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An Overview of Sources on Deportations of Jews and Sinti and Roma in the Arolsen Archives

Abstract: The holdings of the Arolsen Archives, the largest collection on all victim groups of Nazi persecution, have a specific history of creation. They contain original material as well as copied documents that were collected and arranged following the needs of the organization's mandate as the former International Tracing Service. This article assists the archives' users in understanding the history of the collection and its consequences for using specific research strategies that differ from the ones in most other archives. While the first part concentrates on the creation and arrangement of the collection in general, the second part presents specific documentation on deportations of Jews, Sinti and Roma. It discusses recent projects in digitizing, indexing and cataloguing of formerly acquired material and related new opportunities for researchers to reconstruct individuals' and groups' paths of persecution as well as an overall picture of the course of deportations from different cities. The subject of the article are documents on individual prisoners, and to a much lesser extent administrative records of various Gestapo authorities. The authors advocate systematic cooperation with other archives to supplement the holdings.

Introduction

With roughly 23 kilometers of documents, the Arolsen Archives hold the largest collection on Nazi persecution, bearing reference to all victim groups. The holdings contain information on those who perished in the Shoah, on other prisoners of concentration and extermination camps, and on forced laborers. Those who survived persecution and found themselves as Displaced Persons (DPs) far away from their countries of origin are also represented in the collection, much of which has already been digitized.

However, despite being the largest collection to cover all victim groups and survivors, the holdings of the Arolsen Archives are by no means exhaustive for

various reasons: A lot of evidence¹ was destroyed by the Nazis before the end of the war, and the sources that have been preserved to this day are widely spread across various archives, memorial sites etc. Nevertheless, one of the strengths of the Arolsen Archives lies in the fact that all victim groups are represented in their holdings, although in varying detail. As a consequence, it is easy to find series of documents on specific individuals and thus reconstruct their paths of persecution and life stories, even beyond their liberation if they survived. However, the underlying archival history that has led to these strengths also brings difficulties with it at the same time or necessitates unusual research techniques at the very least.

One of the main characteristics of the collections of the Arolsen Archives is that most of the documents contain information about one or more individuals. Since it is therefore a ‘person-related’ archive, it nevertheless contains sources that provide insights into the administration of the Nazi state. In the first part of this paper, we will outline how the Arolsen Archives’ collection has been put together in view of the institutional specifics of the former International Tracing Service (ITS) and give an overview of the different collection groups. The second part presents the sources on deportations of Jews and Sinti and Roma.² It reveals how the history of the organization and the special way the collection was processed not only affect the ways it can be used, but also the opportunities for research that it offers.

The Unique Arrangement of the Holdings of the Arolsen Archives

Most archives have a clear territorial jurisdiction: state archives process the documentation of state institutions such as ministries or law courts. These institutions, although they evolve over time, have identifiable and traceable competen-

1 Not all killings and war crimes were documented in the first place; this applies especially to deportations that led to immediate murder.

2 The traditional term ‘gypsy’ (*‘Zigeuner’*) has pejorative connotations. As a Nazi persecution category, ‘gypsy’ included various ethnic and linguistic groups. For the sake of simplicity, in this paper we will refer to these persecutees as Sinti and Roma or use the expression ‘persons who were persecuted as gypsies’, in order to distance ourselves from the negative connotations connected with the term itself. In the archival descriptions, both terms are used. See Sybil Milton: “Hidden Lives: Sinti and Roma Women”, in Elizabeth R. Baer, and Myrna Goldenberg (eds.): *Experience and Expression, Women, the Nazis, and the Holocaust*, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2003, 53–75, here 54.

ces and responsibilities; they have a commitment to give their documentation to the archives responsible. The Arolsen Archives, formerly known as the ITS, have never been an archive in this sense. Various tracing offices were centralized from 1947, and their work material and documentation were brought to the small town of Arolsen in central Germany.³ Documents from the International Refugee Organization (IRO), which had been in charge of DPs, also found their way to Arolsen. Furthermore, the US army gave documentation that had been used for war crime trials to the ITS. These are just a few of the sources that gave the ITS documents to enable the institution to fulfill its tasks of providing information, conducting research on missing persons, and issuing certification of imprisonment. Private persons, such as survivors, victims' relatives, former army staff, and lawyers representing former persecutees, also offered documents to the ITS.⁴ The depot therefore contains not only originals from liberated concentration camps, ghettos and other places of detention, but also numerous reproductions of documents from various institutions, which the ITS produced itself or acquired to complete its records.

The standard way for an archive to deal with a very large amount of documentation from various sources is to keep any material together that has been provided by one institution, person, or other entity, and then structure its contents. The staff of the ITS, however, created large collections by arranging the documents by topic and including everything that belonged or seemed to belong to a specific topic. No attention was paid to the source of the documents during this process. As a consequence, the provenance, i.e. the context of the transmission of documents to the ITS, has been blurred and often cannot be pieced together any more.⁵ Collections numbering hundreds of thousands of papers sometimes contain sub-collections that consist of just a few documents. And as not all

3 For background information on why Arolsen was chosen as the site of the ITS and on the development of tracing bureaus before centralization, see Henning Borggräfe, Christian Höschler and Isabel Panek (eds.): *A Paper Monument. History of the Arolsen Archives*, Bad Arolsen: Arolsen Archives, 2019, 62–71.

4 Details on the whereabouts and provenances of the respective collections are given in the descriptive texts, both in the database of the Arolsen Archives as well as online. See Arolsen Archives: "Online Archive". Available at: <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

5 Henning Borggräfe and Isabel Panek: "Collections Archives Dealing with Nazi Victims: The Example of the Arolsen Archives", in Henning Borggräfe, Christian Höschler and Isabel Panek (eds.): *Tracing and Documenting Nazi Victims Past and Present*, Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2020, 221–244. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341688074_Tracing_and_Documenting_Nazi_Victims_Past_and_Present_-_Introduction. Last accessed: 14.07.2022.

the documents given to the ITS were originals, original documents can be found cheek by jowl with copies, microfilms, digital files, and the like.⁶

Provided the arrangement was done well and followed clear criteria, the advantage of this method is that relevant material from various sources can be found in one place. This makes the Arolsen Archives well equipped to serve as an information hub. However, this mix of originals and copies from other institutions in one collection is not only a challenge when it comes to preserving the paper material, it also has legal implications. A lot of documents were given to the ITS on the understanding that they were for the use of fulfilling its mandate to trace fates and give evidence to persecutees and/or their families. This restriction sometimes comes into conflict with the institution's policy of providing free and easy access to all the information stored in the archives.

For decades, cataloguing practices at the ITS were oriented towards the goal of finding person-related information as quickly as possible. Tracing individuals, rather than researching the history of persecution, was the prime motivation for arranging and describing the material. Index cards and later on electronic indexes served the purpose of pointing to documents with information on persecuted individuals. The context and history of the documents was at best noted, but for a long time did not play any important role in cataloguing, and so this information has sometimes been lost for individual documents or even sub-collections.

To attenuate these shortcomings for researchers, the team of cataloguers is currently describing the collections as they now are. The archival descriptions are based on international standards and are in accordance with ISAD(G), but they are not classical finding aids.⁷ The archival staff are not primarily trying to reconstruct the original provenances, but rather focus on reconstructing contexts, describing how and for what purposes the documents were re-arranged, and enabling users to access them. In addition to the millions of indexes for

⁶ As a result, there are – roughly speaking – two types of collections: collections of mixed provenance and collections of the same provenance.

