 22, 1942, Auschwitz Camp held 28,207 prisoners, of which 16,459 were men and 11,748 women; 5,481 (19.4%) of the inmates were “Unfit for work and not deployable.”¹⁷⁰ This is the only such document known to us from the year 1942. According to a report by the camp resistance of December 1, 1942, 22,391 prisoners were in the men’s camp, including 1,620 patients in the Auschwitz Sickbay and 4,719 patients in the Birkenau Sickbay, in all therefore 6,339 patients, or 28.3% of the inmates.¹⁷¹

For 1943, the preserved documents enable us to derive the following more complete picture of the situation:¹⁷²

¹⁶⁷ GARF, 7021-108-33, pp. 121-124 (15 Januar 1944), 125-128 (31 Januar 1944), 129-132 (15. Februar 1944).

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 160-162 (3 April 1944), 144-147 (16. Mai 1944), 148-151 (5. Juni 1944), 152-155 (19. Juni 1944), 156-159 (30. Juni 1944).

¹⁶⁹ D-AuII-3a/1a-14c, pp. 339a-371c, 1. Oktober -2. November 1944.

¹⁷⁰ Summary of overall labor deployment on September 22, 1942. RGVA, 502-1-19, p. 20. See DOCUMENT 38.

¹⁷¹ AGK, NTN, 155, p. 301.

¹⁷² Compilation by Judge Jan Sehn of the monthly reports in the series “Summary of Prisoner Utilization in Birkenau Concentration Camp, Month... 1943.” AGK, NTN, 134, pp. 277-293.

Date	Men's Camp		Women's Camp		Total		
	Strength	Loss*	Strength	Loss	Strength	Loss	%
1943							
Jan. 1	24,263	2,451	5,367	1,452	29,630	3,903	13.2
Feb. 1	31,772	3,891	10,069	1,755	41,841	5,646	13.5
Mar. 1	28,554	3,913	10,016	1,848	38,570	5,761	14.9
Apr. 1	31,187	3,533	15,200	2,369	46,387	5,902	12.7
May 1	34,893	6,837	18,787	6,123	53,680	12,960	24.1
June 1	/	/	20,526	6,914	/	/	33.7
Oct. 1	/	/	32,066	6,288	/	/	19.6
Nov. 1	54,630	7,830	32,943	6,718	87,573	14,548	16.6
Dec 1	54,367	9,532	33,884	9,149	88,151	18,681	21.2
Dec. 31	55,785	11,433	29,513	8,266	85,298	19,699	23.1

* unfit for work or deployment

On September 4, 1943 SS *Obersturmbannführer* Gerhard Maurer, head of Agency DII of the *WVHA* (Prisoner Deployment), wrote the following letter to Höß (Berenstein 1960, p. 365):

“There are at this time about 25,000 Jewish prisoners in CC Auschwitz. On Aug. 25, 43 I told SS Hauptsturmführer Schwarz that I must know the number of fully work- and deployment-capable Jews, because I had in mind to transfer Jews from the concentration camp in order to put them work to in the Reich in arms production. I renewed this inquiry by teletype on Aug. 26, 43. According to the reply teletype message of Aug. 29, 43, of the 25,000 Jews in custody, only 3,581 are fit for labor. These, however, are in constant utilization in arms production and cannot be given up. What are the other 21,500 Jews doing? Something here doesn't add up! Please review this situation once more and report back to me.”

Since the number of prisoners in Birkenau who were unfit for labor or deployment in June 1943 lay at about 34% of the total camp population, the number mentioned by Maurer was probably correct: of the 25,000 Jews in Auschwitz at the end of August 1943, only about 3,581 were fit for labor, from which follows that about 21,400 were unfit for labor.

For 1944 the following numbers arise from the documents mentioned in the preceding pages:

