Forced labor was part of the program of the biological war introduced by
Hitler. Its objective consisted primarily in reducing the number of populations
in the occupied territories, and in using their manpower; in the case of the Jews,
it was a stage on the way to ultimate annihilation. In his memorandum of May 7, 1941
Rosenberg stated that

"The Jewish question will have to undergo a decisive solution through the institution of ghettos or labor battalions. Forced labor is to be introduced."

Forced labor began by forcibly separating families, confining to special labor

camps, and separating men from women. The food rations were such as to keep them

first barely alive and to enable them to carry out their work. Lack of freedom,

long working hours, and the most unsanitary conditions were designed for the pur-
pose of the extermination of Jews.

As a rule forced labor began with deportation and ended in death chambers

established in concentration camps, or by tortures in labor camps. However, this

crime has its specific characteristics which stand out from the number of other

crimes committed by the Germans.

2) See Report of the Executive III, 1941, decree concerning food supply for Jews,

One of the direct consequences of the anti-Jewish measures of the German Government in the reoccupation of Germany and the search for new kinds of work — even the efficient and most essential rejected by German workers. However, a new factor appeared to influence the situation.

As the military operations were approaching, the need for manpower became increasingly urgent. Göring, as chairman of the Four-Year Plan Committee, using his dictatorial power, invited Minister of Economy Walter Funk to take energetic measures for the creation of a large reserve of workers. The press was resounding with pleas for the inclusion of Jews into the production process.

"It is not a question of Jews being unable to find work in Germany... It has now become a question of Jews not being allowed to be idle." [3]

Though heavy in need of manpower and willing to utilize Jews for the most difficult labor, the German Government continued its policy of segregation and discrimination even in regard to this category of the Jewish population.

In March, 1938, the President of the German Institute of Labor Placement and Unemployment Insurance declared the following:

"It is not in the interest of the state to leave the labor power of unemployed Jews unused, and therefore even to have to support them from public funds without receiving any service in return. An effort must therefore be made to employ all unemployed and employable Jews as much as possible and to combine this with the release of German workers for urgent and important state or political projects. The employment of Jews shall take place in fields of enterprises of building construction, soil reclamation, etc., separately from others." [4]

Though working under the harshest physical and moral conditions with a
minimum remuneration, and under discriminatory laws, Jewish laborers still had
does kind of personal freedom. To be sure, their labor was compulsory (Arbeit
pflichtig). Forced labor (Arbeitserziehung) for Jews was introduced in Germany after
the outbreak of hostilities against Poland, and in Poland at the end of October
1939, when Jewish laborers were transformed into slaves.

At the end of September 1939, the German had marked out a detailed plan of
dividing the entire Jewish population into labor battalions supervised by SS men.

At the same time, a decree of October 26, 1939 was published in occupied Poland
concerning the introduction of compulsory labor for the Polish population in
occupied Poland, with the provision that a special decree would be issued with
regard to Jews. 6 On the same date a decree was published concerning the intro-
duction of forced labor for the Jewish population of the Government General,
providing that Jews were to be assembled in forced labor battalions.

By virtue of this decree, an ordinance was issued on December 12, 1939,
regulating forced labor in the territory of the Government General for Jews
between the ages of 14 to 60. The labor term was fixed at ten years in special
labor camps, with a reservation that it was to be prolonged if the educational
aims had not been attained. It was also ordered

5) E. E. Reich, Footnotes, September 30, 1939.
6) Verordnungenblatt des Generalgouvernements, Section 1, Subsection 2, 1939, p.4.
Failure to register or report for forced labor carried a prison penalty up to ten years. The same punishment applied to members of Jewish Councils who failed to register Jews for forced labor. Male Jews from 15 to 60 years of age were subject to registration.

The difference between compulsory labor and forced labor becomes quite obvious when comparing this decree with the October 26, 1939 decree concerning compulsory labor for Poles. Basically, the differences consisted in the following:

(a) Poles had the right to select their occupation and conclude labor agreements. For that purpose they were to receive labor cards.

(b) Poles who could prove permanent employment useful to the community were not to be called for public work services.

(c) Wages for Poles were provided for "at equitable rates."

(d) The welfare of Poles subject to compulsory labor and that of their families were to be protected as far as possible.

Forced labor for Jews was conceived and established as a punishment. They were forced to work on the basis of labor agreements and were considered to special labor.