⁷ ISAD(G) is short for General International Standard Archival Description and was approved by the International Council on Archives. As a structural standard, it represents the basic principles of archival cataloguing as an exemplary type. These include multi-level description, provenance reference, and unambiguity. See Nils Brübach: "Standardisierung im deutschen Archivwesen", in *Scrinium*, 68, 2014, 7–22, here 20.

names, much work has been and is still being done to add topic-related and geographic indexes.⁸

An Overview of the Holdings of the Arolsen Archives

On the following pages we will introduce the different collection groups and their key characteristics. The whole collection is divided into eight main collection groups.⁹

Global finding aids: The first record group contains several finding aids and indexes. Since it is not a collection of historical documents, it is numbered as ‘zero’. However, it is worth mentioning here, because it includes the Central Name Index (CNI) with around 50 million cards referring to more than 17.5 million individuals. This group of documents contain among others reference cards with information on all the persons about whom the predecessor organizations of the Arolsen Archives have ever received inquiries. The CNI contains information on deportations and fates of individuals for which no original evidence has been handed down but that have been reported by survivors and witnesses. This information combined with references to holdings of other institutions makes this collection, even if ‘only’ a finding aid, extremely valuable. The Central Name Index is also an impressive visualization of the dimensions of the archive and of Nazi persecution. Since 2013 it has been part of the UNESCO “Memory of the World” register.

Incarceration and Persecution: The evidence on imprisonment in concentration camps, ghettos, and prisons has been gathered in record group 1. The approximately 12 million documents contain documentation from concentration camps, authorities of the Nazi state, and various other sources, including numerous documents on deportations. The original prisoners’ records from the Dachau and Buchenwald camps are among the most valuable sources held by the Arolsen Archives.

⁸ One of the goals of the cataloguing activities is to make information on persecuted individuals as accessible as possible. In addition, for some years now we have been trying to enable topic-specific research in the database.

⁹ See also <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/>. More detailed information and examples of documents can be found in Suzanne Brown-Fleming: *Nazi Persecution and Postwar Repercussions. The International Tracing Service Archive and Holocaust Research*, Lanham: Rowman&Littlefield, 2016.

Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees by Public Institutions, Social Security Offices, and Companies (1939–1947): Collection group 2 with its seven million documents (most of them registrations that were made by state, health, and private authorities), comprises proof of the forced stay of individuals of non-German citizenship and of stateless persons in the German Reich. This collection is very useful for research into the fates of so-called civilian forced laborers.

Registrations and Files of Displaced Persons, Children, and Missing Persons: The seven million registration documents in collection 3 refer to survivors, Displaced Persons, and postwar migrants. It reflects the work of the ITS after the liberation, which was to make information available about the fates of individuals who had been persecuted by the Nazi regime. Besides original documentation from the ITS itself, this collection also holds files from other international organizations, such as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the IRO, and from Jewish aid organizations. One of the most interesting sub-collections in this record group is that of the IRO's Care and Maintenance (CM/1) files: To receive support, survivors of the Holocaust and other DPs had to fill in questionnaires about their paths of persecution. Therefore, the sub-collection contains numerous references to deportations and other persecution measures that have not been transmitted elsewhere. The activities of the Child Search Branch of the ITS are also documented in a sub-collection of this record group. The latter is thus highly valuable for research into the postwar repercussions of Nazi persecution policies.

Special NSDAP Organizations and Actions: This relatively small collection of more than 50,000 documents contains material from special organizations of the Nazi party. The largest one is the collection on *Lebensborn*, an SS organization that stole children in occupied territories and made efforts to 'Germanize' them.¹⁰ The evidence contained in this collection should be consulted along with documents transmitted to the Federal Archives of Germany (*Bundesarchiv*). Collection 4 also contains some documentation on medical experiments and 'euthanasia'.

Death Marches, Identification of Unknown Dead, and Nazi Trials: In the early years of its existence, the ITS led a large research project on death marches and

10 In the summer of 2021, the Arolsen Archives acquired another *Lebensborn* collection from the author and journalist Dorothee Schmitz-Köster. Included are – among other things – hundreds of interviews Schmitz-Köster conducted with contemporary witnesses, photographs, and personal documents of those affected, as well as recordings made by the author when visiting former *Lebensborn* homes. The collection (reference code 80001001) is currently being processed.

the exhumation of victims of ‘evacuation’ from concentration camps.¹¹ The 70,000 documents included in collection group 5 contain, among other things, information from local German authorities on anonymous graves in their area of responsibility, maps of cemeteries, along with names of Jewish, Roma, and Sinti victims of death marches.

Records of the ITS and its Predecessors: Collection group 6, which currently contains more than 14 million documents, is constantly growing and covers the institutional history of the ITS. It comprises the more than two million correspondence files on individual persons the ITS and today’s Arolsen Archives have opened since 1947. Each file consists of the entire processing history of the research conducted in connection with (often several) inquiries on the respective person, and the replies that were sent out in response. These so-called T/D files¹² are still highly valuable for tracing purposes and for finding family connections.

Besides reflecting the changing policies for handling inquiries from different victim groups, these files also reflect survivors’ individual experiences of persecution and experiences of loss suffered by family members of persecutees, including information for which no further evidence has survived. Thus, the T/D files are useful for research both into individuals’ paths of persecution and into the post war politics of compensation and recognition of persecution.

Archival Records of Document Acquisition: In 2019, the archive formed collection group 7 which is sorted by provenance. It gathers various analogue and digital formats from other archives or institutions that the ITS has collected in order to fulfill its mandates and which had not previously been imported into the digital archive. This collection group contains a wide range of materials. They include hundreds of thousands of photocopies, microfilms, floppy disks, and CDs from archives in Germany and Austria, but also copies of materials from archives in states of the former Soviet Union that were made between the 1990s and 2006 thanks to the good relations between the ITS and various national Red Cross societies.¹³ Most of this material refers to forced laborers and their

11 See Jean-Luc Blondel, Susanne Urban and Sebastian Schöнемann (eds.): *Auf den Spuren der Todesmärsche*, Göttingen: Wallstein, 2012.

12 To this day, the Arolsen Archives create a T/D file when they receive an inquiry about a person. T/D stands for tracing/documentation. Every time another inquiry is received about the same person (even decades later) the same file is referred to. T/D files often contain important additional information about a person’s life and path of persecution.

13 When selecting documents for filming, the ITS did not follow a uniform line. With a view to acquisition in archives of the former Soviet Union, for example, ITS employees sometimes exclusively created reproductions of papers produced by German authorities, thus tearing them out of

postwar experiences after having returned to their countries of origin. This last collection group also contains recent acquisitions that – breaking with the tradition outlined above – are no longer integrated into the other collections described. Rather, the original context is preserved to create provenance-oriented collections. Searchability is being improved by adding indexes of names, locations, subjects etc.

