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Evaluating the Files of Konrad Kittl

Initial Situation

The file inventory consists of files on compensation proceedings for "bodily injury or damage to health" under the Federal Compensation Act (BEG). The proceedings were conducted by the Munich lawyer Konrad Kittl in the 1950s/1960s. The vast majority of claimants - as it turned out over time - came from Eastern Europe, around 90 from the German Reich. The Eastern European claimants mostly emigrated to the USA or Israel at the end of the 1940s, while the German claimants emigrated between 1933 and 1939. In the 1950s and 1960s, they instructed lawyers there to seek compensation. They in turn instructed lawyers such as Konrad Kittl in the Federal Republic of Germany to conduct the proceedings.

Konrad Kittl gradually handed over the files to the archive around 2010.

Approximately half of the files were stored as individual files

- in hanging file cabinets, sorted alphabetically according to the claimants' surnames.
- in 24 removal boxes, pre-sorted alphabetically according to the claimants' surnames, the pages belonging to a file summarised in a loose-leaf binder.
- The boxes with the letters A-E had already been processed (i.e. metallic objects were removed), but not even a list of the claimants' names had been created.

In total, there were far more than 1500 individual case files ranging in size from a few to more than 200 pages.

The first tasks to be carried out included

- remove metallic components such as staples/paperclips (total quantity almost 1.3 kg, sometimes 5 staples were used on two pages...).
- to repack the files from the moving boxes into archive boxes and store them in a cupboard; the files in the hanging file cabinets remained there after being recorded.
- data from the files for the purpose of later import into the Faust archive database.

I started my work as a volunteer at the end of 2015. In the archive I had the opportunity to choose between two tasks, one was to record and evaluate the files and the other was to work on an exhibition project: I chose the files because I was very interested in the content. However, I then also worked on the exhibition project in order to complete it on time.

I myself had no idea whatsoever about the content of the files or the course of compensation proceedings under the Bundesentschädigungsgesetz (BEG). Initially, there were no plans to publish or analyse the files in any way, which later led to a lot of extra work.

Developments during the evaluation

Presentation of the accounts

The initial aim was to record the names and individual biographical data, see section ["Extensions..."](#). Very soon, the idea to publish the descriptions of the claimants' fates of persecution. I saw and still see the sometimes very moving descriptions of the persecution as a supplement to the interviews with contemporary witnesses; the large number of accounts depict all possible fates of persecution.

Some of the accounts are very detailed and describe the entire persecution, while many claimants describe individual events that were very distressing for them (murder of relatives, experiences during the flight, experiences on death marches, experiences in camps) only.

The additional information that may be available in the files (e.g. exact dates of imprisonment) as well as documents relating to an applicant that can be accessed on the internet from various archives ultimately led to the decision to compile detailed biographies for more than 30 claimants to date. More are planned.

Details from statements from claimants for whom I have not found any additional documents on the Internet or detailed information in the files themselves serve to illustrate the situation in ghettos, forced labour camps and concentration camps. The excerpts of statements from around 90 claimants were used for this purpose.

The site about Vilnius was created because some of the almost 20 claimants had written very detailed accounts and further information on them was available from other archives. Some of the claimants had lost relatives who had been murdered in Ponary, others survived as members of HKP 652 (Heeres-Kraftfahr-Park 562, Major Plagge). The Baltic camps and the sea transports to Stutthof and Neustadt were also new to me. A psychiatric report based on interviews with clients provides a very detailed description of the sea transport from Stutthof to Neustadt.

Extensions to the recorded data

The first questions related to the data that should be recorded per file. There were no specifications (apart from the name). At the beginning, I myself lacked any knowledge about the proceedings

themselves and, of course, about the expected content of the files. In addition, not all files contained all possible types of documents and data, so that I only had a complete overview after processing around 200 files.

One example: Although all the proceedings were about compensation for "damage to body and health", after some time the fate of the claimants could be divided into different categories:

- German Jews who emigrated between 1933 and 1939, preferably to Palestine
- Jews who had spent the entire period of persecution in ghettos or camps
- Jews who were able to flee and lived their lives in "illegality" (i.e. hidden by the Christian population or hiding in the woods)
- Jews who fled to Russian-occupied territory at the end of 1939 and returned to occupied Germany around 1946.

Initially, this information was not recorded by me.

Another example: Persecuted persons were eligible to apply if they were on "1 January 1947 ... in a DP camp within the scope of this law" or who belonged to the "deutschen Sprach- und Kulturkreis" (roughly who belonged to the „German linguistic and cultural group", i.e. were living in a region, where the population was predominantly German and they had adopted German culture. Such data also had to be added. I only realised the significance of this when Prof. Jose Brunner, Tel Aviv, asked me about cases in which the „German linguistic and cultural group" criterion played a role.

Other information that was not recorded included, for example, the responsible compensation offices or the maiden names of female claimants.