Date 1944	Men's Camp			Women's Camp			Total Strength
	Strength	Loss*	%	Strength	Loss*	%	
Jan. 15	22,012	6,292	28.6	/	/	/	18,000 ^a
Jan. 31	19,911	7,385	37.1	/	/	/	
Feb. 15	19,072	8,094	42.4	/	/	/	
Apr. 03	/	/	/	21,416	8,454	39.5	
Apr. 05	/	/	/	/	/	/	
Apr. 20	18,335	4,759	26.0	/	/	/	
May 03	18,403	5,789	31.5	/	/	/	
May 11 ^b	17,589	7,099 ^c	40.3	/	/	/	
May 14	17,558	5,544	31.6	/	/	/	
May 15	17,529	5,520	31.5	23,778	7,425	31.2	
June 05	/	/	/	30,898	11,678	37.8	
June 19	/	/	/	30,994	11,399	36.8	
June 30	/	/	/	31,905	11,213	35.1	
July 28	15,293	3,120	20.4	/	/	/	
Aug. 01	16,082	3,098	19.3	/	/	/	
Aug. 05	19,328	3,036	16.7	/	/	/	
Aug. 10	18,197	3,476	19.1	/	/	/	
Aug. 15	18,229	3,670	20.1	/	/	/	
Aug. 21	19,468	3,937	20.2	/	/	/	
Aug. 25	19,627	3,466	17.7	/	/	/	
Aug. 30	17,655	3,284	18.6	/	/	/	
Sep. 07	18,708	3,139	16.8	/	/	/	
Oct. 01	/	/	/	26,250	7,150	27.2	
Oct. 03	23,286	3,208	13.8	/	/	/	
Oct. 05	/	/	/	42,961	8,854	20.6	
Oct. 10	/	/	/	36,240	6,096	16.8	
Oct. 15	/	/	/	30,274	5,058	16.7	
Oct. 20	/	/	/	30,058	5,345	17.8	
Oct. 25	/	/	/	27,723	4,624	16.7	
Oct. 30	/	/	/	24,868	4,577	18.4	
Nov. 02	/	/	/	21,048	4,220	20.0	
Jan. 16, 45	4,482	2,228	49.7				

* "prisoners unfit for work or deployment"

a In the known letter from Pohl to Himmler of April 5, 1944 on the subject "Security Measures in Auschwitz" the aggregate camp strength (Auschwitz I, II and III) is stated to be about 67,000 prisoners; further it states: "The number of inpatients and invalids is at present 18,000." NO-021.

b Transcript in: Blumental 1946, pp. 100-105.

c This number includes 1,575 prisoners registered under the heading "Preparation for Transport."

In this table the heading "Loss" (prisoners unfit for work or deployment) encompasses several categories of prisoners, among which according to the official accounts two were inexorably consigned to death in the "gas chambers": the inpatients who required a lengthy stay in the hospital, and invalids, that is, "useless mouths" in a word. In reality, these two categories not only existed in the official statistics of Agency D of the *WVHA*,¹⁷³

¹⁷³ The form for the "Summary of Number and Utilization of Prisoners at Auschwitz II Concentration Camp" report showed a stamp at the bottom with the legend "WVHA-D-II-2-43."

but also appeared regularly in all preserved reports, as one may infer from the following table:

Date 1944	Inpatients		Invalids	
	Men's Camp	Women's Camp	Men's Camp	Women's Camp
Jan. 15	3,649		840 ^a	
Jan. 31	2,518		278 ^b	
Feb. 15	3,159		275 ^b	
Apr. 03	/	5,358		282 ^b
Apr. 20	3,056		64	
May 03	4,155		47	
May 11	3,934		50	
May 14	3,908		50	
May 15	3,905	4,409	50	222
June 05		3,853		222 ^b
June 19		3,759		227 ^b
June 30		3,760		233 ^b
July 28	2,450		135	
July 29	2,390		135	
July 30	2,410		135	
Aug. 01	2,431		135	
Aug. 02	2,409		135	
Aug. 03	2,379		135	
Aug. 04	2,391		135	
Aug. 05	2,345		135	
Aug. 06	2,359		135	
Aug. 07	2,345		135	
Aug. 08	2,356		135	
Aug. 09	2,428		135	
Aug. 10	2,420		135	
Aug. 11	2,409		140	
Aug. 12	2,375		138	
Aug. 13	2,409		148	
Aug. 14	2,451		148	
Aug. 15	2,442		148	
Aug. 16	2,419		132	
Aug. 17	2,447		132	
Aug. 18	2,477		133	
Aug. 19	2,445		133	
Aug. 21	2,443		133	
Aug. 22	2,458		133	
Aug. 23	2,427		133	
Aug. 24	2,397		133	
Aug. 25	2,331		133	
Aug. 26	2,369		133	
Aug. 27	2,344		133	
Aug. 28	2,400		133	
Aug. 29	2,387		133	
Aug. 30	2,407		133	
Sep. 07	2,226		133	
Oct. 01		1,869 ^c		42 ^d
Oct. 02		1,869 ^c		42