Records on the Deportation of Jews and Sinti and Roma in the Database

In 2019, the cataloguing team started to process the collections related to the deportations of Jews and Sinti and Roma from Germany, Austria, and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to ghettos, concentration and extermination camps in the occupied eastern territories, and to Auschwitz-Birkenau.¹⁴ On the following pages, we will discuss typical sources and present some of our recent digitizing, indexing, and cataloguing projects. The latter enable our present-day users to identify the correlations between the various inventories and reconstruct the geography of the transport and deportation routes of individuals or entire groups. Most of the documents about deportations are scattered across collection 1.2 and collection 7, the newly created provenance-based inventory. Other holdings, such as the T/D files in collection 6, and the individual prisoner records in collection 1.1, also provide information on the deportation of individual persecutees. They can be an important source to complement research results, which will be addressed again in the course of this article. The sources on the deportation of Jews and those on the deportation of Sinti and Roma are present-

their original inventory context. In other cases, they acquired copies of the entire file including the documents in Russian or Ukrainian from the years after liberation. After completion of the filming work in 2006, the ITS put the large-scale project on hold. The evidence required for compensation thus remained stored – undeveloped – on microfilms and floppy disks in Bad Arolsen for more than a decade. Today, the more than 1.2 million document copies from archives of the former Soviet Union are part of collection 7.2 and are currently being processed.

14 The Yad Vashem Holocaust Deportation Database *Transports to Extinction* and the website *Statistik des Holocaust* provided essential background information that enriched and facilitated the cataloguing of the collections concerned. See Yad Vashem: “Transports to Extinction: Holocaust (Shoah) Deportation Database”. Available at: <https://deportation.yadvashem.org>. Last accessed: 14.12.2021; Thomas Freier: “Statistik und Deportation der jüdischen Bevölkerung aus dem Deutschen Reich”. Available at: <https://www.statistik-des-holocaust.de>. Last accessed: 14.12.2021.

ed below in two separate sections. Another section sheds light on new archival holdings included in collection 7. These materials have been acquired in the context of recent cooperations with small archives and associations and enrich the existing collections on deportations.

The Deportation of Jews Documented in Collection 1.2

The *Deportations and Transports*¹⁵ inventory and the *Gestapo*¹⁶ inventory included in collection 1.2 contain most of the sources the Arolsen Archives hold on the deportations of Jews and a smaller number of documents concerning Sinti and Roma. Since the ITS and its predecessor organizations collected and secured evidence in an extensive manner in order to fulfill their historical function of clarifying individual fates as comprehensively as possible, both inventories contain originals, copies, reproductions, and extracts from different sources.¹⁷

Deportations and Transports is organized into five sub-collections, four of which are relevant to the topic of this volume: 1.2.1.1 Deportations, 1.2.1.2 AJDC Berlin Index (Deportations), 1.2.1.4 Berlin Index of ‘Transports to the East’ (Wave 1–7), 1.2.1.5 Registration and Persecution.

The *Deportations*¹⁸ sub-collection (1.2.1.1) contains the majority of the sources the Arolsen Archives hold on the deportations of Jews from the German Reich, Austria, and Bohemia and Moravia. The documentation is arranged by region and covers deportations from twenty-three Gestapo areas (*Gestapobereiche*), including Berlin, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Hanover, and Württemberg-Hohenzollern. Documented for the city of Karlsruhe is the *Aktion ‘Arbeitsscheu Reich’*¹⁹

15 <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1/?p=1>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

16 <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-3/?p=1>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

17 Akim Jah’s well-researched study on the origins of the included Berlin ‘transport lists’ is representative of the complex and various archival histories of the inventories. See Akim Jah: “Die Deportation der Juden aus Deutschland 1941–1945. Zur Geschichte und Dokumentenüberlieferung im Archiv des ITS”, in Akim Jah and Gerd Kühling (eds.): *Fundstücke. Die Deportation der Juden aus Deutschland und ihre verdrängte Geschichte nach 1945*, Göttingen: Wallstein, 2016, 11–29.

18 Almost the entire *Deportations* sub-collection (1.2.1.1) – nearly 21,000 documents – is available in the online archive. <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1/?p=1>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

19 See Julia Hörath: “Asoziale” und “Berufsverbrecher” in den Konzentrationslagern 1933 bis 1938, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck&Ruprecht, 2017, 306–315.

in June 1938. However, the included list only contains information on the arrested Jewish men and not on those who were persecuted as so-called anti-social elements ('*Asoziale*').²⁰ The same unit contains detailed documentation of the 'Polenaktion' in the Karlsruhe area in October 1938 and its aftermath.²¹

In rare cases, lists are preserved that were created with a view to planning and carrying out the targeted killing of Jewish patients of so-called sanatoriums and nursing homes.²²

Most of the lists and correspondence contained in 1.2.1.1 were created by various State Police Offices and State Police Headquarters²³ for the preparation and execution of deportations from autumn 1941 onwards. The sources reflect this process and shed light on the confiscation of assets as an integral part of the deportations. In addition, some extracts from Gestapo files have been preserved as well as entry lists from the Theresienstadt ghetto. The sub-collection also contains directories and correspondence compiled by various Jewish institutions, UNRRA, and by agencies that came into being in the postwar period.

The title of sub-collection 1.2.1.1 was recently changed from *Gestapo Transport Lists* to *Deportations* as this is a more accurate description of the documents it contains. However, a typical source created by the Gestapo is a so-called *Transportliste*. The list shown as fig. 1 documents the deportation of Jews from Berlin to Auschwitz on September 10, 1943.

²⁰ <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/11200764>. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

²¹ https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_8229800/?p=1. Last accessed: 01.06.2021. More sources related to the fate of Polish Jews can be found in sub-collection 1.2.1.5, <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-5/?p=1>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021. For background information on the expulsion/deportations of Polish Jews in 1938 and 1939, see Alina Bothe: "Radikalisierung vor aller Augen. Die 'Polenaktionen' 1938/39", in *Informationen. Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift des Studienkreises Deutscher Widerstand 1933–1945*, 89, 2019, 8–11.

²² One example is a list of 160 Jews who were deported from the 'sanatorium' in Wunstorf on 27.09.1940, see https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_1471000/?p=1. Last accessed: 01.06.2021. – According to the research on 'euthanasia', the T4 subdivision Gemeinnützige Krankentransport GmbH, Berlin W 9 (GeKraT) and the Deutsche Reichsbahn deported the men and women to the T4 killing center Brandenburg/Havel for murder. See Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband: "Provinzial Heil- und Pflegeanstalt Wunstorf". Available at: <https://www.gedenkort-t4.eu/de/historische-orte/qvp1b-provinzial-heil-und-pflegeanstalt-wunstorf-krh-psihiatrie-wunstorf#karte>. Last accessed: 14.05.2021.

²³ In this article, *Stapostellen* and *Stapoleitstellen* are translated as State Police Offices and State Police Headquarters.

