4. Intent and Purpose

As early as on February 7, 1939, Alfred Rosenberg made a

radio speech in Berlin before a special audience of foreign
diplomats and representatives of the foreign press, to the effect
that Jewish millionnaires should acquire territory outside of Europe
as a haven for all Jews, and that this place should by no means be
called Jewish Territory, but simply a Jewish Reservation under German
control. That the Reichskanzler Rosenberg, chief of the B Party
department for foreign affairs, made this responsible declaration

was sufficient enough proof for the seriousness of the German In-
tention to eliminate all Jews from Europe.

The occupation of Poland by the German armies after September
1939 gave new impetus to the idea of the isolation of Jews, but

inevitably changed the geographical place where it could be

materialized. Nazi-propagandists suggested that to this area
be transferred the entire Jewish population of Germany and the
annexed territories, amounting to approximately 600,000 persons.

Hitler decided to put into effect Rosenberg's plan for a
The transfer of Jews began as early as the latter half of October 1939 and proceeded at an accelerated pace. Every day groups of Jews from 4000 to 5000 Jews were shipped from the various territories annexed by Germany. The first group was deported from eastern Poland, then some Austrian Jews, from Vienna alone arrived about 35,000 Jews. Then, after the Jews of Poland-Moldova had been accounted for, came the turn of German Jews. The first to be deported were the Jews of Berlin.

In view of the fact that Berlin was crowded with Baltic Germans who had fled after and other troops in the area of military operations. The usual routine in these deportations was for home offices or leaders of the local party to break into apartments of Jews at night and order them to be ready to leave at once for an unknown destination. They were ordered to leave all their possessions behind, except for such personal belongings as they could put into a small suitcase or
beadings. They might take along with them only such jewelry as a wedding ring and a watch and such not exceeding 200
Polishmarks. They were also required to sign declarations that they had no claims for real estate and personal property, including housing, farms and deposits. They could not take along any loot.

Most old men and women who lived in homes for the aged were not exempted from this procedure, nor was exemption made for veterans of the First World War. The deportees usually were transferred to small villages lacking any amenities and surrounded with families of poor Jews or in rooms left by evacuated personnel. But, very often even the most primitive lodging possibilities were lacking; the people were brought to bare fields and left there; they were ordered to build houses but no materials and tools were given to them.

In December, 1939 the Lublin Reservation was overcrowded with Jews. Ronald Darsow Villard, journalist and editor visiting the Reservation, reported the following impression:

[Text continues on next page]
Whether it is poor or rich, this announcement by forces has been begun now in the land of slavery and in a manner so evident and so obvious that to attempt to create the so-called Jewish State, but a part miserable concentration camp, which may certainly become nothing else than a habitation of death. If they cannot find shelter in the deserted homes of the exiled Jewish minority they can choose to death or hold war houses without arms, without materials, without tools, without anything.

When the European war was about 2 years old the Germans decided that the time has come to intensify their biological warfare.

Bormann declared at a conference of the Reich's Institute for Jewish Research:

"The Jewish problem which, for 200 years, has been resolved by the nations of Europe will now find its resolution through the National Socialist Revolution for both Germany and all of Europe... the Jewish death of an autocratic state has vanished... now it is up to us to find a place and the manner in which to settle the Jews. This will happen, as we said, not in a Jewish State, but only in a manner which I would like to call Jewish Emancipation. It is to be hoped that future events will prove that the settlement of Jews under the expert supervision of police authorities, will be the last which they previously wanted. We have to do so... For Germany the Jewish problem will be solved only when the last Jew leaves the territory of Greater Germany... We believe that this war also represents a verifying historical world revolution." (2)

By the end of November 1939 no less than 550,000 Jews were brought to

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(2) Bobrowski, 1939, Fas 3, pp. 66-77. (Italics are ours)
the Holstio ghetto and left there without any possibility
to live. All efforts to save and in due time, evidence were
on the meager those, especially liquids, Opulence, evidence.
The sufferings of the Jews brought to the Holstio reservation
became unbearable.

