CHAPTER VII
FORCED LABOR

A. Nature and Purpose

There is little doubt that forced labor as generally employed by the Nazis represented more than a mere source of manpower—it constituted an essential part of the German program of ideological warfare. It had a dual aspect. Its primary purposes were 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 obtainable at a bare subsistence level; intolerable living working hours; brutal treatment which resulted in physical degradation and death from the most elementary housing and sanitary conditions—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 forced 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 ghetto-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 emaciation 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
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>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
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<td>40,000</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soviet Russia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>80,000</td>
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<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>89,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protectorate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,041,000</td>
<td>2,844,000</td>
<td>397,000</td>
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Even prior to their disfranchisement by virtue of the

Nuremberg Decree (15 September, 1938) the Jews of Germany

were subject to compulsory labor at the instigation of the compulsory

labor service law of 30 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 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 employable 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 match them with the release of German workers for urgent and important state political purposes.

"The employment of Jews shall take place in fields of construction of building, construction, oil, metalworking, etc., separately from others...

"In order to prevent you immediately to influence white- and private enterprise in your district to provide such work, it is proposed that workrooms and their supervision will not suffer disadvantages by the employment of Jews, Jews in the sense of this decree may thus also hire German signers and non-Jewish Jews who are capable of work."

The imprisonment of Jewish forced labor in Germany, on the use of war, provided the incentive for the coming years of Nazi slave labor for all the subjugated peoples of Europe.

In September, now, all Jews in Germany and those of both sexes, were given special questionnaires relating to employment. At that time the Jewish Councils were informed that a forced labor decree was to be anticipated.

In December 1938, over 10,000 Berlin Jews out of 26,000 still had regular work, mainly in the building and transport industries in that territory. By October 1939, nearly all able-bodied Jewish males—26,000 of the remaining Jewish population of 190,000—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 85 for men and 75 for women.

They were paid almost nothing for their work, but were nevertheless forced to pay an income tax. In the concentration camps, Jewish inmates were organized into special battalions for road building and work in forests and around towns.

On 3 October 1941 a decree entitled "Concerning the Exploitation of Jews" officially placed the Jews under "special legal" and external conditions and a supplementary edition of 21 October 1941, gave the principle effect, by reversing the decision 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 1942. Those who survived the deportation process (3,4 perished en route, according
In a report by Hyperion Eben (Mengele) to Himmler, more

were in work on fortifications, slave-gangs, mines, camps,

selection sites and in other productive work potential. SS men

were the transportation and executioners.

Jewish Jews from 15 to 75 were drafted for conscription

labor to work on construction projects in late 1939. The pressing

of all aesthetically Jews increased in tempo from the outbreak of

the war. By the end of 1942 only 10,000 Jews were left in Austria

out of the 195,000 living there at the time of the Anschluss.

II. Poland

On 16 October, 1939, a decree signed by Government Frank said

conscripted labor duties on all Jews in the General Government.

The enforcement of the decree was entrusted to the SS. An agent

by Frank, Hitler SS and Police Leader, on 15 December 1939, stated

that "every Jewish inhabitant of the General Government from 14 to

30 years of age are in principle subject to forced labor.

The labor camp was first at two weeks in special labor camps, with the
reservation that it could be extended if 'the educational purposes
of such compulsory labor has not been attained.' The 'education'
was to be in the stage of physical labor under the supervision
of 81 instructors. Failure to register or report for work carried
a two-year prison sentence. On reporting, the laborers were to
bring with them tools of their trade, blankets and food for the
days. The decree of 31 December 1940, signed by Dr. Brezchhoffe
(in the name of Frenk) stated could be issued work-cards, thus
making every one available for forced labor.

It might be noted that while the decree of 30 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 requiring of forced labor personnel
was carried out without any apparent plan or purpose. As the next
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To 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 murder activity. As early as September 1939, 1600 Jews from Vilna were rounded up in tis manner. After the day's work they were thrust into a prison, the shores of which were strewn with broken glass. Those rounded up in these were subjected to similar treatment, as writing by Karl Hilde, an eye-witness,

"The Germans began to loot our men in the streets. They were caught like animals and forced into some kind of a backbreaking job in the outside town. Late at night they were brought back and dropped inside the gate, tired and exhausted. The bread broke every day. We did not let our men go out on the streets unless it was absolutely necessary, but then they were picked up by a van and sent to a working center and visited the ghettos."

