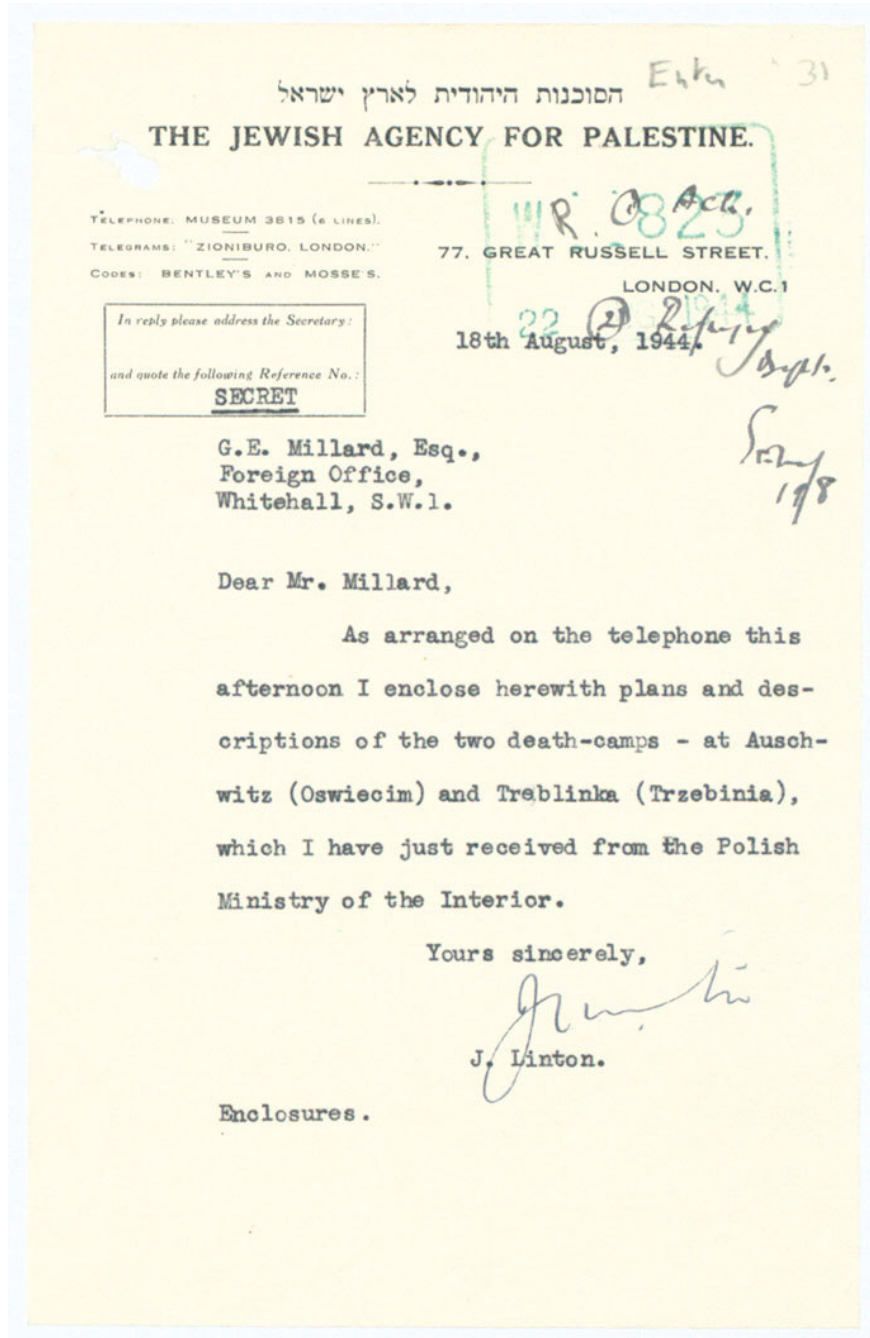


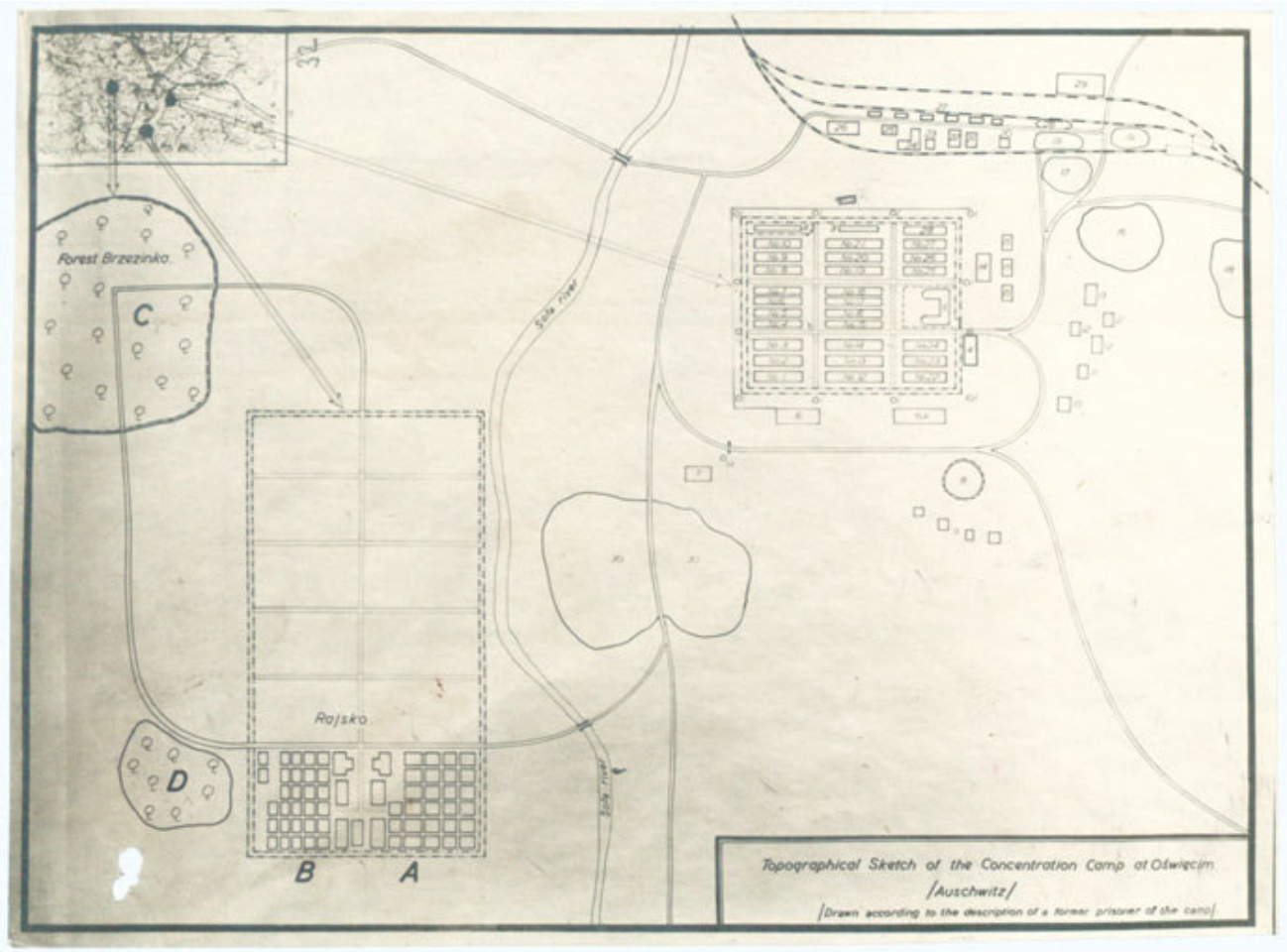
EASTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: CAMPS

Covering letter from the Jewish Agency for Palestine to the Foreign Office enclosing plans and descriptions of Auschwitz and Treblinka death-camps, August 1944

