A. Nature and Purpose

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 biological warfare. 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 rationed at a mere subsistence level; inhumane living conditions; brutal treatment which resulted in physical degradation and death; lack of the most elementary housing and sanitary necessities—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 moved
for more direct methods of extermination.

Until the outbreak of the war, Jewish labor (outside of
concentration camps) could be turned 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
seen, through enslavement or disease, he was liquidated, either
individually or collectively.

Although no accurate statistical data are available as to
the modern fate of 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

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Jews of Europe. It will be noted that every country under the Nazi heel, including the satellite nations, provided Jewish slave laborers.

Jews put to forced labor in Europe and North Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Jews put to labor</th>
<th>Dead</th>
<th>Survivors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soviet Russia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,045,000</td>
<td>2,644,000</td>
<td>397,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From prior to their disfranchisement by virtue of the
Nuremberg decrees (15 September, 1935) the Jews of Germany
were subject to compulsory labor as the basis of the compulsory
labor service law of 26 June 1935. Jews thus conscripted were,
however, segregated from German workers, received low pay
and were deprived of all social benefits enjoyed by German
labourers. 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 manual 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 idle."

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

"It is not in the interest of the state to leave the
labor power of employeés to unenrolled Jews unused, and
perhaps even to have to support them from public funds.
without receiving any service in return. An effort must be made to employ all unemployed and employable Jews as soon as possible and to mobilize through the release of German workers for urgent and important state military purposes.

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

"I therefore request you immediately to influence both public and private enterprise in your district to provide such work. It is assumed that representatives of the employment of Jews, Jews in the sense of this decree and Jews who were German subjects and served Jews among German officialdom...

The introduction of Jewish forced labor in Germany, on the one hand, is a necessary step in the combat for the successful outcome of the war; on the other hand, it is a step which will lead to the subjugation of peoples of Europe.

In September, 1938, all Jews in Germany over 18, or both sexes, were given special questionnaires relating to their employment. At the same time, all Jewish councils were informed that a regular labor decree was to be anticipated.

In December 1939, over 10,000 Berlin Jews out of 28,000 still had regular work, mainly in the building and transport industry and in war factories. In October 1940, nearly all able-bodied Jewish men—60,000 of the remaining Jewish population of 150,000—had been conscripted for labor service. Many were...
not excluded. All men between the ages of 18-55 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 forestry and forestry.

On 3 October 1941 a decree entitled "Conserving the Employ-
ment of Jews" officially placed the Jews under "special legal"
and social conditions and a supplementary edict of 31 October
1941, gave the principle effect, be it worse than 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 remnant of German Jews to forced labor camps and penal
reservations in Poland, the Soviet Union and Rumania.
This process continued intermittently through 1943. Those who
survived the deportation process (or perished en route, according
In a report by Hermann Pethow (Jewish Commission), 18,000 men, women, and children were drafted for forced labor on construction projects in June 1938. The purging of all combined Jews increased in tempo from the outbreak of the war. By the end of 1942 only 10,000 Jews were left in entire area of Austria and of the 132,000 living there at the time of the Anschluss.

C. Poland

On 16 October, 1939, a decree signed by Governor Frank made
mandatory labor compulsory on all Jews in the General Government.

The employment of the Aktion was entrusted to the SS. An adjut
by Dr. Korn, Herren SS and Police Leader, of 15 December 1939, stated
that all Jewish inhabitants of the Government General from 14 to
30 years of age are in principle subject to forced labor. The
labor term 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 have not been achieved." The "education" was to be in the shape of physical labor under the supervision of SS instructors. Failure to register or report for work carried a transfer to the details. On reporting, the laborers were to bring with them tools of their trade, blankets and food for two days. The decree of 31 December 1940, signed by Dr. Braunschriver (in whose name the decree is issued) could be issued work-cards, thus making them available for forced labor.

It should be noted that while the decree of 30 October 1940 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 excepted, and they and their families were entitled to certain social benefits.

In its initial stages the recruiting of forced labor personnel was carried out without any apparent plan or purpose. As the Nazi
returned any city or town they indiscriminately rounded up Jews.