Month	Camp Strength	Number Sick	Clinic
May 43	4,000	380	500
June 43	4,000	380	500
July 43	5,000	350	600
Aug. 43	6,000	400	600
Sep. 43	6,400	400	620
Oct. 43	6,600	450	600
Nov. 43	6,400	500	670
Dec. 43	7,000	800	650
Jan. 44	7,000	970	600
Feb. 44	7,000	900	700
Mar. 44	7,800	880	800
Apr. 44	7,200	950	600
May 44	9,200	800	850
June 44	10,100	880	1,200
July 44	10,100	800	1,100
Aug. 44	11,500	820	1,300
Sep. 44	10,100	850	1,120
Oct. 44	9,800	700	1,040
Nov. 44	10,600	900	1,080
Dec. 44	10,500	1,120	950

4.2. Patient Statistics of the Quarantine Camp

Those patients staying in the quarantine camp were reported in a monthly statistical report, of which the pages for the period from May through September as well as parts of October 1944 survive. Each page has a column in which the various illnesses are tallied; on each line appears the day of the month, forming a line for each day; at each intersection of a day line with a column for an illness, the number of prisoners with said illness on that day is entered.¹⁷⁵ The following illnesses are covered in the statistical report:

Cellulitis, abscesses, peri-arthritis, surgical cases, dermatitis, edema, grippe, bronchitis, bronchial pneumonia, pneumonia, pleurisy, cardiac, kidney, liver, stomach, diarrhea, rheumatism, nerves, stomatitis, eyes, ear, typhus, abdominal typhus, paratyphus, suspected typhus, dysentery, suspected dysentery, malaria, suspected malaria, impetigo, psoriasis, scarlet fever, diphtheria, syphilis, gonorrhoea, measles, glans inflammation, mumps, confirmed tuberculosis, clinical tuberculosis, suspected tuberculosis, pleuritic tuberculosis, glandular tuberculosis, scabies, fatigue, recovering.

At the end of the register, the inpatients, divided into “Aryans” and “Jews,” are reported on the back side of the page;¹⁷⁶ the caption “Depot” follows, of which it is not clear to what it refers, as well as the patients

¹⁷⁵ AGK, OB, 383, p. 3. See DOCUMENT 40.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 10. See DOCUMENT 41.

with infectious diseases—again separated between Aryans and Jews—and finally again the caption “Depot.”

The number of surgical cases totaled 747; they fell among the various months as follows:

May 1944:	153	August 1944:	243
June 1944:	25	September 1944:	318
July 1944:	77	October 1944:	8

The following table shows the data pertaining to the inpatients:

Day	May	June	July	August	September
1	1,331	749	569	473	580
2	1,301	763	569	494	589
3	1,050	769	535	483	589
4	1,043	753	518	477	590
5	1,056	740	514	476	550
6	1,056	736	507	482	546
7	1,053	730	503	477	555
8	1,047	721	503	500	549
9	1,048	727	501	567	547
10	1,037	720	499	569	551
11	1,013	741	496	569	551
12	1,007	703	493	570	552
13	1,009	696	488	584	574
14	949	686	484	585	564
15	920	679	481	582	578
16	909	673	480	574	586
17	880	667	476	574	566
18	870	570	473	575	570
19	869	559	471	564	361
20	857	556	502	563	370
21	854	539	498	561	398
22	842	541	496	573	404
23	827	542	492	583	408
24	808	538	489	587	408
25	816	485	491	590	394
26	819	578	494	589	404
27	810	565	493	586	403
28	779	562	488	574	409
29	769	?	477	577	409
30	759	?	476	578	416
31	755	—	474	578	—

4.3. Registration and Transfer of Sick Prisoners

Contrary to the assertions of orthodox historiography, patients taken into the hospitals of Auschwitz-Birkenau underwent no such thing as “Selection for the gas chambers,” but rather those transferred to the camp were, after successful treatment, registered in the usual way, while many previously interned in Auschwitz were transferred to other camps. Even Czech admits as much, as we will soon see. Here, a number of conspicuous examples:

1) On October 30, 1942 SS *Obersturmführer* Heinrich Schwarz, Head of Department IIIa (Labor Deployment) in Auschwitz sent the following radio message to Main Office DII of the *WVHA* (Labor Deployment of Prisoners):¹⁷⁷

“The 499 prisoners transferred from Dachau arrived here on Oct. 29, 42. The prisoners are in the worst shape imaginable, infirm—walking skeletons. Perhaps one third will be fit to work after 14 days of rehabilitation. The prisoners are totally unsuitable for the Buna contingent. 50 of this group have useful trades and 162 are without skills, as well as 287 farm laborers.