1) *Kronenblatt des Generalgouvernements*, 1939, p. 204.
2) *Amets*, 1940, 26, 73, p. 377.
The decree made no provision for their wages; they were deprived of their working equipment (tools) and subject to hard labor up to ten years for any violation of the provisions of the decree. The work of Jews assured the character of slave labor, the sole feature being lack of freedom in selecting work and in concluding labor agreements. The return of slave labor in even more emphasized by the decree.

January 20, 1940 decree of the Chief Director of SS and Police in the Government General for the Occupied Polish Territories, charging the Jewish Councils with conscription, supply and control of Jewish laborers; the Jewish Councils were also charged with selecting men for labor battalions, and often were required to fill labor quotas beyond their possibilities.

In addition, the Jewish Councils were compelled to send workers to set up barracks for Jewish labor camps and to furnish conscripts with working clothes, shoes, and food until they reached destination.

Three labor groups were introduced under this system: labor battalions, labor camps, and penal camps. The labor battalions were located in the vicinity of towns in which the Jews lived; the labor camps were built in centers where large public work projects were to be carried out and the laborers were brought to these camps for an extended stay; the penal camps were concentration camps destined for those who could regular forced labor or in any other way violated the forced labor law. Among these Jews there were skilled workers who the war industry needed badly.
Frenk also admitted it in his Diary:

"...just in those territories the Jews had had various skilled training, and it would be a pity if this manpower would not be usefully exploited."

However, this rational exploitation Frenk saw only in that the Jews had to be

"gathered in columns and had to be employed wherever there was a pressing need."

But Frenk even changed his opinion as to using Jews where there was a need for manpower since the Jewish population "must be extracted from the Jewish Jewish citizen," it was to be put to work on roads.

Sending of Jews for compulsory labor went on in an accelerated tempo and was calculated the reserves of Jewish manpower. In this connection is of interest a conversation of Dr. Flechter, Governor of Vienna, of November 7, 1940 concerning a telephone conversation he had with Colonel Huber of the Gestapo. In reply to the question of how many able-bodied Jews are still available in order to take place for the contemplated case projects, the author of the memorandum laterally stated that "there are not many more Jews available." However, he cautiously called attention to the fact that "if more should still be available, the Gestapo has no

[ Footnotes: 
Many deportations to Poland had already begun in the fall of 1941. At the same time, the Polish Labor Service published semi-official statements to the effect that a decree concerning employment of Jews, whereby the authority, E. Knorren, legal expert, announced that

"The German people's boundless racial feelings will not allow uncontrolled penetration of the foreign workers in the social improvement of the third Reich. It is necessary to emphasize their social inferiority as compared to the German race. Workers of alien races are merely protectors of the German Reich, and as such, not entitled to the privileges enjoyed by German workers."

According to this decree (October 21, 1941) Jews were barred from the German working community and thus excluded from legislation protecting foreign workers. They could not work as apprentices and were not entitled to special pay for work on Sundays, holidays or overtime work; they received no pay for time off caused by illness or childbirth. Jews were excluded from old age security; unemployment was limited to the barest maintenance, and they could be discharged on 24 hours' notice. Also, they were forced to work in segregated groups and had to accept whatever work was assigned to them by official employment agencies, regardless of the nature of the work or its location.

Jewish labor service camps were set up very rapidly all over Germany. In the vicinity of Berlin separate barracks were built for Jews working on road gangs under...
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88 supervisors. Jews employed as factory workers were segregated under Nazi rules and, in many cases, forced to wear yellow armbands. This lasted, however, only until general mass deportation carried away the last labor groups as well.

On November 26, 1940, the Plenipotentiary General for Warsaw sent a secret circular to the Presidents of the Master Employment Offices requesting exchange of Jews still in the ghetto against Polish laborers who in turn were to be deported. The Jews were to be deported on a satellite system. The circular also states that as a rule this should first be applied to Jews engaged in moral work. The remaining skilled Jewish laborers will be left until their Polish replacements have become sufficiently familiar with the work. 14)

In addition, in February, 1941, Hitler, as Reich Leader of the SS, in agreement with the Plenipotentiary General for Warsaw and the Nazi Minister for Armaments and Munitions, for reasons concerning the security of the State, decided to remove:

"...their places of work all Jews who are still working freely and not in camps and either transferred them to a labor camp or collected them for removal."15)

In France the deportations of Jews to labor camps were announced by an ordination of General von Mackensen:

14) Large number of original Judeo-Slavonic elements will be deported to forced labor in the Eastern territories.8

Similar measures were introduced by the occupation authorities in other occupied countries as well. Jews were deported to Poland where they were placed in 27 labor camps.