Of these Jews, men, women and children, all were forced to labor, denied

food, beaten, overtired, and used as slave labor on various activities. On September 19, 1940, Jews

from Vinelavek were rounded up in that manner. After the day's

work they were thrown into a prison. The doors of which were

locked with broken glass. Those rounded up in Drassy were sub-

jected to similar treatment, as writing by Yosefield, an eye-

ewitness,

"The Germans began to hunt our men in the streets. They were caught, like animals, and tossed into a slave

transport. Many were thrown into a pit and climbed inside the pit, instead of all together. The Jews broke away and

parted. We did not let our men go out on the streets unless it was absolutely necessary, and then they were

shadowed by a group who would give a warning, otherwise they lost the order." (3)

Dr. Vol. Stradthof, in the Romanian Perspective of

20 July 1945, described as follows the methods of recruiting

Jewish workers:

"It stood as particular evidence to me the harshness of conditions, no fear of suffering at all, no suffering, no help at all.

The Jews went through the streets, collecting them, and whenever they found a dubious request, someone

had no time, we even helped better. During a war
there is no time to waste, and therefore - thank God - plenty of work of dealing with rebellious Jews.

Major M. Ernst Eitel wrote in a similar vein:

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

The Manchester Guardian, of 19 February, 1940, reported:

From Poland:

"There were so few Jews in the streets still continue not to give up their love of singing 'dachniki. The humiliation and torture inflicted upon the Jewish workers, who are compelled by their Nazi supervisors to work at night and weekends during their work, and are even forced to beggar each other with blows, show no sign of easing."

The same scenes were repeated throughout the entire German-occupied territory.

Soon, however, the Nazi authorities decided that a better system would result in greater economic advantages. In order to encourage the entire Jewish population the Nazi authorities shifted the entire burden of procuring and maintaining the means of slave labor onto the Jewish Councils.

One of the primary functions of the Nazi-orchestrated Jewish Councils was to requisition and deliver specified quotas of Jewish laborers, skilled and unskilled. Often they had to fill impossible quotas. As early as 1937 the various Jewish Councils were under
orders to supply 6,000 laborers daily.

The Jewish Councils were compelled to send workers to

areas where the German labor camps, and to furnish transportation

with work clothes, shoes and food until they reached their

destination. In addition, the local organizations sent

blankets, tarpaulins and supplies to the camps wherever possible,

and helped to maintain some contact between the laborers and

their families.

Under this system three types of labor camps were then

introduced: labor reservations, labor camps and forced

camps. The first were situated in the vicinity of the towns in which

the Jews lived, and they could return home after work; the

second were placed in isolated areas where labor or

work projects had to be carried out and the laborers were

brought to those camps for an extended stay; the last were

concentration camps designed for those who engaged in forced

labor or conscripted or in any other way violated the forced labor law.
Some of the labor camps were reached only from the ghettos to the camp.

The Yehuda correspondent in the Christian section wrote as follows about Ivan Jave:

"The elderly Jews of New Class streets, clean and polished street cars and trams, resided in sections of sheltered buildings and did other miscellaneous labor. The young and particularly stronger 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 in repair bridges and highways."

The majority, however, stayed in labor camps, under the supervision of the SS. They worked on roads, railroad tracks, cleared means and muster, cleared forests, in mines, sawmills and sugar factories, cleared shell casings, and built fortification. One of the largest of these 'projects' was the dressing of the Prussian marken and later the Russian group.

Inmates from Western Europe were brought to these areas.

The inmates of the labor camps worked and lived under conditions that no human being could long endure. They were shunted in cold and deep byroads and brick. Medical service was non-existent. No clothing was provided. A daily diet

12
insisted of sweet corn, green beans, and a slice of bread.

In the early days of the operation among Jewish com-

munities we were able to supply food and clothing, but

later the area diminished. As we note the working and living

conditions, an unforgettable event occurred that

occurred at the end of each day from whom in

the underground, but a continual stream of new

arrivals into the lands of death where neither

The all-inclusive notion of rules resulted in replacement as

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

failure to produce required output, or instead destroy or

device, resulted in transfer to a small labor camp, where

the method of harsh demoralization and intimidation was practiced.

