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Results of Archaeological Rescue Excavations at the Site of the Former German Forced Labour Camp KL Jawischowitz, Oświęcim District

Wyniki ratowniczych badań archeologicznych na terenie byłego niemieckiego obozu pracy przymusowej KL Jawischowitz, pow. Oświęcim

Abstract: The paper presents the results of rescue archaeological excavations carried out at the site of the former German forced labour camp KL Jawischowitz, a sub-camp of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau. It discusses the historical material related to individual phases of use of the building complex as well as the camp architecture and the accompanying technical infrastructure.

The remains of architecture connected with two blocks of flats and the camp infrastructure functioning in the years 1942–1945 and also used later were discovered. Movable historical objects obtained during the research in the form of fragments of ceramics (porcelain, tiles, and construction ceramics) and glass, connected with the functioning of the German forced labour camp, were also analysed. Between 1945 and 1950, the camp was used by the authorities of the Polish People's Republic as a forced labour camp for German citizens, members of the NSDAP and the Hitlerjugend, *Volksdeutsche*, and people suspected of disloyalty to Poland. The last stage of the operation of the former camp complex took place after 1950, when it was converted into a workers' housing estate. Since the demolition of the housing estate in the 1970s the area has been used as a park, which is currently undergoing revitalisation.

Keywords: Brzeszcze-Jawiszowice, labour camp, barracks, World War II, Auschwitz, tiles, glass

Preliminary information

This text concern the results of rescue excavations conducted in the village of Jawiszowice. The area of the former forced labour camp KL Jawischowitz is located on the right-bank floodplain stretching between the Vistula and the Soła River (Janusz 2010: 7). The land there is flat and rather waterlogged, mostly

Fig. 1. Brzeszcze-Jawiszowice, at a scale of 1:10 000, the excavation area is marked in red (figure prepared by M. Wardas-Lasoń).

covered by meadows and floodplain forests. In geographical terms, the region is located in the Oświęcim Basin, in the so-called Upper Vistula Valley (*Słownik geograficzny Królestwa*... 1880: 404–405; 1882: 511–512; Kondracki 2001: 515–517). The Oświęcim Basin is bounded in the south by the Carpathians foredeep, and in the north and the north-west by the Silesian Upland. In the middle of the Basin there is the channel of the Vistula and its tributaries (including the Soła, the Przemsza, and the Skawa). Near Oświęcim, the Vistula flows through a wide lowland valley, the average height of which is approx. 230 m above sea level, with alluvial fans of the Soła and the Skawa to the right (Kondracki 2001: 516–517; Solon et al. 2018: 170) (Fig. 1).

The town, named after *Jawisz*, first appeared in written sources in the thirteenth century in a document of Henry the Bearded of 1204. The name *Jawis* is mentioned, found also in later documents of Wrocław dukes from the period (Janusz 2010: 14). Another mention of Jawiszowice comes from the beginning of the fifteenth century and is related to the handing over of meadows to the Dominican Order from Oświęcim by Małgorzata Zawiszowska (Janusz 2010: 14).

The town name, which is patronymic, has a clear connection with the names of settlements established before 1333 (Łowmiański 1967: 20–60; Janusz 2010: 14). Jawiszowice is located along an important trade route from Kraków through

Oświęcim and Silesia to Wrocław, and from the Moravian Gate and Brno to Vienna (Nowakowski 1985: 788). Descriptions from the period depict nearby Oświęcim as a flourishing town, the capital of the region (later Duchy of Oświęcim and Zator), which was donated in 1179 by Casimir II the Just to Władysław of Racibórz, along with Zator, Kąty, Wadowice, and Żywiec (Skalińska-Dindorf 2006: 23). After the First Partition of Poland, Jawiszowice was located in the Habsburg Empire, which, as a successor to the Bohemian crown, reopened the dispute over the status of the Oświęcim Duchy (Nowakowski 1985: 785–786).

Considerable changes in the development of Jawiszowice took place at the beginning of the nineteenth century, when construction of a railway Vienna – Bogumin – Dziedzice – Oświęcim – Kraków – Bochnia started. The railway construction fuelled an economic boom in the area (Jarus 1982: 5–6; Rawecki 2003: 11–12; Setkiewicz 2006: 34).

The exploratory drilling that led to the discovery of hard coal deposits, carried out in 1898–1901, had a particular impact on the economic development of Brzeszcze and Jawiszowice. In consequence, the first mineshaft in Brzeszcze was sunk in 1903, and then the mine was extended (Jaros 1983: 11–13; Janusz 2010: 43). From April 1917, the Duchy of Oświęcim and Zator had a thriving committee headed by count Stefan Bobowski, the aim of which was to protect the Polish rights to the Oświęcim Land as an eternal part of Lesser Poland, thanks to which, after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it ended up in the territory of Poland (Nowakowski 1985: 782).

September 1939 started with military operations connected with the defensive war. On the second day of the war, "Bielsko" Operational Group reached Brzeszcze to defend a crossing on the Vistula. On the following day, there was a fight between Polish units and units of the German 5th Armoured Division attacking the Vistula. That day, Germans seized Brzeszcze and Oświęcim. On September 1, reserve units of the 3rd Battalion of the 12th Infantry Regiment got near Brzeszcze. Their task was to tighten up the line of defence and secure the crossing on the Vistula. Starting on September 1, the 6th Division under the command of General Mond fought in the Pszczyna Forest, from where it crossed the Vistula on the night of September 1 and took positions near Oświęcim, Brzeszcze and Jawiszowice, where it was to cover the crossings on the Vistula. As a result of heavy fighting on September 2 and the risk of a breach of the defence line, on the night of September 2, the troops of the 6th Division were ordered to retreat through Osiek and Głębowice to Woźniki and take defensive positions on the Skawa line (Steblik 1989: 158, 173–174). When Germany seized Poland in 1939, this area was incorporated into the Third Reich by Adolf Hitler's Decree of October 8, 1939 (Skalińska-Dindorf 2006: 412).

The Brzeszcze mine was taken over on September 21, 1939, by the Main Trustee Office for the East established to administer the property confiscated in the

occupied territories. At the beginning of 1940, the Brzeszcze-Jawiszowice hard coal mine was placed under the administration of the German occupation authorities and included in the Hermann Göering Werke company as *Steinkohlenbergwer Brzeszcze – Schachtanlagen Brzeszcze und Jawischowitz* (Jaros 1983: 38; Janusz 2010: 44).

In late April or early May 1940, *Konzentrationslager Auschwitz* was established to the south-west of the densely populated area of Oświęcim (Peschel, Tabaszewski 2015: 3). The reason for its establishment was the need to create new places of detention for the mass-arrested members and supporters of the resistance movement, which covered more and more Polish circles, and for those detained by the police as part of the extermination operation codenamed *Intelligenzaktion*. The camp was located in a complex of former barracks behind the Soła River, outside of the densely populated part of town. The inhabitants of the Zasoledistrict and nearby villages were displaced, and their houses were demolished. The deserted area of approximately 40 km^2 was the so-called camp interest zone (Höss 1989: 103, note 54; Wardzińska 2009: 26; Czech 2012: 19 and 23).

