

**GERMAN
CRIMES
IN
POLAND**

CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR THE INVESTIGATION
OF GERMAN CRIMES IN POLAND

GERMAN CRIMES IN POLAND

II

WARSAW

1947

VOL. II

The present volume comprises summary of results
of inquests which appeared in volumes II and III of
the Polish Bulletins of the Central Commission for
the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland.

Printed in Poland
Wydawnictwo Literackie
WARSZAWA 1950
W POZNANIE

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NAZI OCCUPATION OF POLAND
IN THE LIGHT OF HANS FRANK'S DIARY
AND REPORTS FROM CABINET SITTINGS OF THE
GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT

In May 1945, Lieut. Walter Stein of the U.S. Seventh Army found at an apartment occupied by the former governor general in the hotel "Berghof", near Neuhaus in Bavaria, 30 volumes of documents which included reports from cabinet meetings and meetings of the Nazi Party in the General Gouvernement. They also contained the so-called "Diary" of the governor for the period from 1939 to 1945. These documents, for the most part, consist of speeches and official pronouncements of the governor general and the Diary which was being compiled day after day by Frank and his secretary. Extracts from these documents were arranged by Dr. Piotrowski, member of the Polish delegation to the Nuremberg trial, and Major Kvesclev from the office of the Chief Soviet Prosecutor. They were submitted by Gen. Rudenko, the Soviet Prosecutor, to the International War Tribunal in Nuremberg and provided the principal evidence for the prosecution in the case of Hans Frank.

The chapters that follow contain excerpts from speeches and official enunciations of Frank and his closest associates and throw interesting light on the Nazi policy in occupied Poland, which was designed for the biological extermination of the Polish people in all spheres and by all available means.*)

The most characteristic statements concerning general policy, slave labour of the Poles, economic system, terror, evictions and the annihilation of Jews have been inserted here with the object of showing to the reader that all that had been done in Poland was not due to some arbitrary action on the part of individual Nazi officials, but constituted a well worked out plan dictated from above, for the final battle with the Polish nation. This plan was being put into effect systematically and with Prussian precision.

*) All statements found in this chapter were made by Frank, unless otherwise stated.

GERMAN POLICY IN THE GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT

... On September 15, 1939, I received the order to take over the administration of the conquered eastern territories with a special instruction to exploit them ruthlessly as a front line region and war prize; to turn their economic, social, cultural and political structure into — so to speak — a heap of rubble (19. I. 1940).

... One thing is sure: this territory will never be let out of the reach of the German authorities. (19. I. 40).

... The General Gouvernement will not be regarded as an Those caught, were immediately executed on the spot. Many submit suggestions as to the final merging of this land with occupied territory, but as a part of the German Reich. The Führer told me when he made this decision, that I should the Reich. (12. 9. 40).

Frank to the Hitler Youth: ... You must sprout firm roots deeply into this new German "living space" (Lebensraum) which will one day become just as much German as Württemberg, Baden, Brandenburg or Bavaria and East Prussia. Cracow, Warsaw, Lwow, Lublin or Radom — must like Vienna or Hamburg all grow into the German community of life and national sentiments. (7. 6. 42).

... It is not true that I am disturbed, as expressed by the foreign press, by the fact that we are all supposed to be very much afraid of the Poles or, as has been said recently, that

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... It is not true that I am disturbed, as expressed by the foreign press, by the fact that we are all supposed to be very much afraid of the Poles or, as has been said recently, that

I have created the S.A. only because I feared that one beautiful morning the Poles would throw us out of the country. I should like to experience it. I can only say this: just the trial alone would mean for the Poles the complete loss of what is left of their vitality. (5. 8. 42).

... The Polish Republic or any other Polish state will never rise again. (19. 6. 43).

... It is sheer madness for the Poles to count on the restitution of the Polish state. I want to state from this historic place that for the Führer and the German nation a final decision has been taken on all questions concerning Poland and the Polish nation and it is of little interest to us whether anywhere in the world a fantastic debate is taking place about things passed. (20. 10. 43).

... It is certain that in the coming decades German colonisation will be intensified. It is as clear as the sun that the Vistula-Land (Weichselland) will become just as much German as the Rhineland. (16. 5. 44).

... The Führer discussed the whole situation with the governor general and expressed his satisfaction at the Governor's efforts in Poland and particularly approved of the demolition of the Royal Palace in Warsaw, the policy of non-restoration of this city and the removal of works of art. (4. 10. 39).

... In regard to Warsaw the Führer decided that its reconstruction as Poland's metropolis would under no circumstances be taken into consideration. It is the Führer's wish that in the framework of general development, Warsaw should be reduced to a second-rate provincial town. (12. 7. 40).

... The Governor General stresses the danger of giving the Polish people a chance to organize themselves. In order to

circumvent this danger the Governor General orders the Polish Assistance Scheme (Hilfswerk) to be worked out together with a high ranking commanding officer of SS and Police and submitted to him for approval. It must be remembered that iron severity is necessary and care must be taken that the Poles do not try to develop some kind of an association under any convenient cloak. (12. 9. 39).

... It is self-evident that we, as Germans must be placed in such a position in which the most insignificant of us will appear much higher than the highest Pole in this territory. (7. 10. 40).

... Gentlemen, you ought not to be surprised if I tighten the reins a bit more in Poland. I must confess, I often think about it whether I should not introduce special penal regulations for the Polacken (Poles — scornful) who fail to make way for a German officer or knock him intentionally in the street. (9. 9. 41).

... The education standard of trade schools should be fixed at such a level as not to exceed, at the most, the lowest of German secondary trade schools. (8. 3. 40).

... This problem can be solved only alternatively. Fate has decided that here we are the masters and the Poles subject to our supervision (Schutzunterworfenen). I ask of you, gentlemen, to confine your associations with the Poles and the receiving of delegations with petitions etc., to the limits dictated by official necessity. It is also impossible to give the Poles the German standard of living. There must be a difference between the master race and the subject people.

The Poles must grow conscious of the possible limits of their development. No Pole may occupy a higher position than that of a foreman, and will not receive higher education in state schools. (12. 9. 40).

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It proves nothing if we permit ourselves the luxury of allowing the Poles to have their own philharmonic society, which we show to foreign journalists. These people play music in the spirit that suits us and when we no longer need them this institution will simply be disbanded. (18. 3. 42.)

As regards the political line followed in the Polish press, it may be summarized thus: Poles should receive the impression that in the press they are not treated as swine but as Europeans and human beings. We take such a great deal of trouble with the Poles that it may be said: a Pole in the General Gouvernement though he lives as poorly as a dog, is better off than an Italian in Italy, a Greek in Greece, a Serbian in Serbia, etc. (14. 4. 42.)

Gentlemen, watch the sermons and activities of the clergy and intervene whenever you have suspicions that the church is being used. In no case does the raising of the standard of education lie in our interests. In any case, I think the Poles must pay the price. (25. 2. 40.)

I notice more often now that the church begins to be disagreeable. Whilst hitherto, this most powerful centre of the Polish spirit had exhibited loyalty — to our great surprise now, under the influence of certain political circumstances existing on this continent, it is beginning to be disagreeable, now and then, I want to stress right now that I shall not be intimidated by anything and shall give the order for the arrest of bishops if anything should happen. (19. 12. 40.)

The passing of a death sentence on the archbishop and the bishop gives rise to a fundamental observation that a total struggle is being waged against any resistance. Death sentences passed on both bishops were justified because arms had been found on them. If in spite of all, they were pardoned and the

sentence changed to hard labour, other considerations came into play.

It is not expedient to give the news in the press about the shooting of Jews with the object of frightening them. (2. 12. 39.)

Frank at a police day in the building of the old church seminary in Cracow. ...If the seminary is not large enough for you, I shall let you have the archbishop's or bishop's palace. (20. 12. 40.)

And if it is maintained that Catholicism means degradation of a nation, then I must all the more desire it for the Polish people... if Catholicism is a poison, then this poison can be given only to the Poles. (14. 4. 42.)

You know, gentlemen, how hard is our struggle with the church. Places of worship are becoming ever more filled. The church can hide its hostility like cunning and prudence. (17. 2. 44.)

The Ukrainians form a special exception. I must state, it is in line with the interests of German policy to keep strained relations between the Poles and Ukrainians. These 4.5 or 5 million Ukrainians who live here, constitute an important factor as a counter-balance for the Poles. Therefore, I have always endeavoured to sustain a good political spirit among them so as not to permit them to unite with the Poles. (5. 8. 42.)

My relation towards the Poles is like the relation between an ant and a plant louse. If I treat a Pole positively, so as to say, I tickle him in a friendly manner, I do it, in the anticipation that his work will be to my benefit. It is not a question of policy but one of tactics. (19. 1. 40.)

Furthermore, we are not concerned with the blossoming of this country. That is probably the most difficult statement we must make. We are not interested in the Poles growing rich and thus becoming more sure of themselves or that they should exhibit increasing activity in managing their property. Our only concern is to raise German authority in this land. This task cannot be measured by the extent we contributed to the personal happiness of the individual Pole, as used to be understood by governments in the past centuries, our achievement we measure by what degree we make any prospects of Poland's rebirth impossible. This may sound harsh and cruel but in the struggle of nations, which is to decide their fate for a thousand years or more, no other solution is possible... the day before yesterday, the Führer made it quite plain that this "adjacent country" (Nebenland) of the German Reich has a special mission to fulfill: to finish off the Poles at all cost, as there is no need of carrying on a policy of germanisation. This territory is destined to become a labour-reservoir in the fullest sense of the word. We have a gigantic labour camp here, in which everything that means power and independent action is in German hands. (12. 9. 40.)

...Gentlemen, I want to warn you against being lulled into complacency by the calm in the sphere of your power. This country has not been pacified. An uncompromising line of determined leadership must be followed in this country. The Pole must feel that we do not intend to build a state for him, but that he has only one duty i. e. to work and be honest. (19. 12. 40.)

...Particularly in the case of the General Gouvernement, constantly the necessity arises to recall the proverb: "You must not kill the cow, you want to milk". However, the Reich wants to milk the cow and... kill it. (9. 12. 42).

In the report of Dr. Bühler on the 4th anniversary of the General Gouvernement... The number of workers in armament factories in the Warsaw District has risen from 1,600 in 1939, to 65,000 in 1943. In 1940/41: 454,914 tons of grain; 552,117 tons of potatoes; 43,325 tons of cattle; 8,573 tons of fats were taken. In 1941/42, the corresponding figures rose to 700,940 tons of grain; 785,508 tons of potatoes; 70,003 tons of cattle and 16,876 tons of fat. In 1942/43, the figures rose to: 1,230,385 tons of grain; 1,590,000 tons of potatoes; 110,000 tons of cattle and 20,868 tons of fat. In 1943/44, the expected collection will amount to: 1,600,000 tons of grain; 2,150,000 tons of potatoes; 109,000 tons of cattle; 31,400 tons of fat.

...As a result of a general action of eliminating Jews from economic life, a large number of retail shops have been closed down...

...Net receipts from personal property and turnover taxes reached 253.5 million zlotys in the fiscal year 1940/41. In the fiscal year 1941/42, the above taxes rose to 649 million zlotys net and in the fiscal year 1942/43, they rose still higher to 1,100 million zlotys... In the current year a still greater increase is expected.

The revenue from customs duties and consumption tax rose from 120 million zlotys in 1940, to 185 million zlotys in 1941, and 206 million zlotys in 1942.

Income from monopolies increased from 489 million zlotys in 1940, to 646 million zlotys in 1941, and 922 million zlotys in 1942.

Revenue derived from administration reached 8.6 million zlotys in 1940, — 13 million zlotys in 1941, and 43 million zlotys in 1942.

The total income in the General Gouvernement from the above mentioned sources came to 871 million zlotys in 1940, 1,100 million zlotys in 1941. The progression of State incomes is being maintained in 1943.

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...It was possible... since 1941, to place at the disposal of the Reich ever increasing subsidies for the army. This subsidy which provided partly for ordinary budgets and partly for extraordinary budgets, came to 500 million zlotys in 1941 and 700 million zlotys in 1942. In 1943, 1,300 million are expected.

Further contribution from the General Gouvernement is the return to the Reich of the costs of maintaining the police. As regards organisation, in the first place, the expansion of a police network has proven up to the mark. The resistance movement and armed bands thought, they would be able to take far greater advantage of the tense situation on all war fronts from the end of 1942, in pursuit of their own ends. Attempts, sabotage in the German reconstruction work, attempts on the life of high German officials, attacks on government offices and acts of violence on Germans and loyal non-Germans were being increased in a striking manner.

The resistance movement received aid in man and material in the form of Russian agents and paratroops and deliveries from the air of arms, ammunition and other equipment to increase its activity. The promulgation of a state of emergency during harvesting and the recent announcement of an order for the prosecution of all attempts on German reconstruction work in the General Gouvernement meant that an uncompromising fight has been declared on the resistance movement with the threat of the sternest legal sanctions. German reconstruction work owes its support and protection to the sacrificing and altruistic work of the officers and men of the police force who were ready to sacrifice themselves at all times. Nearly a thousand killed and over a thousand wounded officers, lower commanders and men of German and other nationalities of the General Gouvernement police force — here is the proof that soldiers of the police force are doing their duty and will remain at their posts in the future. (26, 10, 43).

...When at last we have won the war then as far as I am concerned, the Poles and Ukrainians and their like may be chopped into small pieces. Let it be, what should be. But at present the sole problem is whether we succeed in keeping pacified and in order, at work and in discipline, 15 millions of a hostile nation, which is organising against us. Should this fail I may yet be able to triumphantly say that I have killed two million "Polaeken". But will then trains move to the eastern front, will monopoly undertakings produce 50,000 litres of vodka per month and so many millions of cigarettes, will food and agriculture of which we supplied to the Reich of grain alone 450,000 tons, be safeguarded? If I starve the 150,000 Poles working in the Eastern Railway, if I don't clothe them and guarantee their safety, the 5,000 Germans who work in the Eastern Railway will never start a single train. Do you, gentlemen, know, that we produce for the Reich the most valuable armaments and ammunition for the sum of 1,500 million zlotys annually. (12, 1, 44).

...I declare, the Polish question has been solved in Europe for all times with the taking over of the management of this territory by victorious Germany. (30, 1, 44).

...If I were to come to the Führer and say: "My Führer, I report I have again annihilated 150,000 Poles" — he would reply: "Magnificent, if it was necessary". (18, 3, 44).

TERROR AS A METHOD OF GOVERNING

Asked by a correspondent of the "Völkischer Beobachter" as to the difference between the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the General Gouvernement, Frank replied: "I can best explain it by an example. For instance, in Prague red placards were posted to the effect that seven Czechs have been shot to-day. I said to myself, if I had to order placards to be posted for each seven Poles shot, there wouldn't be enough wood in the forests to produce the paper for making the placards. Yes, we must be ruthless. (6, 2, 40).

The Governor General received the chief of the District, Dr. Wachter who informed him about subversive placards being posted in several localities, for November 11th (Polish Independence Day). The Governor General ordered to shoot one man from each house on which the poster was found. This order should be carried out by the chief of police. Dr. Wachter detained as a precautionary measure, 120 hostages in Cracow. (10, 11, 39).

Generally speaking, we will have to take into account the ever increasing resistance in the circles of the intelligentsia, clergy and former officers. Resistance against our rule in this country has already assumed organised forms. The least attempt on the part of the Poles to any action would have lead to a general settling of accounts with the Polish community with the object of its final annihilation. In this event, I would not hesitate to introduce a regime of terror with all its conse-

quences. I have issued an order to arrest several hundred members of secret organisations for three months, so as to prevent anything happening in the nearest future. The last words of the Führer before my departure, were: "Take care to keep absolute peace there. I shall not tolerate anything that disturbs the peace in the East". This I shall endeavour to do. (8, 3, 40).

...It is obvious that as long as this land was in the limelight throughout the world, we were deprived of the chance of undertaking anything on a large scale. But from May 10, we attach no meaning to this terrible world-wide propaganda. Now we must take advantage of the opportune moment.

Therefore the time has come, when, in the presence of Obergruppenführer SS Krüger, I and my colleague Streckenbach have worked out a program of pacification, whereby a possible speedy end will be made with all rebels, resistance politicians and other political suspects in our hands. Simultaneously, the heritage of Polish criminality will be rid of.

I candidly admit that thousands of Poles will pay with their lives and particularly the leaders of the Polish intelligentsia.

As National-Socialists, we must all see to it that the Polish people should not be able to offer resistance. I am aware of the responsibility we have taken upon ourselves... He said (Hitler — Ed.): "The existing group of leaders in Poland must be exterminated and later, those who grow up must be uncovered and also removed in due course..." We need not place these people in German concentration camps because it would entail burdens for us and unnecessary correspondence with their families. We shall liquidate them within the country. This will be the simplest manner.

...Gentlemen, we are not villains. Every chief of police or SS bound by duty to carry out an execution, must be completely convinced that he is carrying out a verdict of the German

people... I suppose, that the activities in connection with this operation A—B, can be concluded by the 15th of June. Anyhow, everything should be done to this effect.

This matter does not pertain to my Commission of Pardon. Operation A—B is carried out exclusively by Krüger, the Chief of Police and SS. It is purely an internal and unavoidable punitive operation, which outsteps the normal limits laid down.

As for the concentration camps, we do not want, of course, to create in the General Gouvernement concentration camps, in the full meaning of the word. Anyone regarded as a suspect must be eliminated at once. Prisoners from the General Gouvernement placed in concentration camps in the Reich, must be either subject to operation A—B or annihilated on the spot (30. 5. 40).

...An emergency pacifying campaign may prove to be essential in the nearest future. (13. 12. 40).

From a paper by SS Oberführer Wigand, commander of the Warsaw District Police and SS: ... Within the last two years some 7,000 people had to be transferred to concentration camps for political and criminal offences. At present, 2,811 men and women are detained in local prisons, including 1,290 men and 268 women for political offences alone. (15/16. 10. 41).

Kundt—Radom: ...A member of the Sonderdienst has been shot and police are now conducting a retaliation campaign in the surrounding villages of the district. A number of suspects have been arrested and 50 of them put against the wall. (18. 3. 42)

...The Governor General describes Warsaw as the main centre of the art of forgery. For the rounding up of all unwilling to work, a lightning action had to be prepared; all wanted

caught and put in trains for transportation to the Reich. (18. 6. 42).

Governor dr. Fischer: ...The murders of German soldiers should undoubtedly be associated with the action (German — ed.) of 10—18 January. Also attacks on German cinemas and the Central Station (in Warsaw — ed), are in direct relation. He (Fischer) and his associates and the Army are convinced that the way in which the action (German) was conducted, brought about a deterioration in safety conditions in Warsaw. During this action, people were being taken indiscriminately from streets, cinemas, churches and homes, whilst undesirable elements were not arrested. In many instances documents issued by German authorities, were torn up. (25. 1. 43).

...I would like to emphasize one point: we must not be moved when we hear that 17,000 people were shot. They are also war victims. Let us recall that we are all on Mr. Roosevelt's list of war criminals. I have the honour to be No. 1 on this list. We have become associates in crime in the world historical sense. That is why we must stick together and share the same ideas. It would be ridiculous if we were to argue about methods. (25. 1. 43).

...In order to implement these regulations (compulsory registration for work — Ed.), the Governor General is ready to ask the Wehrmacht for a few battalions to round up the reluctant part of the population. The police and Sonderdienst are unfortunately too weak to cope with this task. (2. 2. 43).

...By issuing the order which comes into force on October 10, he (Frank — Ed.) has given the security police special power with a complete disregard for formal aspects. (2. 10. 43).

...On October 10, the security police detained many people who committed offences covered by the order issued on that

day. These people were condemned to death and shot, thus being punished for their crimes. Their names were made public by means of posters and the population informed that the specified persons were due to be pardoned, had further murders of Germans not taken place. For every German killed, we have executed ten Poles... (27. 10. 43).

Obergruppenführer SS Bierkamp has given the following information: The state of safety gives rise to a great concern, particularly in Warsaw. It is the centre of the resistance movement, whereas in other districts only branches are in existence. Major attention of the security police is focused on Warsaw. Resistance movement... may strike at any moment. The communists want to incite the population by acts of terror. German countermeasures do not stop the communists from continuing terror. The only remedy is to round up and smash the communist leaders and active terrorist groups. Having this object in view, street patrols have been introduced. Those caught, were immediately executed on the spot. Many individuals with every conceivable weapon found on them, even handgranades, have already been rounded up in Warsaw. Among the captured were many couriers. The existing regulations will continue to be perfected. Unfortunately, insufficient forces are available for such operations. The order of October 10 has led to some relaxation and the number of Germans murdered in Warsaw has already fallen. (27. 10. 43).

Obergruppenführer SS Koppe: ...In retaliation for the railway attack, 150 people were killed for the killing of two German officials. 50 Polish terrorists were executed either at the place of crime or nearby. It should be taken into account that the shooting of 200 people, actually affected at least 3,000 persons (nearest family). (16. 12. 43).

...It should be considered whether it is expedient to carry out executions, whenever possible, at the place where an attempt on the life of a German occurred. It should also be considered whether it would not be possible to select special sites for executions, as it has been noted that the Polish population gathers at easily accessible places of execution and collects the earth soaked in blood, placing it in churches. (16. 12. 43).

Obergruppenführer SS Koppe: The centre of gravity rests upon attack. ...In the future trains will be inspected, houses searched, round ups in streets, hotels and private dwellings carried out. The object is to cut off Warsaw, should the necessity arise. (16. 12. 43).

...The Governor General expresses his gratitude to Obergruppenführer Koppe for his energetic work. ...He promises the Obergruppenführer SS energetic co-operation of all government departments in the General-Gouvernement and wishes him success in his work. (16. 12. 43).

Governor Zoerner: ...Security conditions in the Lublin District have considerably improved as a result of the operation carried out in the Chelm region. Different armed bands were rounded up; it also gave an opportunity of gaining some experience in fighting them. Unfortunately, instances were noted of Polish and Ukrainian wood-cutters being taken for bandits in the course of the operation. The evacuation of Jews has been accepted by the Germans as a necessary move. Unfortunately at the end of the action, the chaotic orders issued, resulted in the escape of many Jews into the forests and their joining the bands. For instance, it has been established that in the Pulawy region one armed band consisted of 3 Russians and 24 Jews. It is regrettable that 18 Polish foresters and their families were killed in the course of the police operation.

It occurred on many occasions that peasants who wanted to deposit their contingents at railway stations, were detained and shot next morning. (25. 1. 43).

Governor Kundi: Death penalty has been introduced for certain offences committed by those called up for Construction Service. Although death penalty may prove necessary in some cases, he has come to an understanding with the prosecutor and the chiefs of the Construction Service that death penalty would be applied in definite cases as to prevent those liable for enrollment into the Service who have been condemned to death and managed to escape, from roving about or joining the bands. (25. 1. 43).

...I was not afraid to announce that should one German be killed, 100 Poles would be shot. (15. 1. 44).

Brigadeführer SS Dr. Schöngarth: ...Such an oppression as is being borne by the Polish people has never been borne by any other nation. (20. 4. 43).

SLAVE LABOUR FOR POLES.

...Compulsory work for Poles finds its justification in the dispersal (Verschleppung) of Polish money abroad and the necessity for making good losses inflicted by the Poles. (31. 10. 39).

...The Governor General orders to prepare a supplementary order whereby compulsory work is extended to persons in the 14 to 18 age limit. (8. 12. 39).

...The Governor General stated, he conducted talks in Berlin with representatives of the Reich's Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Food. In the course of the conversations, an urgent demand was raised for larger transports of agricultural labourers. He (Frank — Ed.) stated that, if it is expected of him, he may, of course, apply compulsion by ordering a village to be surrounded by police, all men and women wanted rounded up and sent to the Reich. (16. 3. 40).

...The Governor General is passing on to the question of compulsory work for Poles. An order has now been issued under pressure from the Reich, whereby compulsion may be applied because insufficient number of workers volunteered for work in Germany. The order allows for the detention of Poles of either sex. This has caused certain amount of unrest which, according to reports, is spreading rapidly and may lead to all round difficulties.

The Marshal (Goering — Ed.) in a great speech, made some time ago, pointed to the need for sending to the Reich of a mil-

lion workers. So far, 160,000 have been procured. Naturally serious obstacles had to be overcome. ...Arrests of young Poles on leaving churches and cinemas are bound to lead to an increasing unrest among Poles. As for him (Frank - Ed.), he has nothing against it if the scum, roving about and fit for work be taken from the streets. The best way would be by making raids. It is quite all right to stop a Pole in the street and ask him what he does for his living, where he is employed, etc. (10. 5. 40).

...The Governor General points out again that Poles from Warthegau are being sent to Germany. Similar action should be taken in regard to Poles returning from the Soviet Union, Rumania, Hungary, etc., providing they are fit for work. (10. 5. 40).

Dr. Frauendorfer: Among alien workers in the Reich, 41% are Poles. (9. 9. 41).

Chief of the Department (Warsaw), Dr. Hummel points out that the Warsaw District has put up 45,000 workers, so far for the Reich. It seems advisable to change the method of enlistment because till now, owing to brutal treatment, the task has not been going very smoothly. Furthermore, the Governor's view on the subject is that man-power reserves of volunteers for work in the Reich are already exhausted. Nothing can be achieved any longer by voluntary enrollment. (18. 6. 42).

Dr. Frank to Gauleiter Sauckel: I am pleased to be able to report officially that through our medium, 800,000 workers were procured for the Reich. Recently you have asked for a further 140,000. I am glad to be able to inform you officially that in accordance with our agreement of yesterday, 60% of the recent demand will be sent to the Reich by the end of October and the remaining 40%, by the end of the year. (18. 8. 42).

...You are aware, gentlemen, that we have provided the Reich with 940,000 Polish workers, thus the General Gouvernement leads among all the countries of Europe. It is an extraordinary achievement and it has been recognized by Gauleiter Sauckel. (14. 12. 42).

President Gerteis is passing on to the question of treatment of Poles in the Reich. It is worse than the treatment of any other foreign worker in Germany and the result is that practically no Poles volunteer for work. (12. 4. 44).

...From our territory over 1,300,000 workers were sent to the Reich — an achievement which is also unique. (22. 9. 43).

EVICTIION OF POLES

From a report of the conference on the transfer of Poles and Jews to the General Gouvernement which was held at the Reichssicherheitshauptamt in Berlin on January 8, 1941:

In 1941, 831,000 persons from the eastern parts of Germany are to be transferred to the General Gouvernement. Moreover, about 180,000 are due to be reshuffled within the General Gouvernement.

The subject of the conference is the problem of settling 800,000 Poles and Jews in the General Gouvernement. To the question of the Governor General whether the Reich has created the necessary settlement conditions in respect of food, clothing, etc., Obergruppenführer SS Krüger was forced to reply in the negative. (11. 1. 41).

From a meeting for the discussion of the problem of the settlement of Poles and Jews in the General Gouvernement:

Secretary of State, Dr Bühler states, he considers the distribution of a million people within the area of the General Gouvernement to be impossible. The overcrowding in respect of security, health and police services and food would be so great that a long spell of unrest could not be avoided... The Governor General replies that most drastic steps will be taken to prevent unrest. (15. 1. 41).

Secretary of State Krüger: ...The next essential point concerning security lies in the task of the Reich's Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Rule ... as deputy Commis-

sioner I have often asked myself the question whether the transfer of population, now taking place, is justified at this moment or would it be more advisable to postpone it in view of the political conditions. There is not a shadow of doubt that the territory of the General Gouvernement must be and will be colonised by Germans. Germany and Europe depend mainly on the East for their survival. (25. 1. 43).

Secretary of State Krüger: ...While settling "Volksdeutsches" in this territory, we must keep on driving out the Poles. Those who are a burden to this colonising region, must be removed. First, they will be placed in concentration camps and later sent to work in Germany... (25. 1. 43).

Governor Zoerner: ...After the resettlement, about 50% of the Poles still remain in the Zamość region. Whilst formerly there were no real conflicts with the Volksdeutsches, after the new resettlements, assaults on settlers and arson took place. As a result of the resettlement in the Zamość region, a large part of the police and gendarmerie of the district were detached to combat the armed bands. Moreover, the situation has a detrimental effect on the neighbouring districts and gives rise to concern for spring work in the fields. (23. 1. 43).

Secretary of State Krüger: ...Resettlement is another factor for the absence of safety. The first settlement operation was carried out in the Zamość region, District Lublin. The Reich's Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Rule stated that this region is a German settlement area. According to estimates between 8,000 and 12,000 people were settled there. (31. 5. 43).

Secretary of State Bühler: He pointed in particular to the resettlement campaign in the Lublin District, or in the Zamość region, where the operation has not been completed as yet.

This campaign has caused unrest throughout the country which continues to grow in strength. It is evident that as a consequence of this action, serious economic damage ensued, especially in respect to food supplies.

The Governor General: Anyway, it is the Führer's wish to gradually settle Germans in the General Gouvernement. Therefore the problem cannot be approached from the standpoint of benefit or loss but only from the standpoint of urgency. Opposing the statement of one Chief of Department, Endler, that resettlement would result in the loss of 100,000 tons of agricultural produce, the Governor General pointed out that, if the Germans conduct good husbandry, they will, most likely, achieve even better results. (22, 2, 43).

Lt-General Becker: Evacuation had to be carried out from the parts of the country which form the domain of the bands, i.e. the Białystok forests and the area to the north and south. In this way — in his opinion — ground has been prepared for the complete success of the operation. (22, 9, 43).

In connection with this, the Governor General states that orders for the evacuation were given, after a complete agreement had been reached between himself and the Reichsführer SS Himmler. (22, 9, 43).

...When hundreds and thousands of Polish peasants are being thoughtlessly forced out of their homes, no wonder they seek refuge in the forests. (12, 1, 44).

Frank to the journalists in Berlin: ...We also made a mistake when we thought that at present, we could settle Germans in this territory by force. (25, 1, 44).

STARVATION POLICY.

Senior Medical Councillor Dr. Walbaum commits himself on the health of the Polish population: ... Investigations carried out by this department have shown that the greater part of the population receive only some 600 calories, while the normal requirement is 2,200 calories. The people are so exhausted that they may become an easy prey to typhus. The number of cases up to date has reached 40%. Only last week a thousand new cases were officially registered. It is the highest number so far. This state of health presents a great danger to the Reich and the troops arriving in the General Gouvernement. The likelihood of the epidemics being spread to the Reich is very great. An increase in T. B. cases also gives cause for concern. Should the food rations be further reduced, a great rise in the number of typhus cases may be expected. (9, 9, 41).

...While taking into account every difficulty arising out of the illnesses of your workers or the breaking down of your societies, you must always remember that it is far better if a Pole breaks down than if a German should give in. The fact, that we have condemned to starvation death 1.2 million of Jews, — let it be merely mentioned in passing. It is self-evident that the possibility of the Jews not dying from starvation will hasten — it is hoped — anti-Jewish measures. (24, 8, 42).

...I shall endeavour to draw from the reservoir of this territory all that can be drawn. If you realize that I was in position to provide 600,000 tons of grain for the Reich and an additional quantity of 180,000 tons of troops stationed here and further-

more, a variety of other supplies amounting to many thousand tons such as seeds, fats, vegetables and 300 million eggs. — you will understand the importance of this land to the Reich.

In order to illustrate the importance of the delivery of 600,000 tons of grain from the General Gouvernement, I want to point out that by this deed, the General Gouvernement covered 2% of the increase in bread ration for the current period in Greater Germany.

Yet, these deliveries to the Reich have a dark side because the contingent of supplies imposed upon us, exceeds the supply possibilities of this territory. Therefore we face the following problem: can we deprive two million aliens entirely of food allocations beginning from February. (14. 12. 42).

The battle of production 1942/43. — Dr. Fischer: If the new food plan is to be implemented, it means that 500,000 people in Warsaw and its suburbs will not receive food at all. (7. 12. 42).

Secretary of State Krüger: We know well enough that the output of alien workers is decreasing from day to day. This state of affairs will not be changed by a limited rise in wages. After all, workers efficiency is directly dependent on his stomach: they can only work when given food. Owing to our currency we do not live under normal conditions in the General Gouvernement. For 33 zlotys, which an alien might be able to earn to-day in the General Gouvernement, he can actually buy nothing. The greater part of the earnings go for the rent, light, coal, gas, etc. in other words for the bare necessities for himself and his family. (25. 1. 43).

Chairman Naumann: Starvation of the Polish peasant may be carried just so far as to leave him enough strength to cultivate his land and in addition to perform other tasks as for

instance, the transportation of lumber for the forest administration. (14. 4. 43).

Chairman Naumann: Last year, over 20% of the cattle were slaughtered in the General Gouvernement. Livestock necessary for the production of butter and milk was killed last year to sustain, at least to some extent, meat supplies for the Reich and the Army. In order to obtain 120,000 tons of meat, a further 40% of the remaining cattle must be slaughtered. This would mean 600,000 heads of cattle left, by the end of 1944. (14. 4. 43).

Dr. Bühler: I can say to-day that the Polish worker in the General Gouvernement is worse off than the foreign worker in the Reich or the worker from the East in countries under German domination, or even Polish and Soviet prisoners-of-war, not mentioning, of course, ample allocations of commodities for the Czechs in the Protectorate and for the Poles in the annexed eastern territories. In spite of this fact, the same results are demanded from Polish workers as from workers in other countries. (14. 4. 43).

