

## Holocaust – Primary Documents

### Background

Oranienburg  
August 6, 1942

SS- Wirtschaftsverwaltungshauptamt  
Amtsgruppe D – Concentration Camps  
D II 288 Ma./Ha. Tgb. 112 geh

SECRET!

Re: Use of Hair Cuttings

To the Commandants of the Concentration Camps

SS Obergruppenfuhrer Pohl, Chief of the SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt has ordered that the hair of concentration camp prisoners is to be put to use. Hair is to be made into industrial felt or spun into yarn. Women's hair is to be used in the manufacture of hair-yarn-socks for 'U'- boat crews and hair-felt foot-wear for the railway workers.

It is therefore ordered that hair of female prisoners be disinfected and stored. Men's hair can only be put to use if it is longer than 20 mm. SS Obergruppenfuhrer Pohl therefore agrees for an initial trial period to the growing of the prisoners' hair to a length of 20 mm before it is cut. Long hair could facilitate escape and to avoid this, the camp commandants may have a middle parting shaved in the prisoners' hair as a distinguishing mark, if they think it necessary.

It is planned to set up a hair processing workshop in one of the concentration camps. Further details as to the delivery of the accumulated hair will follow.

The total monthly amount of male and female hair is to be reported to this office on the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month beginning from September 5, 1942.

Signed: Glucks  
SS-Brigadefuhrer und  
Generalmajor der Waffen-SS

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Berlin  
October 8, 1942  
SECRET!

SS- Wirtschaftsverwaltungshauptamt

Re: Gold Fillings

To the Reichsfuhrer SS

Reichsfuhrer!

In accordance with your order the gold from the teeth of dead prisoners is to be delivered to the health department where it will be used for the dental treatment of our men.

SS - Oberfuhrer Blaschke already has 50 kilograms of gold at his disposal which is expected to cover the requirements in precious metal for the next 5 years. In the interest of security and utilization of the gold, it is not advisable to continue collection for this purpose.

I request confirmation that in future gold from dead prisoners should be delivered to the Reichsbank upon acknowledgment of receipt.

Heil Hitler!  
Frank, SS-Brigadefuhrer und

**Assignment**

1) Who wrote these documents?

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2) Why are these documents examples of primary sources? Explain!

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3) How do the SS plan on making use of the prisoner's hair?

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4) Why might longer hair facilitate escape? How do the SS propose to deal with this possibility?

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5) What is the purpose of the gold taken from the teeth of dead prisoners?

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6) How much gold has been collected?

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7) Assess the reliability of these documents.

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