CHAPTER VII
FOREIGN LABOR

A. Assault and Persecution

There is little doubt that forced labor as generally employed by the Nazi regime represented more than a mere source of manpower—it constituted an integral part of the German program of brutalized workers. It had a dual aspect. Its primary purpose was the utilization of manpower for war needs. Its secondary objective was the removal of possible hostile elements from the occupied territories. In the case of the Jews, however, it represented only a temporary and intermediate step in the process of extermination.

 Forced labor served the purpose of Jewish annihilation by the involuntary separation of families and confinement in special labor camps; food derived at a bare subsistence level; inordinate long working hours; brutal treatment which resulted in physical de- terioration and death; lack of the most elementary housing and sanitary equipment—all of which inevitably led to a high
mortality rate. When the survivors had been exploited to the utmost or when their services were no longer required by the German industrial and war machines, they were promptly worked for more direct methods of extermination.

Until the outbreak of the war, Jewish labor (outside of concentration camps) could be termed compulsory, since the laborers still enjoyed certain rights, however tenuous. After hostilities began, however, all Jewish labor, irrespective of character and regardless of place, was forced labor. Whether in special labor camps or ghettos-shops, the Jewish laborer possessed no rights whatever. His destiny was to be utilized in any capacity deemed necessary, and when his usefulness was gone, through emasculation or illness, he was liquidated, either individually or collectively.

Although no accurate statistical data are available as to the manner in which Jewish forced laborers, the following table, based upon the best available materials, should serve to illustrate the extent and effect of this question upon the
It will be noted that every country under the Nazi heel, including the satellite nations, provided Jewish slave laborers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Jews put to forced labor in Europe and North Africa</th>
<th>Dead</th>
<th>Survivors</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>1,000,000</td>
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<td>Soviet Occupied Areas</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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<td>6,000</td>
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<td>80,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocols</td>
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<td>50,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,041,100</td>
<td>2,644,900</td>
<td>397,200</td>
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</table>
From prior to their disfranchisement by virtue of the
Nuremberg decree (15 September, 1938) the Jews of Germany
were subject to compulsory labor at the behest of the compulsory
labor service law of 20 June 1935. Jews thus conscripted were,
however, segregated from German workers, received low pay
and were deprived of all social benefits enjoyed by German
laborers. With the war drawing closer, the German leaders
sought to utilize every employable person in the expanding
industrial machine, and the Jewish labor potential, hitherto
ignored when not drafted into armed compulsory labor, was at
once harnessed. "It is not a question of the Jews being unable
to find work in Germany... it has now become a question of Jews
not being allowed to be free."

On March 17th, the President of the German Institute of
Labor Placement and Unemployment Insurance declared:

"It is not in the interest of the state to leave the
labor power of employed Jews unused, and
perhaps even to have to support them from public funds."

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without receiving any service in return. An effort must be made to employ all unemployed and employable Jews as soon as possible and to employ them in the release of German workers for urgent and important state political purposes.

The employment of Jews shall take place in fields of endeavor such as building construction, soil utilization, etc., separately from others.

I therefore request you immediately to influence public and private enterprise in your district to provide such work. It is proposed that construction work on public and private projects shall be undertaken by the employment of Jews, Jews in the sense of this decree and Jews who are German subjects and resident Jews who are capable of work.

The introduction of Jewish forced labor in Germany, on the one hand, describes the instrument for the coming stages of the "final solution for the subjugated peoples of Europe."

In September, 1939, all Jews in the German east lands, of both sexes, were given special questionnaires relating to employment. At the same time the Jewish Councils were informed that a general labor decree was to be anticipated.

In December, 1939, nearly 10,000 Berlin Jews out of 30,000 still had regular work, mainly in the building and transport industries in the capital. By October 1939, nearly all able-bodied Jewish males—50,000 of the remaining Jewish population of 190,000—had been conscripted for labor service. Women were...
not excluded. All men between the ages of 15-65 and women
20-45 were subject to forced labor. By February 1941, the
age limits were extended to 65 for men and 55 for women.
They were paid almost nothing for their work, but were
nevertheless forced to pay an income tax. In the concen-
tration camps, Jewish inmates were organized into special
battalions for road building and work in forests and farms.