Secretary of State, Dr. Bühler: It has been clear to the government of the General Gouvernement for some time now, that food rations for aliens can in no circumstances be maintained any longer, unless self-aid is made permissible and the population is not to be driven into revolt. Food supply difficulties which naturally have a depressing effect on the people, serious rise in prices and to some extent exaggerated policy of wages and remuneration, have brought a part of the Polish population to despair. (31. 5. 43).

The minimum existence of Polish and Ukrainian officials and other employees has been kept at an irresponsibly low level and they are not in a position to buy the food allocated at official prices. (24. 3. 44).

CRIMES AGAINST JEWS.

Governor Dr. Fischer points out that a ghetto should be created for the Jews. The Governor General approves this order. (7. 10. 39).

The Governor General orders the following: ...Furthermore, the marking of Jews should be introduced (white armlet with the blue Star of David). All Jews of either sex must wear it from 12 years of age. Any opposition must be punished. (10. 11. 39).

He (Frank — Ed.) spoke on the subject, yesterday, with several generals and established that generals in command of divisions are forced, owing to the housing shortage, to occupy flats in houses where all the other tenants are Jews. The same applies to all other categories of government officials. As a permanent arrangement, this state of affairs is unbearable. If the authority of the National-Socialist state is to be maintained, it is an impossible situation when representatives of the State are forced to meet Jews on leaving or entering their homes, or to be exposed to the danger of epidemics. He intends, therefore, to free Kraków from Jews by November 1940, and undertake a broad campaign for the eviction of Jews, justifying his action by the impossible situation, when thousands and more than thousands of Jews occupy dwellings and crawl about in the streets of a city which the Führer has honoured by making it the seat of high state authorities. Kraków must become the foremost Jew-less city in the General Gouvernement. (12. 4. 40).

...As for the treatment of Jews, I have decided to close the Warsaw ghetto for it has been established that the danger created by 500,000 Jews is so great that any possibility of their roving about must be eliminated. (12. 9. 40).

...Also very important is the Führer's decision which had been taken at his (Frank's — Ed.) suggestion, that no more transports of Jews be sent to the General Gouvernement. ...It is being planned to transfer the Jewish kind from the Reich, General Gouvernement and Protectorate to some African or American colony, as soon as possible, after the conclusion of the peace. Madagascar has been considered as a likely place which France would have to cede for this purpose: the area of 500,000 sq. km. will provide sufficient space for a few million Jews. I have endeavoured to secure for the Jews from the General Gouvernement the privilege of starting a new life in a new land. This has been approved and in due course a tremendous relief will take place in this respect. (12. 7. 40).

...Further, the Führer ordered to stop the transfer of Jews to the General Gouvernement. To the contrary, all Jews inhabiting the General Gouvernement will be subject to a uniform treatment with the rest, in accordance with a special programme. In this way, the General Gouvernement will be free of Jews within a specified period. As soon as overseas communication allows for the transportation, they will be transferred, one by one, man after man, woman after woman, girl after girl. (25. 7. 40).

Frank to soldiers of the Wehrmacht: ...This hour, which belongs to the Wehrmacht, fills me with happiness because it unites us all. Some have a mother or parents at home, others wife or fiancée, brother or children. They will think about you through all these weeks and say: "My God, he is now over there in Poland, where is such a lot of lice and Jews."

maybe he is starving and freezing and he won't dare write about it... In such a case it would be quite appropriate for you to send your dear ones at home a photograph and tell them: "Here in the General Gouvernement is a bit different and far better". Of course, I could not remove all lice and all Jews within a year (ha! ha!), but as time goes on and above all if you help me it will be achieved. It isn't necessary to do everything in one year or immediately. What would have to do those that come after us? (19. 12. 40).

The Governor General will base his decision about continuing or dissolving the Warsaw ghetto upon the result of this discussion which is due to take place shortly. It cannot be permitted under any circumstances to allow a city like Warsaw to become completely infested by pestilence. (15. 1. 41).

As long as the Jews are here, they must work, not in the same manner, of course, as they used to. Here I appeal, gentlemen, to your determination. We have still remnants of humanitarian dreamers and people, who, owing to the German sensibility, are in the habit of sleeping through when world history is in the making. We, who have stood by the Führer for 20 years in the struggle, cannot be expected to have any consideration for the Jews. When to-day the Jews ask the world for compassion, we remain unperturbed. (22. 1. 41).

Chief of Department in Warsaw, Dr. Hummel: The danger of typhus has grown because the resistance of the population, especially youth, has diminished. Food supplies for the ghetto are insufficient. To this must be added the lack of soap and the communal living in small confined spaces. According to the reported state, 2,405 cases of typhus have been noted till now. The actual figure, however, is much higher. The enclosing of Jews in the ghetto is in itself a blessing. Now, the most important thing is to isolate the ghetto completely. The order of the BDO which permits the shooting of Jews on the roads,

has been received with gratitude. Next, Dr. Hummel reports on the practice of the death penalty for the illegal leaving of the ghetto. In Warsaw, despite the establishment of a third judicial body, merely 45 death sentences have been passed of which eight were carried out, for in each individual case the final decision rests with the Commission of Pardon in Kraków. Further 600 cases for conviction have been put through. It is impossible to isolate the ghetto by ordinary procedure of the special court. The procedure, up to the moment of execution, is protracted and burdened with too many formalities. It must be simplified. (9. 9. 41).

...As for Jews — I must tell you quite candidly — one way or the other, an end must be put to them. The Führer once expressed such a view: "Should the united Jewry manage to let loose another war upon the world, then not only the nations incited to war will have borne bloody sacrifices but the Jew himself will cease to exist".

I realize that many regulations against Jews are being criticized in the Reich... On purpose — that is evident from reports — atrocities, horrors, etc., are being made the subject of conversations. I want to ask you, gentlemen, to accept one formula: compassion we want to keep essentially for the German nation and nobody else in the world. Others had no feelings of compassion for us. As an old National-Socialist I must add: if the Jewish race were to survive in Europe and we were to give our best blood to sustain Europe, this war would have meant only a partial success. I shall expect the Jews to disappear. They must move out. I have started negotiations to push out the Jews to the East. In January, a great conference on this subject will take place in Berlin, to which I shall send the Secretary of State, Dr. Bühler. The conference is to be held at the Security police HQ, at SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich's. In any case a great migration of Jews will take place. But what is to become of the Jews? Do you think

they will be placed in the Ostland in settlement villages? We were told in Berlin: what are all these ceremonies for? We can do nothing with them in the Ostland¹ or in the Reich's Commissariat²). Liquidate them yourselves.

Gentlemen, I must ask you to arm yourselves against any considerations dictated by compassion. We must destroy the Jews wherever we should meet them, in order to uphold here the ties with the Reich. Naturally other methods of which Dr. Hummel has spoken, will be applied. Judges of special courts cannot be made responsible, because it is within the framework of the legal procedure. Existing views cannot be applied to such gigantic and singular undertaking. Nevertheless, a way must be found which leads to the objective and I am thinking it over. The Jews are also most detrimental to us as clotters.

There are about 2.5 million Jews in the General Gouvernement and including all related and connected with them — 3.5 million. We cannot shoot 2.5 million Jews, neither can we poison them. We shall have to take steps, however, designed to exterminate them in some way (Vernichtungserfolg) and this will be done in reference to orders of great importance which are to be discussed along the lines of instructions from the Reich. The General Gouvernement must be freed from Jews, the same as the Reich has been freed. How and where it will happen will be decided by special departments which we must form and install. I shall inform you of their scope. (9. 9. 41).

The Governor General is of the opinion that the Jews can no longer be supplied with food. (5. 10. 41).

It will be necessary to apply rigours against Jews who leave the ghetto. Death penalty for this offence must be carried out immediately. (10. 12. 41).

¹ Occupied Ukraine.

To the question of the Secretary of State Dr. Bühler, whether there is a chance of a speedier decrease of the ghetto population, Secretary of State Krüger replies that probably the matter will be clarified in August. The problem of the eviction of Jews is in urgent demand of a decision. In order to carry out such an action, it is necessary to prepare an adequate number of trains for transportation. Despite the order suspending railway traffic for 14 days, I have achieved, in conversation with President Gerteis, that now and then trains will be allocated for the transportation of Jews. After the expiration of the traffic order, the Jewish campaign must be intensified. (18. 6. 42).

...We shall solve this problem by ourselves. No Jew will ever go to Germany. (1. 8. 42).

...What a "lousy" nation (Dreckvolk) the Jews were who used to spread themselves all over till 1939. And where are these Jews to-day? You practically do not see them and if you do see them, then only at work. (5. 8. 42).

Secretary of State Krüger: Elimination of Jews... was the most difficult and unpleasant task for the police, yet it had to be done on Führer's orders, because it is necessary from the standpoint of European interests. (31. 5. 43).

...For us the matter is quite clear. To anyone who asks, what may happen to the NSDAP, we can answer: NSDAP certainly will survive the Jews. We started here with 3.5 million and now only insignificant working parties are left. As for the remainder — we shall say some day — they migrated. (2. 8. 43).

...If here and there some mourner used to wail over the Jews and say: is it not frightening, what had been done to the

they will be placed in the Ostland in settlement villages? We were told in Berlin: what are all these ceremonies for? We can do nothing with them in the Ostland or in the Reich's Commissariat^a), liquidate them yourselves.

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...If here and there some mourner used to wail over the Jews and say: is it not frightening, what had been done to the

Jews he ought to be asked if he is still of the same opinion today. If we had two million Jews at present with all their energy and on the other side the handful of Germans, we would not have been masters of the situation. The Jews are dead, which must be annihilated. Wherever we should find them, a check and will be made of them. (4. 3. 44).

MASS EXECUTIONS IN POLAND IN THE PERIOD 1939-1945.

This survey includes data obtained through a special enquiry which was addressed in 1945 to the Municipal Courts by the Central Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. The object of the enquiry was to establish the number of victims of mass executions carried out by the Germans during the period of occupation, 1939—1945.

People at the head of the Municipal Courts collected material through bailiffs in rural districts and mayors in towns, according to all requirements of the procedure. In addition to affidavits from witnesses the Courts obtained written statements of the examinations of places where wholesale murders took place and on the exhumation of the bodies of victims.

A mass execution was defined as the destruction of more than three persons in a group.

In this account we have utilized only reports originating in the Polish lands within the area of the frontiers of 1939 which are included now in the Polish State. Not included were mass executions carried out in eastern lands annexed to the USSR, in that part of the General Gouvernement which was incorporated into the USSR and in the Regained Territories.

It was not possible to include mass executions in Warsaw in the notes which follow because the almost total destruction of the capital presented an obstacle to any detailed investigation of German crimes. A majority of wholesale murders which were not carried out publicly had to be altogether excluded from our account, no matter how great the number of victims. It was impossible to estimate even approximately the

number of persons slaughtered in secret executions. That is why they could not be included in the general list of losses.

In executions of the latter type victims were shot either in prisons or in ghettos, Jewish cemeteries and in woods. Most often the places of such mass burial are unknown. Even if exhumations were thoroughly carried out in all the mass graves which have been discovered, any list of victims of secret executions would necessarily be incomplete since in most cases the Germans themselves burnt the bodies.

The enquiry also did not include the tens of thousands of Poles exterminated in concentration camps in Poland and the soldiers of the Underground Army who were killed during the struggle against the German occupants.

Executions of Jews are not mentioned because the executions carried out throughout the country constituted a low percentage in comparison with the massacres in death camps at Treblinka, Belzec, Sobibor, Oswiecim and other slaughterhouses of the Jewish population. No accurate idea of the Nazi crimes committed on Jews can be obtained from details on mass executions in small and big towns, however numerous they might have been, if the millions of victims exterminated in gas chambers of death camps are recalled.

Besides, all data obtained through the enquiry which did not conform to standard, either because of inaccurate figures of victims or inaccurate dates, have been eliminated from our survey.

It is necessary to remember, therefore, that these notes describe only a limited number of mass executions carried out on the Polish population in an area smaller than the territory of Poland in 1939. This group of executions has been verified

for every possible inaccuracy during the course of the enquiry. The executions all possessed a character of mass reprisals carried out without any court proceedings and thus breaking the elementary code of law.

A great number of victims of the Nazi terror are not included in this survey which can convey only a partial idea of the mass executions carried out in Poland in the period 1939-1945 and which should be considered provisional.

RESULTS OF THE ENQUIRY ON MASS EXECUTIONS

We shall discuss in turn: 1) The number of executions and of victims of those executions. 2) The number of victims in batches of executed persons. 3) The sex of victims. 4) The executioners. 5) The methods used in carrying out the executions.

1. Number of executions and victims.

Indices No 1 and No 2 give the number of mass executions and their victims in particular provinces and specified years.

INDEX No 1

Number of executions in specified years.

Province	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	Total
Bialystok	4	2	26	10	30	41	—	113
Bydgoszcz	110	4	2	4	1	34	11	166
Gdansk	15	1	—	—	—	4	1	21
Kielce	18	—	3	24	166	98	3	312
Krakow	21	9	3	22	113	120	10	298
Lublin	12	9	13	134	190	97	—	455
Lodz	57	12	5	16	58	84	8	240
Poznan	82	2	4	2	1	2	12	105
Rzeszow	6	3	4	21	130	48	—	212
Slask	28	2	1	7	11	20	10	79
Warszawa	41	7	7	26	119	122	9	331
Total	394	51	68	266	819	670	64	2,332

INDEX No 2
Number of victims.

Province	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	Total
Białystok	126	40	472	304	612	564	—	2,118
Bydgoszcz	2,996	187	32	31	3	226	106	3,581
Gdańsk	275	13	—	—	—	24	4	316
Kielce	182	—	45	309	1,968	1,437	61	4,062
Kraków	391	91	14	214	1,066	1,477	122	3,375
Lublin	214	350	319	1,708	2,445	1,517	—	6,585
Łódź	873	501	147	273	507	948	44	3,293
Poznań	1,260	6	84	19	48	213	270	1,900
Rzeszów	53	21	83	144	1,422	569	—	2,292
Śląsk	1,136	71	3	66	80	160	76	1,592
Warszawa	663	128	85	593	1,141	1,710	726	5,044
Total	8,199	1,408	1,282	3,661	9,292	8,847	1,409	34,098

It must be stressed that in the above indices 1939 includes only by the last four months, from September through the end of December. On the other hand the data for 1944 in the whole of the provinces of Białystok, Lublin and Rzeszów and a part of the province of Cracow refer to the first seven months only, from January to August, 1944. For the remaining provinces only the first winter months of 1945 were included.

The frequency of executions in particular years differs in the western provinces annexed to the Reich and in the provinces which made up the General Gouvernement.

The greatest number of executions on Polish lands annexed to the Reich took place in 1939. It was the period when the German police supported by local Germans set about to eliminate the Polish population. They planned to remove those people who took an active part in the political, cultural and social life of independent Poland. The example of the province of Bydgoszcz illustrates the dimension of the German plan of destruction: during the three months of 1939 the number of persons executed here was higher than the number of victims

in the province of Lublin in the course of the whole 1943, which was the period of the so called "pacification".

Later, mass expulsions of the population were carried out in the incorporated, western provinces where, until 1944, there were few mass executions. In 1944 the German terror increased in the provinces of Bydgoszcz and Gdańsk in reprisal for the support given by the local population to the guerilla detachments concentrated in the Tuchola Woods. The Germans set about simultaneously to liquidate camps and in 1945, immediately before their retreat, also prisons.

In the territory of the General Gouvernement a number of executions were carried out in 1939 by the advancing troops. Further waves of public executions began in 1942. In the province of Lublin, however, the population of the entire village Józefów was massacred as early as April 14, 1940, in reprisal for the slaughter of a German family. Also in the province of Łódź, where the guerilla groups of major Hubal were active, executions took place before 1942. In reprisal for support given to the underground organizations and also to check the growing force of the resistance movement mass executions became part of a general policy in 1942. The province of Lublin experienced in this period the first "pacification". The German terror increased in 1943 and reached its climax in 1944. This is apparent in the figures concerning the provinces of Kraków and Warsaw. The decline in the number of victims of mass executions in the provinces of Białystok, Lublin and Rzeszów is due only to the fact that in August 1944 the Germans were no longer there.

The province of Białystok underwent a period of great terror beginning in July 1941. First people who cooperated with Soviet authorities were exterminated. Later, from 1942 to July, 1944, the course of the German rule of terror in this province ran roughly parallel to that in the provinces which made up the General Gouvernement.

The group of executions which took place in June - July 1940, is not included in the index because of questionable figures. These executions were carried out in the provinces of Łódź (near Częstochowa and of Sandomierz district), Lublin (Łublin) and Warsaw (Warszawa). The total number of victims was 1500 persons who were not selected from among the local population but brought from different prisons. These were mass executions on a large scale (over 80 persons in Łódź in Sandomierz district and in Nowy Sącz district about 100 persons). In some cases it was possible to establish that some were shot in one of the executions near Częstochowa and others were the victims.

2. Number of victims in particular executions.

The executions are divided into four groups according to the number of victims: I - from 3 to 10 persons; II - from 11 to 20 persons; III - from 21 to 50 persons; IV - 51 and more persons.

The index shows the number of executions on the basis of this division into groups.

INDEX No 3.
Number of executions according to the division into groups

Province	from 3-10 persons	from 11-20 persons	from 21-50 persons	over 50 persons
Białystok	78	25	11	9
Bohemia	105	28	20	13
Łódź	12	4	5	—
Kielce	203	71	31	7
Kraśnik	214	48	26	10
Lublin	294	84	57	20
Łódź	154	48	29	9
Bohemia	88	18	20	9
Łódź	160	28	18	6
Warsaw	54	11	11	3
Warsaw	242	29	45	15
Total	1564	410	257	101

The first group, which includes executions of 3 to 10 persons constitutes 67 per cent of the total number of executions; the second group is 18 per cent of the whole; the third - 11 per cent and the fourth group - 4 per cent.

Out of a total of 2,332 executions 1,865, i. e. 84 per cent were carried out without court proceedings on local population on the spot. The remainder, 367, i. e. 16 per cent of the total of executions consisted of condemned people who had been brought from unknown prisons or camps, or from unknown directions or localities.

The Germans transported prisoners not only beyond the boundaries of a district but most often even beyond the area of a province. For example persons detained in the Cracow prisons were carried away to the districts of Bochnia, Chrzanów, Dębica, Jarosław, Limanowa, Miechów, Nowy Targ, Olkusz, Tarnów and Tarnobrzeg. Sometimes the prisoners were carried to the neighbouring province as was the case with hostages from Nisko transported to Kraśnik district and from Bilgoraj to Lubaczów district.

3. Sex of the victims.

Out of the total number of 2,332 executions, 1,350, i. e. 57 per cent were of men; 508 were both of men and women; 242 were of men, women and children and in 232 cases the sex of victims was not known to those who answered the enquiry. Taking the circumstances of the execution into consideration it is probable that they were chiefly men.

It must be underlined that the percentage of executions in which only men were shot was the highest in 1939. Out of 394 executions carried out in 1939, 291 or 74 per cent were of men. This was because the Wehrmacht and other bodies responsible for these executions were concentrating efforts on the elimination of the active Polish elements, composed chiefly of men.

INDEX NO. 4
Sex of the victims.

Province	men	men and women	men, women and children	unknown
Białystok	55	34	19	5
Bydgoszcz	100	39	6	21
Gdańsk	11	6	—	4
Kielce	166	70	40	36
Kraków	156	72	32	35
Lublin	215	131	89	20
Łódź	174	34	16	16
Poznań	85	8	2	10
Rzeszów	108	52	15	36
Śląsk	54	16	5	4
Warszawa	226	42	18	45
Total	1,350	504	242	232

Index No. 5 shows in a characteristic way how children up to 14 years were executed by the Germans in the various voievodships during the years of occupation.

These executions took place most frequently in the villages of the General Gouvernement and in the province of Białystok during the period of pacification.

INDEX NO. 5
Executions of children.

Province	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Białystok	—	—	1	—	11	7	—
Bydgoszcz	2	—	—	—	—	3	1
Gdańsk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kielce	1	—	—	5	33	1	—
Kraków	—	—	—	—	16	15	1
Lublin	1	3	1	24	47	14	—
Łódź	4	1	—	—	5	3	1
Poznań	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rzeszów	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Śląsk	3	—	—	2	11	2	—
Warszawa	3	1	—	—	6	7	—

Included in this type are executions of less than 10 persons usually members of one family and executions of the IV group with more than 50 victims. The latter often include four children up to the age of 10 of one family.

4. Executioners of mass slaughters.

Among the executioners of mass slaughters were: a) in the first place various units of the German police; b) army detachments; c) German organizations; foreign units on the service of the Germans.

Their share in executions in particular provinces is depicted by index No. 6.

INDEX No. 6
Executioners of mass slaughters.

Province	police	army	German organ.	foreign units	police army and organ.	police, army and foreign units	unknown
Białystok	75	35	—	2	—	—	1
Bydgoszcz	87	17	46	—	7	—	9
Gdańsk	13	—	3	—	5	—	—
Kielce	272	22	—	5	7	5	1
Kraków	258	17	1	8	5	6	3
Lublin	345	21	2	26	10	42	9
Łódź	172	49	2	4	10	2	1
Poznań	51	38	0	—	4	—	3
Rzeszów	175	14	—	6	6	10	1
Śląsk	46	17	7	1	6	—	2
Warszawa	278	43	2	2	3	1	2
Total	1,772	273	72	54	63	66	32

5. The methods used in carrying out the executions.

It is impossible, on the basis of this enquiry, to obtain a complete understanding of the manner in which mass executions were carried out. The written statements, on the other hand, give a full picture of the methods used. These statements can

be divided into two groups, the first including executions in the territory annexed to the Reich and the second, the executions carried out in the General Gouvernement.

About the first group, the provinces annexed to the Reich, the head of the Municipal Court in Naklo, in a report enclosed with the enquiry, stated:

"Committees composed of Polish citizens of German origin and the Selbstschutz, their executive organ, were formed immediately after the Germans invaded our district in 1939. At the special sessions of these committees verdicts were passed on Poles who were to be detained or killed. In choosing their victims, the German committees took into account the pre-war attitude of Poles towards the Germans and their role in the political or social life of the district before the war. Those detained were driven in groups, usually early in the morning, to the place of execution and there they were killed by shooting or beaten to death with the butt-ends of rifles. Graves were covered with earth; the Germans tried to conceal them from the Polish population."

These committees, however, did not exist everywhere to give a semblance of legal court proceedings. The following statement concerns the execution carried out in Środa, on September 17, 1939.

"Gestapo agents surrounded a block of houses where they started a manhunt. Possessors in adjacent streets were also seized. As a result of this raid 18 men were arrested and assembled in the prison courtyard. Later, a group of 21 men was taken from the prison and all the condemned were marched through the town to the place of execution. They were ordered to keep their hands against the back of the head and forced to proceed quickly in this position. The convoying Gestapomen beat and tortured them during the entire march. When they

reached the place of execution the Gestapo agents arranged the condemned in a rank; the heavy strokes did not stop for one moment. Two spades were brought from the local blacksmith but were not given to the prisoners. They were forced to dig a ditch with their bare hands. The grave was to be 12.5 metres long, 1.5 m broad and nearly 1 m deep. As soon as the grave was ready the Gestapo ranked the victims along the ditch and ordered them to shout: "Heil Hitler", and then gave them a volley of machine-gun fire. Since all the shots were not mortal the Gestapomen killed those still alive with the spades and then threw the victims of their bestiality into the ditch, levelling the bodies by trampling over them with heavy boots."

Descriptions of mass slaughters in the General Gouvernement concern chiefly the terror raids known as "pacification". As a rule any kind of trial preceded the execution. Among the answers to the enquiry and in the enclosed detailed statements there is not one description of executions of prisoners transported from distant prisons. The answers state briefly the way in which death was inflicted: "Shots in the back of the head after previous beating" (execution on July 28, 1943, in Wola Justowska, Cracow district), or: "Shots in the back of the head; the victims were strongly tied with wire, their hands put backwards" (execution on June 8, 1943, in Cykarkowo, Częstochowa district). "The prisoners had their hands tied behind in their backs, an SA hangman took each victim by the neck, led him to the wall and by means of strokes below the knees forced him to kneel with face against the wall. The SA unit then opened a rifle fire on the batch of 10-12 condemned persons, hitting at the back of their skulls and at their backs" (Execution on June 19, 1943, in Zwolen, Koziencice district).

The evidence of medico-legal experts enclosed to the report on the exhumation of bodies of victims killed on July 4, 1944, in a wood in Rapy Dylańskie, Bilgoraj district, stated:

Before the murder the condemned were tied with a thick wire. Several knots were made on their forearms and wrist joints. By the same wire people were tied in groups of 5 persons. They must have been tied for several hours before the murder was committed. After their arrival at the place of execution and directly before the murder the condemned were driven in groups to the ditch. They were beaten and tortured all the time in a most cruel and bestial way. This is proved in several cases by a crushed face or a broken lower and upper jaw; in one case by a large split of the skull. Shots hit at the back of the head, at the occiput, at the parietal and temporal bones or at the forehead.

During the execution carried on on January 19, 1945, when the prison in Kalisz was being liquidated, the prisoners "had their hands tied in the back and were bound by elbows in pairs; they were driven to a ditch which had been previously dug and there shot in batches. The victims were all hit in the back of the head, in foreheads and in the breast in such a way that each man fell into the grave pulling with him the man who was tied to him and still alive. To the latter further shots were given.

The "pacification" in Ceck, Radomsko district, was carried out in reprisal for the contact of the local population with the partisans. An eye witness, Władysław Pietras, told the following:

I saw the Germans drag people, adults and children, from three farmsteads. They shut them in a barn and opened at it a fire of heavy machine-guns. In the barn people cried and moaned. Half an hour later the building was oblate and when the people, burning alive, cried and shouted more and more desperately, five Germans came to our cottage. My parents implored them to spare our lives, but they only shouted and began to shoot at us. After the first shots we all fell on the

floor, but the Germans continued to shoot. One of the shots hit me in my left side. When the Germans left the cottage I decided to fly. My parents, my brothers and sisters, did not move on the floor. Only my little niece, Teresa, three months old, cried in her cot. I went to the wood and waited hidden in the bushes. At the moment I was leaving our house it was already in flames. During this terror raid I lost my father and mother, my grandmother, two brothers — Zygmunt, 3 years old, and Bolesław, 24 years old, and three sisters. My little niece Teresa was burnt alive. Our village, Ceck, was composed of only four farmsteads. All were burnt this day and all the people murdered or burnt alive.

The evidence of Piotr Worobiej, inhabitant of the village Lyski is as follows:

"My house was about 100 metres distant from the place of mass executions carried out by the Germans. These executions began a certain time after the German invasion, so far as I can remember in August, 1941. I was the witness of how 40 Jews were busy digging 4 ditches 12—20 metres long, 2 m broad and 2 m deep. These Jews used to come to my house asking for water. They told us that they are employed at "clearing" the wood. A Gestapo agent also used to come and he said that the ditches were being prepared for Jews. The first execution took place around the end of August, 1941. From dawn till noon 10 or 12 lorries arrived here; all were packed with people. The group of people brought together in one lorry was shot by one volley from tommy guns. Later, separate shots were heard. I heard also cries of despair: "Jesus, Maria! Help!" Lorries stopped in a glade by the Fasty — Nowosiółki road. People alighted from them, ranked in pairs between two Gestapo agents who carried guns ready to discharge. They marched thus four by four towards the ditch some 40 metres distant. The condemned entered the ditch and the

Gestapomen remained behind them. If somebody resisted he was forced into the ditch. When all were inside I heard the order to open fire and other orders in German. A volley followed and then several separate shots. I noticed that about 30 or 40 persons left every lorry. I don't know who was exterminated in these first executions; the victims were not Jews at any rate because of the religious calls like "Jesus, Maria!" I repeatedly heard. I don't remember exactly if three or only two mass graves were filled this day. I noticed also that after every volley a woman in civilian clothes went along the ditches and poured some white powder from a white sack. Afterwards a whitish smoke hovered over the ditch for a few minutes. Further executions were carried out according to the same procedure. The second, third, fourth and fifth executions were carried out at weekly intervals. Ditches were dug on Thursdays and Fridays and shooting took place on Mondays and Tuesdays. In October and November, 1941, the executions were less frequent, they were carried out twice a month, but a greater number of persons was executed in one day. The ditches were larger, over 20 m long and up to 3 m broad. During the third or may be it was the fourth execution, I noticed that the men wore black suits; they walked in arm with women in fine dresses. One of the ladies wore a light green dress and another a long black one. The last execution took place in December, 1941. The earth was frozen, there was no snow as yet. This time Soviet war prisoners were shot, but there were also some civilian people among them. An interval followed then till May, 1942. The execution in May took place after my removal from Fasto to Lyski.

Here is the evidence of the witness Mieczysław Sekiewicz, inhabitant of Konin:

"In the middle of November, 1941, at 4 o'clock a. m. Gestapo agents came to the cell in which I was detained and ordered

me to prepare myself to leave the prison. They handcuffed me and took me to a motorear where I met two fellow prisoners from the Konin prison. They occupied the back seat and were bound to each other by hands and feet. I sat next to them and the Germans chained my feet. The Gestapomen sat with us and we motored in the direction of Kazimierz Biskupi. When crossing a wood the car turned into a wooded lane. The Germans unfettered us, dragged us from the motorears and ranked us in front of a glade where mass graves were dug. Later, we were led to the glade; two ditches were dug across it. The first was about 8 metres long, 6 m broad and over 2 m deep. The second ditch, parallel to the first and dug in the opposite end of the glade, was about 15 m long and 6 m broad. Crowds of Jews stood and sat around the glade, men, women and children, mothers with babies in arms. I saw a layer of quick lime at the bottom of the largest ditch, but I could not notice how thick it was. In the smaller ditch there was no lime. The Gestapomen ordered the Jews to undress, beginning with those who stood near the large ditch. They ordered the naked men to jump into it. One cannot have any idea of the cries and laments that followed. The majority of the Jews jumped immediately while others hesitated. Those who resisted were beaten and forced to jump. There were mothers who jumped grasping children in their arms; others who first threw the children. Some women threw their babies aside. We were ordered to collect the clothing and shoes the Jews left on the glade. I noticed that the Gestapomen came to the places where piled watches, rings and jewelry were and took handfuls of them, cramming their pockets. Suddenly the Germans ordered the Jews to stop undressing; the ditch was full enough. Only closely packed heads were to be seen when one looked into the graves. The Jews already stripped naked were thrown by the Gestapo on the heads of those crammed into the ditch. I and my fellows prisoners still collected and segregated the scattered clothing, footwear, parcels, food, bed-

ding etc. This lasted till noon. A lorry arrived then from the direction of the highway. I noticed something like four vats on it. The Germans fitted up a small motor, probably a pump, connected it with one of the vats by means of a tube, and two Gestapomen carried the tube to the larger ditch. The motor was set in motion and the two men who held the tube began to pour some liquid over the Jews packed in the ditch. I think it was water, at any rate it looked like water. The tube was connected in turn with other vats. A horrific shout started suddenly. Probably people began to boil because of the slaking of lime. We could not stand the cries and tried to deafen ourselves by putting pieces of torn linen into our ears. Other Jews who waited their turn joined their lamentations and cries to the terrible shouts of their comrades who were boiling alive inside the ditch. All this lasted 2 hours, maybe longer. Just before dusk we were carried away from the wood; they gave us coffee and $\frac{1}{4}$ kg of bread. Cries were still heard. I heard them till I fell asleep. The next morning the Gestapomen ordered us to cover the larger ditch with earth. Some earth was already scattered on it. The substance composed of human beings sunk a little but the bodies were so closely packed that they continued to keep their erect position. Only heads bent to this or the other side. We could not cover the grave properly because we were interrupted by a new order. We were to load the property of the murdered Jews on several lorries which had arrived at the place of execution. Also, a lorry that was like a big ambulance car came and left several times in the course of the afternoon. It was dark grey and had an entrance in the back. When it was opened a mass of bodies of men, women and children fell out. There were Jews among them. I noticed three times the grey car coming to the glade taking one hour to go somewhere and return. The bodies seemed to be bound together in spasmodic embraces in curious positions; in some cases cheeks were gnawed. Some of the corpses held each other by the hand, they pro-

bably were one family. The Gestapomen ordered us to separate the bodies; when it was impossible we had to use axes. We arranged the victims in the smaller ditch; we put them in layers, one close to the other; the head of one body next to the feet of another, and then again the head of the third... Three layers were laid in my presence and one car was not unloaded as yet..."

The following evidence refers to the destruction of bodies of victims of the Nazi terror.

The evidence of Walenty Dudek from Oborniki describes the activity of a German detachment which was entrusted with burning bodies in the Oborniki district.

"On December 18, 1943, about 80 German policemen took quarters in the hotel. They said they were "Sonder Kommando". The detachment was brought in 3 buses from Poznań. Every day about 7 o'clock in the morning a lorry and a car left the courtyard of the hotel carrying away about 50 men. They came back in the evening. This kind of traffic lasted till the beginning of March, with a short break for Christmas. The "Sonder Kommando" had at its disposal an easily combustible liquid kept in tanks of 250 litres capacity and also in canisters. In big vessels petrol was kept, no doubt about it because of the smell. The canisters contained a liquid which smelled unpleasantly, somewhat like camphor. I noticed once that a drop of this liquid, which fell on the floor in the room of one of the officers, immediately burnt a small hole. A drunken German policeman boasted once that only the Germans have such a liquid. Men who took part in the expeditions received extra rations of whisky and wine. The weekly ration of whisky per man was 2 and $\frac{1}{4}$ litres. Their food rations also were twice as big as normal.