This ultimately led to a multiplication of the amount of data recorded and the need to rework the data records of initially processed files. With increasing knowledge of the content, possible evaluation scenarios gradually emerged, e.g.

- Countries of origin
- mentioned ghettos, forced labour and concentration camps,
- Mentioned forced labour
- Number of people imprisoned in a particular ghetto/camp
- Age distribution

In order to enable such analyses, the data had to be prepared accordingly and stored in the data records. This also meant subsequent revision of data records that had already been recorded.

A list of documents in the file containing essential information about the applicant was also only included later. These are, for example, application forms, affidavits, ITS information, expert opinions, etc. Such documents with essential information are not always contained in the files and are listed here. Other documents that are contained in practically all files (e.g. powers of attorney, letters opening proceedings, communication from lawyers about the proceedings) are not listed here.

Description of the compensation process

After analysing some files, I studied the Federal Compensation Act (Bundesentschädigungsgesetz, BEG) in order to familiarise myself with the different types of claims and to become familiar with the problems discussed (e.g. cut-off dates, significance of the length of stay in a concentration camp). I only gradually gained an idea of the actual course of proceedings through the correspondence I received from Konrad Kittl with his colleagues in Israel and the USA and his correspondence with the compensation offices.

This was also associated with the realisation of when which documents were created and which persons and institutions from Germany and abroad may have been involved in the proceedings. Two files contained hectographed lists of documents to be provided, sent by the compensation offices, were very helpful in this respect. One list concerned the documents required for proceedings for "injury to body or health", another contained the documents to be submitted in the case of proceedings for "injury to liberty". Both lists can be viewed on the website.

On the page <<https://kittl.arbeiterarchiv.de>> I later described the course of a procedure based on the information in the files and listed the persons and offices involved.

Documents contained in the files

The scope of the files varies greatly. Not every file contains all the documents required for an application.

The documents that initially impressed me the most were undoubtedly the descriptions of the fate of persecution by the claimants. I thought about publishing these statements relatively early on.

These descriptions varied in detail and I tried to mark particularly detailed or interesting explanations in the data set with exclamation marks (!, !!!, !!!). This was not followed through,

partly because I had not clearly defined the criteria for such a categorisation and the allocation was rather arbitrary.

With the increasing number of files collected, I realised that many other documents provided information about the fate of the victims before, during and after the persecution. The files may contain application forms, affidavits from claimants and witnesses, enquiries from compensation offices, file extracts with information from earlier proceedings, information from the Arolsen International Tracing Service, expert reports, correspondence, decisions from the compensation offices, documents relating to court proceedings with corresponding details. An overview of all types of documents found can be found in the appendix.

Data contained in the files

The data contained in the documents are e.g.

- Dates of imprisonment (period and place) in ghettos, forced labour camps, concentration camps from previous proceedings for damage to liberty
- Details of the forced labour to be performed
- Information on life before the war (marital status, education, possible occupation, place and street of residence, income)
- Information on life after persecution (displaced persons camp, country and date of emigration and means of transport (name of ship/airplane), marital status/occupation/income at the time of application)

See appendix for an overview of the data included.

Developments in the content of the data records

I chose a spreadsheet programme as the storage medium, as I found a database too complex. In addition, subsequent changes are easier to make, and because of my background in IT, I could easily create scripts (i.e. UNIX/LINUX shell scripts) to analyse the data. At first there were two tables, one for the "moving boxes/cupboard location", then later one for the "hanging file location". These two tables were later combined into one file. The result can be found at <https://kittl.arbeiterarchiv.de> (accessed 31.12.2023).

Since my main focus was on the experiences of the claimants during the persecution, only the following information was initially included in the data set:

- Surname, first name,

- Date of birth, place of birth,
- Places of detention (ghettos, forced labour and concentration camps with date), insofar as these are evident from the files
- From my point of view, special information (statements on the procedure/behaviour of clerks, etc.)

. In the course of time, however, more were added:

- Compensation offices, duration of proceedings: In retrospect, it was particularly important to specify the compensation offices. This allows you to quickly find out, without having to consult Kittl's files, which offices/archives you need to ask to see the original files in order to obtain additional information about the claimants.
- Life before the persecution (not yet complete)
- Education/training, professions (incomplete)
- Fate of persecution (imprisonment, illegal, i.e. escape and life in hiding until liberation, emigration, escape to the USSR/"Russian cases")
- Type of forced labour (e.g. tailoring, coal/copper mines, munitions factories, road/railway construction, ...)
- Birth names. When researching other archives (Arolsen Archives, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), the claimants are often only found under their maiden names, as they were still children or adolescents at the time of the persecution.
- Stations after the war (displaced person camps, destination of emigration)
- Selection of documents contained (e.g. application forms, file extracts from previous proceedings of the applicant, affidavit of the applicant/witnesses, certificates, expert opinions, court documents ...). The files are of varying depth.
- Entitled to receive compensation on the basis of belonging to the German language and culture group
- References on the Internet

For a list of frequently used documents and their contents, see the appendix.

