



The Database of Victims of the Nazi Persecution of "Gypsies"

Notes on methodology and manual

In our opinion, the public debate about the former concentration camp in Lety u Písku, officially called "Gypsy camp I Lety u Písku", has for a long time been complicated by publishing research results without exact descriptions of sources and methodology. Both the public understanding of the subject and historical research have been negatively affected by this.

Therefore, we set as one of our goals for the project „Database of the Roma Victims of the Holocaust“ to describe our work on the database in a way that enables as many people as possible to understand how exactly we reached our results and to be as precisely as possible in quoting the sources in order to build a solid base for further research. In accordance with this goal, the following text describes the creation of the list of victims that we have published as part of the Database of victims at holocaust.cz in May, 2020, explains how this database works and how to get access to the further materials and data that we have collected during the project and which are stored in the non-public part of the database.

The list of victims

Sources

We compiled the least of deceased prisoners of the „Gypsy camp“ in Lety u Písku on basis of the personal data contained in the archival fund „Gypsy camp Lety“ stored in the State Regional Archives in Třeboň. The fund contains documents originating directly from the camp in Lety u Písku and its operation. Among them, there is a greater number of lists, from which we used the following as basic sources for the creation of the database:

1. Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 145, Kartotéka vězňů [Card file of prisoners]
2. Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 7-9, Kniha stavu vězňů 1942 [Evidence book of prisoners of 1942]



3. Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 74, fol. 21-88, Abecední seznam Cikánů [Alphabetical list of Gypsies]
4. Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 75, fol. 168-188, Seznam zemřelých leden – únor 1943, změna stavu vězňů listopad 1942, změna stavu vězňů prosinec 1942 [List of deceased January - February 1943, change in number of prisoners November 1942, change in number of prisoners December 1942]
5. Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 79, fol. 44-45, Seznam zemřelých dětí a dospělých pochovaných na provizorním hřbitově [List of deceased children and adults buried in the provisional cemetery]
6. Státní oblastní archiv v Praze [State Regional Archives in Prague], fond Mimořádný lidový soud Praha, LS 678/48, Sloha přílohy [Fund Extraordinary People's Court Prague, LS 678/48, Attachments]

Processing of data

The transcribed data on the individual prisoners were imported into the database. Within this system, each entry individual entry of a person in various documents is called „actor“. These actors were connected according to the person they relate to. A simple script was programmed, which in the first step unified the names – surnames were converted into their masculine forms (the Czech language uses different endings for the surnames of male or female individuals) and in cases where names were given in different languages, their spelling was unified (ie.: Šulc / Schulz) in order to prepare the data for further automated processing. Then all actors from all sub-lists were automatically connected based on name and date of birth.

Due to the expected error rate, especially for surnames with multiple occurrences, and the assumption of the existence of duplicate records, all of the linked data was manually checked and those actors, which the script could not connect automatically, were manually connected. A detailed documentation of the manually connected actors can be obtained from the staff of the Institute.

The resulting data on the relations between the actors were entered into the internal database to prepare the data for the creation of the so-called authoritative list, from which the Database of victims on holocaust.cz draws the information on individuals displayed on the website. During the data check, we proceeded in three steps:



In the first step, we tried to determine which of the found information is correct based on the content of all documents available in the fund for one person.

For this purpose, we used other lists from the archive fund "Gypsy camp" Lety, which contain data on deportations, release, deaths and presence in the camp as additional sources. These are:

- Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 76, fol. 69-72, Seznam pro deportaci do KT Auschwitz 2. 12. 1942 [List for the deportation to the Auschwitz concentration camp December 2, 1942]
- Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 76, fol. 52-62, Seznam pro deportaci do KT Auschwitz 4. 5. 1943 [List for deportation to the Auschwitz concentration camp May 4, 1943]
- Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 77, fol. 5-9, Seznam „necikánů“ [List of „non-Gypsies“]
- Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni [State Regional Archives in Třeboň], Fond CT Lety [Fund Gypsy camp Lety], inv. n. 78, fol. 2-30, Seznam „cikánů“ [List of „Gypsies“]

The data was also compared with further documents from the fund "Gypsy camp" Lety, inventory numbers 73, 75, 95 and 96, which contain, among others, for example lists of persons committed to the camp, call-up notices and escort reports, certificates of release from the camp, reports on hospital stays, on the treatment of prisoners in the district hospitals in Písek and Strakonice, on bacteriological examinations and the supply of medicines, on the condition of patients and the health status of women prisoners and their children, reports of the camp commander, daily statistical reports on the number of patients and deaths, and lists of prisoners vaccinated against typhus as well as lists of lists of those who died. We also controlled the fates of the individual victims on grounds of documents on prisoners deported from the "Gypsy camp" Lety to the Auschwitz concentration camp, which were obtained from the archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland.