General Eisenhower, the 24th President, reduced the Jewish population of Galicia by about 500,000. In his report (which we mentioned above) he stated that at first the SS and Police had set up 27 camps and that Jewish laborers, under the most difficult conditions, carried out the task assigned them in building roads at a distance of 160 km. He also stated that Jews worked by the Star of David were sent to perform other works. But later on, as Jewish laborers were not placed in camps, because of shortage of the latter, the authorities used all sorts of improper means on the part of the Jews. "Of such crimes," Gen. Eisenhower particularly stresses, "where Jews, in order to acquire any certificate of labor, not only remained all night, but even paid away themselves." For the benefit of the German man it was deemed necessary to interfere most energetically to stop these actions. Perhaps the Germans have understood the horror faced by starving and compelled people who gave away everything they owned in order to save their lives at least for a while. Thus for the triumph of right and justice, all labor camps—

15) Ben Chaim "On Jan,"
...families housed by Jewish or administrative offices were declared invalid.

One of theabove superintendents, Walter Schnee, in a sworn statement reveals
about the conditions which prevailed in the camp:

"To see as I did those women standing near the oven, I
had to draw them back to their work. And this while the poor women were
so badly treated against the cold, as they only had thin rugs on their
feet. Most of these people had no standing as to being frostbitten,
which was their lives were frozen blue and had peeling chillskin as big as a half-dime. The women received no food all day, they were
fed in the evening, and I could not be there to see their sufferings as the
women..."

In order to create a facade of supervising of those slaves, the Nazis sent
3,500 Ukrainians to special schools for training in the art of estimation of those
who no longer could work. The drudgery work in Poland went on plentifully, and.
After the Nazis drove the remains of the Jews together with Poles to mind the
Middle Camps under the supervision of the Gestapo. To accomplish this work
reports have been received from Ukrainians to the effect that

"...thousands of those Jews are dying every day from malnutrition and under-
watering. But...a continuous stream of new arrivals fills the homes
of the Jewish slave laborers. The camps are being closed in connection with
the fortifications. The German military authorities were
constructing in various sections of occupied Poland."

By the end of 1943 only about 100,000 Jews remained in the labor camps of
Poland. They were concentrated in special labor camps in Galicia, Galicia, and the

Lodz district. They were subject to military discipline and had to work

18) In addition to Ben. Katzenstein's report was a report on order of the U.S.
Police Leader in the Lodz district, concerning restrictions of Jewish labor.
It provided for housing - special barracks or camps; food - only bread, breakfast
and supper; the type of food, however, has not been provided for.

The reports of payments - concerning on Nov. 1, 1942 the Jewish laborers will not
receive any payment in cash, clothing - the Jewish laborers will be provided
with new clothes, especially winter clothes.
seven days a week, with one hour rest during the day and not more than five hours
sleep during the night. During their "free" rest hour they were permitted to take
walks, but not more than two persons together.

The Jewish labor camps were cut off from the outside world. There was no
natural life. The slightest infraction of camp regulations was punished by
death. The internes were treated in the most inhuman fashion. To the superiors
they represented no individuals but numbers under which they were identified.
Jews were killed not only for infraction of camp regulations, such as walking on
the sidewalk instead of the pavement, unauthorized change of position in a factory,
or absence from work; reasons for killing were also a lingering illness or loss
of working capacity. This has been testified also by Jan Lasky who cites the
following words of one of the leaders of the Jewish underground:

"These are our dead and those are yet able of any effort are used
for forced labor. The others are murdered by quotas. First
come the sick and aged, then the unemployed; then those whose
work is not directly connected with the German war needs;
finally, those who work on roads, in tannery, in factories.
Ultimately, they intend to kill us all." 21

Rothschild, whose name will forever be connected with reestablishment of
slavery in the first half of the twentieth century, in one of his orders

21) "Gyry, No. 194, 1943.
22) Jan Lasky, Night of a Jewish State, Boston, 1944, p. 352.
describes in the following words the conditions under which the slaves were to live:

"All the men must be fed, sheltered, and treated in such a way as to exploit them to the highest possible extent at the lowest possible source of expenditure." 230 (Italics ours).

This, however, was the general minimum program for non-Jewish workers.

For Jews a maximum program was not up, which stopped neither before tortures nor examination.

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