

## Deaths at Auschwitz, 1942

There are two main sources of data, for who really lived and died at Auschwitz, which we here attempt to synthesise. One of them is the Bletchley Park decrypts, which are in the form of monthly tables, together with comments upon them in monthly reports, and these span the thirteen months January 1942 – January 1943. The other is the ‘Death Books of Auschwitz’, published in 1995 in three volumes. These comprise all of the material which the Soviets captured from the Auschwitz camp when they liberated it in 1945, released by Gorbachov in 1995. These two data-sets form a contrast, the first having data about how many people were living in the camps, the second as the name implies gives the death-data. These two sources, it will here be argued, are concordant in showing the huge peak in mortality in the summer of 1942 as the epidemic of typhus hit the camps.

More Catholics than Jews died at Auschwitz. That is the plain testimony of these Death Books. Or, had you heard that there were a lot more Poles living in Auschwitz in the year 1942, than there were Jews? Did you know that there were far more deaths in the year 1942 at Auschwitz, than any other? We now scrutinise the data.

The Bletchley Park wartime decrypts are now held in the Public Record Office at Kew, and we have posted up the relevant pages on this site, so you can check directly what is said here. The decoded daily figures break down into Jews, Poles, ‘Political Prisoners’ - also alluded to as ‘Germans’ - and lastly, Russians. The graph below shows the first two of these categories, month by month: the number of Poles remained steady through the year, whereas the number of Jews in the camp climbed steeply. The total number of inmates rose to thirty thousand, with 39% of Jews in the camp for the year, on average compared to 56% of Poles. This count is for males and there is a [separate count](#) for the women’s camp, which only begins in September.<sup>1</sup> Each day the number of arrivals and departures was recorded. Here for example are three days of January 1942 (contained in [HW 16/10](#)):

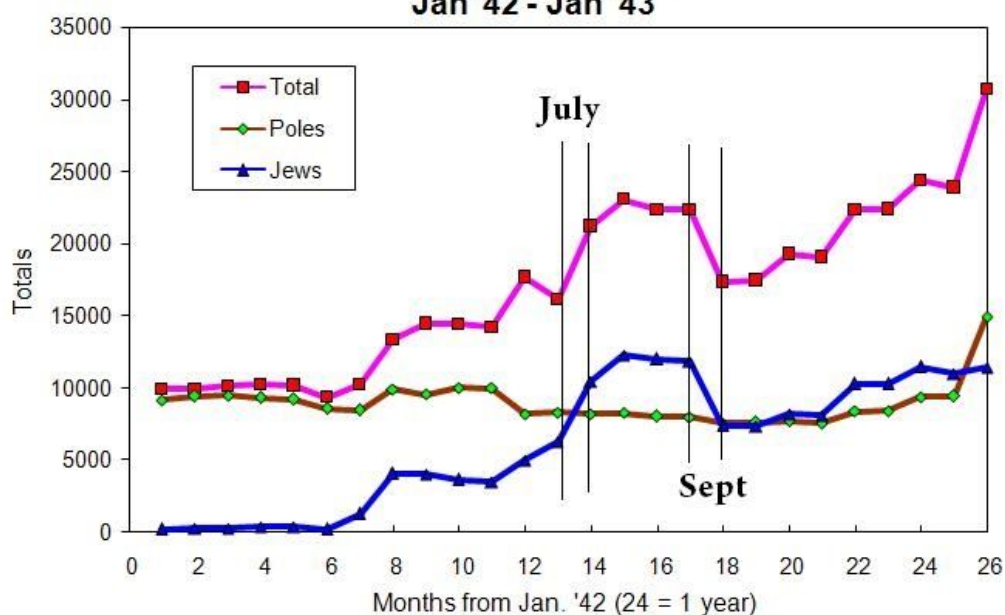
Jan 1942	Morning Total	Arrivals	Departures by any means	Evening Total	Jews	Poles	German/Politicals	Russians
19	10225	3	35	10193	217	9475	2	1510
20	10193	4	77	10120	215	9407	2	1490
21	10120	28	28	10120	214	9409	2	1474

The third data column is alluded to as ‘Departures by any means’ and includes death. Thus [arrivals – departures] = increase or decrease in the total. The evening figure for the total of inmates becomes the next day’s morning figure. No arrivals or departures were recorded on Sundays or public holidays, so the evening total for Saturday becomes the morning total on Monday.