On 3 October 1941, a decree entitled ‘Concerning the Employ-
ment of Jews’ officially placed the Jews under “special legal
and material conditions’ and a supplementary edict of 31 October
1941 gave the principle effect, dehumanizing then the choice
and employment, as well as every social benefit enjoyed by “Aryan”
workers. In effect, they became slaves of the German state.

In September, 1941, began the systematic deportation of
the remainder of German Jews to forced labor camps and penal
reservations in Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.
This process continued intermittently through 1943. Those who
survived the deportation process (3% of perished en route, according
to a report by Gepp and Plunkett, Nazi Nuremberg, and
was in work on fortifications, air-ops, roads, etc.,
collection details and to place propaganda material in
in the hands of the modern and conventional.

German Jews from 35 to 75 were drafted for compulsory
labor to work on construction projects in June 1938. The number
of all remaining Jews increased in terms from the outbreak of
the war. By the end of 1942 only 10,000 Jews were left in Austria
out of the 180,000 living there at the time of the Anschluss.

C. Poland

On 30 October, 1939, a decree signed by Governor Frank made
compulsory labor obligatory on all Jews in the General Government.
The establishment of the camp was entrusted to the SS. An order
by Frank, Hitler SS and Police Leader, of 15 December 1939, stated
that "all Jewish inhabitants of the General Government from 14 to
30 years of age are in principle subject to forced labor.

The labor was first at the work in special labor camps, with the
reservation that it could be extended if the educational purposes of such compulsory labor were not carried out. The "education" was to be in the shape of physical labor under the supervision of SS instructors. Failure to register or report for work caused a transfer without pay. On reporting, the laborers were to bring with them tools of their trade, blankets and food for two days. The decree of 21 December 1940, signed by Dr. Brackenrother (in the name of Frenzel), made it possible to receive work-cards, thus making anyone available for forced labor.

It might be noted that while the decree of 21 October 1939 also made the Polish population subject, in principle, to compulsory labor, it contained significant reservations. They were given work-cards and therefore could to a certain extent change their type of employment; laborers performing useful functions were exempt and they and their families were entitled to certain social benefits.

In its initial stage, the recruiting of forced labor personnel was carried out without any apparent plan or purpose. As the Heit...
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It returns any city or town they indiscriminately rounded up Jews of every age and gender and herded them in labor camps, denied them food, crowded them endlessly, and used them as labor gangs on nuclear activation. An early on 94 September 1939, 1940 Jews from Vilna were rounded up in Litzmann. After the day's work they were thrown into a prison, the doors of which were locked with broken chains. Those rounded up in Drassy were subjected to similar treatment, according to Karl Hilsel, an eyewitness.

"The Germans seemed to hunt our men in the street. They were dragged, like animals, and crowded into a room or bread-breaking room in the outside town. Late at night they were dragged into and dumped inside the pit, despite all resistance. The head breakers were all posting. We did not let our men go out on the streets unless it was absolutely necessary, and then they were met by a group who would give a warning already and killed the persons..."

Mr. Karl Hilsel, in the "Refutation of Testimony of Drassy...,"

20 January 1949, described as follows the methods of recruiting Jewish workers:

"It stands in particular evidence to note the brutal treatment of the Jews good for surviving contact and setting up camps. Their fellow workers were subjected to suppression, branding, and punishment. They were taken to the streets, collected into camps, and whenever possible a forced march. Despite all that was done, the Jews hung in there, even when better. During the war..."
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There is no time to waste, and there are - thank God - plenty of ways of dealing with revolutionist Jews!

Major H. Ernst Kostel wrote in a similar vein:

"Only by implacable harassment can the Jews be cured of his methods of exploitation."