I overheard that the policemen were strictly forbidden to enter into any contact with civilians. I learned later from one

of them that this restriction is due to fear that the members of the expeditions might speak with civilians about the tasks of the "Sonder Kommando".

The witness Szymon Amiel from Bialystok gave a detailed description of the activity of a group of Jews employed in destroying bodies in the province of Bialystok.

"In mid May, 1944, — writes Amiel — our group was transported to Augustów in a big, covered lorry. We were in custody of 60 gendarmes armed with automatic weapons and hand grenades, who ordered us to uncover mass graves, drag corpses out of them, pile them in heaps, pour over them petrol and tar, and set them on fire. We piled up one thousand bodies in one heap of the dimensions $6 \times 7 \times 5$ metres. We burnt 5 or 6 similar heaps in Augustów. I don't remember exactly how many. After burning the pile, we had to pound bones to powder by means of special tools. The ashes had to be sifted for golden teeth, rings, earrings, which were immediately seized by the Gestapomen. In Augustów we opened three big graves and one small. Two graves were 15 m long and the smaller was 5—6 m long. They contained the bodies of Poles, Jews and Soviet soldiers. All of them were shot. We found hundreds of bullets in the graves; we once also found over 100 wooden legs and arms. Old, crippled men were evidently buried there. We saw long grey beards. We stayed 10 or 11 days in Augustów.

When we did our job of burning the bodies in Augustów we were transported some 10 km further towards East Prussia. I did not know the locality. We opened there 10 or 12 graves containing on the average 400 persons each. The burning lasted 5 or 6 days. At night we returned to Augustów.

We were carried next to Grodno and billeted in the Gestapo barracks. There mass graves were located in 3 or 4 spots. The

Map of Żamojszczyzna

Scale 1:250.000

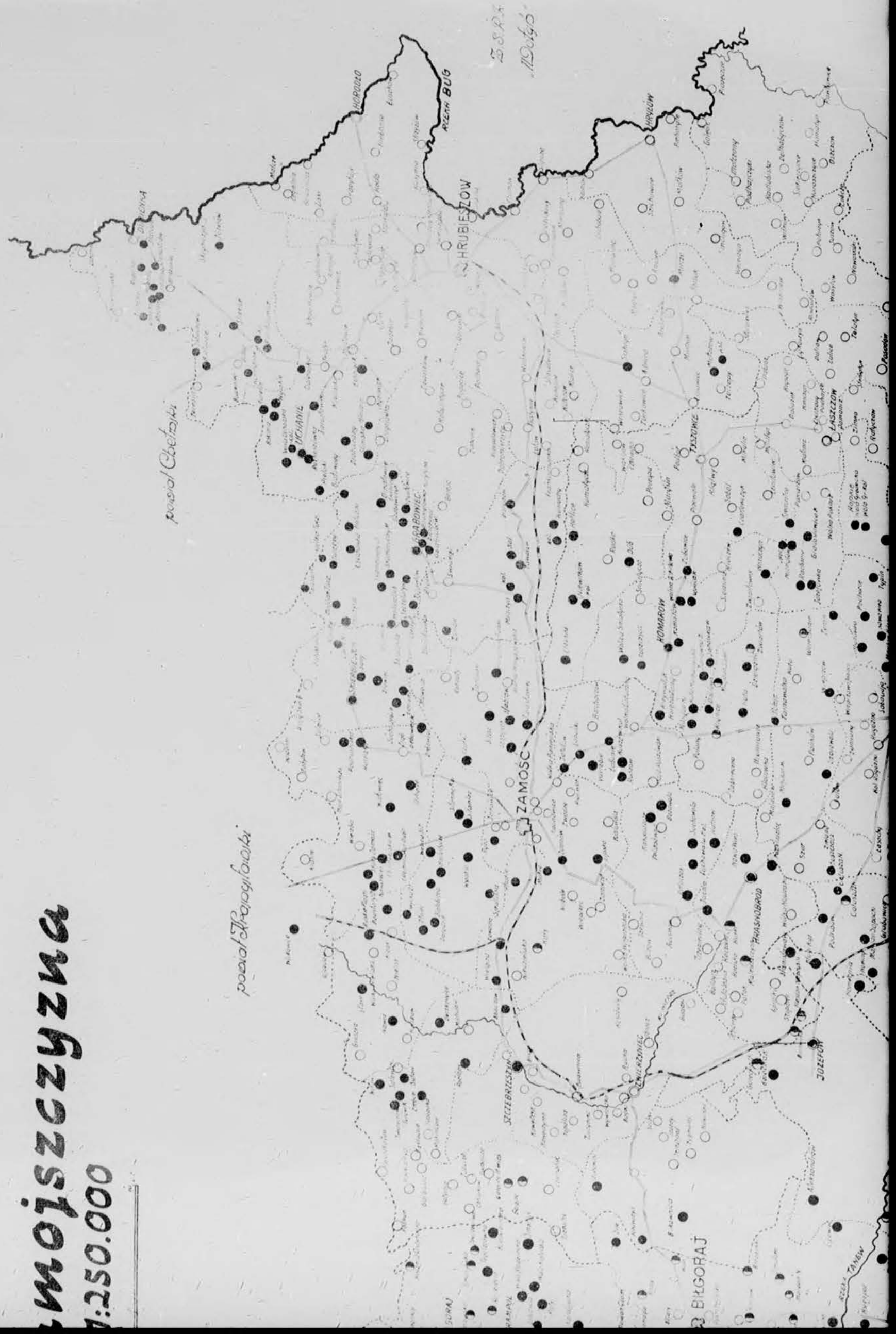
EXPLANATION OF SIGNS

- villages fully evicted
- ◐ villages partly evicted
- not evicted villages

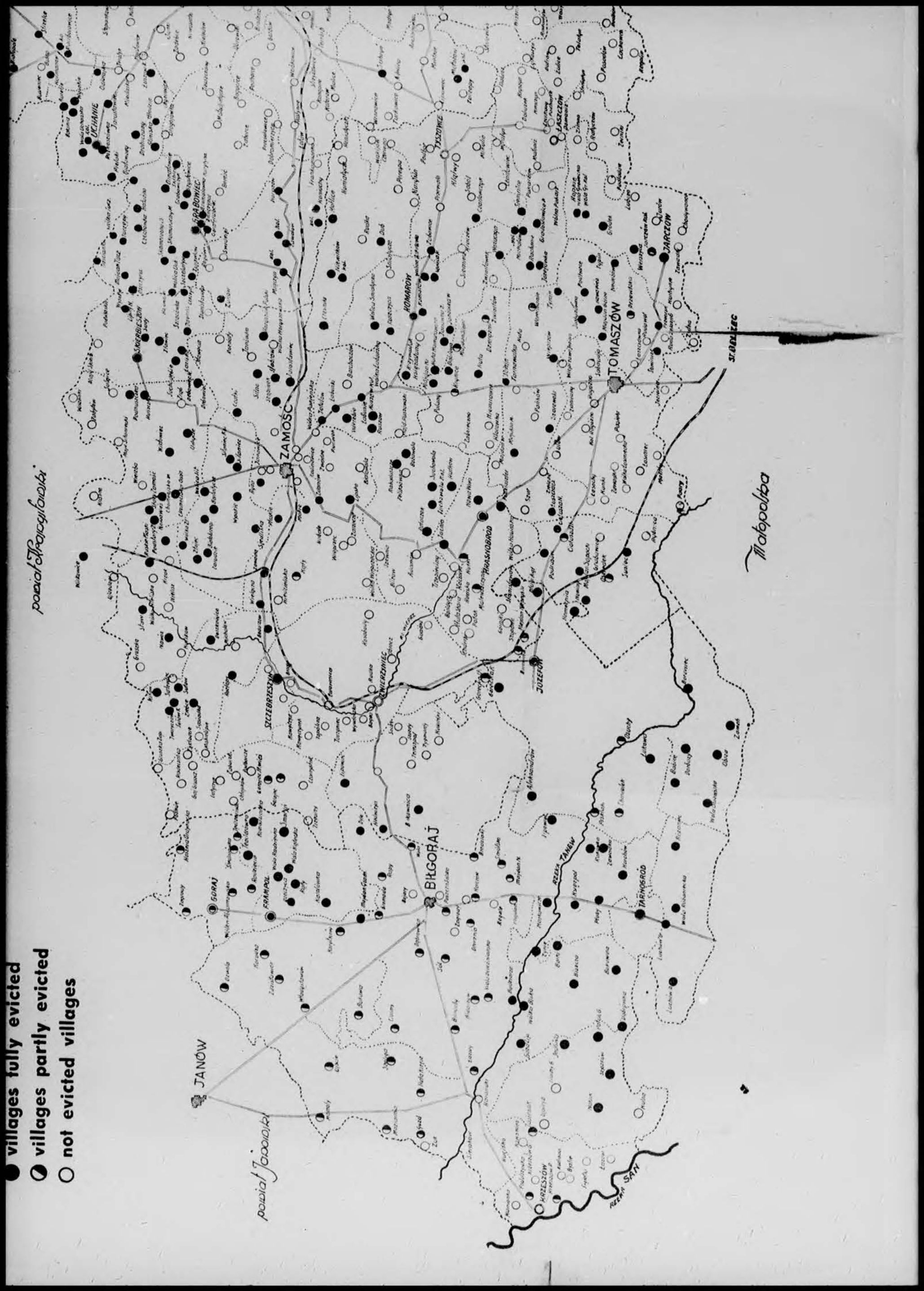


mojszczyzna

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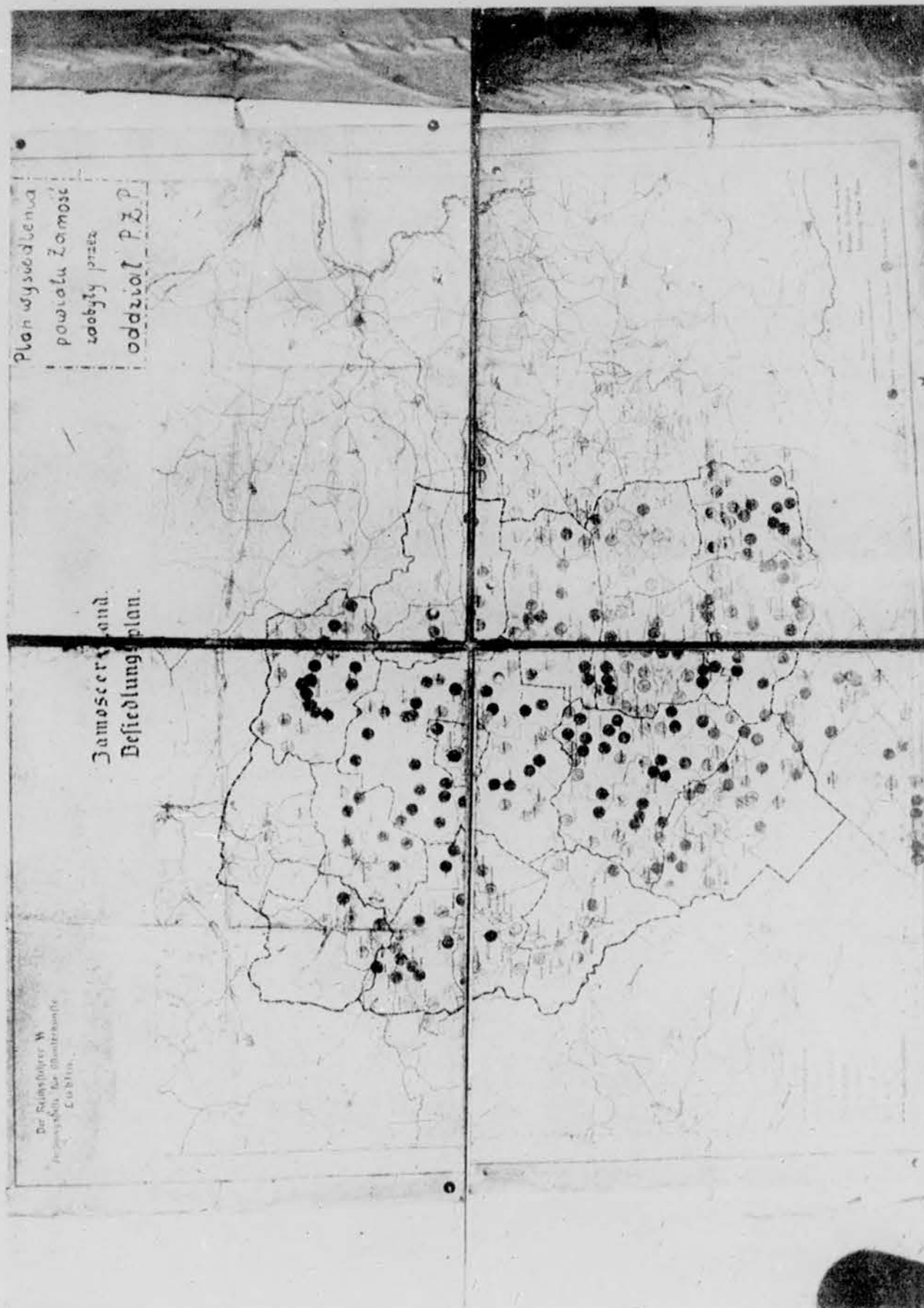


- villages fully evicted
- ◐ villages partly evicted
- not evicted villages



B.S.P.A.
1945





Eviction Plan of Zamojaszczyna found on a killed German (photocopy).

greatest were at Fort No 9. In all we burnt about 10,000 bodies here.

We went then to Skidle and Łuszcza, where we burnt bodies from four mass graves in which were buried the inhabitants of four hamlets. They all were shot. About 1000 persons lay in one grave.

We were taken next to Białystok. It was about June 12, 1944. From the 15th of June, 1944, we worked for 10 days in Nowosiółki and opened 18 graves there. They were of various size, some containing 500 persons, others 300 persons or less. In total we burnt 5 or 6 piles, 1000 bodies in each. Sometimes after one pile was burnt we arranged the next one on the same spot and set fire there again. From Nowosiółki we were transported to the opposite side of the highway; I am not sure of the name of the place, but it was probably Bacieczki near Białystok. We opened there some 8 graves, with 500—600 corpses in each. We worked 5 or 6 days; the piles burnt for only 2 days but the preparations and pounding of bones lasted 6 days in all. After we finished our work in Bacieczki we were transferred to Grabówka. It was the end of June, 1944. We opened about 10 graves in all and burnt the contents of three mass graves (one contained a couple of thousands of bodies — it was the largest). Besides these three big mass graves we burnt four smaller with several hundreds of people buried in each. We could not state if the greatest grave contained Poles or Jews, there were no special signs. But in other graves I am certain that Jews were buried because I found documents belonging to my friend Finkelsztein and the passport of my cousin. Because of these documents I was sure that Jews from the Białystok ghetto were buried here. We were ordered by the watchmen to search the bodies and we found also some German and Soviet money. The money was not spoiled and the gendarmes took it after it was dried.

One grave contained only women and children, all naked. About 800 women were buried there. So many women could

have been shot by the Germans only during the liquidation of a ghetto.

I remember that we burnt bodies from about seven graves; out of this number three were big (I include here the grave with 800 bodies of women) and four smaller graves. We found about 2,500 persons in the first and 1500 in the next three. In total about 4,000 bodies from the three big graves were burnt. In the remaining four there were about 1200 bodies.

We did not end our work in Grabówka because on July 13, 1944, the Germans ordered us to cover the graves which had already been opened. Three ditches had to be covered again with earth. We threw into a fire and burnt all tools like clubs, ladders and pounders. As to ourselves we were ordered to form a rank and enter into ditches left empty after we had removed and burnt the bodies. At this moment I gave a signal and we ran away in different directions. Thirty three of my colleagues perished but ten of us escaped death. I must add that everywhere we worked we tried to leave a fragment of bodies in the mass graves in order that some traces of the people executed by shooting and buried there might be left for future investigations."

HOW THE EVICTION OF THE POLES BY THE GERMANS FROM THE AREA OF ZAMOSĆ WAS CARRIED OUT

III

I. INTRODUCTION.

The main principle of Germany's policy of imperialism and extermination consisted in conquering as much as possible of "Lebensraum" and introducing everywhere the Nazi "new order" — the „Neue Ordnung“.

In Autumn 1939, very shortly after the end of war operations in Poland, the Germans began to carry out mass expulsions of Poles from the lands annexed to the Reich. Polish inhabitants were deported to the General Gouvernement which, although treated from an ethnical point of view, as a territory purely Polish, was also included in the German plan of colonization. This plan, in fact, extended even into the Ukraine.

The Germans intended to create first of all along the Polish-Soviet frontier a compact defence zone colonized by the German element.

Their object was double: political and military. By gradually eliminating and eradicating the Polish population they would create in the east a wide belt of territory inhabited by Germans, which would be a measure of security from the military point of view. These settlers were to be organized according to military models and under the leadership of Dorfführers selected from among the SS-men. The German colonization of the Ukraine was to be the next phase of the plan. To achieve this aim it was necessary first to remove the Polish population. Only those Poles were to be left who were needed by the Germans for the time being as manpower, specialists, handicraftsmen, technicians, engineers, doctors, etc. In order to reinforce by the local ele-

ment the German population re-settled in this territory. A large-scale pro-German propaganda was developed. All means were used, including threats and terror to force Poles to enroll in the lists of the Volks- and Stammdesche. Special commissions were busy investigating the population searching for features characteristic of the German race.

But such deliberate mass expulsion as in the territory annexed to the Reich was never carried out by the Germans in the General Government. The mass expulsions in the Zamosc Area were a kind of experiment.

Why was this area chosen? For several reasons, including the fertile soil and vast land estates, chiefly those belonging to the entail of the counts Zamoscy. Higher SS-officers were to receive the estates of the entail and the main residence of the Zamoscy was destined for Goering. Zamosc was to be remained Hindlerstadt and letters were already addressed to the new name. The next object of the Germans was to make impossible the action of the guerilla detachments in the woods of the Zamosc Area, as the guerilla on the Polish-Soviet frontier constituted a considerable danger.

Four south-eastern districts of the province of Lublin (called by the Germans the Lublin Gouvernement) made up during the German occupation the so-called Zamosc Area. They were the districts of Zamosc, Bilgoraj, Tomaszow and Hrubieszow, they covered 607,767 ha. and contained, according to the pre-war census, 517,500 inhabitants, of whom 80 per cent were engaged in farming. Poles constituted 66 per cent, Ukrainians 24 per cent and Jews 10 per cent of the population.

2. MASS EXPULSIONS

Mass expulsions began in the Zamosc, Tomaszow and Hrubieszow districts in November, 1942, and lasted till the early days of March, 1943. A total of 116 villages were emptied during this period, 47 villages in the Zamosc district (12 in No-

vember and 35 in December, 1942); 15 villages in the Tomaszow district (in December, 1943); 54 villages in the Hrubieszow district (26 in January, 26 in February and two in March, 1943). According to German sources 140,000 people were to be deported but in fact the mass expulsion affected only 41,080 Poles, i. e. 34 per cent of the planned number.

From 27 November to 31 December 1942, — 9,771 persons were expelled from 60 villages according to German estimates. The Germans planned to expel 33,832 persons but succeeded in seizing only 9,771 i. e. 34 per cent; the remainder escaped. The mass escapes can be explained by the uncertainty as to the fate of evicted persons and to the widely spread Polish propaganda that Poles are to be treated in the same way as the Jews.

According to recent calculations based on the enquiry 26,962 persons from 62 villages were evicted in this period.

Later, the expulsions were stopped for a certain time. Instead, the territories from where people were already expelled began to be cleared of remnants of the Polish population.

In the summer of 1943, the Germans resumed a large-scale action of eviction under the slogan of "combating bands".

In June and July, 1943, the inhabitants of 171 villages were expelled in all the four districts: 89 in Bilgoraj district (24 in June and 65 in July); 44 in Tomaszow district (1 in June and 43 in July); 29 in Zamosc district (1 in June and 28 in July) and 8 in Hrubieszow district (in July).

This was the so-called "Grossaktion". In many places this action was carried on simultaneously with the "pacification". In some cases it was impossible to learn if a village was expelled or "pacified". One thing is certain: the Germans used all means to depopulate the Polish villages. They harassed their inhabitants with frequent and sudden raids, murders, man-hunts, arrests of men, burning of farmsteads and robbing of property. People were compelled to leave their farms and native villages in anticipation of the compulsory eviction.

Considering the strong attachment of Polish peasants to their land it is easy to imagine the enormous hardships which brought about this extreme decision. Sometimes when the Germans arrived at a village to conduct a mass expulsion or "pacification" they found there no one except a few old men, who did not want to leave their native farmstead. In such cases the Germans used to rob everything in sight and most often killed the old men.

They sometimes introduced changes in the system of expulsion. All men, for example, were first seized and carried away; then, only after one or two weeks, the Germans expelled the women and children.

The transit camps organized for the evicted population in Zamość and Zwierzyniec were packed full.

The lack of success of the Germans on the East front stopped this "Grossaktion" which was concluded in July, 1943. The majority of people, however, were afraid to come back to their villages since the Germans continued to make terror raids and plunder the countryside.

For several years the majority of people who were not carried away lived under exceptionally hard conditions. The peasants who gave evidence on German crimes all agreed in their statements that their life in this period was like that of pursued beasts.

They wandered in summer in fields and woods; in Winter they took refuge in huts dug underground, in bunkers, air raid shelters and similar hiding places. They tried never to go far from their native villages, returning there secretly from time to time, usually at night, in order to take some food. Some of them took the risk of staying in their own farmsteads, sleeping in their clothes, always prepared for danger. The Polish watch-men were entrusted to give signals of alarm if the Germans approached a village.

As a result, from November, 1941, to August, 1943, — 297 villages totalling about 110,000 inhabitants were expelled



The evicted at one of the gathering points during the action in the Bilgoraj district in July 1943.



The belongings of the evicted in the Bilgoraj district in July 1943. They had to leave everything on the spot.



Scene of the "action" at the village Szaradowa in the Warsaw district

by the Germans. This figure constitutes 31 per cent of the total number of Poles inhabiting the Zamość Area.

The German authorities divided the local population into four groups:

I. The Germans who in fact did not exist at all.

II. Persons in whom racial German features were discovered (for instance fair-haired). They were to be carried away to the Reich and germanized. Special attention was devoted to children, who were to be sent to special educational camps.

III. Persons between the ages of 14 and 60 capable of working. Part of them were to remain in the area as manpower; the majority, however, were destined to be deported and employed in the Reich.

IV. Old men above 60 years of age, children up to 14, sick and crippled people, etc. They were to be deported in special transports to the districts bordering Warsaw, to the so-called "Rentendörfer" in the vicinity of Siedlee, Garwolin and Minsk Mazowiecki.

Poles who were to be sent to concentration camps, chiefly to Oświęcim, constituted a separate sub-group.

The German authorities assumed that the I and II groups will include 5 per cent of the population, the III group — 74 per cent and the IV group — 21 per cent.

3. METHODS USED IN CARRYING OUT MASS EXPULSION.

The inhabitants of the village were ordered to leave it without previous warning. Deportations were effected quite suddenly, in most cases early in the morning, between 3 and 7 o'clock a. m. Different German units arrived in cars, usually at night and closely surrounded the village, part of them entered it. The units varied: the Gestapo, the SS, Sonderdienst, sometimes the Wehrmacht, the German settlers in the area (called "the black"), Ukrainians in the German service, and

the local Volksdeutsche. Sometimes they rushed into cottages and dragged outside the people still hardly awake. In other cases bailiffs were ordered to assemble all inhabitants in one place. In small towns and settlements an old fashioned method, the beating of a drum, was used to announce to the population that they must immediately assemble in the market place in front of the police station. The expelled were usually allowed to take some personal belongings and food, varying from 10 to 20 kg. In some cases they could take only one loaf of bread; in some cases nothing at all. The deportees had to leave their houses on extremely short notice; they were usually given from five to twenty minutes and at the utmost half an hour or an hour to start on their journey. This depended on the Germans who supervised the expulsion.

The population were driven to a common or a large square in front of the local community office, or church. All this was usually carried out with the utmost brutality. The Germans shouted, pushed their victims, beat them with the buttends of rifles and with clubs, kicked and slapped them in their faces, set dogs on them and shot at those who resisted or made attempts to escape. The sick, infirm and crippled old people, expectant mothers and babies were dragged out of doors no matter how rainy or frosty the weather; sometimes they were killed on the spot. Cruelty and ruthlessness were shown especially by the Ukrainians in the German service.

People were kept as many as ten hours in a crowd at the square and in most cases were not allowed either to eat or to drink. In winter this inflicted immense sufferings chiefly on children, old people and sick, particularly since they had been dragged out when hardly awake and had left their homes only half clad, sometimes leaving behind the most necessary belongings.

The Germans inspected the assembled people and segregated them into groups. Workers employed in airfields, railways, saw-mills, sugar factories or other plants were left; then

farmhands were chosen for the new German settlers. In small towns the employees in the courts of justice, municipal office, post office, doctors, chemists and some specialists needed by the Germans were usually left. But sometimes doctors and chemists were also deported as was the case in Skierbieszów. Clergymen who did not conceal themselves were always deported, but in general they took special precautions and succeeded in escaping.

During expulsion raids the Germans used to rob all the villages of everything.

Fires often broke out during the raids, especially if the expulsion was carried out at the same time as the terror raids known as "pacification". The Germans did not allow the fire to be extinguished; they threw bodies of the killed and even alive persons into the buildings in flames.

Poles left as workers or farmhands were billeted in the villages in several selected houses which formed something like a workers settlement.

In many villages, mostly in the Hrubieszów district, the Ukrainians were also evicted. But they were treated quite differently from Poles. They received a much longer notice and could carry away their belongings in their own carts. Ukrainians were settled on farms given up by the Poles and were often allowed to choose their farms.

Several fragments of written statements made on the mass expulsions will illustrate the conditions and atmosphere under which they were carried out.

Here is the description of the mass expulsion which took place in Tarnogród, Bilgoraj district, on June 30, 1943:

All units could be seen here: air force detachments of the Wehrmacht, military police, the SS-Sturmabteilung and others. On June 29, every one lost the last hope if he ever had any; the action was about to start. Cars packed with men arrived from neighbouring villages Luchów and Wola Różaniecka. The posting of guards on roads, fields and in woods made escape impossible. Next day, on June 30, people awoke and peeped from

courtyards like hunted beasts. Farm work was not resumed for several days. Our little town was cordoned — news about it was first brought by the shepherds who went only half way to the common and had to return with the cattle.

About 6 o'clock a m. inhabitants of most distant streets were driven to the square. They were frightened and prepared for all eventuality.

The crowd of victims increased on the market place. An SS-officer stood up in his car and said to the assembled:

"Poles! You will leave this area. You will be resettled in the territories inhabited by purely Polish population. Here the Ukrainians will be left in order to avoid the inconveniences of a mixed population! You have one hour to go home and pack your belongings. You are allowed to take 10 kg of luggage per person. In one hour everybody must be here again."

The crowd dispersed and small groups of people hurried home to take some property.

One hour later all were again at the market place. Those who resisted were pushed by young SS-men. Some shots were heard. It rained and people were soaked. In spite of the Summer weather they shivered. Women claspd in arms their frightened babies trying to protect them again the shower.

A reconnaissance aircraft hovered over the town. A shot was discharged and immediately a white rocket arose against the background of the sky. This was a signal for the aircraft: "Alles in Ordnung".

At noon people began to be horded into lorries. Women and children were separated from their husbands, fathers and brothers. After the painful farewells the division of food was made and the women were brutally crammed into cars made to move faster by beating. Thus they were pushed into the depth of the vehicles. Before the start to an unknown destination they made the sign of the cross. The loading was not an easy thing since there were no men to help. A sick woman dropped an infant. After the women were loaded it was the turn of men. Only those were left who could be of some use for the Germans and their allies, the Ukrainians. The loading lasted till night. Thanks to the darkness or inattention of the guards more bold people succeeded in escaping from the close ring of sentinels.

In the course of the night nothing new happened. The 1st of July differed in no way from the previous days: it only brought misfortune to those who ventured to remain illegally on the spot. At night, after a day full of alarm and uncertainty a dull beating of drums was heard. The janitor of the local community office made public a severe regulation issued by the SS Obersturmführer: Anybody who stayed without permission of authorities must immediately report at the market square if not — he will be done to death.

The remainder of people were to share the fate of their friends and relatives. The atmosphere became more and more dramatic. No one cried the night before, now women were sobbing. They could no longer suppress the tension of nerves.

Later at night all quieted down. Only cattle moored — they had not been watered this day — and the horses neighed. Sometimes the sound of axes and the breaking open of a door was heard, or a tumult made by robbers. It was the local Ukrainians who divided among themselves the spoil.

(Fragment of the affidavit, by Bogdan Kłosiński).

The pacification of the village Pardysówka, Biłgoraj district on March 28, 1943:

"When the population was dragged from the village there were some people who hid themselves in cellars or garrets. If the Germans discovered them — they were driven to a ditch full of slack lime prepared for some building works and there they were killed. Several persons perished in flames — only their burnt bodies were found. Victims were killed by shooting or beaten to death with the butt-ends of rifles. Three girls who had been deported to Germany for forced labour and had come home for a leave, were raped by the Germans, then thrown into the ditch with lime and covered with stones. Three little children of the Koziry were killed with the butt-ends. The infirm Magdalena Kusial was burnt alive".

(Evidence of Dr. Ignacy Lesiuk).

The pacification and expulsion of the village Hamernia, Biłgoraj district:

"On July 2, 1943, a large group of soldiers accompanied by the gendarmes and Ukrainians police arrived in Hamernia and surrounded the whole village. Three men were shot on the spot, and 36 others were driven into lorries and transferred to the transit camp in Zwierzyniec. During the inquest in Zwierzyniec all were beaten. Three of the arrested were taken away to the Majdanek concentration camp and 33 to the transit camp in Zamość. Two days later their families were also expelled and brought to Zamość from where wives and husbands were deported together to forced labour in Germany. Other persons, chiefly elderly people, were sent to the Puławy and Lublin districts, from where they returned after a couple of months to their native villages. The farmsteads of the expelled Poles were resettled with Ukrainians from the Hrubieszów district. After a few days however, these Ukrainians left in an unknown direction".

(From statement enclosed with the enquiry).

"Anna Smyk, Marcela Pyrzak and Agnieszka Salucka were murdered two days after the expulsion was carried out because they were old and infirm women incapable of any work". (Village Podstary Zamość)

When the formalities and the segregation of people on the market square were completed a new phase of the expulsion began. The evicted people left their native villages and farms in despair and started on the journey towards unknown hardships and ill-treatment. When the first action was taken, in November 1941, the deportees could choose freely some place to live in after a couple of weeks of wandering. But after the mass expulsions were resumed in November 1942, people were immediately transferred to the transit camp in Zamość. A similar camp was organized in Zwierzyniec during the notorious "Grossaktion" in 1943.

People were brought there by all possible means. They were driven afoot ten and more kilometers from villages bordering Zamość or Zwierzyniec; in most cases, however, they were conveyed by carts or lorries. From more distant places the expelled population were driven by foot to the nearest railway station and further on transported by railway in closely shut waggons to Zamość. In Zamość they were detained "beyond barbed wires".

Lorries and railways were normally crammed. In hot days unfortunate people were not permitted even a drop of water; no conveniences at all were available. As a result, the deportees arrived in the camp in a most deplorable state.

Those driven by foot suffered terrible pain and indignity. The convoying Germans drove those who lingered by pushing and kicking them, beating them with clubs and butt-ends. People who could not proceed further were usually murdered. Those who tried to run away were also killed. They were forbidden food while on the march and those who were caught trying to take food were shot.

After a procession of victims of a mass expulsion had passed the road was usually littered with human corpses.

4. TRANSIT CAMPS.

The expelled people were located first in transit camps in Zamość and Zwierzyniec, where the first phase of their bitter exile began. They were treated like prisoners and kept beyond wires, lost contact with the outer world. Shortly after their arrival the arrested were taken to a special commission which divided them into the four groups quoted in the previous section. The "experts" in racial matters, examined their hair, eyes, the shape of skulls, etc., searching for "German features", and made special stamps in the files. Medical inspection was made by dr. Rembacz, who himself had been expelled from Skierbieszów and detained in camp. People were then led to another barrack where the SS-man Grunert worked and the segregation was carried out. Here dantesque scenes occurred when parents were separated from their children. Grunert made the segregation on the basis of stamps in files. He beat and kicked the mothers who did not let the Germans take their children. The children were given to strangers, old disabled women. Children of parents from the intelligentsia were purposely transferred to old women from countryside and vice versa. These old women received up to six children from 2 to 12.

"...Every barrack in the camp had a separate locked enclosure. There was no possibility for parents to see their little ones. Commandant Schütz beat and kicked all people met in the area of the camp, and beyond the enclosure, until they lost consciousness...

"...Women, children and old people lived for up to six weeks under these appalling conditions, until the transport was ready to depart. Transports were prepared in the following way: after the files were completed people were driven to the open yard in the camp, usually early in the evening and lists of those to be deported next day were read. Since the transports were large this ceremony often lasted until 7 o'clock a. m. All this time the old people, children and crippled lay on the snow. After the departure of each transport several dead bodies were taken from the yard"

(Details from the evidence of Adam Skóra, teacher).