Starting in 1941, Auschwitz prisoners were used to construct and then work in the IG Farben plant, erected in the village of Dwory, a few kilometres away from Oświęcim (Setkiewicz 2006: 40; Czech 2012: 27; Waschmann 2016: 235). In the spring of 1942, a decision was made to exploit the human potential in the form of concentration camp prisoners by sending them to forced labour in the industry

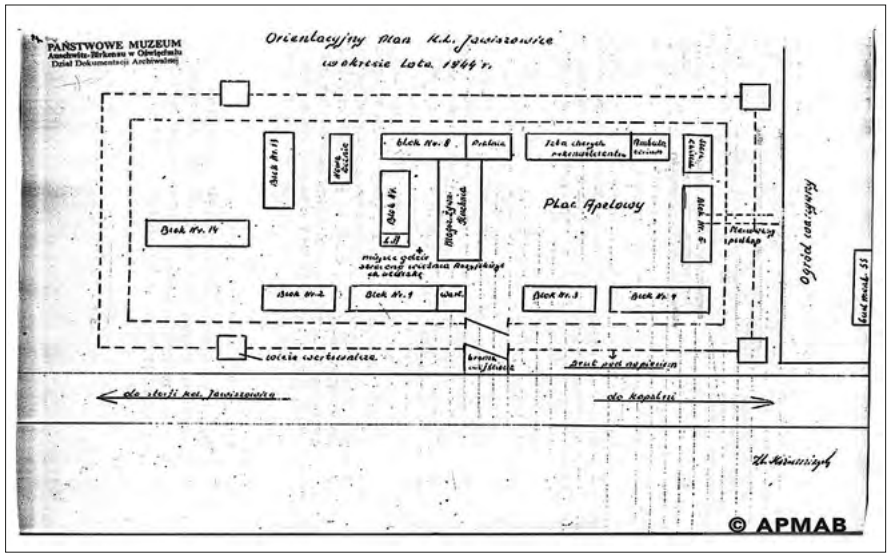

Fig. 2. A map of the KL Jawischowitz sub-camp from 1944 (source: Arbeitslager Jawischowitz | Sub Camps of Auschwitz, subcamps-auschwitz.org).

of the Third Reich. Based on this decision, on August 15, 1942, one of the first sub-camps of KL Auschwitz was established: KL Jawischowitz (Fig. 2), which was the accommodation place for prisoners sent to forced labour in the Brzeszcze mine and to construct a power plant (Jaros 1983: 40; Tabaszewski, Dziuba-Filipowicz 2021: 1). The sub-camp in Jawiszowice came directly under the KL Auschwitz I commandant until the very end, even despite the decision as a result of which, on November 21, 1943, all industry-related sub-camps in Upper Silesia were to be administered by KL Auschwitz III – Monowitz (Czech 2012: 354; Piper 2012: 104–105).

The forced labour camp established by Germans in Jawiszowice operated from August 15, 1942, to January 19, 1945, when approximately 1,900 prisoners were evacuated on account of the approaching units of the 60th Army of the First Ukrainian Front. They went on foot to Wodzisław Śląski. A few dozen prisoners unable to walk stayed in the camp, where they were liberated by the Soviet Army (Strzelecki 1982: 166; Jaros 1983: 40). From February 1945, the German infrastructure of the sub-camp in Jawiszowice was used by the authorities of the Polish People's Republic to detain people suspected of being members of the NSDAP, *Hitler-Jugend*, and BDM, German civilians, Ukrainians, and Polish citizens being *Volksdeutsche* as well as inhabitants of Upper Silesia suspected of disloyalty to Poland (Woźniczka 1994: 69; 2014: 23). The camp operated under the supervision of the communist authorities of Poland until the beginning of 1950. During that time, it had a few hundred prisoners sent to forced labour in the mine (Jaros 1983: 45–46).

In 1947, in the area of the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum was established, which still operates today (Journal of Laws of 1947.523.265). In 1950, by decision of the then Minister of Culture and Art, it was granted a status of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (M.P.1950.13.132: 107–108). In the years 1961–1962, eleven guard towers were reconstructed, and in 1967 an International Monument to the Victims of Fascism was erected and unveiled between Crematoriums II and III (Rawecki 2005: 58). In 1962, a protected zone for museum areas in Brzezinka was created, and in 1977 – for the museum areas in Oświęcim. Two years later, the area of the former KL Auschwitz-Birkenau within the Museum was added, along with the zones established, to the UNESCO's World Heritage List (Rawecki 2005: 51). The area of the former camp operating as a museum was entered into the Register of Historic Monuments by Decision no. A–714/95 (the present register no.: A–959/M) of August 2, 1995.

In 1961, some of the areas previously owned by the mansion, where a workers' housing estate was built, and the mine in Jawiszowice were incorporated in administrative terms into neighbouring Brzeszcze (Janusz 2010: 8). In 1995, the bathhouse building that used to be a part of the Jawiszowice camp as well as the camp's lantern and their immediate surroundings were also entered into the Register of Historic Monuments (decision no. A–1629/95 of December 29, 1945).

Research results

The research discussed in this paper was carried out under the investment made by the Brzeszcze Commune Office in connection with the revitalisation of the park existing in the area of the former camp. The work conducted, including the stripping of topsoil and ground levelling, revealed the top of a brick structure which, after examination, turned out to be the remains of the wall base of camp barracks (Tabaszewski, Dziuba-Filipowicz 2021: 3). The findings made it necessary to carry out archaeological rescue excavations with the aim to identify the scope and the state of preservation of the remains of the former forced labour camp in Jawiszowice.

During the rescue excavations carried out in 2021, fragmentarily preserved remains of two buildings – block no. 6 and block no. 8 – were uncovered (items 9–10 and 11) (Fig. 3–5) along with their auxiliary infrastructure (items 8, 12, 13, 14). They are the remains of a concrete strip footing, which is 96 cm deep, on which an additional brick wall base was built, being a foundation for the timber framing of the barracks. The base originally consisted of three layers of machine-made bricks measuring 28 x 12.5 x 6.5 cm. In the case of block no. 6, the southern part with a separate boiler room (item 9), a fragment of the strip footing of the western wall, and the north-western corner of the part for prisoners have been preserved (item 10). In the southern part, there is heavily fragmented cementitious levelling screed placed on an insulation felt layer, under which there is a base of brick and cement

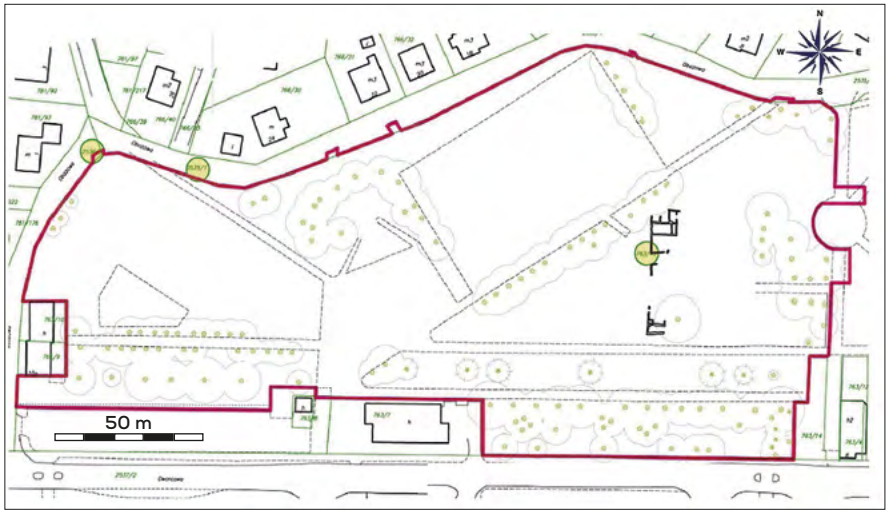

Fig. 3. Location of the identified remains of blocks no. 6 and 8 within the investment area, at a scale of 1:1000 (figure prepared by A. Piekarczyk).

Fig. 4. Uncovered foundations of blocks no. 6 and 8 (items 9–11) (photograph by A. Piekarczyk).