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<sup>1</sup> Founded in March 1942, the women’s camp moved in August to Birkenau (This was about two miles away from the main Auschwitz base-camp).

## AUSCHWITZ 1942 Jan '42 - Jan '43



Two points each month have here been scored, for the earliest date and the last for which data were available, i.e that would give 24 points for a whole year.

### Deaths in August

A huge number died in August, 30% of the camp population then known by the BP analysts, to be at Auschwitz. The British-decrypt monthly [summary for August](#) written in September stated:

“For the first time returns are given for deaths of prisoners (223b/14,24,43,50): the figures for August are: NIEDERHAGEN 21, AUSCHWITZ 6829 (or 6889) men, 1525 women; BUCHENWALD 74; FLOSSENBÜRG 88. The AUSCHWITZ figure represents about 30% of the total given in the GPCC figures (see below); the cause is likely to be typhus as typhus was rife in June (see last summary)... Deaths must constitute a large proportion, if not all of the “departures” mentioned in the GPCC figures; which total 5325 for 19 days in August.”

We read that total deaths-at-Auschwitz for the month were here given as two groups, for the men’s and women’s camps.<sup>2</sup> Let’s check that with what was published in the ‘*Death-Books of Auschwitz*.’<sup>3</sup> That is the primary source for who died in Auschwitz and complements the decrypts, which gave the number of people who lived at Auschwitz. Those books record that 8507 people died in the month of August, and that fairly well concurs with 6889 + 1525 for men and women: these two independent sources are *agreeing in a credible manner*.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> There are alas no other months for which the Monthly Summary gives us the death-totals. Richard Breitman (*Official Secrets*, 1998) quotes the source HW 16/6 at the Public Record Office (ZIP OS2, in HW16/65 source, is Message 223b/24).

<sup>3</sup> These *Death Books from Auschwitz* (1995) are in three volumes, of which the second has a chapter ‘Computer-Aided Analysis of the Death Book Entries’ (Grotum & Parcer), The data here used is from a table on p.223.

<sup>4</sup> Compare Carlo Mattogno, ‘In August 1942, 8,600 prisoners perished.’ [Special Treatment at Auschwitz](#), p.78.

As stated in the above-quoted report, male deaths for August comprised almost 30% of the male camp population, then at twenty-three thousand. The Monthly Report states: 'Deaths must constitute a large proportion, if not all of the "departures" mentioned...' We concur with that, as recorded 'Departures' in August totalled 5325 – but, [these were recorded](#) for only 19 days. Adjusting for a month of 31 days, with 5 Sundays lacking records we obtained 6878 a total estimated 'Departures'.<sup>5</sup>

### Monthly Death-Book totals and 'Departures'

The terrible toll of typhus hitting the camp is shown in Figure 2. Monthly 'Departures' (computed as explained above) give the total who 'departed' each month, from the men's camp. Figures 1 and 2 show conjointly how these monthly 'Departures' were hovering around 25-30% of the population, whereas in September they shot up to over fifty percent.