According to Polish underground sources, of the 5,000 Jewish

Auschwitz prisoners who were sent through Cytostvo alone by June,

half perished in forced labor. Of the 10,000 workers employed,

19,000 were required alive. Of Auschwitz's 20,000 Jews who

were sent in the first wave to the General Government, in which
100,000 killed of forced labor.

Aside from these "out-lined" laborers, thousands of
Jews served in their field industries in various industrial enter-
prises. When the German leaders realized, after the setbacks
in Russia, that the war might be prolonged, they sought to
utilize the in-camp Jewish forced labor for the entire
industries, clothing, millinery, textiles, shoes, leatherware, etc.
These laborers worked directly under the control of their
German masters, or under the authority of civilian Germans
who took over the Jewish industrial enterprises, or for
German contractors, or for the Jewish Council, which were
obligated to deliver to the Jewish enterprises certain quotas
of manufactured articles in return for their supply of raw
food. The latter category were organized in collective work-
shops, so that the Jewish could produce jointly and share the
food ration jointly. The Jewish Councils were compelled to
supply the work for machinery. Failure to deliver the
specified parts of goods resulted in collective fines. 

11
The Kendall boys and the Bohemian Pool will be met by
the last witness only to examine the monumented graduates.

The next witness will be sworn and waiting on the floor.

The United States Government of 1877.

The United States Government of 1877.

"The United States of America."
Confidential

ailed for the Jews present in all Polish ghettos. The
German army and the SS SD troops, in the Ghetto
where at least 10,000 Jewish artisans were employed as
forced laborers.

The President of Poland said at the time of the
Lods ghettos:

"There are textile factories here and the Jews
produce various articles. We have 8,000
women employed in factories, 5,000 for materials, and
3,000 at workshops. The Germans collect the raw
material, and we provide the labor for the
factories."

On 24 March, 1942, the German government finally
ordered that 20,000 Polish Jews were deported to Lodz to
work in the textile mills. "No for the Jews, said the Lodz
District President Belsher, the next week with ever-increasing
intensity, must tall end near to the death's door."

The 800 Jewish workers of the small town of Radzice (35
kilometers to Lodz) - to 200 the instance - were sent in 1942
to the Jewish Army's 10,000 skill workforce, 1,800 round and
over 5000 pairs of feet! It is impossible to report the total
value of the labor contributed by the slave laborer, but even
according to the Germans' own estimates for unskilled labor, the
value of the first two years forced labor by 60,000 Jews should
be over 100 million dollars.

In any event, whether skilled or unskilled, the ultimate
degradation of the forced laborers was death. The unskilled laborer
suffered from starvation, malnourishment, diseases, physical torture.
The skilled workers fare even more cruelly. Appropriately,

Joe Musso writes a dozen underground letters as follows:

"Never were people so still capable of any effort as were the forced laborers. The others were
murdered by hunger. First they were starved, then the unstarved, then those above work in the
Arzner - connected with the German work camps, finally, those who work on bread, in trains, in factories.
賺money. I've heard to kill on site."

This was the most vicious element of Jews among of
the physical strength, through the worst still uncountable.

living conditions, At thousand murdered, others were brought
to make them work, By the middle of 1942, when the Hess
facilitated rollout their manpower, the sitting and working
of forced laborers began for the purpose of utilizing the skilled workers whose services were still needed. The rest were dispatched to the minor factories of Trabinen, Wojcikow, Chwiniec, Tirkown, Salsow, Sodilor.

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 aides Jews of the ages 18-40 were rounded up and placed in concentration camps, and later deported to Eastern Europe as forced laborers.

Using acts of sabotage as a pretext, Von Stempogol, Commander of the Occupation Force, in addition to imposing a fine of one billion francs on the Jews, stated:

"A large number of criminal Judeo-Bolshevik 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-Frederic Bertran followed up Stempogol's edict with an order placing all Jews who entered France after January, 1938, "in working formations or in camps," that is, in forced labor.
Initiations, to be deported to Eastern Europe. In the summer of 1942 mass arrests of all Jews began. They were placed in several camps preparatory to deportation. Conditions in the camps were indescribable. Vermin-infested barracks; no water even for drinking purposes; 70 grams of bread per person; no medical aid of any sort. Soon the Internets were deported to Poland.