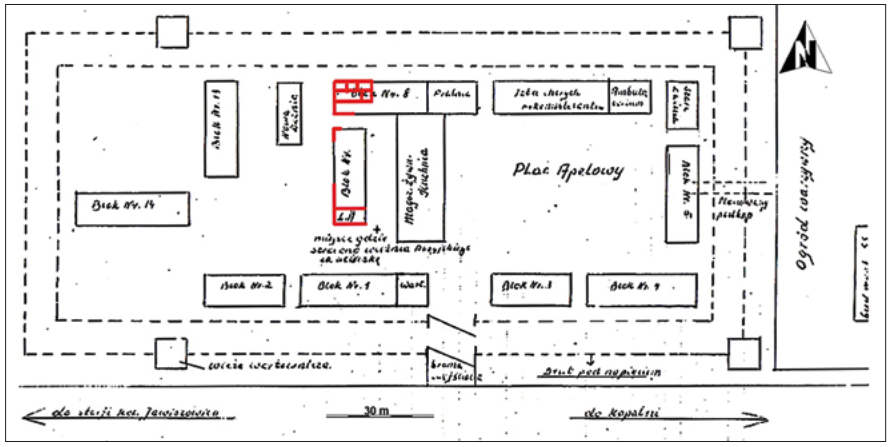

Fig. 5. A map of the former labour camp from 1944 with uncovered strip footings marked in red (figure prepared by M. Wardas-Lasoń).

rubble (Fig. 6). In the case of block no. 8 (item 10), a partially preserved fragment of the outer strip footing of the southern wall and a fragment of the western wall have been uncovered. Moreover, inside the building, there are the remains of strip footings, which originally served as bases for internal walls dividing rooms, in which elements of a bathhouse and a laundry room were found. In one of such rooms, a basis of a two-flue chimney of a heating furnace (Fig. 7) and a fragment of a steel water pipe supplying water to the room were uncovered (Fig. 8).

The sub-camp, put into operation on August 15, 1942, consisted of fourteen structures, including masonry buildings serving as a bathhouse, food warehouses,

Fig. 6. The inside of block no. 6 (item 10), an exploratory excavation in the SW corner, E and N profile, a visible layer of the damaged levelling screed, insulation felt, and a base (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

and the staff's buildings. Residential buildings for forced labourers were wooden barracks erected on cement strip footings with a brick wall base. The whole camp was surrounded with a double barbed-wire fence. The fence included four guard towers which originally, until 1943, were placed in the corners, but then the camp was extended towards the west. There was one entrance gate in the camp, located in the south. Residential blocks for prisoners in the sub-camp in question were RL IV/3

Fig. 7. The inside of block no. 8 (item 11), the chimney base, at a level of 40 cm (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

or RL VII/5 barracks. Both types were designed on a rectangular plan, had a similar structure, and measured 19.95 x 8.14 m and 33.15 x 8.14 m respectively (Fig. 9). They were one-storey buildings on shallow foundations, with a brick wall base, on which sill plates insulated with a felt layer were placed. The building structure consisted of wooden frames including columns connected with transverse beams and trusses, supporting the ridge beam. The structural elements were joined with wing nut screws or wooden (oak) dowels hammered into drilled holes and woodwork joints. Barracks of this type were made of ready-made elements delivered to the camp. The structure had a floor made of a thin layer of cementitious levelling screed, insulated from the bottom with a layer of bitumen felt (Setkiewicz 2012: 26). Structures of this type had a light building frame, with boarded walls. Light barracks that could be quickly erected were created at the end of the nineteenth century and became popular at the beginning of the twentieth century in the army. During the First World War, they performed well as structures for accommodating both prisoners of war and civilians fleeing from the war zone (Koryciński, Kozakiewicz 2017: 176; Tabaszewski, Peschel 2021: 12).

Inside item 9, at a depth of approximately 100 cm from the top of the brick wall base, there was a concrete drain pipe, 25 cm in diameter, marked as item 8 (Fig. 10). The pipe was laid along the E–W axis and was an element of the drain-waste-vent system of the labour camp. Pipes of this type were used in Auschwitz-Birkenau

Fig. 8. The inside of block no. 8 (item 11), the remains of the service pipe in the room, at a level of 40 cm (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

camps and sub-camps from 1941. The construction of sanitary appliances and the associated sewage system was necessary due to the winter of 1940–1941, the infestation of lice in the Auschwitz camp, and the resulting typhus epidemic (Peschel, Tabaszewski 2018: 14 – see for further reading). The septic system in Jawiszowice was created along with the camp, at the beginning of the summer of 1942, and was an extension of the sewer pipeline from the central part of the camp.

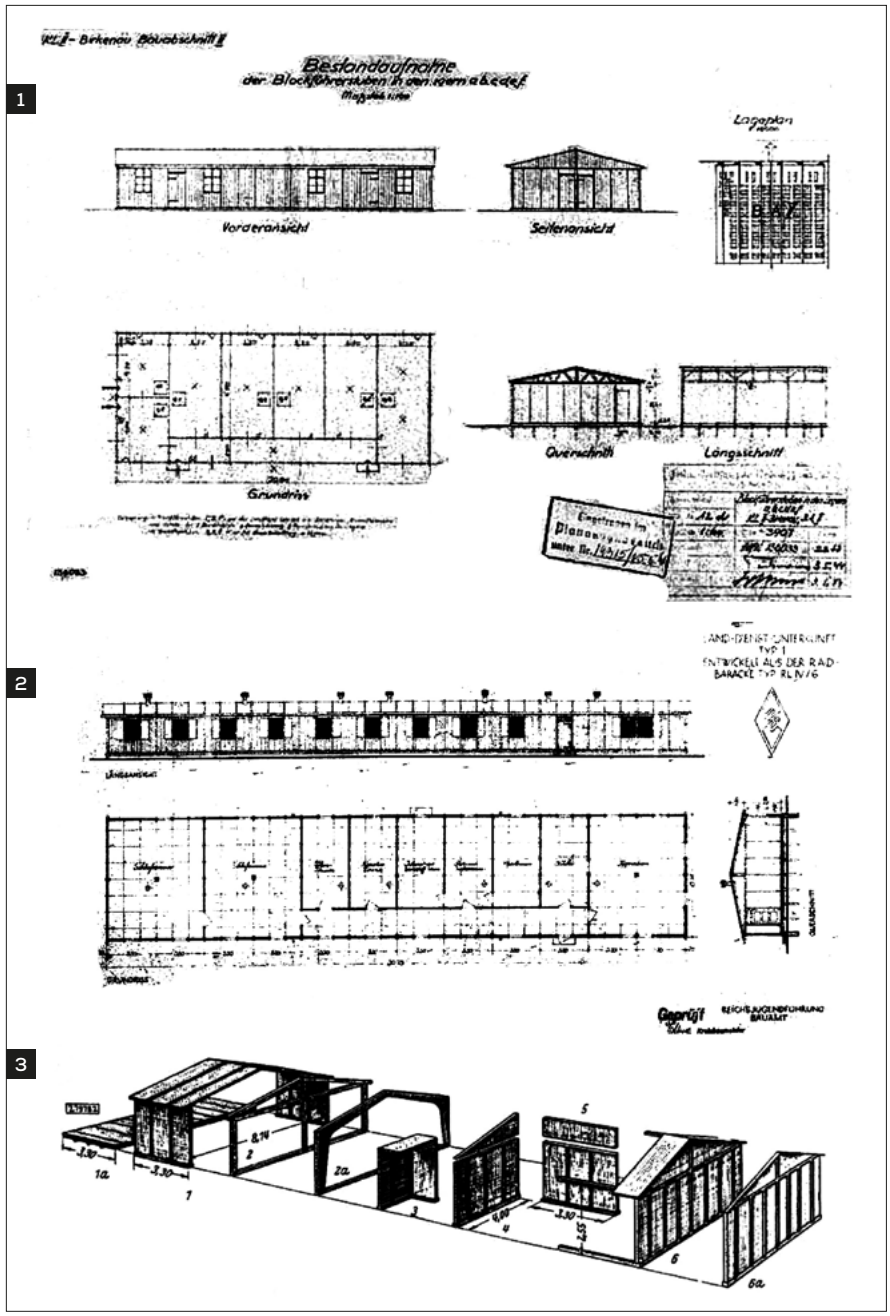

Fig. 9. A construction drawing of RL IV/3 barracks, **(1)** after Setkiewicz 2012 (fig. on pages 28–29); **(2, 3)** after Koryciński, Kozakiewicz 2017 (fig. 9 and 10).

