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Dulag Tarnów

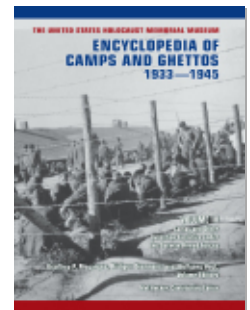
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September 1939 in the town of Schildberg (today Ostrzeszów, Poland) about 72 kilometers (44.5 miles) northeast of Wrocław (map 4c). Dulag Schildberg was probably a short-term collection camp, organized on an ad hoc basis and guarded by regular troops on temporary duty. It was also called a “prisoners’ camp” (*Gefangenenlager*). On January 6, 1940, the Germans may have converted the camp into Stalag XXI A Schildberg.

In the fall of 1939, the camp was under the control of the Eighth Army Rear Area Command (*Kommandant rückwärtiges Armeegebiet*, Korück, 558); later, it came under the authority of the Commander of Prisoners of War in Defense District XXI (*Kommandeur der Kriegsgefangenen im Webrkreis XXI*).

The camp held Polish army prisoners of war (POWs) captured by the Germans in September 1939 as well as civilians interned by the Germans because of their participation in the defense of their towns. In total, 22,000 Polish POWs and 12,000 members of the civilian population passed through the camp. The conditions in which the prisoners lived during their confinement were harsh, especially at the beginning of the camp’s existence. Because of overcrowding in the camp and an acute shortage of accommodations, newly arriving prisoners had to live in cellars or tents or even remain outdoors. The food was scanty, and medical aid was practically nonexistent (organization of a hospital did not begin until November 1939). Later on, the prisoners’ conditions of confinement improved somewhat.

In the camp, there was a constant effort to recruit civilians and POWs for work in Germany. At the same time, Polish Jewish officers were sent to special Jewish camps, while “suspectious” Poles were sent to concentration camps.

SOURCES Primary source material about Dulag Schildberg is located in the Archive of the Instytut Zachodni–Instytut Naukowo-Badawczy im. Zygmunta Wojciechowskiego, Poznań, and the Archive of the Instytut Pamięci Narodowej–Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Warsaw.

Additional information about Dulag Schildberg can be found in the following publications: Stanisław Goebel, “Oboz jeńców wojennych w Ostrzeszowie (1939–1945),” *Instytut Zachodni–Instytut Naukowo-Badawczy im. Zygmunta Wojciechowskiego w Poznaniu* (sygn. I. Z. Dok. III-81); Stanisław Rusak, “Obozy Wehrmachtu w okupowanym Ostrzeszowie i polsko-norweska pamięć o nich,” *Łambinowicki rocznik muzealny. Jeńcy wojenni w latach II wojny światowej* 34 (2011): 68–69; Stanisław Rusak and Edmund Serwański, “Ostrzeszów i jego mieszkańcy w okresie okupacji hitlerowskiej,” in *Dzieje Ostrzeszowa*, ed. Stanisław Nawrocki (Kalisz: Kaliskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk, 1990); and Edmund Serwański, *Obóz jeniecki w Ostrzeszowie 1939–1945* (Poznań: Instytut Zachodni, 1960).

Alexander Kruglov
Trans. Kathleen Luft

DURCHGANGSLAGER (DULAG) SOLDAU

Dulag Soldau, actually a temporary prisoner of war (POW) collection camp, was in existence from the end of September

until the beginning of December 1939. This was an ad hoc camp, not a regular POW camp unit. The guards were regular troops on temporary detail. It was located in Soldau (today Działdowo, Poland), about 124 kilometers (77 miles) north-northwest of Warsaw (map 4c). The Germans dissolved the camp on December 2, 1939, by transferring the prisoners to camps in Germany.

The camp was first under the control of the Third Army Rear Area Command (*Kommandant rückwärtiges Armeegebiet*, Korück, 501). Later, it was under the authority of the Commander of Prisoners of War in Defense District I (*Kommandeur der Kriegsgefangenen im Webrkreis I*).

The camp held Polish army personnel taken captive during the German invasion in September 1939, especially Polish soldiers who were captured during the defense of the city of Modlin. The Germans housed the prisoners in former barracks of the Polish 32nd Infantry Regiment. Detailed information on conditions in the camp is not available, but they are likely to have been primitive at that early stage in the war.

SOURCES Primary source material about Dulag Soldau is located in BA-MA (RH 49); WAsT Berlin; the *Instytut Pamięci Narodowej—Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu* (Warsaw); and the State Archive Olsztyn.

Additional information about Dulag Soldau can be found in the following publications: Gianfranco Mattiello and Wolfgang Vogt, *Deutsche Kriegsgefangenen- und Internierten-Einrichtungen 1939–1945. Handbuch und Katalog: Lagergeschichte und Lagerzensurstempel*, vol. 2 (Koblenz: self-published, 1987), p. 66; Czesław Pilichowski, *Obozy hitlerowskie na ziemiach polskich 1939–1945. Informator encyklopedyczny* (Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1979), p. 164; and Juliusz Pollack, *Jeńcy polscy w hitlerowskiej niewoli* (Warsaw: MON, 1986).

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DURCHGANGSLAGER (DULAG) TARNÓW

The Wehrmacht established Dulag Tarnów, actually a temporary prisoner of war (POW) collection camp, on September 12, 1939, in Tarnów, Poland, about 74 kilometers (46 miles) east of Kraków (map 5). This was an ad hoc camp, not part of the regular POW camp system, and guarded by regular troops on temporary detail. The Germans dissolved the camp at the end of October, by transferring the prisoners to camps in Germany.¹

In September 1939, the camp was under the control of the Fourteenth Army Rear Area Command (*Kommandant rückwärtiges Armeegebiet*, Korück, 520). Later, it was under the authority of the Armed Forces Commander Poland (*Wehrmachtbefehlshaber Polen*).