Examples of the development of data records (screenshots)

2015 ff

Unfortunately, I no longer have any examples.

Status 2017

Name	Typ	Schaden	Stationen	Besonderheiten
Typ: 1-Ghetto/Arbeitslager/KZ, 2 – Flucht und Verstecken, 3: Russland, 4 Flucht nach Israel, 5 Enteignung und Emigration; Schaden: 1- Leben, 2 - Körper und Gesundheit, 3 – Freiheit, 4 – Eigentum und Vermögen, 5- Beruflichen Fortkommen und Ausbildung, 6 – wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen, 7- Härteausgleich				
Abelson, Anna	1	2	21. 10. 1917 Lublin. 193943 Ghetto Warschau, Flucht, Israel	EE!
Abramowicz, Reizla	1	2	20.12.1920 Piotrkow/P. 39-? ZAL Piotrkow, 8/42 Auschwitz, 8/43 ZAL Płyszyn (Blizyn?), -21.1.45 Auschwitz	ITS: Auschwitz # A-15685 vergeben 31.7.1944 Transport RSHA aus Blizyn, Auschwitz gdnkst. Kennt nummer 15685, aber keinen Namen, nur Photo
Abramowicz, Szaja	?	2	19.3.1912 Piotrkow/P	Kwa 39-45
Abulatia, Bela	1 / 2	2	27.12.1926 Sosnowitz	kwA
Adalbert, Samuel				
Adler, Henry	1 / 2	2	30.3.1922 Jaslo/P. 40 Flghfn Krosno, Dukla, Jedlitz, Reichshof, 43 Plaszow (Bahnhof, Ladearbeiten), 11/43Szebnie?, 11/43 Pustkow/Tarnow, 7/44 Auschwitz -Laurahütte A17857 (Munitionsfabrik, Mauthausen-Gusen, Hannover (Hanomag, Waffenprod), Bergen-Belsen	EE!!! pustkow:2911 (denkmal), Laurahütte 3279 (denkmal), Hannover-Mühlenberg 911 (denkmal), vermutlich 5.2.45 von Laurahütte nach Hannover, etwas andere Angaben 39-45 bei ushmm, link zu oralhistory!
Adler, Reuben	1	2	24.11.1909 Koinski/P. 8/40-8/43 Ghetto Radom, 8/43-7/44 ZAL Radom, 7/44-8/44 ZAL Tomaschowatz, 8/44 Auschwitz, 8/44-4/45 KZ Vaihingen	Bericht über Mißhandlungen, EE!, Zeugenaussagen!

Data collection, status 2017/Archive of the Munich Labour Movement e.V.