Fig. 10. The inside of block no. 6 (item 9), A–B and E–F profiles, a view of a concrete drain pipe (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

Fig. 11. An excavation outside the southern wall of block no. 8 (item 11), S and W profile, a view of the layer of gravel forming the perimeter drain (item 12) and drainage cuts (items 13 and 14) (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

Fig. 12. The inside of block no. 6 (item 9), A–B profile, and zoomed-in item 1 (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

Fig. 13. The inside of block no. 6 (item 9), layer 10, a discovery layout with a brick stove (pot-bellied stove) basis visible in the NW corner and C–D profile (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

The auxiliary infrastructure is connected with the remains of drainage devices discovered in the exploratory excavation at the southern wall of block no. 8 (item 11) in the form of a gravel perimeter drain and two drainage channels along the E–W axis (Fig. 11). They are structures that were to enable drainage by removing water outside the area occupied by the camp. Their creation was connected with the erection of the camp complex. The drainage system, the purpose of which was to dry the land prepared for the construction of the camp and to drain stormwater, was created in the spring and summer of 1942 (Augustyn 1945: 9, 16; Sehn 1960: 18; Höss 1989: 121; Strzelecka 1995: 64, 68–70; Rawecki 2003: 91–93).

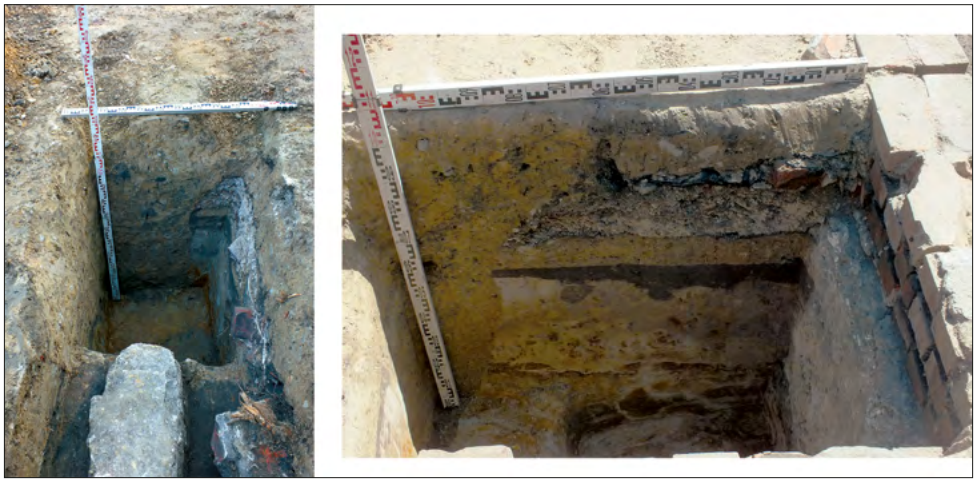

Fig. 14. An excavation at the S section of the W wall and at the NW corner of block no. 6 (item 10), in the N profile of both excavations one can see a secondary fill caused by the demolition of the foundations (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

Fig. 15. The stratigraphic structure of the preserved layers: **(1)** an exploratory excavation in the outer southern part of block no. 8 (item 11); **(2)** an exploratory excavation inside the southern part of block no. 6 (item 10); **(3)** an exploratory excavation in the outer northern part of block no. 8 (item 10) (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

Items 1–7 should be mentioned as particularly worthy of attention (Fig. 12). They are the remains of small wooden uprights in a line. The fact they were located inside item 9 (a separate southern part of block no. 6) (item 10) indicates that they could originally form a small fuel box. This interpretation is supported by a large amount of coal dust and slaked coal within structure 9 (layer no. 10) as well as a brick stove plinth in the north-western corner of the room (Fig. 13).

Directly below the contemporary topsoil, the whole area was covered with layer no. 1 of a levelling character. This layer can be linked to the demolition of the remains of the camp and the creation of a park in its place at the end of the 1970s. The average thickness of the layer is approximately 20–50 cm, however, in some places it is more than 100 cm, filling holes left by the removed fragments of the concrete strip footing of the block no. 6 building (Fig. 14).

The next stratification unit found in nearly the whole area in question was layer no. 4, which was a natural organic layer covering the area during the period preceding the operation of the camp. This layer was documented both outside and inside the buildings, directly beneath the layers connected with the operation of the barracks. Below layer no. 4, there are two layers of sterile earth – no. 5 and 6. The first one is the Quaternary grey and yellow sand with precipitation of iron (hardpan), while the other is orange and yellow Miocene clay (Fig. 15).

Inside block no. 6 (item 10), directly under layer no. 1, layer no. 2 was documented, with a large amount of slaked cement mortar mixed with brick rubble, fragments of felt, and pieces of glass wool. This layer may be linked to the demolition of block no. 6 and treated as coming from the same time as layer no. 1.

In part S of block no. 6 (item 10), directly under layer no. 1, there is layer no. 10 consisting of slaked coal, ash, and some fragments of slag (Fig. 13). This layer includes fragments of broken octagonal floor tiles, glass, and porcelain, all connected with the period of the camp's operation. Underneath this layer, there is a line of uprights (items 1–7), originally sunk into layer no. 3, forming a wall of a wooden coal box. These uprights are partially filled with layer no. 10 mixed with layer no. 4. Also inside block no. 6 (items 9 and 10) layers no. 3 and 9 were identified, including yellow clay with small fragments of brick rubble. These layers are connected with ground levelling carried out when the camp's buildings were erected.

Inside the residential part of block no. 6 (item 10), below the levelling ground created after the camp had been demolished, layers connected with the building's floor were recognised (layers no. 11–14). These were fragments of the cement floor (layers no. 11 and 12), under which an insulation layer of felt was documented (layer no. 13), lying on bricks situated directly on compacted clay with a large amount of slaked brick rubble (layer no. 14).

In the southern part of block no. 8 (item 11), layer no. 15 was located, consisting of fine river gravel (referred to as item 12) (Fig. 11).

Movable artefacts

During the excavations conducted, a total of 148 movable artefacts were obtained, including 123 fragments of ceramics, 18 fragments of glass, 4 metal items, and a bone item.

The fragments of ceramics discovered during the research, due to their technological and functional characteristics, were divided into the following six groups: dish ceramics (9 fragments), porcelain (8 fragments), faience/stoneware (13 fragments), tiles (83 fragments), terracotta (12 fragments), and others (1 fragment). The chronology of the whole ceramic collection falls between the end of the eighteenth century and the second half of the twentieth century.

