

7.16 Geistliche Clergy

2200»

In den Konzentrationslagern waren auch zahlreiche Geistliche inhaftiert. Zum größten Teil waren es polnische Priester, die als einflussreiche Vertreter der polnischen Führungsschicht verhaftet und in die Konzentrationslager deportiert wurden. Ende 1940 begann man sie im KZ Dachau zusammenzuziehen. Die über 2700 Geistlichen wurden in den Baracken 26, 28 und 30 untergebracht und von den anderen Häftlingen isoliert. Ab März 1941 erhielten die Priester bessere Verpflegung und Messwein aus dem Vatikan. Im September 1941 fiel diese Vergünstigung wieder weg. Der Besuch der Kapelle und leichtere Arbeit wurden nur mehr deutschen Priestern zugestanden.

Numerous members of the clergy were also imprisoned in the concentration camps. In the main they were Polish priests who were arrested as influential members of Poland's leading strata of society and deported to the concentration camps. From the end of 1940 they were assembled at the Dachau concentration camp. Numbering more than 2,700, the clergy were housed in the barracks 26, 28, and 30 and were isolated from the other prisoners. From March 1941 the priests received better provisions as well as Communion wine from the Vatican. In September 1941 these privileges were discontinued. Now only German priests were entitled to visit the chapel and perform lighter work.



2206 » „Retreff: Arbeitsinsatz der Geistlichen
Der Reichsführer SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei hat angeordnet, daß die polnischen und baltischen Pfaffen (süß) arbeiten sollen, d. h. also zu allen Arbeiten herangezogen werden dürfen. Die deutschen, holländischen, norwegischen Geistlichen usw. sollen jedoch nach wie vor nur in den Heilkräutergärten beschäftigt werden.
I. V. aus: Liebehersche
SS-Obersturmbannführer“
Rundschreiben der Inspektion der Konzentrationslager an die Lagerkommandanten vom 21. April 1942 über eine Anordnung Heinrich Himmlers (Auszug)
Stefan Winfried

“Re: work deployment of the clergy
The Reichsführer SS and Chief of the German Police has ordered that the Polish and Lithuanian clergy are to work properly, i.e. it is permitted to enlist them for all forms of labor. The German, Dutch, Norwegian clergy etc. shall however still remain in the medicinal herb garden.
On behalf: Liebehersche
SS-Obersturmbannführer“
Circular issued by the Inspectorate for Concentration Camps to the camp commandants regarding an order issued by Himmler on April 21, 1942 (excerpt)



2207 » Die Kasträger, Zeichnung eines unbekannten Häftlings
KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau
Das Essen musste in großen Kesseln in die einzelnen Baracken gebracht werden. Ab Frühling 1941 mussten die Geistlichen diese besonders schwere Arbeit für das ganze Lager übernehmen.
The pot carrier drawing by an unknown prisoner
The food had to be carried to each barrack in large pots. As of spring 1941 the clergy had to take over this particularly difficult work for the whole camp.



Hoffmann, A. Kdo vás zájímá, 1946
The Prague chaplain Jaroslav Zámečník was arrested by the Gestapo in September 1942. Via Theresienstadt he arrived in the Dachau concentration camp in October 1942. On November 10, 1942, together with 19 other clergy, he was selected for phlegmon experiments and transferred to the sick bay. He was infected through an injection of pyogenic organism in his thigh. He did not survive the treatment with ineffective biochemical tablets. He was the first to die in this series of experiments, from sepsis, on November 23, 1942.