Status 2018

Name	Typ	Schaden	Stationen	Besonderheiten	Dokumente	EA/Dauer
Typ: 1-Ghetto/Arbeitslager/KZ, 2 – Flucht und Verstecken, 3: Russland, 4 Flucht nach Israel, 5 Enteignung und Emigration; Schaden: 1- Leben, 2 - Körper und Gesundheit, 3 – Freiheit, 4 – Eigentum und Vermögen, 5- Beruflichen Fortkommen und Ausbildung, 6 – wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen, 7- Härteausgleich						
Abramowitsch, Jekutiel	1 / 2	2	22.6.1907 Schadowa/Lit. sommer 1941. Juli 1944 Ghetto Schaulen, Flucht	Bemerkung: mit Vergleich von 1962 sind sämtliche Schäden abgegolten. Schlussgesetz.	B-Bogen, Kurze EE, Gerichtsurteile, Regeln für Zweitverfahren	Darmstadt 1963-1974
Adler, Gusta			31.8.1914 Szarow/Polen.	Unglaubliche Zeugen für Verfolgung		Köln 1966-
Adler, Hermann		2	15.12.1916 Zynierka.	Widerspruch Ablehnung, Verfahren ruht. Kwä		
Adler, Jeanette	1 / 2	2	25.8.1925 Radom 1941 Ghetto Radom (Lederfabrik, Schneiderwerkstatt, später 8 Mon. KZ Pionczi (Trennung von Familie, Munitionsfabrik), 2 Tage Auschwitz (#A14827), Auschwitz-Hindenburg (Eisengießerei), 1/45-15.3.45 Bergen-Belsen (Leichen aufräumen), Stuttgart, 1949 USA.	1961 mangels Mitwirkung eingestellt, Versuch d. Wiederaufnahme, Schreiben Kittl: "Unleserliches Attest", Pionczi kommt czi in KZ-Liste? Ablehnung, Klage, bis BGH, Versuch Zweitbescheid zu erlangen, abgelehnt.	EE, B-Bogen, Zeugenaussagen, Atteste,	Stuttgart 1964-1975
Adler, Martin	1 / 2	2	8.3.1914 Wolowe/CSR. Theresienstadt 3/42-5/44, 5/44-1/45 Auschwitz, 1/45-4/45 Bergen-Belsen; usa	früher Wiedermann, David. Problem: Es gibt mehrere Wiedermanns. Geb. 1919/1923. Er ist der 1919er. Erklärung liegt bei. Haft 1960. Problem: Dünne Krankenakte. Vergleich.	Schreiben US-Justizministeriums, Zeugenaussagen, EE,	Hannover 1964-1969
Albert, Leon	1	2	9/42-5/44 ZAL Kielce, 5/44-6/44 ZAL Pionki, 6/44-5/45 Auschwitz, Mauthausen, Gunzkirchen	AS wechselte von Urq zu Kestenberg? Akten wurden im Mordfall „Wollschläger“ benutzt? Gutachterkrieg, Vergleich		Darmstadt 1969-1974
Amsterdamer, Moses	5	2	5.10.1921 Frankfurt/Main. 1933 n. Palästina emigriert	Hinweis auf Fristversäumnis. Sohn von Amsterdamer, Zeey? Ablehnung nach Begutachtung, Klagen, Gegengutachtrn etc. LG-OLG-BGH-OLG, Vergleich. Schönes Beispiel! RA-Wechsel Israel? Garb?	B-Bogen, Bescheide, Gerichtsurteile	Wiesbaden 1965-1984
Amsterdamer, Salomon	5	2	12.1.1924 Frankfurt/Main. Emigration Sommer 1933	Familie Amsterdamer. Ablehnung 1966 (Begr. Ablehnung eines ersten Antrags abgele. Aus jur. Gründen, nicht medizinischen), Klage, LG, OLG, BGH, Antrag Zweitbescheid 1972. Probleme: Ärzte verstorben, Unterlagen der Krankenkasse muss vom Ea via Medical Board angefordert werden. Zweitantrag abgelehnt, Klage, LG/OLG,	Sämtlichen relevanten Schriftstücke.	Wiesbaden 1965-1983
Arie, Maurice	1	2	22.1.1923 Czernowitz, 6/1941 Edinetz, 7/41 Ghetto Edinetz, 10/41 Todesmarsch nach Attacki, 10/41 Ghetto Moghilew, 3/44 Befreiung.	Mandatwechsel URQ – Kittl – URQ – URQ – Schlomiuk Fm.	Aktenauszug, handschriftliche Beauftragung Kittls durch AS, Schreiben zur Überprüfung d. Sukk. Direkter Schriftverkehr mit AS	Neustadt 1963 -1968

Data collection, status 2018/Archive of the Munich Labour Movement e.V., Documents, compensation office added