Yet just as rapidly as they started the establishment
of the Holstio reservation, the Germans dropped the whole
plan. This happened because it became clear to them that
it could take over time to bring millions of Jews to public
sanitation than it would take to concentrate them in
many different places. So they struck upon the idea of
the establishment of ghettos in Poland. This was a very
old idea, and for several years already the German For-
liebou, headed by Streicher, threatened the Jews with
the extermination. Yet the Germans added to it quite a
new and important twist. In the middle ages the ghettos
was a means of segregation: the Jewish population lived
separately from the Gentiles. Now the Jews were segregated
not for life but for death.

From this point the idea of a ghetto was the following:
to destroy the Jews not by directly taking their lives, but by taking away from them all possibilities of life. Nothing was simpler than that. The only thing needed was the interference with normal organic functions of life itself. All reasons the Germans gave for the urgency of the ghettos establish-
ment idea, for instance, the necessity to prevent black mark and speculation, to prevent the gentle population from the spread of epidemics, are quite inconsistent, since this is the ghettos black mark and speculation becomes the only possible way to save oneself from starvation, and epid-
emics were on the rampage in all ghettos as a quite natural result of overcrowding, overcrowding, lack of the most elementary hygiene and medical help, the only valid reason for the establishment of ghettos was the human desire to create the most appropriate conditions for a "slow motion" destruction of Jews, and to keep them all firmly together for rapid final extermination.

II. The First Period of Deportation (Spring 1942 to Winter 1942)

This period of "slow motion" destruction lasted in Poland from Spring 1942 to the end of 1942. The first large ghetto was established in July, its gates were locked on May 1, 1942.
Arthur Greiner, the notorious Gauleiter of Karlsruhe, wanted to feed the highly developed anti-intellectual spirit of the German army, and indeed, there were plenty of approximate normal conditions in the Nazi ghettos. These conditions included the fact that the ghettos were surrounded by high walls, from which the Germans could look into the ghettos at any time, everywhere. Jews hung so tightly tied they blinded the eyes and helped the Germans to spot those who tried to approach under cover of darkness, the forests. They were shot instantly, on an average of 16 days a day. A special Jewish currency was introduced, and those found in possession of dollars and even German marks were shot immediately. Bread and butter were within the ghettos 30 times more than without the ghettos, and the same with all other products. Typhus, dysentery, tuberculosis spread so fast that the total ghettos of 972,000 population had about 2,500 cases of death due to “natural” causes every month. Thus in 1943 the “anti-semitic” extermination would have taken eleven years to finish off the original number of 100,000. In every other condition of
Life was so harsh that not less than 9,000 died every
month, and the entire ghetto of 420,000 would be exterminated
in less than five years.

Everywhere the Gestapo ruled the streets with iron
hand. If a fire broke out in a Jewish house, the inmates
were forbidden to put it out; they had to call a Gestapo
official who decided what to do with it. There were special
agents searching for food in Jewish basements; if the smallest
amount of such was found, the owner was at once hanged on a
pulley plate.

Penalties for leaving the boundaries of the Warsaw
Ghetto, for instance, were as follows: At first the
penalty was a fine of up to 2000 zlotys or three months im-
prisonment and forced labour. Later the fine was raised to
10,000 zlotys and the penalty had the right to shoot at Jews
attempting escape. On September 15, 1941 a decree providing
deadly penalty for attempts to escape went into effect. All
who helped the bereaved became subject to the same penalty.
while failure to showing was punished as an accomplished deed.

In many ghettos Jews were deprived of gas and electricity. Mail
communications were no longer permitted. Under the pretext of the
flow of epidemics, delivery of packages was suspended. The use of
radio was also banned. Complete isolation was enforced.

Deprived, morally humiliated, physically debilitated, the Jews
were isolated within walls upon which barbed wire ran. They
were enclosed as if they were in a single huge prison.

Inside the ghettos they were crowded even more densely than
in the most crowded quarters of the most crowded cities of
the world. Parks and gardens were not included within the
area of the ghetto, as a partial result of which hygiene and
health conditions were at such a level that even the worst
of wars also cannot compared as a parasite, in comparison.