Deplorable sanitary conditions and malnutrition (in the morning and in the evening coffee without milk or sugar, at noon 140 gr. of bread and some transparent soup) brought about a variety of diseases and the increase of death rate. Here is the evidence of Sister Teresa of the St. Francis Congregation who for 15 months worked beyond the wires in Zamość in the camp hospital.

"The hospital was crowded with sick who lay on straw mattresses without sheets or blankets. Beds were arranged one over the other. There existed no separate section for women, men and children. All were packed together. In the barracks children lay on the floor or on some planks without straw and were covered with their own clothes. Barrack No. 10 had no floor at all and people lay there on earth. In cold weather condensed drops of vapour dripped from the ceiling, the barrack was muddy, and people, quite soaked, had to lie in the mud. Such hygienic conditions naturally resulted in a very high death rate."

Alfred Świst, a farmer, stated the following:

"On November 28, 1942, I was expelled with other people from our village Wislowice and detained in the camp in Zamość. The Germans employed me at carrying away corpses. During the four months I worked there about 500 bodies of children and old people were taken away. They died in great numbers. We were not allowed to give to families the bodies of their dead relatives, but sometimes we did it secretly. Corpses were taken to the parish cemetery in Zamość. We collected them into a wheelbarrow and unloaded them into ditches."

"Once the Germans noticed some excrement near barrack No. 10 where children and old people were detained; they rushed inside and ordered children and old people to clean the place with their bare hands. All were threatened that if any filth were found again each of them would be forced to eat it."

"Once I took the children to the railway station in a farm cart. The side of the cart broke and several children fell on the pavement. Others arrived at the station half alive. They were thrown into the cart like sheaves."

Józef Rzeszutko, a clerk, stated the following:

"I was the witness of how the Gestapomen came to barrack No. 13 and ordered that the first men they pointed to at random be hanged. We were given a rope. Fifteen minutes was the time during which the hanging had to be done. The verdicts were passed by a German spy, Stanisław Pieczy-



After the "action" in the village Białowola of the Zamość district (December 29, 1942).



Sight of the village Sochy after the „great action" on June 1, 1934.



Those murdered in the village Sochy on June 1, 1943.



Victims of the German "Grossaktion" in the village Sochy.

kolan. I don't know from where he came. He himself hanged an old man, I forgot his name, and two Jews, one a man and one a woman.

"The Gestapomen used to arrange a bee hunt shooting at bees walking on people. Many people were killed or injured in this way."

After the segregation into groups and a stay in the camp which varied in length, the expelled people were deported to different places. Children and old people were dispatched by railway to the neighbourhood of Warsaw. Men and women between 14 and 60, capable of work, were taken away to the Reich; they were employed there in factories, farms, etc. A part of the evicted population were carried with families and children to the Oświęcim concentration camp where the majority of them perished.

The railway journeys, especially for children and old people of the IV group were carried out under inhuman conditions. People were crammed in closely covered wagons and conveyed for two or three days, usually with nothing to eat or drink. In summer they suffocated of heat and swooned of thirst; in winter they suffered acutely of cold and had their hands, feet and ears frostbitten. A number of old people and children always died in transit.

The transit camp in Zamość existed from November 18, 1942, till January 18, 1944. It is impossible to obtain a complete number of those detained in it. During the last six months only a couple of hundreds or even several scores of people stayed there, the highest number of inmates being in July, 1943. At its peak, on July 5, the camp contained 12,079 prisoners.

The transit camp in Zwierzyńce was active for a much shorter time, during the spring and summer months of 1943. Its character was auxiliary: the expelled people were detained here for a short time preliminary to their transfer to Zamość.

5. CHILDREN OF THE ZAMOŚĆ AREA.

The sufferings inflicted by the Germans on Polish children drew the attention of the whole world and the measures carried out against children of the Zamość Area produced a spe-

cial echo. The inhuman and criminal plans of the Germans were then quite openly displayed. Their object was to destroy the young generation in Poland: only a small part of children, those who possessed some features conforming to the ideal of the "German race" were to be spared, taken away to the Reich and germanized.

The misery of children from the Zamość area began with the moment of expulsion from their native cottages. They suffered of cold in winter standing for long hours in the camp yard without warm clothes and footwear. They were cold during the journey which ended beyond the wires. The conditions in transit camps were described in the previous section.

Among the most painful experiences was the moment when the children were separated from their parents; babies were often dragged by force from mothers. Most horrible scenes occurred on these occasions and were described later in hundreds of statements collected by the prosecution office in Zamość. These are important documents and their truth is confirmed by the same facts repeated and underlined by all the witnesses.

If parents resisted against giving up their children, both were beaten without mercy. Children were put in separate barracks where it was impossible for them to see any more of their parents. The children were now under the care of strangers, old and disabled women who in fact did nothing for them. They were ill-clad, badly nourished, dirty and eaten by lice. As a result of various diseases the mortality of children reached enormously high figures.

A mechanic, Mieczysław Czerniak, stated in his evidence: "I was the witness of how children were separated from parents. Terrible scenes occurred because often the parents would not let their little ones be taken away from them. In such cases children were dragged by force and parents beaten. The Gestapoman Grunert was the first to inflict tortures; he kicked and beat everybody.

"Transports of children were carried out under appalling conditions. First they were dragged from the barracks in the evening and had to wait

in mud and snow till morning. During this time the list of deportees was read, people were segregated according to groups and registered. A number of children and old people always died in the course of these preparations. There were also cases when dead bodies were carried back from the railway station. In July, 1943, I was called to do some job in Zwierzyniec and was witness of how Artur Schutz, the Komendant of the camp behaved with two children playing under a tree; he seized them both and stroke one's head with the head of the other. One of the children died. Schutz was a boxer..."

The evidence of Bolesław Świst, farmer from Wisłowiec:

"I saw children separated from mothers. The Germans took even small babies. This was a horrible sight: the despair of parents, the beating inflicted by Germans and the cries of the kids. During my stay in Zamość about a hundred children were separated from their mothers, beginning with infants up to children 12 or 13 years old. The older children were sent to work..."

Feliksa Wosiak, a farmer's wife from Stary Zamość stated the following:

"During the first night children were allowed to remain with parents, but on the next day they were separated from the adults. All children up to 12 or 13 were separated, even infants from nursing mothers. An eight months old baby was taken from Katarzyna Królikowska of Stary Zamość and immediately murdered beyond the wires.

"At night, before a transport left the camp the list of children was read; all children were gathered in the yard; it snowed and the weather was cold. They were loaded in lorries and carried away. I must add that when the Germans came to take my child from me and I struggled, they kicked me and beat my daughter."

Leonard Szpuga, farmer from Topólcza:

"I saw with my own eyes how the Germans separated children from mothers. They took children from 4 years old onwards. It was a sight which horrified me most. They took the children and in cases of the slightest resistance from mothers they whipped both, mothers and children. Only the cries and shouts of unfortunate people were then heard in camp. I was an eye witness of how the Germans killed little children."

Karolina Mazurkiewicz, farmer's wife from Zdanów, stated:

"I struggled when they wanted to take my children, I did not want to give them up. So a German struck me on the face with his revolver. One of my teeth was broken. Two days after our arrival in Zamość the whole

block No. 10 was packed in a train and we were taken away to Oswiecim. My husband and my son were murdered there, I returned with my daughter. The two youngest children were carried away to Garwolin."

After a certain time children left the Zamosc camp in batches. Most of them were despatched with old people to various districts of the province of Warsaw: Garwolin, Siedlec, Minsk Mazowiecki. The transports were composed of from 600 to 1000 persons. Travelling conditions were most inhuman. After their arrival the expelled people found everywhere assistance from the local population. Open and secret committees of relief were organized and the delegates of the Polish Relief Committee, the RGO, helped the deportees.

It once happened that when a transport arrived at the station Mrozy in Minsk district, the convoying gendarmes with automatic pistols ready to discharge rushed into wagons and in a most brutal way threw away old people and children, beating them and shouting. The number of detained, 50-80 persons was marked in chalk on the wagons.

Some of the children from the Zamosc area were carried away in an unknown direction. No adult was left with them. It is probable that some of these children were taken to the Reich for complete germanization.

The news of children deported from the Zamosc area spread rapidly throughout the whole country. Children were stolen or bought from the German railwaymen and watchmen. The price varied from 5 to 100 zl. per child. Many children were seized by the inhabitants of Warsaw at the Warsaw station.

According to available figures about thirty - odd thousand children were expelled from the Zamosc Area. It is impossible to obtain now accurate figures and details as to the number of deported children and places where they were sent.

A part of children were deported with parents to Oswiecim and Majdanek concentration camps.

About murders committed on children of the Zamosc Area by means of injections of phenol in Oswiecim and by gassing

in Majdanek there are two statements of witnesses enclosed with other documents in the prosecution office in Zamosc.

The German policy of colonization and the large-scale mass expulsion set about in the Zamosc area was completely unsuccessful. The negative consequences of the mass expulsions became obvious in the economic field. As to the strengthening of the German spirit the effect of colonization proved to be insignificant. The Germans themselves became aware of this fact and after the last mass expulsion in July, 1943, gave up further measures. The defeats on the Russian front and the attitude of resistance adopted by the whole Polish population, especially by peasants in the Zamosc Area, greatly contributed to this decision. The peasants not only did not subdue in a passive way to the German orders; they firmly resisted them. The Germans therefore did not succeed in expelling as many Poles as they planned. In anticipation of forced expulsions peasants left their villages, taking with them, hiding or even destroying their property. The Germans arrived at empty cottages and understood then that it is not an easy task to subjugate the solid mass of stubborn Polish peasants.

BELZEC EXTERMINATION CAMP

IV



The extermination camp in Belzec was situated some 500 metres to the south-east from the Belzec Station, district of Tomaszów, province of Lublin.

In the Polish territory occupied by the Germans it was the second camp for the mass extermination of Jews. The first camp where a mass murder of Jews took place in the period from 1941 to 1943 was Chełmno-on-Ner which began functioning December 8, 1941. The next camp was Belzec, established at the break of winter 1941—1942. Camps to follow were Sobibor and Treblinka.

The Belzec camp was situated on sandy lands and surrounded by thick pines. On this small area of 275×263 mtrs. within a few months many thousands met their death.

The camp was ready by the end of February 1942. On the small area there were ten wooden barracks and one wooden building. Four observation towers overlooked the camp, three in the corners and the fourth in the centre, all of them provided with search-lights and the central one with the heavy machine-gun. The plan of the camp was as follows: immediately behind and to the left of the entrance gate, which was situated on the side nearest to the Belzec Station and across a railway siding, was the guard house, wither to the left were the barracks for the staff. From the gate, on either side of this railway siding there was a large yard closed at the end by a large barrack. Beyond this, as if in another part of the camp, stood two other barracks serving as accommodation for the Jews engaged in various works in the camp first of all in the liquidation of the incoming transports. The extermination chamber was situated behind the central cluster of trees, on the left

of the above-mentioned barracks from which it was separated by a narrow space surrounded with a wooden fence. Along the eastern side of the camp were ditches in which at first the corpses and afterwards the ashes of the burnt bodies were being buried. Just outside the camp proper, were situated the offices (including that of the commander) and the store-rooms for the things taken from the victims. This was converted from a hangar for railway cars.

In its initial stage the camp was arranged in a little different way. First of all, the extermination chamber was situated elsewhere; at that time it was a small wooden building differing from other barracks in that it was smaller than the rest and had no windows. The southernmost barrack was connected with the next one by a road 3 metres wide, enclosed by a barbed-wire fence and disguised from the side of the railroad by a thick hedge. This second barrack was connected by a covered passage, 2 metres wide and 10 metres long, with the third in which, according to the statement of the witness S. Kozak, who was employed in the camp as a building worker, the gas chamber was arranged.

The camp began functioning in the middle of March 1942. Before that date the working of the gas chamber was already tried: in February several dozens Jews were brought in cars from Lubyeza Królewska, a town not far from Belzec, to work at the building of the camp; the work done, they were the first to be killed in the gas chamber.

The first mass transports of victims came from the towns in the Lublin Province, the first being Lublin, Zamość, Tomaszów, Szezechreszyn, Krasnobrod, etc. The procedure was as a rule as follows. The ghetto, where the Jewish population was concentrated was unexpectedly surrounded by the German gendarmerie. The headquarters of the Jewish Council — the so-called "Judenrat" — were visited by an officer who ordered that a certain number of Jews giving the exact number should appear at a specified time and at a specified place (in most

cases in one of the squares) from where they were transported to the East. Sometimes, as for instance in Zamość, he would add that those who were to be evacuated might take their money and jewelry with them, but that it would not be necessary from them to take any food since they would be provided with food on the way. In the ghetto, in the meanwhile the German police and the SS-men were surrounding house after house and driving the inhabitants to the gathering point. All signs of resistance were ruthlessly and brutally suppressed. After several hours' waiting, a crowd of people, old and young, healthy and sick, men and women, was escorted to the station and squeezed into freight trains which then started for Belzec.

The train — in the official German parlance called "Juden-übersiedlungszug" ("Jews resettlement train") — arrived at the Belzec station, escorted by the German police. Here it sometimes stayed for several hours. From the cars calls for help, for bread and water from the hungry and the thirsty victims could be heard. It was only with the greatest difficulty that the Polish railway men could give the Jews, through the small latticed windows, some water or exchange a few words with them, since anyone approaching the train was risking his life. Later on the railway men noticed that in some transports prisoners were travelling naked to the camp.

When the train stopped at the station, the Jews were throwing out of the cars the bodies of their companions who died on the way from exhaustion. There were some attempts at escape, but this always ended in the escapers' death, who in most cases would be shot down by the escort. Usually he fell along the railroad track.

When the train reached the camp the doors were opened and Jews ordered to get out as quickly as possible, the escort driving the lingerers with blows and kicks. In a few minutes the crowd of victims would be gathered in the yard between the siding and the barracks. They would then be addressed by

to time dispatched to the Reich by a special courier. As may be seen from the above, the procedure in Belzec was similar to that of other extermination camps in the Polish territory. This is the best proof that it was not improvised or individually devised by the commanders of the various camps, but planned in advance and prepared in every detail by the central authorities in Berlin for all the extermination camps of that type.

The inquiry brought no definite answer to the question, what method of mass extermination was being used in the Belzee camp. All the witnesses (except one) maintain that in Belzee the Germans used to kill their victims with combustion gases, produced by a motor placed in the same building as the extermination chamber. The gases were conducted by means of special pipes opening into the chamber. The above evidence is based either on the information sometimes obtained from the German staff or from those Jews, the very few in number, who succeeded to escape, or on the observations of the witnesses who had been either temporarily or occasionally employed in the camp and had the opportunity of seeing what was going on around them.

The Belzec camp was built for the purpose of exterminating the Jews from south-eastern Poland (the Province of Lublin and the so-called Little Poland). The camp in Chelmo was to play a similar role in the western provinces (the part the German occupant incorporated into the Reich), and the Treblinka camp in the middle part of Poland, where the Jews from the Warsaw ghetto, the largest Jewish centre, were sent to.

As confirmed by the inquiry, the first transports of Jews that reached the Belzec camp were from the Lublin Province. On March 17th, 1942, there began the "turning out" of the Jews

03

from the city of Lublin, which resulted in the bringing to Belzec of some 15,000 people. At the same time Jews from the ghettos in Zamosc, Tomaszow Lubelski and other towns where ghettos still existed (the Jews from small localities having been already transferred to larger ones) were also brought to Belzec. By the end of March 1942, first transports from the Province of Lwow began to arrive, but they were at that time rather sporadic.

After a break, during which the camp was reorganized, there came a period of intensive mass extermination of Jews brought to Belzec in consequence of the liquidation of the ghettos in the Province of Lublin, in Lwow, Stanislawow, Tarnopol, Rowne, Przemysl, Sokal, Stryj, Przeworsk, Krakow, Tarnow, Bochnia, Rzeszow, Wieliczka, Nowy Sacz, Zakopane. A transit camp was organized in the town of Izbica, from where the Jews were also sent to Belzec. Jews from other countries, first of all from Czechoslovakia, Austria, Roumania, Hungary and Germany have also met their death in the Belzec camp, their number, however, being small in comparison to the Polish Jews murdered there. The victims of this extermination camp include also a certain number of Poles, inhabitants of Lwow and its vicinity, whose "guilt" in most cases consisted in offering assistance to the Jews and in various forms of anti-German political activity. They used to be brought to Belzec together with Jewish transports but in separate railway cars. One group showed resistance upon arrival at the camp; they refused to undress and enter the gas chamber; their resistance was bloodily suppressed. The total number of Polish victims of the Belzec camp amounts to 1,000 to 1,500 persons.

In its attempt to establish the number of victims of the Belzec camp, the Polish War Crimes Commission had to rely upon the evidence of the witnesses, mostly Polish railway men

and among them, the station-master in Belzec, Alois Berezowski. Their evidence, however, gives but an approximate estimation. This will have to be acceptable as no better source of information has been available. It must be borne in mind that the Belzec camp ceased to exist by the beginning of 1943, and that in this case the Germans succeeded in obliterating the traces of their crimes. All the railway documents, which would supply most authoritative data concerning the number of transports as well as that of the victims, were completely destroyed. The following calculation is, therefore, only an estimate, but a very probable one.

The camp was functioning from the middle of March till about the middle of December, 1942, with one long interval of two months and several short ones (from 7 to 10 days each). The greatest intensification of exterminatory action had taken place in July, August and September.

According to the statements of all witnesses, the number of transports reaching Belzec in the first month of the camp's functioning as well as in the above mentioned three months' period varied from one to three daily.

Each transport consisted of from 15 to 60 cars, the average being about 40. Some of the cars had the number of victims marked on them with chalk; generally it varied from 100 to 130.

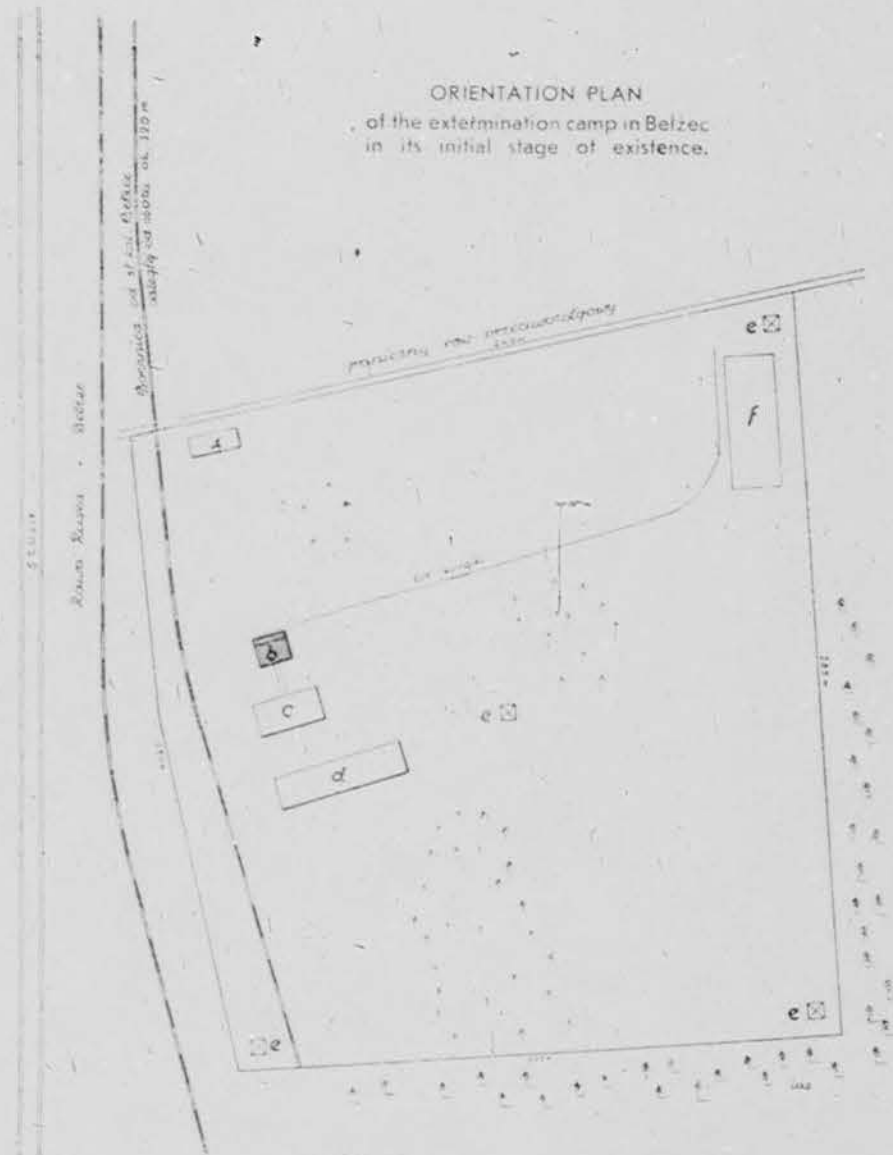
Berezowski stated that railway documents were, as a rule, handed over directly to the German station-master Rudolf Gockel, but it sometimes happened that they were given to a member of the Polish staff, so that it was possible to obtain some information concerning the number of persons brought to Belzec. The result of their calculations was an average of 100 people per car.

On the strength of the above data, it is quite legitimate to assume that from March 17, to the beginning of May and from the beginning of July to the end of September, 1942, i. e. for

some 133 days, one transport of 4,000 persons (40 cars with 100 persons each) arrived at the camp, which makes a total of 530,000 people. In the period from October to December 1942, in the final stage after the great exterminatory action, two transports used to be brought in weekly, which amounts to a total of about 90,000 persons, so that the grand total of victims of the Belzec camp is not less than 600,000 people.

A gradual winding-up of the Belzec camp, as well as the obliteration of traces of the crimes committed in that place began in the late autumn of 1942, with the opening of mass graves and burning of the corpses. Since there was no crematorium in the Belzec camp the bodies had to be burnt on gratings made of rails. This job was completed in spring 1943. By the same time the fences had been removed, the barracks and buildings pulled down, and some of the installations sent over to the Majdanek camp. Then the territory of the former Belzec extermination camp was visited by a special commission of the "Sicherheitsdienst". All objects, formerly belonging to the victims, found on the premises, were carefully picked up and subsequently burnt and the premises levelled and planted with pine trees.

ORIENTATION PLAN
of the extermination camp in Belzec
in its initial stage of existence.



- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| a — Guard-house | d — Barrack |
| b — Gas-chambers | e — Watch-towers |
| c — Stripping room | f — Ditch for corpses |

100 m

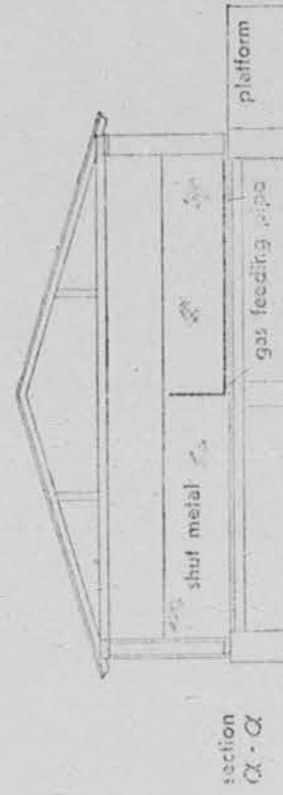
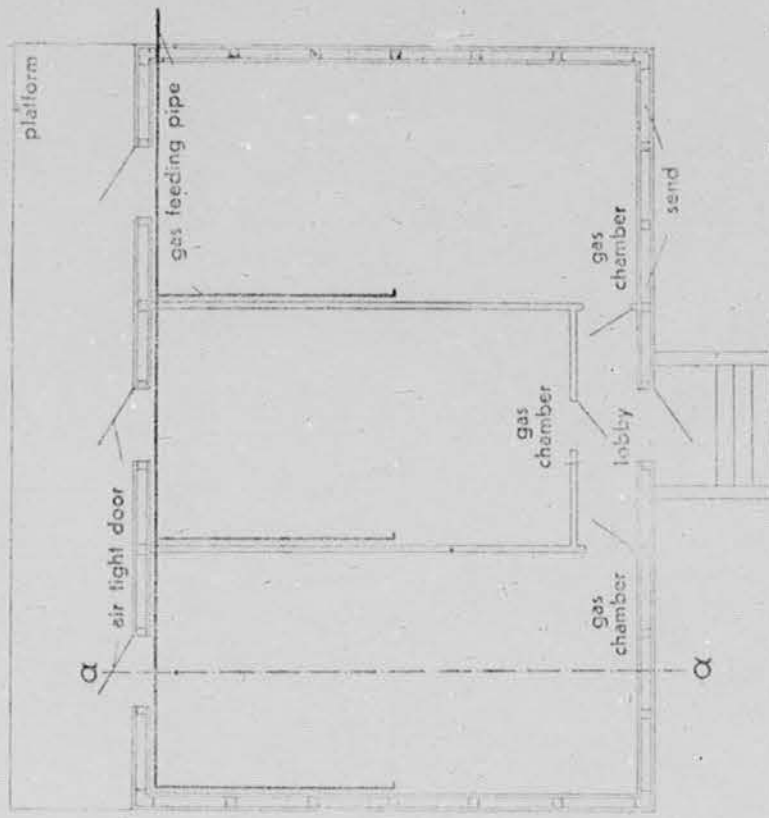
ORIENTATION PLAN
of the extermination camp in Belzec
in its second stage of existence.



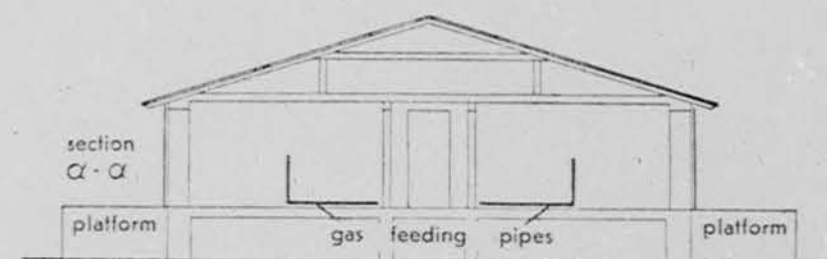
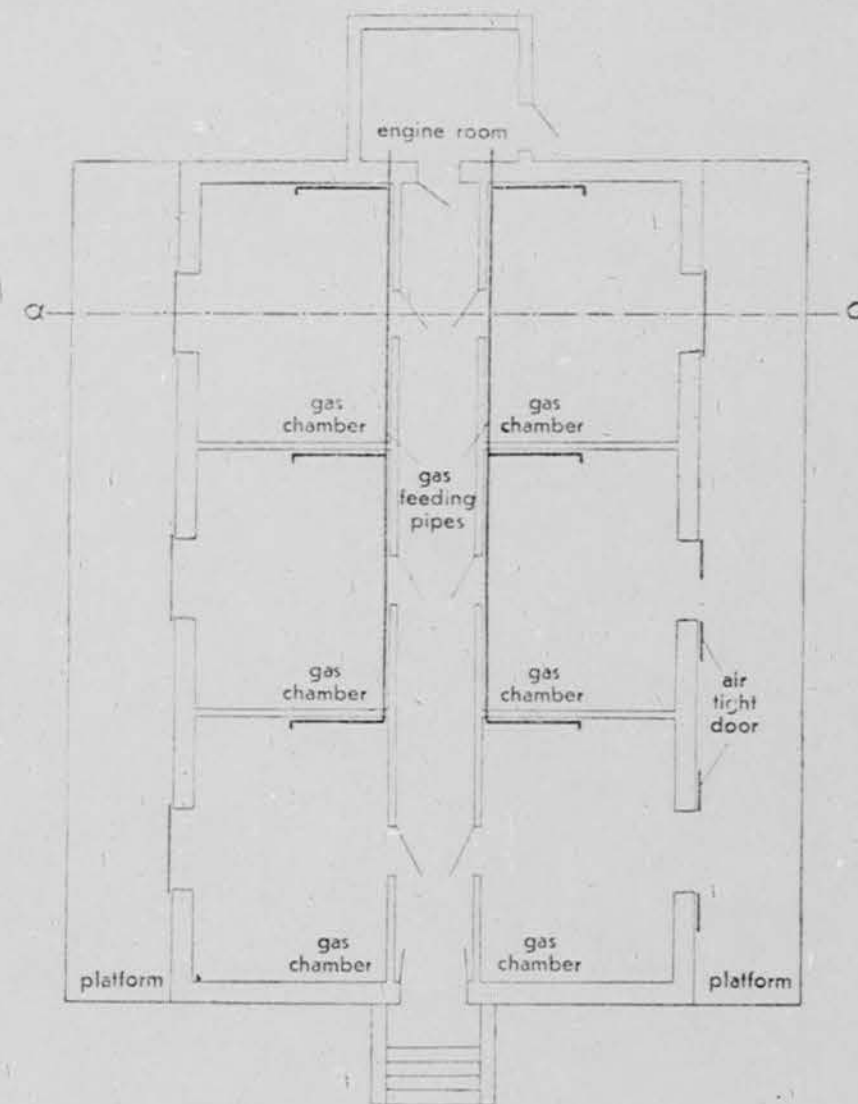
- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| a — Guard-house | e — Watch-towers |
| b — Gas-chambers | f — Graves |
| c — Stripping rooms | g — Barracks of the crews |
| d — Barrack | h — Administration buildings and barracks of Jewish workers. |

100 m

narrow gauge railway track



Orientation plan of the first building with gas-chambers in Belzec



Orientation plan of the second building with gas-chambers in Belzec

SOBIBOR EXTERMINATION CAMP

V

7 German Crimes

The camp set up by the Germans in Sobibór (in the Government-General) had been used for the mass extermination of Jews from various parts of Europe. This statement and those contained below are based on the evidence gathered by the Polish War Crimes Commission. This evidence includes investigations made on the spot and depositions of witnesses, (Jewish prisoners of the Sobibór camp and many Poles, mostly railway men).

The camp was situated in the district of Włodawa, province of Lublin, close to the Sobibór railway station, on the line Chelm—Włodawa—Brześć. The northern, southern and western sides of the surrounding district and the northern and western sides of the camp proper were covered with pine trees. Along the eastern side ran the above-mentioned railway line, from which a short siding lead to the campsite. Survey taken during the WCC investigations showed that the area of the camp was about 58 hectares (a little less than 150 acres).

The Germans began to build the camp in March 1942, the work being carried out by a gang of Jews brought to the spot from neighbouring localities and by a detachment of the auxiliary Ukrainian forces. This camp was under the supervision of an SS-man, named Thomalla. The building containing the gas chambers was one of the first structures erected in the camp. This made the exterminatory action possible by the beginning of May 1942.

This action was continued till the middle of October 1943, when a revolt of the Jewish workers broke out, during which a score of SS-men and Ukrainian guard were killed. As a result a number of prisoners succeeded in escaping (the Jewish

witnesses who gave evidence before the War Crimes Commission, belonged to this group that escaped). Shortly after the revolt, in November 1943, the camp was liquidated.

The camp was divided into two main parts. The larger part served for what might roughly be termed, administrative purposes. It consisted of two departments, one composed of camp offices, barracks for the crew and the workers, workshops, etc., and the other, a place for the victims to undress and the storerooms for their belongings. The smaller one, the extermination camp proper, included the building with the gas chambers, a place where the corpses were being burnt, and the barracks for the Jewish workers employed there. The number of barracks alone (in the both parts) was about twenty.

As for the extermination chambers no precise data could be obtained. The reason is that none of the witnesses who were prisoners were employed in the gas-chamber building, and it must be borne in mind that workers employed in the larger part of the camp were not permitted to enter the smaller one, where the extermination chamber was situated.

On the basis of such evidence as has been available one may conclude that the extermination chambers, (probably 5 with a space for about 500 persons), were situated in a building with stone inside-walls and wooden outside-walls. The victims were killed with combustion gas produced by a motor placed in the same building and connected with the chambers by pipes. The corpses were pulled out through a door made especially for that purpose and carried to the cremation sites in narrow-gauge railway cars. In Sobibór for the burning of the corpses the crematorium was not used. The bodies were being put in layers on grates made of rails and supported by stone foundations.

The Jews were brought to Sobibór from various directions. Since the siding in the camp was short, every train was separated into several parts, and then one by one were rolled on the siding through the camp gate. The rest of the cars remained in the Sobibór station guarded by the train escort.

When the cars were rolled into the camp the victims were driven out by incessant blows and shots. Men were separated from the women and children, both groups having to undress at the same time. Women were then sent to a special barrack where barbers cut their hair. There were a large number of barbers. After their clothing and other belongings were taken away from them, the victims were driven into the extermination chambers. According to the statements of witnesses it did not take more than some 15 minutes to kill a group of about 500 persons.

Children, old people and the sick, i. e. the ones unable to walk to the gas chamber were shot; the purpose of that particular measure was to make the driving of victims to the chambers as smooth as possible.

According to statements by railway-men, from time to time, transports arrived with people already naked.

In all the Hitlerite extermination camps cremation was resorted to as a means of obliterating the traces of crimes. The same method was used in Sobibór, and the statements of witnesses contain many references of this. It was extremely difficult to conceal the burning of corpses, since the specific smell of burnt flesh spread round with the wind and both the smoke and the fire were visible from a distance. It should be noted that the system of cremation was being perfected while the exterminatory action was in full swing. At first the corpses were deposited layer upon layer in large ditches, and covered with lime. Cremation on a larger scale began in the winter of 1942-43 and continued till the camp was liquidated.