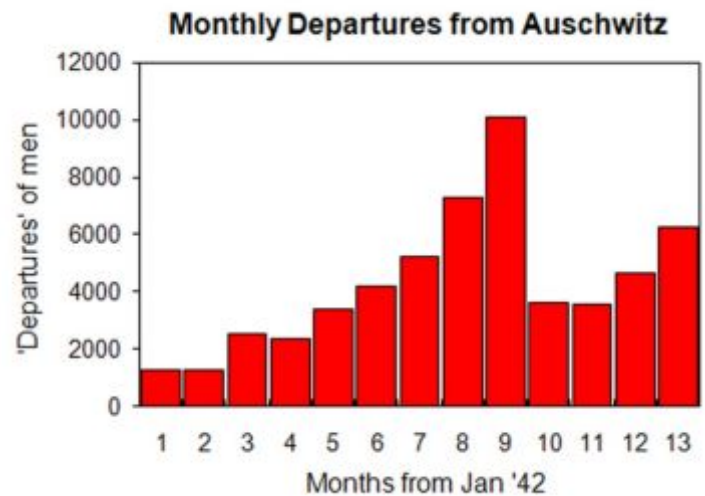
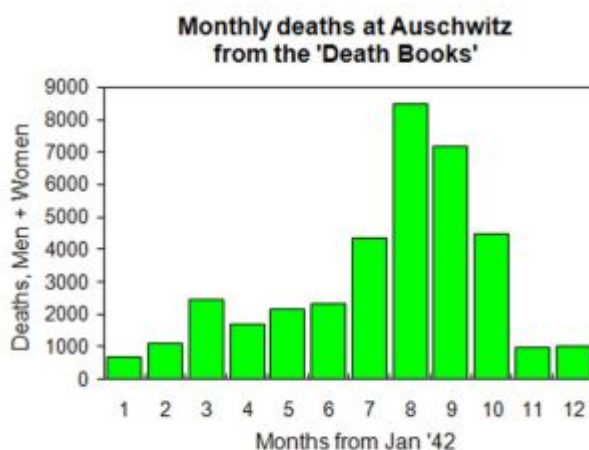


Figure 3, which shows monthly totals taken from the *Death Books of Auschwitz*, and these allude to both men and women at the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp.<sup>6</sup> They both peak in September. That was the peak month for the dreadful epidemic of typhus which struck the camp. Clearly, these two graphs are telling the same story. They are compatible with each other, although taken from totally different sources. They both show how the camp recovered from the massive typhus outbreak as the 'special treatment' protocols of delousing etc were installed (this will be the subject of a different article).



The *Death Book* records tell us that 59% of the deaths at Auschwitz were Jewish for 1942 (i.e., 22 thousand Jews out of a total of 37 thousand). But, before anyone tried to infer some fiendish meaning in this figure, let's note that the next year 1943 Jewish deaths comprised only 24% of total mortality (6.9 thousand) whereas Catholic deaths were at 69% of the total (17.0 thousand deaths). Well over twice as many Catholics died compared to Jews, in 1943! How strange that we do not hear this discussed a little more.

There were unregistered inmates at Auschwitz. How many? [The British Intelligence](#) decrypts stated that in October: 'As about 2,000 men in the total are always unaccounted for, it is difficult to be certain in what categories the arrivals and departures belong.'

<sup>5</sup> Our best estimate of total departures in August 1942: 5325 / 24 x 31.

<sup>6</sup> Four of these monthly totals from the *Death Books* were quoted by Robert Jan van Pelt (for July-October) in *The Case For Auschwitz, Evidence from the Irving Trial*, 2002, p.125.

Consulting the first graph, there were in October twenty thousand inmates in the camp. *Thus ten percent of inmates were unrecorded.* With so many people coming and going, one could not record everybody. Thus, one could increase the ‘Departures’ figures in this graph by ten percent.