(1) Dritte Verordnung wegen Aufstellung der Judenverordnung
in Reval, Revue de l'Europe, 15/4/2011, Verordnungsblatt
No. 99, 1941, Examen.

(2) Zehnte Verordnung wegen der Bildung der Belagerung von
Juden und Polizei von besonderen Festen in der Judensynagoge,
6. The Status in a Time of Accelerated Deportation of the Jews

However terrible was the general situation of the Jewish ghettos in 1941, it was almost paralleled conditions as compared with the ghettos of the same period established by the Germans in the U.S.S.R. The latter ghettos never knew the horror of almost dead destruction.

In Madrid, for instance, the Germans entered on June 29, 1941. In July, 1941, 25,000 became the Gauleiter of White Russia.

In August he ordered the establishment of a ghetto in Madrid. From the first moment in gangs of German soldiers and Gestapo officials started attacking the ghettos by day and night, burning Jewish houses, raping Jewish women, killing young and old at their hearts' content. In

October, 1941 the Germans chased the whole population of the ghettos out of town, crowded them to a large anti-tank ditch, Summary machine-gunned and then buried them all.

Together, these were dead and those who were still alive.

In Vichin-Palencia the Germans entered in July, 1942.
a ghetto for 25,000 Jews. On September 1, 1942, they started a
program which lasted 25 days and took the lives of 18,000 Jews.

Two months later the program was repeated in all its details. Only
a few thousand Jews survived to perish ten months later, in the
third and final program.

This picture is typical for the scale of the Nazis whenever
a ghetto was established, this was done only to have all Jews
ready for their rapid and brutal extermination.

What happened with the Russian ghettos in 1941 became the
goal of the Polish ghettos in 1943. The only difference lay in
the fact that in Poland the Germans paid more attention to all
chances to use up the Jewish manpower, and the stronger they felt
the growing threat of the manpower shortage, the more difficult it
became for them to part with many thousands of skilled Jewish
laborers. They found their way out as follows: they resorted
clearly and more to the so-called "Schmelzauftrag" (killing of old
folk, children and all those unfit to work) and either transformed
the ghettos into concentration and labor camps or liquidated the
ghettos and transferred all those fit to work to labor corps. In
connection with this new policy, the Jews in Poland, trying to
more themselves, started a desperate flight for jobs "useful".

In the winter of 1941, the Germans deported from the Warsaw ghetto 25,000 to a death camp, leaving only 3,000 able-bodied workers and their families. A few weeks later, 750 women and children were also deported. Then a new order was issued to deport all women and children, even if they had husbands and fathers who were skilled workers employed by the Germans; the ghetto of Warsaw became a labor camp, with 120 inmates dying for the Germans. This process repeated itself with great regularity all over Poland.

Now, in 1943, the military situation of the Germans began to deteriorate rapidly, while the Jews showed more and more inclination to offer desperate resistance, the Germans started to avoid huge concentrations of Jews in the rear of their army and
substituted several smaller camps, which they called "reservations," for the large concentration camps. Then, in November of 1941, the Germans cleared the whole population of the ghetto of all "useless" elements and transformed the ghetto into a labor camp. Then they divided all inmates of this camp into several smaller groups which they moved partly to the suburbs of Riga and partly to the provinces.

