

The French People in The Inmate Hierarchy of Auschwitz-Birkenau camp

Project goal:

The main purpose of the project is filling in the current research gap and taking a closer look at the phenomenon of hierarchy development in the community of camp inmates deported from France to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp and its subcamps. It serves the objective of outlining the presence of French prisoners as a separate national entity in the camp, which has not been sufficiently emphasized as far. Special attention will be devoted to the participation of French inmates in resistance movement within the camp, here understood as inmate activity such as: self-help, sabotage, activism for martyrdom commemoration. Nevertheless, it will be important to establish which labour kommandos inmates worked in and barracks they used. The final subject of the project is to record assigned duties of French inmates as compared to those held by members of other nationalities (especially Poles).

Research description:

During the implementation of this project, queries in selected archives and research institutions will be conducted. Sources will be chosen, analyzed and used to create a database. Each transport to Auschwitz and individuals assigned to the convoys will be identified. Research will be conducted on a representative group of prisoners. Figures such as date of birth, age, birthplace and place of residence at the time of arrest, number of women and men registered in the camp as well as the survival rate correlated with specific transports and the gender of prisoners will be subject of statistical analysis.

The project is designed to utilize information technology, such as Geographic Information System (GIS) or SQL (*Structured Query Language*).

Anticipated results:

As an effect of this project, the inmate hierarchy for the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp and its subcamps will be recognized and reconstructed, and the presence of French prisoners in various labour kommandos is going to be outlined. The project will contribute to identifying and distinguishing convoys with deportees and reconstructing biographies of camp survivors. The final outcome will consist of highlighting the phenomenon of coexistence between French prisoners and others deported to Auschwitz - especially Polish prisoners. The circulation of French prisoners throughout the camp will be presented on a map, with their living quarters (barracks) and period of imprisonment in the camp marked. The database created for the project will contribute to popularizing use of information technology in historical research.