At first the system of simple stakes was used, but later on it was replaced by that of rail grates. The device was very simple. Two parallel rows of concrete posts supported the rails, on which the corpses were placed, and then a fire was lit beneath the bodies. Easily combustible materials were used for this purpose. By the time this system of burning the bodies was introduced, a great number of corpses was already amassed in the ditches. They were dug out by means of excavators and subsequently burned on the grates. The last bodies of those killed in the gas chambers were beginning to be sent directly to the crematorium place.

Ashes of the cremated corpses were either buried on the premises or, according to statements of witnesses, sent by train to some unknown direction.

As in many similar cases calculation of the number of victims of the Sobibór camp is rather difficult. No records of victims, even if they were kept by the camp authorities, are available for the simple reason that after the liquidation of the camp in 1943 all the documents were removed. No trace of any documents pertaining to the Sobibór camp has ever been found. Railway documents concerning transports of victims have also been lost. The best available data are those supplied by Polish railway men who had been employed at the Sobibór station.

Their evidence, together with the statements of the former prisoners of the camp, permits the following conclusions: 1) It is an uncontested fact that most of the victims were brought in by train. 2) First railway transports arrived in the beginning of May, 1942, and then in the next four or five months the transports were much more frequent; sometimes there were several in one day; then there came a break after which transports used to be brought in less frequently and more irregularly. After the Rising the transports ceased. 3) In ad-

dition to railway transports a number of people were brought in by motor-cars and carts, as well as by foot.

Assuming that the exterminatory action, at its highest peak lasted approximately four months (June — October 1942) and that the average monthly transports in that period was no more than 20, we would have a total of 80 transports. For the sake of precaution we accept the number of 60 transports, i. e. the figure given in the statement of witness Parkola (the Polish station-master of Sobibór) whose evidence is the most objective and detailed. The number of persons in one transport was estimated by witnesses to have varied from 2,000 to 4,000 persons. Taking 3,000 as the average, 180,000 people were brought in 60 transports. Since it is beyond any doubt, that the exterminatory action continued until the Rising we may without any risk of exaggeration assume that in the period between October 1942, and October 1943, the number of transports averaged not less than 2 per month, which gives 24 transports for the entire period, i. e., some 72,000 victims.

Thus the total number of victims brought in by train was about 250,000, not including all those people who reached the Sobibór camp on foot, in motor-cars and in carts. (Their number was by no means insignificant, since one of witnesses, by the name of Fajgenbaum, was driven to the camp in a group of some 4,000 persons).

Investigations have proven that the Sobibór camp was used mainly as a place for the extermination of Jews from eastern Poland as well as from Soviet territories under German occupation. It is, however, quite certain that some of the transports consisted of Jews from Czechoslovakia, Austria, Holland and France. The evidence includes a statement by a Dutch Jewess, Saartje Wijnberg, of Bilthoven, brought to Sobibór together with a whole transport of Dutch Jews. Railway man, Lobejko, states that often after the passing of a transport, personal documents of the victims could be found lying along

the track. In addition to a large number of Polish documents the witness had seen documents issued in Praha (Prague), Vienna, Amsterdam, and various French cities. Statements of witnesses include also some information about a number of gypsies and Poles, who, too, have lost their lives in the Sobibór camp.

In the camp a great amount of personal property belonging to the victims was amassed. Especially the Jews from western countries, who came in passenger trains (in contrast to eastern Jews who as a rule reached Sobibór in freight trains), used to bring with them lots of luggage. All their belongings were carefully stored. First of all the victims had to give up their money and valuables, then the personal belongings and clothing; the last act of robbery was already after the victims' death. Before the corpses were cremated their gold teeth were removed. The women, as mentioned above, had their hair cut, which was then sent to Germany. Witnesses have stated that a large number of transports with property of the victims had been sent to Germany.

The camp was wound up several weeks after the prisoners' revolt in October 1943. All the equipments were removed, store buildings blown up, and even the rubbish carried away. The former premises of the camp were partly planted with trees.

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Situation Plan
of extermination camp
in Sobibór



STUTTHOF CONCENTRATION CAMP

VI

I. Situation of the camp and its description.

The Stutthof concentration camp lies 36 km. east-north of Danzig on the road to Königsberg, to a point about two kilometres from the sea. It is a very damp region, almost at sea-level and covered with pine woods lying on a peat-bog.

The climate here is typical of northern sea climates, with cold winds, much rain and an absence of frost in winter.

The deciding factors in the choice of just this location for the concentration camp apparently were: its isolation, which made it easier to hide the camp's real aim; good communications by highways and by a narrow-gauge railroad connecting Stutthof with the Tiegenhof railroad station; an exceptionally unfavourable geographical situation for run-aways who were obliged to force the Vistula and Nogat in order to reach Danzig, a feat almost impossible to accomplish for the bridges and fords were carefully watched day and night; the unhealthy climate and water, totally lacking in lime, which with the steady overwork, underfeeding and the miserable, inadequate clothing, almost ensured the development of pulmonary diseases.

The camp was arranged on the road from Danzig to Königsberg, stretching over 1350 m. in length and about 900 m. in width, its surface thus comprising some 120 hectares. There were 4 entrances leading from the main road to the camp; near one of that leading to the newest section stood the commandant's villa.

The narrow gauge railroad, running along the northern side of the road had many side-lines, leading to different parts of the camp.

In the final period, the camp was divided into 3 parts: the New, the Old and the Special camps.

In the Old camp, surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence were several wooden, one-floor barracks which held the infirmary, the baths, accommodations for women-prisoners and part of the camp workshops. Beyond the fence, towards the West, were the buildings of the High-Command. Not far from the Old camp were the crematorium and gas-chambers.

The New camp was surrounded by a wire fence which was charged at 360 volts. There were 40 barracks here, of similar dimensions. Ten of them, separated by interior walls, held workshops. The twenty following barracks, the camp proper were destined for prisoners. The last 10 of these 40 barracks were within a separate enclosure under high electric tension. They were used as quarters for Jewish women.

East of the camp proper were the factory buildings where with the prisoners' help, spare-parts for the Focke-Wolf aircraft were produced, as well as engines and machinery parts.

The Special camp, surrounded by a high wall and wire under high tension, consisted of three prisoners' blocks, separated from one another by wire fencings interlaced with the branches.

In all of the enclosures, there were high watch-towers which made shooting in all directions practical and possible.

II. The Camp's Organisation.

Stutthof was a chief concentration camp with many branches scattered about in Pomerania and East-Prussia. The most important were: Lauenburg, where 100 prisoners were employed, a training centre for young SS-officers; the Troyl shipyard in Danzig, where several hundred prisoners worked; the Gdynia shipyard and the Schichau shipyards in Elblag; the Hoppehill brick-kiln in Reimantsfelde near Elblag, where several hundred prisoners worked in. The camp in Pölitz, near Stettin, where the prisoners worked in a factory of synthetic benzine was one

of the most distant minor camps. There were many other minor camps to which only Jews were sent; the most important of these were: Slupsk-railroad-workshops; Królewiec-railway coach factory; Pruszcz near Danzig, Brusy near Chojnice; the camp of the A. E. G. in Toruń and many smaller camps, often placed near military aerodromes.

These minor-camps were under the highcommand of the main camp, prisoners passing through the latter's registry office, with the exception of only a small number of Jews and Russians.

Working prisoners were observed from watch-towers and those working outside the camp were guarded by the so-called guards chain. There was one guard for every ten prisoners. Guards with specially trained dogs were placed within 50 metres of one another in places where the undergrowth was especially thick.

There were women among the camp crew, the SS-Aufseherinnen, only a few at the beginning, but their number increased in the autumn and summer months of 1944, when many Jewish women arrived at Stutthof. At that time a school was opened at the Kommandantur. After three months, one half of the 150 women who were trained there, remained in the camp in the capacity of wardens.

A special division of SS-men were assigned to direct regulation of the prisoners lives and occupations.

Prisoners were called upon to execute organisational functions, it is natural that individuals or groups with anti-social tendencies or those depraved by camp conditions and exceptionally submissive towards the authorities, were chosen for these tasks. It was an exception when intact characters performed a camp-function. The most important assignment given to a prisoner was that of the Lagerältester who conducted the morning and evening roll-call, applied floggings, and was the main liaison-agent between the prisoners and the High-Command.

The function of surveilling the prisoners' work was conducted by so-called "capos". It was convenient to the camp authorities to choose these "capos" from prisoners of the lowest moral standard. There was usually one of these degenerated men for every 50 prisoners.

The "capo" was the superior of the prisoner-group (Kommando) allotted to him from the time the prisoners set out to work until their return. During the rest of the time the capo, in principle, had no power over the prisoners; in practice, however, it was usually otherwise. Every capo was given instructions as to the manner of going to and coming from work, group discipline, work surveillance, the obligation of reporting any misdemeanour, etc.

The prisoners of the Stutthof camp were divided into several principal groups depending upon for the reasons of detention. Political prisoners (about 90%) formed the largest group. The next, was the group of German criminals, which was divided into sub-groups of professional criminals whose internment in the camp was something of a safety measure, and criminals remaining under police supervision. There existed also a group of German prisoners placed in the camp for education, for a specified period of time. They were mostly persons who looked upon the Hitler regime with disfavour without, however, any positive proofs against them. There was also a group of "honorary" prisoners, composed of members of Lithuanian and Lett intelligentsia unfavourably disposed towards Germany. They had separate quarters and were not made to work.

The "Germanics" who formed a special group which also lived separately, consisted of Danish and Norwegian communists and newly arrived Norwegian policemen who had refused to collaborate with the Germans.

The special camp was inhabited by prisoners, called "Haugen" in the camp registers and about whom it has been impossible to gather any more specific information. It has been

impossible to ascertain who belonged to this group, it is, however, certain that these prisoners were treated differently, that they lived with their families in conditions almost approaching normal. Witnesses assume that this was a group of high-ranking officers, opponents of Hitler.

Jews formed a completely separate group and were treated quite differently from any of the others. For easy identification, the prisoners wore different signs on their jackets. Political prisoners had red triangles with the letter of their nationality; criminals had green triangles with the base upwards or downwards according to the reason for their imprisonment; prisoners kept for "educational purposes" had a white badge on their jacket and on the right leg of their trousers. The letter of their nationality was placed in the centre of the badge; the "honorary" prisoners wore a yellow arm band.

The smaller prisoner-groups, who were considered anti-social elements, tramps, souteneurs, homo-sexualists, members of religious societies and Gypsies wore black, pink, purple and brown triangles. Prisoners of Germanic tribes and special prisoners wore no badges of any kind. The prisoner's number was placed on the badge.

The Jews were generally to be distinguished by a yellow star, sewn on their jackets at the front and back. The star of politically suspect Jews, had one red triangle. This applies to the early period in the camp, when the number of Jews was still very limited.

A prisoner caught in the act of escaping was marked with 3 circles in black, white and red.

The prisoners who, after being released were returned to the camp, were made to wear a sign in the shape of a black pole. This was in addition to their normal distinguishing mark. In addition to these signs which concerned the reason for imprisonment, there were others for working qualifications, for example: prisoners with professional qualifications had a red square under their number with the letter A or B according

to their abilities while prisoners with no professional training were made to wear a white square with the same letter. Prisoners of exemplary behaviour who worked most efficiently were to be distinguished by the letter "V" in black upon their sleeves. They also received various small privileges. Prisoners holding camp functions were to be distinguished by arm-bands on the left sleeve with an inscription stating the function.

III. A Prisoner's Living Conditions in the Camp.

From the moment he passed through the camp gates, a prisoner became subjected to commands camp, i. e. he was placed in a world, where special conditions were created for individuals who were considered enemies of the Hitler state.

The newly arrived prisoners were grouped in a square in the Old Camp, where they sometimes waited all day or longer regardless of the weather or season of year. Flogging the prisoners before entering them into the camp register, was a frequent procedure. The prisoners were obliged to strip on the square, so that all their belongings could be taken to store-houses. Then began the search for valuables which might be concealed in the body's natural cavities: finally, the bath. All these activities were accompanied by beatings which undoubtedly aimed at breaking the newcomers' spirit from the start. Camp clothing and a number were supplied after the bath; then personal data were taken.

Then came the period of quarantine which lasted for two to four weeks. During the quarantine, the prisoners were not forced to work. The dinner hour was filled by military exercises, conducted by the heads of the blocks. The various registrations occupied the afternoon hours: the prisoners were made to fill out the hospital questionnaire; they were examined by functionaries of the "Political Department" who secured their description, took their personal history, ascertained the reason for their imprisonment, etc.

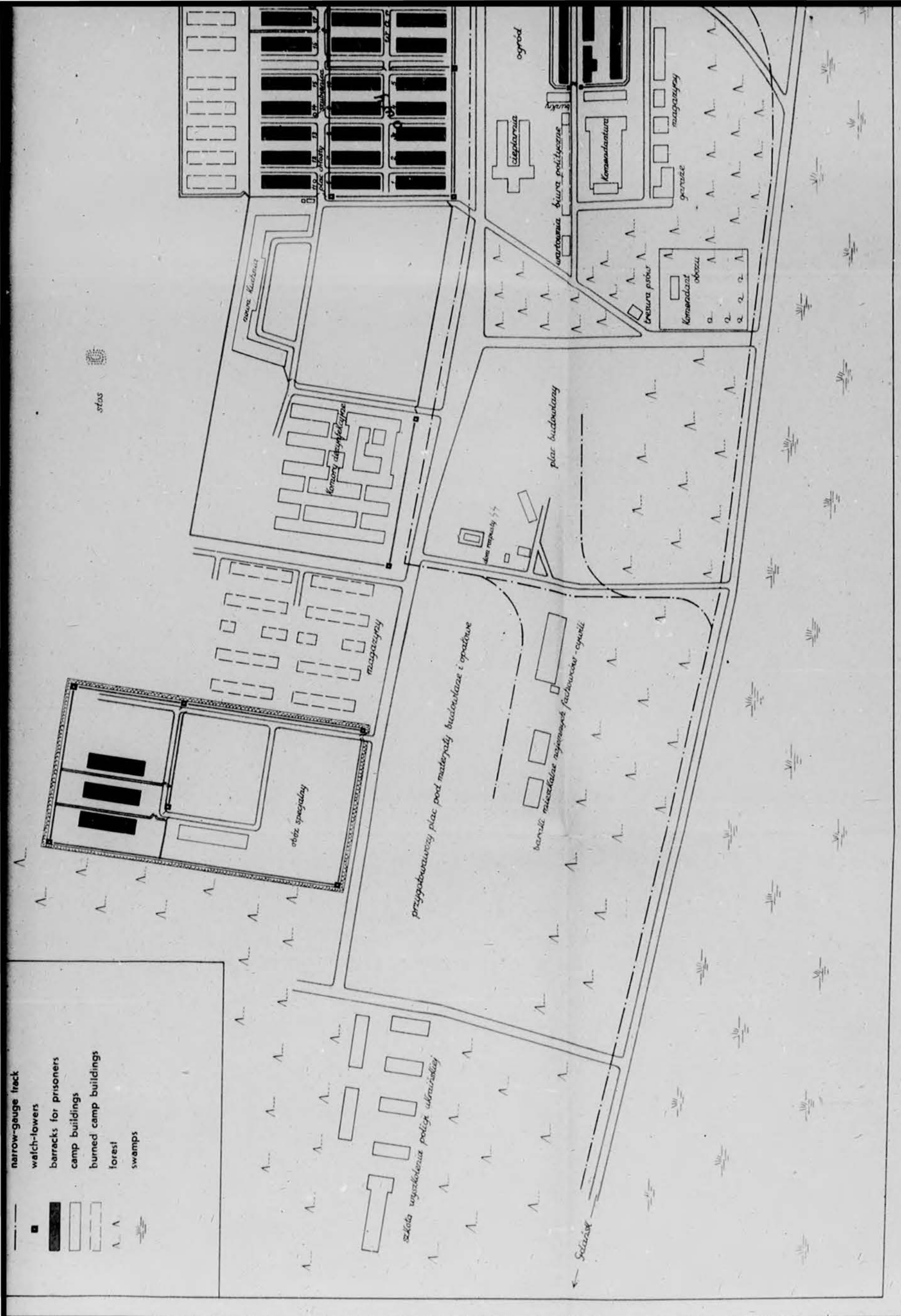
Situational Plan
of the concentration camp in Stutthof