Status 2023

Typ: 1-Ghetto/Arbeitslager/KZ, 2 – Flucht und Verstecken, 3: Russland, 4 Flucht nach Israel, 5 Enteignung und Emigration; Schaden: 1- Leben, 2 - Körper und Gesundheit, 3 – Freiheit, 4 – Eigentum und Vermögen, 5- Beruflichen Fortkommen und Ausbildung, 6 – wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen, 7- Härteausgleich							
Hinweis : <u>zal/kz/ghetto</u> : klein geschriebene Bezeichnungen bedeuten, dass ich die angegebenen Orte nicht finden konnte. <u>ZAL</u> : Zwangsarbeitslager, <u>EE</u> : Eidesstattliche Erklärung, <u>ZA</u> : Zeugenaussagen, Hinweis: Es sind bei weitem nicht alle Dokumente aufgelistet. Die Unterlagen enthalten u.a. oft Vollmachten, Korrespondenzen der Anwälte untereinander, Korrespondenzen mit dem Entschädigungsamt, Atteste, im Falle von <u>Gerichtsverfahren</u> Anträge von <u>Kittl</u> , Anträge des <u>Entschädigungsamtes</u> , <u>Berufungsanträge</u> , <u>Urteile</u> etc.							
Abelson, Anna	1	221.10.1917	Lublin/Polen;	1939-1943 Ghetto Warschau, Flucht	Israel	EE! Zeugenaussage 1962	EE, Zeugenaussage Xxx 1962?
Abramowicz, Reizla	1	20.12.1920	Piotrkow- 2/Trybunalski/Polen;	1939-? ZAL Piotrkow-Trybunalski, 8/1942 KZ Auschwitz, 8/1943 ZAL Bliżyn („Płyszyn“), -21.1.45 KZ Auschwitz		ITS: Auschwitz # A-15685 vergeben 31.7.1944 Transport RSHA aus Bliżyn, Auschwitz <u>gdnst</u> . Kennt nummer 15685, aber keinen Namen, nur Phokwa 39-45	
Abramowicz, Szaja	?	219.3.1912	Piotrkow/Polen;	-		Bemerkung: mit Vergleich von 1962 sind sämtliche Schäden abgegolten. Schlussgesetz.	B-Bogen, Kurze EE, Gerichtsurteile, Regeln für Zweiverfahren Darmstadt 1963-1974
Abramowitsch, Jekutiel	2	222.6.1907	Schadawa/Litauen;	Sommer 1941. Juli 1944 Ghetto Schaulen, Flucht			
Abulatia, Bela	2	227.12.1926	Sosnowitz/Polen;	-		<u>kwA</u>	
Adalbert, Samuel	?	00.00.0000	fehlt/fehlt;	-			
Adler, Gusta		31.8.1914	Szarow/Polen;	-		<u>gung</u>	Köln 1966-
Adler, Henry	1	230.3.1922	Jaslo/Polen;	1940 ZAL Krosno (A: Flugplatz), ZAL Dukla, ZAL Jedlitz, ZAL Reichshof, 1943 ZAL Piaszow (A: Bahnhof, Ladearbeiten), 11/1943 ZAL Szebnjiz, 11/43 ZAL Pustkow, 7/1944 KZ Auschwitz/Laurahütte A17857 (A: Munitionsfabrik), KZ Mauthausen/Gusen, KZ Neuengamme/Hannover (Hanomag, <u>Waffenprod</u>), KZ Bergen-Belsen		EE!!! pustkow:2911 (denkmal), Laurahütte 3279 (denkmal), Hannover-Mühlenberg 911 (denkmal), vermutlich 5.2.45 von Laurahütte nach Hannover, etwas andere Angaben 39-45 bei us-hmm, interview! Arolsen Archives: <u>DC Registration records</u>	Aktenauszug, EE Stuttgart 1964
Adler, Hermann	1	215.12.1916	Zymierenska/fehlt;	-		Widerspruch Ablehnung, Verfahren ruht. <u>Kwa</u>	
Adler, Jeanette	1	225.8.1925	Radom/Polen;	1941 Ghetto Radom (A: Lederfabrik, Schneidewerkstatt, später 8 Mon. ZAL Pionki (A: Munitionsfabrik) Trennung von Familie, 2 Tage KZ Auschwitz (#A14827), KZ Auschwitz/Hindenburg (A: Eisen gießerei), 1/1945-15.3.1945 KZ Bergen-Belsen (A: „Leichen aufräumen“).	Stuttgart, 1949 USA.	1961 mangels Mitwirkung eingestellt, Versuch d. Wiederaufnahme, Schreiben Kittl: „Unleserliches Attest“, Kommt Puonki („Pioncki“) in KZ-Liste? Ablehnung, Klage, bis BGH, Versuch Zweitescheid zu erlangen, abgelehnt.	EE, B-Bogen, Zeugenaussagen, Atteste, Stuttgart 1964-19/b
Adler, Martin	1	28.3.1914	Wolove/CSR;	3/1942-5/1944 KZ Theresienstadt, 5/1944-1/1945 KZ Auschwitz, 1/1945-4/45 KZ Bergen-Belsen,	USA	früher Wiedemann, David. Problem: Es gibt mehrere Wiedemanns, geb 1919/1923. Er ist der 1919er. Erklärung liegt bei . Haft 1960. Problem: Dünne Krankenakte. Vergleich.	Schreiben US-Justizministeriums, Zeugenaussagen, EE, Hannover 1964-1969
Adler, Reuben	1	24.11.1909	Koinski/Polen;;; 2+5.3.2008;	dom, 7/44-8/44 zal Tomaszowatz, 8/44 KZ Auschwitz, 8/44-4/45 KZ Natzweiler/Vaihingen #25413		ITS T/D 267 838 http://www.landesar-chiv-bw.de/plink/?f=2-5372776	Aktenauszug, Kurze EE, Zeugenaussage Stuttgart 1964, ES A 6404 (0)
Adler, Sichy	2	200.00.0000	fehlt/fehlt;	-			
Agres, Miriam	?	19.12.1922	Köln/Deutschland;	-	Fragment		
Ahren, Nosh	1	210.10.1925	Mlawo/Polen;	-			
Aizenberg, Vera	1	15.7.1926	Wilna/Litauen;geb 2/Glebmann;	41 Ghetto Wilna, 9/43 KZ Vajvara/Vivikonna, KZ Vajvara/Ereda, KZ Vajvara/Lagedi, KZ Stuthof, KZ Neuengamme/Hamburg-Ochsenzoll, KZ Bergen-Belsen,	USA	EE vor Notar NY	EE, Zeugenaussage 1962 Xxx 1962?
Ajalon, Elimelech	?	00.00.0000	fehlt/fehlt;	-			
Albert, Leon	1	21.6.1915	Kielce/Polen;	4/1941-9/1942 Ghetto Kielce, 9/1942-5/1944 ZAL Kielce, 5/1944-6/1944 ZAL Pionki, 6/44-5/45 KZ Auschwitz, KZ Mauthausen, KZ Mauthausen/Gunskirchen		AS wechselte von Uro zu Kestenber? Akten wurden im Mordfall „Wollschlaeger“ benutzt? <u>Gutachterkrieg</u> , Vergleich	Darmstadt: <u>Haftentschädigungak</u> te gefunden https://arcinsys.hessen.de/arcinsys/detailAction?detailid=v2167370 Darmstadt 1969-1974 +