The Manchester Guardian, of 19 February, 1940, reported

from Poland:

"Here work for Jews in the streets still continues at an feverish pace under the threat of penalties. The humiliation and torture inflicted upon the Jewish workers is such that even(storage) and maintaining the power of the Jewish Councils.

One of the primary functions of the Nazi-created Jewish Councils was to conscript and deliver volunteer quotas of Jewish laborers, skilled and unskilled, to meet the demands of the German economy. Often they had to fill impossible quotas. As early as 1939 the various Jewish Councils were under
order to supply 8,000 laborers daily.

The people were compelled to work without
rest in the sun, dressed in rags, over the sea, until they reached their
destination. In addition, the social organizations sent
woven baskets and supplies to the camps whenever possible,
and tried to maintain some contact between the laborers and
their families.

Under this system three types of labor groups were then
identified: labor reservations, labor camps, and small groups.
The first were situated in the vicinity of the town in which
the mine dealt, and they could return home after work; the
second were placed in inhospitable country where labor
headquarters had to be carried out, and the laborers were
brought to the camps for an extended stay; the last were
concentration camps designed for those who refused regular
labor or deserted or in any other way violated the forced labor law.
Some of the labor camps were reached directly from the ghettos to the camps.

The Yiddish correspondent Markus Minkus wrote as follows about Ivan Jana:

"The elderly Jews of town, clean and polished street gowns and driving, resemble the living of elaborate buildings and do other secondary labor. The young, the particularly strongest Jews, are taken every morning from the ghettos and are led by Jewish and Ukrainian guards to do forced labor in factories and in the woods and to repair bridges and highways."

The majority, however, stayed in labor camps, under the supervision of the SS. They worked on roads, railroad tracks, cleared meadows and forests, in mines, sawmills and sugar factories, cleared shell casings, and built fortifications. One of the largest of these "projects" was the digging of the Prinkosh canal and later the Minko canal.

German farmers from Western Europe were brought to this area.

The inmates of the labor camps suffered and lived under conditions that no human being could long endure. They were "robbed" in cold and deep bogs, fields and houses. Medical services was non-existent. No clothing was provided. A day's diet
confidential

In the early days of the occupation many Jewish commu-
nities were still able to supply food and clothing, but

later the area disintegrated. As were the working and living

conditions, an unending report...after that

Deportation of these Jews continued every day from...in

the underground, but a constant stream of new

arrivals...the ends of Jewish...thousands.

The ill-treatment of those resulted in emaciation as

worse as in a concentration camp. Refusal to do assigned work,

failure to produce required output, or indeed any breach of

discipline, resulted in transfer to a hard labor camp, where

the inmates in harsh treatment and suffering were permitted.

According to Polish eyewitness accounts, at the...194

more than four million...9,000,000...7,000,000...6,000,000...

were...of them...were...together with the

were...these labor...to the General Government...
Aside from these "forced" laborers, thousands of Jews lived in their usual manner in various industrial enterprises. When the German leaders realized, after the attack on Soviet Russia, that the war might be prolonged, they sought to utilize the in-state Jewish skilled labor force in textiles, shoe-making, clothing, tannery, leather goods, etc. These laborers worked directly under the control of their German masters, or under the authority of Jewish supervisors who took over the Jewish industrial establishment, or for Jewish cooperatives, or for the Jewish Council, which was able to deliver to the Jewish council definite quotas of manufactured articles in return for their own articles of food. The latter category were organized in collective work-shops, in which the workers did produce jointly and share the final output jointly. The Jewish Council was compelled to manage the labor and machinery. Failure to deliver the specified parts of goods resulted in collective fines. W-63
The Japanese attitude of "Honshitsu" (Truth) will be met in the face of the facts, even if it is only in the service of national prestige.

The situation is quite clear. For instance, if a man is found at work, he will be asked, "What are you doing?" He will reply, "I am working." But he is actually working on something else.

The Japanese adjustment is to say, "I am working on my work." This is true, but it is not the whole truth. The man is actually working on something else, but he does not want to admit it.

In this way, the Japanese are able to maintain the appearance of honesty and truth, even though they are not telling the whole truth.