Mr. Tulli Strachwil, in the Raschiky or Prosecution of

20 October 1977, he outlined the methods of recruiting

Jewish victims

"It was a particular pleasure to use the boyhood notions of Podhale mom for a very cruel and setting up camps. Their fellow victims were of all ages. A single pair from the streets, the streets collection plan, and afterwards, simple a feeding request, almost he had no time, we were tallest better. During e war
there is no time to waste, and these are - thank God - plentiful to waste on dealing with revolutionist Jews!

Major Dr. Ernst Koppel 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:

"Gangs of Jews in the streets still continue not to be few. The law is a thing of the past. The humiliation and torture inflicted upon the Jewish workers, who are compelled by their Nazi masters to work at rates and under conditions which are hard even for the most inhuman and brutalized with blows, show no sign of abating."

The same abuses 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 reduce the entire Jewish population the Nazi authority shifted the entire burden of acquiring and maintaining the services of slave laborers to the Jewish Councils.

One of the primary functions of the Nazi-controlled Jewish Councils was to recruit and deliver separated quotas of Jewish laborers, skilled and unskilled. Often they had to fill impossible quotas. As early as 1940 the various Jewish Councils were under
order to supply 8,000 laborers daily.

The Jewish Council was compelled to send workers to
work in the gas chambers, labor camps, and extermination
with work clothes, shoes and fear until they reached their
destination. In addition the national organizations sent
remittances and supplies to the camps wherever possible,
and tried to maintain some contact between the laborers and
their families.

Under old system three types of labor groups were then
introduced: Labor Wirtschafts, labor camps and small groups.
The first were situated in the vicinity of the town in which
the Nazi Counciled and they could return home after work; the
second were placed in different centers where large welfare
work projects had to be carried out and the laborers were
brought to those centers for an extended stay; the last were
concentration camps designed for those who had been forced
labor or detoured or in any other way violated the forced labor law.

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Some of the labor camps were reached directly from the ghettos to the camp.

The first correspondent Ludwig Mienert wrote as follows about Evia Jews:

"The elderly Jews of town close streets, clean and polish street cars and trains, remove the debris of shelled buildings and do other commandeered labor. The young, particularly stronger Jews are taken every morning from the ghettos and are led by Soviet 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, cleaned 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 Prinsa canal and later the Bialystok canal.

Emaciated from Western Europe were brought to this area.

The inmates of the labor camps toiled and lived under conditions that no human being could long endure. They were housed in cold and damp hovels and barracks, medical service was non-existent. No clothing was provided. A daily diet..."
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In the early days of the occupation, Jewish commu-
nities were still able to supply food and clothing, but
later the area was flooded. In the late night and early
morning, an underground report stated that

Germany's new laws are being enforced by the
administration, but a continuing stream of new
arrivals fills the ranks of Jewish slave labor.

The ill treatment of Jews resulted in unemployment as
well as in a concentration camp. Refusal to do assigned work,
failure to produce required goods, or general neglect of
work, resulted in transfer to a small labor camp, where
the usual inhuman treatment and murder was practiced.

According to Polish underground sources, of the 300,000
Jews taken from the Ghetto during the ghetto plan by June,
8,000 were deported alive. Anticommunist was only one of
the
camp's names. In February, 1943, it is estimated that a new
were 2,000 Jews labor in the General Government in which

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Aside from these "voluntary" laborers, thousands of Jews shaved off their hair and went to various industrial enterprises. When the German leaders realized, after the setbacks in Russia, that the war might be prolonged, they sought to utilize the in- and Jewish-styled Labor Forced labor. These laborers worked directly under the control of their Jewish masters, or under the authority of civilian German supervisors who took over the Jewish industrial establishments, or for German contractors, or for Jewish contractors, which were able to deliver to the Jewish government certain products of the laborers in return for their annual ration of food. The laborers were organized in collective workshops, in which the workers could produce jointly and share the food ration jointly. The Jewish contractors were supplied to ensure the annual food supply. Failure to deliver the specified type of staff resulted in collective fines.
The logical analysis of the problem would suggest that the best way to proceed is to:

1. Identify the key issues and challenges.
2. Develop a strategy to address these issues.
3. Implement the strategy with appropriate resources.
4. Monitor and adjust the strategy as necessary.

By following this plan, we can effectively tackle the problem at hand.
told for the Jewish workers in all Polish ghettos. The
German Army used the ghettos for slave labor. In the
ghettos at least 10,000 Jewish artisans were employed as
forced laborers.

The President of Poland said on 16 August, 1942, of the
Lodz ghetto:

"There are textile factories there and the Jews produce various articles. Furthermore, there are 4,000
days workers of tailors, 5,000 weavers, and
2,000 textile workers. The German collect the goods
from the factories and send them to the food for the
ghetto."