Data collection, status 2023/Archive of the Munich Labour Movement

Example of individual data records

Status 2017:

Adler, Henry | 1 / 2 | 2 | 30.3.1922 Jaslo/P. 40 Flghfn Krosno, Dukla, Jedlitze, Reichshof, 43 Plaszow (railway station, loading work), 11/43Szebnie?, 11/43 Pustkow/Tarnow, 7/44 Auschwitz -Laurahütte A17857 (ammunition factory), Mauthausen-Gusen, Hannover (Hanomag, Waffenprod), Bergen-Belsen | EE!!!! pustkow:2911 (denkma)l, Laurahütte 3279 (denkmal), Hannover-Mühlenberg 911 (denkmal), probably 5.2.45 from Laurahütte to Hannover, slightly different details 39-45 at ushmm, link to oralhistory!

Field separator: "|"

Status 2023:

Adler, Henry | 1 | 2 | 30.3.1922 Jaslo/Poland; | 1940 ZAL Krosno (A: airfield), ZAL Dukla, ZAL Jedlitze, ZAL Reichshof, 1943 ZAL Plaszow (A: railway station, loading work), 11/1943 ZAL Szebnie, 11/43 ZAL Pustkow, 7/1944 KZ Auschwitz/Laurahütte A17857 (A. ammunition factory), KZ Mauthausen/Gusen, KZ Neuengamme/Hannover (A: Hanomag, weapons production), KZ Neuengamme/Hanover (A: Hanomag, weapons production),(A: ammunition factory), Mauthausen/Gusen concentration camp, Neuengamme/Hanover concentration camp (A: Hanomag, weapons production), Bergen-Belsen concentration camp | | EE!!! pustkow:2911 (denkma)l, Laurahütte 3279 (denkmal), Hannover-Mühlenberg 911 (denkmal), probably 5.2.45 from Laurahütte to Hannover, slightly different details 39-45 at ushmm, interview! Arolsen Archives: DP Registration records | file extract, EE | Stuttgart 1964

Field separator: "|", standardisation of concentration camp name/secondary camp, standardisation of description of forced labour: (A: Forced labour), standardisation of forced labour camp: ZAL

Further data

Soon after I started recording, I searched other archives and databases as well as the Internet for information on the respective applicant, so

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database. Here you will find mainly documents from the ghetto administrations, as well as references to interviews
- Arolsen Archives: Imprisonment and post-war documents
- Databases of the state archives on compensation files: possibly date of death.

- Judicial files (such as the judgement in the trial against the camp leader of the Helmbrechts camp, Alois Dörr)
- The pages on the Auschwitz trial, see the biography of Boris Piekny.
- The website of the Leo Baeck Institute, see the biography of Hermann Pineas
- Yad Vashem Deportation Database
- Further pages on individual persons, partly created by private persons, partly by institutions, e.g. at Wolfgang Krautwirth

The corresponding data was later included in the data records. Some data would still be interesting to include:

- Gender (only indirectly via the maiden name)
- Witnesses with details of their compensation office.
- Vocational training
- Indication of whether the application was successful or rejected; reasons for rejection (e.g. damage to health not recognised/false statements/missing deadlines)

Witnesses would be interesting because they could provide additional information about the situation in a ghetto/forced labour/concentration camp in their compensation proceedings. The information would also be useful for identifying other prisoners in a ghetto/camp. At the moment, it is still necessary to search through the original file to find out the names of the witnesses and the relevant compensation office.

Scans of documents

Relatively soon after the start of the survey, I thought about publishing the experiences of the claimants. The first form of presentation I had in mind was a slide presentation with scans of the sworn statements

However, it gradually emerged that, in addition to the claimants' statements, other documents contain important information that is of interest for further research, so that the number of pages recorded also increased and pages had to be recorded retrospectively.

Another aim is to load scans into the archive's Faust database to speed up access to information that has not been included in the dataset. Such information is contained in application forms, ITS requests, etc.

In order not to slow down the file capture too much, I captured the data in the archive, scanned the claimants' affidavits and transcribed them later (aka transcribed ...) at home. OCR had a pretty poor recognition rate on most of the documents because the pages themselves were of varying quality:

- Pages created via transfer printing (pale blue font on yellow paper)
- red application forms, clamped diagonally, filled out with old blue carbon paper
- Carbon copies, made with old carbon paper
- Handwritten documents
- Poor/bleached copies on (thick) cardboard
- Only the carbon copies of letters from American lawyers were of excellent quality.

The error checking and correction of the generated text would have taken more time. Overall, only parts of documents were transcribed and transferred to the website. For space reasons, the documents are scanned as multi-page pdf files (resolution 100 dpi?). Scans of documents from more than 560 claimants are currently available.