Intelligence, hence, has developed a deceptive way of thinking and acting. This is the reason why Japan is able to get away with its lies even in the face of the facts.

The Japanese, therefore, are not interested in telling the truth. They are interested in maintaining their appearance of truth, even though it is not always true.
told for the tragic liquidation in all Polish ghettos. The
German Army was the generator of the ghettos. In the
country, at least 10,000 Jewish artisans were employed as
forced laborers.

The Administrator Kalman said in August, 1941, of the
Lodz ghetto:

"There are textile factories there and the Jews produce various articles. In addition, there are 7,000
days employed as tailors, 3,000 in restaurants, and
2,000 in various trades. The exaggerated claims the Jews
received points for everything they did for the
Germans."

On 14 March, 1943, the Lodz ghetto administration
announced that 20,000 Jewish men were deported to Lodz to
work in the textile mills. "As for the Jews, told the Jews
District President Kolman, "the best work with ever-increasing
intensity, must fulfill and expect to live long alive."

The 800 Jewish workers of the small town of Radzisz (95
kilometers from Lodz) — to cite one instance — worked in 1943
for the German Army 10,000 drill uniforms, 1,000 spotless and
over 500,000 pairs of boots. It is impossible to report the total
value of the labor contributed by the Jewish laborers, but even
according to the Germans' own calculations for unskilled labor, the
value of the first ten years' forced labor by 89,000 Jews should
be over 100 million dollars.

In any event, whether skill or unskilled, the ultimate
salvation of the forced laborers was death. The unskilled laborers
were subjected to hunger, malnutrition, disease, physical torture.
The skilled workers were no less exploited. Accordingly,

Joa Kesten notes a Jewish underground border as follows:

"The above figures are still capable of any errors and used for forced labor. The others are
accurate and subject to many. First, the sick and weak, then the untermanned, then those whose
work is not essential—connected with the German war needs—finally, those who were not
allowed to work; in trains, in factories, in mines. If many, it is hard to kill in all.

Then was the most rigorous element of forced labor of
its chemical strength through endless and unendurable
living conditions. As thousands perished, others were brought
to replace them. By the middle of 1940, when the new
facilities were in operation, the killing and working

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of forced laborers began for the purpose of utilizing the
skilled workers whose services were still needed. The rest
were dispatched to the major factories of Treblinka, Wojschnek,
Oswiecim, Birkenau, Selice, Sobibor.

D. France.

After the usual preliminary measures involving a census
of the Jews in the form of a Register, restriction of residence,
confiscation of property, and the like, so-called alien Jews
of the age 18-40 were rounded up and placed in concentration
 camps, and later deported to Eastern Europe as forced laborers.

Being acts of robbery as a pretext, Von Stulpnagel, Commander
of the Occupation Forces, in addition to imposing a fine of
one billion francs on the Jews, stated:

"A large number of criminal Judeo-Polish elements
will be deported to new labor in the eastern territories.
Other deportations of still greater numbers will follow
immediately should there be any further attacks."

Vice- Premier Berlan followed up Stulpnagel's edict with
an order placing all Jews who entered France after January, 1936,
"in working formations or in camps," that is to forced labor.
In the summer of 1943, mass arrests of all Jews began. They were placed in several camps preparations to deportation. Conditions in the camps were inhuman. Women and children were put into barracks; no water even for drinking purposes; 70 grams of bread per person; no medical aid of any sort. Soon the Interns were deported to Poland.

Simultaneously (in July, 1943) Vichy France turned over all the Jewish inmates of its own concentration camps to the Germans for deportation to Eastern Europe. In November, 1943, when Vichy ceased to exist, the number of deportees increased.

Vichy France ordered the internment of all Jewish refugees on July 7, 1940. An order of September 1940, declared them "monuments," an order their confinement in labor camps. In May, 1941, mass arrests of able-bodied Jews began and the Interns were deported to North Africa. It is estimated that 75,000 Jews were deported in 1941-1942 to North Africa to work on the Tripolitana railway.