42. Gattentransport vom 10.9.43

Transporthliste

91

Lfd. Nr.	N a m e	Vorname	geb. am	Ort	Beruf	ledig	verh.	Alter	erbschaftsfähig	Wohnung	Kennzeichen-Nr.	Kennzeichen-Nr.	Bemerkungen
1	Sachs	Elice Sara	2.5.01	Friedland	ohne			52		W.15, Fasanenstr. 6	42/73 (1)	✓	
2	Wagner geb. Schlawinski	Lotte Sara	8.9.05		ohne			49		Charl., Glashofenstr. 15	42/5 (2)	✓	
3	Wagner	Simon-aldemar	17.1.00	Berlin	Arbeiter			63		dto.	42/4 (3)	✓	
4	Wagner	Liesel Ingeborg	12.12.25	Berlin	Arbeiterin			18		dto.	42/6 (4)	✓	
5	Löwy	Otto Israel	12.3.09	Wien	Angestellter			44		W.07, Jagowstr. 7	42/108 (4)	✓	
6	Ellenbogen	Doris Sara	15.1.10	Stutzhin	Opfermädchen			33		Wilm., Fritzenaustr. 16	42/109 (6)	✓	
7	Löwy	Kurt Israel	19.1.03	Deuthin	Schiffsfahrer			40		W.30, Marbusenstr. 25	42/110 (7)	✓	
8	Stetler	Sarah Sara	1.10.08	Hetsdorf	Arbeiterin			31		O.27, Buchhofstr. 2	42/93 (4)	✓	
9	Simonsch geb. Seeliger	Lucie Sara	9.11.03	Berlin	ohne			60		M.05, Fritzenaustr. 2	42/75 (4)	✓	
10	Simon geb. Leuchthal	Kathe Sara	3.3.08	Berlin	Schneiderin			35		O.2, Granienburgstr. 00	42/47 (10)	✓	
11	Freund	Manfred Israel	1.4.13	Berlin	Maschinenbau			30		M.58, Weinbergweg 40	42/112 (11)	✓	
12	Klaeslatti geb. Scholz	Silen Sara	1.2.05	Berlin	Schneiderin			18		W.018, Blumenfeldstr. 4	42/61 (12)	✓	
13	Marcus geb. Aron	Anna Sara	29.3.03	Weidhagen	Franke			50		Wilm., Aschaffenburgstr. 2	42/4567 (13)	✓	
14	Marcus	Georg Israel	21.4.06	Hohensalza	Arbeiter			57		dto.	42/68 (14)	✓	
15	Seeliger	Arthur Israel	8.9.09	Stahn	Kaufmann			34		M.59, Weinbergweg 40	42/113 (15)	✓	
16	Leven geb. Freund	Edith Sara	12.6.11	Berlin	Kontoristin			32		dto.	42/114 (16)	✓	
17	Leven geb. Herz	Henriette Sara	19.11.05	Berlin	ohne			59		W.016, Weydenstr. 36/3	42/72 (17)	✓	
18	Mosenzweig geb. Levi	Charlotte Sara	31.10.16	Berlin	Arbeiterin			37		M.54, Grenzharstr. 7	42/73 (18)	✓	
19	Mosenzweig	Jenny	20.6.39	Berlin				4		dto.	42/74 (19)	✓	
20	King geb. Glaser	Marianna Sara	28.2.14	Antibor	Kaufmann			30		W.15, Gartendamm 177	42/75 (20)	✓	
21	Bersudt	Hugo Israel	7.5.02	Hogean	Arbeiter			51		dto.	42/76 (21)	✓	
22	Witkowski geb. Cohn	Dorothea Sara	25.11.02	Breschen	Kaufmann			61		Charl., Späthstr. 2	42/93 (22)	✓	
23	Mosenbaum	Lilli Sara	3.2.16	Berlin	Kontoristin			37		W.018, Fritzenaustr. 16	42/130 (23)	✓	
24	Aronius	Elise Sara	1.6.02	Berlin	Arbeiterin			41		Wilm., Konstanzerstr. 14	42/97 (24)	✓	
25	Wibb	Leontie Sara	29.12.05	Berlin	Staubsaugerin			53		Wilm., Konstanzerstr. 51	42/98 (25)	✓	

Fig. 1: List (extract): Deportation of Jews from Berlin to Auschwitz on September 10, 1943, 1.2.1.1/127213125/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

The collection pertaining to Berlin²⁴ contains a large number of these original multi-page directories concerning the deportations of Jews to ghettos and camps between October 1941 and March 1945.²⁵ However, the term ‘transport list’ is misleading: For each planned deportation, the State Police Headquarters in Berlin drew up a *Transportliste* (in multiple copies) with personal information on the people assigned to that specific transport. These lists were sent to the Chief Treasurer (*Oberfinanzpräsident, OfP*) of Berlin-Brandenburg along with other documents on the confiscation of assets.²⁶ Therefore, the lists contained in this collection are not the actual transport lists that the Gestapo provided to the deportation trains, as these have not been preserved. According to the historian Joachim Neander, the lists included in this collection could more accurately be described as ‘confiscation lists’ since the Asset Assessments Office (*Vermögensverwertungsstelle*) used them to organize the confiscation of the property of the deported Jews for the benefit of the Nazi state.²⁷ However, the archival description uses the term ‘transport list’ since this is the historical title of the document.

24 Reference code: VCC.155.I, https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_VCC-155-I/?p=1. Last accessed: 20.09.2021.

25 The ITS received the originals of the Berlin ‘transport lists’ with related Gestapo correspondence contained in the Berlin unit at the beginning of the 1950s. Since the originals of the ‘transport lists’ for the 1st, 3rd and 4th ‘transports to the East’ (*‘Osttransporte’*) to the Litzmannstadt ghetto have not been preserved, the ITS received incomplete copies from the Yad Vashem memorial in the context of the so-called Bovensiepen court process in 1968. Of the 184 deportations from Berlin, a total of 179 lists have been preserved – at least in part. See Jah, *Dokumentenüberlieferung*, 22–23.

26 The originals of the so-called declarations of assets (*Vermögenserklärungen*), which the affected persons had to sign at home or in the assembly center (*Sammellager*) shortly before their deportation and which were also sent to the Chief Treasurer, are not included in the holdings of the Arolsen Archives. They are part of around 42,000 personal files contained in collection Rep. 36 A Oberfinanzpräsident Berlin-Brandenburg (II) stored in the Brandenburg State Archive (BLHA) in Potsdam. As part of a large-scale project, the BLHA is currently restoring, digitizing, and evaluating the files. The aim is to make the digitized files available online as comprehensively as possible.

27 See Joachim Neander: “Die Auschwitz-Rückkehrer vom 21. März 1943”, in Antonia Leugers (ed.): *Berlin, Rosenstraße 2–4 – Protest in der Diktatur – Neue Forschungen zum Frauenprotest in der Rosenstraße 1943*, Annweiler: Plöger, 2005, 115–144, here 131. See also Akim Jah: *Die Deportationen der Juden aus Berlin. Die nationalsozialistische Vernichtungspolitik und das Sammelager Große Hamburger Straße*, Berlin: be.bra, 2013, 48.

The Arolsen Archives hold similar directories created by various Gestapo offices with information on deportees from several German cities.²⁸ However, the inventory regarding deportations from Berlin is somewhat special as it contains mainly originals. It is noteworthy that until recently the digital archive of the Arolsen Archives only contained poorly legible reproductions of the originals, which ITS staff used in the context of tracing activities. The idea of preserving the originals and storing them in a depot rather than using them for answering inquiries makes perfect sense from an archival point of view. However, and this is the problematic aspect, for years it was not the scans of the originals but the scans of those work copies that were integrated into the database. In 2019/2020, the Berlin collection was finally re-digitized and described in detail. It also has been thoroughly indexed, including the following data on the deportees: full name, date and place of birth, marital status, occupation, and the last address.²⁹ Some additional remarks in the comment section of each 'transport list' have been indexed, too, such as individual activities within the Jewish community, for example, or the Nazi term '*Geltungsjude*'.

The Berlin State Police Headquarters sent the transport lists to the Chief Treasurer of Berlin-Brandenburg together with a letter which referred to the confiscation of the deportees' assets. These letters represent another typical source in the Deportations sub-collection (see fig. 2). Similar correspondence from local Gestapo offices in other cities is included in various units.

