

9.4 Niederländische, belgische und luxemburgische Häftlinge

Dutch, Belgian and Luxembourg Prisoners

2620») Im KZ Dachau und seinen Außenlagern befanden sich über 1 800 Belgier, mehr als 2 100 Niederländer und 467 Luxemburger, darunter auch einige hundert Frauen. Sie waren meist Opfer der Massenverhaftungen, mit denen ab 1943 der stärker werdende Widerstand gegen die deutsche Besatzungsherrschaft gebrochen werden sollte. Die Deportationen in deutsche Konzentrationslager erreichten im Sommer 1944 nach der Landung der Alliierten ihren Höhepunkt. Wegen angeblicher Arbeitsverweigerung verhängte die Gestapo auch gegen zahlreiche Zwangsarbeiter KZ-Haft.

In the Dachau concentration camp there were over 1,800 Belgians, 2,100 Dutch and 467 Luxembourgers, including a few hundred women. Most of them were victims of the mass arrests that were made in 1943 in an attempt to stop the increased resistance against the German occupying powers. The deportations to German concentration camps reached a climax in the summer of 1944, after the Allies had landed in Normandy. The Gestapo also charged large numbers of forced laborers with refusing to work and sentenced them to imprisonment in a concentration camp.

Belgische Häftlinge Belgian prisoners



Georges Walrave, Zeichnung des Häftlings Nowak, 26. August 1943 (2. Generation Dachau)

In July 1941 the German military commander in Belgium and Northern France placed Georges Walrave on a wanted list for "sabotage, spying, and establishing a resistance group (F)". He was arrested and after passing through the Neuengamme concentration camp was brought to the Dachau camp in August 1942. He became one of the leaders of the Belgian prisoners there. Walrave returned to Belgium after liberation. After the founding of the International Dachau Committee, he served for a long time as its secretary general.



Arthur Hauot als Oberpfleger des Typhusblocks, 1944. Foto: (illegales Foto von Jean Brichaux, KZ-Gesetzliche Dachau)

Arthur Hauot was in contact with the Belgian Socialist leadership that had emigrated to Great Britain. He was arrested in September 1941 and taken to the Mauthausen concentration camp as a "night and fog" prisoner. In November 1942, close to death, he was moved to the Dachau camp. After recuperating, he became an orderly in the infirmary where he also worked kept notes. As intermediary for the Belgian prisoners, he co-founded the international camp in August 1945. After liberation he wrote a report on the Dachau concentration camp and composed poems about his memories of camp. He was honored for his literary work with a number of awards. Hauot represented the Belgian survivors of the camp in the International Dachau Committee and also served for a long time as its vice-president.

2623 zwei menschliche Eigenschaften

Wir beschränken uns deshalb hier auf die Feststellung, dass in Dachau zwei menschliche Eigenschaften in ganz besonderem Maße in Erscheinung getreten sind. Dort hat der Mensch gezeigt, wie außerordentlich erfindend er darin ist, seinen Mitmenschen Qualen zu bereiten – andererseits aber auch, zu welcher beispiellosen Größe er seine Fähigkeit, moralische und physische Leiden zu ertragen und der Hoffnungslosigkeit zu widerstehen, zu entwickeln vermag.

„Ein wenig Geschichte“, Häftlingsbericht von Arthur Hauot (1942–1945 in KZ Dachau, 1945 (Auszug))

two human characteristics

We therefore limit ourselves to the observation that in Dachau there were two especially prominent human characteristics: people there showed on the one hand how exceptionally creative they could be in torturing their fellow-humans – and on the other, to what an unprecedented degree they were able to develop the ability to bear moral and physical suffering without losing all hope.

A little history, prisoner account by Arthur Hauot (1942–1945 in Dachau, 1945 (excerpt))

Niederländische Häftlinge Dutch prisoners



Holländische Häftlinge als Torwache am Jourhaus, ganz rechts Post Uitevee. Foto: kurz nach der Befreiung 1945 (2. Generation Dachau)

Johann E. A. Post Uitevee belonged to a Dutch resistance group. He was arrested in February 1941 and brought to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He was one of the first Dutch prisoners to arrive in the Dachau camp in October 1942, and was assigned to work in the camp laundry room. He survived the medical experiments that were practiced on him, but suffered from their effects during his entire life. He was liberated in the Dachau camp in 1945.