The Germans used the camp to hold Polish army personnel taken prisoner during the German invasion in September 1939. The prisoners (around 4,000 people) were housed in a school building. Hunger and starvation were rampant in the camp. Local residents and the Polish Red Cross provided assistance to the prisoners.²

SOURCES Primary source material about Dulag Tarnów is located in BA-MA (RH 49); WAsT Berlin; and the State Archive Kraków.

Additional information about Dulag Tarnów can be found in the following publications: Gianfranco Mattiello and Wolfgang Vogt, *Deutsche Kriegsgefangenen- und Internierten-Einrichtungen 1939–1945. Handbuch und Katalog: Lagergeschichte und Lagerzensurstempel*, vol. 2 (Koblenz: self-published, 1987), p. 67; Czesław Pilichowski, *Obozy hitlerowskie na ziemiach polskich. 1939–1945. Informator encyklopedyczny* (Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1979), pp. 515–516; Juliusz Pollack, *Jeńcy polscy w hitlerowskiej niewoli* (Warsaw: MON, 1986); and Stanisław Senft and Horst Więcek, *Obozy jenieckie na obszarze śląskiego okręgu Wehrmachtu 1939–1945* (Wrocław: Ossolineum, 1972).

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NOTES

1. Pilichowski, *Obozy hitlerowskie*, p. 516.
2. Ibid.

DURCHGANGSLAGER (DULAG) WADOWICE

Dulag Wadowice, actually a temporary prisoner of war (POW) collection camp, existed briefly in the fall of 1939 in the town of Wadowice, 37 kilometers (23 miles) southwest of Kraków, Poland (map 5). This was an ad hoc camp, not part of the regular POW camp system, and guarded by regular troops on temporary detail. The Germans disbanded the camp at the end of 1939 and transferred the prisoners to camps in Germany.

Initially, the camp was under the authority of the Fourteenth Army Rear Area Command (*Kommandant rückwärtiges Armeegebiet*, Korück, 520), and then the Armed Forces Commander Poland (*Wehrmachtbefehlshaber Polen*).

The camp was intended for confinement of Polish army personnel taken prisoner during the German invasion of September 1939. No details on conditions in the camp are available, but conditions were probably primitive, especially at this early stage of the war. The prisoners made numerous attempts to escape.

SOURCES Primary source material about Dulag Wadowice is located in BA-MA (RH 49), in Deutsche Dienststelle (WAsT) Berlin, and the State Archive in Kraków (Poland).

Additional information about Dulag Wadowice can also be found in the following publications: Gianfranco Mattiello and Wolfgang Vogt, *Deutsche Kriegsgefangenen- und Internierten-Einrichtungen 1939–1945. Handbuch und Katalog: Lagergeschichte und Lagerzensurstempel*, vol. 2 (Koblenz: self-published, 1987), p. 67; Czesław Pilichowski, *Obozy hitlerowskie na ziemiach polskich. 1939–1945. Informator encyklopedyczny* (Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1979), p. 536; Juliusz Pollack, *Jeńcy polscy w hitlerowskiej niewoli* (Warsaw: MON, 1986); and Stanisław Senft and Horst Więcek, *Obozy jenieckie*

na obszarze śląskiego okręgu Wehrmachtu 1939–1945 (Wrocław; Warsaw: Ossolineum, 1972).

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Trans. Kathleen Luft.

DURCHGANGSLAGER (DULAG) WEST

In July 1944, the German army reserved two large halls belonging to Frontstalag 133, sited in Morancez, just south of Chartres (map 2), for prisoners arriving from the Normandy front. These prisoners, who spent only a few days in this camp, were housed completely separately from the regular Frontstalag prisoners. Most of the Dulag prisoners were sent on to Dulag Châlons-sur-Marne and later to Germany.

An International Committee of the Red Cross inspector found that Dulag West held 1,554 prisoners on July 18, 1944, including 617 Americans, 516 British, and 1 Free French soldier (the remaining 420 prisoners had just arrived the night before the visit and had not yet been registered by nationality). The Dulag had an inadequate water supply because a water pipe had been damaged during an air raid. The German commander explained that the Dulag should have been installed in a different location offering better accommodations, and he apologized for the shortcomings of the camp. Yet, overall, the conditions in Dulag West were good. A French physician, Dr. Malaspina, provided good medical care for the prisoners. The prisoners asked only for more cigarettes, arguing that they needed to smoke after hard fighting and long, arduous marches. The camp commander, at the suggestion of the inspector, agreed to distribute stockpiled cigarettes to the prisoners. The food supply was good at the time of the visit because some packages sent to Morancez for distribution to other camps could not be delivered because of transport difficulties and, therefore, were opened and distributed in Morancez.¹

Dulag West likely was closed in early August 1944. The first Allied troops arrived in the area on August 15, and Chartres was liberated four days later.

SOURCES Primary source information about Dulag West can be found in TNA (WO 224/57).

Raffael Scheck

NOTE

1. Camp inspection, Dulag West, Chartres-Morancez, by Dr. de Morsier, July 18, 1944, TNA, WO 224/57.

KRIEGSGEFANGENENLAGER (KGL) ATHEN

KGL Athen existed in September and October 1943 and deployed in the city of Athens, Greece, in the Gudikaserne (map 8).¹ The camp was subordinate to Army Group South Greece (*Armeegruppe Südgrichenland*).

The Germans created the camp to confine Italian military prisoners temporarily. No details regarding conditions in the