Based on the documents already mentioned, data that was missing in other lists, such as date or place of birth, date of death, arrival or departure from the camp or stay in hospitals was added. In the same way, the files from inventory numbers 86 to 91 from



the fund "Gypsy camp" Lety, which contain the personal files of 356 prisoners of the Lety camp, 229 men and 127 women, as well as data on other prisoners who do not have a separate personal file, were made use of.

Where unclear data could not be verified, that information that appears most often in various sources and was set as the authoritative data. Where also this was not possible, the concerned field was left blank in the public database. All the data found in the sources are available in the non-public part of the database, though, and will be provided on request.

Where possible, data on dates and places of birth was verified in digitized birth registers published online.

In the last step, we compared this list of the deceased with the lists of all prisoners of the Lety camp published by historian Ctibor Nečas in three different books: *Andr'oda taboris. Vězňové protektorátních cikánských táborů 1942-1943* [Andr'oda taboris. Prisoners of the Protectorate Gypsy camps 1942-1943]¹, *Aušvicate hi kher báro. Čeští vězňové cikánského tábora v Osvětimi II – Brzezince* [Aušvicate hi kher bar. Czech prisoners of the Gypsy camp in Auschwitz II - Birkenau]² and *Pamětní seznam - 1: jména a údaje o nebožácích, kteří byli násilně koncentrováni v tzv. cikánském táboře I (Lety, 1942-1943)* [Commemorative list - 1: names and data about the poor who were forcibly concentrated in the so-called Gypsy camp I (Lety, 1942-1943)]³. Six individuals that are listed on the "Commemorative List - 1" do not appear in our database, because on basis of our own work we couldn't verify their fates so far.

1 Ctibor Nečas, *Andr'oda taboris. Vězňové protektorátních cikánských táborů 1942-1943* [Andr'oda taboris. Prisoners of the Protectorate Gypsy camps 1942-1943]. Brno 1987, 150 p.

2 Nečas, Ctibor: *Aušvicate hi kher báro. Čeští vězňové cikánského tábora v Osvětimi II – Brzezince* [Aušvicate hi kher bar. Czech prisoners of the Gypsy camp in Auschwitz II - Birkenau]. Brno 1992, 246 p.

3 Nečas, Ctibor: *Pamětní seznam - 1: jména a údaje o nebožácích, kteří byli násilně koncentrováni v tzv. cikánském táboře I (Lety, 1942-1943)* [Commemorative list - 1: names and data about the poor who were forcibly concentrated in the so-called Gypsy camp I (Lety, 1942-1943)]. Nymburk 2012, 79 p.



How to search in the database

Names and surnames

In the public part of the database, first and last names appear in their Czech versions (eg male: Jan Šmíd / female: Helena Šmídová), because we assume that a) most victims and b) most people interested in their data will have a Czech background. Victims, about whom we know for sure that their names were originally German (according to birth certificates, passports and similar documents), the German version of the name and surname appears (eg Johann Schmied).

Unfortunately, due to technical reasons, so far the database allows searching for surnames only on the basis of its exact notation without the possibility to display different variants at the same time (eg. when entering the surname "Šmíd" German variants "Schmied" or "Schmidt" are not displayed at the same time). There is no sensitivity for diacritics, though, so it is not necessary to enter special Czech characters but all names can be searched for also by using non-diacritic equivalents available on English keyboards without (ie. Růžička → Ruzicka). Therefore, it may be necessary to enter different variants of the same surname into the search engine separately. The following table of transcripts of Czech and German consonants and vowels can be used for further orientation:

aj	ei
c	z, ts
č	tsch
í	i, ie
š	sch
v	w
y	i, ie
ý	i, ie
z	s, c

For surnames ending in two consonants, there may be another variant with the addition of the letter "e" (ie. Richtr → Richter). For surnames containing the consonants "f", "n" or "m", there may be another variant with a double consonant (ie. "ff" / "nn" / "mm").



All places of birth are published without further specification of district or region, but more detailed information is available on request from the internal database. Where it was impossible to determine the name of the place of birth in Czech language, but the data in German is congruent, the German place name was published (eg. Heiligenberg). Where the German data is not clear, but is clearly associated with a district (eg Kuban, Semil district), only the district will appear (Semily district).

The database can also be searched according to the place of imprisonment, i.e. in case of interest in the deceased prisoners of the camp in Lety u Písku, it is possible to select "Lety u Písku" in the search form.

Access to the non-public part of the database

In case of ambiguities and questions about information that is not available in the public part of the Victims Database, please contact the staff of the Institute at [database @ terezinstudies.cz](mailto:database@terezinstudies.cz).

Due to privacy and security considerations, we provide access to these materials and data only to family members of the victims or for research purposes beforehand explained.



Terezín Initiative Institute, May 2020.

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