

Holocaust Aftermath: War Crimes Dachau Civil Internment Camp

After freeing the Nazis' captives, the Allied occupation forces converted the former concentration camp at Dachau into an internment and prison camp, designated Civil Internment Enclosure 29. War criminal suspects and unfriendly witnesses arrested by the U.S. Counterintelligence Corps were held at CIE 29.

Above: German internee Julius Zwillinger at CIE 29 wrote to a friend in the U.S. occupation zone on November 10, 1946, shortly after the trial of the major Nazi war criminals had ended. Below: By the time his friend's letter was posted at Wurzburg on August 8, 1947, Zwillinger had been relocated to another location. Both outgoing and incoming letters were examined and stamped by War Crimes unit censors. The incoming letter was marked "Hold for new address."

Postage was free for prisoners of war, but civil internees were required to pay postage. The military post office at Dachau had U.S. stamps in 1946, but no German stamps, so the lettersheet was rated 36 pfennigs postage due, which was collected on delivery.