All fragments from the dish ceramics group come from dishes thrown on a potter's wheel. They were made of ferruginous clay, with a small addition of fine- and medium-grained sand and gravel, and were fired in an oxidising atmosphere. The fragments excavated include one fragment of a straight rim with a rounded edge, emphasised by an encircling muzzle (Fig. 16: 3), five fragments of bellies (including three from one dish) (Fig. 16: 1, 3), and one fragment of a flat bottom (Fig. 16: 2). It can be said that the dishes were created in one of the local potter's shops operating in Oświęcim, Pszczyna, or Kęty (Głowa 1956: 193–194). All fragments can be linked to a collection of S-shaped or squat pots/jugs with cylindrical necks. All fragments come from typical moulds used in the modern era (Wałowy 1979: 95; Tabaszewski 2018: 202–203).

In the case of six fragments, glazed surface was identified, created on the basis of powdered lead oxide dyed with iron oxides, which allowed to obtain a range of brown colours (Izdebska 1934: 23; Reinfuss 1955: 24). On five fragments, both surfaces are glazed, while on two fragments, only the inside is glazed. In the case of these two fragments and in the case of the one unglazed fragment, the surface of the dishes bears clear traces of smoothing treatment. Surface ornamentation was only found on two fragments of one dish. It has the form of two different shades of brown glazing, creating two separate areas on the outside of the dish. Such a method for decorating dishes is characteristic of ceramics manufactured in the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century (Reinfuss 1955: 61; Tabaszewski 2018: 205–206).

The second group of ceramic products includes fragments of porcelain, which is the noblest type of ceramics. Its name comes from the Portuguese word *porcella*, which means the outer shiny side of a shell (Chrościcki 1974: 11). A standard porcelain mass consists of 50% of kaolin, 25% of quartz, and 25% of feldspars (Kielski 1969: 85–86). Porcelain items of good quality were fired in high temperatures (1250–1410°C) (Kielski 1969: 86; Chrościcki 1974: 14). During the excavations discussed, a total of eight fragments of porcelain were obtained, including two

Fig. 16. Selected ceramic items excavated (photograph by M. Wardas-Lasoń).

fragments of dishes (Fig. 17: 2, 3), one bottle stopper (Fig. 17: 1), and five fragments connected with electrical devices (Fig. 17: 4, 5).

The excavated fragments of dishes include a fragment of a cup, approximately 8 cm tall, decorated with an encircling ornament in the form of a painted strip that is 1.6 cm wide. This ornament was made using decalcomania, which means mechanical copying of pictures. The technique, invented by C.A. Pochleb in 1871, soon spread among shops manufacturing porcelain, and it was already commonly used in the first half of the twentieth century (Tabaszewski 2018: 211).

The floral and geometrical ornament in yellow, blue, and dark red was typical of the Art Deco style, popular in the ornamentation of industrial products in the 1930s (Benini et al. 1998: 239; Tołłoczko 2010: 34). The cup has no mark that would allow to link it to a specific shop, however, the ornament suggests it was manufactured in one of Silesian shops: Bogucice or Bykownia (Chrościcki 1974: 66–67; Siess-Krzyszkowski 1995: 34, 38).

Another item from the dish group is a fragment of a flat bottom with a partial mark of *HUTA FRANCISZKA*, which was a porcelain plant founded by B. Czudaj in 1924. The mark printed on the bottom fragment corresponds with the marks found on the products of this plant from the period 1924–1939 (Chrościcki 1974: 67; Siess-Krzyszkowski 1995: 39).

Another thing found among porcelain products is a fully preserved bottle stopper. The item is cone-shaped, with a round hole at the top, used to attach

Fig. 17. Selected porcelain artefacts excavated (photograph by M. Wardas-Lasoń).

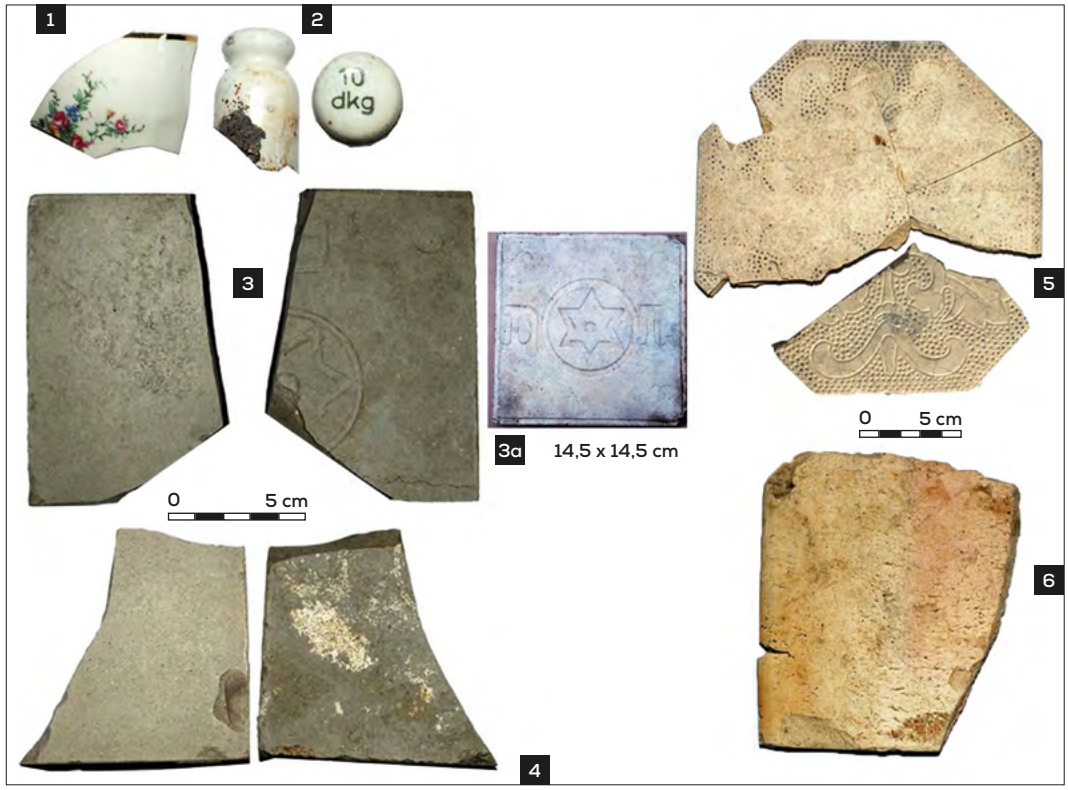

Fig. 18. **(1–4)** selected stoneware artefacts; **(5, 6)** selected terracotta artefacts excavated (photograph by M. Wardas-Lasoń); **(3a)** a reconstructed stoneware tile with the mark of the Dziewulski i Lange plant in Opoczno (after Partrige 2017, Fig. 101).

a metal latch clamp closing the bottle (a flip top bottle). The bottom part has a clear narrowing for installing a rubber gasket. Stoppers of this type were produced both of glass and porcelain. This type of bottle closure became popular at the beginning of the twentieth century, while stoppers of this type were common in the modern era and they are still produced today (Peschel, Tabaszewski 2017: 20; Tabaszewski 2017: 76). It is a mass-produced porcelain item with technological characteristics of porcelain produced in the first half of the twentieth century. Lack of any ornaments or marks does not allow to determine in grater detail the manufacturing place of the documented dish.