One crucial aspect of describing the collections is tagging them with attributes. As mentioned in the letter to the Chief Treasurer, the deportees documented in this type of source were mainly Jews who had been living in 'mixed marriages' until their spouse died or divorced them. Thanks to the subject index, we as cataloguers can ensure that the document can be found in this connection by tagging the related unit with the attribute 'mixed marriage'. In view of the further content of the letters, the unit is also indexed with the subject 'anti-Jewish economic measures'.³⁰ Researchers can use the subject index to search through the archival descriptions in our database and in the online archive.

28 See for example a directory regarding Jews who were deported from Koblenz and the surrounding area to the Izbica ghetto on March 22, 1942, <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/11196881>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

29 In this volume, Henning Borggräfe gives one example how this metadata can be evaluated in order to examine deportation dynamics and forced concentration processes within a city.

30 The same attribute is linked to several other collections, e.g. to an index on the deportation of Jews from Hanover to Theresienstadt on 23.07.1942. See https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_8228902/?p=1. Last accessed: 14.06.2021.

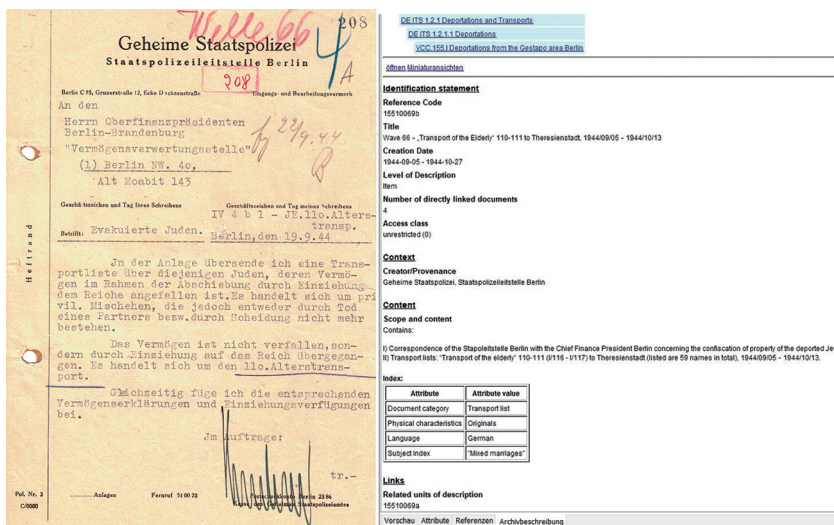


Fig. 2: Letter concerning the deportation of Jews from Berlin to Theresienstadt on September 5, 1944, and their assets, 1.2.1.1/127213269/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The screenshot of the OuS database shows the archival description with the subject index.

By going into hiding, escaping from a transport or committing suicide, thousands of Jews attempted to evade deportation.³¹ This circumstance is reflected in the Deportations inventory in the form of lists with correspondence on Jews from various cities. The directory shown as fig. 3 was created by the Düsseldorf State Police Headquarters. It documents those individuals who committed suicide, died, or fled before their planned deportation to Theresienstadt on July 21, 1942.³²

The directory belongs to the unit concerning deportations from Düsseldorf. The Düsseldorf³³ unit contains original correspondence, statistical lists, and directories from various cities and municipalities in the Düsseldorf Gestapo area concerning the deportation of Jews to the Litzmannstadt ghetto on October 27, 1941. It also includes original directories and transcripts regarding the deportations to Minsk, Riga, Izbica, and Auschwitz between 1941 and 1943, as well as copies of entry lists from Theresienstadt. However, that is not the whole picture. In addition, and this is fairly typical of the way the Arolsen Archives' database is

³¹ See Jah, Dokumentenüberlieferung, 16.

³² The document is tagged with the subjects 'suicides', 'deceased' and 'escape'.

³³ Reference code: VCC.155.VII. See <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1-VCC-155-VII/?p=1>. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

Not many administrative documents of local Gestapo offices have survived – which makes the Düsseldorf collection particularly valuable.³⁶ The included sources offer an insight into the extent of bureaucratic planning by various administrative authorities of the Nazi state and indicate the role and cooperation of different (local) Gestapo offices in this process. Some of the originals contained in the *Gestapo* sub-collection (1.2.3.0) are also included in the Düsseldorf Deportations inventory in 1.2.1.1 but – and this is crucial – only as reproductions. Until the revision of the *Deportations* collection in 2020, there was no obvious indication in the database that the Arolsen Archives also hold the originals (see fig. 4 and 5). Today, all the originals matching the reproductions have been identified and the respective archival descriptions link the two units with each other.³⁷

Other sub-collections in the Gestapo inventory, namely the various *Gestapo Card Files* of different cities, also include information on the deportation fate of registered Jews. One example is the so-called *Schutzhaftkartei* of the Luxembourg Gestapo in inventory 1.2.3.5.³⁸

The *AJDC Berlin Card File (Deportations)* (1.2.1.2)³⁹ and the *Card File of Berlin Transports to the East (Wave 1–7)* (1.2.1.4)⁴⁰ provide a supplementary source of information to the original Gestapo files from Berlin. Unfortunately, both collections contain poorly legible reproductions.⁴¹ The AJDC Berlin Card File is a post-war evaluation of deportation lists and other documents created by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC). Aside from the personal data of deceased or deported Jews from Berlin, the index cards also include details on their spouses and any next-of-kin as well as deportation data and destinations. The AJDC Card File can be searched by name. The so-called Card File of Berlin Transports to the East (*Osttransporte*) contains personal information on

36 Original files from only a few different local Gestapo offices are stored, for example, in the Bavarian State Archives (Gestapo file Würzburg), in the Speyer State Archives (Gestapo file Neustadt/Weinstrasse), and in the State Archives of Lower Saxony (Gestapo file Osnabrück). Cooperations between the Arolsen Archives and these State Archives are therefore crucial.

37 The State Archives of North Rhine-Westphalia (LAV NRW) preserve the largest original collection of personnel files of the State Police Headquarters in Düsseldorf. In the 1960s, the ITS handed over microfilms of the originals preserved in Arolsen to the then Main State Archive Düsseldorf (today's LAV NRW, Rhineland Department). A systematic comparison of the respective holdings (originals and reproductions) of the LAV NRW and the Arolsen Archives is still pending.

38 The collection of the Gestapo Card Files from different cities is not available in the online archive.

39 <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-2/?p=1>. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

40 <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-4/?p=1>. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

41 The Arolsen Archives hope to obtain high-resolution scans from the Yad Vashem Memorial and the Brandenburg State Archive (BLHA) soon.

prohibitions, and lists concerning the residence, naturalization, and expatriation of Jews, their assets, emigration, arrest, and, in rare cases, their deportation. In connection with tracing inquiries and based on the assumption that Jews residing in Germany during the Nazi era had mostly been deported, ITS staff originally assigned these copies to the Deportations inventory (1.2.1.1).⁴⁵ Due to the diverse nature of their content compared to the classic collections contained in the Deportations inventory, the documents have been integrated into the newly created sub-collection *Registration and Persecution*. It is arranged alphabetically by the name of the respective town.