Pim Boellard als Mitglied des Internationalen Lagerkomitees nach der Befreiung, Ende April 1945. Foto/Photo: Lee Miller, Stiftung Vredenburg im Oldachhaus, Hirschfeld (Hain)

After his country was occupied, the Dutchman Pim Boellard joined the resistance movement and took command of the underground army in the Utrecht province. The organization that he had built up was crushed in May 1942, 72 members were arrested and executed. A few months later Boellard was also arrested. As a "night and fog" prisoner he was first sent to the Natzweiler concentration camp and then in September 1944 to the Dachau concentration camp. He represented the Dutch prisoners in the illegal International Camp Committee. After liberation he organized the return of the Dutch prisoners to their country. He remained their confidant his entire life.

2628 der unbekannte Kamerad

Willem Paanakker ist heute gestorben. Er kam mit uns zusammen aus Vught, und es ist eigentlich erstaunlich, daß er so lange Zeit durchhalten konnte und daß er trotz seines lahmen Beins jedesmal dem „invalidentransport“ entging. Ich weiß nicht, warum sein Tod mich tiefer bewegt als der vieler anderer. Die wenigsten von uns kannten ihn... Für mich aber ist Paanakker beinahe ein Symbol... der unbekannte Kamerad möchte ich ihn nennen; einer, an den wir nun flüchtig denken, aber den wir später – wenn wir wieder zu Hause sind – allzu rasch vergessen haben werden (was undankbar und unrichtig zugleich wäre und was wir auch nicht zulassen dürfen)... Paanakker ist einer von... diesen stillen, pflichtbewußten, prachtvollen Kämpfern.

Heinrich Tagbuchnotiz von Nico Rott, 24. Januar 1945 (Auszug)

the unknown comrade

Willem Paanakker died today. He had arrived together with us from Vught, and actually it is astounding that he was able to hold out for so long and escape the invalid transport each time despite his lame leg. I don't know why his death affects me deeper than so many others. Only a few of us knew him... But for me Paanakker was almost a symbol... I'd like to call him "the unknown comrade"; someone who we only think of in passing, but then later, when we are home again, only too soon will have forgotten (which would be both ungrateful and unfair; and which we must not allow)... Paanakker is one of... those quiet, conscientious, magnificent fighters.

Secret diary entry by Nico Rott, January 24, 1945 (excerpt)



Foto: 1930er Jahre. Photo: 1930s. Privates

Sybrand Kamer (1889 – 1944)

2628 Der Lehrer Sybrand Kamer spielte eine führende Rolle im Widerstand in den Schulen in Süd-Holland. Nach seiner Verhaftung im November 1943 kam er über das Lager Vught (KZ Herengracht) im Mai 1944 in das KZ Dachau. Er wurde im November 1944 in das KZ Auschwitz deportiert, zwei Wochen später jedoch wieder nach Dachau zurückgebracht. Er starb am 13. Dezember 1944, einen Tag nach seiner Ankunft.

The teacher Sybrand Kamer played a leading role in the resistance in the schools in South Holland. After he was arrested in November 1943, he came via the Vught camp (Herengracht concentration camp) to the Dachau concentration camp in May 1944. In November 1944 he was deported to the concentration camp of Auschwitz but was sent back to Dachau two weeks later. He died on December 13, 1944, one day after his arrival.



Foto/Photo: 1946. Privates

Eugène Ost (1913–2001)

2634 Der Student Eugène Ost wurde von der Universität verweisen, weil er nicht der Volksdeutschen Bewegung beitreten wollte. Als Lehramtskandidat betrat er den April 1942 erneut ab. Er wurde nach Deutschland strafverurteilt. Die Gestapo verurteilte ihn im August 1942 in das KZ Dachau ein. Als Schreiber auf der Mauthausen-Versuchsanstalt gelang es Ost, wichtige Dokumente über diese Versuche aufzubewahren. Er stellte sie nach der Befreiung der Anlage im Dachau-Prozess zur Verfügung. Ost verfasste zahlreiche Artikel über das KZ Dachau und gehörte viele Jahre der Leitung der Luxemburger Lagergemeinschaft sowie dem Internationalen Dachau-Komitee an.

The student Eugène Ost was dismissed from the university for not wanting to join the ethnic German movement. He again refused to do this as a prospective teacher in April 1942. Sent to Germany and was eventually arrested in June 1942 when he refused to take the Hitler oath. The Gestapo committed him to the Dachau concentration camp in August 1942. Working as a clerk in the Mauthausen experiment station, Ost was able to preserve important documents on these experiments. After liberation he handed them over to the prosecution of the Dachau trial. Ost wrote numerous articles about the Dachau concentration camp and for many years was active in the leadership of the Luxembourg survivors association and the International Dachau Committee.