On Oct. 30, 42 186 prisoners arrived from Ravensbrück. Their physical shape is better than that of the transport from Dachau. 128 of this group have useful trades and 58 without skills.”

486 of the prisoners transferred from Dachau Concentration Camp were registered with the prisoner numbers 71275 to 71760; the arrivees from Ravensbrück received the numbers 71841 to 72026 (Czech 1989, p. 328).

2) 163 prisoners from Buchenwald Concentration Camp came to Auschwitz on November 29, 1942, who were taken into camp custody under the numbers 78577-78739. On December 5, the camp doctor of Auschwitz Concentration Camp sent the camp headquarters a letter with the following content:¹⁷⁸

“The 163 prisoners from Weimar-Buchenwald who were intended for the Central Construction Office and presumably were to be used as masons were examined on Dec. 4, 1942 by the camp doctor and found to be in the conditions listed by their names in the enclosure.”

A list of the prisoners with their registration number, surname, given name, as well as doctor’s diagnosis was enclosed with the letter.¹⁷⁹ The diagnoses are summarized as follows in the left margin of the letter:¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁷ APMO, D-AuI-3a/11, *Arbeitseinsatz*, p. 102.

¹⁷⁸ RGVA, 502-1-68, p. 100. See DOCUMENT 42.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 101-103.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 100.

“† [Died]	18
<i>Hospitalized</i>	19
<i>Incapable of or unqualified for work</i>	12
<i>Infirmity</i>	42
<i>Capable of working</i>	72
	163.”

This indicates that, of the 163 registered, therefore regularly received, prisoners, only 72, or 44%, were fit for work. On December 7, Maurer, head of Office Group D (Labor Deployment) of the *WVHA*, informed the commandant of Buchenwald of this.¹⁸¹

3) Under the date of March 14, 1943, Czech wrote (1989, pp. 440f.):

“The numbers 108413 to 108454 include 42 prisoners with pulmonary tuberculosis who are transferred from CC Ravensbrück to CC Auschwitz per order of the head of Office Group D of the WVHA.”

4) On April 13, 1943 the “camp doctor of Branch Camp Buna” (Monowitz) submitted a report on the medical examination of 658 prisoners who arrived on April 10 from CC Mauthausen-Gusen. Among other things, it stated:¹⁸²

“The health condition of the new admittees was inordinately bad. Not merely that a great part of the prisoners of this transport were sick for weeks with diarrhea, but actually that almost all prisoners of the transport suffer from severe diarrhea. 98 prisoners had to be designated as infirm, as to 40 of whom the infirmity had progressed so far that the possibility of attaining the capability to work cannot be anticipated in the foreseeable future. 51 prisoners who cannot become able to work in Branch Camp Buna in the prescribed time were therefore instantly transferred to the Prisoners’ Infirmary at the Auschwitz Main Camp. Positive indications of tuberculosis were observed in 6 prisoners. These also had to be transferred to the Auschwitz Prisoners’ Infirmary.

154 prisoners had respiratory illnesses, above all bronchitis and pharyngitis, of whom a part had to be admitted immediately into the Prisoners’ Infirmary for treatment.

17 prisoners were diagnosed with scabies. These are still in treatment.

Other serious illnesses as well as bodily ailments were found:

17 prisoners with asthmatic bronchitis,
1 prisoner “ middle-ear inflammation
1 “ “ inflamed bladder
4 “ “ bacterial skin infections
3 “ “ hernia
7 “ “ scoliosis, of which 3 severe
4 “ “ malformed hand
2 “ “ clubfoot

¹⁸¹ NO-1935.

¹⁸² RGVA, 502-1-68, pp. 96f. See DOCUMENT 43.