Related Units of Descriptions – New Acquisitions in the Context of Cooperations

Since several deportation trains from different cities and Gestapo areas were combined on their way to the camps and ghettos, various sub-collections in the *Deportations and Transports* inventory (1.2.1) are interlinked. Furthermore, they also relate to other collections in our database. A good example is the newly acquired *Collection of the Jewish Community in Leipzig* (7.5.4).⁴⁶ It is part of the provenance-based collection 7 and includes digital scans of lists with details of deported Jews that were mentioned in the records of the Saxony-Thuringia District Office of the Reich Association of Jews in Germany.⁴⁷ The documentation covers deportations from the geographical area of Saxony, Anhalt, and Thuringia to various ghettos – including Theresienstadt, Warsaw, and Bełżyce – as well as to the concentration and extermination camps Majdanek, Sobibór, and Auschwitz-Birkenau between February 1942 and February 1945.⁴⁸

For the users, the connection between inventories 7.5.4 and 1.2 is not necessarily obvious at first glance. Therefore, we highlight this aspect in the archival description under the heading “Related units of description”, which provides information on thematic links to other collections. In addition, the lists included in the Leipzig collection are indexed at document level, which means that they are searchable by name or by the last address of the deportees. This form of index-

⁴⁵ ITS staff dealt in a similar manner with related documents that had already been integrated into the ITS holdings.

⁴⁶ <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/7-5-4/?p=1>. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

⁴⁷ The *Bezirksstelle Sachsen-Thüringen* of the *Reichsvereinigung* was called *Bezirksstelle Mitteldeutschland* from July 1942 onwards.

⁴⁸ https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/7-5-4_754002/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

ing, namely the massive linking of metadata with individual documents, is a special method of the Arolsen Archives related to the history of the institution as a tracing service and is still practiced frequently. In this case, the index allows the users to reconstruct different transport and deportation routes.⁴⁹

Another example is the cooperation with the Archive of the Jewish Community in Szeged.⁵⁰ In 2020, the Arolsen Archives received digital scans and metadata of a directory regarding Hungarian Jews who were deported from Szeged to Auschwitz and Strasshof in June 1944.⁵¹ The list complements the few sources concerning the deportation of Hungarian Jews in our database.

Both cooperations are part of the Arolsen Archives' new overall strategy. This strategy defines the function of the former International Tracing Service as an 'archival hub', which we hope to strengthen through systematic cooperation with memorial sites, archives, institutions, and associations.⁵² As far as the acquisition of documents is concerned, however, the Arolsen Archives still have to establish systematic partnerships with institutions that hold documentation on the persecution of Sinti and Roma.

Records on the Deportation of Sinti and Roma

Similar to the documentation on the deportation of Jews, originals and copies concerning the deportation of Sinti and Roma are scattered across various sub-collections of the 1.2 inventory. Up until recently, most of the collections had only basic and outdated archival descriptions. Therefore, the process of thoroughly cataloguing them is still ongoing. One of the obstacles in identifying the relevant collections is the fact that Sinti and Roma were often sent to concentration camps as so-called anti-social elements ('*Asoziale*'). This prisoner group, however, was rarely mentioned in the original archival descriptions of the ITS, because the German compensation law did not recognize them as eligible and

49 A quick name search in the database for Frieda Horwitz (born 29.04.1878), for example, finds results both in the collection of the Jewish Community in Leipzig (7.5.4) and in the Berlin Deportation inventory (1.2.1.1). Thanks to the two lists, her transport route from Leipzig via Berlin to Auschwitz in February 1943 can be reconstructed, see <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/128455653> and <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/127212312>. Both last accessed: 24.09.2021.

50 See Dóra Pataricza's article in this volume.

51 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/7-9-1_791001/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

52 Newly acquired collections are usually included in inventory 7.

ITS practices were aligned with its definition of Nazi persecutees. For some years now, we have been working on the designation of documents in the database that concern persecuted groups that received little attention in historical research or in mainstream discourse for decades. Significant results are mainly visible in inventory 1.1 *Camps and Ghettos*. Especially the included collections of individual prisoner records, which the Arolsen Archives preserve from a variety of concentration camps, provide information on the deportation of Sinti and Roma (as well as many Jews) and their individual fates of persecution. Among the documents are prisoner registration cards, prisoner registration forms and personal effects cards, which usually contain the dates of arrest and the arresting authority. In addition, the Camps and Ghettos inventory includes reproductions of the main books of the ‘gypsy camp’ in the Auschwitz concentration camp with names and dates of birth of the affected individuals,⁵³ as well as lists regarding deported Sinti and Roma (and Jews).⁵⁴ A systematic and comparative approach of the sources, could allow to reconstruct an overall picture of the course of the deportations from different cities (for example with regard to the deportations of Sinti and Roma in March 1943).

The collections mentioned above refer to single individuals or groups. In contrast, some of the following examples illustrate the administration and organization of the deportations. Fig. 6, for example, shows an extract from a 3-page telegram dated October 18, 1939, which contains communication between two SS-Sturmbannführer.⁵⁵ They refer to correspondence between Adolf Eichmann and the Chief of the Security Police concerning the bureaucratic planning of the deportations of Sinti and Roma from Ostrava (Mährisch-Ostrau), Kattowice and Vienna. The deportation of 901 Jews from Mährisch-Ostrau to Nisko on October 18, 1939, in the context of the so-called Nisko Aktion is also mentioned.⁵⁶ The document is part of sub-collection *Persecution measures against “Gypsies”* (1.2.7.26),⁵⁷ which consists of 214 copies concerning the persecution of Sinti

53 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-1-2-1_2204001/?p=1 and https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-1-2-1_2204002/?p=1. Last accessed: 09.09.2021. The originals are stored in the archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

54 See for example *List Material of Various Camps* (1.1.47.1): <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-1-47-1>. Last accessed: 09.09.2021.

55 One of them is presumably SS-Sturmbannführer Rolf Günther, who became Eichmann’s deputy in 1941.

56 For background information on the deportations of Jews in the context of the ‘Nisko Aktion’ (initiated by Eichmann) as well as the planned deportation of Sinti and Roma to Nisko, which was not carried out, see Jonny Moser: *Nisko – Die ersten Judendeportationen*, Vienna: Edition Steinbauer, 2012.

57 <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-7-26/?p=1>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

and Roma. The majority of these sources came to Arolsen in the 1970s and 1980s through the Central Office of the Land Judicial Authorities for Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Ludwigsburg and the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance in Vienna (DÖW). The sub-collection is arranged in three units and includes various circulars, orders, and forms issued by the National Criminal Police Office and the Chief Office of National Security between 1938 and 1943, concerning the registration, persecution, and admission of so-called gypsies to concentration camps. There is also correspondence from the police guard battalion and the commander of the Vienna Municipal Police (*Schutzpolizei*) regarding the deportations of Sinti and Roma from Vienna to Auschwitz in March and April 1943. The letters also deal with questions concerning the guards who supervised the deportations. Furthermore, correspondence from police leaders in Latvia and the so-called Reich Commissioner for the East is included, which concerns persecution measures against Sinti and Roma in 1942.⁵⁸ Finally, yet importantly, the sub-collection contains postwar correspondence, reports, survivors' testimonies, and court decisions concerning the Lackenbach and Montlhéry camps and compensation for imprisonment.⁵⁹

Sub-collection *List Material Group Prisons & Persecution* (1.2.2.1)⁶⁰, which will be revised and processed in the course of 2022/2023, contains nearly 900,000 documents regarding individuals who were imprisoned in various detention facilities such as judicial and Gestapo prisons, so-called labor education camps (*'Arbeitserziehungslager'*) and work houses (*'Arbeitshäuser'*), early concentration camps, as well as forced labor camps. The inventory includes correspondence from the Criminal Investigation Department Hohensalza (Posen) regarding the confiscation of the property of arrested Sinti and Roma and their admission to the 'gypsy camp' in Auschwitz in April 1943⁶¹ as well as camp reports concerning the number of individuals who were incarcerated in the Lackenbach camp as 'gypsies'.⁶²

58 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-7-26_9041001/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

59 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-7-26_9041002/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021. See Susanne Urban, Sascha Feuchert and Markus Roth (eds.): *Fundstücke. Stimmen der Überlebenden des "Zigeunerlagers" Lackenbach*, Göttingen: Wallstein, 2014.