On 24 March, 1942, the Polish government-in-exile
sent to tell 20,000 Polish Jews were deported to Lodz to
work in the textile mills. "We are the Jews, said the Jews
President Pilsudski, the most work with ever-increasing
intensity, will tell one day, to boot, they will live."
The 1,000 Jewish workers of the small town of Radziszow (55
southwest of Lodz), to also the textile workers, produced in 1942
for the German Army 10,000 drill uniforms, 1,000 caps and
over 1000 pairs of boots! It is impossible to assess the total
value of the labor contributed by the Jewish laborers, but even
according to the Germans' own rate for unskilled labor, the
value of the first ten years forced labor by 80,000 Jews should
be over 100 million dollars.

In any event, whether skilled or unskilled, the ultimate
sacrifice of the forced laborers was death. The unskilled laborers
suffered from overwork, malnutrition, disease, physical torture.
The skilled workers had many complications. Apparently,

Jas. Henry mentions a Dutch underground leader as follows:

"When these camps are still capable of any effort are used for forced labor. The others are
murdered by gas. First the sick and aged,
then the unemployable, then those above 65 is not
Asiatic connected with the German or Nordic family,
those who work no more, in trains, in factories.
Usually, Ihad first to kill to kill an old man.

Thus was the most rigorous element of force needed to
its physical strength through endless toil and unspeakable
living conditions. As thousands perished, others were brought
in to replace them. At the middle of 1944, then the next
enclosed colony was transferred, the existing colony

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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, Wojsenik,
Oswiecim, Birkenau, Selce, 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, the so-called alien 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 vandalism as a pretext, Von Stengel, Commander
of the German Police, in addition to imposing a fine of
one billion francs on the Jews, stated:

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

Vice-Frederic Berlan followed up Stengel's edict with
an order placing all Jews who entered France after January, 1936,
"in working formations or in camps," that is in forced labor.
In the summer of 1940, Jews of all ages were arrested. They were placed in several camps preparatory to deportation. Conditions in the camps were inhuman. Temperatures reached 100 degrees; no water even for drinking purposes; 70 grams of bread per person; no medical aid of any sort. Soon the Jews 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, 1940, when Vichy ceased to exist, the number of deportees increased.

Vichy France ordered the internment of all Jewish refugees on July 7, 1940. An edict of 31 September, 1940, declared them "incurable," and ordered their confinement in labor camps. In May, 1941, mass arrests of able-bodied Jews began and the internees were deported to North Africa. It is estimated that 75,000 Jews were deported in 1941-1942 to North Africa to work on the Tunis-Alger railway.

The conditions under which the laborers worked in Africa...
daily description. Their dwellings were holes scooped in sand and covered with canvas. 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 Nazi 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 posts 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 Dercy de Follapeix it rose to 50,000 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 manual tasks in cages under the roof of concentration camps. 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 meal. The raids, arrests, internment and shipment abroad of Jews continued from 1940 to 1944. They intensified in simultaneous drives both occupied and unoccupied countries. After the collapse of Italy, the Rhine and Italian-held territories. The number of victims was nearly 100,000.

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Belgium

By virtue of the decree of 26 August 1943, Belgian Jews could reside only in 6 cities, Brussels, Liège, 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 annihilation. Already in 1941 the two concentration camps at Malines and Drancy harbored numerous 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 to them 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 overtook all East European Jews also engulfed the Belgian deportees. Those who survived the ordeal of concentration camps hed their lives snuffed out in death camps. Conditions in the Belgian concentration camps were identical with those in Germany and Poland. At Kempenau the inmates were marched out at 4:00 a.m., made to run several miles, and afterward they were taken to work yards. At Bremen 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 until July, 1942, when the mass deportation began. But numerous Jews had been kept in concentration camps since the German occupation in 1940. In March, 1941, 1000 Jewish youths were deported to the Mauthausen (Upper Austria) sulphur mines. unprotected by gas-masks, 740 of these perished during the first four months. Their cattle were returned for 75 gilders each. On 12 August and 16 September, 1942, the Amsterdam Jewish Council issued orders 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 registered by 20 April, and on 97 May they, too, were ordered to report for deportation. They were processed in several concentration camps, the largest and most notorious of which was Beekbergen, 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 gangs. Conditions in the Westerbork camp, about which authentic data exist, parallel those in Eastern Europe. Men and women toiled from 5 a.m. till dark carrying peat and constructing drains. Diseases, due to dirt and lack of medicine, spread fast. Beatings with truncheons and attacks by dogs were the commonest punishments. Craniorrhexis 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 the status of slaves. Penal labor camps for Jews existed in Moravia Ostrava, Karvin, Sladek, Lipe, Tabor, and others, where they were treated in the customary manner. It is certain, however, which was the largest and most notorious...
concentration camp, the largest concentration camp and clearing depot for forced labor gangs and death-camps in Germany and Poland. Jews of Protectorate were among the early deportees to the Lublin Reservation. In 1944, 56,000 able-bodied Jews were sent to die in Germany. 38,000 Russian Jews perished in the Babia Guma death-camp in the same year.21a

