**Metadata notes for settling on definitive Camps database (Benjamin P. Blackshear and Anne Kelly Knowles, March 1, 2012)**

The three versions we examined:

* Camps Local MXD file using “Camps” table (Alex Yule)
* Merged\_subcamps (by Roz Vara and Charlie Hoffman)
* Updated\_subcamps (by Ben Blackshear) = Merged\_subcamps minus all camps without opening date or without closing date or with neither date; Ben assigned opening and/or closing dates where a partial date was given, namely last day of month where month only was given, last day of year where only year was given.

Issues

1. Points (subcamps) located in the ocean. Camps Local has 169, Merged\_subcamps has 20, Updated\_subcamps has 1.

In the Encyclopedia, the maps show multiple camps in a close area as a single point. Our hunch is that this accounts for the camps in the ocean – that ArcMap probably assigned unlocated points to a random location, which happened to be off the coast of Africa.

Charlie and Roz looked up locations for 158 subcamps, which they added as lat/long with comments in their “How\_Found” field (Roz says 110 in her report).

Decision: Incorporate Merged\_subcamps’ added lat/long data in the definitive DB but check all locations against the Encyclopedia and the Earth.

2. Each DB has different fields. Those the definitive DB needs include:

Camps (Yule) Merged (R&C) Updated (Ben)

------------ Lat/long for camps in ocean

Firm names from USHMM Description of labor from Encycl.

in “N\_firm” field

Best date info overall Best dates for mapping

Nationalities from USHMM

**Rules for the definitive database**

1. No duplicate instances of a camp. One name, one location, for each main camp and each subcamp. Substantially different instances of a camp should be located in a separate table if necessary. (See Lex Berman’s recommendations to Anne)
2. If a camp cannot be located on land, it should have no location in the database. Note “location unknown” in such instances.
3. Where possible, every camp should have its own point – no shared lat/lon coordinates. Where known location is not sufficiently precise to disambiguate two or more camps in the same town or district, use shared lat/lon coordinates rather that placing them arbitrarily. Instances of shared location are noted in the database field “share\_loc” as 1.
4. No entry for general complexes or sub-systems of camps. For example, we removed the Museum’s entry for the Gruppe Wüste Complex while noting that each Wüste subcamp was part of the complex in the Editing\_Notes field.
5. Each camp entry should include a reference to its page(s) in the Encyclopedia.
6. Where we cannot find a subcamp that is in the database in the encyclopedia, or cannot reconstruct its attributes from other entries, or find any reference in the index, we have deleted it.
7. When possible, every camp should have an open and close date. Date ideally is month/day/year. Where encyclopedia gives month and year, or season and year, refer to Yule’s rules:

Season = first day of season (Winter begins Dec 1, Spring begins March 1, Summer begins Jun 1, Fall begins Sept 1). Use other information to specify date where available and note this in the editing notes.

Late Summer = August 1

Early Summer = June 1

Summer/Fall = September 1

Year only = leave Date\_Open, Date\_Close null, but populate YYYY\_OPEN field.

If two dates offered, use later date

Mid-year or middle of year = June 15

Late Year = 12/31

Early Year = 1/1

Month only = 15 as day

Early month = 1 as day

Late month = 1st day of next month

In instances where encyclopedia gives open and close in the same season of the same year, use first and last day of season unless a specific number of days is mentioned.

When multiple or conflicting dates are given for evacuation, use the later date.

When the encyclopedia does not provide this information, consult the encyclopedia editors.

1. Camp names should match their names as given in the encyclopedia except where rules for parsing are more specific.
2. Generally, every encyclopedia entry should appear in the database. In instances where 2 or more subcamps are described under a single entry, we have added these as new records, keeping the original entry name as a prefix. Ie, Greater Nurnberg Camps becomes “Greater Nurnberg Camps (Rathauswache)” and 2 others. Where an entry describes a complex of subcamps such as the Riese complex (p. 182), the introductory entry does not appear as a record in the database, but the actual subcamps that make up said complex do.