60 <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-2-1>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

61 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-2-1_2392000/?p=1&s=Hohensalza. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

62 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-2-1_2704000/?p=1. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

18.10.1939 R	P4 - <i>Gepräch</i> H'Kuf gründen - H'Kuf Braune	- 382
Telegramm - Fernspruch - Fernschreiben Fernspruch		100

+ HIER 4-STUF. B R A U N E HHHI+ HHI -
HIER GUENTHER - KAM. BRAUNE SIE HATTEN EIN FS.
NACH HIER GERICHTET BEZUEGLICH ZIGEUNER. OBERFUEHRER
NEBE HATTE GEBETEN, IHN UMGEHEND ANZURUFEN. H. STUF
E I C H M A N N - HAT GESTERN VERSUCHT OBERFUEHRER
NEBE ODER SEINEN VERTRETER STUBAF. WERNER,
FERNMUENDLICH ZU ERREICHEN. BERLIN TEILTE MIT, DASS
SICH OBERFUEHRER DERZEIT IN WARSCHAI BEFINDET.
STUBAF WERNER WAR NICHT ZU ERREICHEN.
HEUTE HABE ICH STUBAF WERNER ZU ERREICHEN VERSUCHT,
BISHER JEDOCH VERGEBLICH. ICH MOECHTE SIE BITTEN, VON
DORT AUS STUBAF. WERNER ANZURUFEN UND IHN MITZUTEILEN,
DASS H'STUF EICHMANN AM 16.10.39 EIN FS. AN DEN
CHEF DER SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI RKPA Z. HAENDEN SS
OBERFUEHRER NEBE - BETR.:
ABTRANSPORT DER ZIGEUNER GERICHTET HAT. - KENNEN
SIE DAS FS.??+ + NEIN MIT UNBEKANNT. SOLL ICH IHNEN
ES KURZ DURCHGEBEN?+
+ ICH BITTE DARUM+ GEHT AB : BEZUEGLICH ABTRANSPORT
ZIGEUNER WIRD MITGETEILT, DASS AM FREITAG DEN 20.10.39
DER ERSTE TRANSPORT VON WIEN ABGEHT. DIESEM TRANSPORT
KOENNEN 3 BIS 4 WAGGON ZIGEUNER ANGEHAENGT WERDEN.
LAUFENDE TRANSPORTE GEHEN JETZT REGELMAESSIG
VORLAUEFIG VON WIEN FUER DIE OSTMARK, MAHR. OSTRAU
FUER DAS PROTEKTORAT UND KATTOWITZ FUER DAS EHEM.

v. 17

Fig. 6: Telegram (extract) concerning the bureaucratic planning of the deportations of Sinti and Roma from Ostrava, Kattowice and Vienna, October 18, 1939, 1.2.7.26/82342400/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

As mentioned earlier, the *Registration and Persecution* sub-collection (1.2.1.5) also contains relevant sources on Sinti and Roma of which the Arolsen Archives only hold reproductions. Of interest, for example, is a letter from the district administrator of Mosbach, a town close to Stuttgart, which documents the depor-

tation of ten family members to a concentration camp, presumably Auschwitz, on March 23, 1943.⁶³

The sources contained in the Deportations inventory 1.2.1.1 on the deportation of Sinti and Roma are mainly copies from other institutions. They include documentation regarding the fate of individual persecutees from Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt am Main, Kassel, and Munich. The Hamburg⁶⁴ unit contains the majority of sources related to this topic, including copies of directories and correspondence from the Criminal Police regarding Sinti and Roma who were deported from Hamburg to the ‘General Government’ in May 1940 and to Auschwitz in March 1943.⁶⁵ There is also a 60-page copy of the so-called Gypsy File (*‘Zigeunerakte’*) of the Hamburg Criminal Investigation Department concerning the registration of Roma and Sinti in Hamburg and its surroundings with information on their family members as well as their deportations.⁶⁶ The Kassel⁶⁷ unit includes a reproduction of an index regarding Roma and Sinti registered in the town in October 1939 with additional comments on ‘lifestyle’ and employment, and a corresponding letter from the Criminal Police Headquarters in Kassel.⁶⁸ The Frankfurt⁶⁹ unit includes a note dated December 14, 1940, from the Frankfurt am Main Criminal Police Headquarters concerning four families who were persecuted as ‘gypsies’ and their allegedly ‘voluntary resettlement’ to the ‘General Government’.⁷⁰

63 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-5_10007241. Last accessed: 15.09.2022. For further sources, see the unit pertaining to Salzwedel: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-5_10009152. Last accessed: 15.09.2022. For a registration card referring to a Sinto residing in Bremen that is not available online, see 1.2.1.5/89204677/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

64 Reference code VCC.155.VI: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_VCC-155-VI/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

65 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_8228010/?p=1 and https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_3609000/?p=1. Both last accessed: 01.06.2021.

66 See https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_1661000/?p=1. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

67 Reference code VCC.155.XV: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_VCC-155-XV/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

68 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_2098000/?p=1. Last accessed: 01.06.2021. The ITS received both copies (from Frankfurt am Main and Kassel) in the 1960s from the Court of Appeal in Berlin.

69 Reference code VCC.155.XII: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_VCC-155-XII/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

70 https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_2097000/?p=1. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

One of the few original documents concerning the topic in our database is a letter (fig. 7) from the Berlin State Police Headquarters to the Chief Treasurer of Berlin-Brandenburg regarding the deportation of so-called gypsies to Auschwitz on May 5, 1943. The letter also reveals information on how the confiscation of their property was organized. Unfortunately, the accompanying directory with details of the 252 deportees mentioned by the Berlin State Police Headquarters and listed on the cover sheet is not included.