The conditions under which the laborers worked in Africa
daily description. Their dwellings were holes scooped in sand
and covered with cotton. The men were alive with lice. They
suffered from tropical diseases. The liter of water was their
daily ration in the scorching heat. "They lived like beasts," a survivor testified.

The identity of the African system with that prevalent in
Germany and East Europe is obvious: to use forced labor as a
means of extermination.

All over France a network of concentration camps was set
up. The camps served as pools with threefold objectives: to
put the inmates to work in them, to ship them to Germany and the
Eastern Front for labor and to transfer them to North Africa.
Twenty-six such camps have been identified.

The number of victims was estimated within the first year at
50,000. In January 1943 by the admission of Carbonier de Fallagueix
it rose to 60,000 later to at least 70,000.

The labor conditions in camps where the inmates were put to
work, were those typical of the Nazi system: unskilled laborers
had to perform arduous tasks in urban factories under the eye of guards.
Artisans had to work in their lines of occupation: endless working
hours, cruel discipline, underemployment with the customary soup
and beans or potatoes for a day’s meal. The raids, arrests, internment
and shipping abroad of Jews continued from 1940 to 1944; they extended
in simultaneous drives both occupied and unoccupied France and, after
the collapse of Italy, the Riviera and Italian-held territories.

The number of victims was nearly 100,000.

5. Belgium

By virtue of the decree of 26 August 1941, Belgian Jews could
reside only in 5 cities, Brussels, Liège, Antwerp, and Charleroi.
Listing in the Social Register followed. Like everywhere else,
the quota and the Register were preliminary measures leading
to forced labor, deportations, and finally annihilation. Already
in 1941 the two concentration camps at Beersel and Braine-le-
Comte harbored enormous Jewish inmates. A decree of 11 March, 1942,
stated that Jewish work is of “a special kind,” and that of 18
May stated that all Jews over 15 must report for work to be assigned there by the authorities. Internment in concentration camps followed. Some of the Jews toiled in Jewish labor camps in Belgium; some were sent to labor camps in North Africa; others were deported to Eastern Europe - the skilled workers to tall in the ghetto shops, the unskilled, to labor camps. In March, 1942, it was reported that 10,000 Jews from Belgium arrived in Lodz to work in the textile mills. It is known that many were deported to the Baltic states, where they perished alongside the other Jews. The fate that overtook all East European Jews also engulfed the Belgian deportees. Those who survived the ordeal of concentration camps led their lives snuffed out in death camps. Conditions in the Belgian concentration camps were identical with those in Germany and Poland. At Meraple, the inmates were marched out at 4:00 a.m., made to run several miles and afterward they were taken to workyards. At Breendonk they were made to carry bricks all day. Anyone failing to fulfill the quota was ordered to climb a rocky hill and roll
Legal authority in the shape of an official decree by
the German-controlled Dutch court for the deportation of Dutch
Jews to forced labor camps was delayed till July, 1942, when
the mass deportation began. But uncounted numbers had been kept
in concentration camps since the German occupation in 1940. In
March, 1941, 12,000 Jewish youths were deported to the Mauthausen
(Upper Austria) sulfur mines. Unprotected by gas-masks, 740 of these
perished during the first four months. Their deaths were reported
for 76 soldiers each. On 21 August and 16 September, 1942, the
Amsterdam Jewish Council issued warnings to all Jews to report
for forced labor. In effect, however, all the Jews of Holland,
irrespective of age, were ordered to report for deportation.
Only the Amsterdam Jews had been deported by 20 April, and on
27 May only, too, were ordered to report for deportation. They
were processed in several concentration camps, the largest and
most notorious of which was Beelitz, in which at one time

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80,000 were interned. The physically fit were deported to labor
camps in the East, and the rest to camps in Germany to work in
labor gangs. Conditions in the Westerbork camp, about which
authentic data exist, paralleled those in Eastern Europe. Men
and women toiled from 5 a.m. till dark carrying peat and con-
structing drain. Diseases, due to dirt and lack of medicines,
spared few inmates. beatings with truncheons and attacks by
dogs were the commonest punishments. Cranoteria and other
methods of mass-execution did the rest.