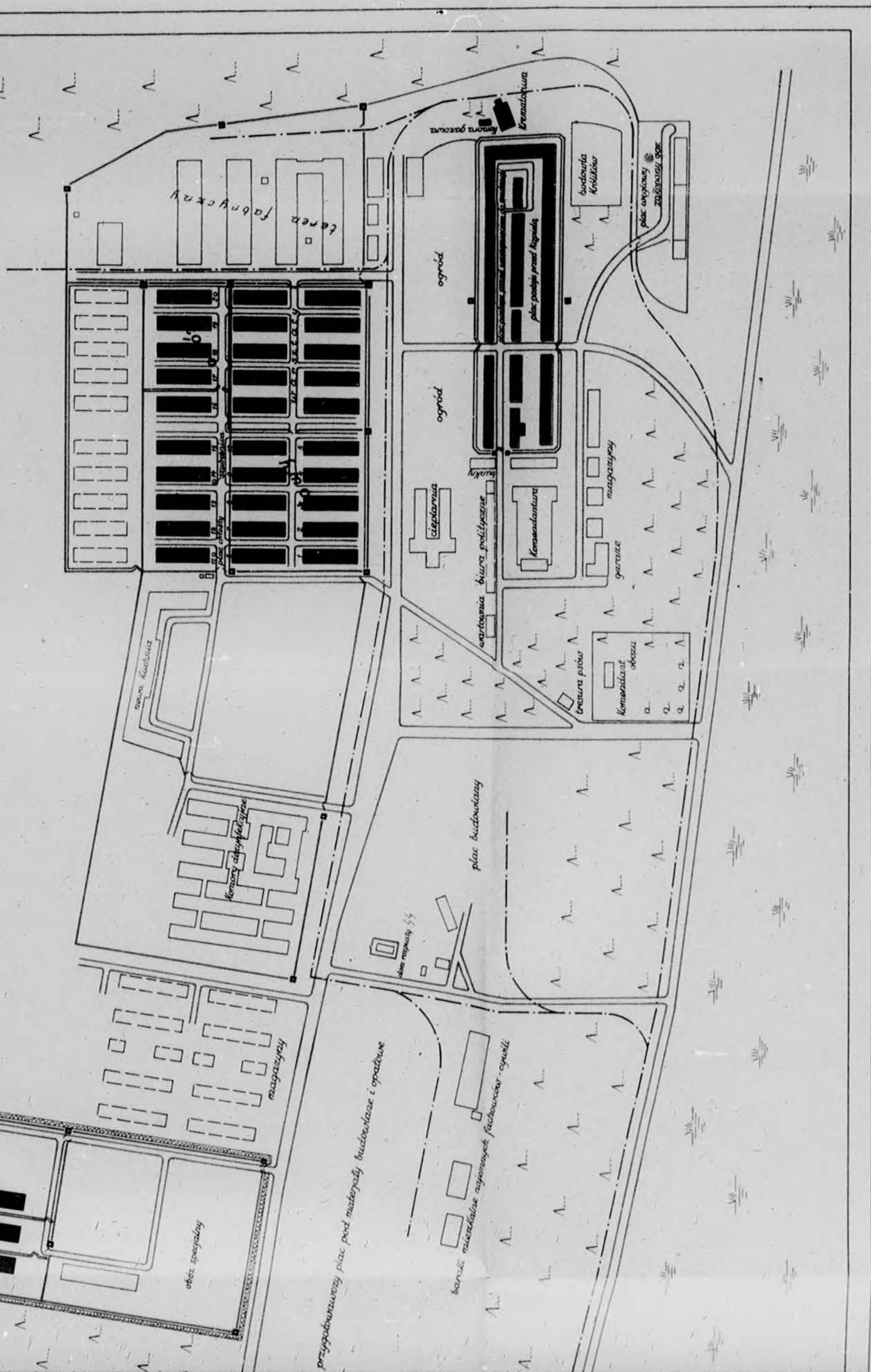
100 m

- wire under tension
- wire without tension
- ~~~~~ wall
- == roads, camp streets
- narrow-gauge track
- watch-towers
- barracks for prisoners
- camp buildings
- burned camp buildings
- △ forest
- ≡ swamps



- narrow-gauge track
- watch-towers
- barracks for prisoners
- camp buildings
- burned camp buildings
- forest
- swamps





It was only after the quarantine that real camp life began. The prisoner was then allotted to the block, where he was to sleep and also to his work Kommando. As a rule the men-prisoners lived in 15 blocks of the New Camp. The blocks were divided in two, section A and B. The beds were placed in tiers, one above another; they contained one paper mattress cover filled with wood-cuttings, the same kind of a pillow and a cotton blanket. Tight quarters caused by the placing of three and sometimes four more prisoners in the blocks than they could contain, sometimes 3 or 4 persons sleeping in one bed, worsened conditions which were already unbearable.

In the final stage of the camp's existence, the prisoners' clothing consisted of a shirt, under-drawers, jacket, trousers and wooden shoes with a winter coat added only since the Winter of 1944. Until then the prisoners' clothing did not vary in summer and winter.

The wearing of sweaters and coats during frosts was forbidden, while caps and wooden shoes for summer were supplied only since 1943.

In summer the prisoners rose at 5 a. m., in winter at 6 a. m. There was only 10 minutes time for washing and putting the beds in order; then came breakfast, roll-call and setting out to work. Dinner was at noon or 1 o'clock. In summer the return from work was from 6 to 8 p. m. In winter at 5 p. m. Dinner was eaten in the blocks, mostly in the open, or at the place where the prisoners worked. As to the basic problem of the prisoners' food, all witnesses of Polish, German, Italian or Jewish origin agree, that it was below the most frugal idea of minimum.

The food question, which meant life or death for the prisoners, on which depended their capacity to resist the atrocious conditions, was such that it inevitably increased the mass-mortality. Considering that the prisoners were forced to do very hard labour, the number of calories contained in their

food should have amounted to 4500 each day, while they in fact received, at the most, 1300—1500. Thus, death sentences were in fact applied beforehand to prisoners who did not receive food-parcels from home or had no way of stealing food. The food-rations differed in quantity as well as quality, in different periods. In 1940, for example, 250 gr. of bread and 10 gr. of jam, as well as unsweetened coffee were supplied for breakfast; for dinner there was a quart of watery soup for each person and for supper 250 gr. of bread, 25 gr. of jam and unsweetened coffee. From the middle of April until August 1942, only 200 gr. a day of bread were supplied, dinner consisting of a soup, totally devoid of any nourishing ingredients. This was a period of great famine and enormous mortality; food parcels were allowed only since the end of 1942. Only in the summer of 1943, were supplementary rations (of a very small caloric value) introduced for heavy workers. In 1944, a bit of sausage or cheese was added to Sunday rations.

It is clear that the hunger-rations with their lack of vitamins soon broke down the prisoner's resistance to disease and was one of the primary causes of large mortality.

The prisoner work-gangs were divided into many categories, some working within the camp, others outside its boundaries. These groups totalled around 100. The most important ones employed on camp-territory were the groups of craftsmen, electricians, carpenters, locksmiths, smiths, masons, gardeners, cooks, etc. Besides these, there were groups who constructed roads and prepared the necessary materials, groups keeping order in the camp premises, building fences and working as employees in the post-office, ware-houses, registry office and other camp institutions. The worst group outside the camp was the "Forest group" used for the clearing of the forest and the levelling of ground in preparation for the enlargement of the camp. As a characteristic detail the transport-gangs must still be mentioned. They were composed of 5 companies of

10 men each. The prisoners in these gangs took the place of animal power, pulling carts and sped up by the clubs of the capos.

A group of companies in the camp's vicinity hired the prisoners for work in their factories. Among these were EPP Machine Factory, Undell brick-kiln and Krause saw-mill.

Besides labour in the workshops and camp offices there was other work invented and realized as a system for the destruction of the prisoners. Heavy work, exceeding human possibilities, naturally caused a high mortality rate. The "Forest-group" suffered the worst working conditions. For example, an old pine forest was being cut-down; the trees had to be carried to another place and their roots dug up. On the food-rations allotted, which have been described, this work as a rule, meant death. Also, the SS-men and capos beat the prisoners with heavy clubs on the slightest pretext. In this way many inmates of the camp succumbed on this very spot. A doctor working there in the summer of 1943, relates that every day 2 or 3 per cent of the working group perished. In the winter, prisoners were forced to go into the water during their work and to continue without the possibility of drying themselves. This system caused inflammation of the lungs and other diseases.

Many witnesses remaining in the camp from 1939—1943, agree in stating that at that time the "Laufschritt" was introduced during work which meant that prisoners carrying a block had to do it running forced with clubs.

The treatment of prisoners during outside working hours are the questions discussed most often by witnesses. It is obvious from evidence that this was a system of organized bestiality, planned to break the body and spirit. Besides the immediate floggings and maltreatment there was also a system of disciplinary punishments. The least severe of these was standing at attention singly or collectively depending on whether it was the misdemeanour of one person or of a group;

sometimes collective responsibility was applied, as when a prisoner escaped. Floggings were executed either immediately or put off until a holiday so that the scene could be witnessed by more prisoners. The person to be beaten was placed on a sort of wooden block before an SS-man; a number of blows were then applied with a leather whip by the chief of the block or his substitute. Then the culprit was obliged to report to the SS-man that his punishment had been applied, after which the SS-man, as often as not, had the performance repeated on the excuse that the blows had not been hard enough.

The disciplinary punishment of arrest consisted in placing the delinquent in a cell, sometimes in darkness. This was accompanied by a withholding of food.

When a prisoner's absence was ascertained during evening roll-call, all were kept in the square while the search for the run-away started on camp territory and outside it until the culprit was found or it was certain that the flight has not been successful. Until then, independently of the reason and weather all were obliged to stand, sometimes all night long. This resulted in the death of the weaker or older ones. After a successful escape there were some public executions in order to instill terror into the prisoners.

The camp hygiene was on an atrocious low level. Witnesses agree that washing was very difficult because of the shortage of water and soap, (one cake lasted at the utmost 10 days). It was only in 1941, that the construction of washing utensils was started, but even in 1942, the taps were not everywhere ready for use. As a result the prisoners always had lice.

Like all other concentration camps, Stutthof had a prisoner's hospital. In the first period, the hospital was not organized, SS-men ministered to the prisoners' medical needs, utilizing these occasions to apply endless chicanery. In the last stage of the camp's existence the hospital was situated in the Old Camp; it was then composed of several sections, each having its own sanitary officer and doctor. There were 8-10 doctors

from among the prisoners and the hospital's director was a doctor "Hauptsturmführer SS". It was intended for about 600 sick people but in reality there were always over 1000 patients in it, so that there were habitually 2 or 3 sick patients in one bed. Hospital food did not differ from the ordinary food. In exceptional cases a so-called diet was prescribed of barley-meal cooked with water, or the weakest of broths. Medicine was supplied in such diminutive quantities, that it barely lasted for the first days of the month. The prisoners were very badly treated, both by the sanitary officers and their aids, usually persons of low moral standard whose treatment of the prisoners was very cruel and it was fully approved by the head of the hospital. Selection was also practised, which meant that prisoners offering no hope of a rapid recovery were murdered with death-injections. Mortality in the hospital was high; according to doctors' statements it amounted to 50% of the sick. During an epidemic of typhoid fever, 90% of the sick perished.

The typhoid fever epidemic never really died out in the camp. The most critical ones occurred in 1942/43, and 1944. Isolation was never applied, the prisoners continuing to go to work.

IV. Ways of Liquidating.

A study of information gathered during investigations of camp conditions, food, work, treatment of the sick, etc., makes it clear beyond a doubt that the entire camp system tended towards the destruction of the greatest number of persons, the ruin of the systems of even the healthiest prisoners, with death as the end. A witness who was able to look through the camp registers states that many inmates died as little as two months after their arrival. Such cases were described in the medical register as A. K. S. (Allgemeine Körperschwäche). A witness employed in the registry office states that in December 1944,

a period when the camp was the most crowded, with about 50,000 persons, over 4,000 persons perished in one month.

From the fall of 1944, until the evacuation, camp conditions were such that it is justifiable to call this a system of killing by way of creating conditions unbearable for the human system. This principally concerned prisoners of Jewish nationality, especially women. They were brought to the camp in thousands, since at that time, efforts were being made to eliminate them as speedily as possible. Witnesses are unanimous in agreeing that Jewish women were placed in insupportably overcrowded rooms, in unimaginable sanitary conditions, that the food given them was even worse than that of the other prisoners and that they were made to stand in the frost for hours at a time. They perished in masses. Witnesses testify that in front of the block where the physically weakest Jewish women were placed, there were close to 100 corpses every day. To illustrate these facts it must be added that in the fall of 1944, prisoners remaining in the camp hospital weighed the body of a grown up Jewish woman who had died there; it weighed 47 pounds.

Thus there is no doubt that the conditions of camp existence alone, and the treatment of prisoners were the principal means of murdering them. Executions were merely a supplementary means. These were conducted in four ways: by gassing, shooting, hanging and death injections. The building of the gas-chamber remained intact sufficiently long to be thoroughly examined. It was a brick building; the dimensions of the gas-chamber itself were $8.5 \times 3.5 \times 3$. It had two entrances that closed tightly by means of a special contrivance. There was a furnace built on the exterior of this construction. From it ran a pipe which served to heat the gas-chamber itself up to 25° Celsius before the victims were brought in. The construction had a cement floor, plaster walls and a round opening about 15 cm. in diameter, with a pipe inserted into it for pouring in the substance forming the gas. Under this opening, in the floor, was another opening in the shape of a square 30 cm. across

closed with a wooden cover. Witnesses noticed that SS-men poured a powdery yellowish brown substance from tins, into the upper opening. A number of such cans were found near that building during the examination of the premises. The gas-chamber served for the simultaneous murdering of groups of 100 persons. Death occurred in about half an hour. Though usually the chamber was opened after a longer period of time, it happened sometimes that victims still gave signs of life when they were transported to the crematorium. Killings in the gas-chambers lasted from the summer months of 1944, until December 1944.

Some witnesses also mention the existence of one or two narrow gauge railway cars, transformed into gas-chambers.

Executions by shooting took place in the crematorium, where groups of prisoners were led under the pretext of a medical examination. They were then taken into a special room one at a time, and shot in the nape of the neck through a hole in the wall during fictitious measurements of height. The body was immediately taken to the cremating-chamber where it was burned.

Death injections in the hospital, as well as in the crematorium were made by SS-men wearing white aprons. According to doctor-prisoners, the injections consisted of phenol injected into the heart.

Hanging was the highest degree of punishment, foreseen by the regulations.

Characteristic of the hypocritical system in the Hitlerite camps was that every death penalty by hanging had to be ratified by the SS-headquarters. In the context of the daily crimes committed in the camp and the brutality of the entire system the formalities accompanying a death sentence were typical in their cynicism. The greatest possible number of prisoners were obliged to attend the executions by hanging conducted in the camp square.

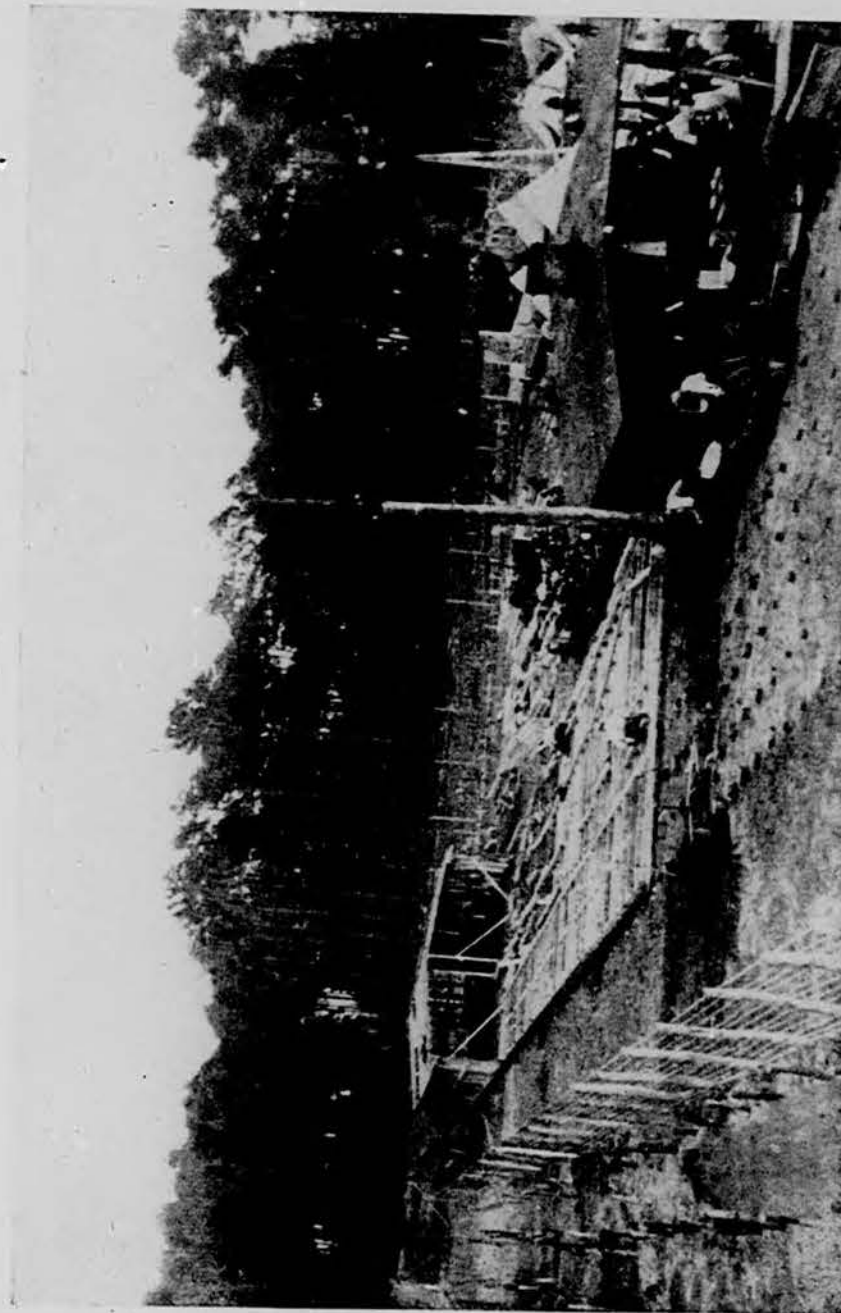
V. The Prisoners Nationality.

The Stutthof camp was erected by Poles: for a long time it was exclusively for Poles. A witness brought there in 1941, states that at that time, in addition to Poles there were only a few Jews and Germans there. In time, Stutthof became an international camp. In the last period of its existence, there were in it Poles, Germans, Jews, Soviet citizens, Frenchmen, Dutchmen, Belgians, Czechs, Lets, Lithuanians, Norwegians, Danes and a number of Gypsies.

The Poles were mostly native of Danzig and Pomerania. It was only in 1944, that the first transports from Warsaw and Lublin arrived. The first transport from Pawlak arrived on May 25, 1944. After the Warsaw Insurrection groups of the evacuated civilian population and soldiers from underground organizations who had fought for Warsaw, arrived in the camp. A transport of about 3000 men and several hundred women from Pruszków arrived in Stutthof on August 3, 1944. The men were sent to sub-camps and the women who at first were allowed to stay free, were in the end also placed in the camp. On September 29, 1944, a large group of Warsaw men, among whom were 1200 insurgents, arrived in the camp. At the same time about 40 women Home-Army liaison officers, were brought in. They were in uniform and at first, were treated as war-prisoners. Later they were deprived of this privilege and were treated as regular prisoners. A group of 250 priests from Pomerania, sent to the camp in 1939 and 1940, suffered from especially brutal treatment and were employed for the heaviest work.

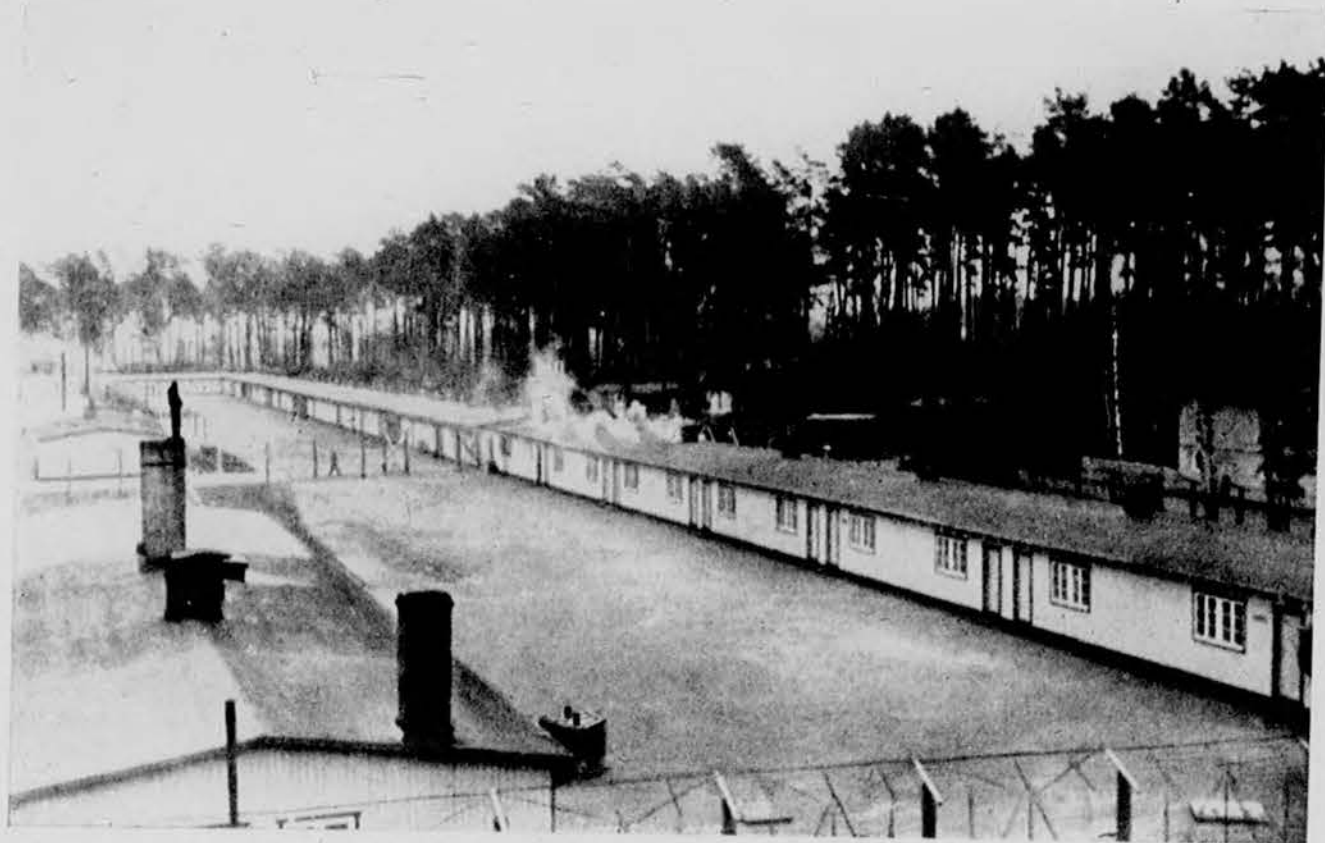
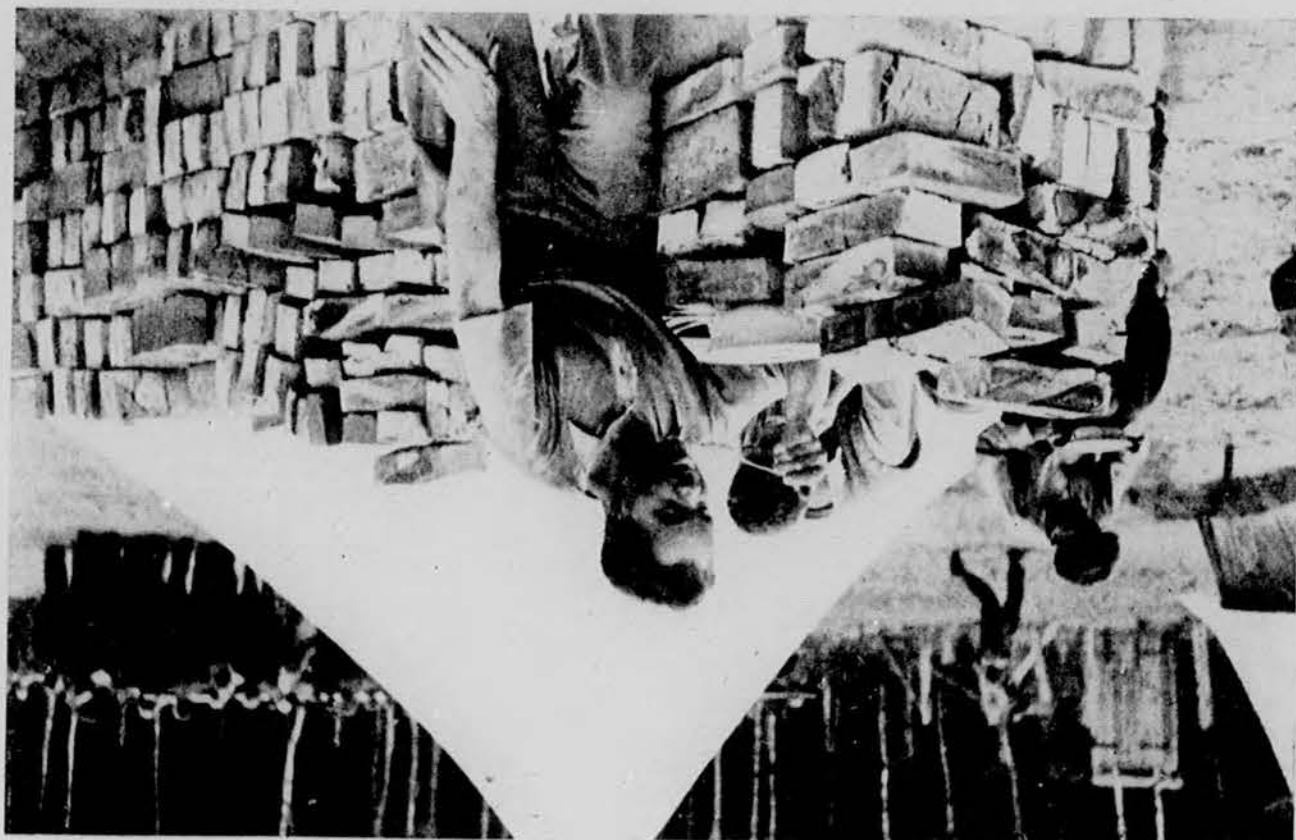
In February 1944, when the treatment of these priests became less brutal, and they were given lighter work, there were only 12 of them left.

The Soviet citizens were nearly all prisoners of war to whom all privileges connected with this position were denied. Wit-



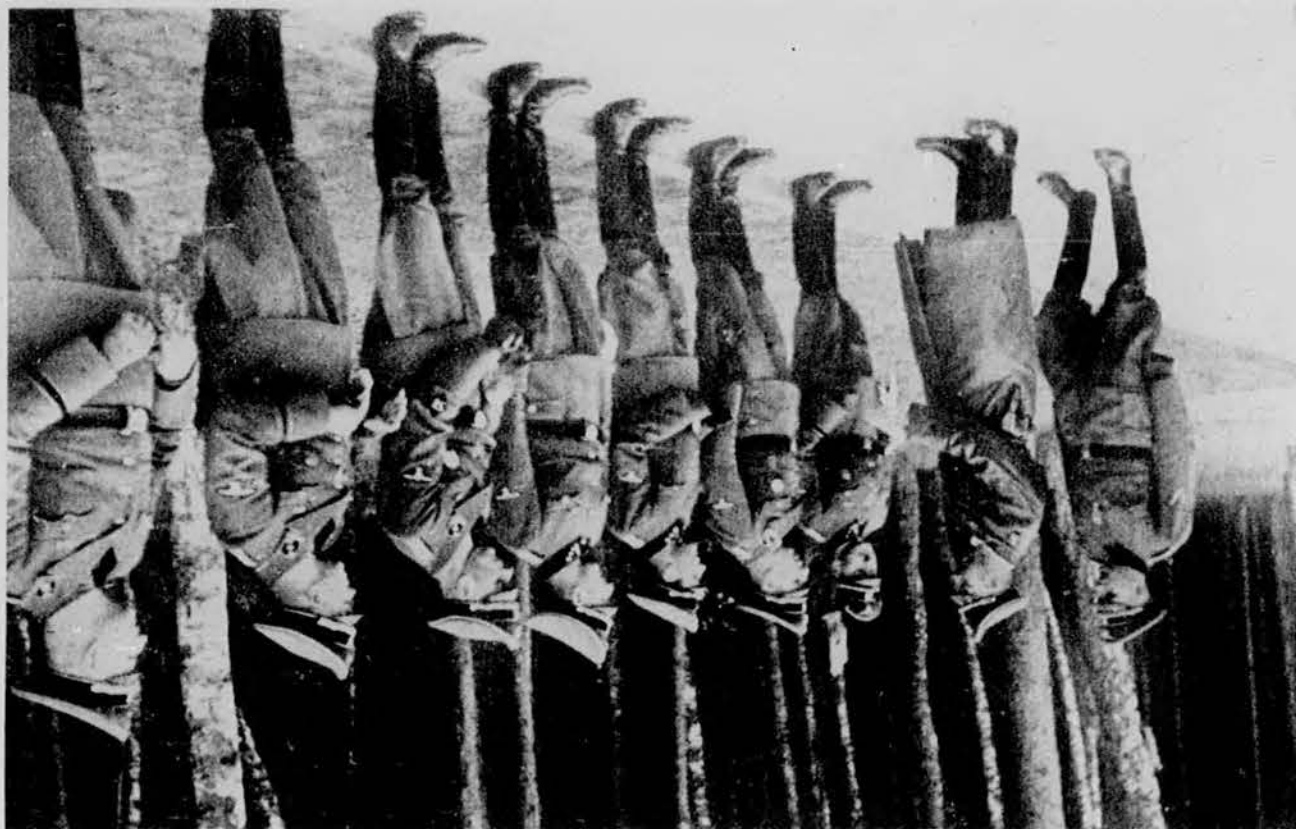
Construction of first barracks in Stutthof in September 1939.
(The above photo as all the following photos are authentic German photos from the album of the SS camp commandos)

First prisoners in Stutholt working at building the camp taking their meals. (September 1939). At that time the prisoners lived in tents and were not forced to wear striped camp uniforms.



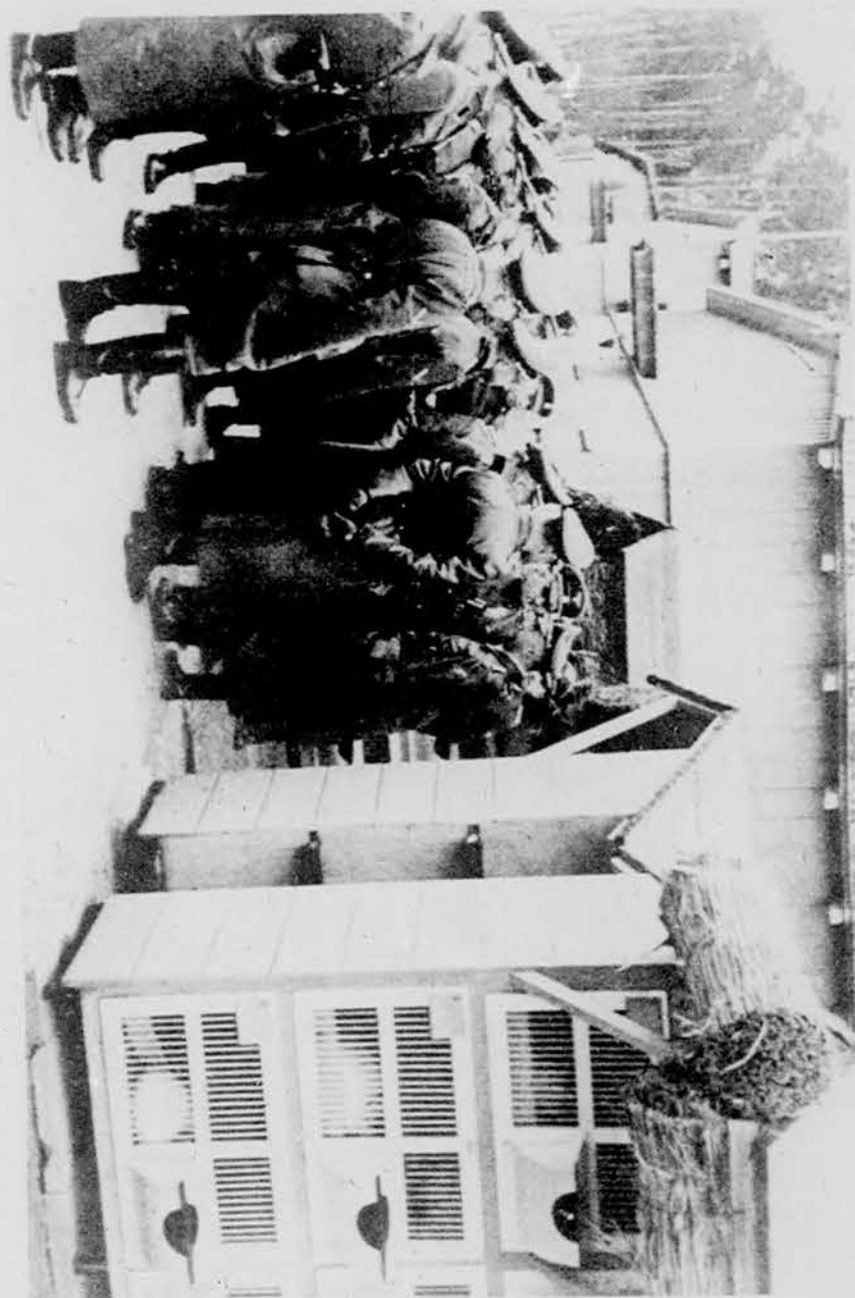
Barracks for prisoners in the old camp (southern part).

Himmler visits Stutthof on November 23, 1941, accompanied by Paul, commander of the camp. Himmler greets the SS-officers on duty in Stutthof.



Building of the Command of the camp.

Prisoners walk the perimeter of the camp, carrying a heavy load of work.



nesses quote many cases of mass-murders of these prisoners. Thus in 1944, about 50 invalids were gassed, having been lured into the gassing-chamber under the pretext of being taken into hospital. In the fall of 1943, two women doctors of the Red Army were shot. In 1943/44, executions of parachutists, both women and men, were very frequent.

The Jews form a special chapter in the history of the Stutthof camp: their treatment was very different from that of the prisoners of "Aryan" origin. It was evident to all that the Hitlerite authorities intended to destroy the greatest possible number of Jews, which they thoroughly achieved. Witnesses say that in 1944, because of the mass-influx of Jews to the camp they formed the prisoner majority. As they were exterminated in great numbers by mass-executions and cruel treatment, there seems to be no doubt that the prisoners of Jewish nationality formed at least half of the total number of those who perished in Stutthof. The German prisoners were mostly criminals. Only an insignificantly small group, not more than several hundred, of German political prisoners — Hitler's opponents passed through the camp. Their relations with political prisoners of other nationalities were as a rule bad. The prison-camp functionaries, recruited among Germans — were mostly criminals. They have on their conscience many of the crimes perpetrated in the camp.

The Lithuanians and Lets and perhaps even more the Norwegians and Danes were privileged groups. They were not expected to work.

Poles formed about 90 per cent of the prisoners until the summer of 1942. Later this percentage decreased, while the number of Soviet citizens rose to 20 per cent and the balance fell to the other nationalities. From July 1944, Jews formed about 70 per cent of the camp's inmates, all the other nations the remainder.

VI. General Number of Prisoners and Camp Victims.

Because of the system of numbering prisoners it is not difficult to estimate the number of prisoners who passed through the camp, succumbed there or were released. A number given to a prisoner arriving in the camp by no means indicated the total number in the camp on that day. The reasons for this are: the perishing of prisoners from different causes, their being sent to sub-camps and the rare cases of release. The prisoner's number merely served to state how many persons had up to then passed through the camp register. A series of details may be ascertained on the basis of the testimony of witnesses. Thus, one of these sent to the camp on September 2, 1939, states that numbering was introduced at the beginning of 1940; the witness at that time receiving the number 6700, the numbers at that time being 8500 in all. The prisoners brought to the camp on December 12, 1942, received the number 17,788. This was still the period when Stutthof was a small camp (only the "Old" camp) to which, according to observations, about 6000 prisoners yearly were sent. According to witnesses, there were not many more than 3000 persons in the camp at that time. Then it was enlarged, the original institution, as well as the steadily growing number of branches. Another witness testified that he and his comrades received numbers up to 36,277. So during 15 months (from December 1942) over 18,000 persons passed through the camp, that means that the yearly increase was already of 3,000 prisoners.

The same witness declares that there were over 8,000 prisoners in the camp at that time. The great influx of prisoners began in the summer of 1944. These arriving on September 29, 1944, were given numbers as high as 93,000, which means that within 4 months 37,000 people had passed through the camp. The situation on the Eastern front which forced the Germans to evacuate Lithuania and Latvia (Lettonia) is the reason of this.

Immense transports of Hungarian Jewish women also arrived in the camp during this period.

On the day of the evacuation, the register showed the presence of 10,000 prisoners. The largest number of camp prisoners amounts, however, to about 10,000 more, since towards the end entire groups were not numbered at all.

This applies mostly to Jews and Soviet prisoners. On the day of the evacuation there were about 25,000 persons in the main camp, about half of whom were Jewish women, and about as many in the sub-camps.

Ascertaining the number of the camp's victims is, however, much more difficult. Camp documents which might have thrown some light upon the matter were either burned or carried off. There remains only the testimony of witnesses. Among these are numerous of important persons of all nationalities — doctors and engineers, a consulate official, high-school professor etc., who either worked in the camp's institutions where all information was available to them, or who are in a position to estimate from the point of view of their experience of camp life. In accordance with these data it is possible to make the following calculations as to the number of the camp's victims until the day of the evacuation, considering the number of 110,000 prisoners as the highest. According to previous information, there were about 50,000 prisoners alive on the day of the evacuation. Considering the witnesses' declaration that 3000 persons were released and about as many transported to other camps it may be estimated that up to the day of the evacuation about 50,000 persons from the camp perished.

The evacuation, however, resulted in many victims. Witnesses describing these proceedings agree that the roads along which it was conducted were strewn with hundreds of corpses. Over 50 per cent of the evacuated perished on the roads.

Summarizing, the Stutthof camp and its branches are responsible for about 65,000 human lives.

What percentage of the total number of victims were victims to each special method of murdering prisoners? These calculations can also only rely on the testimony of witnesses. Executions by hanging form the smallest per cent. It can be certified that in the main camp under 100 prisoners were murdered in this way. A far greater number was killed by injections. These executions were conducted in groups. It is impossible to ascertain exactly the number of persons thus killed, but it is believed to be several hundred. The same can be said of shootings.

As to the gas-chamber it was most active from August 1944, until December 1944. Witnesses testify that during this time about 3000 Jews were gassed. As this chamber was also in operation before, this number can certainly be increased by a further thousand. In that case the gas chambers devoured 4000 lives in all.

Thus the total of those destroyed by violence amounts to 6,000 or 7,000 persons. Also considering that the group of those murdered during the evacuation of the sub-camps must be added to the total of victims and that there is no data as to deaths by violence in these cases, it can be concluded that 15 per cent of the prisoners were killed by violence. This permits us to conclude once again that it was not the violent methods of liquidation but the conditions of life and work in the camp, created according to a special plan with a special aim, which were basically responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of the Stutthof Camp victims.

LIQUIDATION OF THE WARSAW GHETTO IN THE LIGHT OF GERMAN DOCUMENTS

On April 19th, 1943 at 6 a. m. the Germans started the bloody liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto. It lasted till May 16th, 1943, 8,15 p. m.

The German balance sheet of this "action in great style" (Grossaktion) includes a written report of the director of this action, SS and police commander of the Warsaw district and head of the SS-brigade and Major General, Joseph Stroop. This document is in the acts of the International Military Tribunal in Nürnberg. It is dated May 16th, 1943 and consists of: A title card with an inscription in decorative Gothic handwriting: „Es gibt keinen jüdischen Wohnbezirk in Warschau mehr“! (There are no more Jewish living quarters in Warsaw), with twelve consecutively numbered pages of typewritten text. On the twelveth page is an authentic signature of Stroop. A statement of the armed forces which participated in the action and a list of Germans who were wounded during the action are attached to the report. (Photos Nos. 1 and 2 represent the title card and the last page signed by Stroop).

The report is composed of three parts:

The first is the "theory" construed by Stroop and the history of the development of Jewish living quarters in the East and the history of the establishment of the Warsaw Ghetto. The second part is the author's report on the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, with special consideration of the action of which he was the leader from April 19th to May 16th, 1943.

The photographs found by the American Police on Stroop, form an essential supplement to the first two parts of the report. Photos Nos. 3 to 35 from Stroop's album, indicate moments and scenes from the life and struggle in the Ghetto which the

Germans have fixed with the purpose of handing them down to posterity.

Photos Nos. 3 to 9 represent the famished Jewish children compelled by the Germans to lead a miserable existence in conditions, described in the first part of Stroop's report, in which he called the Ghetto "the closed territory of infection".

Franz Konrad, called "the King of Ghetto", member of the Warsaw Gestapo, who also participated in the quenching of the Rising, gave some additional information on the photos, when tried on January 2nd, 1946, by the American Military Police. His explanations have been inserted under the various photos.

In the third part of his report, Stroop describes the fate of the Jewish living quarters after the liquidation action on May 16th, 1943. The report is concluded by a motion, put forward by Stroop, to set up a concentration camp on the territory of the prison on Dzielna Street, the inmates of which would be employed at pulling down buildings in order to secure millions of bricks, waste iron and other materials. (Photo No. 2).

Photos Nos. 36 and 37 represent authentic documents of the ex-Government of the General Gouvernement which were found together with many others in the Mining Academy of Cracow where the ex-Government of the General Gouvernement had their headquarters. The documents are at present in the possession of the Cracow District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland.

Results show that Stroop's motion to level the Warsaw Ghetto to the ground was accepted and fully realized.

The other documents attached to the report include the military units which participated in the liquidation of the Ghetto. Besides the SS and Police detachments, many other units, among them the Wehrmacht, are mentioned in the statement. Motion is made to decorate many of the men who participated in fighting the Ghetto.

**Es gibt keinen
jüdischen Wohnbezirk
- in Warschau mehr !**

Photo No. 1. Title Card of Stroop's report.

sten Zeit gegen das arische Wohngebiet fest absteigelt sein und bewacht werden. Zu diesem Zwecke ist das Polizei-Battalion III/23 eingesetzt. Dieses Polizeibattalion hat den Auftrag, den ehemaligen jüdischen Wohnbezirk zu überwachen, insbesondere darauf zu achten, daß niemand in das ehemalige Ghetto hineinkommt und jemand, der sich unberechtigt darin aufhält, sofort zu erschließen. Der Kommandeur des Polizei-Battalions erhält laufend weitere Weisungen unmittelbar vom A- und Polizeiführer. Es muß auf diese Weise erwirkt werden, die ewel. noch vorhandenen kleinen Überreste der Juden unter ständiges Druck zu halten und zu vernichten. Durch Vernichtung aller Gebäude und Schlupfwinkel und durch Abrossung des Wassers muß den noch verbliebenen Juden und Banditen jede weitere Daseinsmöglichkeit genommen werden.

Es wird vorgeschlagen, das Dreilein-Gefängnis zu einem KZ. zu machen und durch die Häftlinge die Millionen von Becksteinen, den Eisenstahl und andere Materialien auszubauen, zu sammeln und der Verwertung zuzuführen.

Warschau, den 16. Mai 1943.

Der A- und Polizeiführer
in Distrikt Warschau

[Signature]

A-Brigadeführer
u. Generalmajor der Polizei.

Photo No 2. Last page of Stroop's report.



Photo No 3.



Photo No 4.



Photo No 5.



Photo No 6.



Photo No 7.



Photo No 8.

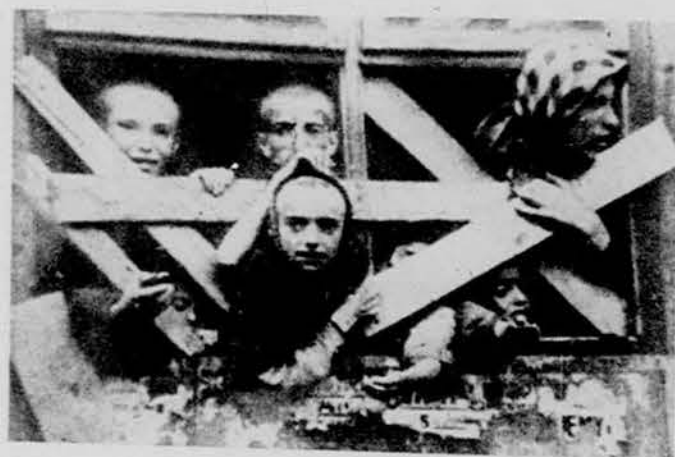


Photo No 9.



Photo 10. On the first plan is Stroop with the SS Commander and Untersturmführer Karl Brand. The officer with the spectacles is the Commander of a reserve cavalry detachment and the officer aside him is a Commander of the reserve infantry detachment.



Photo 11. Stroop in a talk with Commanders of detachments which participated in the liquidation of the Ghetto.

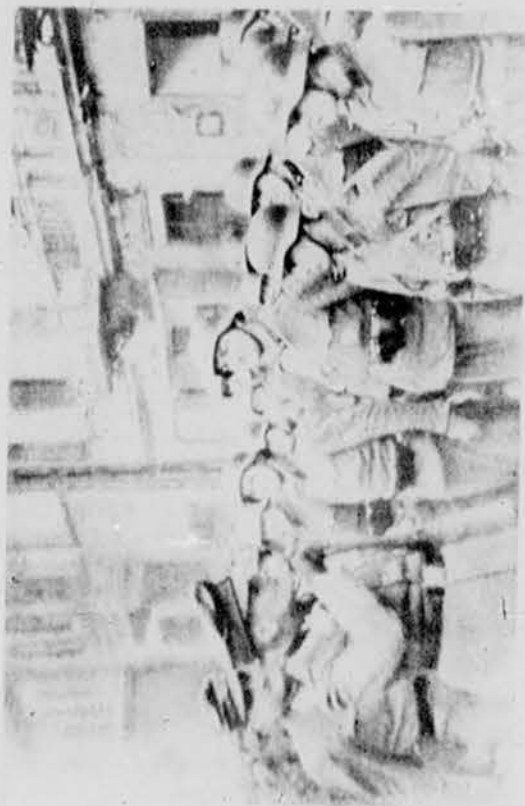


Photo 12. Stroup marches on before his detachments



Photo 13. Stroup gives orders to the Commander of the Special Teams („Sonderkommando”), which participated in the liquidation of the Ghetto.



Photo 14. After the insurgents displayed a Polish banner, a detachment of the Wehrmacht started to shell the point of resistance with anti-air artillery shells. At the rear plan can be seen houses burned out on Stroop's orders

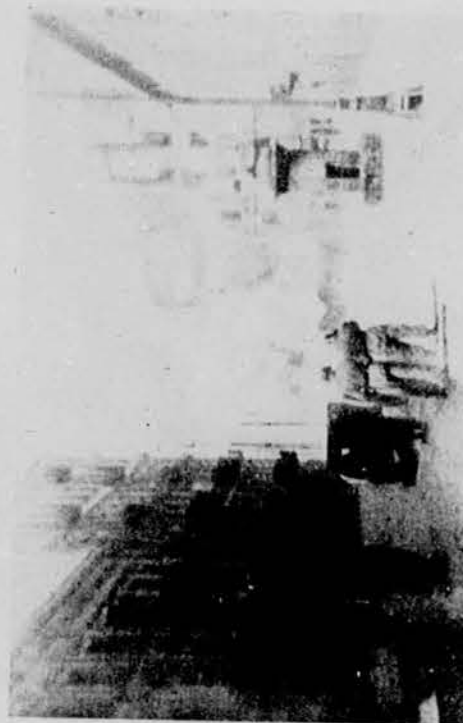


Photo 15. Artillery shelling



Photo 16. A scene in Niska Street. Stroop gives orders to burn the blocks of houses in Niska and Muranowska Streets.



Photo 17. A part of the "Sonderkommando" before their barracks in the Ghetto.



Photo 18. Stroop assisted by 3 members of the Security Police (SD) and his chauffeur watches the burning Ghetto.

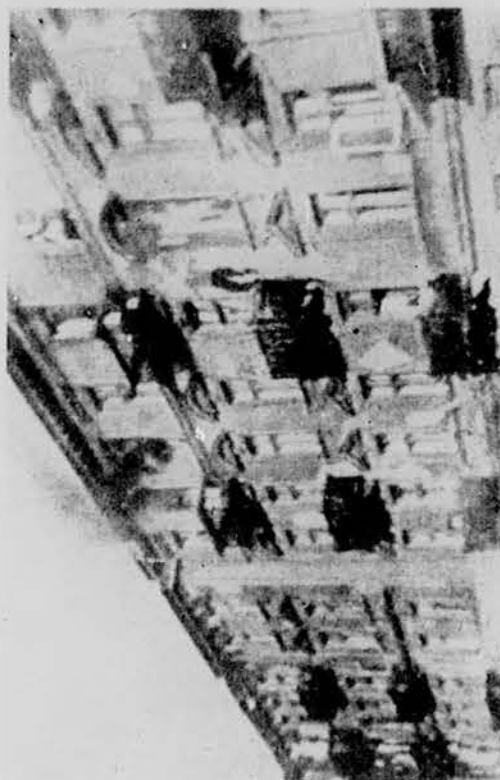


Photo 19. Niska Street ablaze. A number of Jews who could not escape from the third floor of the burning house in some other way, jumped to the cobblestone road.

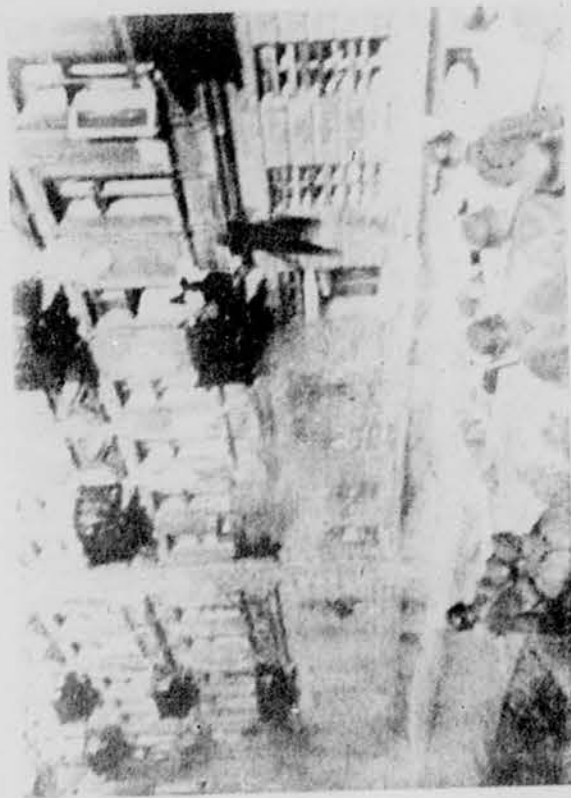


Photo 20. Some more people try to escape by jumping from floors to the cobblestone road. Corpses of those who jumped previously and were killed are to be seen on the pavement.



Photo 21. An old woman tries to escape from a death in flames by jumping from the first floor on the cobblestone (Niska Street).

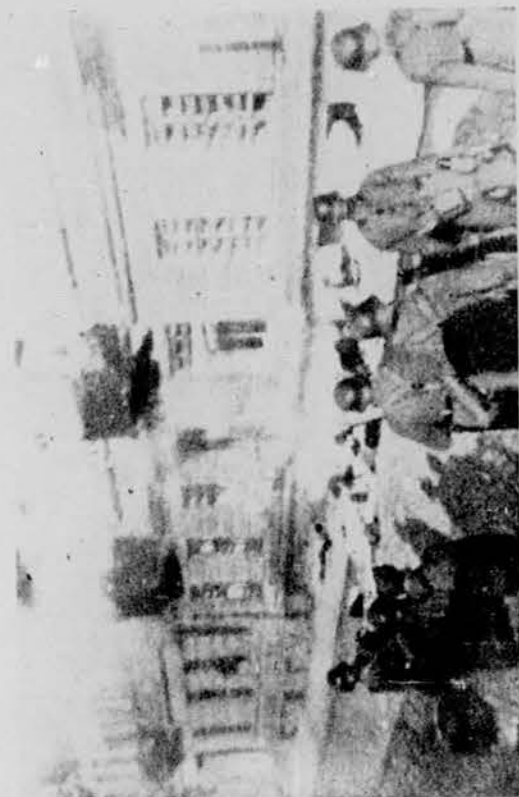


Photo 22. There are no more people left in the house. Corpses of people who threw themselves from windows are seen in the picture.

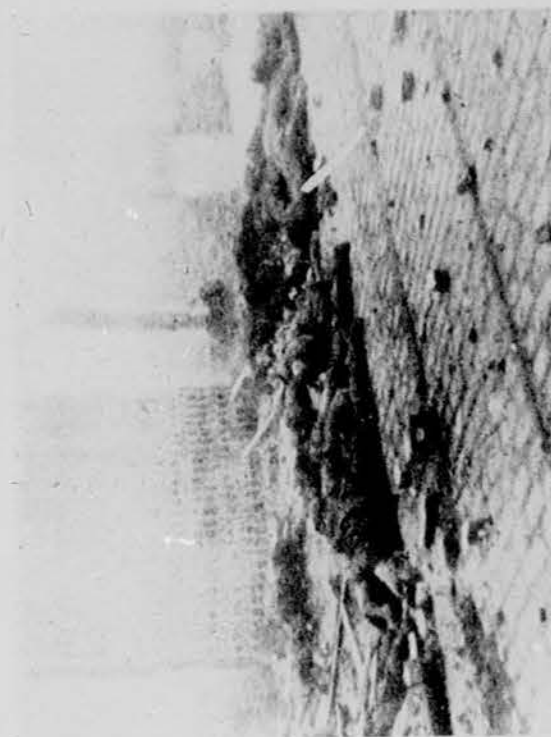


Photo 23. Corpses of Jews who escaped from flames but were shot in the street at Stroop's order.



Photo 24. Jews are forced to pull out their brothers from their hiding places.



Photo 25. Scene as above.



Photo 26. The first Jew leaves the cellar the entrance of which has been blown up with an explosive.



Photo 27. Stroop with his suite composed of SS, Police and Army officers watch the blown-up entrance of the cellar.



Photo 28. Stroop gives orders with regard to Jews drawn out of cellars.



Photo 29. "This photo represents a group of 5 persons destined to be shot. They were led into the Court Yard of the Jewish Council, where they were shot. In the extreme right corner are the corpses of Jews previously shot. The corpses were left to be burned." (Literary translation of explanation given by Konrad).



Photo 30. A part of the shot Jews. To erase the traces, the corpses were burned.



Photo 31. Jews who were drawn out of cellars were placed in columns and driven to the meeting point (Umschlagplatz). Those who had beards or red hair were picked out by Stroop and ordered to be shot immediately. This was performed by the members of the Security Police (SD-men) who are seen in casquets. One of them was called "hunting dog" (Windhund).



Photo 32. The formation of a marching column, before they took off for the Umschlagplatz.



Photo 33. The column marching to the Umschlagplatz.



Photo 34. Jews waiting on the meeting square to be transported off.



Photo 35. Jews assembled in the meeting square waiting for the moment they will be driven before Stroop. During the review he selected people of a definite type to direct them to the places where they were shot.

Abschrift.

Der Stadthauptmann in Warschau
02 Dr. P/Ga.

Warschau, den 13. Juli 1944

Aktenvermerk

für Landesinspektor, Parteigenossen Schalk.

Gelegentlich des heute erfolgten Besuches des Landesinspektors, Parteigenossen Schalk, bei dem Unterzeichneten - Stadthauptmann in Warschau - kam u.a. auch die Sprache auf die derzeitigen Verhältnisse im ehemaligen jüdischen Ghetto in Warschau.

Es wurde dabei festgestellt, dass auch heute noch die Aufräumungsarbeiten im Ghetto im Gange sind, dass dauernd noch Sprengungen stattfinden und insbesondere grosse Mengen Bau- und Ziegelsteine auf besonderen Rollbahnen abgefahren werden. Die Abteilung Arbeit beim Gouverneur des Distrikts Warschau schätzt die Zahl der im Ghetto derzeit laufend beschäftigten Arbeitskräfte noch auf rund 4.000 bis 5.000 Mann. Diese Arbeiter fehlen natürlich bei dem allgemeinen Arbeitskräftemangel an anderen kriegswichtigen Stellen ausserordentlich. Es wäre daher zu erwägen, ob diese Aufräumungsarbeiten im Ghetto nicht vorläufig und vorübergehend solange die derzeit Russen angespannte Allgemeinlage anhält, ausgesetzt werden könnten, um dadurch Kräfte für kriegsentscheidende Aufgaben freizumachen.

Schliesslich wurde noch erwähnt, dass die Stadt Warschau durch die Ghettoaktion ausserordentlich hohe Schäden und Ausfälle erlitten hat, die allein für das städtische Vermögen bis jetzt auf rund 136 Millionen Zloty errechnet worden sind. Alle Versuche, für diese grossen Verluste irgendeine Entschädigung zu erhalten, sind bisher fehlgeschlagen.