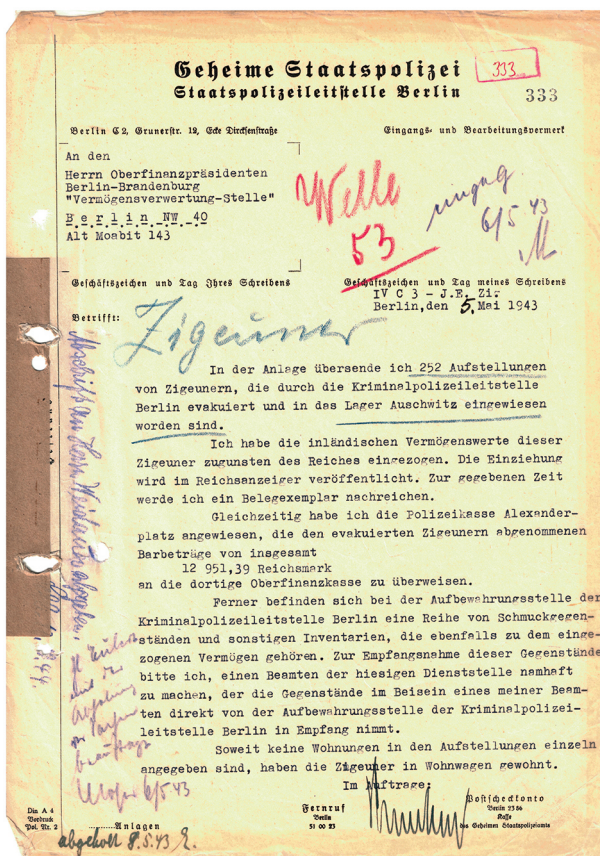


Fig. 7: Letter regarding the deportation of Sinti and Roma from Berlin to Auschwitz, May 5, 1943. 1.2.1.1/127212907/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

The unit regarding deportations from Munich⁷¹ and the surrounding area contains a transcript of an alphabetical list with information about the confiscation of the property and assets of associations and of individuals belonging to various persecution categories. The 98-page, undated postwar directory refers, among other things, to the property of Sinti and Roma. It is based on records of the Asset Assessments Office in Munich and provides, in most cases, details of the name, date of birth, last address, and file number.⁷²

After the liberation, German restitution authorities based their decisions on eligibility regarding ‘compensation for National Socialist injustice’ (*Wiedergutmachung*) on information passed on by the ITS. The legal basis was formed by ‘compensation laws’ (enacted between the late 1940s and the mid-1950s), which operated with a narrow definition of the term ‘persecutee’. ITS staff provided – among other things – certificates of incarceration (*Inhaftierungsbescheinigungen*), in which they quoted categories of imprisonment from concentration camp documents stored in Arolsen without contextualizing them. Since Sinti and Roma were often sent to concentration camps as ‘*Asoziale*,’ they did not receive any restitution from the German Federal Republic. Looking at the topic of *Wiedergutmachung*, the T/D correspondence files included in collection 6.3.3 reveal this problematic aspect of the Tracing Service’s activities.⁷³ However, the documentation also include valuable information concerning the persecution fate of Sinti and Roma and Jews (and other persecutees) that will become more accessible and searchable once the Arolsen Archives realize a planned systematic cataloging of the T/D files.⁷⁴

Finally, yet importantly, the aforementioned *Gestapo sub-collection* 1.2.3 contains cards (see fig. 8) that different Gestapo offices filled out for a large number of various groups of individuals who had ‘come to their attention’. Some of them refer to the registration, observation, and deportation of Sinti and Roma. By means of crowdsourcing and optical character recognition (OCR), the Gestapo

71 Reference code VCC.155.II: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/1-2-1-1_VCC-155-II/?p=1. Last accessed: 24.09.2021.

72 Part of the directory is a glossary that provides explanations of the abbreviations used for persecution categories, see <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/11196196>. Last accessed: 01.06.2021.

73 See Susanne Urban et al. (eds.): *Fundstücke. Entwurzelt im eigenen Land: Deutsche Sinti und Roma nach 1945*, Göttingen: Wallstein, 2015.

74 In the Arolsen Archives’ database, the T/D files (6.3.3.2) are searchable by the name of the person in question. In the online archive, the majority of the files are neither searchable nor available yet. The Arolsen Archives are currently debating on how to make the files more accessible.

Card Files will be linked to a large amount of metadata in the near future. This will make them searchable in connection with the topic of this article.⁷⁵

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20																				
KOBLENZ	Name: (bei Frauen auch Geburtsname) K r e m s										Wohnung: (Zeit der Eintragung eintragen) Wüllersgasse 15 ?					Deslonahete: 28. Aug. 1939				
	Vorname: Maria																			
	Geburtsort u. -ort: 20.10.15 Nieder-Daechingen Saarbr.																			
	Beruf:																			
	Familienstand:																			
	Staatsangehörigkeit: staatenlos (Zigeunerin)																			
	Nach- Name:																			
	Politische Einstellung:																			
	Glaubens- bekenntnis:																			
	Datum der Aufftragung										S a a r b r ü c k									
1.2.1937										Die Zigeunerin Krems wurde in Saarbrücken festgenommen. Hier ist über sie nichts bekannt.										
										Staatspolizeistelle Geführtezeichen II 1 A 216/37										
6.St. Nr. 14.																				

Fig. 8: Gestapo Koblenz Card File for Maria Krems (front page), 1.2.3.3/129178532/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The originals of the Gestapo Koblenz Card File are stored in the State Archives in Koblenz.

Conclusion and Prospects

The intention of this paper was to give an overview of how to navigate through the Arolsen Archives' database in order to find documentation on the deportations of Jews and Sinti and Roma. Considering the immense size of the archive in Bad Arolsen, this paper is an attempt to make the relevant inventories visible but does not claim to be comprehensive. Without a doubt, there is much more to explore and to find. As far as the acquisition of documents as part of the organization's new strategy is concerned, it would certainly be a huge gain for histor-

⁷⁵ The University of Osnabrück is currently evaluating the data fields of the Osnabrück Gestapo Card File in a large-scale project in order to analyze changes in the structural approach of the Gestapo in the course of the Nazi era. The Arolsen Archives hold copies of the collection. See Sebastian Bondzio and Christoph Rass: "Allmächtig, allwissend und allgegenwärtig? Die Osnabrücker Gestapo-Kartei als Massendatenspeicher und Weltmodell", in *Osnabrücker Mitteilungen*, 124, 2019, 223–260.

ical research if especially the collections on the persecution of Sinti and Roma were to grow in the future.

Due to its history as a tracing service, today's Arolsen Archives are primarily a person-related collection. In the past, the organization has made great efforts to make its collections searchable especially by names. These endeavors have taken new forms: As part of the #everynamecounts crowdsourcing project, there are currently 25,662 volunteers around the world indexing data (mostly) from individual prisoner records of the Arolsen Archives' Camps and Ghetto inventory.⁷⁶ In addition to a variety of information on single individuals (such as name, date of birth, last place of residence, occupation, nationality, marital status, religion, prisoner number, transfers within the camp system, and family members) the volunteers also transcribe the category of imprisonment to which the persons concerned were assigned in the concentration camp. Once the newly generated metadata will be integrated into the Arolsen Archives' database, the holdings can be searched specifically by certain attributes, which opens up a variety of new research opportunities such as the reconstruction of complex persecution and transfer routes within the concentration camp system of individuals or entire prisoner groups. The metadata will also provide a new basis for research into family biographies of persecution.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Arolsen Archives/Zooniverse: "#everynamecounts". Available at: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/arolsen-archives/every-name-counts/stats>. Last accessed: 14.07.2022.

⁷⁷ On the potential of the newly generated metadata for future research and the chances and (ethical) challenges of making them available in the online archive of the Arolsen Archives, see Kim Dresel: "What Counts and Who Does It? Crowdsourcing und Arolsen Archives 2.0", in *Medaon – Magazin für jüdisches Leben in Forschung und Bildung*, 15/29, 2021, 1–6. Available at: http://www.medaon.de/pdf/medaon_29_dresel.pdf. Last accessed: 14.12.2021.