Simultaneously (in July, 1940) Vichy France turned over all the Jewish inmates of its own concentration camps to the Germans for deportation to Eastern Europe. In November, 1942, when Vichy ceased to exist, the matter of deportees increased.

Vichy France ordered the internment of all Jewish refugees on July 7, 1940. An edict of 22 September, 1940, declared them "undeclared," and ordered their confinement in labor camps. In May, 1941, mass arrests of able-bodied Jews began and the Internets were deported to North Africa. It is estimated that 31,000 Jews were deported in 1941-1942 to North Africa to work on the Tranz-Sahara railway.

The conditions under which the laborers worked in Africa...
daily description. Their dwellings were holes scooped in sand
and covered with covers. 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 identification of the African system with that prevalent in
Germany and Nazi Europe is obvious: to use forced labor as a
cap of extermination.

All over France a network of concentration camps was set
up. The camps served as parts 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
30,000. In January 1943 by the admission of Berenier de Pallageix
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 camps under the eyes of guards.
Artisans had to work in their lines of occupation: endless working
hours; cruel discipline; undernourishment 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 increased
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.

Belgium

By virtue of the decree of 25 August 1941, Belgian Jews could
reside only in 5 cities, Brussels, Liege, Antwerp, and Charleroi.
Listing in the Social Register followed. Like everywhere else,
the ghetto and the Register were preliminary measures leading
to forced labor, deportations, and finally extermination. Already
in 1941 the two concentration camps at Bassett and Fremingeick
harbored numerous Jewish inmates. A decree of 11 March, 1942,
stated that Jewish work is of "a special kind," and that of 15
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 till 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 overtakes 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 Koningslaan the inmates were marched out at 4:00 a.m., made to run several miles, and afterward they were taken to workyards. At Brederode 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 numerous Jews had been kept in concentration camps since the Swing occupation in 1940. In March, 1941, 1,000 Jewish youth were deported to the Mauthausen (Upper Austria) concentration camp, unprotected by visas, 740 of these perished during the first four months. The others were returned for 70 guilders each. On 21 August and 16 September, 1942, the Amsterdam Jewish Council issued summons 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 notified by 20 April, and on 27 May they, 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...
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 camps. 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 pesh and con-
structing drains. Diseases, due to dirt and lack of medicine,
spread fast amongst. Beatings with truncheons and attacks by
dogs were the commonest punishments. Cranation 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 slavery. Penal labor camps for
Jews existed in Moravské Ostrava, Terezin, Mladá Boleslav,
and others, where they were treated in the customary manner.

It is certain, however, which was the largest and most notorious
camp for Jews. Already in December, 1941, 7,000 young Jews were
sent there for forced labor. The decree of 16 February 1942,
"concerning measures for the allocation of Jews in close
settlements," made Jereza, already infamous as a penal
camp, the largest concentration camp and clearing depot for
forced labor gangs and death-camps in Germany and Poland. Jews
of twenty years were among the early deportees to the Lublin
Rezervat. In 1942, 56,000 able-bodied Jews were sent to
two in Germany. 50,000 "assassinated" Jews perished in the two
death-camps in the same year.21a

Slovakia's Jews were subjected to forced labor almost from
the beginning. All Jews aged 16-55 were drafted for forced labor
in special labor camps in September 1941. An instructive of decrees
merely continued what had long been in existence. Thus the decree
of December, 1943, ordered all Jews from 16-30 to register for
forced labor, when such had in effect been the case long before.
Indeed, the mass deportation of Slovakia's Jews began in May,
1942. As in Poland, skilled laborers produced material for
the German Army. Unskilled laborers toiled as labor gangs.
Under the mass-deportation orders 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 5000 Jews were reported (by the official "Deportation") still left in Slovakia of the 90,000 living there in 1938.