gez. Leist



Photo No 36.

REGIERUNG
DES GENERALGOUVERNEMENTS
STAATSEKRETARIAT
DER LANDESINSPEKTEUR

Krakau, den 17. Juli 1944
Scha/Verwaltung des Generalgouvernements
Der Staatssekretär
Reg. 19. VII. 1944
mit Anlagen

An den

Höheren SS- und Polizeiführer im Generalgouvernement,
SS-Obergruppenführer Koppé,
- Staatssekretär für das Sicherheitswesen -

Krakau,
Regierungsgebäude.

1. H. Schalk Warschau
2. H. Leist Krakau
3. H. Leist Krakau
4. H. Leist Krakau

Sehr geehrter Obergruppenführer!

Bei meinem Warschauer Aufenthalt habe ich Gelegenheit genommen, auch mit dem Stadthauptmann, SA-Brigadeführer Leist, eingehend über derzeitige Schwierigkeiten und vordringliche Probleme der Stadtverwaltung Rücksprache zu nehmen.

In der Anlage überreiche ich eine Notiz, Beurteilen im Warschauer Ghetto betreffend, mit der Bitte um Kenntnisnahme.

Mir ist nicht bekannt, ob es sich hierbei um eine Sonderaktion des Reichsführers SS handelt. Andernfalls erbitte ich hierzu Ihre Stellungnahme, ob eine Einsparung von Arbeitskräften vertretbar wäre.

Heil Hitler!
Ihr sehr ergebener

Heinrich Himmler

Anlage.

Photo No 37.

Abschrift.

Der Stadthauptmann in Warschau
02 Dr. P/Gs.

Warschau, den 13. Juli 1944

Aktenvermerk

für Landesinspektor, Parteigenossen Schalk.

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gez. Leist



Photo No 36.

REGIERUNG
DES GENERALGOUVERNEMENTS
STAATSEKRETARIAT
DER LANDESINSPEKTUR

Krakau, den 17. Juli 1944
Scha/Regierung des Generalgouvernements
Der Staatssekretär
Reg. 19 VII 1944
mit Anlagen

An den

Höheren SS- und Polizeiführer im Generalgouvernement,
SS-Obergruppenführer Koppke,
- Staatssekretär für das Sicherheitswesen -

Krakau,
Regierungsgebäude.

Handwritten notes:
1. H. Schalk, Warschau
2. Leiste, Krakau
3. Leiste, Krakau
4. Leiste, Krakau

Sehr geehrter Obergruppenführer!

Bei meinem Warschauer Aufenthalt habe ich Gelegenheit genommen, auch mit dem Stadthauptmann, SA-Brigadeführer Leist, eingehend über derzeitige Schwierigkeiten und vordringliche Probleme der Stadtverwaltung Rücksprache zu nehmen.

In der Anlage überreiche ich eine Notiz, Bauarbeiten im Warschauer Ghetto betreffend, mit der Bitte um Kenntnisnahme.

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Heil Hitler!
Ihr sehr ergebener

Handwritten signature: Koppke

Anlage.

Photo No 37.

Krakau, den 15. Februar 1944

Aktenvermerk

für

Hauptgruppenführer u. General der Polizei Koppke.

Betr.: Verleihung von Kriegsauszeichnungen an Btl. SCHÖPPE.

Das III./4-Pol.Rgt. 22 hat für den Ghetto-Großeinsatz - vom Reichsführer-4) verliehen - folgende Kriegsauszeichnungen erhalten:

- 1.) 1 Stück KVK.I.Kl.m.Schw. an Major Schöppe
- 2.) 5 " EK.II.Kl.
- 3.) 4 " KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw.

Weiter hat das Btl. in letzter Zeit erhalten:

- 1 Stück EK.II.Kl.
- 4 " KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw. (bereits erhalten)
- 24 " KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw. (genehmigte Vorsch.)
- 6 " KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw. (liegen zur Genehmigung vor)
- 34 Stück KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw.

Vom Btl. Schöppe sind noch eingegangen und in Bearbeitung:

- 9 Anträge zur Verleihung des EK.II.Kl. (davon 1 Antrag für Major Schöppe.)
 - 1 Antrag zur Verleihung des EK.I.Kl. für Oblt.d.Res. Georg Diehl, Zugführer III./4-Pol.Rgt. 22
 - 1 Antrag zur Verleihung des KVK.I.Kl.m.Schw. an Oblt. STROBEL.
- Weitere Anträge sind hier nicht eingegangen.

i.A.

Hauptsturmführer.

Photo No 38.

22.2.1944

II P.A. / 29a / Ko/Sz.

Einschreiben:

Betr.: Verleihung von KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw.
Bezug: Dort.Vorschlagslisten
Anzahl: 64 KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw.
 Besitzurkunden

An den
Hauptgruppenführer im Distrikt WarschauWarschau

In der Anlage werden 64 KVK.II.Kl.m.Schw. für die nachstehend aufgeführten mit der Bitte um Aushändigung an die Beliehenen überreicht

III./4-Pol.Rgt. 22

Hauptwachmeister der SchP. Gustav Damschek
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Erich Fischer
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Wilhelm Heinsch
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Wilhelm Hölzer
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Josef Müller
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Gerhard Pils
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Ludwig Pulfer
 Wachmeister der SchP. Stefan Thelen
 Wachmeister der SchP.d.Res. Hermann Vogel
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Alfred Wurzbach
 Wachmeister der SchP.d.Res. Emil Ziegler
 Zugwachmeister der SchP. Erwin Adler
 Wachmeister der SchP.d.Res. Erich Lubtow
 Wachmeister der SchP.d.Res. Moritz Graf
 Wachmeister der SchP. d.Res. Gustav Schaller
 Revieroberwachmeister der SchP. Wilhelm Dörner
 Wachmeister der SchP. d.Res. Willy Heller

Kdr.d.Ordnungspolizei für den Distr.Warschau

Hauptwachmeister der SchP. Wilhelm Kuke

Kdr.d.Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für den Distr.Warschau.

Kriminal-Sekretär Roman Werner
 Notdienstverpflichteter Hans Mohr
 Kriminal-Angestellter Friedrich Weiler
 Kriminal-Angestellter Franz Barton
 Kriminal-Sekretär Ignaz Bude
 Kriminal-Sekretär Gerhard Uebel
 Kriminal-Sekretär Adolf Wild
 Kriminal-Oberassistent Kurt Saporra
 Kriminal-Assistent Rudolf Glöckner
 Kriminal-Sekretär Heinrich Hammerli

- 2 -

Photo No 39.

H-Polizei-Rgt. 22

Revieroberwachmeister der SchP. Hermann Lehnhard
Revieroberwachmeister der SchP. Theodor Zemen
Revieroberwachmeister der SchP. Gustav Hermeier
Zugwachmeister der SchP. Paul Klingberg

I./H-Pol.Rgt.17

Zugwachmeister der SchP. Georg Boehlke
Zugwachmeister der SchP. Heinrich Kurt
Oberwachmeister der SchP. Hugo Otterbaun
Wachmeister der SchP.d.R. Wilhelm Hoyer
Rottwachmeister der SchP. d.R. Konrad Höglik
Hauptmann der SchP. Hans Klingbeil-Zerbe
Oberleutnant der SchP. Willi Berger
Hauptwachmeister der SchP. Josef Hofmeister
Hauptwachmeister der SchP. Viktor Paul
Zugwachmeister der SchP. Heinrich Ahrens

III./-Pol.Rgt.22

Revieroberwachmeister der SchP. Herbert Fick
Wachmeister der SchP.d.Res. Johannes Spallack
Revieroberwachmeister der SchP. Karl Buthe
Revieroberwachmeister der SchP. Ralf Wedermann
Zugwachmeister der SchP.d.Res. Hermann Pfeiderer
Oberwachmeister der SchP.d.Res. Willi Schlotter

Kdr.d.Gend.Warschau

Bez.Oberleutnant der Gend. Hugo Hartung
Bez.Leutnant der Gend. Herbert Kordock
Bez.Leutnant der Gend. Michael Huber
Hauptwachmeister der Gend. Erich Strübing
Meister der Gend. Franz Erhart
Unterwachmeister der Hipo. Helmut Zerbian
Bez.Oberwachmeister der Gend.d.R. Ewald Sperling
Bez.Leutnant der Gend. Gustav Grunwald
Meister der Gend. Peter Allmaier
Meister der Gend. Ludwig Müller
Hauptwachmeister der Gend. Anton Feindl
Oberwachmeister der Gend. Hermann Buchholz
Hauptwachmeister der Gend. Josef Weisser
Wachmeister der Gend. Ewald Gramz
Oberwachmeister der Gend. d.R. Paul Mitschke
Wachmeister der Gend.d.R. Franz Widmann

I.A.

Hauptsturmführer

Photo No 40

Photo No. 38 represents a note drawn up by the Chief of police and secretary for security affairs regarding the decoration of the members of Schop's battalion. Photos Nos. 39 and 40 represent other members of the German police from the Warsaw district who were decorated for the crimes they committed in the Warsaw Ghetto.

EXPERIMENTAL OPERATIONS IN THE
RAVENSBRUCK CONCENTRATION CAMP

VIII

The Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland investigated the medical experiments performed by German doctors on Polish women prisoners in the concentration camp Ravensbrück. This paper contains the results of these investigations. In the first section is to be found the evidence of a former prisoner, a woman doctor of a camp hospital, and some statements made by the victims of the experimental operations; the second part contains the results of evidence, legal and medical gathered by Prof. Michejda, the chief of the surgical clinic of the Academy in Gdańsk.

I.

In the concentration camp for women in Ravensbrück (near Fürstenberg in Mecklenburg, 86 km north from Berlin) there were at the end of 1944, over 40,000 women prisoners of different nationalities. The number of women who passed through that camp is estimated at 100,000, of whom 33,000 were Polish women.

Medical experiments in the camp Ravensbrück were performed on prisoners during the period from 1st August 1942 until March 1944. The victims of the experiments were: 74 Polish prisoners, one Ukrainian, one German, (a Bible student), about ten prisoners of various nationalities with mental disorder.

The witness, M. D. Zofia Mączka, a roentgenologist, remained as political prisoner Nr. 7403 in Ravensbrück from September 13th 1941 until July 24, 1945. She was employed by the camp authorities as a roentgenologist in the camp hospital from July 1942 until July 1943. Working in this capacity

she had the possibility of observing the victims of experiments and the results of these experiments on the victims.

The following is a description by witness Dr. Mączka of the medical experiments done in Ravensbrück.

In the spring of 1942, an operation room was established in the camp hospital. In July 1942 a diagnostical Roentgen apparatus was established. At the end of July the camp authorities ordered for a medical inspection about 100 Polish women, political prisoners from the Lublin transport, all with numbers above 7000. The inspection was made by the camp doctor and by doctors from the sanatorium in Hohenlilien, situated 20 km from Ravensbrück. The sanatorium was once destined for patients with tuberculosis of the lungs, but changed by the Nazi authorities into a sanatorium for war surgery. The chief of this sanatorium was Prof. Dr. Gebhardt, SS-brigade leader, Hitler's private doctor. The inspection took place out of doors; the women prisoners did not undress, they simply submitted to examination their lower and higher extremities. Such an inspection was repeated several times with the same group of prisoners called each time.

The last inspection took place at the end of July 1943. At this time a group of about ten young healthy women prisoners were chosen and directed to the hospital. There they were bathed, their legs shaved and at last put to bed with clean linen.

On August 1st, 1942 the operations began. From this day the operations were repeated systematically until August 16th, 1943. During this period 74 Polish women were operated upon. Seventy among them were from the Lublin transport and four from Warsaw. Besides the Polish women, one Ukrainian, one German and about ten insane prisoners of various nationalities were operated upon. The greater part of them were operated several times, some even up to six times. All the operations were performed on the lower extremities under

narcosis, they usually began with evipan and finished with other anaesthetics. The operation lasted for two to three hours.

All the experimental operations were supervised by Prof. Gebhardt, who at the start personally operated the prisoners. Mostly, the operations were performed by Dr. Fisher, Prof. Gebhardt's assistant, an officer of the SS. The camp doctors Herta Oberhäuser, Ralf Rosenthal and Szydlavsky collaborated in the experimental operations. Until March 1943 the operations were performed in the operating room of the camp hospital, but the additional operations on August 16th, 1943 were performed in a simple camp prison because of the decisive resistance of the Polish women.

After leaving the hospital all operated prisoners lived together in one blockhouse, all destined to be shot. Many of them were sick after the operations. In January 1943 two of the operated were shot while still convalescent (Gnas and Pajackowska). On November 28th, 1943 four other victims were shot (Gutek, Zielonka, Sobolewska and Rakowska). Five of the operated prisoners died as a result of an infection. Only 61 out of the 74 operated Polish women remained in the camp in the early spring of 1945. On February 4th, 1945 the crippled victims of medical experiments were ordered to be evacuated on foot with a transport of other prisoners, which was tantamount to a death sentence. Taking advantage of the chaos that reigned in the camp, they succeeded in hiding themselves in different blockhouses, hoping in this way to be saved. The operations Dr. Mączka divided into two groups:

- a) operations to produce infection;
- b) clean operations of bones, muscles and nerves.

A. In the operations to produce infection bacteria were used to produce suppuration; most frequently used was staphylococcus aureus, also oedema malignum and bacillus tetanus.

The size of the dose was decided by the operators who divided the victims into different groups marked with letters

of the alphabet according to a code known only to them. A special dose of bacillus was destined for each corresponding group. The infection was produced by the introduction of the bacillus into the wound. The survivors said that during the first change of dressing a few days after the infectious operation, they felt that something had been taken out of the wound and that this brought relief. It is probable that the foreign body which contained the bacillus was removed. The wounds festered a long time and together with pus there was a discharge of soaked paper-like pieces. The operated lower extremities became inflamed and festered and then a general infection appeared. The clinical picture was particularly terrible, because the infected wounds were sewn which caused great pain, until the wound opened by itself or was opened during a change of dressing. All the operated were critically ill with fever as high as 40° C. This inflammatory condition would return for years and sometimes resulted in lameness.

The second method of infection was an introduction of the bacillus by an injection into the muscle of the leg. After such an operation the prisoners were sick for several days, the leg swelled up, fortunately, however, with no further complications.

The reason for the operations to produce infection was probably to try out new pharmaceutical drugs, as the operated were given various medicines. In this group of victims of experiments one of the prisoners was infected with tetanus and died within a few days with typical tetanus symptoms, another victim died from gaseous gangrene bacillus and three others died from bacillus oedema malignum.

B. The second group of medical experiments were clean operations (bones, muscles and nerves).

There were three kinds of bone operations: the breaking of bones, transplanting of bones and of bone chips, (Knochen-spanne). The operation of breaking the bones lasted three

hours, during which the bones of both legs were uncovered and then broken on the operating table with a hammer and chisel. Subsequently the bones were put together with or without braces, the wounds were sewn and the extremity immobilized in plaster of Paris. After a few days the plaster of Paris was taken off and the limb left without it until it healed.

The operations of transplanting bones consisted of transferring the right tibia to the left and vice versa, or of exchanging the fibula for the tibia; sometimes in this latter operation a part of the fibula was eliminated.

Bone operations, or bone chips (Knochenspanne) consisted in two operations: during the first preparative operation a rectangle 2×5 mm was incized in two places on the tibia of both legs, the so called bone chip incision (Knochenspanne), later during the second operation a part of the bone was cut out and eliminated together with the previously incized chip. This operation had as its purpose the investigation of the regeneration of bone tissue. The bone operations were performed on 15 women prisoners, with several operations on each victim.

The muscle operations consisted in cutting away a part of the muscles of the thigh. The victims were operated several times, with bigger parts of muscles cut each time causing so great a loss that the limbs were considerably weakened.

Nervous operations were done least frequently and consisted in cutting out a part of the nerves of the leg.

The operations of muscles and nerves were done in order to investigate the regeneration of tissues. A separate and special group of operations were those performed on several women prisoners suffering from mental disorder. The victims were of various nationalities. The operation performed on them was the amputation of the lower extremity with a disarticulation in the hip joint; the same was performed on the upper extremity with an elimination of the shoulder. The prisoners were then killed immediately on the operating table with an injection of evipan. The amputated limbs wrapped in

an operating shelt were taken to Hohenlirchen. It is difficult to find any "scientific scope" in these latter operations. Extracts from several statements made by the victims of experimental operations, contained in the acts of the inquest, which are quoted below, illustrate the circumstances of the operations and the experience of the victims.

Witness Cz. St., former prisoner of the camp in Ravensbrück, Nr. 7864 states:

"On the 18th of October, 1942, an SS woman came to the seamstress shop where I worked and ordered me to go to the hospital blockhouse. When I arrived at the hospital ward I saw there 12 beds. After some time eleven more prisoners arrived. We had our temperature taken, we were bathed and German nurses, SS women, shaved our legs. Later we were ordered to bed, where we remained the whole day without food. In the evening we were told by the nurses that the operations would not take place that day, because Prof. Gebhardt could not come. Gebhardt did not live in the camp and came there only on days when there were to be operations. This same day the first three, among them myself, were ordered to remain in the hospital while the other nine prisoners were sent back to the camp. On the following day a completely healthy Ukrainian woman prisoner joined us. Two days later, around 3 p. m. Dr. Gebhardt arrived and the operations began. That day we did not get anything to eat. The first to be taken to the operating room was the Ukrainian woman, who was brought back after one and one and a half to two hours. Both her legs were in plaster of Paris from the toes to the groins. She was completely without consciousness.

The next two victims were Polish women prisoners: Maria Cab and Maria Grabowska. They came back from the operating room about 11 o'clock at night. Their legs were only bandaged, but not in plaster of Paris. They too were completely unconscious. They writhed in bed. Grabowska especially was very restless. Because she was moving continuously in her bed,

her legs began to bleed which drenched the bandages, the mattress and bedclothes. The patients were in delirium, calling for help and water. As I could not give them any help I began to knock at the door. A nurse, Gerda, came to the ward and gave the patients more morphine.

For my operation it was too late that day. On October 22nd a prisoner Lenia Heger was brought to our ward and on October 23rd we underwent the operation. Remaining with the already operated patients before I myself was operated. I had been able to observe their reactions. All of them had high fever. It is true that the nurses and doctors came to see the patients, but they did not make any investigations, they took only their temperature and gave them drugs to reduce the fever. The patients regained consciousness after several hours, but they were so weak that they could not talk. The food for the sick was the same as in the camp: turnip, bread and black coffee.

When the operated prisoners began to die, the woman doctor Oberhäuser provided that they should sometimes get food from the kitchen for the camp administration.

On the 23rd of October, around one o'clock in the afternoon I and Lenia Heger were given morphine and she was taken first to the operating room. I was made ready on a hospital wagon. From the moment Heger was carried out and I was brought into the operating room, I can't remember clearly because the narcotic was already acting. A needle was driven into my arm. I know that in the operating room they put on us a mask with chloroform. During the injection they ordered us to count. I counted to three. I awoke after the operation at 9 p. m. with a terrible pain in my legs. At ten o'clock I got another dose of morphine. After regaining consciousness I saw that my legs were bandaged in four places, taped with leukoplast. Blood soaked through the bandages.

After the operation Heger and I had fever of 39° C. for two days. On the third day Heger's fever began to subside, but

mine increased until on the fourth day I had 41° C. Then my left leg was immobilized in a splint and together with another patient I was transported to the dressing room near the operating room. There we were put on tables and had to wait over three hours for Prof. Gebhardt, who was busy with another operation. When the Professor came I was not put to sleep, but they covered my face with a sheet. My left leg was very strongly squeezed and I felt that again some cuts were made. After the operation my leg was bandaged and the sheet taken off my head. I saw then, that besides Dr. Fischer, who bandaged my leg, there were present in the operating room Prof. Gebhardt, who was dressed for an operation and two other German doctors, Oberhäuser and Rosenthal. From the dressing room I was carried back to the ward, where I remained until the 17th of April, 1943. During this period I was operated on two times more and my higher wound on my right leg was incised. During these two operations I was put to sleep with injections. The most painful was the last operation. The wound was not completely healed, but it was cut open again in the same place, which was very painful. In places where the operation was repeated I have a great diminution of muscles. During my stay in the hospital one day five mentally abnormal woman-prisoners were brought in. One of them was a Czech, one Yugoslavian, one German and two Russian. For a few days these women remained in our ward. From their behaviour it was obvious that they are mentally abnormal. These five prisoners were taken away from our ward one by one and none of them came back. From a relative of a Polish nurse I found out that after the operation they were killed with injections. The nurse saw the corpses of the five women and confirmed that their extremities were cut off. The bodies of these prisoners were carried away in closed boxes, while others were transported in an open wagon.

Witness Władysława Kar, another prisoner of the camp in Ravensbrück and victim of surgical operations, after repro-

ducing in her testimony the details of the first operations, which were done in the hospital, describes those done in the cell:

Half a year after the first operations, our group was called again for the same purpose. We decided to oppose this order and we hid ourselves. The camp police found us and we were sentenced to prison. We were put in dark cells.

One day the door of the cell opened and the guard lead me into the passage. In the open doors of the cells I noticed made up beds and litters. I guessed immediately that we were to be operated in the cells. There never were blankets in the cells at best only straw mattresses. An SS-man lead me into one of the cells and asked if I was willing to submit myself to a small operation. When I refused one of the SS-men drew me into the cell with force. He threw me on to one of the beds and the doctor tried to push some rug in my mouth. I pulled it out and defended myself. Then two other SS-men hold my hands and legs and the nurse gave me an injection. I fall asleep. I woke up after the operation. I was still in my dress. We were operated in the cells with our clothing on our legs not even washed. I noticed that my legs were immobilized in plaster of Paris till the groins. I had high fever and a terrible pain in my legs. After a short while I again lost consciousness. I know from my inmates that I vomitted the whole night, that I was shouting and completely unconscious. In the morning I regained consciousness. After four days I was given an injection that put me to sleep and was operated again. The fever had risen to 40° C, the pain was terrible. When after a long time my sutures were taken off, pus was running from the wounds. On the 26th of August, 1943, at night, we were transferred from the cells to the hospital, where I was again operated. Also I learned from the nurse that pieces of bone were taken out from the place formerly operated. After two weeks the operation was repeated on the other leg. After that pus ran from the wounds for several weeks. Our legs were immobilized in

splints. We felt great pain. I remained in bed for half a year without movement. We had no medical care besides dressing.

Early in 1944 I could return to the block. Since this time I have constant pain in the legs which swell and make me very tired. Sometimes I also have a repetition of the fever."

The witness Zofia Hosz who most likely was submitted to a tetanus infection, related the following details:

"I was taken to the hospital on the 29th of September, 1942, in a group of ten prisoners selected for experimental operations. Before the operation I was put to sleep. When I awoke after the operation I felt a severe pain in the right leg, especially from the knucklebone till the knee joint; at the same time I had a feeling that my leg was like lead and I could not move with it. The temperature was higher than 40° C. I got a sign "E. 2". The sign "E. 1" was given to another prisoner Weronika K., who was treated the same as I. Every day we were injected intramuscularly with a certain drug coloured sea-green. The dressings were changed every day and they were very painful. I felt that they opened the wound and introduced into it some kind of foreign body. After five days the injections were discontinued. The fever was maintained up to 40° C. At this time the health of my friend Weronika K. was rapidly sinking. She began to stiffen, could not open her mouth and her jaws tightened. She died in terrible pain.

Immediately after her death the German woman doctor, Dr. Oberhäuser gave me a double dose of these injections which had been interrupted too early in my case. After the injections were stopped, I too, felt some new symptoms: pain in the neck and stiff legs. An improvement came, when after the death of Weronika K., an intensive treatment with injections was instituted. After two months I was written out and sent to the block, where I remained till April 1943.

In the block I was sick several times and my temperature increased to 40° C. The operated leg got swollen and black. Under the influence of a drug antistreptin, which I got illegally

from my friends, the signs of disease receded. Even now I have pain in the operated leg, which is less vigorous than the healthy one. The wound opened again in 1945 and twice in 1946, when it secreted pus with blood.

All the victims of the experimental operations underline in absolute agreement the lack of any human relation between the German doctors and nurses and their victims. The prisoners appointed for experiments were treated by the German doctors as simple experimental matter, just the same as rabbits and mice are treated in laboratories.

Nobody was interested later in the fate of the victims of operations, in the state of health of crippled prisoners. Their sufferings were of no matter to the operators after their experiments were completed. The victims of the operations were destined to be killed and the lives of some prisoners were saved only because the camp authorities, not prepared for the rapidly advancing allied armies, allowed the camps functions to disintegrate into chaos. Only this fact has made it possible now to have proofs of the crimes committed by German doctors on helpless victims of concentration camps.

II.

This sentence is based on the judicial-medical investigation of 49 ex-prisoners from the concentration camp in Ravensbrück, and on the declarations of these ex-prisoners.

In the German concentration camp in Ravensbrück from the 1st August 1942 to 20th August 1943, experimental operations were performed on the prisoners. Seventy four women from Poland were victims of these operations, which were performed with intravenous anaesthesia, on healthy people, without any medical symptoms, against their will and sometimes against their protests and physical resistance. As a result of this operation five prisoners died: Weronika Kraska, Alfreda Prus, Zofia

Kiecol, Kazimiera Kurowska, Aniela Lefanowicz. Further six prisoners were shot: Rozalia Gutek, Marianna Gnaś, Maria Zielonka, Aniela Sobolewska, Maria, Apolonia Rakowska. One ex-prisoner (Pelagia Michalik) died after she returned to Poland. Seven ex-prisoners are now abroad.

Out of 54 of these ex-prisoners living in Poland, 40 persons were investigated. Out of these, 32 had operations on soft parts, and on 16 bone-operations were performed.

In one case, the bone-operation was performed after several operations on soft parts.

Operations on soft parts were performed on the basis of a scheme previously decided upon. In the first series on 1st August 1942, — 6 persons were operated, out of whom three were later shot. Of the three who survived, one did not come to the investigation. On the next two prisoners scars 6—8 cm. long which confirmed their testimony, were found on the outside of the right undershank. These were the result of cuts on the soft parts. The wounds which penetrated to the muscles, were not sewn. Instead, the legs were placed in plaster of Paris for seven days. After the operation the patients were in fever, the leg painful and swollen. The wounds healed after 4—6 weeks. The same type of operation was performed on prisoners, in the second series, on 14th August 1942. Six of these were investigated. On two of them, the wound was opened for a second time during the period of healing, in the first case after one month and in the second case after three months. The pus which flowed out from the wounds was carefully collected and investigated. There was no case of death in these groups (save for shooting); no damage of the nervous or vessel-organs was confirmed by investigated patients; also no more significant changes in the bones of the three patients, beyond slight periosteal inflammation.

The second type of operation on soft parts was performed on Sept. 30, (10 prisoners) and Oct. 7, 1942, (12 prisoners). From the group of the 30th September — 4 persons were investigated;



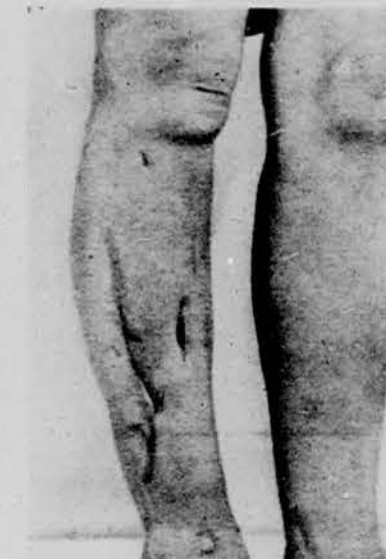
Pict. 1 — Zofia Kawińska. The scar of soft parts of the right leg after cutting without suture.



Pict. 2 — Stefania Łotecka. The scar of the right leg partly sutured.



Pict. 3 — Maria Halina Pietrzak. Three scars of the right leg, the ones on the side partly sutured, the others without sutures.



Pict. 4 — Czesława Kostecka. Scars of the right leg without sutures partly coalescent with the bone; without puls in the peripheral arteries. Paralysis of nervus peroneus.

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Pict. 5 — Maria Kuśmierczuk. Large sears of the right leg, a loss of muscles, paralysis of nervus peroneus. Suspicion of infection with gaseous gangrene.



Pict. 5b — Maria Kuśmierczuk. A picture from another side.



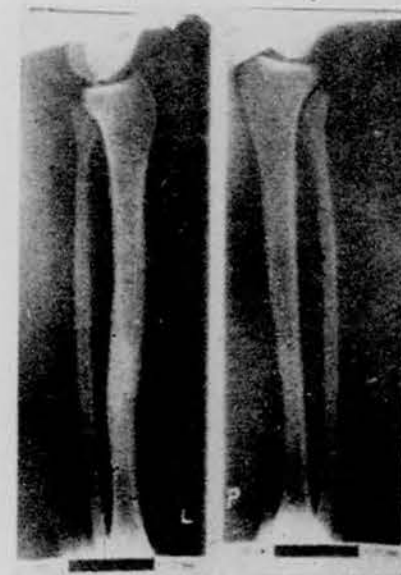
Pict. 6 — Jadwiga Dzido. Wide incisions on the right leg after an injection of infectious matter, the loss of muscles.



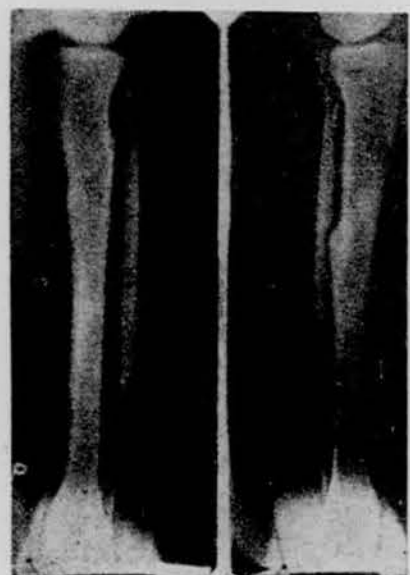
Pict. 6b Jadwiga Dzido. The picture from another side.



Pict. 8 — Eugenia Mikulska. Injury the same as in patient No. 29.



Pict. 9 — Krystyna Dąbska Jaszkowa. Radiogram of both legs. Reaction of both fibulas.



Pict. 10 — Janina Marciniak. The state after a fracture of both tibial bones.



Pict. 11 — Maria G. Sears after a bone operation.



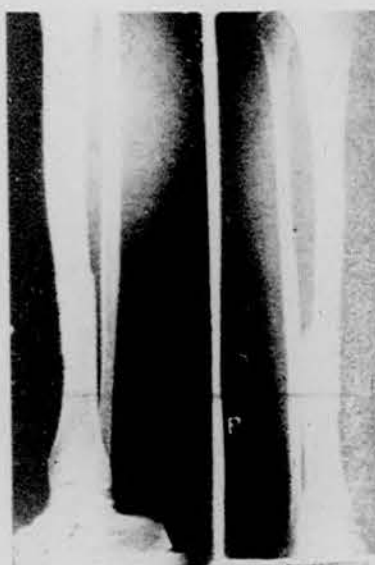
Pict. 12 — Barbara Piórzek. Radiograph of the right leg. Produces grave changes after an infection of the tibia.



Pict. 13 — Irena Backiel. Skin scars after a bone operation.



Pict. 13b — Irena Backiel. The state after a fracture of the right tibia.



Pict. 14 — Leonarda Bien. Radiograph of both legs. The state after a fracture of both tibial bones.

from the October 7th group, seven ex-prisoners; altogether 11 persons. Of 22 persons operated on in these two days 5 persons died, two were shot and 4 did not appear at the investigation. On persons operated in this group the undershank was dissected on the outside and front-outside part and the wounds were sewn or left open. Immediately after the operation in some cases the symptoms of tetanus were confirmed; this group received serum-injections which were doubled after the death of one patient. On the second group grave changes were observed on the undershank (swelling, changed skin-colour, bladders on the skin). The present state of the cicatrices, great muscle-losses, complete paralysis of the nerve peroneus and grave peripheric circulation perturbances in the case of three patients along with the declaration of the three ex-prisoners and Dr. Maczka, all make it possible to confirm that in the days from Sept. 30, to Oct. 7, 1942, the infection for tetanus and gas-gangrene were used. That could also be the cause of the high-death-rate in these two days (5 death cases out of 22 operated).

In the next series, 4 prisoners were operated in various times in the same way: on each woman four dissections were performed, one on the right and one on the left shank, and one on the right and one on the left undershank. These cuts were successively opened every two weeks, after 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks. The wounds healed on the spot (pus-complications were observed only in one case), beyond the cicatrices there were found no other functional or organic changes. The type of this operation indicates that it was a typical experiment for the study of biological processes in operated wounds.

The next series were the infection-operations. In the intravenous anaesthetic was introduced an infectious agent under the skin of the undershank, which was later cured. In the earlier group there was good result of the therapy and no other operations were needed. But in the later group the toxin of the infectious agent had been obviously great, because conservative