1	“	“	<i>disabled right hand</i>
1	“	“	<i>short right leg</i>
1	“	“	<i>short right forearm</i>
1	“	“	<i>stiff left forearm</i>
1	“	“	<i>fracture of the right upper arm</i>
1	“	“	<i>ruptured meniscus</i>
1	“	“	<i>inflammation of knee joint</i>
2	“	“	<i>dactylitis</i>
1	“	“	<i>herpes zoster</i>

The poor health condition of the new arrivees is shown by the following summary:

<i>Required to be admitted to Auschwitz Prisoners' Infirmary because of illness as well as weakness</i>	51
<i>Required to be admitted to Prisoners' Infirmary immediately or within one day after provision to Buna</i>	33
<i>Died of infirmity (of which one in transit)</i>	2
<i>Consigned to recuperation in barracks because of illness as well as infirmity</i>	25
<i>Total unfit for work on arrival</i>	111 = 17%

The average age of the prisoners is 39 years.

Because the Buna Prisoners' Infirmary does not have sufficient space for this many, all prisoners of this transport who are not designated as seriously ill had to be relegated to their quarters with recuperation in barracks.”

5) On May 27, 1943 the commandants of Camps Auschwitz and Lublin (Majdanek) received the following telex from SS *Obersturmführer* Arthur Liebehenschel, who at that time acted as deputy to the head of Office Group D/Concentration Camps in the *WVHA*, SS *Brigadeführer* Richard Glücks:¹⁸³

“Copy.

Telex No. 3292

Oranienburg 3292 May 27, 43 0930 -Kg-

To Commandants CC Auschwitz and CC Lublin

CC Auschwitz transfers immediately in one transport 800 malaria patients to CC Lublin. Sufficient sustenance for the journey to be included.

CC Auschwitz to provide guards, CC Lublin to report arrival.

CC Auschwitz to report departure of prisoners.

Liebehenschel, SS Ostubaf., Acting Head”

Under the date of June 3, 1943, Czech writes (1989, p. 511):

“542 male and 302 female prisoners suffering from malaria are transferred from CC Auschwitz to CC Lublin (Majdanek).”

¹⁸³ APMO, D-AuI-3a/283, p. 281. See DOCUMENT 44.

This means that the prisoners who contracted malaria were in no case consigned to death in the gas chambers, but by order of Office D of the *WVHA* were transferred to Lublin.

This corresponds fully and completely to the policy that is reflected in the above-mentioned “Quarterly Report of Health Service in CC Auschwitz I” of December 16, 1943 and states as follows (see p. 46):

“Those infected with malaria and inmates who have been treated for malaria, were transferred at the end of the reporting quarter to CC Lublin, which is free of the anopheles mosquito.”

It follows from this that the transfer of malaria patients to CC Majdanek was routine practice.

6) On July 8, 1943 the head of Department IIIa (Labor Deployment) sent a communiqué to the commandant in which the subject of “New Arrivals from CC Lublin” was addressed (Transcription: Blumental 1946, p. 140):

“Early today the prisoner transport from Lublin arrived with 1500 prisoners at about 6 o’clock, and among them were 5 dead and 2 with gunshot wounds. The prisoners were immediately bathed and disinfested and finally examined by the camp doctors in the men’s as well as the women’s camps with respect to their health and ability to work.

Of the 750 male prisoners, only 424 were found to be capable of working, while the remainder of 326 prisoners were designated as unfit for work in the planned assignment to Labor Camps Buna and Neu-Dachs. Of these 40% not-fully-fit-for-work prisoners, some must be placed in prisoners’ quarters as well as in the recovery barracks. The rest may still be used exclusively for light jobs, which however are no longer available here.

Of the 750 female prisoners, 80 prisoners were designated as unfit for work, which amounts to about 10% of the entire transport. About 10% are suffering from scabies, and of the remaining prisoners the greater part cannot to be assigned to hard labor.

Attached are a number of photos from which it can be seen in what miserable physical condition the prisoners were transferred.

As further attachment, the report of the garrison physician.”

The enclosed report of the same date stated (*ibidem*, p. 141):

“Among the 1500 prisoners (750 men and 750 women) transferred from CC Lublin on July 8, 43 a very high percentage were unfit for work.

Among the male prisoners, 49 prisoners had to be sent to the Prisoners’ Infirmary or to the recovery barracks on account of extensive infirmity, abscesses, or severe hernias. A further 277 prisoners had to stay in Camp A I because of less serious cases of infirmity, so that only 424 could be passed on to their actual destination, Labor Camp Buna. These also will become capable of the hard labor characteristic of Buna only after the prescribed quarantine time of 4 weeks.