Jaroslav Zámečník
(1913–1942)
2209 » Der Prager Kaplan Jaroslav Zámečník wurde im September 1942 von der Gestapo verhaftet. Über Theresienstadt kam er im Oktober 1942 in das KZ Dachau. Am 10. November 1942 wurde er mit 19 anderen Geistlichen für Phlegmon-Versuche ausgewählt und in das Krankenrevier verlegt. Durch die Injektion von Eiter in den Oberschenkel wurde er infiziert. Die Behandlung mit unwirksamen biochemischen Tabletten überlebte er nicht. Am 23. November 1942 starb er als Erster aus dieser Versuchsserie an Sepsis.
The return to the block on the evening of November 10, 1942, brought with it an awful surprise. We had to line up ... and a precise examination began, carried out by the head capo of the sick-bay (camp hospital), a man called Zimmermann who was – so it was said – a locksmith. In the sick-bay he was often active as a surgeon ... Zimmermann judged the prisoners individually according to criteria only he knew and ordered that the numbers chosen by him be noted.
“You will be my witnesses”, prisoner account of Kazimierz Majdanek (1941–1945 in the Dachau concentration camp) on the selection for the phlegmon experiments, 1955 (excerpt)
Overall 185 clergy (176 of them Poles) were infected with malaria. Phlegmon experiments were carried out on 40 of them (38 Poles), 12 lost their lives.

The clergy were often used for medical experiments
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“You will be my witnesses”, prisoner account of Kazimierz Majdanek (1941–1945 in the Dachau concentration camp) on the selection for the phlegmon experiments, 1955 (excerpt)
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2216 » Stefan Wincenty Frelichowsky auf dem Totenbett
Zeichnung, 1945
KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau
Stefan Wincenty Frelichowsky on his death bed, drawing 1945



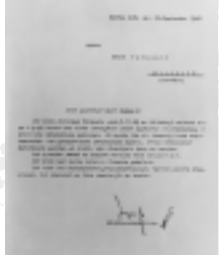
Foto/Photo: 1937
KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau

Stefan Wincenty Frelichowsky
(1919–1945)
2215 » Der polnische Kaplan Stefan Frelichowsky wurde im Oktober 1939 verhaftet. Nach Aufenthalt in den Konzentrationslagern Stutthof und Sachsenhausen kam er 1941 in das KZ Dachau. Bei der Fleckfieberepidemie im Januar 1945 meldete er sich freiwillig als Pfleger in die Typhusabteilung. Er infizierte sich und starb am 23. Februar 1945. Sein polnischer Mitgefangener Stanisław Bienka nahm ihm in der Totenkammer eine Totenmaske ab. Im Juni 1999 wurde Frelichowsky von Papst Johannes Paul II. selig gesprochen.
The Polish chaplain Stefan Frelichowsky was arrested in October 1939. After imprisonment in the concentration camps at Stutthof and Sachsenhausen, he was sent to the Dachau concentration camp in 1941. During the typhus fever epidemic in January 1945, he volunteered for duty as a nurse in the typhus station. He became infected and died on February 23, 1945. In the death chamber his Polish fellow prisoner Stanisław Bienka made a death mask.
Frelichowsky was beatified by Pope John Paul II in June 1999.



Kapitel 7–8, Juli 1942
The Luxembourgish clergyman Nicolas Wampach was arrested by the Gestapo on May 30, 1941 and deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. In September 1941 he was sent to the Dachau concentration camp and on August 12, 1942, to the “euthanasia” facility in Hartheim castle near Linz. Here he was murdered with poison gas. The entry in the concentration camp register notes the date of death as September 8, 1942. The cause of death is given as: “Heart and circulation failure due to asphyx and edema.”

Nicolas Wampach
(1909–1942)
2211 » Der Luxemburgische Geistliche Nicolas Wampach wurde am 30. Mai 1941 von der Gestapo verhaftet und in das KZ Buchenwald deportiert. Im September 1941 kam er in das KZ Dachau und am 12. August 1942 in die „Euthanasie“-Anstalt in Schloss Hartheim bei Linz. Hier wurde er mit Giftgas ermordet. Im Eintrag des KZ-Büchereintrages ist als Todesdatum der 8. September 1942 vermerkt. Als Todesursache ist angegeben: „Versagen von Herz und Kreislauf bei Asphyxie und Ödeme.“
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2212 » Martin Weiss, Lagerkommandant, an die Familienangehörigen von Nicolas Wampach, 7. September 1942
Kapitel 7–8, Juli 1942
Letter sent by Martin Weiss, camp commandant, to the relatives of Nicolas Wampach, September 7, 1942.