Another group includes items connected with electrical devices, such as a fragment of a socket, three fragments of a switch housing, and a fragment of a lamp base. The three fragments of a lamp switch identified in the group have technical markings and a mark of the manufacturer. On the surface of these fragments, there are model numbers 1850a, 1850b, voltage information DC 250 VOLT,

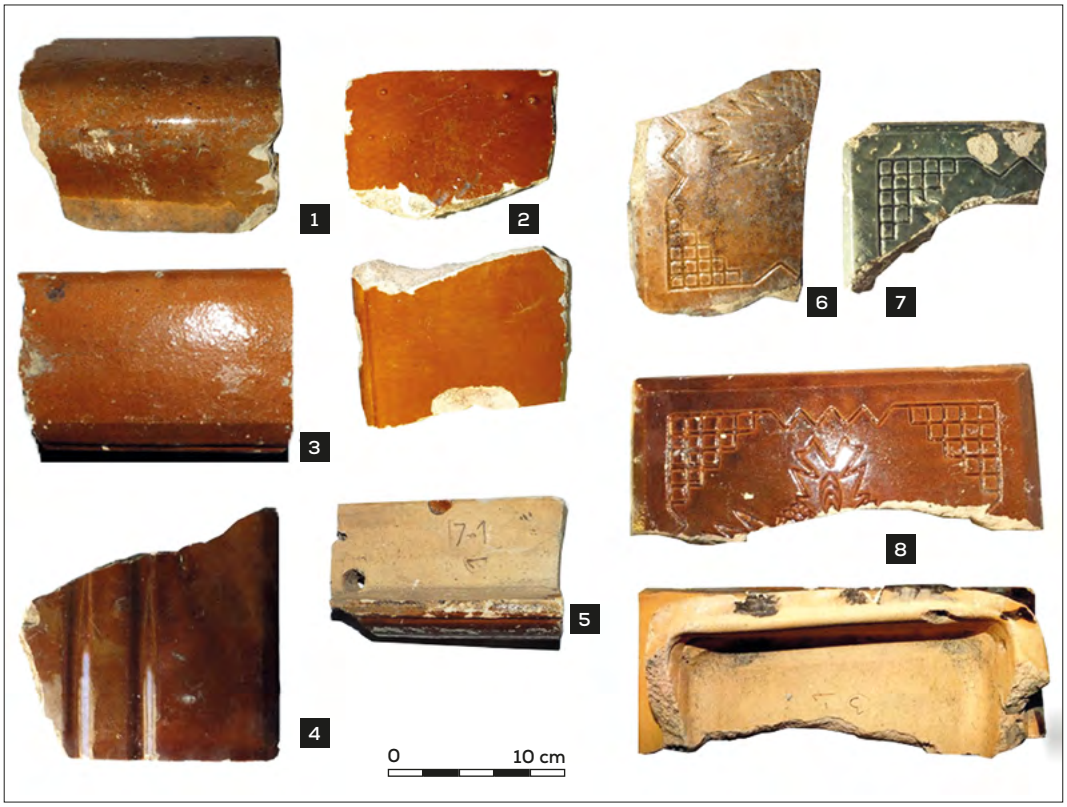

Fig. 19. Selected fragments of tiles excavated (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

and the manufacturer's name WECO. It was a German company manufacturing electrical devices during the interwar period. The group of elements connected with electrical devices also offers a fragment of a socket and a lamp housing. These items, however, have no markings that would allow to identify their manufacturer or place of origin. All elements connected with electrical devices can most probably be linked to the Geische plant in Bogucice, which earlier belonged to Elektroporcelana SA, which manufactured technical equipment for the purposes of electrification becoming more and more popular in the 1930s and 1940s (Siess-Krzyszkowski 1995: 37).

The third group of ceramic products includes fragments of stoneware items, with a total of eight fragments of stoneware (porcelite) dishes (Fig. 18: 1), three fragments of floor tiles (Fig. 18: 3, 4), a fragment of a toilet bowl flange, and a fragment of a weight (Fig. 18: 2). Stoneware is made of light-coloured clays that become grey after firing and are very hard (Kielski 1969: 75–76). The maximum firing temperature for stoneware dishes is 1250–1280°C.

Fig. 20. Selected glass artefacts (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

All fragments of dishes were made of white kaolin stoneware mass covered with transparent feldspar-calcium glaze (Kowalczyk 2014: 118). On one fragment of a cup, there is a decalcomania floral ornament in the form of small light blue and red flowers.

The second group of stoneware products consists of fragments of square floor tiles made of grey mass. On one of the fragments, there is a partially preserved mark in the form of fragments of D L letters, divided with a six-pointed star inscribed

Fig. 21. Selected glass artefacts (photograph by W. Tabaszewski).

within a circle, with a dot meaning the letter O in the middle. Tiles of this type were produced in the 1920s and 1930s by Towarzystwo Akcyjne Zakładów Ceramicznych Dziewulski i Lange in Opoczno (Partrige 2017: 213–222).

Finally, the group of stoneware products includes a fragment of an outflow flange of a toilet bowl or a sink, and a fragment of a weight marked as 10 dkg. Both are made of white kaolin stoneware mass covered with transparent feldspar-calcium glaze. Due to lack of any characteristics or marks, in the case of these items it is

Fig. 22. **(1, 3)** metal artefacts; **(2)** a bone item (photograph by M Wardas-Lasoń).

impossible to determine any chronology more specific than the generally understood twentieth century. For the same reason it is impossible to indicate the exact place of their production.

The excavations conducted yielded a collection of eighty-three fragments of tiles, including eighty-one fragments of tiles and two fragments of fireclay thermal inserts. This group also includes factory-made tiles linked to the second group of Gdańsk or Pomeranian tiles. They have a flat face covered with an embossed

geometrical ornament or an unornamented face covered whole with a one-colour coating. Tiles of this type have been common since the beginning of the second quarter of the twentieth century (Reinfuss 1966: 16–17; Bimler-Mackiewicz 2010: 160–161; Tabaszewski 2018: 206). The tile fragments documented during the excavations come from two types of stoves. The first type includes tiles with a flat unornamented face covered with a coating – forty-one items (Fig. 19: 1–5). The second type includes tiles with a flat face and an Art Deco relief ornament – forty items (Fig. 19: 6–8). Moreover, the tiles can be divided into three categories: filler tiles (seventy items), corner tiles (eight items), and cornice tiles (three items).

The first type of stoves is represented by a total of forty-one fragments of tiles (including thirty-three filler tiles, five corner tiles, and three cornice tiles), with two fragments including a production series marking 7–11 (Fig. 19: 5) and one with a production series marking 7–13 (Fig. 19: 8). Among the tiles from this group, the most frequent coating colour is brown (light to dark) – a total of thirty-six items. There are also four fragments with a green coating and one with a yellow coating. The filler tiles measured 21 x 18.8 cm, the corner tiles measured 21 x 18.8 x 9.3 cm, and the cornice tiles measured 21 x 9.3 cm. This type of tiles became widespread towards the end of the nineteenth century, gaining in popularity in the first third of the twentieth century. Stoves of this type represent group V according to the classification proposed by M. Trojanowska (2010: 292). Analogous stoves with a similar coating from the 1930s can be found in the rooms of J. Fałat's villa in Bystra (today's Julian Fałat Museum in Bystra) (Bimler-Mackiewicz 2010: 160).

The other type of excavated tiles can also be linked to group V according to M. Trojanowska. It includes filler and corner tiles with faces covered with an embossed Art Deco relief ornament. The tile faces are decorated with a geometrical ornament, which has a schematic, geometrical floral motif in the centre of the face and a geometrical ornament in the form of squares in the corners. Such an ornament is characteristic of the Art Deco and Bauhaus styles, and can be found in industrial designs from the late 1920s and early 1930s (Benini et al. 1998: 239; Tołłoczko 2010: 34).

Lack of any marks of the manufacturer makes it impossible to determine the place where these tiles were produced. Similar designs and models were produced on a mass scale in many ceramic plants operating at the time in such places as Skawina, Łagiewniki, Tarnów, and Opoczno (Duda et al. 2000: 28–29; Moskala 2012: 422; Sypek 2015: 84; Partrige 2017: 216, 244). In the case of tiles with relief ornaments, it can be assumed that they are products of Zakłady Ceramiczne Kantoria in Tarnów, which allows to date them to the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century (Sypek 2015: 84). Such dating is connected with the last phase of use of the former camp complex as a workers' housing estate in the 1960s.