Typical of this whole process is also the fate of the Riga Ghetto established in October 1941, existed for 21 months; during this time at least 150,000 native Jews and Jews from other countries perished there. Only 3,300 skilled workers survived the final liquidation of the Riga Ghetto in July 1943. They were distributed among several reservations, of which 21 existed in the districts of Riga. Between July and October 1944, when the Red Army drew closer and closer to Latvia, no less than 28,000 Jews were deported from these labor camp reservations; most of them were transferred to Eastern Baltic and massacred in the woods there. What happened to the remainder is yet unknown —
The German intentions toward the Jews became quite clear in the first weeks of the German-Polish war when thousands of Jews were shot or tortured to death in the towns and villages of Poland. Then came the occupation which brought along the complete and immediate economic and social uprooting of the Polish Jews. Not all that was only the beginning, and much more radical plans against the Jews loomed on the horizon. Hardly a month passed since the Germans took over the country, and already the Germans started shifting thousands of Jews toward the Lublin District where they established the so-called Jewish reservation. Alfred Rosenberg, the originator of this plan emphasized that this reservation was not meant to be a Jewish state. In reality, it was purely and simply a huge concentration camp where the greatest part of prisoners even the most primitive lodging possibilities were missing: the people were brought to the bare fields and left there; they were ordered to build barracks, but no materials and tools were given to them. By the end of November 1939, not less than 150,000 Jews were brought to
the Lublin district and left there without any possibility
to live in acute starvation or in an area, epidemics were
on the rampage there, especially typhus, dysentery, cholera
The sufferings of the Jews brought to the Lublin reservation
became unbearable.

Yet just as suddenly as they started the establishment
of the Lublin reservation the Germans dropped the whole
plan. This happened because it became clear to them that
it would take even more time to bring millions of Jews to Lublin
much more time than it would take to concentrate them in
many different places. So they struck upon the idea of
the establishment of ghettos in Poland. This was a very
old idea, and for several years already the German Jews
leaders, headed by Speidel, threatened the Jews with
the extermination, yet the Germans added to it a quite
new and important twist. In the middle ages the ghettos
was a reason of segregation; the Jewish population lived
separately from the gentiles. Now the Jews were segregated
not for life but for death.

From the outset the idea of a ghetto was the following:
to destroy the Jews not by directly taking their lives but by taking away from them all prerequisites of life.

Nothing was simpler than these: the only thing needed was to interfere with normal organic functions of life itself.

All reasons the Germans gave for the urgency of the ghetto establishment like for instance, the necessity to prevent black market and speculation, to protect the Jewish population from the spread of epidemics, were quite inconsistent since just in the ghettos black market and speculation became the only possible way to save oneself from starvation and the epidemics were on the ramp in all ghettos as a quite natural result of unhygienic conditions, overcrowding, lack of the most elementary hygiene and medical help. The only valid reason for the establishment of ghettos was the German desire to create the most appropriate conditions for a "slow motion" destruction of Jews, not to have them all ready together for rapid final extermination.

This period of "slow motion" destruction lasted in Poland from spring 1940 to the end of 1941. The first large ghetto was established in Lodz, its doors were locked...
On May 1, 1940, the notorious Gestapo officer, Eichmann, arrived in the newly occupied lands and ordered the Jewish community to transfer all Jewish property and valuables to designated areas, to create at least approximately normal conditions within the London ghetto. These conditions look like this: the ghetto was surrounded by high fences, from which the Germans could look into the ghetto at any time; everywhere, hang lamps as bright that they blinded the eyes and helped the Germans to spot those who tried to approach under cover of darkness. The huts — they were shot instantly, an average of 25 Jews a day. A special serial currency was introduced, and those found in possession of dollars and even German marks were shot immediately. Bread and better cost within the ghetto 50 times more than without it fences; and the same was with all other products. Tuberculosis increased so fast that the London ghetto of 200,000 population had every month about 1,500 cases of death due to "natural" causes. Due to lack of "efficient" extermination, a complete extermination would have taken 11 years to finish off the original number of 200,000. InSense all conditions of
Life was so much worse that not less than 9,000 died every month, and the whole ghetto of 500,000 could be exterminated in less than five years.

Everywhere the Gestapo ruled the ghettos with iron hand. If a fire broke out in a dwell house, the inmates were forbidden to put its out; they had to call a Gestapo official who decided what to do with it. There were special squads searching for food in Jewish houses; if the smallest amount of rust was found, the causal was at once hanged on a public place.

In the whole of Poland there was only one small ghetto in the town of Posen, quite different both from all others. The Gestapo Chief Schwar, supervisor of the ghettos, told openly the Jews that he would be hanged. And so it was.