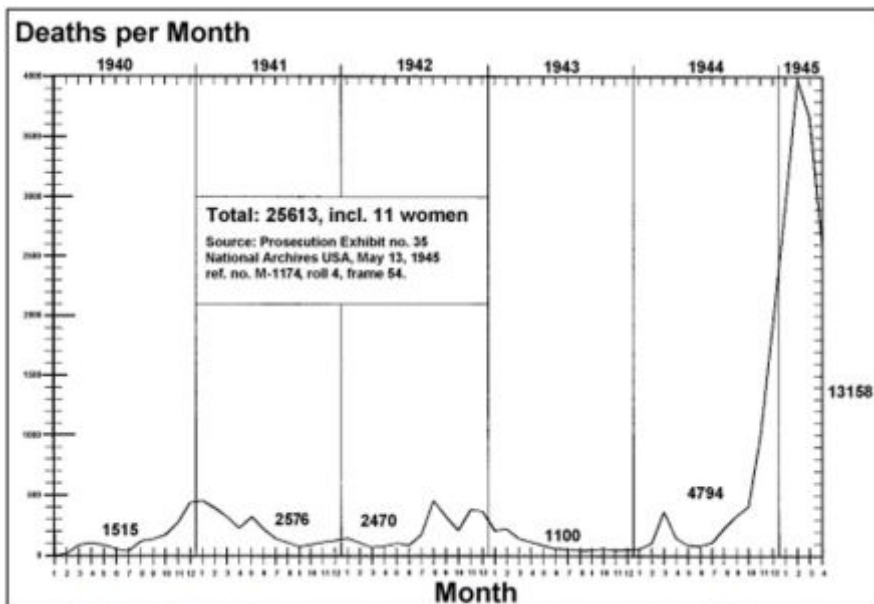
How many arrived at the Auschwitz camp over those 13 months? We here use the [arrivals – departures] = increase format, and thereby obtain *eighty-six thousand male arrivals.* We also cannot do that for the women’s camp, as we have only five months of data. ([Founded in March 1942](#), that camp shows a puzzling decrease from 16 thousand to nine thousand over the months, September to January.) Total arrivals for Auschwitz-Birkenau could be in the region of one hundred and twenty thousand, up to the end of 1942.

### We Reject....

It has been averred that ‘Up to 175,000’ Jews were deported to Auschwitz by the end of 1942<sup>7</sup>. That is impossibly high, because less than forty percent of all inmates were Jewish: a figure of fifty or sixty thousand would be more reasonable. Likewise Mr Jan van Pelt averred that ‘In 1942, two hundred thousand Jews were gassed in buildings 1 and 2.’<sup>8</sup> There cannot have been anything like such numbers arriving: and the *Death Books* have around one-thirtieth that number of Jews die in that year! These texts tend to claim that huge numbers of Jews arrived without being registered (and were gassed right away), however we would rather stick to documented data.

### Discussion

There are three main sources of data for the numbers at Auschwitz: the [Arolsen Archives](#), which give total deaths, the Death-books and the Bletchley-Park Decrypts.<sup>9</sup> The data from



the Arolsen Archive is careful and sound, recording everyone who really lived and died in thirteen different labour-camps – but, is not broken down by year, so is here useless.

For comparison, the graph in Figure 4 shows [data gathered by Americans](#) from the Dachau camp,<sup>10</sup> a year-by-year breakdown not repeated for other camps. Note here that the 1942 deaths appear as *less than ten percent* of the total.

<sup>7</sup> Y Gutman and M. Berenbaum, *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death camp* 1994, p.86.

<sup>8</sup> Jan van Pelt, *Auschwitz, 1270 to the Present*, p.326.

<sup>9</sup> But, see Carlo Mattogno, [‘Special Treatment’ at Auschwitz](#) for discussion.

<sup>10</sup> See Germar Rudolf, [Lectures on the Holocaust](#), p.460 .

There was no great typhus outbreak in Dachau in 1942 as for Auschwitz, and the only huge peak in mortality we see comes in 1945 at the war's end, when massive aerial bombardment destroyed infrastructure, so typhus and famine worked unhindered.

The Arolsen Archive cited a total of sixty thousand deaths at the Auschwitz camp<sup>11</sup>, whereas the Death Books gave 68 thousand, but the latter covers only the three years 1941-3. That is something like a concordance, but suggests that the Arolsen figures may need a slight enlargement (The total for Dachau given in the above graph, is likewise a little larger than the total given by the Arolsen Archive for that camp. But, there may be a case for suggesting that the peak of 37 thousand deaths at Auschwitz in 1942, here examined, was somewhere around half of the total documented mortality at that camp – and certainly a lot more than the barely ten percent recorded at Dachau.

So many books have been published by Jews about their suffering at Auschwitz, but should they not have rather been by Roman Catholics? Of the 68.8 thousand total deaths recorded in the *Death Books for Auschwitz*, 29.1 thousand were Jewish and 31.8 thousand were Roman Catholic. No-one has questioned the authenticity of these archive records, but could this be the reason why one hears so little discussion of them?

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<sup>11</sup> See Rudolf, *Dissecting the Holocaust*, Ch. [On Statistics](#), scroll down to Table, ‘