*Of the female prisoners, 5 were dead on arrival, 2 others had gunshot wounds, 80 others are to be designated as unfit for work. These are grouped as follows: 28 prisoners 15 to 17 years of age
2 with edema
44 with more or less serious injuries to the lower extremities
5 with abscesses on their lower legs
1 with peri-arthritis.
Further, a high percentage of the female prisoners are afflicted with scabies. Still further, the overall and nutritional condition of the prisoners is such that they cannot yet be deployed fully to the work required at Auschwitz.”*

Among these 1,500 prisoners, all were Jews. Regardless of their condition, they were all registered in the camp, the men with the numbers 127913–128662, the women with the numbers 48349–49098—not one of them was “gassed” (Czech 1989, p. 540).

7) On July 11, 1943 a further exclusively Jewish transport of 1,331 prisoners from CC Lublin-Majdanek arrived in Auschwitz. The 763 men were registered with the numbers 128951–129713, the 568 women the numbers 49207–49774 (*ibidem*, p. 542). The following day the head of Department IIIa sent the following report to the camp headquarters (Blumental 1946, p. 113):

“763 male and 568 female prisoners arrived here with the prisoners’ transport of July 11, 43 from Lublin. The overall impression was better than that of the previous transport. As the medical examinations carried out have shown, the great majority could be pronounced good. Compare to the previous transport, the number of prisoners who had to be confined to quarters immediately was not reduced at all. From the enclosed photos that have been made of individual cases it is also clear and plainly to be seen that in Lublin sufficient care has not been provided as we are accustomed to doing here. – Attached 2 reports of the camp doctor and an envelope with photos.”

The first of the two reports was evidently about the males, the second about the female prisoners. I quote from both reports below, beginning with the first, submitted by the camp doctor of Camp BIb on July 11:

“Among the 763 male prisoners transferred on July 11, 43 from Lublin were:
1) 1 dead,
2) 78 in need of treatment and/or admission,
3) 65 suitable for light duty,
4) 382 suitable for hard work.”

The second report was committed to paper on the same day by Camp Doctor of the camp, SS *Untersturmführer* Werner Rohde (*ibidem*, p. 114):

“Among the 568 female prisoners transferred to BIa Birkenau from Lublin on July 11, 43 were:
1) 49 in need of treatment and/or admission,

- 2) 32 suitable for light duty,
- 3) 103 suitable for medium duty,
- 4) 384 suitable for hard work.”

In a word: the sick Jews and those incapable of work were not only not “gassed,” but rather admitted to the Prisoners’ Infirmary and even photographed to document that the inmates in Lublin were not as well looked-after as in Auschwitz!

8) Under the date of Nov. 25, 1943 Czech reported (1989, p. 663):

“It has been ordered that all prisoners in the Prisoners’ Infirmary and the recovery barracks who are sick with malaria be listed. The prisoners sick with malaria will be transferred to CC Lublin (Majdanek).”

This again reflects the policy in the “Quarterly Report ...” of December 16, 1943 cited above several times earlier.

In accordance with a directive from the garrison physician of November 25, 1943 “to all camp doctors and medical personnel of the CC,” those sick with malaria had to be noted, and the list of their names submitted each month to the garrison physician.¹⁸⁴ These lists were thus, exactly like those of Block 16 in the Quarantine Camp,¹⁸⁴ entirely the result of a “selection,” but not one that designated the “selected” for gassing.

9) On January 31, 1944 the camp doctor of the Birkenau Men’s Camp file the following “memo” (Blumental 1946, p. 75):

“Re: Transfer of 102 prisoners on 1/31, 1944 from Camp Auschwitz II to Auschwitz III (Buna).

Concerning those transferred to Buna from Stutthof, the camp doctor notes that the greater part of this transport appears unsuited, medically speaking. A majority is physically infirm, also among these are many prisoners suffering from varicose veins, fractures, etc.

Since the department for labor deployment needs these workers, they were transferred anyway.”

10) Under the date March 17, 1944, Czech writes (1989, p. 740):

“The numbers 175134 to 175155 include 22 prisoners who were provided from a prison in Mirau in Czechoslovakia. In the transport are 21 prisoners with tuberculosis.”

11) Finally on August 11, 1944, 212 malaria patients were transferred to CC Flossenbürg (*ibidem*, p. 847).

¹⁸⁴ APMO, Microfilm No. 1519/1. Reproduced in Strzelecka 1997b, p. 113.