Analogous items are frequently found during excavations conducted at sites or objects operating in the first half of the twentieth century (Peschel, Tabaszewski 2017: 18; Tabaszewski 2018: 206–207).

Another group of ceramic products includes twelve fragments of octagonal floor tiles (Fig. 18: 5) and a fragment of a ceramic facing tile (Fig. 18: 6). The floor tiles were made of fireclay mass fired in a high temperature and covered with white feldspar-calcium glaze. The upper surfaces of the tiles are covered with a fleur-de-lis ornament, which – in combination with the production technology – allows to assume that they are products of the Erste Schattauer Tonwarenfabriks-AG, vorm. C. Schlimp company with its registered office in Vienna (Partrige 2017: 191–192). The facing tile is covered with engobe. Lack of any characteristic features or marks makes it impossible to determine the place or exact production date of this item.

The last group of ceramic products covers a fragment of a clay toy whistle in the form of a rider on a horse (Fig. 16: 5). It is the front part of a figurine, the original dimensions of which were approx. 7 x 10 x 3 cm. On both sides, on the horse's neck, there are single holes used to change and modulate the sound. The horse's tail was initially shaped as a mouthpiece, whereas on its back, in front of the mouthpiece base, there was a rectangular opening producing sound. The figure of the rider has a schematic face with a distinctive moustache, and the horse's head has a thick mane. The hands of the human figure were glued to the animal's neck. Whistles of this type were common from the second half of the nineteenth century. They were sold at fairs (such as Emaus in Kraków) (Fischer 1934: 156; Seweryn 1949: 167; 1957: 4; Oleszkiewicz, Pyla 2007: 18–19). Analogous toy whistles were among the most popular types of children's toys already in the Middle Ages and the early modern era (Żołądź-Strzelczyk 2006: 178). The same or similar whistles have been found in the territory of the whole Poland as well as Czechia, Slovakia, and Russia, and they are dated from the second half of the nineteenth century to the second half of the twentieth century (Seweryn 1957: 4, Fig. 1 and 3; Reinfuss, Świderki 1960: 95–96 and 114–115, Fig. 136, 158; Fryś-Pietraszkowa 1962: Fig. 2; Bazelich 2010: 168–169, 202, 221; Tabaszewski 2018: 207).

Another group of artefacts consists of eighteen items made of molten glass. All fragments of glass come from items made by extrusion, which became popular after 1820. The extrusion (pressing) method consists in forming items with mechanical presses, which enabled mass production of glass goods cheaper than the blowing method used earlier. At the same time, the use of presses allowed to remove any defects from the molten glass (such as air bubbles), which had been difficult before. The use of presses obviously increased the durability of glass items (Kielski 1969: 149). The glass items found during the archaeological excavations include two whole medicine bottles, twelve fragments of eight round bottles with

capacity ranging from 0.355 l to 1 l, a whole small cream jar, a fragment of a glass inkwell, a button, and a fragment of a wire-reinforced glass pane.

Both bottles connected with medicines (Fig. 20: 1, 2) were made of dark brown transparent molten glass. Both were made in a mould and have a threaded neck on which originally a Bakelite top was screwed. On the bottom of one of the bottles, there is a CHS 18 marking, which allows to say that it is a product of the Czestochowa Glassworks, which during the interwar period was among group C plants dealing with the production of glass packaging (Gubała 2006: 29).

Another item is a fully preserved lid of a cream jar (Fig. 20: 3). The lid is 2 cm thick and its diameter is approx. 8 cm. In the middle, there is a brand name NIVEA. Analogous containers are found during excavations conducted in the area of the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp (Peschel, Tabaszewski 2017: 23) as well as at sites chronologically connected with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (Tabaszewski 2018: 215).

Also a fragment of a small four-sided inkwell was found (Fig. 20: 6). It was made by extrusion in a mould of clear, transparent molten glass. Its chronology can be generally determined as the first half of the twentieth century.

During the excavations, a fragment of a window glass pane was also found. It was made of pressed molten glass, it is 0.6 cm thick and slightly tinted green (Fig. 20: 4). The pane is reinforced with an internal mesh of thin wire. Such products were made in glassworks mostly from group A, specialising in the manufacturing of flat glass. The pane fragment can be linked to the glassworks in Dąbrowa or Szczakowa near Jaworzno, or the glassworks located in Sosnowiec (Gubała 2006: 28).

The largest collection includes fragments of glass bottles for alcohol (Fig. 21). This group offers four fragments of thin-walled containers with a capacity of 0.5 l, made of transparent white tinted glass. The thin walls, mass, and shape of the bottles as well as lack of any markings allow to link them to bottles serving as packaging glass, mass-produced in prewar Poland. These items were manufactured in glassworks from group C, concerned with mass production of packaging and bottle glass (Gubała 2006: 29).

The other group of bottles is packaging made of transparent dark green molten glass. Three of the fragments from this group have markings that allow to associate them with the glassworks in Mukachevo (previously Munkach) (Fig. 21: 2–4). There are two fragments of bottoms with a logo of the manufacturer in the form of connected letters MU. On the first bottom, there is also capacity given – 0.35 l, whereas the other bottom has an inscription *BIRRA ESPOTAZIONE 37 1*. The other bottom is also connected with a fragment of a wall with a preserved fragment of embossed label showing a waiter walking with his head high above a tray and the name *TRIEST*. The label is surrounded by a fragmentarily preserved inscription *[F]ABBRICA [BIRRA DREHER]* meaning Dreher Brewery from Trieste. The concern

operated from 1856, with branches in Moravia and Hungary[1]. One of the towns in which Dreher's concern had its branch was the town of Mukachevo, in the nineteenth century located (just like Trieste) in the Habsburg Empire. After the First World War, until 1938, Mukachevo was located in Czechoslovakia, and then it was annexed by Hungary. In 1945, Mukachevo became a part of the Soviet Union, and today it is located in Ukraine[2]. Presence of bottles from this factory, connected with Dreher Brewery located in Trieste, can be linked to the period starting in 1943, when the town became occupied by Germans. Bottles associated with this brewery were also found during excavations in the former Auschwitz-Birkenau camp complex (Myszka et al. 2017: 19; Peschel, Tabaszewski 2019: 19–20; 2020: 19).

Bottles and the remains of glass bottles for beverages, medicines, or cosmetics are quite frequently found during excavations in the areas of former German concentration or POW camps from the Second World War (Augustyniak et al. 2012: 367–559; Bem, Mazurek 2012: 108; Peschel, Tabaszewski 2020: 21).

The last item from the group of glass artefacts is a small button made of molten glass (Fig. 20: 5). It is a flat button with four holes made of dark green opaque molten glass. Buttons of this type were first used at the end of the nineteenth century and in the first half of the twentieth century (Piskorz-Branekova 2008: 158).

During the excavations, a total of four metal artefacts were obtained, including an enamel sheet bowl, a piece of aluminium sheet, and two buttons made of an aluminium alloy. A moulded bowl of iron sheet (Fig. 22: 1) is a 7.5 cm tall dish with a flat, separate bottom, a rim bent outwards, and a slightly highlighted edge. Both surfaces are covered with blue enamel. On the bottom, there is a white painted inscription *MADE IN HUNGARY 20 CM*. Mass production of such dishes started at the end of the nineteenth century, while in the first half of the twentieth century they were already commonly used in households (*Historia kultury materialnej Polski...* 1979: 218–219; Szurowa 1985: 94). The bowl uncovered in Jawiszowice was manufactured in the Hungarian town of Bonyhád, in the EMA–LION Kft. company operating from 1909[3].