therapy was not efficient. Every patient of this group had grave phlegmons which required cutting on a smaller or larger scale. Later therapy continued for 5-6 months. In this group muscle-losses were confirmed (2 patients); also the paralysis of the nerve peroneus (3 patients). The appearance of the cicatrices confirms the gravity of the infection. The muscle-losses raise the suspicion that the muscles were put aside, possibly with the pretext of histological investigations. In this group belongs a case with distinct traces of sutures which, distinctly showed the infection character of the experience.

Isolated among the cases of operations on soft parts is the case in which the undershank was cut and the wound sewn afterwards. There was no fever whereas the suture was taken up on the 5th day. The wound was opened and was sewn again, and afterwards healed without complications.

In the group of bone operations is one case operated 6 times during one year. First the undershank was cut and the wound infected. After one month the wound was cut once more and infected. After one year both undershanks were cut on the middle side. Twelve days later these wounds were opened again; in wounds unhealed bone-ledges were taken off, first from the left, later from the right shin. Bone-operations (16) began with the resection on both-sides of 8 cm. fibula by one prisoner, while on the right side the bone-resection with periosteum was performed, on the left the resection of subperiosteal. On the right side the losses were not restored, while on the left side the bone regenerated.

Operations performed on 7 prisoners consisted of taking off from the crista tibiae the bones-ledges; in the beginning one ledge of the right tibia and one of the left tibia was taken off; later two ledges were taken from each tibia (right and left), which confirm the doubled cicatrices and changes in the roentgen-picture.

On 3 prisoners several bone-operations were performed, repeated each 4 weeks. The roentgen-picture of these patients

shows distinct changes and the operated bones (tibia) became inflamed. The high fever after each operation raises the suspicion that these were operations of an infection-type. One of these patients during the operation time suffered of heart disease (insufficiencia valvulae seminularis).

One ex-prisoner's cicatrices on the right undershank, indicated that bone ledges from the tibia were taken off. The other right shank indicates, that the healing by this patient was not complicated by infection. Dr. Maczka made the declaration, that on this patient "muscle operations with inoculating of bones in them" were performed. The state of the cicatrices to-day and the radiological examination does not show this detail. It does not diminish the importance of the declaration, because the inoculated bones could be put aside.

On 5 ex-prisoners the fracture of one or two shinsbones (tibia) was performed by operation. All these prisoners were operated several times, as many as 5 operations; 4 women did not become infected. One suffered infection either by accident or as a result of intentional infection during the operation.

Recapitulation: In the concentration camp of Ravensbrück, in the period of August 1, 1942, to August 20, 1943, the German doctors (Prof. Gebhardt, Dr. Fischer, Dr. Rosenthal, Dr. Schildavsky and Dr. Oberhäuser) have performed on 74 prisoners of Polish nationality operations without any medical justification and against the will of their victims. These operations had an experimental character. The experimental group included a small number of aseptique operations on soft parts, aiming at inquiring into the biological action in the wound. The greatest part of the operations on soft parts had an infectious character, and the infection was introduced by injections or by cutting the tissue. The infection material in use contained pus bacterium of different malignancy and tetanus- and gangrene-bacillus. These operations were a grave and dangerous violation of health, 5 victims died, as a direct result of this criminal activity. In the group of bone-operations, ope-

rations with fractures of one or two bones had an experimental character as also did the operation with bone infection. These victims also suffered a grave and dangerous violation of health. On some of them the results of this criminal activity still appears as recurrent infection. Some of them remained permanently crippled and some suffered paralysis of the nerve peroneus.

The experimental operation consisted in taking off of bone ledges from the tibia, even doubled ledges from one bone, surely aiming at their transplantation to German soldiers.

These experimental operations on people are crimes against humanity. The criminal activity of German doctors in Ravensbrück is even greater, because their activity was not in accordance with the oath expressed when the medical diploma is received. Without any medical justification they performed operations, knowing that the lives of the patients were in grave danger, that the experience caused the death of 5 victims; that patients would become permanently crippled and unable to work as a result. The arrangement of the operation scheme makes it clear that they were fully conscious of its results; that they permitted the shooting of 6 victims, on whom experiments were performed; that the scientific problems, it must be said, which were the object of the experiments, could be investigated by similar experiments on animals; that even the use of the life of animals could raise doubt, because these were problems already known (bones-regeneration of the periosteum, biological phenomenon in the wound, tetanus, gangrene, inflammable changes in bones, bonefractures, etc). These doctors in a unworthy manner unworthy of their profession exploited their temporary power on defenceless prisoners, to whom nobody, at that time, could give defence.

EXTERMINATION OF PATIENTS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS

IX

Extermination by the Germans in Poland of psychiatric patients may seem — on the background of the totality of German crimes committed on the Polish territory — not important enough to deserve special description. In comparison with the millions of innocent, sound and psychically normal victims of the Hitlerite regime, the murdering of several thousands of patients with mental disorder may appear rather insignificant.

And yet this crime should be treated separately and recorded in history not only because its victims were sick people toward whom there exists a universal moral duty of assistance and protection; and not only because the extermination of psychiatric patients had not ceased to be a crime even according to the Hitlerite legislation which provided only for sterilization of certain categories of these patients

Special treatment of this particular crime is justified above all by the fact that this crime is so characteristic of the Hitlerite ideology, the mentality and ethics of the national-socialist leaders, the general attitude of those representatives of a "higher race" who planned to introduce in Europe a "new deal".

This crime clearly demonstrated the principle of a primitive utilitarianism without any moral, religious or legal scruples which induced Hitlerite leaders to eliminate from society the so-called unproductive elements, which often only temporarily, were a burden for the society. Exterminated were not only people suffering from chronic mental diseases or mental debility, but also, and very often, persons suffering from temporary psychoses who, with proper care, would have regained their mental health and returned to normal life.

Extermination ("Ausmerzungen") of all those people was dictated by utilitarian reasons, specifically the desire to save the cost of maintaining unproductive persons, "beings unworthy of life" ("lebensunwerten") who were a burden for the State and society. It was natural, therefore, that the Hitlerites murdered the insane not only in Poland but also in Germany. German documents concerning the extermination of these people in Germany, found after the war by the Allies, reveal very clearly the motives that led the Hitlerite authorities to commit these crimes.

One document — an official report on the murdering in Germany in the years 1940 and 1941, of 70,273 patients from various hospitals and asylums — was worked out from the point of view of savings in money and food. The extermination included, beside the psychiatric patients, also certain categories of incurables, cripples, old persons, etc.

This report, entitled "The Achievements of the Action" ("Die bisher geleistete Arbeit der Aktion") and prepared by E. Brandt, is divided into four parts:

1) "What has been achieved or 'disinfected' in various establishments" ("Was ist bisher in den einzelnen Anstalten geleistet bzw. desinfiziert worden?").

2) "How much money will be saved through a 'disinfection' of 70,273 patients" ("Was wird durch die Desinfektion von 70,273 Kranken an RM erspart?").

3) "The analysis of the total savings of RM 885,439,800" ("Wie setzt sich die Gesamtersparnissumme von RM 885,439,800 zusammen?").

4) "Amounts of food saved through a 'disinfection' of 70,273 patients" ("Was wird durch die Desinfektion von 70,273 an den verschiedenen Lebensmitteln erspart?").

The terms "geleistet bzw. desinfiziert" ("achieved or disinfected") mean the extermination of patients, "disinfection" being a mass murder of "unproductive elements".

The first part of the report contains the data concerning the number of patients murdered in various German hospitals and asylums; in all Germany 35,224 patients had been murdered in 1940 and 35,049 in 1941, which for the period of these two years — 1940 and 1941 — gives the total of 70,273 persons.

The second part consists of calculations of the amount of money saved by this "disinfection". Assuming that the cost of maintenance of one patient amounted to RM 3.50 per day, it was calculated that the murdering of 70,273 persons was tantamount to an annual saving of RM 88,543,980; assuming further that these patients would, on an average, have to be kept in hospitals and asylums for 10 years, it was concluded that the total savings were RM 885,439,800.

Parts 3 and 4 contain a detailed analysis of the above savings, expressed in money and in various kinds of food. The saved amounts of bread, flour, margarine, butter, eggs, cheese, vegetables, salt, etc., are specified, thus, for instance, it is stated that the above mentioned mass murder of 70,273 persons will save Germany in the next 10 years 33,731,040 eggs (which corresponds to RM 3,710,414.40), 88,544,040 kilogrammes of vegetables (RM 13,281,606), etc.

Thus the crime, of which seventy thousand helpless patients had fallen victims, had been reduced to a number of lifeless ciphers and diagrams, to inventory items of saved food and money. Extermination of the whole mass of "beings unworthy of life" was carried out, as may be seen from the above, in accordance with the instructions of Dr. Conti, the "leader" of German physicians, from the point of view of certain savings. The "unproductive elements" were sent to death without any scruples, to save the Third Reich certain amounts of provisions, both during the war and after it.

The Hitlerite authorities, having no hesitation in exterminating the lunatics in their own country, certainly had no

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The Hitlerite authorities, having no hesitation in exterminating the lunatics in their own country, certainly had no

scruples in taking analogous measures in Poland, where this "action" in fact included a vast majority of the insanes.

Even in the only great psychiatric hospital in the Government General, Tworki, near Warsaw, which was not included in the exterminatory action the consequences of the criminal Hitlerite policy were clearly apparent. In all probability the only reason why Tworki was not destined to share the fate of other asylums, was that the German authorities used it as a fictitious cemetery of lunatics from other hospitals and asylums. It must be remembered that the extermination of lunatics was carried out in secret; the patients were removed from their asylums under the pretext of being transferred to some other place, generally to Tworki. The families sending their letters to the former addresses, were, as a rule, answered by the management of the hospital concerned that the patient had been transferred to Tworki. After some time the family was notified that the patient had died in the hospital and had been buried there. And in the Tworki cemetery a new fictitious grave appeared.

True, the patients of the Tworki hospital were not being exterminated. Their number was reduced by another means — by starving them to death. As a result of starvation, mortality increased rapidly: while in 1939, there were 177 deaths (9.8 per cent) the data for 1940 and 1941, are 402 (24 per cent) and 576 (30 per cent) respectively; in the next years of the German occupation, the rate of mortality almost reached 40 per cent.

Similar measures were taken by the Germans in the Kulpar-ków asylum where the majority of patients was starved to death (there were 1179 deaths during the eleven months between 1st July 1941, and 1st June 1942, the average monthly mortality in that period being almost equal to the annual one in pre-war times).

As a rule, starving the patients almost to death constituted the first stage of their extermination; in all Polish lunatic

asylums, the food rations were reduced so drastically that a sudden increase of mortality was inevitable.

The extermination in form of mass murders in almost all cases followed an identical pattern, which was very typical of all Hitlerite mass crimes, planned and prepared in detail, and then systematically carried into execution in conformity with the plan.

As a rule, the patients with mental disorder were taken out of the hospital and executed in some solitary place, the traces of the crime being then very carefully obliterated. Sometimes they were poisoned with gas in special cars, and in a few cases transferred to extermination camps.

There were, however, some cases where the patients were murdered on the premises of the hospital. In the lunatic asylum in Cheim Lubelski, for instance, this criminal action was as follows:

In the first days of January 1940, the hospital in Cheim Lubelski, where 440 patients were under treatment, was visited by several Gestapo officers, who had carefully examined both the premises and the list of patients.

A few days later, in the morning hours of 12th January 1940, 30 Gestapo-men headed by a non-commissioned officer Bielisch came to the hospital without, at first, disclosing the purpose of their visit. At the same time, the workers of the neighbouring brick-kiln were ordered to dig two big ditches at a distance of some 150 metres from the hospital.

In the afternoon all the medical personnel of the hospital was ordered at first to gather in one room, and several hours later to leave the premises immediately.

At dusk the Gestapo-men began to drive the patients out of building No. 2. Machine guns were placed at the entrance door and fire opened, so that those driven out of the building were shot at the door-step, each individual falling on the ever increasing pile of corpses. Those who showed resistance were

hunted by the Germans all through the building and, when caught were thrown out of the windows.

A young girl suffering from the cyclic psychosis but actually in a remission period, after being hunted through several rooms was finally caught on the second floor, thrown out of the window and shot.

One of the machine gun was served personally by Bielisch, the chief of the detachment.

Since several patients succeeded in breaking through the ring of Gestapo-men, a general hunt all over the premises followed, ending in the murder of the unfortunate runaways. One of the patients, already wounded, fled about one kilometer before being caught and killed. An other patient, hid himself in some buildings at a distance of about $\frac{3}{4}$ km. from the hospital, where he stayed for about a month before being discovered and killed.

The patients of the second hospital building were murdered in a similar way, being driven out of the house and massacred with machine guns.

The most difficult task for the Germans was to catch all the children (the patients of the children's ward) who dispersed all over the building, hid in wardrobes, under beds, etc. All the children were of course, finally found out and shot.

In the night the corpses were watched by sentries, the groans of the dying were heard, since some of the victims were still alive, but severely wounded.

By morning, the Germans began to requisition peasant carts, which happened to be passing by. They sent the drivers away and forced the brick-kiln workers to load the carts with the corpses. The victims were then buried in two ditches previously dug for that purpose.

During the removal of the bodies, a woman turned out to be still alive; when she emerged from under the corpses and tried to escape she was immediately shot.

In this way all the 440 patients (304 men, 128 women and 18 children) had been killed.

The above-described massacre of mental patients was not a typical example of the German extermination methods, the usual method being the organisation of mass executions outside of hospitals and without any witnesses. In most cases the patients were removed under the pretext of being evacuated to some other hospital. In this way was organized the extermination of patients from the asylums in Kochanówka near Łódź, in Chorosze near Białystok, in Kołoborów near Starogard, etc. The patients, to the last individual, were taken to the neighbouring forests and shot.

Special mention must be made about the psychiatric hospital in Obrzyce in the Regained Western Territories, to which the Hitlerite authorities directed for extermination the mental patients from various German asylums. In Obrzyce at least 13,000 patients, almost exclusively Germans (+ a certain number of war prisoners), were killed. Extermination began at the end of 1941. Every few weeks groups of 100—200 patients were sent in by train. The patients were given in their soup a soporific which made them all asleep. Then they were killed by injections. During some period, as many as 50 persons were murdered daily in this way. The victims were buried in the hospital grave-yard without coffins, 3—4 bodies in one grave. Shortly every patient's family was informed of the death, with apoplexy given as the cause of death in most cases.

The administrative manager of the asylum, a German named Grabowsky who was the actual director of the asylum and a fanatical Hitlerite, used to force the patients to work under conditions similar to those existing in prisons. They were supervised by armed attendants who had precisely the same relationship to the patients as did the camp watchmen in forced labour camps to the inmates. All the able-bodied patients were forced to work very hard; "they are to be squeezed out like lemons" —

as Grabowsky used to repeat. Patients unable to work were exterminated with injections.

As far as general statistics on the Hitlerite crimes committed on the insane in occupied Poland are concerned, the available data, by no means complete, are as follows:

Kochanówka Hospital (near Łódź):

First extermination — 13—15th March 1940, second extermination 27—28th March, 1940, third extermination in July and August 1941. The total number of victims = 692.

Warta Hospital (Province of Łódź):

499 patients murdered on April 2nd, 3rd and 4th 1940.

Otwock Asylum (near Warsaw):

Since 1940 destined exclusively for Jews; in August 1942, the general extermination of Jews in Otwock included the murdering of all the patients (number undefined) and the transfer of physicians and attendants to the extermination camp in Treblinka.

Gostynin Hospital (Province of Warsaw):

Extermination of 48 patients between 3rd February and 3rd June, 1940; extermination of 59 patients on June 9, 1941. The total number of victims = 107.

Kobierzyn Hospital (near Kraków):

Extermination of over 500 patients on June 23, 1942.

Chelm Lubelski Hospital:

The total number of 440 patients, were murdered on January 12, 1942.

Choroszcza Hospital (near Białystok):

Extermination in 1941 of all in-patients and most out-patients. The total number of victims = 464.

Wilno Hospital:

Extermination of 400 Jews (150 in-patients and 250 out-patients, 500 patients starved to death).

Dziekanka Hospital (near Gniezno):

595 patients murdered in December 1939;

448 patients murdered in January 1940;

158 patients murdered in June 1941;

the total number of victims = 1201.

Kościán Hospital (Province of Poznań):

534 patients murdered in January 1940.

Owińska Hospital (near Poznań):

1100 patients murdered in the period between October 15 and December 20, 1939.

Świecie Hospital (Province of Pomorze):

1350 patients murdered in September and October 1939.

Kocborów Hospital (Province of Pomorze):

2342 patients murdered in the period between September 29, 1939 and January 11, 1940.

Lubliniec Hospital (Upper Silesia):

221 children of the Ward B (94 per cent of the patients of that Ward) killed with Luminal in the period between August 1942 and November 1944.

Extermination of psychiatric patients in Poland constitutes only one link, and a quite insignificant one at that, in the long chain of crimes committed by the Germans in this country in the years 1939—1945. The Germans aimed at annihilation of elements considered either economically useless and consequently imposing an extra burden on the economy of the Third Reich or dangerous, for racial, national, or political reasons, to the German imperialistic and expansionist plans.

While the extermination of the largest possible number of Poles in general was, from the German point of view, important as a step toward realizing the German political plans in Eastern Europe, the extermination of patients with mental disorder was dictated by purely economic motives.

The above mentioned economic gains have been found a sufficient justification of mass crimes committed in hospitals.

Since from the point of view of the Hitlerite philosophy all races and nations classified as "inferior" were in fact "beings unworthy of life", it took the Hitlerite "ideologists" no pains to include into the category of "beings unworthy of life" all those individuals who because of their mental disorders could not be properly exploited for the purposes of the German war machine.

This crime, carried out with the help of German physicians and nurses, has grown out of the same soil as all other German war crimes: the elimination from the German mind of the idea of MAN was tantamount to the elimination of all those moral principles which might have opposed to the ruthless extermination of "beings unworthy of life".

"DOCUMENTS OF POLISH CRUELTY" (METHODS USED BY HITLERITE PROPAGANDA)

X

In 1940 a publication was issued in Berlin under the title "Documents of Polish Cruelty".

It was pointed out in the title that the contents had been compiled, worked out and edited by the German Information Bureau at the recommendation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This official German publication has reached many countries, therefore its assertions and conclusions are of great importance.

"Documents of Polish Cruelty" establish that the losses of the German nation in Poland, in 1939, after the outbreak of war, amount to 58,000 Germans murdered. So many defenceless Germans were supposed to have perished at the hands of the Poles in September 1939, from the moment the war had broken out until the liberation of the German population from the Polish "yoke". Allegedly, 58,000 persons from among the civilian German population, notwithstanding their age or sex, became victims of "Polish cruelty" in South Pomerania, Wielkopolska and a part of the Łódź province. A particular stress was laid on the crimes allegedly perpetrated on the defenceless German population at Bydgoszcz.

What are the theses of Hitlerite propaganda, in the light of the documents found now and of German documents left by the Germans when they were running away from Poland.

The German Information Bureau states that the Poles murdered 58,000 defenceless Germans, out of whom 12,857 victims have been identified, and the remaining 45,000 missing Germans should also be accounted for as dead.

However, in the archives of the German "Central Burial Department" we find data relating only to 3,302 victims! More-

over, in many cases we notice a glaring arbitrariness in the qualifying of the deceased as victims of Polish crimes, and even many of the accusations seem quite groundless. There are such cases as e. g. death from pneumonia in a camp for war prisoners (Gustaw Dalekan) the death of a soldier ("volksdeutsch Jan Mokrski) in action on the front, and such characteristic cases as e. g. the exhumation of the Baum family's dead bodies in Poznań (collective suicide by turning on the gas taps) and their transfer to the graveyard for "murdered Germans". In a certain case a dead body found near Białystok was said to be that of a German; after examining the personal documents found on the dead body with ultra-violet rays, it appeared that the dead man's name was "Trawiński" and that he came from Grudziądz. Despite these facts the head of the "Central Burial Department", Dr. Schmidt qualified the remains as belonging to the category of German victims, pointing out that Trawiński's mother might have been of German origin...

Those who had no documents whatever were placed in the group of "unknown Germans" and the statement that the dead body was German depended on certain details such as appearance or clothing (kind of material, stockings, etc.) which was obviously quite deceiving and arbitrary. These details were supplied by a reliable witness, A. Szymański, who had worked for many years at the laboratory of the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Poznań. He stated also that, when the collective graves were opened in which Polish and German bodies had been buried together, one could see, at once, which graves contained exclusively the remains of persons killed by air bombs or artillery fire. Moreover, this was confirmed by the statements of the local population that had witnessed the German raids on the fleeing masses of people at the beginning of the war.

During the whole period when the German "Central Burial Office" was in operation, 486 dead bodies were identified at

the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Poznań, and the number of remains, which after the exhumation were qualified as German, amounted to approximately 1,200 and comprises both identified and unidentified bodies.

As far as methods applied in the identifying of dead bodies were concerned, we often came up against such remarks as: "identified on the basis of material samples". Witness Szymański who had cut out small samples of material from the dead people's clothes, stated that the samples were afterwards shown to relations requesting information or were sent to members of the families of the deceased to their homes. Considering that the corpses were buried without any coffins, and the dyes of the textiles are apt under such circumstances to change quickly, serious doubt arises as to the results of such a method of identifying the remains.

Nevertheless, the files contain a great number of such identifications. No wonder that occurrences were frequent, that after the remains of a German husband, allegedly murdered by the Poles, had been handed over to the wife and buried with great ceremony in the honorary tomb of victims of Polish terror, the victim of crime very shortly afterwards returned home in very good health...

As for the alleged murders perpetrated by Poles on the defenceless civilian German population in Bydgoszcz, the German population passes in silence over the origin of the Bydgoszcz incidents. It was never mentioned that on September 3rd, 1939, the Germans began in Bydgoszcz a diversionary action premeditated and prepared to meet the Polish Forces marching across the town. It was not mentioned anywhere that the Germans opened fire simultaneously from several points in the whole town; that machine guns were used; that the most important thoroughfares and bridges of the city were under fire, the German outposts were camouflaged in the attics of houses, on Protestant church-towers, beyond the cemetery walls. The

German publication does not mention, either, that many of the German diversionaries caught by the Polish authorities did not come from Bydgoszcz, but were inhabitants of Berlin, Gdańsk, Świecie, etc., that many of them did not speak Polish or all, that facts were established of disguising the Germans sent to Bydgoszcz as Polish policemen, etc. In view of the organized diversionary action the Polish Army had to act as every other army would have acted if it were confronted by enemy diversion in wartime. As for the number of persons of German nationality, who perished at Bydgoszcz at that time, official German documents give the following figures:

A list of victims, made out by the local Statistical Office in June 1941 comprised 341 names, another, a little later one, with fewer names only 300. In this way the number of the would-be 1,000 German victims in Bydgoszcz appearing in Albert Forster's speech (quoted in the publication "Bloody Polish Terror") in the light of the same German documents drops to 300. Moreover, when estimating the value of all German numerical data one should remember the following characteristic documents:

The letter written by the head of the "Central Burial Office" on October 10th, 1941, bearing the number 10654, contains the instruction that if the circumstances of death are unknown it is best to give the day of the murder, as that of the "Bloody Sunday" September 3, 1939. The figures supplied by the German authorities changed constantly. In the publication "Poland's bloody guilt" they talk already about the murdering by the Poles of nearly all the male population of Bydgoszcz and a considerable part of the women and children. As the percentage of the German population amounted, in 1939, to over 6 per cent, the German victims would necessarily have come to many thousands. Meanwhile, the German documents, as we know, contain data relating to scarcely 300 Germans.

Particularly remarkable was the supposed order of the Polish Government calling for a pogrom of Germans, broadcast by the Polish Radio as order No. 59 partly in code. About this order, a German publication officially issued at the recommendation of the III Reich's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Documents of Polish Cruelty" says that "the appeal of the Polish Government, broadcast by the Polish Radio on 1. 9. is one of the most important proofs showing that the acts of violence applied to the Germans were a centrally organized action ordered by the authorities in an official way."

What is the above accusation based on? The evidence consists of the statements of 3 to 4 witnesses who had heard, as they confessed, the text of the radio appeal and quoted this text in the German version. These statements are as follows:

Dr. Wiese's wife in Poznań and Dr. Reinman heard on 1. 9. 1939 over the Polish Radio the following words:

"Attention! Attention! Germans and Czechs! Order No. (the witness did not remember the number) must be carried out immediately."

Dr. Klussek in Poznań heard over the Warsaw Radio:

"Attention! Attention! To all tribunals, prosecutors and other authorities! Circular No. (the witness could not remember the number). Here the cipher began, which the witness did not remember."

Such are the proofs on which the German authorities based their charges against Poland.

In reality this circular concerned the amnesty granted to prisoners at the beginning of the war. The draft of the amnesty decree had been worked out at the Ministry of Justice before the war. As it was anticipated that war conditions might prevent the decree from reaching the proper prosecutors, it was sent beforehand to the prosecutors' offices with a notice that the prosecutors were to start the bringing into force of the amnesty decree and particularly the releasing from prison only

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as a result of a radio call after the outbreak of the war. In September 1939, after the Germans had started war action the amnesty act was broadcast over the Warsaw Radio and was addressed to tribunals, prosecutors and all authorities concerned with the administration of justice.

This very circular was made by German propaganda into a bill of indictment against the Polish State.

The final thesis of German publications concerning the supposed Polish crimes in the assertion that the Polish State must never rise again, because Poles cannot be placed on equal footing with other nations because of the barbarism that they have displayed.

So, the whole propaganda action had a long range political purpose.

The recently found German deeds and documents which we have discussed above, show plainly the groundlessness of the German charges and the falsehood of the Hitlerite propaganda.

The deliberate falsehood of the official Hitlerite propaganda, having as their aim to account for the German crimes committed in Poland, are of a decidedly criminal character.

AUTHORS' LIST

Sophie Czyńska

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Dr Zygmunt Klukowski

How the eviction of Poles by the Germans from the area of Zamość was carried out.

Eugene Szroj

Bełżec extermination camp).*

Zdzisław Łukasziewicz, Judge of the Court at Siedlce.

Sobibór extermination camp).*

Zdzisław Łukasziewicz, Judge of the Court at Siedlce.

Stutthof Concentration camp).*

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Extermination of patients with mental disorders.

Dr Jan Bossowski, Professor of the University at Poznań.

„Documents of Polish cruelty“ (Methods used by Hitlerite propaganda).

* Summary of the Judicial Investigation.