5. Czechoslovakia

Although all the inhabitants of the Protectorate were
subject to compulsory labor on the basis of the decree of 20
January, 1941, the special decree applicable to Jews of 17 July,
1942, reduced them to status of slaves. Penal labor camps for
Jews existed in Moravsk Ostrava, Terezin, Mladec, Ligo, Tobar,
and others, where they were treated in the customary manner.

It is Brest, however, which was the largest and most notorious
A concentration camp, the largest concentration camp and clearing depot for forced labor gangs and death-camps in Germany and Poland. Jews of Rostov-on-Don were among the early deportees to the Ludz Reservoir. In 1942, 55,000 able-bodied Jews were sent to Solovki in Germany. 30,000 Rostov-on-Don Jews perished in the Ludz death-camp in the same year.

Slavonic Jews were subjected to forced labor almost from the beginning. All Jews aged 16-59 were drafted for forced labor in special labor camps in September 1939. An experiment of genocide merely continued what had long been in existence. Thus the decree of December 1941, ordered all Jews from 16-59 to register for forced labor, when such had in effect been the case long before. Indeed, the mass deportations of Slavonic Jews began in May 1942. As in Poland, skilled laborers produced material for the German Army. Unskilled laborers toiled on labor camps.
With the mass-deportation began to Poland and Hungary, the usual procedure took place: the able-bodied were sent to Germany, and the 'useless' were deported to the death camps in Poland.

In May, 1943, only 6000 Jews were reported (by the official Hungarian) still left in Slovakia of the 80,000 living there in 1938.

W. Greece

On 11 July, 1943, all Jews aged 16-25 were ordered to register - the usual prelude to deportation to labor camps. The Macedonian mines absorbed most of the forced laborers.

Others were used to construct fortifications. Conditions in the camps closely paralleled those in Poland and other countries. In view of the treatment accorded to the Greek people in general, the living conditions in the special labor camps for Jews can well be imagined.

1. Yugoslavia

All Jews of Greece were ordered to register on 3 August.
1941, and at once all Jews aged 16-26 (later raised to 60) were deport-ed to labor camps (concentration camps, which are identical with labor camps, existed, of course, before official registration was ordered). Two camps, at Zagreb and Jasenovac, were especially notorious. About 2,800 Jews are known to have sailed in the salt mines of Pag - one of the most desolate Balcanian islands. Living conditions in all the camps were on a par with those elsewhere. The Nakba structure gradually collapsed, the inmates so that by May, 1942, the Zagreb and Jasenovac camps were closed down. By the end of 1943 the whole Jewish population of Croatia had in fact disappeared.

On May 21, 1941, all Jews aged 14-60 in German-occupied Yugoslavia were ordered to register specifically for "forced labor." These were organized in labor gangs and later deported to the East, where they joined thousands of Jews from other countries. A similar fate befell the Jews in the Bulgarian-occupied area.
J. Market District

Conscripted enrollment of all manpower, male and female, between the ages 18-60 and 10-40 respectively, was begun immediately after occupation. An order issued by the Kommand of the Third Group of the Scarlet Death Corps stated that the entire population should be recruited for forced labor so that

"by work and labor the population will repay its debt for acts of sabotage committed as well as for such acts as may be committed in the future."

Since the basic approach of the Germans to Russian Jews,

as stated by the D.D. Feldmeier, was that it was "a virus which can only be destroyed through extermination," all able-bodied Jewish men and women who were not slaughtered outright, were at once rounded up and placed in labor camps. Numerous concentration camps barbarian Jews were set up in White Russia and the Ukraine, the largest being in Minsk (100,000 Jews) and Bialystok. These labor battalions toiled behind the lines, constructing roads and bridges, clearing mines, removing wreckage, building fortifications. An estimated number of 150,000 Jews
Russian Jews worked on the Vilno-Niezgda railway. An order of the day, dated 11 October, 1941, issued by the 76th German Infantry Division, Article 6, stated,

"Resistance of war and individuals from the local population would be used for work entailing danger to life."