The Jews were left alone and overseers when the epidemics broke out. Schwar allowed a Polish doctor to attend patients in the ghetto. Very soon the Jewish population of this town increased from 5 to ten thousand. The nearby town of Otwocko also experienced a miracle, even if of a different kind: the Germans marched the whole Jewish population...
out of town and were short to shoot them, when a German general, who passed by on the head of his troops, interfered and ordered that only every tenth Jew should be shot.

However difficult was the general situation of the Polish ghettos in 1939, it was about parodistical conditions if compared with the ghettos of the same period established by the Germans in the USSR. The latter ghettos never knew the stage of slowed down construction. In Minsk, for instance, the Germans opener on June 28, 1941. In July, in Minsk became the death of Chico Russia. In August they set establish a ghetto in Minsk. From the first moment on gangs of German soldiers and Gestapo officials started attacking the ghettos by day and night, looting Jewish houses, raping Jewish women, killing young men and old at their heart’s content. In October 1941 the Germans almost the whole population of the ghettos out of town, marched them to a huge anti-tank ditch, summarily machine-gunned and then buried them all together, those who were dead and who were still alive.

In Vitebsk-Volinsky the Germans created in July 1941.
a ghetto for 65,000 Jews. On September 1, 1941, they

started a pogrom which lasted 15 days and of 10,000 Jews.

Two months later the pogrom was reported in all the details.

Only a few thousand Jews survived ten months

later, in the third and final pogrom.

This picture is typical for the whole of the U.S.S.R.;

wherever a ghetto was established this was done only to

have all Jews ready for their rapid and radical extermina-
tion.

What happened with the Greek ghettoes in 1941 became

the lot of the Polish ghettoes in 1942. The only difference

lay in the fact that in Poland the Germans paid more atten-
tion to all chances of using up the Jewish manpower, and

the stronger they felt the growing panic of many Jews, the

more difficult it became for them to part with many thou-
sands of skilled Jewish laborers. The outlet they found

consisted in the following ways: they scattered more and

more to the so-called "Scharlachfeuer" (killing of old

folks, children, and all unfit to work) and either trans-

formed the ghettoes into concentration and labor camps or
they liquidated the ghetto and transferred all fit to
work to other labor camps. In connection with this new
policy the Jews in Poland, trying to save themselves,
started a desperate flight for jobs "outside" in the German
cyber. Nevertheless, the camps were the same then the Jews not only
did not get any wages but paid large amounts of money only
in order to be allowed to work. They dyed their hair in
order to look younger and to be accepted as workers.

In summer 1941 the Germans deported from the Warsaw
ghetto 85,000 to a death camp, leaving only 2,000 skilled
workers and their families. A few weeks later 700 women
and children were taken and deported, too. Then a new
order was issued to deport all women and children, even
if their husbands and fathers were skilled workers em-
ployed by the Germans; the ghettos at Warsaw became a
labor camp, with 120 inmates allowed for the German;
this process expanded itself with great regularity all
over Poland.

Then, in 1943, the military situation of the Germans
began deteriorating rapidly while the Jews showed even
and more determined to offer desperate resistance, the Germans started to avoid large concentrations of Jews in the rear of their army and substituted several smaller camps, which they called "reservatoren," for large concentration camps. Thus, in Rzeszów, on September 1, 1943, the Germans cleared the whole population of the ghettos of all "Juden," cleanse and transformed the ghettos into labor camps. Then they divided all inmates of these camps into several smaller groups which they moved partly to the suburbs of Rzeszów and partly to the province.

Appalling for this whole process is also the fate of the Riga ghetto. Established in October 1941, it existed for 21 months during this time at least 150,000 natives, Jews and Goths from other countries perished there. Only 3,000 native residents survived the final liquidation of the Riga ghetto in July 1944. They were distributed among several reservatoren, of which there existed 21 in the district of Riga. Between July and October 1944, when the Red Army drove closer and closer to Riga, not less
than 10,000 Jews were deported from these labor camps into ghettos and extermination camps, and most of them were transferred to Eastern Europe and murdered in the final solution. What happened to the rest of, rather, how and where this rest has been slaughtered, this is not known as yet.