W. Germany

On 11 July, 1943, all Jews aged 16-35 were ordered to register - the usual prelude to deportation to labor camps. The Heerestafel mines absorbed most of the forced laborers. Odors 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 Yugoslavia were ordered to register on 8 August.
1941, and as soon as Jews aged 19-25 (later raised to 60) were
deported to labor camps (concentration camps, which are identical
with labor camps, existed, of course, before official registration
was ordered). Two camps, at Leobendorf and Jasenovac, were especially
notorious. About 2,800 Jews are known to have served in the salt
mines of Pag – one of the most desolate Balkan islands. Living
conditions in all the camps were on a par with those elsewhere.
The Kaposi systematically used their power to
starve the inmates so
that by May, 1943, the Leobendorf and Jasenovac camps were closed
down. By the end of 1943 the whole Jewish population of Croatia
had in fact disappeared.

On May 31, 1942, 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.
Conscriptary mobilization 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 Commander of the Third Group of the German Army Corps stated that the entire population should be recruited for forced labor so that

"by forced labor the population will re-express its guilt for acts of sabotage committed as well as for such acts as may be committed in the future." 48

Since the basic approach of the Germans to Russian Jews, as stated by the St. Nicholas Polizei, 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, including Jews, were set up in White Russia and the Ukraine, the largest being in Minsk (100,000 Jews) and Kharkov. 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 Vilna-Niezglik railway. An order of the day, dated 11 October, 1941, issued by the 76th German Infantry Division, Article 6, stated:

"POles准入 or local individuals from the local population should be used for work entailing danger to life."

On 20 November, 1941, the German Commandant Major Pfeiffer announced that:

"Citizens who are lazy at their work or those who will not work the prescribed number of hours will be subjected 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 Nieszeglik 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, unpaved with a minimum of shelter and food to sustain life, thousands perished. Erich Menge, a German pharmacist, noted in his diary on 13 June, 1942:
Jewish men and women who work in the town are driven
in the evening toSeeing labor camps where they work from
7 o'clock until midnight. They often return before
morninng and their arms and covered with bleeding wounds.

During the Red Army's advance early in 1943 the Vorone, radio
announced that the bodies of Jewish forced laborers were found
in the unoccupied areas.

As thousands perished, new deportees from Central and Western
Europe took their places. Late in 1943 thousands of Hungarians
Jews were urged at Brest-Litovsk to dig trenches under fire. "Balicea,
famine and disease are rapidly decimating them," reported the
Social Embassy in Washington.

As the Germans arrived, the able-bodied survivors were
withdrawn westward and the rest exterminated.

Y. Lievra

General Oskar Dov zor of the collaborationist Generalgouvernement,
decided in October, 1941, that all Jews are subject to forced labor,
the River Kist, the largest in Latvia, became the chief survival
site for Jewish forced laborers. All able-bodied men from 15-40 were

30
confined to a special "small" ghetto. In November-December 1941
the inmates of all the Jewish 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
killing on fortification in northern Kursk; from there they
were taken to Lublin 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 might be extracted from them. Some survivors were found in
concentration camps in Germany.

M. Hungary

A series of decrees (19 and 23 October, and 30 November, 1941)
made all Jews subject to forced labor. Those unable to prove
Hungarian citizenship were at once deported. But even prior to
1941 thousands of Jews were rounded up and sent to the Eastern

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front under Hungarian guards, who were instructed to see to it that the Jews could never again return to civilian life. The labor groups formed in 1943 were known as "Death Camps," due to the nature of their work immediately behind the battlefront. In every respect the treatment of the Jewish laborers paralleled that of German camps. Emaciation of the inmates was a continuous process. When Colonel Bolke visited the labor camps in the winter of 1942-43 he was amazed 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 5,000 survived. But aside from those Jews in the Eastern front, thousands of others were distributed 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 element of the Jewish population and the most likely to offer opposition at a later time. For another, the amount of work,...
skilled and unskilled, extracted from the able-bodied Jews contrib-
tuted vastly 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 hazard and magnitude that
otherwise could not have been accomplished.