The excavated spoon is a simple massive aluminium product. It has no characteristics that would allow to determine its manufacturer. Such pieces of cutlery are frequently found during archaeological excavations carried out in the area of former concentration camps (Peschel, Tabaszewski 2018: 20).

The buttons of an aluminium alloy (Fig. 22: 3) are small, round, pressed linen buttons with four symmetrically arranged holes. Such buttons have been commonly

1 http://www.trieste-di-ieri-e-di-oggi.it/tag/birreria-dreher/ [20 IX 2021].

2 http://www.gutenberg.czyz.org/word,50007 [20 IX 2021].

3 http://www.primanet.hu/marka/ema-lion-bonyhadi-zomancaru.html [20 IX 2021].

used since the 1930s. Analogous items are frequently discovered during archaeological excavations carried out in the area of the former German camp complex KL Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II Birkenau (Peschel, Tabaszewski 2019: 27; 2020: 24; Tabaszewski, Peschel 2021: 24) as well as in other concentration camps, for example in Sobibór (Bem, Mazurek 2012: 70 and 95), and POW camps, such as Stalag IB Hohenstein (Augustyniak et al. 2012: 127–128).

During the excavations conducted, one artefact of animal bone was also discovered (Fig. 22: 2). It is a lining of a knife or tool handle made of a fragment of a bovine long bone. The object is 9 cm long. Its ends bear clear traces of cutting, while the outer surface was clearly smoothed. In the central part, there is an encircling incision. The centre of the bone was hollowed out. Animal bone treatment for functional purposes has been commonly used since time immemorial, however, in the modern era (starting in the eighteenth century) treatment of this material has been of rather marginal significance (Moszyński 1967: 351). The artefact discovered does not differ in character from analogous items created for functional purposes in rural households from the Middle Ages onwards (Moszyński 1967: 351; Jaworski 2012: 182). The context in which the item described was found allows to date it to a period between the turn of the twentieth century and the end of the first half of the twentieth century.

Conclusions

The results of the rescue excavations discussed above can be treated as a contribution to the knowledge of the life of prisoners in German labour camps. The social and sociological issues concerning the life of people imprisoned in concentration camps, ghettos, and labour camps have been raised many times. Already the second half of the 1940s saw publication of memoirs of prisoners (e.g. Augustyn 1945; Makower 1987; Levi 2008; Sierakowski 2016; Szmaglewska 2020) and executioners (Moczarski 1985; Höss 1989;*Auschwitz w oczach SS...* 2012) as well as scientific papers discussing them (e.g. *Oświęcim...* 1981; Zonik 1988; *Obozy pracy...* 1994; Woźniczka 1996; *Auschwitz w oczach SS...* 2012; Bem 2014; Wachmann 2015; Kogon 2017; Sulej 2020; Cywiński 2021).

The areas of former concentration and POW camps are more and more frequently subjects of archaeological excavations connected with conservation work and investment projects in their vicinity. However, there have been no extensive publications concerning archaeological excavations covering the material aspects of the operation of the camps and archaeological analysis of artefacts yielded by these excavations. So far, only a few archaeological publications have discussed the issue of archaeological excavations carried out in the area of former camps (e.g. Hensel 1973; Gruba 1996), and only a few publications have described the

results of archaeological excavations (Bem, Mazurek 2012; Banaś-Maciaszczak 2017). A few studies have been created, which can now be found in the form of manuscripts in the archives of interested museums and investors (e.g. Augustyniak et al. 2012; Myszka et al. 2017; Peschel, Tabaszewski 2015; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; Lasota-Kuś 2020; Tabaszewski, Peschel 2021).

The research results presented above allow to view the issue of the camp's operation through fragments of material culture inextricably linked with the prisoners. During the archaeological excavations, it was also possible to capture the moment of conversion of former camp elements and their adjustment to the society emerging after the war. The conversion of former camp buildings, which started after 1950, took approximately twenty years and ended when the residents moved to a new housing estate and the barracks were demolished to turn the whole area into a park.

The structures, layers, and artefacts presented form a consistent collection, corresponding with the different stages of the operation of the German forced labour camp, which was established at the beginning of the 1940s; then, in the second half of the 1940s, it was used by the communist authorities also as a forced labour camp; and at the beginning of the 1950s, it got converted into a workers' housing estate, which was demolished at the beginning of the 1970s.

The uncovered collection of ceramic artefacts offers interesting examples of construction and industrial ceramics from the first half and the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century. Most movable objects are fragments of tiles from broken stoves (at least two). The tiles described here were created in the second half of the twentieth century and can be linked to industrial tile plants operating in post-war Poland (Skawina, Łagiewniki, or Tarnów). On the other hand, the prewar ceramic industry is represented by porcelain fragments of electrical devices manufactured in the porcelain plant in Bogucice, and some of the fragments of dishes, including a bottom fragment with a mark of the plant that produced porcelain dishes in Ruda Śląska–Bykownia from 1924. In this context, floor tiles from the beginning of the previous century, which appeared in the area of the former camp complex incidentally at the time it was converted into a housing estate at the beginning of the 1950s, seem unique.

There is no doubt that fragments of two glass bottles from the plant in Mukachevo, manufactured for Dreher Brewery in Trieste, and the enamel bowl created in the Hungarian town of Bonyhád, are connected with the operation period of the German labour camp, being a KL Auschwitz sub-camp.

The fragment of a clay toy whistle is connected with the period preceding the establishment of the camp. It is a fragment of a toy for children popular in the 1920s and 1930s, bought at church fairs, such as Emaus in Kraków.

The excavated fragments of ceramic dishes can be linked to local potter's shops in Oświęcim, Pszczyna, or Kęty.

The excavations did not cover the whole camp complex. However, considering the great changes that have taken place in the area of the former camp and its vicinity, as well as the fact of reusing former camp buildings (nearly until the present time, with some of them still functioning at the end of the 1990s), one should expect considerable degradation of traces connected with the operation of the German concentration camp for people sent to forced labour in the years 1943–1945.

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Streszczenie

Artykuł stanowi opracowanie wyników ratowniczych badań archeologicznych, przeprowadzonych na terenie dawnego, niemieckiego obozu pracy przymusowej KL Jawischowitz, będącego podobozem filialnym dla KL Auschwitz-Birkenau. W artykule omówiono materiał zabytkowy związany z poszczególnymi fazami wykorzystania kompleksu zabudowy oraz samą architekturę obozową i towarzyszącą jej infrastrukturę techniczną.

Odkryto relikty architektury związane z dwoma blokami mieszkalnymi oraz infrastrukturą obozową, funkcjonującą w okresie od 1942 do 1945 r., jak również wykorzystywaną w okresie późniejszym. Przeprowadzono również analizę pozyskanego w trakcie badań zabytkowego materiału ruchomego, w postaci fragmentów ceramiki (porcelany, kafli i ceramiki budowlanej) i szkła, związanych z funkcjonowaniem niemieckiego obozu pracy przymusowej, a wykorzystywanego w okresie od 1945 do 1950 r. przez władze PRL jako obóz pracy przymusowej dla obywateli niemieckich, członków NSDAP i Hitlerjugend, volksdeutschów oraz osób podejrzanych o brak lojalności wobec Polski. Ostatni etap funkcjonowania kompleksu poobozowego przypada na okres po 1950 r., kiedy zostaje on przekształcony na osiedle robotnicze. Po wyburzeniu osiedla, w latach 70., obszar funkcjonował jako park, który obecnie poddawany jest rewitalizacji.

Słowa kluczowe: Brzeszcze-Jawiszowice, obóz pracy, baraki, II wojna światowa, Auschwitz, ceramika, szkło

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