If the TIFF format is required for saving, the documents must be scanned again.

Evaluation and evaluation problems

The data is recorded in a table. This is saved as a plain text file in csv format for analysis. Scripts programmed by me then use this text file to create the relevant analyses, e.g. origin of claimants, age distribution, ghetto/camp lists etc. In addition, a file in a format suitable for importing into the Faust database can be created from the text file using a script. A first import attempt was successful.

In order to enable the data to be analysed using scripts, the data had to be converted into a standardised form afterwards; unfortunately, I had not thought about this at the beginning of the collection. The type of designation, e.g. for ghettos, concentration camps, labour camps, places of birth etc., was initially very inconsistent.

Examples:

- Date of birth: 9.1.25 becomes 09.01.1925: facilitates/enables the compilation of statistics on the age of claimants
- Work: "Tailoring" becomes "(A: Tailoring)": allows me to create a list of the forced labour to be performed.

- Ghettos/Camps/Displaced Person Camps: "gh lodz" -> "Ghetto Lodz", "Mühldorf" -> "KZ Dachau/Mühldorf", "Dachau" -> "KZ Dachau" allows me to create a list of the mentioned Ghettos/Camps/Displaced Person Camps
- In order to be able to determine which countries the claimants came from, the country was added to the place of birth (city → city/state or written out: Chelm/P. → Chelm/Poland)
- In the files themselves, only the names of the satellite camp in which the claimants were imprisoned were given (and therefore also in the data record). In order to determine how many claimants were in which concentration camp, the names of the subcamps had to be supplemented by the concentration camp (Aurich → Neuengamme/Aurich concentration camp)
- Concentration camp names had to be labelled with "KZ": Mauthausen → KZ Mauthausen

The following, for example, were/are problematic

- Spelling of names of places: often enough the names of towns, camps etc. were given phonetically or related to the Polish/German/Russian/... names.
- Country details: for the countries of origin, I have used the information in the compensation files. However, some of them are not correct, but the corrections have not yet been made.
- Reorganisation of camps: Forced labour camps were taken over as satellite camps of concentration camps. In the files, only the location and duration of imprisonment there was stated, e.g. Grünberg April 1944 to January 1945, although around June 1944 the Grünberg forced labour camp became a subcamp of the Groß Rosen concentration camp. The relevant information still needs to be revised.

As already mentioned, new evaluation ideas emerged over time, which led to the above-mentioned changes.

Examples of analyses

Compensation offices involved:

321 Darmstadt

233 Stuttgart

93 Hanover

86 Berlin

60 Munich

58 Koblenz

32 Trier

30 Cologne

19 Wiesbaden

17 Karlsruhe

12

Age distribution (years of birth):

1880-1889: 16 claimants

1890-1899: 62 claimants

1900-1909: 153 claimants

1910-1919: 338 claimants

1920-1929: 482 claimants

1930-1939: 157 claimants

Countries of origin:

909 Poland

91 German Reich

62 CSR

50 Lithuania

40 Hungary

35

For further examples, see <<https://kittl.arbeiterarchiv.de>> (accessed 31/12/2023).

Further topics

As already mentioned, my focus was and is on the fate of persecution.

The data relating to the compensation procedure itself was not systematically recorded. This includes, among other things

- Reasons for rejection, e.g. failure to meet deadlines, lack of cooperation, unclear whereabouts on certain important dates (especially 1 January 1947), false statements
- Recording of other authorities involved (including foreign authorities such as tax offices, foreign ministries, immigration authorities, registry offices)
- Reasons for delays in the procedure (waiting for medical documents to be issued by treating doctors, waiting for documents to be translated, overload of medical officers, overload of

experts, many enquiries from the authorities, essential documents are not provided by the applicant, applicant can no longer be located due to relocation, etc.).

- Frequency of discrepancies in the assessment of the damage by the medical examiner/expert Compensation Office (Stuttgart ...)
- Frequency of court proceedings

Medical information might also be of interest, e.g. from when psychological problems were seen as a consequence of the persecution. Such issues are also dealt with in the files.

Results

There were several attempts to present the contents of the file. I started with a presentation with statements from the claimants. However, I stopped after about 150 slides. The increasing number of statements and the additional information I wanted to present meant that the format was no longer suitable.

A brochure in pdf format suffered the same fate, after 250 pages I stopped. Changes and additions were difficult to incorporate. The file had also simply become too large.

A website, on the other hand, offers far more possibilities, which is why I chose this form. The fates of persecution are presented on the website

[<https://kittl.arbeiterarchiv.de>](https://kittl.arbeiterarchiv.de)

described:

- in the form of biographies of more than 30 claimants. These were supplemented by personal documents from other archives and databases as well as maps and illustrations
- in the form of excerpts of statements from more than 90 claimants

in addition

- A description of the course of the proceedings, based on the information in the files,
- a description of the documents included
- a description of the sources for further information
- the list of claimants themselves

see also [<https://kittl.arbeiterarchiv.de/downloads.html>](https://kittl.arbeiterarchiv.de/downloads.html).