On 20 November, 1941, the German Commandant, Major Pankratius announced that

"Citizens who are lazy at their work or those who will not reach the prescribed number of hours will be punished, to pay a fine in cash or subjected to corporal punishment and will not receive food assistance from the city."

One cannot really speak of treatment at these camps, for none existed. In the Vilno camp the inmates were kept in the open and hundreds perished from exposure alone. Skilled and unskilled workers were treated alike. Working hours were 10-16 hours daily, with every fifth Sunday a day of rest. Exposed to the rigors of the cold climate, unprovided with a minimum of shelter and food to sustain life, thousands perished. Erich Pund, a German pensioner, noted in his diary on 18 June, 1942:


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Jewish men and women who work in the town are driven
in the evening to Penal Labor, where they work from
7 o'clock till midnight. They often return home
frightened and their hands are covered with bleeding wounds.

During the Red Army’s advance early in 1944 the Voronezh radio
announced that the bodies of Jewish forced laborers were found
in the returned areas.

As thousands perished, new deportees from Central and Western
Europe took their places. Late in 1944 thousands of Hungarian
Jews were urged at Kielce to dig trenches under fire. “Killer,
famine and disease are rapidly decimating them,” reported the
Social Embassy in Washington.

In the German Army retreated, the able-bodied survivors were
withdrawn westward and the rest exterminated.

1. Latvia

General Order Number of the collaborationist General Staff, Riga.

Ordered in October, 1941, that all Jews are subject to forced labor,
the Riga ghetto, the largest in Latvia, became the chief survival
for Jewish forced laborers. All able-bodied men from 18-40 were
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confined to a special "small" ghetto. In November-December 1941
the inmates of all the Lietvian ghettos were liquidated by whole-
side annihilation. By the middle of 1942 only 15,000 forced laborers
were estimated to have survived. In July, 1943, some were still
boiling on fortification in northern Kurzame; from there they
were taken to Tiskir and later to Kostings, Lithuania.

L. Lithuania

As elsewhere, German occupation was followed by the establishment
of ghettos, and the ghettos, in turn, became processing centers for
forced laborers. By the end of 1942, as the ghettos were being
liquidated, the forced laborers were deported to areas where most
was night be extracted from them. Some survivors were found in
concentration camps in Germany.

M. Norway

A series of decrees (19 and 23 October, and 24 December, 1940)
made all Jews subject to forced labor. Those unable to prove
Norwegian citizenship were at once deported. But even prior to
1940 thousands of Jews were rounded up and sent to the Western
front under Hungarian guards, who were instructed to see to it
that “the Jews could never again return to civilian life.” The
labor groups rounded up in 1943 were known as “Death Camps,”
due to the nature of their work immediately behind the battle-
lines. In every respect the treatment of the Jewish laborers
paralleled that of German camps. Dehumanization of the inmates
was a continuous process. When Colonel Salome visited the
labor camps in the winter of 1942-43 he was impressed that so many
of the Jews had survived. By the fall of 1944 the labor battalions
were liquidated. It is known that of the 60,000 Jews sent to the
Eastern front in 1942-1943 only 6,000 survived. But aside from
those Jews in the Eastern front, thousands of others were dis-
tributed to labor camps in Poland and Germany.

V. Conclusion

 Forced labor was, from the German standpoint, the most rewarding
phase of the overall policy of total extermination. For one thing,
the forced labor policy at once and effectively isolated the most
vigorous elements of the Jewish population and made most likely to
offer opposition at a later time. For another, the amount of work,
skilled and unskilled, extracted from the able-bodied Jews contributed weakly to the prolongation of the war. The Jewish
forced laborers, being at once expendable as well as con-
demned to extinction from its very start, could be used, and
were used, to execute tasks of such hazards and magnitude that
otherwise could not have been accomplished.