Catalogue ref: FO 371/42806



**Plan of Auschwitz**



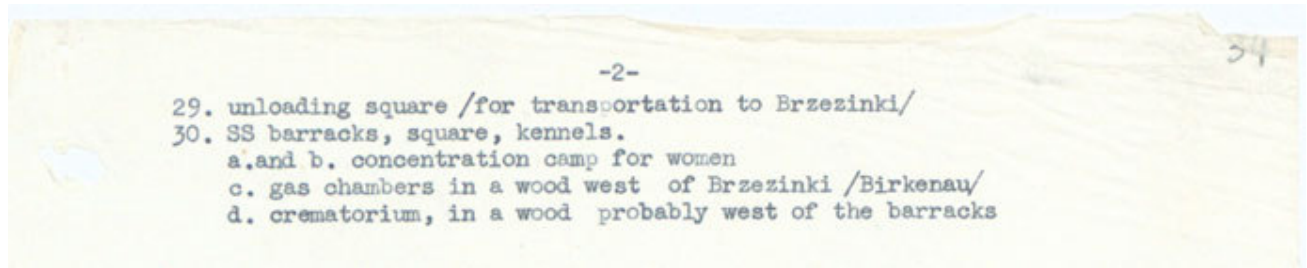
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Key to plan of Auschwitz

THE CONCENTRATION CAMP AT OSWIECIM /AUSCHWITZ /

Explanations to the attached plan:

1. Towers, sentries with machine guns /12/
- 1a. Sentry, road gate
2. Amunition damp
3. Canteen
4. Room of the block commander with his little tower for a sentry.
- ~~Block N.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28~~
- Block N.1. - rooms for internees
- Block N.2. - " " " and washrooms
- Block N.3,4,5, -- Rooms for internees
- Block N.6. --- Museum
- Block N.7,8,9,10,-- lodgings
- Block N.11.---- penal company
- Block N.12 -- lodgings and arrest /bukkers /
- Block N.13 -- N.19 ---- lodgings
- Block N.20 -- special lodging for weak persons and persons unable to work
- Block N.21 -- hospital and surgery
- Block N.22, 23, 24 --lodgings nr. 24 ground floor -- office
- Block N.25 -- lodgings; on the 1-st floor store-room.
- Block N.26-- safe and magazine
- Block N.27 -- clothing dept, and baths
- Block N.28 -- general hospital
  
5. Kitchen
6. Lodgings for S.S. N.C.O's
- 6a. " " " " and political dept.,
7. lodgins for commandant of the camp.
8. Crematorium
9. ~~houses and buildings~~ administrative buildings
10. slaughter house
11. dairy
12. joinery
13. concrete work shop
14. machine laundry
15. administrative buildings
16. timber warehouse
17. building materials warehouse
18. camp for civilian workers who are not interned at the camp
19. military workshops
20. stores of belongings taken away from the prisoners
21. ~~stores~~ stores of the SS
22. Barrack rooms for the SS
23. offices /
24. SS barrack rooms, stores on the ground floor
25. SS kitchen
26. Stores
27. dwelling houses for officers
28. Stables



**What is this source?**

This is a letter from the Jewish Agency for Palestine to the Foreign Office enclosing plans and descriptions of Auschwitz and Treblinka death-camps. Here is the information that came with the letter regarding the concentration camp at Auschwitz. The resistance movement in occupied Poland would probably have smuggled this information out.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine set was up in 1923 during period of the British Mandate of Palestine. Its role was to represent the Jewish community in Palestine.

**What's the background to this source?**

In 1942 Hitler's armies had carved out a huge empire in Eastern Europe. During their invasions German forces had taken a large number of European Jews prisoner. At first they were forced into ghettos, used in slave labour or simply shot.

From 1942 so many Jews were under Nazi control that the Nazi leaders came up with plans for a 'Final Solution'. This involved building camps that were used to execute millions of Jews and other groups the Nazis regarded as inferior.

**It's worth knowing that...**

Many Jews tried to escape the Nazis, and many non-Jews helped them. As a result there was a constant stream of information coming back to Allied commanders and Jewish communities about what was happening in Eastern Europe.

The decision not to bomb the camps proved highly controversial then and now. There were major difficulties. The location of the camps meant that bombers would have to fly long distances across well-defended German territory. Losses among bomber crews were very high and this mission would probably have resulted in high casualty rates. Another problem was the difficulty of

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locating the camps and actually hitting them. Wartime bombing was extremely difficult and bombs were often many miles off target. The Air Ministry had requested information concerning the layout of the camps (see Churchill's note to his Private Secretary).

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### How will you use this source?

1. What evidence does the plan and its key provide about the concentration camp at Auschwitz?
2. Many historians see the plans for the "Final Solution" as the turning point of WW2. How does this map help to explain this view?
3. Can you use this source to support any part of your presentation?