The statements of some claimants have so far been supplemented by extracts from the original files of the state compensation offices from the following archives:

- State Archives of Baden-Württemberg, Department of State Archives Ludwigsburg
- State Archives of Lower Saxony, Hanover
- State Office of Finance, Office for Restitution, Rhineland-Palatinate

The inspection of further original files is planned.

My goals when creating the website were

- To publicise the existence of the files
- Show examples of possible analyses
- Encourage others to conduct their own research and provide material for it

My aim was not to achieve a definitive presentation of the contents of the files. It was not intended to be a perfectly elaborated biography, but only suggestions for the analyses. Further research would be possible, e.g. an extended search for the claimants in the Arolsen Archives (not all documents that should be available according to ITS information can be found by searching online); search for further data on relatives; search for additional witness statements in their compensation files; search in files of the war crimes trials in which the claimants testified.

Appendix

Documents and the data they contain

1. application forms

- Application form/global application/...(initial application)
 - List of registered claims "A" to "E"
 - Ester Dimant, Josef Divinski, Sprinza Zwillich and others.
- A (damage to life)
 - Fajusewicz, Feder, Stahlman, Zwillich, Chaba
 - including details of the deceased, date of death, cause, last known whereabouts, occupation, employer, income of the deceased, details of the applicant
- B (damage to body and health)
 - Dimant, Ester; and many more. 16 scanned sheets.
 - Biographical details, damage, when suffered, medical treatment since 1945, school education, vocational training, occupation, income before persecution/professional income of parents, married, children, income now
- C (damage to freedom)
 - Mandelbaum, Abraham (1949); Chaba, Rosa; Lokaj, Jura (1966); Plotnitzki, Bracha; Wasserman, Zelman; Kallmer, Shlomo; Zwillich, Sprinza, Cudzynoski, Tola (1950), Frenkel, Max (1950), ...
 - Times and places of imprisonment, witnesses (incl. compensation office), fates of relatives, prisoner numbers. Different forms
- D (Damage to property/assets/fines and costs/special levies)
 - Rosa Chaba, Frieda Rosenberg
 - List of assets (home furnishings, household items)
- E (damage to professional advancement)
 - Michael Brysz, Aaron Scheyer, Rosa Chaba,
 - e.g. loss of income due to dismissal, discontinued (school) education)

2. notices

- A (Life)
 - Details of the deceased, compensation amount
 - Rosa Chaba, Morris Chaitowicz
- B (damage to body and health)
 - Reason, degree of reduced earning capacity, classification, pension amount, additional pension payments, lump-sum compensation
 - Morris Chaitowicz, and many more.
- C (damage to freedom)
 - Periods and places of detention, duration of detention, reasons for refusal for certain places/times specified in the application, amount of compensation
 - Eichenbrenner, Henry; Engelbert, Rosa; Frenkel, Max; Kallmer, Shlomo; Lokaj, Jura; Rubinoff, Herman; Schwebel, Ansel; Wasserman, Zelman;

3. affidavits

- Start of proceedings
 - Applicant (illnesses, history of persecution, post-war stations)
 - Witnesses (confirmation of statements, compensation office, file number of the witness's proceedings)
- Course of proceedings
 - Enquiries from authorities and courts/answers, further details
 - -Wanderman, Jakob; Gelbart, Abraham; Gleiss, Alexander; Kornitzer, Moni; Montag, Rosa; ...

4. documents on the topic "German language and culture"

- Gitla Chasman (test result)
- Mordechai Baumann (rejection)
- Comfort
- Gershon factor (expert opinion)

5. approx. 150 expertises

- History of persecution
- Post-war history
- Physical damage
- psychological damage

6. file extracts

- Detention data, partly verbatim extracts from statements from earlier proceedings
- Statements on the educational situation, e.g. persecution at school; bans on taking up an apprenticeship; language problems

7. ITS certificates

- Information request form
 - Surname, first name, date, place and name of birth, religion, nationality, occupation, last address before imprisonment, name of parents, marital status, details of imprisonment, residence after the war, date of emigration, country, last residence before emigration, ship name/flight number, current address
- Certificates of imprisonment
 - Surname, first name, date, place and name of birth, religion, nationality, occupation, last address before imprisonment, reason for imprisonment, dates of imprisonment (places, times, prisoner numbers), sources.
- Certificates of residence
 - Surname, first name, date, place and name of birth, religion, nationality, occupation, post-war stays (DP camps), sources.

- Health certificates

8. court documents

- Biographical details and persecution
- legal judgements

9. communication of the lawyers

- Discussion of the cases
- Reminders

10. communication Kittl <-> Compensation Office and others

- Opening of proceedings
- Forwarding of documents from Israel/USA to the offices
- Forwarding enquiries from the offices to claimants in the USA or Israel
- Discussion of the procedure
- various searches