Slovakia's Jews were subjected to forced labor almost from the beginning. All Jews aged 16-65 were drafted for forced labor in special labor camps in September 1941. An assessment of decrees merely confirmed what had long been in existence. Thus the decree of December, 1941, ordered all Jews from 16-65 to register for forced labor, when such had in effect been the case long before. Indeed, the main deportation of Slovakia's Jews began in May, 1942. As in Poland, skilled laborers produced material for the German navy. Unskilled laborers toiled on labor gangs.
Vince 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 5800 Jews were reported (by the official Tutek) still left in Slovakia of the 90,000 living there in 1938.

W. Greece

On 11 July, 1943, all Jews aged 14-25 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.

I. Yugoslavia

All Jews of Greece were ordered to register on 8 August.
1941, and as many all Jews aged 16-25 (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 Libanovac and Jajcevac were especially notorious. About 2,800 Jews are known to have sailed in the salt mines of Pag—one of the most desolate Dalmatian islands. Living conditions in all these camps were on a par with those elsewhere. The harsh treatment gradually dictated the inmates so that by May, 1942, the Libanovac and Jajcevac camps were closed down. By the end of 1943 the whole Jewish population of Croatia had in fact disappeared.

On May 11, 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 Belgrade-occupied area.
J. Markel, D.C.

Compulsory mobilization of all manpower, male and female, between the ages 18-50 and 10-40 respectively, was begun immediately after occupation. An order issued by the Kommandant of the Third Group of the German Panzer Corps stated that the entire population should be recruited for forced labor so that:

"by cruel labor the population will rid itself of guilt for acts of sabotage committed as well as for such acts as may be committed in the future." 4

Since the basic approach of the Germans to Russian Jews, as stated by the "Sicherungs-Ordinance," 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, heretofore Jews were set up in White Russia and the Ukraine, the largest being in Minsk (100,000 Jews) and Lwow. These labor battalions toiled behind the lines, constructing roads and bridges, clearing mines, removing wreckage, building fortifications. An estimated number of 100,000 Jews
Russian Jews worked on the Vilna-Niezg railway. An order of the day, dated 11 October, 1941, issued by the 76th German Infantry Division, Article 6, stated:

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

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

"Citizens who are lazy at their work or those who will not send the prescribed number of hours will be convicted 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 Neisz camp the inmates were kept in the open, and hundreds perished from exposure alone. Skilled and unskilled workers were treated alike. Working hours were 10-14 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 Funk, a German engineer, noted in his diary on 10 June, 1942:

"CONFIDENTIAL"
During the Red Army's advance early in 1942 the Voronezh radio announced that the bodies of Jewish forced laborers were found in the recommended areas.

As thousands perished, new deportees from Central and Western Europe took their places. Late in 1942 thousands of Hungarians were urged by Szabo Nagy to dig trenches under fire. "Holocaust, 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 of the Latvian army declared in October, 1943, that all Jews are subject to forced labor, the River Daugava, the largest in Latvia, became the chief reservoir for Jewish forced laborers. All able-bodied men from 15-40 were
confined to a special “small” ghetto. In November-December 1941
the inmates of all the Latvian ghettos were liquidated by wholesale massacre. By the middle of 1942 only 15,000 forced laborers
were estimated to have survived. In July, 1943, some were still
boiling in fortifications in northern Kurzeme; from there they
were taken to Liban and later to Kotingis, 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 28 October, and 24 December, 1943)
made all Jews subject to forced labor. Those unable to prove
Hungarian citizenship were at once deported. But even prior to
1944 thousands of Jews were rounded up and sent to the Eastern
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 battle-front. In every respect the treatment of the Jewish laborers paralleled that of German camps. Emaciation of the inmates was a continuous process. When Colonel Solomay visited the labor camps in the winter of 1944-45 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 to the Eastern front, thousands of others were distributed in labor camps in Poland and Germany.

IV. 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 segment 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 con-
tributed 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.